Richard Morgenthaler from Geneva, Illinois won 1st Place overall in the 14th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork with this bass weighing 8.82-pounds topping a field of 1,216 anglers. For his great catch he won $1,000 cash in the hourly and a 2020 Skeeter ZX 200 powered by Yamaha-SHO, Lowrance Electronics, MinnKota trolling motor. (Fisherman’s Guide Photo by Sue Hampton)

Stephen Crumpler from Bloomburg, Texas won for the heaviest bass under the slot in the 14th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork with this bass weighing 2.98-pounds. For his great catch he won $1,000 cash in the hourly and a 2020 Skeeter ZX 190 powered by Yamaha-SHO, Lowrance Electronics, MinnKota trolling motor. (Fisherman’s Guide Photo by Sue Hampton)

Clifton Jackson from Alba, Texas brought in the first over the slot on Sunday during the 8 o’clock hour of the 14th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament weighing 5.25-pounds. He won $1,000 for the hour. (Fisherman’s Guide Photo by Sue Hampton)

In the Junior Anglers Division Noah Goodson from Driftwood, Texas caught this nice bass weighing 2.13-pounds. For his efforts he won an Abu Garcia rod. (Fisherman’s Guide Photo by Sue Hampton) See full story on Page 7...
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Bubba Thinks

By Don Hampton

The four most important things in Bubba's life are God, family, country and of course, fishing. Imagine the last one!! I know this to be true because I have seen a sign in his house that reads “Fishing isn’t a matter of life or death, it is much more important than that!” Bubba doesn’t fish to live, he lives to fish! According to Bubba that is the order of importance in his life. The way he feels, if he loves the first three with all his heart and unwavering dedication, fishing is allowed. Always, no matter how strong the desire to be on the lake, the first three always come first.

In most everyday situations, if you asked Bubba what he would do, unless extremely serious, he would say, “Have a BBQ sandwich, drink a few beers and celebrate life.” If it were a semi-serious situation he would counsel you…saying something like, “Go fishing, relax, give it some thought and the answer will come to you!” In matters of extreme importance he has only one answer, “Trust in God and country, for the Lord helps those who help themselves!” This is probably the best answer anyone could apply to any given situation.

Bubbette has told Bubba many times that he does have a way at times of being painfully honest. Just recently in a conversation he was having with another fellow fisherman he remarked, “I love all bodies of water except those darn pity-puddles. A lot of people swim in them but nothing can survive and prosper in them. They are always filled with self-remonse and pity. People sink into them and expect others to pull them out. At that time they quiet helping themselves and just become dependent.” To my way of thinking this was the most profound statement I had ever heard from Bubba.

Bubba has a way of comparing life and situations with fishing. He proved this to me by adding, “The only thing you can catch from a pity-puddle is blame. People that swim in them want to blame everyone and everything in life for their problems. What people in these puddles need to do is take swimming lessons or grab their ears and pull themselves out.” (Well, that is not quite how Bubba said it, but you get my drift!) Bubba opened my eyes that day and gave me some food for thought that nourished my spirit.

I believe in Bubba’s way of thinking. If more people did, the enjoyment of living would be ever present. This shines in Bubba everyday. Whenever you see him he has a smile and happiness to share. As a matter of fact, sometimes he smiles so much people wonder what he’s up to!

Great Ways To Go “Out of Business”

Think Your Location is Your Best Advertisement;
Don’t Advertise!
Think Everyone Knows the Services You Provide;
Don’t Advertise!
Think Everyone Knows the Merchandise You Carry;
Don’t Advertise!
Think Everyone Knows the Specials You Have Listed;
Don’t Advertise!
Think Everyone Knows When You Have a Sale; Don’t Advertise!
Think Time at the Same Location is Your Best Advertisement; Don’t Advertise!
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If You Are Thinking...

You Have So Much Business You Can’t Stand Another Paying Customer!
You Can’t Stand Money or Success!
Or: WHEN YOU ARE OUT OF BUSINESS!

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This Got Your Attention & Business Advertising & Promotion is Tax Deductible! “Where’s Your Money Best Spent?”

To Bubba life is not a mystery that he has to go in search for the answer, it is a gift. Every morning when he opens his eyes for another day, it is Thanksgiving and he is thankful for the gift of life.

Maybe we all should make “Thanksgiving” an everyday ritual. “That’s what Bubba does!” Have a very ‘Happy Thanksgiving’, don’t eat too much, and thank God for the blessing of life.
Wyatt Cook, the winner of the 2019 Camp Bass, Big Bass with his replica donated by Fishreplicas.com (Clayton and Jason Pierce). Also pictured is Lake Fork guide Rick Carter who donated his time and put Wyatt on this 9-lb. 13-oz bass.

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Rod n’ Reels and More!!!
Wildlife Experts Predict Quality Quail Hunting

With quail hunting season opening Saturday, Oct. 26 statewide, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife biologists predict average to above-average prospects across most of the state. “Habitat and weather can cause dramatic shifts in bobwhite and scaled quail populations from one year to the next,” said Robert Perez, quail program leader for TPWD. “Although last year’s quail season was not very productive, quail have an uncanny ability to quickly bounce back when conditions are good. Thanks to favorable weather conditions earlier this year, hunters can look forward to productive quail hunting across most of the state this season.”

For the core quail range in Texas, this year’s El Nino weather pattern translated to above average rainfall and below average temperatures, resulting in an above average bobwhite quail season in most of South Texas, average to slightly above average scaled quail season for the Trans Pecos region, and good prospects for scaled quail and bobwhite in the Panhandle above Interstate 40. “Favorable weather conditions spurred calling and pair formation in the major-
“Welcome to the Cooler Months!”

By David Ozio

“Welcome to the cooler months! Finally! It’s time people! Surface temps are cooling and large bass will move shallow in search of some big yummys. The main lake started it’s annual turnover which makes the backs of creeks a main target. November is a fantastic time of the year to be on the lunker hunt as giant green fish will be feeding up for the ensuing winter months. The next step is to rig rods, sharpen the hooks and get on the water.

With the lake being about twenty inches low as of this writing, the water quality overall is in great condition and the backs of some creeks have great visibility. Recent rains have affected some water clarity which ranges from somewhat clear down south to lightly stained in the backs of the main creeks that feed the lake. How you approach the bass will depend upon where you prefer to fish and how far down in the water you can see your lure before it disappears. With this in mind, the shallow bite is ramping up and big bass can be caught in all parts of the lake. Let’s start the morning searching for top water fish. Shallow vegetation is key to your success and now that the water is back up, bank grass, milfoil, alligator grass and hydrilla will dominate the skinny water. In extreme off color water, use a noisy bait that stirs up the water. Prop baits are excellent choices in this case. If the water is only slightly stained in the backs of the creeks and pockets, tie on a Zara Spook, Yellow Magic or a Sammy and start covering water. Shad are also moving to the backs of these areas and big bass are right on their tail. Focus on using shad colors on most any lure you throw and hang on for some jolting strikes. Pick out secondary points or small points of vegetation. All should hold fish. Also, don’t be afraid to chunk a Spro frog around any vegetation you encounter. Huge bass can’t resist the way they move through the water.

As the sun eases it’s way higher into the sky, switch your strategy to baits that descend into the water column. If the water is heavily stained, throw the chatterbait, spinnerbait or squarebill in the same areas. If the water is slightly stained, use a five inch swimbait, swimjig or chatterbait. Hydrilla or milfoil will change the game slightly, use a lipless crankbait and key on the outer edges of the grass. As the water temps degrade throughout the month, switch your lipless colors to gold or red. Now that you have photo’s...
By Don Hampton

Just as each and every angler has their off and on days, so does every lake in the country. It especially happens this time of year when the thermocline is changing, and the lakes are beginning to turn over. At this time, the big bass become lethargic and the bite slows down.

These are the conditions 1,216 anglers from various states faced when they came to Lake Fork to fish the 14th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on October 19th and 20th. With all the new great baits Berkley has come out with, the bass couldn’t resist the temptation.

BassChamps is to be commended for the excellent job they do putting on this tournament. With $150,000 guaranteed in cash and prizes, and 20 places paid each hour, anglers came to compete.

The large bass Lake Fork is known for didn’t come to the show. Only two bass over the 24” slot came to the scales. This great reservoir still put on a great showing exhibiting what the future holds with the large number of 2-pound plus winning in the hours. Through the course of the tournament there were 25 bass weighed in under the 16” slot that ranged from 2.50-pounds to 2.98-pounds. Of those 25, there were 12 that won an hour and took home the $1,000 prize money for the hour in the 14 hours pay of the tournament. Those anglers were Chad Lopez from Hartshorne, Texas with a 2.54; Jeffery Johnson form Mineola, Texas with a 2.57; Jeff Nelson from Mineola, Texas with a 2.63; Jeffrey Johnson again with a 2.65; Paul Mecca from Dallas, Texas with a 2.67; Richie White from Sulphur Springs, Texas with a 2.71; David Roulston from Allen Texas with a 2.74; Diane Vineyard from Wylie, Texas with a 2.76; Paul Darnell from Paris, Texas with a 2.77; J. J. Quon from Celina, Texas with a 2.88; Richie White again with a 2.96; and Stephen Crumpler from Bloomburg, Texas with a 2.98.

Diane Vineyard also won the Ladies Division with her 2.76-pound bass. Over the two days of the tournament only two bass over the 24” slot came to the scales to win in the hour. The first one came in the 8 o’clock hour on Sunday and was caught by Clifton Jackson from Alba, Texas and weighed 5.25-pounds. The second one came in three hours later in the 11 o’clock hour. This bass was caught by Richard Morgenthaler from Geneva, Illinois and weighed 8.82-pounds. The second one came in three hours later in the 11 o’clock hour. This bass was caught by Richard Morgenthaler from Geneva, Illinois and weighed 8.82-pounds.

Diane Vineyard also won the Ladies Division with her 2.76-pound bass.

Richard Morgenthaler won for the heaviest over the slot with his bass that weighed 8.82-pounds. For his angling expertise he took home a $1,000 in cash and a 2020 Skeeter ZX 190, powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor, and Lowrance Electronics.

Besides the twenty places paid through the course of the tournament, the anglers were striving for the two Grand Prizes to be given away. One for the heaviest bass over the slot and one for the heaviest bass under the slot.

Richard Morgenthaler won for the heaviest over the slot with his bass that weighed 8.82-pounds. For his angling expertise he took home a $1,000 in cash and a 2020 Skeeter ZX 190, powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor, and Lowrance Electronics.

Stephen Crumpler won for the heaviest bass under the slot with his bass that weighed 2.98-pounds. For his angler efforts he took home $1,000 in cash and a 2020 Skeeter ZX 190, powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor, and Lowrance Electronics.

Even the anglers that weren’t lucky enough to win in hourly had a great time. Some got lucky enough to win some great prizes in the Berkley empty bag giveaway. One thing for sure anglers and visitors were kept entertained throughout the weekend by Chad Potts, President, BassChamps and Fish Fishburne.

To learn more about tournaments by BassChamps go to their website basschamps.com or give them a call at 817-439-3274.

**Fish Friendly**
November has always been a “Big Fish” month so don’t miss out on it! Also, November is Lake Fork Marina’s customer appreciation month and rooms are $58 a night and in their incredible store, their tackle, clothing and gifts are 25% off! They’ve got some great gift selections for all the fishermen in your family so keep them in mind for your holiday shopping! You’ll have to check them out when the weather is too bad to get out on the water!

Our water temperatures have started to drop (actually about a month later then they did last year) triggering the fall migration. The crappie will follow the baitfish back up the creeks using the same routes taken in the spring. So, if your crap pie have disappeared, you might want to look shallower. Target creek channels and flats around secondary points. I’m targeting 10 to 18 ft. depths in 12 – 24 ft. of water. The tough part of this time of year are the fierce fronts that are moving through along with crazy winds that we’re having to deal with and temperatures are expected to drop in the 30’s this week – “OUCH!” Time to break out the hand warmers! Also, keep an eye on that depth finder to monitor any changes of depths of the fish moving through and target that depth. Don’t be afraid to change up colors throughout the day and some days size matters. So keep an assortment of the “itty-bit” baits along with the new Bonehead 3 inch baits. I will pay attention to the size of the shad that are in their stomach when you catch a couple – then they will scatter. So, don’t waste a lot of time in one spot – you might as well move on to another. Also, our most productive presentation has been “slow motion” or “no motion”. I think the biggest mistake people make is to constantly “hop” their bait. All this does is twist your line and you’ll miss many bites with all that loose line. So I recommend holding your bait as still as you can and don’t take your eyes off your line at the rod tip – (so you can see the subtle bite especially when they push the bait up). Also, keep an eye on that depth finder to monitor any changes of depths of the fish moving through and target that depth. Don’t be afraid to change up colors throughout the day and some days size matters. So keep an assortment of the “itty-bit” baits along with the new Bonehead 3 inch baits. I will pay attention to the size of the shad that are in their stomach when you catch a couple – then they will scatter. So, don’t waste a lot of time in one spot – you might as well move on to another. Also, our most productive presentation has been “slow motion” or “no motion”. I think the biggest mistake people make is to constantly “hop” their bait. All this does is twist your line and you’ll miss many bites with all that loose line. So I recommend holding your bait as still as you can and don’t take your eyes off your line at the rod tip – (so you can see the subtle bite especially when they push the bait up).

I’m cleaning them and adjust the size of my baits accordingly.

I want to thank again all of you who came to fish with me in October. It was so good to see you all that have fished with me before and great meeting first timers also! It was a busy fun month and Buddy has enjoyed seeing everyone again and has made many new friends (especially during the Berkley Tournament)!! Thanks to all who shows him some love while he waits for me to get off the water!

Don’t miss out on the November excitement – just bundle up, have some fun! There will be some nice days ahead!

I want to wish my brother John a “Happy Birthday”! Sorry I can’t be there for it but wishing him many blessings and sending love, hugs and prayers to all my family in Missouri and especially to my friend Terry in Arkansas!

My best to you all!
Texas Game Wardens recently traveled to Kruger National Park in South Africa to begin an annual professional exchange program with South African National Parks Game Rangers.

The program is aimed at providing professional growth and leadership development opportunities between the two agencies and to increase education and awareness of international wildlife trafficking, which negatively effects conservation efforts in both Texas and South Africa. The illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife parts is a multibillion-dollar international business following only narcotics, human trafficking, and weapons in estimated profits.

“The illegal sale and exploitation of wildlife resources is a global problem that has a direct negative effect on the State of Texas and could lead to the loss of Texas native species, either through the harvest of native species or introduction of non-indigenous invasive species,” said Col. Grahame Jones, Law Enforcement Director with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Texas Game Wardens have increased the focus on wildlife trafficking operations over the last decade, which includes navigating through internet forums and online marketplaces where trade in both live wildlife and wildlife parts frequently occurs. Game wardens work to identify suspect sales and negotiate undercover transactions with willing sellers to purchase a wide variety of native and non-native wildlife species from around the world.

Kruger National Park is over 7,500 square miles in size and has international borders with Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Since 2010, Kruger Game Rangers have battled against heightened rhino poaching efforts targeting the rhino’s horn, elephant poaching for ivory and recently an increase in lion poaching for the sale of teeth, claws and bones in international markets, in addition to subsistence poaching. This occurs in a park with over 1.8 million annual visitors. This environment creates extensive challenges for those tasked with protecting the areas natural resources.

While at Kruger, Texas Game Wardens met with park management to discuss shared issues and how they relate to wildlife crimes in

(See Texas Game Warden.....Continued on Page 22)
16th Annual Big Bass Tournament
All Boats, Makes, Models Welcome

May 15, 16, 17, 2020
$285,000 Guaranteed in Cash & Prizes

Benefitting “The Wish to Fish Foundation”

Tournament Host: Lake Fork Marina, Hwy. 17, 903-765-2764

4 Grand Prizes To Be Awarded: 2 for the 2 Heaviest Over The Slot
1 for Heaviest Bass Under The Slot, 1 for Early Entry Incentive
(Early Entries ONLY received before 4/30/20 and must be present to win.)

1st Place - $600 * 2nd - $400 * 3rd - $300 * 4th - $200 * 5th - $175
6th - $150 * 7th - $135 * 8th - $125 * 9th - $115 * 10th - $110 * 1st Out of 10th - $100 GC

For More Information Call: 903-360-6994 or 903-383-7748 email: fishnews@lakefork.net
Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork
38th Semi-Annual Open Tournament

By Don Hampton

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork held their 38th Semi-Annual Open Tournament on October 12th. The event was hosted by Oak Ridge Marina. The weather was cool in the morning but turned out to be a beautiful day for fishing.

As always the tournament was an individual tournament, five fish stringer weight. This event pays back 80% of all entries to the heaviest stringer and 100% of Big Bass Entries to the top three heaviest bass of the tournament. Fishing hours for the tournament were from 6 am to 3:30 pm and 6 am to 3 pm for club members.

Winning First Place with the heaviest stringer of 8.48-pounds was Evan O’Brien; Second Place with a stringer weight of 7.51-pounds was Ricky Sikes; Third Place with a stringer weight of 7.39-pounds was Tony Noyes; Fourth Place with a stringer weight of 6.99-pounds was Louie Pope; Fifth Place with a stringer weight of 6.74-pounds was Kenny Nail.

Big Bass of the tournament weighed 2.33-pounds and was caught by Evan O’Brien. Tony Noyes caught the second heaviest bass of the tournament weighing 2.21-pounds. Bringing in the third heaviest bass of the tournament weighing 2.11-pounds was Ricky Sikes.

Before the check presentation the raffle was held. Many of the anglers that weren’t winners of a check, came out a big winner in the raffle. On behalf of the club I would like to personally thank our sponsors. A big thank you to Custom Angle Rods, Lake Fork Marina, Mustang Resort, Sartin Marine, Service Marine, Fisherman’s One Stop/Bro’s Patio, John Boone, Leon Davis, L & L Outfitters and Fisherman’s Guide News.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork’s next open will be in March. For more information or to join this great bass club visit our website at www.texastrailsbassmasters.com or give Rodney Ellis, President a call at 903-714-6473 or Don Hampton, Vice President, Tournament Director a call at 903-360-6994.

Fishing is going to be great! Come out and fish with us! Who knows you may catch that bass of a lifetime and meet some new friends!

"Wish To Fish Foundation"

903-383-7748

Needs Your Help!!!

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
“Knowing What To Look For!”

By Michael McFarland

November here at Lake Fork means cooler fall like weather with frequent cold fronts that can rapidly cool the water temperatures overnight. I have found that the shallow backwaters are much more affected by these rapidly cooling conditions and this will tend to drive the shallow baitfish and bass to the deeper water. Night time cool trends also occur everyday however the shallow water can warm up by mid afternoon. When these cool trends occur, I will search and fish deep early and shallow later in the day as things warm back up. When I’m searching deep with my 2d/downscan sonar I am looking for the baitfish. “Simple rule,” Find and follow the baitfish !”

I will search ledges, creek channels, channel swings and bends, channel banks, deep trees and points. Ultimately I am searching for a mass of baitfish with schooling bass following or attacking. The attached image is a great example- This is a mass of bait at the bottom of a tree, the school of bait is elongated and broken up from attacking predators both following and in the area. Remember, if the baitfish are grouped up in a round tight ball like form they are safe and most likely have not been under any recent attacks. So once we find what we are looking for how do we catch them? Ok first I will tell you if you have never fished a spoon, November is the time to learn. I choose to use a flutter spoon here at Lake Fork. Nothing imitates a dying or injured baitfish like a flutter spoon, especially in deep water. Also Lake Fork has a lot of submerged wood and trees and you will be surprised how well a flutter spoon can come unsnagged verses other types of lures or baits. Its very important to match the size of baitfish you have found so I carry 3”, 5” & 7” spoons in both silver and gold varieties. Silver on sunny days, gold on cloudy days. I use 20lb fluorocarbon line and either cast the spoon or vertical drop it. If I’m casting the spoon, I make a long cast past the baitfish or target and let sink to the bottom. Using a sweeping like retrieve lifting the spoon off the bottom and letting it fall back to bottom on slack line. “Falling on slack line and making bottom contact are the 2 most important keys!

For the vertical presentation I simply drop the spoon straight down into the school of baitfish or bass. I hop the spoon up and drop back down making sure it passes through the school both on the way up and down. This method is extremely effective especially when the bass are grouped up in big schools. Once you master this technique you can expect to catch a lot of fish once you find them. November is a great month here at Lake Fork in north east Texas, definitely one of my most favorite months to fish. Thanks for reading! I wish you happy holidays and great fishing!
Applications Being Accepted for Texas Game Warden, State Park Police Cadet Class

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is building its next generation of elite state law enforcement officers with the 64th Texas Game Warden and State Park Police Cadet class. Applications are being accepted through Nov. 15.

Texas game wardens and park police are a unique breed of law enforcement unlike no other. As fully commissioned state peace officers, they are responsible for the enforcement of ALL Texas criminal laws. Unlike other law enforcement officers, however, game warden and park police responsibilities extend beyond the pavement, with additional specialization in natural resource, water safety, and environmental law enforcement.

“In addition to the privilege of protecting the State’s extremely valuable natural resources, Texas game wardens are also on the front line of the state’s emergency response efforts,” said Col. Grahame Jones, TPWD Law Enforcement Director. “Our officers are specially trained in search, rescue, and recovery operations on land, air and in the water. The job of a Texas game warden is about freedom. Freedom from the confines of an office or a roadway. Freedom from set schedules and routes. A Texas game warden’s jurisdiction is not confined but statewide. Being a Texas game warden is about patrolling and protecting Texas.”

“State park police officers are charged with protecting the citizens of Texas and nearly 10 million annual visitors that use our State Parks,” said Chief Wes Masur, Director of State Park Police. “Our officers patrol and protect the most historically significant, and important cultural and natural resources Texas has to offer. Forests, lakes, rivers, beaches, mountains, deserts and even monuments are part of our unique patrol areas. What a great honor and rewarding career.”

Applicants must be 21 years of age before the projected graduation date of May 2021 and have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university. Applicants must also undergo a preliminary interview, background investigation and physical skills tests focusing on agility and swimming. Persons interested in strengthening their swimming skills should contact the American Red Cross to take a swimming course.

All cadets are required to live at the Game Warden Training Center near Hamilton, Texas, for the duration of the 30-week training period, set to begin Sept. 2020.

After graduation, new game wardens and park police officers will be assigned to vacant stations throughout Texas with the responsibility of protecting the state’s natural resources.

For more information, check the state park or game warden career pages online or contact Texas game warden recruiters Kevin Malonson at kevin.malonson@tpwd.texas.gov and game warden Eric Howard at eric.howard@tpwd.texas.gov, park police recruiter Lt. David Modgling, 512-915-4704, david.modgling@tpwd.texas.gov or call 877-229-2733.
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16th Annual Big Bass Tournament

May 15, 16, 17, 2020

Now Accepting Reservations For Commercial & Vendor Spaces For May 14, 15, 16, 17, 2020

Anglers from all over the nation will be converging on Lake Fork to fish this tournament! What better time to advertise & promote your products, merchandise, or company!

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High Hopes In The 14th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament That Was Leading Until The End

Chad Lopez from Hartshorne, OK., with a 2.54-lb. bass.

Jeff Nelson from Mineola, TX., with a 2.63-lb. bass.

David Roulston from Allen, TX., with a 2.74-lb. bass.

Paul “Darren” Darnell from Paris, TX., with a 2.77-lb. bass.

Richie White from Sulphur Springs, TX., with a 2.96-lb. bass.

Stephen Crumpler from Bloomburg, TX., with a 2.98-lb. bass took Grand Prize for heaviest under the slot.

For Information or Ordering Contact:
Robert Scott
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The Fall LFSA Raffle has ended and the Berkley Tournament brought the perfect time for the drawing. The Association awards one lucky registrant a $100 gift card and at the Berkley Scot McDonald was the winner. The seventeen actual raffle winners, a composite of entrants from three major tournaments of Fall 2019, were:

- Humminbird Helix 7 Depth Finder ~ Song Su
- 270 Winchester Savage with Scope ~ Robert Smiddy
- Ruger 22 Charger w/Bipod ~ Mike Luttrell
- Wild River Tackle Backpack ~ Jerry Davis
- Amphibia Sunglasses ~ Jason Squires
- Costa Sunglasses ~ Juan Fance
- Costa Sunglasses ~ Tommy Doerr
- Tricked Out Marine LED Deck Light Kit ~ Brent (no last name on file)
- Pandora Gift Certificate ~ Kristen Hawkins
- McCain Tommy Martin Series Rod and Reel ~ Tom Whitrock
- Academy Sports and Outdoors Gift Card ~ Ben Poateet
- J & M Guide Service ½ day Bass Fishing Trip for 2 ~ Mike Ragsdale
- Greg West, Guide, ½ day Bass Fishing Trip for 2 ~ Bonnie Davis

Berkley Bait Prize Package ~ C. Armstrong
Abu Garcia Rod and Reel Combo ~ John Taylor
Legend of Lake Fork Rod and Okuma Citrix Reel ~ Charlie Godwin
McCain Outlaw Rod and Reel Combo ~ Ken West
LFSA members appreciate the participation of anglers and friends in the raffle. The Spring and Fall raffles are a major portion of revenue raising annually, funding the many projects sponsored to benefit Lake Fork. Many of the items are discounted or donated by merchants and LFSA members. The successes are credited to their generosity.

**Lake Fork Wood Duck Nesting Box Project**
A project to construct and install 20 wood duck nesting boxes on Lake Fork Reservoir has recently been completed. The boxes are constructed of cedar and are mounted on 2 3/8” OD PVC poles with 36” diameter conical metal predator guards. The Yantis High School vocation tech students built the boxes along with the predator shields. The Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association and the Tyler Audubon Society jointly funded the project. Audubon Society requirements were to install ten of the habitats in areas not likely to be hunted. Ten additional boxes were planted in habitat along the lake front.

Culminating the project, the shop students, Layne Young, Seth Vivon and Keith Kenemore and instructor, Mike Moore, were able to actually participate in the rigorous installation process under the direction of Chairman Tommy Doerr and Ed Swenson. The boxes were placed in Lake Fork Creek, Garrett Creek, Elm Creek, and White Oak Creek areas of the reservoir.
“Welcome to the Cooler Months!” (Continued from Page 6)

of several great fish during the morning, migrate your way out to deep water and graph the usual haunts, humps, ridges, roadbeds and structure. Fall on Fork has always been great fishing for these patterns during the afternoon hours. Flutter spoons, jigging spoons, Carolina rigs, drop shots and football jigs will be the “go to” baits when you locate bass stacked up on any of these features. Pitch out a marker buoy and go to work. Gold is a great color for the spoons and a ten inch worm will get the job done on the C-rig.

Blue flick, redbug, green pumpkin and bamabug are all great colors to start with. The same colors apply to the football jig and I favor the Talon Carolina Worm in redbug for my drop shot. Barfish are the key to these deep spots. Find those on your graph and the bass will be mixed in with them.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in November 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 November and some in December. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one’s who have dream’t of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/LakeForkGuideDavidOzio. I would like to thank Okuma Fishing 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.”

Curtis Daniels with David Ozio

Caleb James with David Ozio

Patrick Smith with David Ozio

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Texas Game Wardens Recognized for Life-Saving Heroics at Annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director Carter Smith honored several men and women for their outstanding acts of service at the 15th annual Law Enforcement Division Awards Ceremony Oct. 18.

The ceremony recognized Texas game wardens, non-commissioned TPWD employees, first responders from other agencies and members of the general public.

“I am extremely honored to work with these men and women who define and exemplify what it is to be a public servant,” said Col. Graham Jones, TPWD Law Enforcement Director. “I am also proud of our partnerships with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, and the communities we serve.”

This year’s award recipients include game wardens who showed outstanding displays of teamwork and leadership in response to medical emergencies. Among the many heroic efforts recognized, include:

In May 2019, the Trinity County Sheriff’s Department made a radio call for any units to respond to a subdivision on Lake Livingston. An elderly couple

(See Texas Game Wardens
Continued on Page 24)
Texas Game Wardens Exchange (Continued from Page 9)

Texas. Game wardens also participated in a snare patrol to locate and remove 95 snares along the Sabie River and conducted foot patrols which included a crime scene overview at the location of a poached rhino and death investigation and tusk removal of a deceased elephant. Additionally, the game wardens toured the Kruger K9 facility and participated in a tracking scenario.

“The opportunity to work beside the dedicated and passionate Game Rangers at Kruger National Park and see the challenges and strategies to overcome those challenges first hand was an insightful and invaluable learning experience,” said Chief Chris Davis with TPWD’s Law Enforcement Division.

“Places like Kruger National Park are the epicenter for conservation law enforcement and the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking.”

Plans are underway for Kruger National Park staff to visit in January of 2020 to be immersed in Texas Parks and Wildlife Department operations and continue to learn and grow professionally through diverse perspectives and opportunities.

To view or download photos of Texas Game Wardens and Kruger National Park Game Rangers working together during their recent trip, please visit the TPWD Flickr page at https://flic.kr/s/aHsmHR5cZP.

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Wildlife Experts Predict Quality Quail Hunting (Continued from Page 5)

ragweed provide chicks with the protein-packed insects they need.

“The Rolling Plains appears to be up from last year but still below average, although our surveys may have underestimated the population due to dense roadside vegetation and extreme heat, which may have influenced habitat use,” Perez said. “Overall, the Rolling Plains has the potential to have an average year. And an average year in Texas is better than just about anywhere else in the country.”

TPWD projections are based on annual statewide quail surveys that were initiated in 1978 to monitor quail populations. This index uses randomly selected, 20-mile roadside survey lines to determine annual quail population trends by ecological region. This trend information helps determine relative quail populations among the regions of Texas.

Comparisons can be made between the mean (average) number of quail observed per route this year and the 15-year mean for quail seen within an ecological region. The quail survey was not designed to predict relative abundance for any area smaller than the ecological region.

A regional breakdown of this year’s TPWD quail index survey, including highlights and prospects, is available online.

Quail hunting season runs through Feb. 23, 2020. The daily bag limit for quail is 15, with 45 in possession. Legal shooting hours for all non-migratory game birds are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. The bag limit is the maximum number that may be killed during the legal hunting hours in one day.

Hunters can find public quail hunting opportunities at several wildlife management areas located within the core quail range, including Elephant Mountain, Black Gap, Gene Howe, Matador, Chaparral and James E. Daughtry. Additionally, hunters can search for quail hunting opportunities on public and leased land with an Annual Public Hunting Permit here.

Hunters who want the convenience of purchasing a license online can do so securely from the official Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s license site. Access it directly from the department’s website, visit www.txffsales.com, or text TPWD LICENSE to 468-311 to receive a link.

Hunters can also purchase a license in person at sporting goods stores and other retailers or by calling the TPWD License Section at 1-800-895-4248.
Texas Game Wardens Recognized for Life-Saving Heroics (Continued from Page 21)

had driven their truck into the water and were trapped in the vehicle. Two Trinity County deputies, a Trinity County firefighter and a game warden dove down to try to gain access to the truck, which was about four feet under the surface, but the doors were locked. They tried several times to break a window but were unsuccessful until one of the deputies broke the rear window, severely cutting his hand. They all began trying to locate the couple inside the truck. A deputy and the warden located the woman, pulled her from the truck and brought her to the surface. The deputies swam her back to shore while the warden dove back underwater, located the family dog and pulled it to the surface. The deputy and warden continued diving down to the truck to locate the man. After he was found and brought back to shore, paramedics performed CPR. They were not able to revive him, but the woman and the dog were saved without injury.

In Alto in April 2019, about 100 people were in attendance of the Caddo Culture Day Celebration when two tornadoes ripped through the area near the Caddo Mounds State Historical Area. A game warden used local county roads to plot a course to the historical area. When the roads became impassable, he continued on foot and found a good Samaritan who agreed to take him by ATV to Caddo Mounds. When he arrived on scene, he began to render aid to the attendees and helped coordinate the helicopters and first responders as they arrived on scene. About 40 people were injured at the site, ten of which were in critical condition, and one person died from their injuries. Other heroic lifesaving efforts recognized include a U.S. Army medic who, while camping on Lake Lavon, heard boaters calling for help after someone on a towed knee board lost their balance and fell into the water. When the operator of the vessel attempted to retrieve the knee boarder, a horrible accident occurred. The individual was struck by the vessel and received life threatening injuries. The medic retrieved his emergency trauma pack and began to render lifesaving first aid to the boater until emergency medical units arrived.

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

--The Truck Didn’t Survive-- On March 28, a Rockwall County game warden received a call for assistance from the Rockwall Fire Department. They requested help rescuing a victim trapped in his truck, which was swept off a county road by high water. The Game Wardens Search and Rescue team responded and the victim was successfully retrieved from his vehicle unharmed; however, the truck did not survive. A warning citation was issued for failure to observe the road closed sign due to high water.

--Forged Bill of Sale, Priceless-- Game wardens in Grimes and Robertson counties followed up on a tip that an individual had forged signatures on a boat title and bill of sale. After interviewing the subject who submitted the documents, it was discovered that he did submit a fake bill of sale written by a friend and changed the amount of which he paid for the boat. Charges of tampering with government documents with intent to defraud or harm (2nd degree felony) and forgery (3rd degree felony) are pending.

--A Series of Poor Choices-- At about 11 p.m. on April 7, an Uvalde County game warden was patrolling near Utopia when he noticed a vehicle driving slowly in a church parking lot outside of town. Considering the hour and location, the warden initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle. The vehicle left the scene at a high rate of speed, and the warden pursued for a short distance. The vehicle came to a sudden stop after making a sharp turn which caused the bead on the tire to break and the rim to embed into the pavement. The rear of the vehicle spun around 180 degrees, breaking the bead on one of the back tires, causing it to deflate also. The warden made contact with the 16-year-old driver and 14-year-old passenger. The juvenile driver said he fled because he had beer in the truck. Charges are pending against the driver.

--April Fools, You’re Still Busted!-- On April 1, a Bastrop County game warden was on patrol at Lake Bastrop, when he saw an LCRA ranger talking to a group of men regarding open container violations, and went to assist. The warden recognized a subject who had a criminal trespassing warning in the park, and made contact. The subject claimed he did not have an identification card on him, and gave a false name and date of birth. Since the subject had mentioned earlier that he had just got out of jail that day, the warden called Bastrop County dispatch and found out the subject’s true name and date of birth. The ranger called his dispatch to confirm the trespassing warning. Once confirmed, the subject was arrested and taken back to jail for criminal trespassing and for giving false information.

--Can’t Keep the Bird-- A McLennan County game warden responded to a call about a dead bald eagle in the road, but by the time he arrived on scene the bird was gone. After speaking with some nearby neighbors, the warden learned an individual had picked up the eagle and taken it. The warden interviewed the subject, who stated he took it to a friend’s house and left it on the seat of his riding lawnmower. The warden recovered the eagle carcass at the second location. Citations were issued to the individual for illegally possessing and transporting a bald eagle. The case is pending.

--Shooting from the Passing Lane-- On April 15, a Dallam/Hartley County game warden received a call about someone in a vehicle shooting at pheasants from a county road. With assistance from the passing motorist, the warden found a group of juveniles who admitted it, and chose to make a Terry conviction warrant for criminal trespassing and shooting from the passing lane.
assistance from Dallam County Sheriff’s Office and a DPS trooper, the vehicle was stopped and the driver and his 13-year-old son admitted to hunting and shooting at a pheasant from the road. Citations for hunting during a closed season, hunting from a public roadway, discharging a firearm from a public roadway and not having hunter’s education certification were filed.

--License Holder Makes Handy Stash--While on patrol, a Willacy County game warden made contact with a fisherman at Fred Stone Pier in Port Mansfield. The warden asked the angler if he had caught anything, to which the man shook his head and said, “No, nothing.” When the warden asked to see his fishing license, the angler readily complied, pulling from his pocket a handy plastic license protector pouch commonly provided by some license retailers. While removing his one-day fishing license from the pouch, a small bag of cocaine fell out. The suspect stated he had just purchased his fishing license and that’s how it was given to him. Suspect was arrested for possession of a controlled substance; case pending.

--Hunting for the Right Story-- A common retort by game wardens when they know they’re being played, “It’s your lie, buddy, tell it however you want.” Such was the case when wardens were called to investigate an alleged hunting accident that occurred in the Sam Houston National Forest. Game wardens responded to a Houston hospital to question a subject who claimed to have shot himself in the leg while target shooting. His buddies were out hunting deer at the time, he said. The wardens observed numerous inconsistencies in the man’s testimony, and Montgomery County sheriff’s deputies were called in to interview the subject as well. Pressed further, the man then claimed he was shot during a drug deal that went bad. Inconsistencies with the new story led to more questioning and yet another tale about how the gun belonging to a girl he had picked up. It had discharged while he was showing her how to use it. Finally, the man admitted the gun was his and he accidentally shot himself while sitting in his car in the hospital parking lot. Although not nearly as entertaining as previous versions, the story ending remained the same. The man, a convicted felon, was arrested for being in possession of a firearm and transported to the Harris County Jail.

--Tampering with Evidence-- An Atascosa County game warden received a complaint about possible illegal hunting and the theft of a game camera from his property. The warden opened an investigation and developed a person of interest. On April 27, the warden made contact with the suspect at his residence in Charlotte. The suspect admitted to hunting hogs on the complainant’s property without permission, and taking the game camera because he feared it had captured evidence of his trespass. The case was turned over to the Atascosa County Sheriff’s Office and the stolen game camera was returned to its owner.

--Easy Trail to Follow-- Usually, game wardens have very few clues to go on when they discover deer remains dumped alongside a roadway. Fortunately, a recently wrapped up investigation in Live Oak County gave them an easy trail to follow. Last September, wardens were made aware of several deer carcasses and other items dumped in a bar ditch. Among the discarded animal parts, wardens discovered blood-stained clothing and a backpack. Inside the backpack were check stubs belonging to an individual who resided near
A Delightful Addition to Thanksgiving Day Menus

By Sue Hampton

Thanksgiving is a time to take advantage of tradition. Bring out the china you’ve had since your wedding day. Dust off the folding chairs. Scan cookbooks for the stuffing and pumpkin pie recipe you use year in, year out.

Surprise everyone by starting a new tradition. This Thanksgiving, bake up something new with this “Baked Squash with Tomato and Basil Risotto”!!

BAKED SQUASH WITH TOMATO AND BASIL RISOTTO

For Squash

4 golden nugget squashes (substitute acorn, dumpling or Danish squash)
3 tablespoons olive oil
6 cloves garlic, crushed

For Risotto

5 cups vegetable stock
½ cup dry white wine
3 tablespoons olive oil
1 onion, chopped
1-1/8 cup arborio rice
2 medium tomatoes, seeds removed and chopped
½ cup freshly grated parmesan
1 tablespoon butter
¼ cup chopped fresh basil
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
½ cup freshly grated parmesan, for serving

To prepare golden nugget squash: Preheat oven to 350°F. Using a strong, sharp knife, cut each squash in half through stem. Scoop out and discard seeds. Trim bottom of each squash half so it sits firmly. Combine oil and garlic in a small bowl, then brush on cut surfaces. Place halves, cut side up, in an oiled baking dish. Pour ½ cup hot water around squashes. Cover with aluminum foil, and bake for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, to make risotto: Place stock and wine in a saucepan and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat until liquid is just simmering.

Warm oil in medium to large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and cook until it softens, about two minutes. Add rice and cook, stirring constantly until rice is coated with oil, about one minute. Add 1 cup liquid to rice, stirring constantly. Reduce heat and allow risotto to simmer gently, continuing to stir. As rice takes up liquid, gradually add remaining liquid, 1 cup at a time, until all is absorbed by rice and rice is al dente and creamy, about 25 minutes. Stir in tomatoes, then cover and cook over low heat for five minutes. Remove from heat and stir in parmesan, butter and basil. Season with salt and pepper.

Remove squash halves from oven and pat centers dry with paper towels. Reduce oven temperature to 225°F. Spoon risotto into each half. Place halves in oven for 10 minutes before serving. Arrange on serving plates, and accompany with extra grated parmesan.

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 26)

the area in Chambers County. Wardens interviewed the subject, who eventually admitted that he and another person shot several white-tailed deer over several nights. One particular buck, a huge 17-pointer, they shot after entering a high-fenced ranch. Wardens recovered the buck’s antlers, which scored 176 3/8 B&C, and made numerous cases against both subjects. Over a period of three nights, it was determined that eight deer (four doe, three fawn, and one buck) were shot from, and loaded into, their truck. They confessed to shooting at and wounding many more deer that were not recovered. Charges for hunting without landowner consent, hunting from a vehicle, hunting at night, hunting with artificial light, and failure to retrieve or keep in edible condition were filed and both subjects arrested.

---Caught in the Act---
Willacy County game wardens responded to a call regarding possible trespassers fishing within the historic El Sauz Ranch. While searching the area, a warden observed two individuals fishing from a canoe. Contact was made and a water safety/fishing inspection was conducted. After a short interview, the two individuals admitted to fishing from the bank within the El Sauz Ranch not long before the warden arrived. On top of criminal trespassing charges, other violations were also discovered such as harvesting an alligator gar without a valid Texas fishing license, no personal identification and insufficient number of life jackets. Citations were issued and one 54-inch alligator gar was seized. Restitution totaling approximately $700 for the gar and cases are pending.

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For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director
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LAKE FORK WATERFRONT HOME! 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 & a sun-room. 3 bedrooms and 1 full bathroom with claw foot tub in the main house & 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! Flannums Negotiable.

LAKE FORK, 1 OWNER HOME! Located in the Big Oaks Subdivision, homes in this area do not come available very often! Home sits on almost 1 acre lot +1 acre of leaseback. Lake Views in this area are to die for! Home features three bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms and 5+ acres of land with a 24’ Deep garage for your boat, or there is a carport outside also. Fenced back yard, fenced & new roof installed in 2019. This is a hard to find home, in this price range. Call today!

GREAT HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY! Located just outside Winnsboro and just south of Mt. Vernon in Franklin County with Mt. Vernon Schools. This home is truly move in ready, neat and clean! Fenced yard for your pets or the kiddos, metal roof, nice covered front porch and a new acorn septic system. Three bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms and a large utility room. Big open floor plan perfect for the family. Appliances will convey to buyer at closing. Let’s go take a look at this one today!

YOU LOGELY OFFER! This original home place features 44 gorgeous acres, partially fenced and has a pond for your livestock. Property has 3,480+/- ft of good country road front from 2000. This 2 story, 3 bedroom, 2 bath home has 2,256 sqft. Home is 510+/- ft from road with plenty of privacy! Metal roofing, covered wrap-around front porch, 16’x22’ back deck, 18’x23’ garage with 7’-10 x 9’-5” x 3’-10”’ storage area with access from living & master bedroom. Living room has brick fireplace that is double sided to master bedroom.

LAKE FORK WATERFRONT LOTS & OFF WATER LOTS FROM $12,000 TO $84,990

LAKE FORK AREA ACREAGE FROM $49,900 TO $189,990 CALL JR FOR FULL DETAILS

LAKE FORK WATERFRONT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY! This 4000+ sqft building is set up as a restaurant and is waterfront on Lake Fork with its own private boat ramp, pie, covered drive through and plenty of parking. Located on the highest traffic side of Lake Fork. The seller states property is unrestricted. This would be the perfect place for a restaurant, bait & tackle shop or your dream business. All Restaurant equipment is included! Call JR for full details.

CUSTOM BUILT 4/3 LAKE FORK waterfront home has 3,100+/- sqft of living area, 4,600+/- under roof and features a walkout basement with boat storage area, roll up door, work shop area, 2nd living or game room, guest bedroom & bathroom. Home has granite counters, stainless steel appliances, large living area with views of Lake Fork, gutters, French drains and an irrigation system for their 3 acres. 2 stall boat house with electric lifts & a private community boat ramp to Lake Fork. NO HOA.

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