

Danny DuLude from Sulphur Springs, TX won 1st Place Heaviest Over the Slot in the Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament with this nice healthy bass weighing 11.97-lbs.



Jake Long from Brady, TX won in the Legend of Lake Fork Tourna- Kenny Briggs from Antlers, OK was the lucky angler that won in the ment for the heaviest bass under 16" weighing 2.68-lbs. For his efforts Early Entry Draw. He took home a 2019 Charger 286 powered by Merhe took home a 2019 Charger 186 powered by Mercury.

John Lewis from Kilgore, TX won 2nd Heaviest Over the Slot in the Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament with this nice bass that hit the scales weighing 10.02-lbs.



(Full Story on Page 4) cury, MinnKota and Humminbird.

"The Legend of Lake Fork" 16th Annual Big Bass Tournament" May 15, 16, 17, 2020

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

June



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"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" Page 3 June Bubbette Says "Sometimes Bubba is just too painfully honest"!!

By Don Hampton

Bubba may not be making public speeches because his grasp of the English language is just straight to the point. He is very seldom misun-derstood simply for the fact he doesn't beat around the bush. I just wish our politicians and a few other choice folks would take a lesson from Bubba. Bubbette often describes him as painfully honest. I hope she doesn't change him because I find Bubba quite amusing when conversing with others.

When asking Bubba a question, one really should prepare themselves for an answer they may not be expecting to hear.

After a fishing trip on Lake Fork we were sitting in a restaurant feeding our faces when an old acquaintance of Bubba's came to our table. The first thing out of his mouth was, "Bubba I haven't seen you in a coon's age! Where you been?" You or I would have simplified the matter by saving working, busy, on the run, or just doing the same old same old. That is definitely what I would have said but not our Bubba! Bubba just calmly looked up between bites and asked, "Where have you been looking?" Then he reached in his back pocket, pulled out his wallet, produced his driver's license and studied it for a moment. He then looked up at his acquaintance and said, "Yep that's my address it hasn't changed. I still live in

ing neighbors and even my phone number is the drawing near for him to fish a tournament. For same as it was the day I loaned you \$20!"

Well Bubba's reply cut the conversation a little short, but he did get his \$20 and the guy even promised Bubba he'd see him around.

On another occasion we had just came in from a fishing trip and were loading the boat. As we were strapping the boat down, an acquaintance of Bubba's came up and asked him if we had had any luck that day. Bubba went in detail the great experience we had that day and the good catches and even told him what we caught them on and how deep. This was more information than I would have given but not Bubba, he does like to talk fishing. Then the fellow said something to Bubba I'm sure he regretted after the reply he received. He told Bubba, "I sure would like to get me a big ole' bass, but I haven't been on the water all month!" Bubba's reply must have come from the sky blue when he calmly replied, "Well they aren't going to swim up here and surrender!" I was hoping the guy wouldn't get mad at me for laugh-ing, but being the good sport he is and the way Bubba has of saying things, he found it as humorous as I and agreed with Bubba's philosophy.

One factor in life will always remain constant and that is, Bubba will talk fishing anywhere he might be. The only good advice I can give is nev-

the same place, have the same noisy dog own- er ask Bubba where the fish are when the time is this he has only one answer that he gives everyone that asks. He will very calmly and while smiling all the time tell you, "Somewhere between where you think they are and where they ought to be!" If you ask him at that time what the big bass are being caught on, his answer for that is, "The ability to endeavor to persevere!"

> Another good piece of advice about Bubba, never cancel a tournament or not fish because you think the weather might be too bad. If you do, don't let Bubba know because then he will classify you as a member of the WFWF. For those of you that don't know...that is Bubba's abbreviation for "Wimpy Fair Weather Fishermen!"

> When it comes to painfully honest Bubba doesn't leave himself out either.

> After weighing in a small limit of fish at a tournament, the MC asked Bubba what the problem was on the water. Bubba lazily said, "I guess I was trying to qualify for the Rinky Dink Bass Club!" Isn't that the club that uses just small fries, or is it shrimp?

> Bubba would never try to hurt someone's feelings or try to be a smart aleck but watch what you ask him. He might come up with an answer that you've never heard before or one that you really didn't want to hear.

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Legend of Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

high for all the an- the worst enemies glers that came to of the tournament! participate in the 15th As I assured all the Annual Legend of anglers, the weather Lake Fork Big Bass would be nice during Tournament that was the tournament hours held on May 17th, because I had spoken 18th, 19th. The tour- to our Lord about the nament was hosted matter. True to my out of Lake Fork Ma- faith the bad weather rina and this great didn't hit until 4:30 lake lived up to its on Saturday after-

reputation. The weatherman and Expectations were mother nature were



This year set a record for anglers coming the furthest to fish the tournament. Participating in the tournament were anglers from Maine, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oregon, California, Colorado, and Florida just to name the furthest.

On the first day of the tournament there were ten bass over the 24" slot weighed in. It started in the first hour when Josh (Continued on Next Page)



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Page 5

an 7.58-pound bass the 12 to 1 o'clock by Chris DeVasier weighed in his second hour Doug in

The Le

OWNC

Eppler weighed in 6.26-pound bass. In secure a check. and was followed hour Josh Eppler who weighed in a over the slot weighing 6.40-pound bass. In 8.23-pounds. In the the 8 to 9 o'clock hour 2 to 3 o'clock hour Tom Wurst weighed John Lewis weighed in a 9.60-pound bass. in a 10.02-pound In the 9 to 10 o'clock bass followed by Hae- Roger Nixon with ussler Jr. weighed an 8.83-pound bass a 7.9-pound and Tamra Diaz with bass. In the 11 to 12 an 8.71-pound bass. o'clock hour Carson On the first day of Fowler weighed in the tournament exa 7.56-pound bass cept for the first three followed by Rich- hours it took at least ard Saccaro with a a 2.01-pound bass to

e Fork Annua

On Saturday, the second day of the tournament there were ten bass over the 24" slot weighed in. In the 7 to 8 o'clock hour James Snell Jr. weighed in a 9-pound bass followed by Randy Denton with a 7.13-pound bass. In the 8 to 9 o'clock hour Weston Wilkins weighed in a 7.08-pound bass. In the 9 to 10 o'clock hour Shanda Sinkey weighed a 7.90-pound bass. In the 10 to 11 o'clock hour William King weighed in a 9.05-pound bass. In the 11 to 12 o'clock hour James Crawford weighed in a 7.32-pound bass followed by Rich Michaels with (See Legend of Continued on Page 11)



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June

"Deep Water Bass Are On The Move!"

By David Ozio

"It's just around the corner!! By that I mean giant bass moving out to deep water and grouping up. This is absolutely my most favorite time of the year. As of this writing, an extended winter has kept the main lake water temps quite a few degrees lower than normal. This has slowed the movement of the huge green fish but feel confident that it will happen very soon. Post spawn bass will start to feed up on small sand bass out on the humps and ridges and your electronics will alert you to when it's time based upon what you see in the 18-25ft range.

Understanding what you see on your electronics is



critical and I take for granted that everyone already has the ability to read the high tech electronics. If not, contact Slade Dougherty at 817 797-8762 and he will open your eyes to what these amazing machines can do for you. The next skill would be to determine where to look and how to recognize the bass that will start to gang up on certain types of structure. As stated earlier, humps and ridges are excellent but you can start with long tapering points. The next chore will be to ascertain what depth range where the green critters will set up shop. Start your scan in 35ft and graph your way into the 15ft range and then reverse course and head back to the starting point using a different track. Repeat this process until you have covered the entire point from front to back. If you see a group of arches on the screen during any one pass, set a waypoint on that location and put out a marker buoy on that spot once you have combed the entire area. During this time of the year, most fish will be on the bottom so you can focus your fish catching strategies on the Carolina rig, drop shot, Texas rig, jigs or crankbait. Flukes, brush hogs or any straight or curl tail worm will work using standard colors such as watermelon candy, redbug, plum or watermelon red. As for cranking, shad colored crankbaits along with chartreuse blue back also works well.

Next, let's venture out to the offshore humps or ridg-



es. Graph these locations back and forth until you spot the likely targets. Drop a waypoint on the fishy looking spot and fish each technique until you determine what presentation they favor. If your after a lunker of a lifetime, the jig with matching trailer will be your "go to" bait. To round out your search, target roadbeds and submerged structures such as brush piles or laydown timber. If the arches show up on your graph, pitch out a marker buoy and go to work. It's not rocket science, it's just locating where the fish are positioned. If all of this is somewhat confusing, your best bet will be to hire a full time Lake Fork guide and spend the day covering the aforementioned areas and have him



"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" Page 7 June THE LEGEND OF LAKE FORK 15TH ANNUAL BIG BASS TOURNAMENT DAY 1 DAY 2 DAY 3 11-12 Hour 7-8 Hour 11-12 Hour Brian McDavid 7-8 Hour 7-8 Hour 11-12 Hour 2.53 9.00 Shane Cowart 9.93 Josh Eppler 7.58 **James Crawford** 7.35 **Carson Fowler** 7.56 James Snell, Jr. **Randal Morrison** Chris DeVasie 6.40 **Richard Saccaro** 6.26 **Randy Denton Rich Michaels** 7.33 2.38 **Micheal Sheppard** 2.35 7.13 Forrest Carvaial 2 38 Paul Kirk 2 42 Mitchell Hess 2 43 Steven Bissell 2 23 Frank Chalounka 2.26 Tyler Roller 2.24 Andy Howard 2.26 V. A. Gilbert 2.11 2.19 **Rick Morgan** 2.17 Sam Trinca 2.09 **Robert Davis** 2.12 Don Penick William Walters Darrel Campbell 2.10 James Crump 2.17 Jordan Gilbert 2.06 **Ryker Holmes** 2.07 2.09 Aldyn Rowan 2.10 Walter Ward 1.98 Greg Seibold 2.14 **Stephen Jones** 2.03 Braxton Stahl 2.06 **Brad Carrell** 2.04 Ryan Shafer 2.02 **Richard Osborn** Kent Sikes Cory Cooper 2.01 1.91 Jerry Green **Tim Weaver** Andrew Doerge 1.99 2.14 2.01 2.06 Kent Cooper Curt Culbertson Walter Ward 1.98 Jason Smith 1.88 Samuel Stewart 2.13 Jason Smith 2.00 2.03 1.95 Jackson Exum Theodore Avlos 1.86 Keith Anderson 2.01 John Goergen 1.97 **Don Stapleton** 2.02 1.95 **Ted Robbins** 1.96 8-9 Hour 8-9 Hour 8-9 Hour 12-1 Hour 12-1 Hour 12-1 Hour Clint Baird Tom Wurst Josh Eppler Weston Wilkins Ken Blackard **Troy Thomas** 8.39 9.60 8.23 7.08 6.84 2.21 Martin Painter Curt Culbertson Tim Weaver Forrest Carvajal 2.14 2.31 2.63 Mike Lee 2.33 **Brett Green** 2.20 2.38 David Grav 2.07 **Stephen Jones** 2.25 Joseph Rustom 2.26 Tim Gold 2.29 Scott Sansom 2.17 **David Cochran** 2.23 Cory Cooper Tim Weaver **Rick Parker** 2.28 Bart Gardnei 2.05 Stephen Roll 2.22 Paul Kirk 2.18 **Kenneth Barnett** 2.16 2.10 Brad Terral Steven Bissell 2.21 2.12 Don LeBlanc **Randy Denton** 2.15 2.04 2.27 **Brent Cantrell** 2.10 Theodore Avlos 2.04 Kevin Smith 2.17 Cody Broadway 2.11 Stephen Roll 2.25 Jacob Callahan 2.10 **Robert Davis** 2.10 James Renfro Eddy Howard Lane Rodgers Bobby Harvey **Dennis Hanley Dick Haynes** 2.05 2.03 2.06 2.10 2.17 2.02 Curtis Harrah Jack Bowen Jarett Guidry Shane Smith Cal Somerville **Grant Ehren** 1.92 2.01 2.05 2.06 2.16 1.97 **Clifton McKav** 2.03 **Doug Martens** 1.91 James William 1.88 James Renfro 2.05 Andy Howard 2.11 Chad Azlin 1.95 9-10 Hour 1-2 Hour 9-10 Hour 1-2 Hour 9-10 Hour 1-2 Hour Daniel Dulude 11.97 Jake Long Mike Lee Doug Haeussler Jr. 7.39 Jeremy Latino Shanda Sinkey 7.90 2.68 7.42 2.16 J. B. Meyers Brent Allen Kim Stringfellow **Robert Hebert** 2.58 Casey Swarts 2.18 2.15 Randy Denton 2.61 2.62 7.02 **Bill Spaeth** 2.41 Ryker Holmes Alan Swarts 2.16 Earl Schwartzlander 2.15 2.40 **David Papiano** 2.48 **Donald Walker** 2.31 Scott Craig 2.11 Ray Peace 2.14 Dan Stahl 2.14 Robert Ordway 2.40 Robert Hebert 2.38 Michael McKinney 2.31 Stephen Johnson John Redmon Pedro Soto Thomas Welch 2.38 Chad Mims Scott Pavne 2.09 2.10 2.14 2.35 2.30 2.08 Monte Martin Johnny Furr James Hall 2.08 **Brian Snalding** 2.14 2.25 Daniel Vinakalns 2.37 Joe Brinlee 2.14 Jody Warren Jerry Kirkpatrick Don Hemphill Julian Boze 2.08 2.01 2.10 William Yokas 2.13 Hunter Thrasher 2.33 Francis Pelowski 2.09 2.05 Tommy Williams 1.98 Cody Abbott 2.10 **Rick Wheeler** 2.12 Mitchell Hess 2.27 Larry Stockton 2.07 Paul Kirk 2.04 1.97 Joe Barnhill 2.25 Doug Haeussler Sr. 2.08 Kenny Briggs 2.10 **Brian Spalding** Shane Smith 2.02 2-3 Hour Richard Altman 10-11 Hour Mark VanWinkle 10-11 Hour 10-11 Hour 2-3 Hour 2-3 Hour William King William King Greg Brown John Lewis 10.02 9.05 8.37 2 40 2 34 2.66 William Spaeth 2.25 John Carter 2.38 Jeff Barbo Roger Nixon William Walker 2.42 Charles Justice 2.35 8.83 7.94 Sam McCollum 2.24 **Gregory Seibold** 2.30 Michael Justus 2.27 Tamra Diaz 8.71 Matthew Derr 2.40Gary Green 2.37 Dakota McBride Lisa Sepulvado Curt Culbertson 2.30 Jeff McBride 2.17 Brent Johnson 2.25 2.28 John Carter, Jr. 2.36 Tim Weaver Mark Trull 2.29 **Robert Derr** Ralph Munk 2.12 Eli Hewitt 2.22 Ryker Holmes 2.18 2.36 2.11 Cody Abbott Sam Trinca 2.11 2.27 Jason O'Neill Robert Worrell 2.21 Phillip Huffmaster 2.31 2.10 James Bray 2.15 William Walker Chad Mims 2.27 Curt Culbertson 2.09 Kenneth Strickling 2.15 Samuel Stewart 2.15 Wallace Dyer 2.23

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"The Report" Moon Crappie June is BIG Month!

By Terri Moon

June got here in a flash - can you believe this year is half over! I know I can't but I just love June fishing on FORK! It's BIG fish month for all species. Every day we are getting a surprise with either a huge bream or a big bass or a hard fighting white bass. They are all exciting on my Shimano Ultralights! The line I'm using is Suffix Siege 8# in Neon Tangerine. I really like this hi-VIZ line because I'm a serious "line watcher" - and this Suffix sure makes it easier on these old eyes! All I can tell you is if you're not watching your line, you are missing MANY bites! Your numbers will definitely go up if you are vigilant at "line watching". These crappie don't always "Slam" the bait so you have to be ready for those sneaky ones!

The majority of the crappie are postspawn and have migrated to cover in 10-24 ft. depths. There were a few stragglers even shallower around the new and full moon. We are targeting standing timber, brush piles and bridges. The baits producing for



Fork Tackle's Live will "spoil" you terri-Baby Shad in char- bly! The best part of treuse/white - Bub- all about this amazba Baits in electric ing equipment is that chicken, and Bone- it's attached to the heads Stumpbug in new Skeeter Solera! black/chartreuse. I lovingly call it my Some days they want "Luxury Liner"!! My the bait moving and customers are sure others they want it enjoying the comfort dead still - so, don't and fish ability of be afraid to change this sweet ride. They up your presentation all agree that a lot of till you figure out thought went into what they want that designing this boat. day. Keep a close eye So a HUGE thanks to on that depth finder Skeeter for bringing and watch for any a "Top of the Line" changes of depths of boat to the crappie the fish and adjust fishing world! - (Did your casts accord- I mention - the icing ingly.

veal" on my Low- maha 250 SHO four rance Carbon Units stroke motor!) How is quite amazing. You could it get any betcan literally count ter? the fish around a tree! (This is just an- a look at this Solera, other important tool come by Lake Fork that sure makes my Marina the weekend job easier!) But, the of June 7th - 9th. This biggest game chang- is the annual Skeeter er for me has been Boat Owners Tourmy Minn Kota Ul- nament and I will trex with Spot Lock! I couldn't imagine

us have been Lake my life without it. It on the cake is that it's The new "fish re- powered by the Ya-

If you'd like to take

(See June is BIG... Continued on Page 9)





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Legend of Lake Fork (Continued from Page 5)

hour Ken Blackard weighed in a 6.84-pound bass. In the 2 to 3 o'clock hour William King weighed in an 8.37-pound bass followed by Charles Justice with a 7.94-pound bass. Except the first hour of the day it took at least a 2.02-pound bass to get a check.

were less big bass brought to the scale. There Danny DuLude broke at least two other an-

a 7.33-pound bass. In the 12 to 1 o'clock were five bass over the 24" slot weighed in. It started in the 9 to 10 o'clock hour when Mike Lee weighed in a 7.42-pound bass followed by Kim Stringfellow with a 7.02-pound bass. In the 11 to 12 o'clock hour Brian McDavid weighed in a 9.93-pound bass. In the 12 to 1 o'clock hour Clint Baird weighed in an ly known as 'Bubba's Kids' was present and On the third day of the tournament there 8.39-pound bass. In the 2 to 3 o'clock hour helped with the drawings and the tradition-





The four anglers taking home a grand prize were 1st Place, Danny DuLude with the Heaviest Bass Over the Slot weigh-11.97-pounds, ing 2nd Heaviest Over

the Slot was John Lewis with a bass weighing 10.02-pounds, Heaviest Under 16" was won by Jake Long with a bass weighing 2.68-pounds, and Kenny Briggs who won the Early Entry Incentive draw boat. One of our Wish to Fish Foundation Children commonal bait toss. A huge thank you goes to Lilly Anderson. Lilly was the poster child for St. Jude's Children's Hospital and now she is in weighing full recovery and doing well.

The first twenty entries in this year's tour-

(See Legend of Lake Fork...Continued on Page 21)



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

Carolyn West, President

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association

Spring has certainly sprung and the activities for Lake Fork Sportsman's Association have increased to a frenzy.

The Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest was indeed no small event in this community. Fishing was fantastic with positive feedback from the professional anglers. LFSA was present with a booth at the tournament selling raffle tickets for the Spring 2019 Raffle. As a major source of revenue to operate LFSA, the Association offers 17 raffle items ranging from a kayak to binoculars to guns to rods and reels to other valuable items. LFSA is present at the major tournaments on Lake Fork; the final for the Spring raffle will be June 9 at the Skeeter Tournament. The Fall raffle will begin mid-summer and will be drawn at the Berkley Tournament in October.

The Live Release Boat offered a value at the Texas Fest by receiving the overs weighed in at the tournament. The LRB continues to be a major contribution to many of the tournaments on the lake and is currently scheduled for the following tournaments: Sat-Sun June 8-9 Skeeter Owners Tournament at Lake Fork Marina

Sat June 15 Media Open Tournament at the Minnow Bucket Marina

Sun June 23 JC Outdoors Open Tournament at the
Minnow Bucket Marinament at Lake Fork MarinaSat-Sun Oct 19-20 Berkl

Sat June 29 JC Outdoors Open Tournament at the Lake Fork Marina Minnow Bucket Marina This year Texas

Sat July 13 Media Open Tournament at the Minnow Bucket Marina

Sat-Sun July 20-21 High School Open at Oak Ridge Marina

Sat Sept 7 Mad Dog Moore Open Tournament at Oak Ridge Marina

Sat Sept 14 JC Outdoors Open Tournament at the Minnow Bucket Marina

Sept 20-21-22 Fri-Sat-Sun Sealy Outdoors Open Tournament at Lake Fork Marina

Sat Sept 28 JC Outdoors Open Tournament at the Minnow Bucket Marina

Sat-Sun Oct 5-6 Bass Cat Owners Open Tourna-



Sat-Sun Oct 19-20 Berkley Open Tournament at Lake Fork Marina

June

This year Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) Athens Hatchery allocated 500,000 pure Florida fingerlings for distribution in Lake Fork. LFSA supported TPWD with the distribution of these fingerlings again by using the Live Release Boat (LRB) to release approximately 200,000 of the half-million total released. The LRB is equipped with on-board support capabilities that allow for extended holding of the fingerlings allowing release into remote areas with excellent habitat. The result is improved fingerling survival. The utilization of Power Poles installed

(See Lake Fork Sportsman's......Continued on Page 22)





Deka





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Page 15

21

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Page 16 "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

"Knowing What To Look For!"_

By Michael McFarland

Fork bass are on the move. Where are they going you ask? Out to deeper water structure where there is cooler water and a place to live throughout the heat of summer, in other words offshore. After several weeks of being scattered throughout the shallow water and the fatigue of the spawning process, most big females will move out to deep water to recover in hard bottom and deep shell bed areas. Kind of like your dog laying on a cool tile floor. Deep roads, humps,

ledges, long points and flats are great but the shell bed areas within them prevail! Well folks June is here and the big Lake Not only do shell beds offer a cool place to recover they also offer a buffet of food due to a higher source of concentrated plankton. Plankton is the key reason the shell beds exist so wind blown areas should be your focal point. Think of a shell bed as a deer feeder, many species of small fish and bait will live and feed on plankton in and amongst the shell bed area and the big fish come to eat the small fish and bait.

> Long points, ridges, humps and ledges help catch the current created by the wind



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thus making the wind your friend. I tend to find most shell beds in about 12 to 24 feet of water. I use my sonar to study the deep water and pinpoint the shell bed areas, marking them with waypoints so I can return and make precise cast to those specific areas.Boat position is also very

important. I tend to keep as much distance from the shell bed/waypoint as possible and drag up hill when applicable. Some areas on Fork have too much wood to drag up hill so I don't. I prefer a 3/4 oz. Santone football jig in PB&J with a green pumpkin rage craw trailer but a shakey head with a big worm or a Carolina rig with a 7" Mpack shad will also get the job done.

Thank you all for your support, I hope this article finds you well and helps you find and catch more big fish this summer.



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

Page 17





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"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" Page 19 June Invasive Giant Salvinia Eradicated from Lake Fork, Lake Athens

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Aquatic Habitat Enhancement (AHE) Team have revealed that giant salvinia - an invasive, free-floating fern that has been wreaking havoc on East Texas lakes for more than 20 years - is believed to have been eradicated from Lake Fork and Lake Athens.

"We have not found giant salvinia in either lake since early last winter," said John Findeisen, AHE Team Lead. "This is very exciting news, because when we first discovered the 12 to 15-acre infestation at Lake Fork back in 2017 we weren't sure if eradication was even possible. This success goes to show you that with early detection and a coordinated, rapid response between TPWD, local organizations, anglers and boaters, we can effectively fight back against this invasive plant."

Giant salvinia was first discovered in Texas on Toledo Bend in 1998 and has since spread throughout East Texas. The most recent infestation at Lake Fork was discovered in November 2017, and Lake Athens was first found infested with the invasive plant in February 2018. As part of rapid response efforts following these discoveries, the AHE team deployed floating booms to contain giant salvinia in affected areas and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of herbicide treatments.

"Floating containment booms, strategic herbicide treatments and frequent below freezing temperatures all contributed to the elimination of the remaining salvinia," Findeisen said. "We are happy to report to anglers and boaters that the containment boom placed in Lake Athens to con-

Recent vegetation surveys conducted by the trol the infestation has been moved, and the boom Lake Livingston, Martin Creek Reservoir, Lake overlapping opening to allow access to the back of White Oak Creek without having to cross the boom."

> Findeisen said that while giant salvinia has been eradicated from these lakes, TPWD will continue monitoring them closely as they are still at highrisk of reintroduction due to their popularity as angling and boating destinations and their proximity to other infested lakes.

"As the weather warms and people start visiting these lakes more often they need to remember cols for boats and equipment, and to learn more to properly clean, drain and dry boats and equipment to prevent reintroductions of giant salvinia," Findeisen said. "These procedures don't just apply to lakes where there are known infestations of giant salvinia, because every lake in Texas is capable of harboring a variety of aquatic invasive species, including water hyacinth and zebra mussels. Nobody wants to be known as the person that brought salvinia to a lake."

All boaters, anglers and lake-front property owners should learn to identify giant salvinia as well as other invasive species that occur in Texas waters. Most importantly, boaters should remember to clean their boats and trailers before leaving the boat ramp. Transporting giant salvinia, along with other invasive species, is prohibited by law and punishable by a fine of up to \$500 per violation. Giant salvinia is currently present on 18 East Texas lakes, including Brandy Branch Reservoir, Caddo Lake, Lake Conroe, B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir,

currently in place at Lake Fork will soon have an Murvaul, Lake Nacogdoches, Lake Naconiche, Lake O' the Pines, Lake Palestine, Lake Raven, Sam Rayburn Reservoir, Sheldon Reservoir, Lake Striker, Lake Texana, Lake Timpson, Hemphill City Lake, and Toledo Bend Reservoir.

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

> For more information on proper cleaning protoabout giant salvinia and other invasive species, visit tpwd.texas.gov/giantsalvinia.



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"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" Page 20 "Deep Water Bass Are On The Move!" (Continued from Page 6)

June

point out what you need to be fishing. Bass move from gears and pitch a creature bait as far back in those wilday to day and they may be set up in one spot today and a hundred yards away tomorrow. Water temps, current from waves and sun angle all come into play when dealing with these wary creatures. Try not to over complicate it, fish what you see and let the results be your guide.

The shallow bite is also an option and don't rule out top water and frog action especially around flooded willow trees and grass beds. Low light is key for success in this arena. Once the sun makes it's way up, shift



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low trees as possible. A 3/8 ounce weight will do the trick and use at least 20lb line. Your favorite colors will work fine, just keep it simple. The most important factor in this process will be the accuracy of the pitch. Pick the bush apart until you key on where the bass are positioned. Once that is established, follow that pattern across the lake. It will pay off in spades. If simple action is what you seek especially if kids are involved, I would chase the sand bass. You can use a 1/2 ounce Hopkins spoon or a 1/2 ounce jig head with a fluke jr. attached. This is wicked fun on light line. We can spend a day on the water if you like and I can teach you the ropes how to catch a ton of these entertainment fish.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in June 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 dream't 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."



Mike Payne with **David Ozio**



Chase Williams with David Ozio



Patrick Smith with David Ozio Fish Friendly

Lewis Keese with **David Ozio**

Practice Safe Boating





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

Page 21

Legend of Lake Fork (Continued from Page 11)

nament took home new reels furnished by Abu Garcia and Pflueger.

Present at the tournament visiting with anglers and guests was Charlie Ingram from Fishing University. There was a seminar scheduled for Saturday at 3:30 but because of inclement weather setting in it had to be canceled. We would like to thank Charlie for coming to our tournament and visiting with the anglers on Saturday and Sunday. You can catch his show on WFN and the Outdoor Channel.

First I would like to thank all of the anglers and businesses that make this tournament such a success. A very special thanks goes to Wood County Industrial Commission, Rains County Tourism, City of Emory, Sartin Marine, Mercury, MinnKota, Humminbird and Killer Outdoor. Without their backing this would truly be an uphill battle.

The 16th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament will be held May 15, 16, 17, 2020 at Lake Fork Marina. Mark your calendars and we hope to see all of you there!







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

Page 23

More Zebra Mussels Found in Texas Lakes; Boaters Urged to 'Clean, Drain, Dry' This Summer

With four Central Texas lakes receiving upgraded zebra mussel classifications in May, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is urging the thousands of boaters and paddlers expected to hit the water this summer to clean, drain and dry their watercraft and equipment to help avoid spreading invasive species to new locations.

As of May 2019, 18 Texas lakes are currently infested with invasive giant salvinia, and 15 Texas lakes are infested with an established, reproducing population of zebra mussels. The newest additions to the list of nine positive lakes where zebra mussels have been detected on more than one occasion include Lake Walter E. Long, Lake Granger and Lake Dunlap. The newest addition to the list of six suspect lakes where zebra mussels or their larvae have been found only once in recent history is Lake Placid.

"Most of the lakes that received upgraded classifications are downstream of infested reservoirs, so the likelihood that zebra mussel larvae would disperse and invade them was high," Van Zee said. "But boaters still need to be extremely diligent about cleaning, draining and drying, because only boats, barges, and other equipment can transport zebra mussels perience at lakes and damage aquatic ecosystems. While zebra mussels and giant salvinia remain some of the biggest threats to Texas lakes, other highly-invasive species can also be spread or introduced by in-state and out-ofstate lake users, including water hyacinth and quagga mussels.

In Texas, transporting prohibited invasive species is punishable by a fine of up to \$500 per violation. Boaters are required to drain all water from their boat and onboard receptacles -including bait buckets - before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water in order to prevent the transfer of aquatic invasive species. Additionally, boaters should remove all plant material from boats, trailers and tow vehicles and place it in a trash receptacle before couraged to help prevent new introductions by leaving the lake.

Those using kayaks, stand up paddleboards, wet suits and any other equipment that comes into contact with the water should also take care to clean, drain and dry their gear, as microscopic zebra mussel larvae can survive on wet surfaces for up to three weeks.

While day-use boaters and paddlers can

Invasive species can harm the recreational ex- spread invasive species in just one trip, boats that have been stored on a lake that has zebra mussels pose the highest risk of spreading them to new lakes. Zebra mussels colonize hulls, propellers, water systems, and other parts of boats, including some spots where they are difficult to detect. TPWD has created a new website geared toward providing marinas and boat owners with guidance on decontamination and inspection procedures that must be performed before moving boats that have been stored in the water with zebra mussels to a new location.

TPWD and partners continually monitor for invasive species in Texas lakes, but anyone who finds them in lakes where they haven't been found before or who spots them on boats, trailers or equipment that is being moved is enreporting the sighting to TPWD immediately at (512) 389-4848 or by emailing photos and location information to aquaticinvasives@ tpwd.texas.gov.

To learn more about giant salvinia, zebra mussels and other invasive species in Texas, visit https://tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives.



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

With many people getting out their rod or even in bait shops that is not from of Mexico when fishing in fresh or salt nia," said Adami. water.

"imported" shrimp as bait.

as bait, they could introduce a deadly virus known as white-spot syndrome viand crayfish) populations. If the virus is introduced via infected shrimp, it could wipe-out the crustaceans and entire ecosystem," said TPWD Coastal Fisheries biologist Robert Adami.

en, the white-spot syndrome virus can vider. survive the freezing process and therefore does not die when imported shrimp is packaged for shipment to food stores. "Imported shrimp found at food stores

and reel for summer fishing trips, the the Gulf of Mexico should never be used Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as bait. This includes shrimp from other (TPWD) wants to warn all anglers to countries like Thailand or Venezuela or only use bait shrimp native to the Gulf from other non-Gulf states like Califor-

Another reason to never use imported Shrimp is a popular choice to use for shrimp as bait is because it is against bait, but not all shrimp species can the law. Introducing imported shrimp to safely (or legally) be used. Never use the aquatic environment is illegal under Texas law, regardless of whether it is "If people fishing use imported shrimp alive or dead, whole or in pieces. If you are unsure of the origin of the shrimp you plan to use as bait, do not use it. rus to native crustacean (shrimp, crabs Federal law requires that imported shrimp be labeled with the country of origin and method of production (wild or farmed). Check the label when purhave devastating consequences for the chasing shrimp and look for a label verifying it is Gulf of Mexico shrimp. Labels can sometimes be confusing, so While not harmful to humans when eat- if you are unsure, please ask your pro-

For more information on fishing with bait shrimp, visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/ baitshr<u>imp</u>.

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June

June "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" Game Warden Field Notes

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

--That's Not a Party License--On Dec. 2, a Tom Green County game warden observed a group of individuals skinning a deer behind a residence. She contacted the hunters and asked who shot the deer. No one replied and the owner of the property came out and told her the hunter who shot the deer had left for work. The warden was invited inside to inspect the shooter's hunting license log kept in the residence. A woman inside the home pulled out an envelope containing seven hunting licenses, cut a tag off of one, and told the warden it was the tag for the deer outside. When the warden inspected all the licenses and noticed eight tags had been removed from them without any of the required harvest logs being filled out, she pressed for answers. Finally, the property owner admitted to not only shooting the deer in question, but also all the other deer with tags missing from the various licenses. He stated he purchased the licenses for the other guys and used them to hunt. Citations for hunting under the license of another, improperly tagged deer and exceeding the annual bag limit were filed, along with civil restitution.

--Good Cell Phone Coverage -- On Thanksgiving

night, Henderson County game wardens were on patrol when they heard a shot fired near their location around 10:30 p.m. Initially, no violators could be found, but they did locate a damaged cell phone in the road. A vehicle was soon observed stopping along the side of the road near the wardens' location. The wardens made contact with the vehicle's occupants, a man and a woman who initially denied shooting the buck from the road. When the wardens produced the cell phone and asked if it belonged to them, the couple eventually admitted to the crime. They had taken their gun home before returning to get the deer and the cell phone that was dropped by the female suspect, which ended up being run over and destroyed. The charges are pending.

--**Rush Hour**-- At about 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 25, a Houston County game warden received a road hunting complaint, with information that two individuals had been dropped off to retrieve the kill. He arrived on location and hid approximately a quarter mile down the road to await the return of the "pick up" truck. An hour had passed when the warden heard a gunshot he believed was from the men in the brush dispatching their kill. Less than a minute later a truck went by, and the warden, believing he had his road hunters, initiated a traffic stop. The truck's occupant, a woman in her late 60s, was upset and stated that as

she came out of her gate she saw a flashlight in the woods across the road and got scared so she fired a pistol in the air to run the "poachers" off. The warden quickly returned to his set to await the return of the truck from the original complaint. Shortly, a truck matching the description came slow rolling by; the warden followed from a distance and then parked along the edge of the county road. The truck returned and, believing this time surely he had his poachers, the warden stopped them. Despite seeing blood in the bed of the truck and on the passenger, the warden learned this group were out dumping guts from a deer they had killed earlier in the day. The warden followed them back to their camp where he learned they had killed two deer; one head was hidden in an old toilet and the other they had just thrown out in the creek. There were a host of hunting violations as well as for littering. After finishing up at that camp, the warden returned to his set to close the gate as there was no way the original violators were still waiting in the woods with all the commotion over the last hour. After a brief visit with the landowner who initiated the original complaint, the warden headed out. He had made it about two miles when the landowner called him to say there were now two cars parked at the gate he had just left. The warden (See Game Warden....Continued on Page 26)



YOU CAN BACK DOWN THE BOAT RAMP WITHOUT YOUR HEADLIGHTS ON

Always Think...

Page 26 "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 25)

June

marijuana smoke-filled car. Upon finding additional narcotics and drug paraphernalia, and learning both had extensive criminal histories, the warden arrested both subjects. In all, the warden issued 17 tickets and warnings in an hour and a half for various hunting violations and penal code violations. The cases are pending.

-- Up on the Rooftop Mule Deer Paws--'Twas the season for deer hunting Dec. 10 in Crosby County, just not for mule deer; whitetails were still fair game, but mule deer season ended a week earlier. So, when a game warden received a text message with an image of an SUV being driven through Crosby County with a deer trussed to its roof like a Christmas tree, it was the "branches" that caught his attention. One physical trait muleys possess that differentiates them from their cervid cousin, the whitetail, is a distinctive branched antler. After a quick run of the vehicle's license plate, the warden contacted the registered owner on his cell phone, and asked if he was driving down the highway with a dead deer strapped to his roof. The man acknowledged, and claimed it was a whitetail he had harvested in Floyd County. When pressed, however, the man could not offer details on exactly where in Floyd County he hunted. The warden told him to text a photo so he could verify

then returned to find a man and a woman sitting in a the deer was a whitetail, and at that point the man confessed. He had shot the mule deer earlier that morning. The warden later met with the man, gained a verbal and written statement, and seized both the deer and rifle used in the crime. Criminal charges for the out-of-season mule deer and for having illegally tagged it as a white-tailed deer are pending in Floyd County, and civil restitution for the mule deer are pending.

> -- In Self Defense--Some hunters believe commercial scent attractants to be effective at luring in whitetailed deer, particularly during the rut. A Smith County man argued recently that these products work too good, and caused him to have to shoot two undersized bucks in self-defense. After a logging crew reported finding two buck heads on top of a shed hidden in the woods, a Smith County game warden began asking around. Upon hearing the law was investigating, a subject called the warden and confessed, but claimed there were extenuating circumstances. The subject stated he was hunting in a ground blind and decided to spray a commercial scent attractant out the window. Moments later, a 5-point buck with a 9 inch inside spread appeared. He claimed the buck took several steps toward him, and then charged at his ground blind. The subject said he shot the buck at 30 feet away in self-defense. After dragging the buck

to his blind, the man claimed he left the area to get his truck, and later returned to collect the deer and his hunting gear. While exiting his blind with his gear, the subject said a 6-point buck with a 6 inch spread came charging at him and he was forced to shoot in self-defense again, this time from 36 feet away. The subject stated he put the deer heads on the shed with the intention of turning himself in, but never got around to it. Multiple charges are pending.

--Shared and Not Liked--Scofflaws are not bashful about posting their exploits to social media, and game wardens regularly scan the "bragging boards" for clues into illegal game and fish activities. In December, game wardens gathered intelligence from a Facebook post of a man with two white-tailed bucks he claimed to have harvested at the same time near Lubbock. Wardens identified the individual in the post and questioned him about his feat. The man admitted to taking the two bucks in a one buck limit county. Over the limit and tagging violations were filed along with civil restitution. The cases are pending. In an unrelated case, a Trinity County warden found a social media post of an untagged 8-point buck, and began investigating the individual who claimed to have shot it. As it turned out, the young

(See Game Warden....Continued on Page 28)



Grill Up Some Gourmet Summer Fare

By Sue Hampton

One of the biggest signs that summer is on the horizon is the beginning of the barbecue season. When the first tantalizing aroma of grilling food wafts through the warm air it is a definite sign that pool parties, trips to the beach and summer fun are about to start.

Many people survive the summer on barbecue staples - hot dogs and hamburgers - but, there are many other delicious foods you can throw on the grill to get a sensational meal.



Barbecues don't have to be predictable. There are many gourmet recipes that are perfectly suited to hot coals and an open flame. Enjoy!

Chicken is perhaps one of the most versatile foods you can shape into a masterpiece over hot coals. The meat just seems to taste better with the slightest charring from an open flame.

Looking for an easy-to-prepare yet flavorful chicken dish to grill that just may rival the classic hamburger? Try these lemon Roasted Garlic Aioli oregano chicken baguettes the next time you put a match to the charcoal. Served on crunchy French bread, these handheld chicken delights can be offered as lunch or a light dinner. They're perfect between dips in the pool.

LEMON OREGANO CHICKEN

BAGUETTE

(Serves 4)

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves, butterflied
- 1 lemon, peeled and chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 baguette
- Salt 1 beefsteak tomato, sliced
- 1 handful crisp salad leaves
- 1 roasted garlic aioli (recipe follows)

Toss chicken breast halves with lemon, garlic, oregano, oil and pepper. Cover and refrigerate for 20 minutes. Cut baguette into four equal-sized pieces. Split and toast baguette on the cut side until just crisp, one minute. Grill over

medium-hot coals until chicken is opaque, with no trace of pink, three minutes per side. Sprinkle with salt. Fill baguette with tomatoes, salad, chicken and aioli dressing. Serve warm.

- 1 head of garlic
- 1-1/4 cups mayonnaise

Slice off tip of garlic, cutting through the cloves. Place cut-side up in oven tray. Drizzle over olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Preheat oven to 300F. Roast garlic head until completely soft, one hour. Leave to cool. Squeeze out cloves from papery skins. Mash until smooth. Whisk into mayonnaise.



TELLING ME TO BUY MORE FISHING STUFF



Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 26)

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YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL FOR LESS OR ONLY PENNIES MORE THAN THE ANNUAL COST OF YOUR RENTED PAD. Holiday Villages of Lake Fork Call: 903-878-7265 "WHY LEASE...WHEN YOU CAN OWN!!!" man did not possess a hunting license. Multiple citations and civil restitution are pending.

--Drive-by Poachers-Deer stands offer hunters a unique elevated view of the landscape, and enhance their ability to go undetected while observing nature. You never know what you might see. Case in point: in the late afternoon Dec. 9, a Frio County game warden got a call from dispatch advising that a hunter in his deer stand had just witnessed a white van stop, discharge a firearm from a public road and load a deer in the back of the vehicle. The warden responded to the location and made

contact with a white van. The subjects admitted to shooting a deer from the public road, as evidenced by a freshly killed doe in the back of their van. They were transported to the Frio County Jail. The cases are pending.

--Just Making Matters Worse-- It was not enough that a couple of guys from Arizona got caught by a game warden in Terrell County trespassing with a deer rifle, but the reason why they were on private property to begin with gave the warden pause. While on patrol Dec. 15, the warden observed a vehicle parked alongside State Highway 285. As he drove past,

the warden noticed two men walking out in the pasture; one held a rifle. The warden stopped and made contact, asking what they were doing. The pair stated they had seen some deer and were out looking for them. The warden advised they were on private property and asked did they have permission from the owner to hunt. The men replied they did not know the owner, but it was okay because they had shot at the deer from the highway, and it had jumped the fence. There was no evidence they had hit the deer. Appropriate charges were filed.

> Practice Safe Boating



June



"Every child deserves a chance to fish!" Children diagnosed or who have experienced a life-threatening illness or accident sometimes do not have that opportunity. Now through the "Wish to Fish Foundation" they can have that day in the sun with their family. Any family with a child between the ages 3 to 18 years of age that has been diagnosed or treated for a life-threatening illness or accident is invited to come fish Lake Fork for any species of fish at <u>NO COST1</u> Lodging, meals, and fishing are provided for. This allows the family to spend quality time together fishing without worries or expenses. The outing includes one night lodging, meals, refreshments, snacks, all on a 26' Tritoon Pontoon, (accompanied with a 9-1-1 chase boat for any emergency that may occur. All bait and fishing equipment provided. If you are, or know of a family that meets the above criteria, contact us! Help us spread the word, we are here for the children!

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



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

Page 31



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

June

ANNUAL BIG BASS TOURNAMENT "The Fisherman's Guide News & Wish To Fish Foundation" Would Like To Thank All Of Our Sponsors, Businesses and Anglers For Their Participation in Making

"The Legend of Lake Fork 15th Annual Big Bass Tournament" Such A Huge Success !!

We Look Forward To Seeing You At The Legend of Lake Fork 16th Annual Big Bass Tournament May 15,16,17, 2020 For More Information Call: 903-383-7748 or Email: fishnews@lakefork.net