Lake Fork guide Johnny Glass caught this hawg fishing in July weighing 11.75-pounds. Great catch that was released back into the lake to be caught another day.

Lee Borderlon Jr. from Abbeville, Louisiana was fishing Lake Fork in July with his friend Dane LeBlanc when he caught this nice bass weighing 11.55-pounds and measuring 25.5” in length. C.P.R.

The team of Dakota Groves and Kole Sustaire of Rains County High School won the 2019 Lake Fork High School Scholarship Tournament with a total 2-day weight of 15.22-pounds. They brought to the scales a 5 fish limit each day and were presented $7,000 in scholarship winnings for their efforts.

The team of Nolan Brown and Nathan Brown representing Winnsboro High School Fishing Team brought to the scales the biggest bass of the High School Scholarship Tournament with this nice bass weighing 7.97-pounds. For their efforts they were presented $500 extra scholarship winnings. (See Story on Page 7)
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By Don Bubba Hampton

Bubba has on more than one occasion stated that it is never too hot to fish, but I do believe that with the hot days coming in August he may change his mind. His new way of thinking is that his body temperature is 98.6-degrees so anytime it is hotter than that; it is just too hot to fish! I am sure a couple of days on tournament when the heat index was pushing 105 degrees he came to this conclusion.

I’ve seen Bubba fishing in some pretty severe weather. One thing is for sure he’ll never be classified in the WFWF. For those that have no clue as to this meaning he came up with… it means ‘Wimpy Fair Weather Fishermen’. True Bubba prefers cold weather because the way he figures it he can always wear more clothes but in the hot weather if you take off too many clothes, you’ll get a sunburn where you really don’t want one!

He does have his ways of staying cool while fishing. I do believe he has a fan fetish! He has one little box fan in his boat that runs on eight D cell batteries. When the wind quits blowing, he has the fan to break the stillness. Bubba even has one that hangs around his neck. I think he bought this one just because of the brand name. It’s called an O’2-Cool… need I say more!! If you see him with it on, it looks like an IPOD, but don’t be fooled, he’s not that cool while fishing!

In cases of extreme heat he keeps a spray bottle of water in his ice chest. He’ll spray himself down, put on his Foreign Legion looking hat, adjust his fans, and just keep trying to rip-a-lip!!

I’d have to classify all of this as extreme ‘Fishing Dedication’!

I asked Bubba once if it was all worth it and his reply was, “Heck yeah… just one bite makes it all alright!”

Going shopping with Bubba when the heat has been directed his way is not something I would recommend. We jumped in his truck and drove to the nearest place that sold air conditioners. This was about 15 miles up the road and for the entirety of the trip he kept repeating, “Be cool! Get Cool! Stay Cool!”

“Need an air conditioner,” he casually remarked. I just knew a sarcastic “duh” was going to come out of Bubba’s mouth but all he said was, “Yep!” Then the salesman unknowingly made his tragic mistake when he asked, “How much BTU Output are you looking for?” I cringed when Bubba said, “Look I don’t know nothin’ bout no B-T-U Output, but I got a B-U-T-T, as wide as a T-U-B that if I don’t get it cooled I’ll be PUT OUT!” This remark got Bubba all fixed up with just what he needed and he even got a 20% discount which he thought was really cool!!

I’m glad the heat spells don’t last for long periods of time. I can deal with Bubba getting hot under the collar but when Bubbette gets hot under the collar everybody better “Fan Out”!!

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Summer is a great time to explore the Texas coast. Longer days, family vacations and more than 350 miles of coastline make its shallow bays and estuaries the perfect spot for anglers, boaters and kayakers. Yet, when people in different watercraft encounter each other in some spots, that can lead to user conflicts, and some boaters have damaged important ecological habitat. All this is prompting fishing guides and others to call for a new code of behavior.

To reduce user conflict between boating groups, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is urging everyone to think ethically when using shared coastal resources. “By helping to conserve shallow water habitats through ethical boating and angling, we can all enjoy the coast for generations to come,” said Robin Riechers, TPWD coastal fisheries division director. “Fortunately, there is a rising tide of support, with good guidelines to help people do the right thing.”

TPWD and various coastal stakeholders and partners have worked for years to educate boaters and provide information about how to protect seagrass, while still enjoying the outdoors. This emphasizes the simple message to Lift, Drift, Pole and Troll when navigating seagrass flats in a motorized boat. Besides avoiding citations for illegal uprooting of seagrass, this approach protects vital habitat that supports game fish and other species, decreases disturbances to wildlife and other people—and promotes safer and more ethical boating in Texas bays. Through work with multiple coastal stakeholders years ago, the department developed ethical angler standards.

Multiple partners are complementing and spreading similar messages. One is the nonprofit group Flatsworthy, a coalition of fishing guides, paddlers, airboaters, fly-fishermen, wade anglers, and others who drift-fish or enjoy poling the flats. The group promotes a Code of Angler Respect designed to curb destructive behaviors that are eroding coastal marshes, and also reverse a trend of inconsiderate behavior. Other examples include the Coastal Conservation Association, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Matagorda Bay Foundation, and Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

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Large Numbers of Juvenile Bass Indicate Llano River Recovering From Historic Flood Event

Less than a year after a major flood scoured much of the Llano River and left anglers worried about the future of the waterway’s renowned bass fishery, biologists with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are finding evidence of a recovery.

A fish sampling effort near Castell in late-June by TPWD aquatic biologists found large numbers of juvenile largemouth and Guadalupe bass are now present in the river. TPWD Aquatic Biologist Preston Bean, who is heading up a study looking at recovery of the river’s habitat and fish assemblage, reported Guadalupe bass made up 26 percent of the total catch and were at least 10 percent of the catch at each of 10 sampling sites.

“Most Guadalupe bass we collected were spawned this spring and the average length was 2.2 inches,” said Bean. “The fish appeared to be feeding heavily and had excellent body condition.”

The health of the resource was also evident from sampling of other aquatic species present in the river. Arichs Grubh, TPWD Aquatic Ecologist who is studying effects of the flood on aquatic invertebrates reported seeing a steady repopulation of the invertebrate community, which means plentiful food is available for juvenile sport fish.

While biologists note that it will take time for keeper-sized bass to reach pre-flood levels in the Llano River, the presence of large numbers of juveniles indicates the fishery is healthy and on the way to recovery. Based on average growth rates for bass from Hill Country rivers, it will likely take several years before good numbers of larger bass are available for anglers in the most affected reaches of the river.

Follow-up fish, habitat, and aquatic invertebrate surveys are planned by TPWD in the months ahead, along with surveys to monitor for aquatic invasive species that often spread during flood events.

“Keep in mind, last year the Llano River was greatly affected by a 100-year flood event that significantly altered its fish habitat,” said John Botros, TPWD River Access Program Coordinator. “Many anglers and local landowners expressed concern to us about the status of the fish population following this catastrophic flooding. While the abundance of fish in the river is lower than it was before the flood, we are happy to report that fish populations are showing signs of recovery.”

More information on the Llano River flood of 2018, including details on changes to aquatic and riparian habitats can be found on the Llano River Watershed Alliance’s website.

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1-(903) 383-2733 or 1-(877) 383-2503
By David Ozio

“What a strange summer this has been to date! Who would have thought that the surface water temps would only be in the mid-eighties as of this writing. It kinda makes me wonder if the fish are just going to skip the “group up” stage and move straight to the suspend stage. Sorta seems that way at the moment. We have been doing OK on a daily basis but have had to burn a ton of gas to locate moving schools. Had a trip two days ago where we caught 33 good bass and then on the next day only had two fish off the same spots. It’s been a head scratcher for all the guides on this pond this summer. Big wind has kept the surface temps lower and also made it very comfortable to fish even in 95 degree air temps.

Lake Fork is currently about two inches under pool level and water clarity is incredibly good across the expanse of the impoundment. Surface temps have been ranging from 84-86 degrees recently and these extremes have recently delegated where the bass have been holding with regard to structure. Shallow water temps have been much higher based upon lake location. When the surface temps are in the lower range, bass seem to be holding on the bottom relating to points, pond dams, ridges, roadbeds and hard structures.

As of this writing I have been catching bass shallow early and then fading back to the 20-26ft range on the same structures to tangle with the bruisers. Targeting these fish is the directive and your electronics will be the tool to getting the job done. I suspect as we roll into August the thermocline will rise up in the water column causing the bass to suspend.

With the water temps being this cool at the moment, I don’t see this happening until late in the month. Break lines have been the key to date as the big green fish just refuse to move up onto the tops of the humps and ridges. Could it happen in August, stay tuned.

Moming and late evening bass are no huge challenge as they will hit top water baits along with the squarebill crankbaits. Shad colors are always recommended and focus these efforts on main lake points. This action will be short lived as the bite dissipates as the sun starts to peak over the tree lines. This is when you start to look for a deeper diving crankbait and back out on these points and focus on the 8-15ft depth range. Same colors apply during this time of the year and covering water will be the ticket to success. Once mid morning is upon you, this will be the time to break out the Carolina and Texas rigs to probe the 20-26ft depths using any plastic of your choice. Big worms usually will get the job done and I favor any version of red during the summer months. Redbug is hard to beat especially if you see the bass on the screen and decide to tackle them using a drop shot. I opt for 12 lb line on the drop shot in this situation and use a 3/8 ounce weight on the windy

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(See One Strange..... Continued on Page 20)
6th Annual National Lake Fork Open High School Scholarship Tournament

By Don Hampton

The 6th Annual National Lake Fork Open High School Scholarship Tournament was held out of Oak Ridge Marina on July 19, 20, 21. This is truly a great tournament put on by the Lake Fork Chamber of Commerce and their many sponsors.

Everyone that participates to make this event possible for our youth is to be commended for their diligence and hard work.

The tournament is open to any youth beginning the 9th grade to having just graduated from the 12th grade from anywhere in the Nation. Not only does this involve our youth in the positive sport of fishing which might ‘Keep them on the lakes where there are fewer mistakes’ but also help them financially towards a higher education.

This year 79 teams participated in the tournament. It all began on Friday afternoon with registration, followed by the Captain’s Meeting, and dinner for all participants.

The weather they faced for the next two days of fishing was typical Texas July hot and hotter. The young anglers handled the situation like true future pros. Thankfully the chamber provided a large tent to ease the blazing sun from the spectators and family during the course of the tournament which made it more bearable.

During the tournament the average water temperature was 84-degrees. There were 380 bass weighed in. Total fish weight was 453.96-pounds. Of the 380 fish weighed in 376 (99%) of those were released in good condition back into Lake Fork. These young anglers and their Captains are to be commended for the care they exhibited in handling and preserving the bass. Lake Fork Sportsman Association had their Live Release Boat present each day making sure the bass were kept in good health to be released back into the lake to substantiate the future

(See 6th Annual National...Continued on Page 11)
By Terri Moon

Skeeter Solera that is!! It's what I like to call my “Luxury Liner”! I can't begin to tell you how MUCH I've enjoyed fishing out of this boat! They have really taken crappie fishing to another level! Their comfort level is off the chart! One of my customers last week told me – WOW – this is like fishing out of my living room! We had comfortable seating, the blue tooth stereo going, cold drinks in the cup holders and fish in the livewell. Life just doesn't get any better!

Yep – Skeeter has expanded the Solera from a 189 to a 205 “dream machine”! So I am “ALL in”! My favorite thing about the Solera is that it's a “Perfect Boat” for any age and especially for us “Seniors”!!! (I don't know about you but I'd rather ride in a Lincoln Town Car than a little whatev-er!) Somehow the comfort makes the fishing more fun! So thank you Skeeter for making such a “Family Friendly” boat!

Now as far as the crappie excitement, we are starting to check the deeper areas of the lake like deep water humps, points, and any bends in main creek channels. They like to have quick access to shallow and deep water. So check any drop-offs or ledges and always look for baitfish. Right now we are targeting 12 to 18 ft. in 20 to 30 ft. of water.

The colors working for us have been L.F.T. live baby shad in blue gill or white/chartreuse, bub-ba baits in LSU purple/chartreuse or white/chartreuse or white/chartreuse and Bonehead slim stick in white/chartreuse. It's also taking a very slow presentation so try your best not to over-work your bait. All you need is a little twitch now and then so you can stay in contact with your bait (and don't stop watching your line).

Now for those of you still looking for bream, they have been in 1-5 ft. around the new and full moon. Other than that, look in 5-20 ft. around any structure. Crickets or night crawlers or Berkley Power Wiggles will work.

Many thanks to all of you who came to fish with me this past month and I'm so glad you all have enjoyed the Solera Boat as much as I do!

Be safe out there while you enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sending thoughts, hugs & prayers to my family in Mис-ouri!
Texas Statewide Quail Symposium Set for Aug. 14-16 in Abilene

Quail enthusiasts, get ready for the return of the Texas Statewide Quail Symposium Aug. 14-16. This semi-annual conference brings together quail experts from across the state and beyond to discuss current topics of interest in quail conservation and management.

The symposium is hosted by The Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Wildlife Association and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The conference is open to the public and all quail enthusiasts are encouraged to attend, including landowners, land managers, hunters, photographers, naturalists, and students. The event begins with a field day on Aug. 14 at the MT7 Ranch in Breckenridge, where ranch manager Ty Bartoskewitz will discuss and demonstrate some of the habitat management strategies implemented on the property. There will also be opportunities there to work on plant identification skills and practice quail habitat evaluation first-hand with guidance from professionals.

The symposium proper will take place at the MCM Elegante hotel in Abilene on Aug. 15-16. Sessions will cover current outreach and education efforts, resources available to landowners, and a panel discussion on “Cows and Quail.” Several hot-button issues will also be addressed including quail management on small acreages, quail predators, and strategies for restoring quail to depopulated areas. The last day will focus on the latest developments quail research. There will also be opportunities for 1-on-1 consultations with experts for help with specific problems or questions.

Notable speakers this year include Dr. Tom Dailey of the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, Jim Willis—president and cofounder of the Wildlife Habitat Federation, and Texas Parks and Wildlife executive director Carter Smith.

More information about the event is available online or by contacting Amanda Gobeli with Texas A&M AgriLife at agobeli@tamu.edu. Take advantage of discounted early registration by signing up before Aug. 7 (online or via mail-in form) for $50. Registration at the event is also available for $75. Students will enjoy further discounted rates of $20 for early registration or $50 at the door.
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of this great lake.

As with all tournaments the scale will tell at the closing of the event. Winning 1st Place with a 2-day weight of 15.22-pounds was Kole Sustaire and Dakota Groves from Rains County High School; 2nd Place total weight of 14.53-pounds was Tate Pokrifc-sak and A.J. Reed of Aledo High School; 3rd Place with a weight of 14.43-pounds was Jade Maples and Westin Roberts of Caddo Mills High School; 4th Place with a weight of 13.98-pounds was Ben Burns and Ian Nash of Lovejoy High School; 5th Place with a weight of 13.59-pounds was Hunter Muncreif and Landen McCary of West Sabine; 6th Place with a weight of 12.82-pounds was Emily Banta and Kolton Foerster of Cayuga High School; 7th Place with a weight of 12.59-pounds was Nathan and Nolan Brown of Winsboro High School. They also had heavy bass of the tournament weighing 7.97-pounds; 8th Place with a weight of 12.53-pounds was Cason Ragsdale and Noah Sanders of Winsboro High School; 9th Place with a weight of 11.53-pounds was Doyl Brown and Weldon Sherrell; and in 10th Place with a weight of 11.01-pounds was Bryce Simonek and Tristan Rychlik of Mineola High School.

It is true... the youth are our future and I truly expect great things and bright futures for all of these young anglers.
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Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association “Preserving the Legend That is Lake Fork”

By Carolyn West
President LFSA

The Fall raffle was initiated at the High School Open at Oak Ridge Marina on July 19-21. The second raffle of the year for LFSA will end at the Berkley Tournament at Lake Fork Marina on October 19-20. This raffle has fishing backpacks, a Humminbird Helix 7 Fish Finder, rods, reels, fishing trips, deck lighting system, Pandora jewelry, two guns and more as prizes. Members of Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association are selling tickets individually and members of the Association will be selling them at fishing tournaments until the Berkley. Tickets are $5.00 each or five (5) for $20.00.

Summer may be here and kids are on their vacations, but the greenhouse at Yantis High School is still being attended by the Ag Teacher, Tonya Rabenaldt, and members of LFSA. Button bushes are still growing and waiting for the water to be low enough to plant them. Bulrush grasses are also growing in tubs and will also be planted in the lake when access is available. Ag students at Yantis play a large role in the success of potting and nourishing the plants with LFSA and TPWD. Mike and Pat Kostial, LFSA members, are Chairs for the High School Tackle Program. Fishing rods, reels, tackle, life vests and other related items are collected, refurbished and given to high school kids who want to fish. Annually, the committee awards the items to the team sponsors at a meeting. This year, Mike has asked for help with donations from members and local fishermen. Particularly needed are used or new reels and baits. Donations of tackle can be made to the club by calling 903-752-2014.

Fishing pro, Charlie Ingram, host of “Fishing University” which airs on the Outdoor Channel, WFN and the Sportsman Channel, will be coming to Lake Fork to film his show in Fall of 2019 or very early 2020. Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association is one of the sponsors of the filming. Ingram and his filming crew will also attend an assembly of students at a local high school and lecture on the benefits of choosing careers in the outdoor professions. Fishing University has aired three times per week on the Outdoor Channel, three times per week on the Sportsman Channel and four times per week on WFN-World Fishing Network.

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"We take pride in protecting your family as our own family"
"Knowing What To Look For!"
By Michael McFarland

The month of August is often called the dog days of summer. The hottest temperatures of the year, high humidity and stagnant air can make fishing on Fork very tough. Many fishermen simply put the boat away during this time. I suggest 3 things.

First- In the image I have included you will see a brush pile topped with baitfish balls and several big bass adjacent to the left. If your fishing through the day time this is what your looking for. With a properly tuned sonar you can search until you find fish before you actually wet a line. If you do not see them don’t waste your time.

Second- Fish very early mornings, late evenings or even after dark. The night bite can be unbelievable!

In the mornings and evenings bass will pull up on points, humps, brush piles, ledges, shell beds, tree tops or anywhere bait is present and an ambush can be made. If there is any wind, its all to your favor so use it. I tend to stay with jigs and big worms but sometimes experience a top water bite during these times.

Third- Fish the night lighted boat docks. There literally are over 100 sets of fiber optic under water lights under boat docks throughout the whole lake. If you do this you will see so many different species of fish you just won’t believe it. Huge bass & giant fish shadows that will make your heart flutter! Its best to fish the dark edges of the lighted area not the lighted area itself. Keep quiet and stealth. Flutter spoons and square bills are a couple of great techniques; however, many different techniques can work. These 3 suggestions are simply my opinion. There are fishermen who catch them right through the heat of the day. With that being said if you are planning on fishing during the dog days of summer be sure to make a plan, bring lots of water and expect to grind.

If you would like to learn more fishing tricks and tips or just simply get daily and weekly Lake Fork information, please be sure to follow me at “The Lake Fork adventures guide service” on Facebook or “The Lake Fork guide” on Instagram.

Thank you for reading, I wish you all great fishing.

By Michael McFarland
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Fish and wildlife populations are under increasing pressure from habitat loss, invasive species, emerging diseases, and extreme weather events in Texas and throughout the country. As many as one-third of our nation’s species are on the brink of becoming threatened or endangered. A bill just introduced in Congress seeks to reverse this trend.

House Resolution 3742, known as the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA), would provide $1.3 billion annually to state initiatives, and $97.5 million to tribal nations, to support at-risk fish and wildlife populations and their habitats. The funding would come from existing revenues, and would not require any new taxes. Texas would get an estimated more than $50 million per year.

U.S. Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) introduced the bipartisan legislation with 61 original co-sponsors and with nationwide support from conservationists, hunters, anglers, businesspeople, oil and gas company representatives, and the outdoor recreation industry.

Texas is home to more than 1,300 of the 12,000 species identified nationwide as Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Many iconic fish and wildlife are in decline, including the much-loved Texas horned lizard, Pronghorn antelope, Guadalupe bass, sea turtles, and many grassland and coastal birds. H.R. 3742 is being called a once-in-a-generation opportunity to save these wildlife species, and to provide more regulatory certainty for businesses, land developers, the oil and gas industry, and governmental entities.

“H.R. 3742 would be a game-changer for fish and wildlife - in Texas and across the country,” said John Shepperd, Texas Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife spokesman. The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act is a cost-effective way to recover fish and wildlife populations without the more reactive, “emergency room” measures of the Endangered Species Act. Once a species reaches the need to be listed as Threatened or Endangered, the process of recovery is more difficult and expensive. It is much smarter to act before these at-risk populations reach a critical point.”

“Healthy fish and wildlife populations are the backbone of Texas’ multi-billion dollar outdoor recreation economy,” Shepperd said, “which includes hunting, angling, wildlife watching, kayaking, nature tourism, camping and hiking. Research has proven children do better in school when they connect with nature. Functioning ecosystems provide food, fiber, timber, pollination, and clean air and water which benefit all of us.”

Janice Bezanson of Texas Conservation Alliance notes that “the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would bring much-needed funding to Texas for projects designed to keep species off the endangered species list, without raising or creating new taxes. This legislation is good for wildlife, good for business, good for Texans.”

H.R. 3742 directs existing federal revenues to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program, established in 2000. State wildlife agencies will distribute the money through grants and partnerships within the conservation community for habitat restoration, research, land protection, establishing conservation easements, reintroducing wildlife, and other initiatives listed in each state’s Wildlife Action Plan.

Particularly interesting for a private lands state like Texas, the funding could expand cost-sharing programs for private landowners (See Game Changing Legislation... Continued on Page 21)
outings. If you are strictly after the biggest fish in any school, break out the one ounce football jig with matching trailer and hang on for dear life when the rod tip loads up. Fluorocarbon lines in the 17-20lb range work well for this application and make sure you use the San Diego Jam knot to reduce break offs. As a matter of fact, use the jam knot on all line sizes of fluorocarbon line. It will be a very smart move.

The other half of this deep bass equation equates to these suspended fish. These are much tougher to catch and require great patience both in locating them and putting them into the boat. Again, the electronics play a huge role in determining where these fish are holding in the water column and then there is the challenge of matching the right lure with the conditions. If it is windy on that given day, choose the flutter spoon as your means of attack. Size may matter so try smaller versions first then gravitate to the magnum beast if the bite is good. Colors may also vary based upon cloud cover, silver on clear days and gold when the light level is much lower. If there is no wind period, tie on a magnum fluke in any shad color using a 7/0 hook only. In both cases, experiment with the countdown to establish the correct depth range of the given lure. Remember that sequence when a toad grabs hold of the bait and stretches your line into oblivion.

I hope this helps and gives you a starting point on your Lake Fork adventure. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in August searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in August and some in September. 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 would also like to thank Okuma Fishing USA and Talon 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.”
Game Changing Legislation (Continued from Page 19)

to conduct voluntary wildlife and habitat stewardship activities on their property. It will also be used to fund educational programs and introduce more Texans to outdoor recreation opportunities.

The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act gained a lot of support in the last congressional session; 116 Members of Congress cosponsored the House bill, evenly split between Republicans and Democrats. Texas had the second highest number of co-sponsors of any state, 13 total, including 6 Republicans and 7 Democrats.

The Texas Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife is a coalition of more than 160 organizations and businesses which actively supports the legislation. More information, including what people can do to help, is on the Texas alliance website.

A preliminary report by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department outlines early ideas on Texas goals and objectives, and highlights examples showing how RAWA funds could be spent in Texas.

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Nate Robinson was fishing with Lake Fork guide Eddie Garrett on 7/25 when he caught this nice hawg. His personal best! C.P.R.

Mike McWhorter was fishing Lake Fork in July with his wife when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.

Not to be out-fished by her husband Mike, Peggy McWhorter made a good showing that women can catch bigger bass fishing Lake Fork in July than the men can. C.P.R.

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Game Warden Field Notes

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

—Caught in a Hog Trap—At the end of December, a game warden received information from an Abilene City Marshall Lake Patrol Officer of hog traps being located on City of Abilene property near Lake Fort Phantom, which is an area closed to the public and off limits to hunting. Game cameras were set up and monitored to gather evidence on possible suspects using the traps. After reviewing the photos from the camera, the warden determined that a suspect was coming in around noon each day to check the traps. On Jan. 4, the warden and the marshal sat in a nearby location to try to catch the suspect. After a short while, both officers witnessed a red pickup enter the property, and quickly confronted two subjects inspecting one of the hog traps. When questioned who gave them permission to trap on the property they replied they had never seen anyone on the property and just assumed it would be okay to trap hogs there. Both subjects were filed on for hunting without landowner consent, and three hog traps were seized as evidence. The cases are pending.

—Caught in the Act—January 4, a Red River County game warden was patrolling for night hunters down a country road when he witnessed a subject shine a light out of a truck window, and then fire a high-powered rifle. The warden initiated contact and learned through dispatch that both male subjects in the vehicle were convicted felons. The pair admitted to shooting a deer. The warden was able to locate a large 8 point buck that appeared to have been shot with a rifle. The subjects were transported to the Red River County Jail and booked for hunting deer at night, hunting deer with an artificial light, hunting deer from a public roadway, discharging a firearm from a public road, and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. An investigation is ongoing involving multiple deer and hogs having been shot from the road at night.

—Howdy, Neighbor—While enjoying a day off at his deer lease, a Cherokee County game warden was checking some of his game cameras when he heard a shot nearby. Thinking his neighbor had taken the shot and might need help retrieving a deer, the warden called to check. His neighbor informed him that he was out of town, but would check with his neighbor to the east. It was quickly learned that the neighbor to the east had shot a small 8-point buck. Curious as to how small, the warden contacted the other neighbor and asked for a cell phone image. He recognized the young buck as the same one he had seen on his game camera previously, and he knew it did not meet the county’s 13-inch minimum antler requirement. That afternoon, the warden contacted the subject at his home, confirmed the deer did not meet the antler requirement, and also learned that he had purchased his hunting license after he killed the deer. The individual also had not completed mandatory hunter education certification. The cases are pending.

—No Herding Allowed—On Jan. 14, Sabine County game wardens were patrolling Toledo Bend Reservoir for duck hunting violations when they heard a group of duck hunters shooting nearby. As they motored close by to check for compliance, the wardens observed another hunter in a mud boat traveling towards a group of coots and canvasbacks. The hunter rallied the ducks and proceeded to shoot the birds as they attempted to fly. While the boat was rallying the ducks, the other hunters began firing as well. Multiple citations were issued for hunting from a boat and rallying ducks.

—It’s a Setup—A game warden took two local 10-year-old boys on a youth deer hunt in Scurry County. While the warden sat in the box blind with the young hunters, one of the boys asked what would happen if a poacher came here right now? The warden said he would arrest him, of course. Less than 30 minutes later, they were watching a spike buck from about 300 yards away when a pickup truck on an adjacent county road rolled up, a passenger got out and shot the deer. The driver and passenger both exited their truck and ran into the field where they attempted to fly. While the boat was rallying the ducks, the other hunters began firing as well. Multiple citations were issued for hunting from a boat and rallying ducks.

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the boys were hunting, grabbed the deer, and began dragging it back to their vehicle. The warden watched in disbelief. True to his word, the warden called the father of one of the boys, who was already nearby, and asked him to come watch the boys so he could chase down the suspects. The warden raced to his patrol truck and initiated a short pursuit. Both individuals were apprehended, placed under arrest and transported to the Scurry County Jail. Charges of taking wildlife resources without landowner consent and civil restitution for the white-tailed deer are pending. The boys got to experience firsthand life as a game warden.

--Beer Busted-- A Red River County game warden took on the odiferous challenge of trying to find out who was illegally dumping deer carcasses in his area. Acting on a reporting of four yearling deer carcasses and a hog that had been dumped along a county road, the warden collected evidence, including two beer cans and a feed tub with white feathers inside. A week later a similar call along the same road revealed yet another dumped deer. The warden went to the nearest house and spoke with the homeowners, who admitted their son legally killed a doe and it fell off the ATV on his way to dump it on another property. During the interview, the warden observed several deer hides in the yard. The homeowners stated their dogs had dragged the hides into the yard. After collecting the hides, which were consistent in size with the dumped yearling carcasses, the warden made a visit to a neighbor who denied any knowledge of the incident. The warden noticed feed tubs at their house, a pile of beer cans, and white chickens consistent with the evidence he found at the dump site. He retrieved the beer cans he recovered from the dump site and compared them to ones located at the house. He was able to match a specific lot number on the bottom of the can and an expiration date, meaning the two beer cans from the dump site were connected to this house. When confronted with this, the suspects admitted to illegally dumping the deer. The cases are pending.

--Dispute Resolution-- Game wardens oftentimes find themselves settling hunting related disputes between neighboring landowners. Recently, a Cherokee County game warden got a call from a landowner concerning profane messages that were left along his property line allegedly blaming him for messing up his neighbor’s hunting activities. In an effort to de-escalate the situation, the warden made a visit to the neighbor and learned the cursing complainant was the boyfriend of the homeowner’s niece, who had access to the property for hunting, and had shot a deer or two during the season. While the homeowner attempted to contact the subject, the warden decided to look around the property. He discovered two illegal buck heads under a shed, neither of which met the county’s antler restriction, and also found a spoiled deer carcass in a nearby cooler. Eventually, the subject arrived at the residence and after some questioning by the warden, admitted to shooting the two bucks from behind the house, on the property line. The second buck was shot during the late muzzleloader-only season with a high-powered rifle. Multiple cases are pending for no hunting license, exceeding the bag limit on buck deer, antler restriction violations, waste of game, hunting in closed season, hunting by illegal means and methods, untagged deer and harvest log violations.

--Lay Off the Horn-- Under the Sportsman’s Rights Act, a person may not intentionally interfere with another person lawfully engaged in hunting, or intentionally harass, drive, or disturb any wildlife for the purpose of disrupting lawful hunting. Violation is a Class B misdemeanor. Game wardens recently responded to a possible hunter harassment call near the Harris and Waller County line. Contact was made with the hunters who showed video of a subject on an adjacent property setting off his vehicle alarm every time ducks would fly in, chasing the birds away. When interviewing the suspect, the warden asked why he was honking his horn and the suspect stated, while getting agitated, because he wanted to ruin their hunt. The case is pending.

--A Costly Lesson Learned-- Maverick County game

(See Game Warden....Continued on Page 28)
‘Take the Plunge’ Into Enjoying Seafood

By Sue Hampton

When someone insists that he doesn’t like seafood, it often means that he’s had some sort of negative experience, like stale-tasting frozen fish sticks or fast-food fillets. Many complain about the “fishy taste” of seafood as the chief obstacle to their enjoyment of this excellent source of protein, B vitamins, phosphorus and heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids.

However, properly prepared seafood should taste sweet and delicate, never “fishy.” Catfish, a staple ingredient in Southern and Cajun cuisine, is an excellent way to “get your feet wet” with cooking fish. Tremendously versatile, it can be used in any recipe calling for a white flesh fish and is often used as a substitute for chicken. Catfish cooks quickly – ideal for today’s busy families – and can be baked, broiled, steamed, poached or prepared in a number of other creative ways.

For example, the following easy recipe for “Indonesian Catfish With Cucumber Salad” utilizes that warm-weather cooking staple – the grill! With just 162 calories, it’s hard to find a simpler way to, well, “take the plunge” into preparing and enjoying seafood!

Indonesian U.S. Farm—Raised Catfish With Cucumber Salad

16 wooden skewers
1/4 cup soy sauce
1 tablespoon vinegar
1 teaspoon packed brown sugar
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1 clove garlic, crushed
4 U.S. Farm-raised catfish

Cucumber Salad:
2 cucumbers, thinly sliced
1 onion, thinly sliced
1/2 cup vinegar
1 cup water
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon liquid, non-sugar sweetener
1 tablespoon chopped parsley

1. Soak the wooden skewers in water, and refrigerate for one hour. This will prevent the wood from burning during cooking.
2. Combine the soy sauce, 1 tablespoon vinegar, brown sugar, ginger and garlic in a small bowl. Stir well to dissolve the sugar. Set aside.
3. Cut the catfish fillets lengthwise into four thin strips. Two of the strips will be longer than the others.
4. Thread one catfish strip onto each wooden skewer. Cover the catfish skewers with the marinade, and refrigerate for several hours.
5. When ready to serve, grill the skewers for three minutes per side, and serve fish warm on a bed of Cucumber Salad as a first course, or from a buffet table with a choice of sauces.
6. To prepare Cucumber Salad, place cucumbers and onion in a glass bowl. Add remaining ingredients, and mix thoroughly. Refrigerate for several hours if possible. This salad will last for several days if refrigerated.
Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 26)

wardens made contact with a ranch hand during a camp check and were informed there were five hunters still in the field. While waiting for the hunters to return to camp, the wardens discovered several plastic bags in a cooler containing 43 duck breasts and 10 dove breasts missing the required wing or head attached for bird identification purposes. The wardens made contact with the hunters and found them in possession of five dove and two ducks, along with a mix of lead and steel shotshells in their hunting bags and shotguns. The wardens examined the dove and found their crops to be full of corn. The hunters were asked by the wardens where they had harvested the dove and were told they had shot the birds under a deer feeder. The wardens advised the hunters of the issues they had with the game they had harvested. The hunters told the wardens they had hunted their entire lives and had no idea they couldn’t hunt dove at a deer feeder, and also stated they didn’t know they had to keep a wing or a head on a duck for identification purposes. Citations were issued to all five hunters. Forty three ducks and 15 dove were seized. The civil restitution and cases are pending.

--Hey, you’re Blocking My Driveway--

A game warden was heading home at the end of his shift when he observed a suspicious vehicle ahead of him stop in the roadway and obstruct the entrance to his driveway. The warden got out and made contact with the driver of the vehicle to investigate. The driver exhibited signs of intoxication and there was a strong odor of alcohol coming from the vehicle as well as open alcohol containers in plain view. The driver refused to submit to field sobriety testing and was placed under arrest. The subject was booked into the Dawson County Jail on a driving while intoxicated (3rd or more) charge, a third degree felony. The case is pending.
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Sept. 20, 21, 22 ~ Sealy Outdoors
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Sept. 29 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket

October

Oct. 12 ~ Texas Trails Bassmasters Open
Oak Ridge Marina

Oct. 12 ~ Texas High School NE Division
Lake Fork Marina

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Lake Fork Marina

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