Tim Wilcoxson from Rockwall, TX won 1st Place Heaviest Over 24” in the 26th Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament held on Lake Fork June 8th and 9th. He topped over 2,200 other anglers with his 9.65-pound bass. For his efforts he took home $700 hourly pay and a 2019 Skeeter FX20 powered by a 250 Yamaha SHO.

Sue Gibson from Aquilla, TX won in the 26th Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament for the Heaviest Bass Under the 16” slot with this bass weighing 2.78-pounds. Out fishing the men she won $600 in hourly pay and a 2019 Yamaha Wolverine 4x4. Sue also won 3rd Place in the Ladies Division. (See Full Story on Page 4)

Over 225 of our local youth came out with their guardians and parents to participate in the 2019 Annual Kidfish on Lake Fork that is held each year on the 1st Saturday of June. (See Story on Page 11)

“When Cowboys were Champions!” EX-Dallas Cowboys Lincoln Coleman (lt) and Kenny ‘The Shark’ Gant (rt) assisted Sheriff Tom Castloo and Judge Janae Holland at the Annual Kidfish on Lake Fork.
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“Bubba’s Staying Cool and Has It Made In The Shade”

By Don Hampton

Maybe it’s the heat bearing down on Bubba’s head from being in the sun too much or a phase in life he is going through but he has really impressed me with some of his ingenious ideas lately. Whichever the case, Bubba has taken “Stuff” to a new level. June must have been Bubba’s inventive month because he has come up with some ideas for fishing that would put Thomas Edison to shame.

It all started when Bubbette told him it was too hot to be fishing all day. Bubba doesn’t like to hear anything that might slow up his fishing, especially coming from Bubbette. It was then that he applied himself to his drawing board and put his, “Nothin’s gonna stop me from fishin’ inventiveness,” into motion.

These ideas weren’t Bubba originals. I’m sure if he tried to market them there would be some patents brought to his attention, but for personal use and homemade, he did real good.

The first thing Bubba did was get some PVC pipe and ‘T’s. With these he made an umbrella holder that would fit on his bass seat. This put store-bought ones, as he calls it, to shame. He had accomplished mobile shade so now what was he to do about the breeze. This problem he solved with the help of “Wally World.” (That’s Bubbette’s name for Walmart.)

Bubba bought one of those EverStart Maxx rechargeable jump starters. This is the type that is a rechargeable DC 12-volt power supply. At first I had no idea how this would keep him cool until he pulled the other item out of his sack of goodies. Low and behold, Bubba had a 12 volt oscillating fan that plugs into a cigarette lighter outlet, with a clip that attaches to the umbrella. He informed Bubbette real quick that he now had his own portable shade and breeze and he was going fishing.

Bubba’s power pack has two outlets. I can’t imagine what he’ll think of next to plug into the other outlet!!!

Bubba was now on a roll with his homemade creativity. He had seen one of his favorite pros on television using an ultimate drop-shot technique called a “Boomerang”. His first thought was, “I can make one of those!” So, it was back to “Wally World” for some elastic, swivels, and snaps. It wasn’t long before Bubba had every ball point pen in the house torn apart so he could use the case for his homemade version of the product. Sure enough Bubba’s version worked great! So, whenever he is around, keep a close eye on your pens or they will wind up at the bottom of the lake tied to the end of his line.

His inventiveness did not stop here. Whenever Bubba is on the lake he doesn’t like to stop and tie on new baits. That takes away from his fishing time. For his spinnerbaits he has solved this problem. On his favorites he has taken off the swivel connecting the blades and replaced it with a snap swivel. This way he carries extra blades in his pocket and if one doesn’t work, he unsnaps it, replaces it with another in seconds and it is like using a different spinner-bait. To his way of thinking it changes one spinner-bait into as many blades as you have in your pocket. If you have five different types of blades in your pocket, you have six different spinnerbaits without having to tie and re-tie. To Bubba this also means he has a lot more stuff! Makes sense to me!

Where Bubba comes up with some of his ideas, your guess is as good as mine! He even has a deterrent for getting sweat in his eyes when he is fishing. He did say, “I got this idea from an ‘ole timer.” (I wonder what he thinks he is?) To keep sweat from getting in his eyes while fishing, Bubba always has on hand, a clear unscented stick of antiperspirant. He will dab it across his forehead and this keeps his forehead from sweating. This keeps the sweat from rolling down into his eyes. Just another thing Bubba doesn’t have to worry about while fishing. He also said on this matter, “it ain’t no good feelin’ when you wipe the sweat from your eyes and you have sunscreen on your hands. That stuff stings like heck and you have to fish one-eyed!” Sounds strange but this is another piece of “Bubba wisdom” that sure enough works.

One thing is for sure with Bubba, if Bubbette lays down the law and won’t let him buy any new stuff, he’ll just make his old stuff into new stuff!!

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26th Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament

By Don Hampton

The Skeeters were definitely buzzin’ on Lake Fork at the 26th Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament held on June 7th and 8th at Lake Fork Marina. The festivities and sign-up began on June 5th and 6th with anglers pouring into the area from all parts of the United States. Skeeter Corporation has put this tournament on for 26 years to show their appreciation of anglers choosing a Skeeter boat. It is obvious the anglers truly appreciate it with over 2,200 entries coming to Lake Fork to compete. With ten places being paid each hour and a chance to win a 2019 Skeeter FX 20 powered by a 250 Yamaha SHO the competition was on.

Weigh-ins during the tournament were the excitement of the tournament and the first one on Saturday set the excitement for what was to come. During the first hour there were three bass over the slot weighed in. Tim Wilcoxson

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(Continued on Next Page)
from Rockwall, Texas weighed in a 9.65-pound bass, Jared Miller from Norman, Oklahoma with a 9.14-pound bass and Gunner Durrett from Simsboro, Louisiana with a 9.06-pound bass. This hour it took a 2.25-pound bass to get in the money.

The excitement didn’t stop in the 9 o’clock hour with seven bass over the slot coming to the scales. John Steele from Whitehouse, Texas weighed in a 9.29-pound bass, Charles Farley from Dequeen, Arkansas weighed in an 8.82-pound, Ray Cates from Texarkana, Arkansas an 8.32-pound, Kenneth Chapman from Odessa, Texas a 7.24-pound, George Harris from Beckville, Texas a 7.15-pound, Virginia Essermann from Townsend, Wisconsin a 7.01-pound, and Rick Allford from McKinney, Texas a 6.49-pound bass. This hour it took a 2.27-pound bass to get in the money.

During the 10 o’clock hour there were two bass over the slot weighed in. Buddy Warren from Lafayette, Louisiana weighed in a 7.88-pound bass and Michael Hopkins from Chandler, Texas weighed in a 6.95-pound bass. This hour it took a bass weighing 2.33-pounds to get in the money.

In the 11 o’clock hour there were three over the slots that came to the scales. Shane Smith from Texarkana, Texas weighed in an 8.60-pound bass, Steve Stewart from Kaufman, (See 26th Annual.... Continued on Page 7)
“Rains Have Lake Fork in Awesome Shape!”

“If memory serves me correctly, Lake Fork is running a carbon copy pattern of June of last year with regard to weather and surface water temps. We are way behind schedule this season with surface temps barely in the 80’s. As of this writing, the super big green fish haven’t yet made their way to their summer haunts. We are currently catching plenty of four to six pounders but the true giants are simply hiding. My guess is when the surface temps hit 85 degrees, it’s game on across the pond.

There has been a more than fair amount of rain this year and the lake is in awesome shape. March and April rains muddied the water across the entire lake but the recent lack of rain has allowed the lake to settle down and clear up. This years rising water in the spring has produced a great spawn and the future for Fork couldn’t be brighter. There are tons of small bass rambling the lake and these will grow to the next generations ShareLunker. July is a great month to target all sizes of bass using top water, crankbaits and drop shots. It’s all about locating the fish and then it’s game on. Electronics play a huge roll in finding these huge schools of bass and the more time you spend graphing the key locations, the greater the chance to have a monumental day. Main lake points, ridges, road beds and pond dams should be your locations of focus and pay close attention to the 18-24ft range. Even if you only see a group of ten fish at a given depth, pitch out a marker buoy and spend fifteen minutes to see if you can get the bass to commit. If nothing rattles your cage, move on to the next location. Let’s say you see a ton of good arc’s at the next spot. My first choice is the drop shot rigged with a ‘Talon Carolina Worm or a Roboworm. Use any color you want as long as it is red. Drop straight down to them and barely jiggle the rod tip. Active fish will load the rod and you may think your hung up. Set the hook and figure out the rest later. If the drop shot is not your game, throw a Carolina rig or a football jig to the area where you first spotted the bass. A 3/4 ounce stand up head is also a great choice. On the C-rig, you might try a fluke, brush hog or a Zoom magnum trick worm. Under bright sun, I will use redbug or plum colors and when it’s cloudy, any version of green pumpkin will suffice. As for the jig, PB&J, Mexican Heather or black/brown/amber will do the trick. Match a craw trailer to the jig and your in business. For the stand up head, any big straight tail worm will suffice.

The topwater bite is good early and late on main lake points and a Zara Spook is the ticket. Yellow Magic’s will catch their share of fish but the spook bags the big bass.
Texas an 8.04-pound, and Richard Page from Ft. Worth, Texas a 5.90-pound. This hour it took a bass weighing 2.36-pounds to get in the money.

In the 12 o’clock hour there was only one over the slot weighed in. Travis Wilson from Rowlett, Texas weighed in a 7.57-pound bass. This hour it took a bass weighing 2.28-pounds to get in the money.

Excitement picked up in the 1 o’clock hour with three bass over the slot coming to the scales. Daniel Black from West Monroe, Louisiana weighed in an 8.35-pound bass, Richard Murphy from Prescott, Arkansas weighed in an 8.22-pound, and Rena' Killebrew from Midlothian, Texas with a 7.88-pound. This hour it took a bass weighing 2.29-pounds to get in the money.

In the 2 o’clock hour there were two bass over the slot weighed in. Colin Killen from Missouri City, Texas weighed in an 8.62-pound bass and John Joyner from Overton, Texas weighed in a 7.90-pound bass. This hour it took a bass weighing 2.42-pounds to get in the money.

In the 3 o’clock hour there was one bass over the slot weighed in. Randall Kirkcs form Killeen, Texas weighed in an 8.97-pound bass. This hour it took a bass weighing 2.39-pounds to get in the money.

Ending the first day of the tournament there were 22 bass over the slot brought to the weigh-in and the lightest to get in the pay was a 2.29-pound.

On the second day of the tournament anglers knew they had to gear up and fish fast with this day only going to the 12 o’clock hour.

It began with three bass over the 24” slot coming to the scales. Timothy Bookman from Canton, Texas with an 8.06-pound bass, Wayne Orendor from Pflugerville, Texas with a 7.45-pound, and Rodney Toralba from Alexandria, Louisiana with a 7.05-pound bass.

This hour it took a bass weighing 2.35-pounds to get in the money.

In the 9 o’clock hour one bass over the slot came to the scales. Scott Cooke from Jacksonville, Texas weighed in a 7.71-pound bass. This hour it took a bass weighing 2.38-pounds to get in the money.

In the 10 o’clock hour no over the slots came to the scales. Winning the hour for first was a bass weighing 2.71-pounds and then it took a bass weighing 2.29-pounds to get in the money.

During the 11 o’clock hour there were two bass over the slot weighed in. Dwight Crigger from Emory, Texas weighed in an 8.58-pound bass and Steve Stewart from Kaufman, Texas weighed in a 7.58-pound bass. This hour it took a bass weighing 2.20-pounds to get in the money.

(See 26th Annual......Continued on Page 9)
Well – it’s here – those dreaded 90-100 degree days! But when the crappie are biting, it sure makes the suffering easier! We’ve been really fortunate the last couple of weeks with morning cloud cover that made it quite pleasant out there for the half day trips. This is the time of year you want to start early so you can quit early! Drink plenty of fluids – lots of sunscreen – and I even found some neck fans and cooling towels that help tremendously! Also, it really helps to wear light colored clothes this time of year.

Be very mindful of the little ones while fishing. The lifejackets they are required to wear are very hot in this weather. So, take a minute to let them either jump in for a quick swim break or go for a quick ride or both! (A big thanks to Skeeter Boats for adding a ladder to the back of my Solera!) Now I don’t have to worry about how to get them back in the boat! It’s all about making it fun for the little guys!

Now that we are post spawn, these fish are starting to migrate to deeper water. As far as the depths we are fishing, it seems to change daily. Early in the mornings they’ve been as shallow as 10-12 ft. But, as the sun rises they are going deeper...as deep as 24 ft. So just keep playing with different depths till you get a pattern and keep monitoring your graph to see any changes in their depths. The new “fish reveal” on my Lowrance HDS Carbon Unit has really helped in pinpointing these fish!

These crappie are biting really light – (coming up with the bait). I’m noticing the amount of fish people are missing waiting to feel a bite. If their line goes slack or just stops falling and they aren’t watching their line, they never know they just missed a fish! I’m a habitual “line-watcher” and it’s definitely improved my numbers. So if you have someone fishing with you and they are not catching, take a minute and help watch their line and talk them through it. Then they will know what to watch for, and hopefully their numbers will increase too!

The colors working for us have been anything with chartreuse or white on brighter days and go to a darker color if you’re in cloudy conditions.

If you are looking for bream around the full and new moon, go shallow 1-5 ft. otherwise check that 5-15 ft. depths. Crickets, nightcrawlers, or Berkley power baits are producing some nice ones around docks, willows, brush piles or bridge ledges. These have to be my favorite fish to play with!

I want to say congratulations to the entire SKEETER team for putting on another impressive tournament celebrating 26 years here on Lake Fork at Lake Fork Marina. Also, thanks to all the vendors who contributed in making this a success. “Sweet Buddy” the “camp dog” loves a good tournament! I found him visiting the Costa booth! He knows how to draw a crowd and made many new friends! Thanks again to all of you who continue to contribute to Buddy’s care. It’s greatly appreciated!

My best to you all and Love and Prayers to my family in Missouri! Have a safe summer!
26th Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament (Continued from Page 7)

During the 12 o’clock hour, the last of the tournament, there was one over the slot brought to the weigh-in. Ray Burnett from Longview, Texas weighed in a 7.67-pound bass. This last hour it took a bass weighing 2.40-pounds to get in the money.

The second day of the tournament there were seven bass over the 24” slot brought to the scales and the lightest to earn a check under the slot was a 2.20-pound bass. The total bass caught in the tournament over the slot was 29.

Tim Wilcoxson’s bass weighing 9.65-pounds held up as the heaviest bass caught in the tournament. This earned him $700 in hourly pay and the grand prize of a 2019 Skeeter FX 20 powered by a 250 Yamaha SHO. Sue Gibson from Aquilla, Texas won the grand prize for the heaviest bass under the 16” slot with a 2.78-pound bass. This earned her $600 in hourly pay and a 2019 Yamaha Wolverine 4x4.

Skeeter truly rolls out the red carpet to show their appreciation. From serving all the anglers and their family a barbecue dinner to all the booths exhibiting their products, there is plenty of entertainment for the whole family. For the youth they have the fishing pond where the children had a great time trying to catch one of the many channel catfish in the pool.

If you missed it this year, you missed some great entertainment and maybe you will make it next year in June 2020.

This is not where you want to be in a tournament on Lake Fork, 24” mark is past the tail.
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Wood County Annual Kidfish on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

The Wood County 25th Annual Kidfish was held on Lake Fork on June 1st. This annual celebration is held each year on the first Saturday of June to introduce the youth to the pleasure of fishing. It truly serves to get them off the streets and on the creeks!

It is presented by the Wood County Sheriff’s Department, Texas Game Warden Peace Officer Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Sabine River Authority and is held at Sabine River Authority Headquarters. All are to be commended for their diligent hard work and the many hours they put in to make this event such a success for our children.

This year 225 youth accompanied by parents, grandparents, or guardians from all over the area came to enjoy the beautiful weather and a day of fishing Lake Fork. For some children this would be considered their first tournament of many more to come in their lifetime. The love of fishing for these children could be accredited to Kidfish.

During this event no one participating in the event is required to have a fishing license. This gives parents that do not usually fish an opportunity to spend this time with their children and perhaps introduce the love of fishing to the whole family.

The event is free to all children and their parents. Each child is given their own rod n’ reel and bait and tackle are furnished. Cold drinks, refreshments, hot dogs and chips are provided for the parents and children. This year serving the parents and children were the Mineola and Holly Lake Kiwanis Clubs.

The format of this event is a mock tournament and divided in age group divisions. These divisions included 4 years old and under, 5 to 8 year (See Wood County Annual.....Continued on Page 21)

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Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association “Preserving the Legend That is Lake Fork”

By Carolyn West

Kidfish is an annual event on the first Saturday of June. Sponsored by the Wood County Sheriff Department partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife and held at the Sabine River Authority property, Kidfish hosts hundreds of children to a day of fishing. New rods and reels are given to the registered anglers and anything caught is weighed in. Eight Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association members formed the team to record the official weigh-in data for each age group and for all species caught. While the most fish caught were catfish, there was an abundance of turtles, as well. When walking away from the weigh-in area, a boy, perhaps six or seven years old, said “I want to fish every day of my life!” That defines the reason Kidfish is so important and it defines the reason Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association works so diligently to preserve the legend of this lake so it remains a premier fishery.

As LFSA’s main source of revenue, there are two raffles per year. In the spring annually, the raffle is drawn at the Skeeter Tournament in June. On June 9, LFSA drew the names of 17 winners of the items. They were: Greg Brown, Pierce Outdoors Kayak, Lee Batson, Pierce Outdoors Cooler, Bob Roberts, Ruger 22 Charger w/Bipod, Mark Trull, Glock G43X Subcompact 9 x 19, Norm Clem, Berkley Bait Prize Pack, Jim Alcorn, Amphibia Sunglasses, Dick Haynes, Academy Sports Gift Card Vortex Viper Binoculars, Diana Cones, Custom Angle Rod/Reel’s Reel, Ben Schroeder, Dobyn’s Rod/Reel’s Reel, Barry Emerson, Costa Sunglasses, Toni, Costa Sunglasses, Neil Nicholas, Guided Fishing Trip, Eddie Lawler, Tackle Backpack, Donald Lopez, Lake Fork Marina Gift Basket, Phillip Massoletti, Oil Less Turkey Fryer, Ray Northcut.

The Fall raffle will begin at the High School Open at Oak Ridge Marina on July 19-21 and continue until the Berkley Tournament at Lake Fork Marina on October 19-20. Members of Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association will have tickets to sell, as well.

On Friday, June 21, members of LFSA donated a 28’ Tritoon boat, motor and trailer to Texas Parks and Wildlife to support the fishing habitat improvement operations and restoration projects on Lake Fork and other Texas lakes. TPWD was represented by Evan Cartabiano and Travis Tidwell. Cartabiano addressed the LFSA members thanking them for the donation and stating the usefulness of it stating a boat of this size and capability had been a long time need for Inland Fisheries.

(Lake Fork Sportsman’s...Continued on Page 19)
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“Knowing What To Look For!”
By Michael McFarland

Summertime bass fishing in deep offshore submerged trees like the one in this image can be very rewarding. Big bass will have several places like this one as a summer home kinda like a bedroom if you will. They will feed somewhere else but can be caught in the bedroom. They will leave during the active feeding times visiting feeding flats, wind blown points, humps and local shell beds. Most often they won’t move too far but ecologists state that they can have feeding grounds as far as a quarter mile. The secret is to first find a handful of big full trees that are holding fish hopefully close to a long point, offshore structure, shell bed or feeding flat. To find these trees I use my Lowrance sidescan and down scanning abilities to cover a lot of water, one football field at a time. Be thorough in your scanning and even go back over an area multiple times to ensure you have missed nothing. Mark trees with proper icon and label as full tree. Next is to locate the closest possible feeding ground locations nearest the trees you have found. Once you have located and marked feeding grounds now you have bedrooms and kitchens. With homework done its time to go fishing. First I will sonar scan and fish the feeding ground (kitchen) locations during the suggested major and minor active periods including day light and evening hours. Second I fish the trees (bedrooms) during the off period times ensuring a higher percentage of my fishing time is spent in the right place. Its not easy to find the big trees and put all of this together but if you will put in the time and commitment to develop an understanding of how and where the bass live I promise its well worth it. I hope this made sense and will give you the edge this summer. Thelakeforkguide.com

Michael McFarland
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Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association “Preserving the Legend That is Lake Fork” (Continued from Page 14)

TPWD will begin to customize the boat with plans to install flat decking with lifts and a new console. Projects such as habitat replacement, shoreline restoration, fingerling releases, t-hab insertions are all targeted for the rig.

LFSA will be offered the opportunity for collaboration on all projects at Lake Fork involving use of the barge. The public will be given information concerning the locations of fish habitat structures, and the use of the barge for Lake Fork projects will take precedence over other projects conducted in other areas of the State.

Ed Swenson, LFSA Project Director and Carolyn West, LFSA President, both thanked the LFSA membership for the hard work to acquire the funds for the project and expressed appreciation to TPWD for their continued support working improvement projects on Lake Fork.

And then there was “Kids Fish Camp” offered by Rains County Friends of the Library as a summer project and taught by Peggy York, LFSA member certified by Texas Parks and Wildlife as an instructor. Nineteen kids were taught rules, regulations, casting skills, identification of fish varieties, and knot tying. Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association contributed rods and reels to each registrant. Jo Ann Doty, the event coordinator for the Friends group expressed her appreciation to LFSA and said “It warms my heart to see the number of kids who were interested in the program and who learned from the class. The materials provided by TPWD are professionally done.” It was a Saturday well-spent working with kids!

The month was a busy one for LFSA and one of the most productive ones! Anyone interested in joining the Association should come to the meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at Tiffany’s restaurant at Lake Fork Marina. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. If further information is needed, contact President Carolyn West at 903-752-2014.
“Rains Have Lake Fork in Awesome Shape!” (Continued from Page 6)

one’s. This bite only lasts about an hour but it is well worth being on the water early as daylight has its own majesty. Once this bite stops, move the boat out to about 15ft and throw a C-rig, squarebill or jig up to the 5-7ft range and work it back slowly. This will account for extra bites to fulfill the morning. A Texas rig blue fleck power worm fished with a 3/8 ounce tungsten weight in that same depth range will also deliver some rod bending results.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in July 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.”
Wood County Annual Kidfish (Continued from Page 11)

Each child weighing in the heaviest fish of that species in their age group wins a trophy and a year’s worth of bragging rights. This year, in the 4-year-old and under winners were Memphis Washburn with a .97-pound bass, Brady Mays with a 2.90-pound catfish, Emali Lane with a .39-pound perch, and Karsen Tipton for a 4.55-pound turtle. In the 5 to 8-year-old category Cooper Swift with a 2.64-pound bass, Tucker Azlin with a 5.48-pound catfish, Lane Allen with a .43-pound perch, Jarrett Thompson with a .70-pound crappie, and Jesse Petrea with a 2.70-pound turtle. In the 9 to 12-year-old category, Alizja Blasingame with a 2.88-pound bass, Cash Harrison with a 6.28-pound catfish, Royal Morgan with a .40-pound perch, Ella Glover with a .89-pound crappie, and AJ Hardy with a 3.77-pound turtle.

In the 13 to 16-year-old category, Micah Alexander with a 2.53-pound bass, Rebecca Jackson with a 3.07-pound catfish, William Flournoi with a .24-pound perch, and Zach McLemore with a .70-pound turtle.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork did an excellent job of weighing all the fish and turtles. No child leaves the event without a prize furnished by the many sponsors. This year’s prizes ranged from bicycles to fishing equipment. All of the children and parents always have an excellent time at the event.

A Special thanks goes out to all of the great sponsors that make this event possible, after all,

**Just The Right Answers**

Sponsored By:

Wish To Fish Foundation

903-360-6994 www.wishtofishfoundation.com

Wood County Annual Kidfish

(Continued from Page 11)

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Six Ways To Beat The Summer Heat

Last year, Texas’ temperatures soared to record highs and staff at more than 40 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department sites handled 134 incidents relating to heat-related illnesses in humans and pets. On the eve of the official start of summer, TPWD experts are sharing their top six heat hacks for staying safe in the outdoors during the blistering Texas heat.

Here are the top six heat hacks recommended for park visitors:
1. Hydrate- It's important to drink at least 16 ounces of water every hour in the heat to replenish your body and prevent dehydration. Don’t forget to bring enough for your four-legged family members too.
2. Block the Rays- Apply a generous amount of sunscreen or sunblock before heading outdoors. Be sure to reapply every couple of hours, and after swimming or sweating.
3. Dress Smart- Wear light, loose-fitting, breathable clothing; a hat, correct shoes, sunscreen and wet bandanas to keep you cool while in the sun. For pets, protect paws against blisters by hitting the trails during cooler times of the day when the ground isn’t hot or by putting booties on pets to help shield paws from the hot ground. Touch the pavement or ground with the back of your hand. If you cannot hold it there for five seconds, the surface is too hot for your dog’s paws.
4. Stay Salty- Food helps keep up energy and replace salt lost from sweating. Eating snacks such as jerky, granola, trail mix, tuna and dried fruit is a fantastic way to nourish your body while on the trails.
5. Buddy System- Two brains are better than one. It’s beneficial to have someone with you in hot conditions so you can look after each other on the trail. With high temperatures hitting Texas, heat-related illnesses are common and having a friend around to help recognize the early symptoms can save you from getting sick.
6. Plan Ahead- Study the map and have it with you. Average hikers move at 2 miles per hour, so allow yourself plenty of time to avoid hiking in the heat of the day. Make sure to rest in a cool or shaded area to recover from the heat if necessary. It is also a good idea to let someone know your plan before you hit the trails and what time you should be back. That way, if you become lost, people know where to look.

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Toyota ShareLunker Program Produces Tens of Thousands of Big Bass Offspring in 2019

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Toyota ShareLunker Program is having a banner year in its efforts to create bigger, better bass in Texas. After successfully spawning three of the five 13 pound or larger Legacy Class largemouth bass loaned to the selective-breeding program in 2019, the department’s hatchery staff produced more than 92,000 offspring to stock in Texas public lakes.

“We are extremely pleased with the number of ShareLunker offspring produced this year, and we couldn’t have done it without the anglers who generously loaned us their 13 pound and larger bass for our selective-breeding program,” said Kyle Brookshear, Toyota ShareLunker Program Coordinator. “This generosity doesn’t just increase the lunker potential of the lakes where those fish were caught, it also helps us in our effort to convert our entire hatchery broodstock to ShareLunker offspring, which will benefit every lake in Texas.”

In total, more than 55,000 fingerlings were stocked in the 2019 Legacy Class donation lakes - including Lake Conroe, Lake Fork, Marine Creek Lake, and Lake Leon. Additionally, more than 30,000 pure Florida largemouth bass offspring from ShareLunker 577 and ShareLunker 581 are being retained as hatchery broodstock so that TPWD can stock these big bass by the millions statewide in coming years. Thousands of fingerlings produced from ShareLunker 581 are being retained to stock as six-inch fish into the new Bois d’Arc Lake in Fannin County.

Three of the five Legacy Class fish loaned to TPWD in 2019 were released back into their home lakes after spawning, which includes Lake Conroe, Marine Creek Lake and Lake Fork. The other two fish caught from Lake Leon and a private research lake were donated to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, where ShareLunker 578 can be seen on display and hand-fed by scuba divers during the daily dive show.

Although the donation season for 13 pound or larger Legacy Class fish has ended, anglers can still enter all largemouth bass 8 pounds or larger through the end of the year to help expand catch data for fisheries biologists and interested anglers in exchange for great prizes. As of June 1, 214 of these fish have been entered from 75 lakes across the state, including 153 qualified as Lunkers (8 pounds or larger), 56 qualified as Elite Class (10 pounds or larger), and five qualified as Legacy Class (those over 13 pounds loaned to TPWD for the selective breeding and stocking program).

With less than 6 months left in the 2019 year-long season, the current top 10 lunker producing lakes in the state include Lake Fork with 23 entries, Lake Conroe with 22 entries, Lake Athens with 15 entries, Lake Pflugerville with nine entries, Sam Rayburn Reservoir with eight entries, Lake Falcon with six entries, Possum Kingdom Reservoir with five entries, Lake Ray Hubbard with five entries, and Lake Austin and Gilmer Reservoir with four entries.

Anglers receive a prize package for every approved bass they enter throughout the year in all categories. This package includes a Toyota ShareLunker Catch Kit containing branded merchandise, an achievement decal, merchandise and other giveaways; as well as an entry into the year-end ShareLunker Prize Drawing for an annual fishing license and $5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree.

(Continued on Next Page)
The eligible anglers who loaned TPWD a Legacy Class fish through the entry cut-off date March 31 received an even bigger prize package that included a replica of their fish presented on stage at Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest in May. These anglers were also entered into a separate $5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree drawing, won by ShareLunker 579 angler Barry Prince of Lindale.

Anglers can enter bass in the program using the Toyota ShareLunker app - available for free download from the Apple App Store and Google Play - or by using a form online at https://texassharelunker.com/. The digital entry forms on both platforms allow anglers to quickly and easily submit photos of the fish being properly measured, weighed and held. These forms also include simple instructions for anglers who would like to provide a sample of fish scales from their lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis.

“Anglers who enter catch data about their 8 pound and larger bass are giving our fisheries management biologists important information about which lakes are producing big bass in Texas,” Brookshear said. “Sending a scale sample with your entry gives TPWD even more information to use in the management of our world-class bass fisheries because it provides us with valuable genetic data and helps us monitor the impact of ShareLunker stockings.”

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Toyota. Toyota is a longtime supporter of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of education, fish, parks and wildlife projects.

Prize donors Bass Pro Shops, Lake Fork Taxidermy, American Fishing Tackle Co. and Stanley Jigs also provide additional support for this program.


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**Five Things I Like Almost As Much As Fishing**

1. Tinkering With My Tackle.
2. Talking About Fishing.
3. Movies and TV Shows with Fishing (or Boats, or Even Better--Fishing Boats).
4. Reading Fishing Reports.
5. Bacon.

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For More Information Call: 903-360-6994 or 903-383-7748 email: fishnews@lakefork.net
The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement reports.

--Self-Incrimination-- Trinity County game wardens conducted an interview with a subject who supposedly shot a deer on his one acre property in December. The wardens suspected it could have been harvested on a neighboring landowner's property and wanted to express their concerns to the hunter. The hunter had a buck head in his freezer and showed it to the wardens. He claimed to have found the buck dead on the roadway after it had been struck by a vehicle. The buck had an 11¼-inch inside spread, which made it an illegal buck in the antler restricted county. The subject gave consent to check his cell phone photos of the deer, and that provided the wardens with a different account. After reviewing the images, and the date/time stamps, the wardens concluded two deer were possibly shot at night. Following a lengthy interview during which the wardens shared their evidence with the individual, the subject finally admitted to shooting the illegal buck on his property. He also admitted to shooting a doe at night and not placing a tag on it. The subject also trespassed on neighboring property to retrieve both kills. Other violations included harvest log violations, improper tagging, no hunter education certification, criminal trespassing, and driver's license violation. Also, another buck whose images were captured on the subject's mobile device is still under investigation. The cases and restitution are pending.

--Water-fouling-- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department encourages hunters to pass along the state's rich hunting heritage to the next generation. As an incentive to provide young hunters with opportunities, TPWD conducts special youth/adult-only hunts on some of its Wildlife Management Areas. Adults can accompany youth on these hunts to provide mentoring on various aspects of hunting, including hunter ethics and firearms safety, and may participate as long as youth are part of the hunting group. Unfortunately, some folks choose to leave the kids behind in violation of the spirit and letter of the law. A couple of incidents in December on the Richland Creek WMA illustrate the point. Notified by WMA staff that a group appeared to be hunting illegally, a Freestone County game warden came across a group of eight adult hunters hunting the special youth/adult weekend, but with no youth present. Citations were issued and civil restitution was charged on 36 ducks. Four days later, wardens received a complaint from a concerned hunter regarding a pair of hunters who continued to duck hunt after the noon-time closure on the Richland Creek WMA. The morning hunt was a youth/adult only hunt and once contacted, it was realized both hunters were adults and had no youth hunters with them. Neither hunter had the required annual public hunting lands permits, migratory game bird stamps, nor other endorsements needed to hunt ducks, nor had they checked in at the WMA registration station. Additionally, one hunter did not possess proof of having completed hunter education. Numerous citations/warnings were issued. The cases are pending.

--Out Walking the Dogs-- Bexar County game wardens recently filed multiple cases on two men from Frio County and a San Antonio man who were hunting hogs with dogs on City of San Antonio park property in the southwestern part of the county. The three individuals initially claimed they were just out walking their dogs in the park, near midnight, but couldn't explain the blood stains on their hands. After being cited by park police for violating the site curfew, the individuals faced intensive scrutiny by the game wardens and eventually admitted to hunting hogs and killing a javelina. The men had driven into the park after curfew and released their dogs. Two of the men followed the dogs from the park's paved walkway, while the third stayed behind with the vehicle as a lookout. Multiple cases are pending along with civil restitution.

--Poser-- Social Media Tip #39: When posting photos of yourself with the deer you falsely claim to have just harvested, be sure to pin the location; it helps game wardens find you faster!
wardens when they come to investigate. After spotting Facebook photos of a woman with a mule deer buck she claimed to have shot, game wardens ran a quick check, and learned she did not have a hunting license. The pinned location of the posted images appeared to be a ranch in Brewster County enrolled in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Managed Lands Deer program, which carries certain tagging and harvest log requirements. After identifying the individual’s boyfriend, who also appeared in the photos, the wardens went to the hunting camp to sort things out. When questioned, the boyfriend told wardens he had killed the buck, legally, and showed them the deer head and MLD tag with his name on it. He then confessed his girlfriend made the initial shot on the deer, he said. Upon further investigation, it was found only the backstraps were saved and the remaining carcass was dumped because “the deer was old.” Multiple citations were issued and the deer was seized.

--An Illegal Commercial Fishing License, Please--
On Dec. 8, an individual came into the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Victoria Law Enforcement Office to purchase a general commercial fishing license. One of the office clerks was attempting to complete the transaction, but the computer system didn’t recognize the individual’s social security number. A game warden on hand was handed the individual’s Texas ID card, which he immediately recognized as a fake. The warden verified through dispatch that the individual didn’t have any documentation on record with the Texas Department of Public Safety. After questioning the individual regarding his fake ID, the subject admitted he bought the social security card, Texas ID card and a Mexican ID from an individual in Pasadena. The subject was transported to the Victoria County Jail and charges are pending.

--Baiting the Roost--
On Jan. 7, an Ellis County game warden heard shooting on a soil conservation lake well after sunset. Legal duck hunting hours end at sunset. The warden was able to walk to and observe the group of hunters shooting at a duck roost on a small island in the lake. After making contact with the hunters, the warden also discovered corn scattered around the subjects’ gear. He pulled one of the hunters aside and when asked how much corn was located on the island they were hunting, the hunter dropped his head and said, “Fifty pounds.” Citations for hunting after sunset and placing bait to attract migratory waterfowl are pending.

--Bad Memory--
On Christmas morning, a Houston County game warden received a call about trespassers on a piece of property near Kennard. The warden arrived, found the vehicle, and tracked the suspects. He located an adult and a teenager hunting deer on the property without permission. The adult stated he had not killed anything during the year. As the warden inspected his hunting license, he noticed a turkey tag missing. His memory jogged, the man did recall shooting a turkey. Asked if he was certain he hadn’t harvested anything else, the man then remembered a doe he had killed earlier in the year, but had forgotten about it. He also forgotten how to tag it and enter it in the harvest log. The cases are pending.

--Working on Their Night Moves--
Game wardens received information about two subjects that had allegedly killed several deer at night near Grapeland, in Houston County. After obtaining IDs through TPWD’s databases, the wardens were able to locate the residence of one of the subjects, and were fortunate enough to catch both subjects there. The subjects initially denied killing any deer other than what was logged on their hunting licenses, but once the questioning revealed inaccuracies in their accounts, they admitted to poaching several additional deer. Wardens discovered several deer heads in various locations on the property, and two more deer heads at another residence. Through their investigation, the wardens learned one of the illegal deer was shot by...
‘Fire Up’ Fourth of July Fun

Independence Day festivities are chock full of fun. From spirited parties to boisterous parades to fireworks in the backyard, Fourth of July brings out the child in everyone. You can easily throw your own party at home with barbecue ribs and hamburgers! Want to raise your hamburgers to a new level? Add chopped fresh mushrooms to the mix. The mushrooms not only add wonderful, savory flavor, but they release their juices as the burgers cook, keeping them moist and juicy. Serve your beautiful burgers open-face with the perfect topper—sautéed in the same skillet.

Open-Faced Mushroom Burgers

1 pound fresh white mushrooms
1 pound ground beef
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
1 medium onion, sliced
¼ teaspoon each salt and ground black pepper
4 slices crusty bread, toasted

Chop enough mushrooms to measure 1-1/2 cups; slice remaining mushrooms. In a bowl, combine ground beef, chopped mushrooms and mustard; gently form into 4 burgers. In a large heavy skillet, over medium heat, heat half of the oil. Add sliced mushrooms and onion; cook and stir just until tender, 5 to 6 minutes. Remove to a bowl along with juices. In the same skillet, heat remaining oil. Add burgers; cook until browned and cooked through, 4 to 5 minutes on each side; remove to a plate; keep warm. Pour off excess fat; return mushroom-onion mixture to skillet; add salt and pepper. Cook and stir until hot. Arrange each burger on a toasted bread slice with a lettuce leaf and tomato slice, if desired. Spoon mushroom-onion mixture onto burgers.

Saucy Foil Packet Barbecue Ribs

2 sheets (18X24 inches each) Reynolds Wrap Heavy Duty Aluminum Foil
¾ cup barbecue sauce
2 tablespoons orange marmalade
2 teaspoons hot pepper sauce
4 pounds pork baby back ribs

Preheat grill to medium heat. Place 2- or 4-rib sections in each half of foil. Bring up long sides of foil. Double fold top and one end to seal. Add 3 to 4 ice cubes to foil packet. Double fold remaining end, leaving room for heat circulation inside packet. Repeat to make 2 packets. Grill covered an additional 10 to 15 minutes, turning every 5 minutes and brushing with the remaining sauce. Makes 10 servings.
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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 26)

a third subject, who admitted to the crime the following day. So far, 21 citations and warnings have been issued for various violations involving the five bucks and two does seized. The investigation is ongoing.

--When Duty Calls--
A Freestone County game warden was enjoying his day off duck hunting at the Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area when he observed a game law violation. The warden watched as a vehicle stopped on a designated public hunting lands road, the driver exit and shoot at ducks. The warden cut his hunt short, switched hats and was eventually able to make contact with the subject, charging him with hunting from a designated roadway. His passenger was charged for not having the required Annual Public Hunting Lands permit. The driver was also part of a group recently apprehended by the warden on Richland Creek WMA for hunting when the area was closed.

--Playing Leap Frog--
While patrolling Galveston Bay, game wardens aboard the PV Captain Murchison observed two commercial oyster boats operating and harvesting oysters in a closed area. Despite an outgoing tide, north winds and the fact the PV Captain Murchison drafts 4-5 feet, the Murchison carefully approached the first violator, made contact and one of the wardens boarded. As the Murchison held its position, the warden onboard the oysterman's boat informed the captain of the violation and directed him to approach the second vessel. The warden then boarded the second vessel in violation. Both captains and crews were arrested for harvesting oysters in a restricted area and transported to the Chambers County Jail. This marks the first time in the 30-year service of the PV Captain Murchison that a restricted oyster case was made off this deep water platform. The cases are pending.

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If you know a family that has a child that meets our criteria, just have them call us.
We'll take over from there!

"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 NO COST! 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
Lake Fork Tournament Schedule July thru Sept 2019

July
July 13 ~ Media Teams Minnow Bucket
July 20, 21, ~ High School Scholarship Oakridge Marina
July 21 ~ JC Outdoors Solo Minnow Bucket
If you are having a Tournament on Lake Fork and wish to have it listed contact us fishnews@lakefork.net

August
NO NOTIFICATIONS OF TOURNAMENTS FOR AUGUST
If you are having a Tournament on Lake Fork and wish to have it listed contact us fishnews@lakefork.net

September
Sept. 14 ~ JC Teams Championship Minnow Bucket
Sept. 20, 21, 22 ~ Sealy Outdoors Lake Fork Marina
Sept. 28~ JC Outdoors Teams Minnow Bucket
Sept. 29 ~ JC Outdoors Solo Minnow Bucket
**Quintman on Hwy 154**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$177,900</td>
<td>Located in the Big Oaks Subdivision, homes in this area do not come on the market very often. This home is almost 1 acre &amp; 1 acre of leaseback. Lake View &amp; home are to die for! Home features 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths and all appliances are included with the sale! 24’ Deep garage for your boat, or there is a carport outside also. Furnishings negotiable. New roof installed May 1st 2019. This is a hard to find home, in this price range. Call today!</td>
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**Quitman**

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<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>$379,000</td>
<td>GREAT LAKE FORK, 1 OWNER HOME! Located in the Big Oaks Subdivision, homes in this area do not come on the market very often. This home is almost 1 acre &amp; 1 acre of leaseback. Lake View &amp; home are to die for! Home features 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths and all appliances are included with the sale! 24’ Deep garage for your boat, or there is a carport outside also. Furnishings negotiable. New roof installed May 1st 2019. This is a hard to find home, in this price range. Call today!</td>
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**Emory**

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<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>$225,000</td>
<td>This recently remodeled home is waterfront on Lake Lydia, a private lake. Property features boat house, guest quarters, 2 car garage with workshop area, hardwood floors, gas fireplace, office &amp; a sunroom. 3 bedrooms and 1 full bathroom with claw foot bathtub in the main house &amp; an all wood interior guest room with a 3/4 bathroom behind garage. Home sits high on a hill on a large lot with great view of the lake and plenty of privacy! Furnishings Negotiable.</td>
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**Winnsboro**

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<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$127,400</td>
<td>This 1.117 acres lot is located in downtown, Winnsboro right on Main St. Busy road frontage gives serious exposure for most any business. $350,000 Call JR for full details!</td>
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**Lake Fork**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>$8,939,000</td>
<td>LAKE FORK WATERFRONT LOTS &amp; OFF WATER LOTS FROM $12,000 TO $84,900 Lake Fork area acreage from $79,900 to $375,000 CALL JR FOR FULL DETAILS</td>
</tr>
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</table>
WHERE AMATEURS WIN LIKE THE PROS!!

$516,000 GUARANTEED IN CASH & PRIZES

HOURLY CASH PAYOUTS,
TRITON BASS BOATS POWERED BY MERCURY,
RAM TRUCKS AND MORE!

* Prizes awarded may not be identical to those pictured.

LAKE FORK, TEXAS
Lake Fork Marina & Motel; Alba, TX
September 20-21-22, 2019

Benefitting St Jude Children’s Research Hospital® & Ronald McDonald House Charities®

Your Next Chance To WIN BIG!!!

LAKE SAM RAYBURN, TX
“FALL SHOOTOUT”
October 12 & 13, 2019

LEARN MORE & REGISTER TODAY: SEALYOUOUTDOORS.COM OR 888.698.2591 (cst 9-5)