Mike and Pat Kostial (rt to lt) on behalf of the Lake Fork Sportsmans Association presented the Grand Saline High School fishing team, Michael Dobson, President, Jacob Stallcup, Vice President, Trish Copeland, Team Advisor, with fishing equipment for their members.

Mike and Pat Kostial (rt to lt) on behalf of the Lake Fork Sportsmans Association presented the Winnsboro fishing team, Mike and Lori McAadoo, Team Advisors, with fishing equipment for their members. With this donation members can have equipment they may not can afford.

From all of us at “The Fisherman’s Guide News” we would like to thank all of our faithful readers and advertisers for making the past 21 years a huge success. “Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!”

LFSA, Paving The Future For Our Youth

By Don Hampton

For the past twenty years the Lake Fork Sportsmans Association has been living up to their slogan of ‘Promoting, Protecting, Preserving’ the Legend that is Lake Fork. Through the hard work and diligence of their members they have had a profound positive effect on our lake. As a result of their efforts they were inducted into the Texas Fishing Hall of Fame.

“Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association and Texas Parks and Wildlife have built, transported and inserted fish attractors of various forms in Lake Fork. Often working with the Yantis High School shop students, sixteen insertions have been completed with bigger plans being made. Each site has had almost immediate positive results with various species taking residence. Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association has additional plans to build more units and continue this program of providing habitat. A specific plan is to combine spawning beds, T-Hab barrel configurations, hydrilla hoops and minnow factories to create a complete Life Cycle Support Strategy. Grants are in the process of being requested and fundraising for the projects are a focus of the 2019 LFSA budget.”

(Anglers can go on their website to attain the GPS coordinates.) The association along with their many projects is assisting TPWD in the fingerling distribution on Lake See LFSA... Continued on Page 5)
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Bubba Claus Sworn in to Replace Santa for East Texas Lake Areas

By Bubba B. Tuff

Well boys and girls, Santa’s contract has been renegotiated and it directly effects the East Texas Lake Areas.

Due to the influx of new homeowners and the overwhelming amount of tourism to the lake areas, Santa regrets to inform us he will no longer be the bearer of good tidings. His contract has been renegotiated by the State of Texas Fairies and Elves Local 101.

Set forth in the new contract, Santa’s responsibilities will no longer include the East Texas lake areas. Cookie breaks will be shortened to assure satisfactory work ethics and quality.

In a press release to “The Fisherman’s Guide News”, sent out November 26, 2019, Santa’s replacement was named. Everyone can rest assured we will be in good hands. The replacement for the East Texas lake areas will be his third cousin, “Bubba Claus”!!

Bubba Claus is originally from the South Pole. There he attended Equator High and went on to further his education by attending night school majoring in Chimney Dropping and Fire Safety.

“I share the same goal as my cousin Santa. I will deliver toys to all the boys and girls in the East Texas lake areas,” said Bubba Claus in an interview with “The Fisherman’s Guide News”!!

In the interview, to relieve concerned parents, the differences in the method of delivery were discussed at great length. Bubba Claus assured, “Christmas would be bette’ ever and jus’ doggone good!”

The differences in delivery will include the following:

*There will be no danger of a Grinch stealing your Christmas. On Bubba’s sleigh he has a loaded gun rack and a bumper sticker that reads: “These toys insured by Smith and Wesson”.

*Instead of milk and cookies, Bubba Claus prefers that children leave a Michelob Ultra Light, fried crappie and hushpuppies on the fireplace mantel.

*When Bubba Claus’s sleigh lands on your roof, do not be alarmed by the sound of barking. Bubba Claus’s sleigh will be pulled by floppy-eared flying coon dogs instead of reindeer. (It seems Santa once loaned Bubba his reindeer and now Blitzen’s head overlooks Bubba’s fireplace).

*No longer will you hear “On Comet, on Cupid, on Blitzen, on Donner”…instead in a southern drawl you will hear, “Buedro, Jake, Snake, Goob, Gomer, les’ git ‘er done!”

*For that night only and for Bubba Claus only the local speed limits will be waived. Also, in accordance with local tradition, Bubba’s bumper will have a sticker on it saying “Made in Texas by Texans, So Don’t Mess With Bubba!”

*Bubba Claus does not wear a belt. If the children are present when he bends over to put the presents under the tree, make sure they turn their heads.

*Out of respect for Bubba, the traditional Christmas songs like “Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer” and “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town” will be replaced by “Bubba Shot the Jukebox” and “Grandma Got Ran Over By A Reindeer”!!

After extended negotiations, it was determined by all agencies involved, Bubba Claus would definitely fit and exceed the ‘slot’…thus he was judged a “Keeper”!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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TPW Commission Thanks Texas for Approving Prop 5

S. Reed Morian, Chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, issued the following statement regarding the results of a recent election where voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 5, a constitutional amendment dedicating revenue received from the sales and use taxes collected on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission:

“We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the people of Texas for voting to approve Proposition 5 and thus securing the future funding of parks and historic sites across this state for generations to come. With this constitutional amendment, voters have given the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission a chance to make real progress towards addressing the needs of parks and historic sites statewide.

“On behalf of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission and the 3,200 men and women of the department, I would like to thank Governor Greg Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Senator Lois Kolkhorst, Representative John Cyrier and the Texas Legislature for making this a priority last session and building the tremendous legislative support needed to put Senate Joint Resolution 24 on the ballot. We would also like to thank the countless supporters over time who have volunteered their time to help inform the public about this important piece of legislation.”

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LFSA, Paving The Future For Our Youth (Continued from Page 1)

Fork each year.

One of the Association’s most recent projects began a few years ago is the High School Teams tackle donation. Through donations and purchases by the Association they donate rods, reels, tackle, tackle boxes, nets, and gallon buckets of tackle to local High School Fishing Teams. With these donations it allows the youth that might not afford good equipment and lures a brighter future and love of fishing. Members of the LFSA, Mike and Pat Kostial work throughout the year refurbishing all the equipment and upon presentation everything is in almost new condition. They should truly be commended for their efforts.

This year the two High School fishing teams chosen for the presentation of this great equipment was the Grand Saline and Winnsboro High School Fishing Teams. Representing Grand Saline was Michael Dobson, President, Jacob Stallcup, Vice President and Trish Copeland, Team Advisor. Representing Winnsboro High School Fishing Team was Mike and Lori McAdoo, Team Advisors. With these donations they are sure to have a lasting effect on the future of our youth.

The Lake Fork Sportsmans Association has their meetings the second Tuesday of each month at Tiffany’s Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. Come and join an Association that is building the future.

LFSA members Mike and Pat Kostial work collecting donations and fishing tackle and refurbishing all items to present to local fishing teams.
By David Ozio

“With fall in the rear view mirror old man winter is steadily sneaking up on us. We have had some insanely cold days so far which equates to a much earlier schedule than any prior years. As of this writing main lake water temps are hovering around 55-57 degrees which is a shock to me as I would figure the temps should be much lower based upon the overnight lows of the past two weeks. This means the lake has stabilized earlier this year ushering in some excellent fishing heading into December. The trick to this is how to set up for the fish catching adventure.

Shad are starting to migrate to the backs of the creeks and hungry bass are stocking up for the cold days ahead. The years lack of rain has the lake about two and a half foot low at this point and this will set the fish up differently than past seasons. The change in water temps should help shallow bite but these same cooler water temps haven’t allowed the big bass to gang up deep as of this writing. This changes our focus to mid depth water patterns and this will continue into December while we are searching for the next ShareLunker. Provided the water continues to slowly cool heading into Santa month, good electronics will play a key roll in the search of these groups of monster green fish and the best place to start your search will be at the mouth of the major creeks, Birch, Penson, Mustang, Williams, Wolfe and Dale. Focus on the shad and scan for hooks that are surrounding the clouds of bait. All these bass will be suspended so target these fish with a flutter spoon if the wind is an issue or a weightless fluke if the water is calm. Count the bait down to the level where you marked them at the rate of a second per foot. At that point, twitch the fluke or rip the spoon. Stay in touch with the shad and see what happens. Any flutter spoon will do the trick if you are in the mouth of a creek that is inundated with timber. Let it flutter to the bottom and experiment with different retrieves to isolate what the fish favor. A standard spoon in the same silver or gold works better if you are in open water with no obstructions. Pay close attention to your graph and direct your efforts in areas where there are schools of sand bass or bar fish. All year, the big black bass have been mixed in with the schools feeding on the unwitting small bar fish. C-rigs and drop shots have worked well also using redbug and junebug Talon Carolina Worms. Locate the baitfish and go to work.

The shallow bite will still be relevant on sunny days providing the water temps are warming. Rat...
Dust off the tinsel and twinkle lights and head to a Texas State Park for some holiday fun. Forty-five Texas State Parks and 10 Texas Historical Commission State Historic Sites will be decking the halls and creating some holiday cheer at more than 80 events statewide through December.

On Dec. 14, Abilene State Park will be hosting the Fa La La in the Forest event from 6-9 p.m. Campers are encouraged to adorn their campsites, screened shelters and yurts with lights and decorations in honor of the holiday season. Campsite fees will be waived the day of the event for anyone who wants to decorate their site. The public is invited to tour the park and take in the twinkling lights on display. Anyone interested in decorating a campsite must contact the park in advance at 325-572-3204.

Walk the candlelit paths at Barrington Plantation State Historic Site from 4:30-8 p.m. Dec. 6-7 and experience a Texas Christmas the decade before the Civil War. Visitors will be able to discover the origins of some of their favorite holiday traditions as costumed interpreters bring to life the festivities of the season with musket-fire, music and dancing. Attendees will also be able to tour the historic home of the last President of the Texas Republic, Dr. Anson Jones, as the family enjoys their Christmas gathering.

In South Texas, families can pick a spot in the day use area of Falcon State Park to view the Second Annual Falcon Lake Christmas Boat Parade from 7-10 p.m. Dec. 14. Visitors will be able to see boats float by decked out in cheerful Christmas lights.

Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site will be hosting the 50th Annual LBJ Tree Lighting, a special holiday tradition started by President and First Lady Johnson. Families will be able to enjoy carolers, a live nativity, Santa Claus, refreshments and the spectacular tree lighting. Visitors can travel the trails and revisit Christmases from the past at Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm, which will be decorated in early German-Texan holiday decorations. The event begins at 4:30 p.m., with the tree lighting scheduled for 5:30 p.m., and runs until 8 p.m. Dec. 15.

In the Panhandle, discover the ghosts of Palo Duro Canyon State Park’s past as figures of the canyon’s rich history come to life during a walk back in time. Participants are encouraged to bring red flashlights, water and appropriate clothing for the weather. The event begins at 6 p.m. Dec.14 and tours will meet at the Soapberry Day Use area. Tours will depart at 15-minute intervals and there will be four groups total.

Ever wonder how Santa gets around the marsh to visit good little boys and girls? By air boat of course! Santa and Mrs. Claus have booked a cabin at Sea Rim State Park and will be arriving for their stay by air boat. From 3-6 p.m. Dec. 14, kids will have a chance to take a picture with Santa when he arrives and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies at the park. Children can also make homemade ornaments during this marshy Christmas event. Entrance fees are waived for the event or visitors can arrive early and pay entrance fees to visit the beach before Santa arrives.

At the Starr Family Home State Historic Site, visitors can celebrate the holiday season from 10 a.m.-noon Dec. 7 with craft making, story time and cookie making the whole family can take part.

(See Start The Holiday Season.....Continued on Page 21)
Can you believe it's December already??!
Looking back it's been a year of “Highs and Lows” – “Ups and Downs” and “Joy and Sorrow”! But, I'm so grateful for the many blessings that got me through it all!

This year is ending with a lot of excitement though! My new beautiful Skeeter Solera 205 came in the day after my birthday, and on my way home with it about a mile from the house it started raining and it stormed for 2 days. I didn’t think I was ever going to get to unwrap it! I'm thrilled Skeeter finally included a lighter color option this year because when you fish in Texas, those dark colors get awful hot in the summer. I understand them wanting the darker colors in the colder climates up north, but, with all the 100 degree days here we need more color options like the offshore boats! So, thank you again Skeeter Boats for this new color option this year because when you fish in Texas, those dark colors get awful hot in the summer. I understand them wanting the darker colors in the colder climates up north, but, with all the 100 degree days here we need more color options like the offshore boats! So, thank you again Skeeter Boats for this new color option – I love it and so do my customers! (They also say it’s the most comfortable and impressive boat they’ve ever fished out of!) It is a ‘BEAST’ of a boat!

I did make one change on this boat but the jury is still out on my decision. As much as I loved my MinnKota Ulrex trolling motor – that 60 inch shaft was getting hard on my back pulling it up and down so many times a day. (It’s just 3 inches shorter than me!!) So, I decided to try their Ulterra again now that it has the double GPS system. The automatic stow and deploy is awesome but the electric foot pedal not so much. I truly miss the cable drive foot pedal of the Ulrex. So, now I have to decide which route I want to go with. I sure wish some genius would convert the cable drive foot pedal to the Ulterra – now that would be sweet!

I'm anxious to see the new Lowrance “Ghost” trolling motor I've been hearing about. I've always run Lowrance depth finders and then to have the “go to” feature with this trolling motor would just be the ultimate! There are just so many exciting new products coming out in the fishing world! The latest buzz is the Garmin Live Scope. It is definitely changing the crappie fishing world. It’s a different style of fishing but very productive. I think I just might have to add it to my arsenal! (It’s not cheap loving to fish!)

Well once again our fall seemed to only last about a week! Our water temperatures dropped quickly and we’ve had some ridiculous winds. The crappie are on the move so there is no magic spot. We’ll catch a few in a spot then move on to another. One day they’ll be at the bridges then the next they’re gone. As the water temps continue to drop, the crappie will transi-
tion to deeper water. Right now we’re targeting 20 to 30 ft. depths but their position in the water table is changing daily. So pay attention to how deep they are moving through on your graphs and target that depth. Check main creek channels, main lake points, deep water humps, road beds and bridges. Look for stump beds or any structure. Colors working for us have been L.S.U. purple/gold, chartreuse/blue or black/chartreuse. By the way, don’t forget that December 1st to March 1st you have to keep the first 25 you catch, (no culling).

Many thanks to all of you who fished with me this year and looking forward to seeing you again in the coming year. Don’t forget also to check out Lake Fork Marina for your holiday shopping for all of the fishermen in your life. They’ve got some great gift ideas and gift baskets available. If you love the “Super Ultralite” crappie fishing, check out Reel Time Rods for the special 5 ft. rods they’ve made for me. They are a hoot to fish with and enough back bone to land the giant bass too!

I want to wish everyone a “Wonderful Holiday Season” and many blessings to you all and especially to my family! I’m looking forward to seeing them all for Christmas!

Thank you so much Bryan Sartin for all your help putting my depth finders on and Clyde McAffee for setting them up for my first trip!

Sending thoughts and prayers to all who lost loved ones this year and to all battling a disease!

“I want to wish everyone a “Wonderful Holiday Season” and many blessings to you all and especially to my family! I’m looking forward to seeing them all for Christmas!”

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For More Information Call: 903-360-6994 or 903-383-7748 email: fishnews@lakefork.net
TPW Commission Approves Regulation Changes for Freshwater Trotlines and Other Related Gear

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved changes to the regulations on passive fishing gear (jug lines, minnow traps, perch traps, throwlines, and trotlines) to facilitate the removal of abandoned gear from public waters, make the presence of passive fishing gear identifiable to all users of public waters, and minimize the unintended take of aquatic resources.

Before approving the proposed changes, commissioners, in response to public input, reduced the valid period for gear tags from 10 days to six days (instead of the proposed four) to shorten the time between angler inspections of their gear and reduce the negative impacts of abandoned passive fishing gear in Texas public waters. Scientific investigations conducted by the department show that fish mortalities as a result of “ghost fishing” (the continuing effect of unattended passive gears) can increase after four days. Such devices can continue to fish and represent a danger to fish and other aquatic organisms when they are abandoned. Requiring the gear tag and the accompanying gear to be checked more frequently than 10 days should reduce those unintended mortalities.

“Current regulations do not require the removal of the fishing device from the water when the date period on gear tags needs to be updated. Reducing the number of days from 10 to six will not change that, but it does require the angler to check the gear and retain or release any resource that is caught,” said Jarret Barker, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Assistant Commander for Fisheries Enforcement. “The device can remain in the water while the gear tag is updated.”

In addition to the changes in the length of the valid period for gear tags, changes were made to information required to be displayed on the gear tag. Anglers were given the option of including the 12-digit customer number from their license in stead of their address.

“This allows some anonymity so someone can set out their gear without disclosing their personal information to other anglers while still allowing game wardens to identify the gear’s owner by using their customer number,” Barker said.

Other approved changes add the requirement that minnow traps, throwlines, and trotlines have floats attached to aid in distinguishing active fishing gear from abandoned fishing gear and litter. All floats used on juglines, minnow traps, throwlines, and trotlines must be at least 6 inches in length and not less than 3 inches in width. For these four gears, floats for recreational anglers can be any color other than orange, while commercial fishing license holders will be required to use orange-colored floats.

These changes will go into effect on February 1, 2020.
“Knowing What To Look For!”

By Michael McFarland

Winter bass fishing can be a gruelling grind no matter what lake you are fishing. Cold water temperatures, brutal north winds and consistent cold fronts can make it seem even more uncomfortable, especially if you not finding and or catching them. One of the most effective tips I use this time of year is to focus on the birds eating fish, specifically the Loon. The Loon is a big neck bird with a preference for larger baitfish which here at Fork its the gizzard shad. The 5 to 7 inch gizzard shad are also the choice food of the giant large mouth bass.

By finding, following and paying close attention the loons and their daily behavior I can narrow down the areas I’m choosing to search and fish. When the birds are inactive so are the predator fish. When the birds are diving, searching, hunting and catching the baitfish, in other words if the birds are active your odds of catching fish are at their best for the given day. I use my sonar to find and locate the depth of the baitfish the birds are diving on. This will help me determine the depth of the strike zone and where to key in the quality of my time. Although I prefer to use the M-Pack 7” shad on a Carolina rig I will also throw large square bills like the Strike King 8.0, Evergreen Jack hammer chatter-baits trailed with 4” Lake Fork tackle lures live magic shad, Booya one knocker rattle traps and large jerkbaits like the Lucky Craft pointer 120 series. It is very important to constantly pay close attention every moment of the day. The activity zones will come and go especially on the warm trending days. *Remember this, warm nights in December usually means good fishing for the next day or so. Last but not least prepare yourself for cold conditions, dress extra warm, bring some hot soup in a thermos and go slow and easy. Thank you all for reading. I wish you great fishing and happy holidays.

Michael McFarland
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’Tis the Season for Rainbow Trout Stocking in Texas

It’s the most wonderful time of the year for anglers of all ages as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department began stocking thousands of easy to catch, tasty rainbow trout in 185 ponds, lakes and rivers across the state Nov. 26.

For urban and suburban families in major cities, Neighborhood Fishin’ lakes offer some of the best opportunities to catch rainbow trout this winter. TPWD manages 18 Neighborhood Fishin’ lakes statewide in most major urban centers, including Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio. These lakes are stocked with rainbow trout every two weeks and offer plenty of amenities so that family members of all ages can enjoy a fun and relaxing day fishing and connecting in nature.

Families looking to spend a day or weekend exploring a Texas State Park can add fishing to their list of activities, as more than 15 state parks throughout the state will receive periodic stockings of rainbow trout this winter. Many state parks offer excellent fishing amenities such as fishing piers and shoreline access, cleaning stations, and equipment rentals for tackle and kayaks or canoes. As a bonus, state parks are the only locations in Texas that anglers can fish for free without a fishing license.

For anglers interested in tailrace fishing, TPWD will be stocking rainbow trout below several dams and spillways, which often have very cool water and provide excellent conditions for trout fishing. This year, TPWD will stock rainbow trout into the Canyon Tailrace on the Guadalupe River below Canyon Lake, the Lewisville Tailrace located on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River below Lake Lewisville, and the Possum Kingdom Tailrace on the Brazos River below Possum Kingdom Lake.

Other stocking locations include dozens of local city and county managed park ponds, the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center casting pond, and several rivers including the Frio, South Llano and Guadalupe rivers and the Clear Fork of the Trinity River.

Rainbow trout can be caught on a variety of baits and lures. Depending on an angler’s experience level and interest, they can be caught using simple, light tackle or on hand-tied flies using a fly rod. Other tips to consider when trout fishing include arriving early to stocking sites on stocking days, maintaining a safe and courteous distance from fellow anglers, keeping an array of baits and lures nearby and having ice available when harvesting trout to keep fish fresh.

TPWD will be stocking a total of 343,650 rainbow trout in Texas through the beginning of March. Because rainbow trout are unable to survive in Texas after the winter, anglers are encouraged to keep up to their daily bag limit of five trout. Rainbow trout are an attractive, tasty fish found on many restaurant menus, and anglers can easily find recipes to prepare these fish online.

In Texas, children under 17 fish for free, but a fishing license with a freshwater fishing endorsement is required for adults in the family. An angler fishing in a Community Fishing Lake or from a dock, pier or jetty within a Texas State Park may use no more than two poles. The statewide bag limit is five trout, except on parts of the Guadalupe River where special limits are in effect.

The dates and locations are subject to change due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Be sure to check the 2019-20 Trout Stocking Schedule online before you go fishing to confirm the stocking date, check fishing regulations and to find other winter trout stocking program angling tips.
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The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has announced the 14 lucky winners of this year’s Big Time Texas Hunts, which were selected at random from entries in the drawing.

All told, hunters bought 106,114 Big Time Texas Hunt entries. More than $1973,495 in gross sales was generated, and proceeds from the drawing go to support wildlife research, habitat management and public hunting.

“Big Time Texas Hunts continues to be an important conservation fundraiser for TPWD,” said Justin Dreibelbis, TPWD Private Lands and Public Hunting Program Director. “If a hunter is lucky enough to win, they will experience the hunt of a lifetime. If they don’t, they can feel good knowing the funds from their entry go directly to wildlife conservation and public access projects on public hunting lands in Texas.”

This year’s winner of the Texas Grand Slam hunting package, Lee Ferguson of Marshall, is making plans for four separate guided hunts for the state’s top four premier big game species – desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, pronghorn and mule deer.

Following are the other category winners of this year’s Big Time Texas Hunts:

- Ultimate Mule Deer Hunt – Carlton Martin, Palmhurst
- Nilgai Antelope Safari – Carrie McCay, Montgomery
- Premium Buck Hunt – James Handley III, Campbell
- Exotic Safari – Stanley Harris, Cypress
- Whitetail Bonanza – John McCall, Arlington
- Phillips Lucky, Waxahachie
- Justine Venable, Groesbeck
- Darrell Dugas, Nederland
- Big Time Bird Hunt – Richard Way, Christoval
- Gator Hunt – Gerald Burch, Jr., Bynum
- Texas Waterfowl Hunt – George (Kelley) Taylor, Corpus Christi
- Wild Hog Adventure – Lance Lang, Minot, ND

All winners have been notified. Entries for next year’s Big Time Texas Hunts will go on sale May 15, 2020.

“Big Time Texas Hunts is made possible with support from Toyota and the Texas Bighorn Society.”
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As our LFSA year comes to an end, the membership can reflect on so many activities based on our mission of Preserving the Legend of Lake Fork. January is busy with the annual Eagle Count on and around the Lake followed by the popular Eagle Fest based in Emory. New projects were begun including the design and manufacturing of fish attractors by the Yantis High School shop students followed later by the actual placement of the structures at various locations in the lake, with the students providing the assistance. Aquatic grasses became the project in February with the Yantis High School Agriculture class participating in the potting, fertilizing and caring for the Bulrush in their green house. Member Ed Swenson has spent many hours guiding the project. This year is the fifth year that the students have assisted Texas Parks and Wildlife and LFSA with the program. The grasses for 2019 are ready to plant in December.

While grasses are grown in the green house, the Button Bushes have been cared for in a shelter outside waiting for the prime time to plant them. Sue Parish has guided this program with the Ag students and, with the luck of good weather, the final batch of bushes will be planted the first week of December. The Spring and Fall raffles were conducted as Association fund raisers and were both successful. Most of the funding of LFSA projects is raised by these raffles. Ed Swenson, Director of Projects, has managed the raffles for several years and has grown them into their current status of success.

The Live Release Boat has been active at almost all larger tournaments and is a significant contributor to releasing the fish back into Lake Fork. Bruce Allen and Raymond Carter are the stalwarts of scheduling members to work the boat during tournys. Larry Lewis has done a stellar job of assuring the LRB is “seaworthy” and well-maintained. In 2019, a new member, Tommy Doerr, presented a request to build wood duck boxes and place them in areas of good habitat. Working with a grant from the Audubon Society of Tyler, the labor of the Yantis High School shop student and volunteers from LFSA, twenty wood duck boxes were constructed and placed in Lake Fork—ten in non-hunting areas and ten in hunting accessible areas.

In the summer LFSA bought a 28’ pontoon boat and donated it to Texas Parks and Wildlife with the intent to be renovated into a research barge. Peggy York, LFSA’s Secretary, taught a fishing class sponsored by the Friends of the Rains County Public Library. Youngsters were taught knot tying, how to identify fish, fishing safety and techniques. Each student received a rod and reel from LFSA.

A highlight of the year is the Fishing Tackle Program chaired by Mike and Pat Kostial. New and used rods, reels, tackle, life vests, tackle boxes, paddles and most anything required to fish are either donated by fishermen or purchased by LFSA and donated to high school fishing teams in the area. In November, the meeting room was full of members and two fishing teams for the presentation. A heartwarming event, for sure!

Vice President Larry Marler chairs the Christmas Sharing Program each year. Toy collection boxes are put in local businesses in hopes that they will be filled with new toys and food for children in underserved areas of Rains and Wood County. Also, cash donation boxes are placed in businesses to collect money for additional food or needs for families. This successful program has served the area for years and dates back to 1999.

So, after three years as president of LFSA, I am handing over the reigns to someone who will grow the association with even more enthusiasm. Election of Board of Directors will be held on December 14. My personal thanks go to each member who invested their time into our mission. This progressive, active, and productive group has accomplished more than can be listed above. It is with warmest regards to all that I step down from a leadership role and will sit in the meetings as a volunteer!
“Old Man Winter Is Sneaking Up!”  
(Continued from Page 6)

teetrap, squarebills, chatterbaits and spinnerbaits will all answer the call to duty. Look for vegetation in the skinny water and pay attention to any baitfish activity. There will also be other patterns that will work during this time of the year, one being the jig and craw trailer fished on the creek bends where wood is present. Black and blue is my fav, especially on cloudy days. If the water is fairly clear, switch to watermelon red front to back. Work it slow, especially through the roots of the trees. Sunny afternoons during this season can also be a gold mine.

As the water cools into the mid-fifties, chatterbaits and traps are the go to baits worked shallow and be sure to focus on the 2:00 to 5:30pm window. Water warms during the afternoon and the fish will move up for a free meal. Pay attention to any bird activity and they will lead you to the bass.

December/January is also a great month to catch numbers on the power plant lakes. If cabin fever has set in, give me a call and we can wear them out where the water temps are summer like. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in December 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 December and some in January. 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/LakeForkGuideDavidOzio. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon Custom Lures for making my job the blast that it is and 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.”

Owners: Kathy and Phil Shadwell

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For more information about holiday activities at Texas State Parks, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website. A full calendar is available online on the TPWD calendar page. For activities at THC’s State Historic Sites, visit the Texas Historical Commission website.

Photos of past holiday events are available on the TPWD Flicker page.

Want to bring Texas State Parks home for the holidays? Commemorate parks and the holidays with a Texas State Park ornament. For more than 15 years, the annual park Christmas ornament has featured some of the most recognizable Texas State Parks landscapes. The 2019 ornament introduces a redesigned ornament style. The metal ornament features photo-quality artwork in stunning color with rich, laser-etched textures and detail.

This year, the ornament depicts the iconic Lighthouse, a geological structure in Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Located south of Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle, this majestic park is home to the nation’s second largest canyon.

The annual Christmas ornament can be purchased exclusively online for $19.95 each. Purchase by Dec. 10 for likely arrival before Christmas. Tax and shipping fees apply.

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine is also offering a special subscription deal for the holidays. Anyone can give two gift subscriptions to the magazine for just $15. Don’t want to feel left out? Give yourself the gift of the outdoors for an additional $5. Subscriptions can be ordered online at http://bit.ly/MagHoliday19.

To start the holiday season, anyone can give two gift subscriptions to the magazine for just $15. Don’t want to feel left out? Give yourself the gift of the outdoors for an additional $5. Subscriptions can be ordered online at http://bit.ly/MagHoliday19.
Invasive Giant Salvinia Found at Houston County Lake

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) inland fisheries staff found less than 1 acre of invasive giant salvinia in multiple locations at Houston County Lake near Crockett Nov. 8.

After being tipped off to the new infestation on social media, the TPWD Brookeland aquatic habitat enhancement team (AHE) deployed to the reservoir and found the majority of the invasive plant in the south cove with more scattered in areas on the north side of the lake. Those areas will be treated with careful application of contact herbicide on larger mats of the invasive plant.

“All three growth stages were observed during the survey, indicating it is a relatively new infestation,” said Brookeland AHE team lead John Findeisen. “We will begin treating the giant salvinia at the lake, but we also need hunters, anglers and all other lake users to help prevent it from spreading further by cleaning, draining and drying boats, trailers and gear every time they leave the water.”

Giant salvinia is currently present on 17 East Texas lakes, including Houston County Reservoir, Caddo Lake, Lake Conroe, B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir, Lake Livingston, Lake Murvaul, Lake Nacogdoches, Lake Naconiche, Lake O’ the Pines, Lake Palestine, Lake Raven, Sam Rayburn Reservoir, Sheldon Reservoir, Lake Striker, Lake Texana, Lake Timpson, Hemphill City Lake, and Toledo Bend Reservoir. Additionally, giant salvinia can also be found in most, if not all, of the rivers, creeks, and marshes between Houston and Beaumont.

In addition to harming the recreational experience at lakes and damaging aquatic ecosystems, the transport of aquatic invasive species can result in legal trouble. In Texas, transporting prohibited invasive species is punishable by a fine of up to $500 per violation. Boaters are also required to drain all water from their boat and onboard receptacles before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water in order to prevent the transfer of aquatic invasive species.

Because early detection is an important part of reducing or eliminating the presence of giant salvinia, TPWD encourages lake users to report new sightings to (409) 698-9121 or via the online report form.

Text TPWD GS to 468-311 for updates on giant salvinia (GS).
TPW Commission Recognize Officers and Boating Educator of the Year

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPW) recognized two game wardens and a boating educator during today’s meeting for their contributions and efforts supporting the agency mission.

Dana Gage Receives Texas and Southern States Boating Educator of the Year Award

Dana Gage was recognized as the 2019 Texas and Southern States Boating Educator of the Year by the TPW Commission for her work promoting water safety. The LV Project, the initiative she founded that focuses on the importance of water safety, was created in honor of her son Connor after he drowned on a North Texas lake.

In 2017, Gage brought the message of water safety to the classroom. Teaming up with the Outdoors for Tomorrow Foundation and working with outdoor adventure educators in 22 states, a life jacket safety curriculum was introduced that will reach more than 30,000 students across the nation.

She also helped acquire the pro-bono services from DDB Worldwide, a large advertising agency, to assist with a ground-breaking campaign encouraging teenagers to wear their life jacket.

Shikar-Safari Club International Recognizes Rachel Kellner as Texas Wildlife Officer of the Year

Uvalde County game warden Rachel Kellner was named the 2019 Texas Wildlife Officer of the Year by the Shikar-Safari Club International. This marks the 40th year this award has been presented to a Texas Game Warden.

Kellner has been stationed in Uvalde County during her 16 year career and is the team lead for the West Texas Game Warden Critical Incident team. The team is involved with responding to incidents such as shootings, disasters and many other issues on a daily basis.

In November 2018, Kellner responded to a helicopter crash carrying two newlyweds and a pilot after midnight in a remote part of Uvalde County. Kellner and her partner searched by ATV and on foot until they located the crash site on the side of a mountain. When they arrived on scene, the game wardens found that a private helicopter had dropped off several members of the newlywed’s family at the site and consoloed the family until other first responders could get to the area and take custody of their loved ones.

She has also been called upon to be a spokesperson to represent Texas Game Wardens during incidents that garner wide-scale media attention including Hurricane Harvey, Tropical Storm Imelda and the historic flooding of the Llano River.

Sean Reneau Named 2019 Midwest Officer of the Year

The Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers recognized game warden Sean Reneau as Midwest Officer of the Year for his service and accomplishments.

Reneau serves the community of Nacogdoches and receives many requests from students who want to participate in the Volunteer Ride-Along Program. At any given time, it is common for him to mentor more than 10 individuals in the program. Even though this adds to his workload, he uses it as an opportunity to evaluate and mentor young adults who are interested in becoming a Texas Game Warden.

He routinely takes on a mentor role and volunteers to assist colleagues who can benefit from his experience and skillset. His willingness to take on extra work to aid fellow wardens is a great example of his willingness to invest in others to help them be successful.

The Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers is comprised of 29 member agencies from the United States and Canada. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has been a member since 1995.
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries management staff are considering changes to freshwater fishing regulations at water bodies located in Cooke, Tom Green, Grayson, and Williamson counties for 2020-21. Staff previewed the potential changes to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at their meeting recently in Austin.

At Moss Lake near Gainesville in Cooke County, staff are considering modifying the 14-inch minimum length limit for largemouth bass to a 16-inch maximum length limit to encourage the harvest of smaller fish. This change would aim to reduce competition for forage and habitat and improve the growth potential of largemouth bass in the lake. Additionally, this change would reduce confusion for anglers with identification of spotted versus largemouth bass in the lake.

At Lake Nasworthy near San Angelo in Tom Green County, staff are considering modifying harvest regulations for crappie by removing the current 10-inch minimum length limit. The change would allow anglers to harvest some of the abundant crappie smaller than 10 inches with the aim of helping to restructure the crappie population in the reservoir, where fish are currently found to have below-average growth and many die of natural mortality prior to reaching 10 inches in length.

At Lake Texoma and the Texas waters of the Red River below the Denison Dam, staff are considering modifying harvest regulations for blue, channel, and flathead catfish to standardize the regulations for blue and channel catfish, the potential changes would specify no minimum length limit, a 15-fish daily bag limit, and anglers could harvest only one blue catfish 30 inches or greater. For flathead catfish, the change would specify no minimum length limit and a five-fish daily bag limit. In addition to standardizing regulations with Oklahoma and making harvest limits less complicated for catfish anglers, the potential changes could increase protection of larger blue catfish on the Texas side of the river.

At Brushy Creek Lake near Cedar Park in Williamson County, staff are considering modifying harvest regulations by changing to the statewide 14-inch limit for largemouth bass. On the section of Brushy Creek downstream from the lake to the Williamson/Milam County line (approximately 50 miles), staff are considering the following changes: for blue and channel catfish, reducing the daily bag limit to five fish per day and removing the minimum length limit; and implementing a pole-and-line only, two rod maximum gear restriction to reduce the potential over harvest of fish caught by other means. Standardizing the catfish limits and legal gear requirements would result in anglers fishing under the same regulations for the reservoir and the creek downstream.
The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement reports.

--Responding to a Call for Help-- At 10 p.m. on April 11, Hunt County game wardens responded to a 911 call from an elderly man whose boat had capsized in heavy winds on Lake Tawakoni. The man was trapped under the bow of the boat and in distress. As they launched their patrol boats and were joined by local fire rescue, wardens requested assistance from a Texas Department of Public Safety helicopter. The DPS helicopter located the overturned boat and as the helicopter hovered overhead providing light for the rescue below, game wardens and firemen pulled the victim from the water. An examination of the elderly man revealed he was suffering from hypothermia, having been in 61 degree water for more than four hours, and soaked in gasoline. On the way back to the shore the victim advised wardens that his 72-year-old brother had also been on the boat when it capsized and was now missing. After offloading the man at a waiting ambulance, rescuers headed out onto the lake to search for the other missing man. Very high winds made the search difficult, but shortly after midnight wardens located the second man clinging to a large jug. Like his brother, the second man was also very hypothermic from exposure. Both victims survived the ordeal but not without consequences. The first man was diagnosed with second degree chemical burns and his brother suffered a heart attack after being admitted to the hospital.

--Some Folks Never Learn-- In the early morning hours of April 12, a Briscoe County game warden on patrol spotted a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. After clocking the vehicle at over 90 miles per hour, the warden initiated a traffic stop. The warden ran the subject through Hale County Dispatch and learned that his license was not valid and he had multiple convictions for driving while license invalid. As the warden explained to the driver that he would be placed under arrest, the driver pulled a pair of brass knuckles out of his pocket and handed them to an assisting Hale County sheriff’s deputy. A subsequent inventory search of the vehicle, prior to impounding, uncovered a variety of narcotics and drug paraphernalia. The subject was transported to Hale County Detention Center and charged with third degree felony possession of controlled substance and Class A misdemeanor possession of a prohibited weapon, along with other violations.

--Snapped Up Again-- On April 16, Cameron County game wardens received a call from U.S. Coast Guard Station South Padre Island regarding a Mexican fishing vessel that was caught illegally fishing in Texas state waters. The Coast Guard stated that after a 10 minute pursuit, the fishing vessel was stopped and the four man crew was taken into custody by a Coast Guard boarding team and transported to the South Padre Island small boat station. Wardens met the Coast Guard boat crew at the station and took custody of the 26-foot fishing vessel, the catch on board and its crew members. Three bids by local fish houses were collected and the seized catch of approximately 750 pounds of red snapper were sold to the highest bidder. The crew of the fishing vessel admitted to having been caught illegally fishing in U.S. waters numerous times in the past. The captain of the vessel was cited for operation of an unregistered vessel, illegal means and methods, and fishing without a commercial fishing license. The three crew members

(See Game Warden...Continued on Page 26)
were cited for illegal means and methods and fishing without a commercial fishing license.

--Keep the Boat in the Water-- On April 28, a Val Verde County game warden responded to a boat distress call on Lake Amistad. A somewhat novice boat operator with his new boat and family on board ran aground after dark on the lake. According to the story, the boat operator, while on full plane, noticed he was running in very shallow water. Thinking that he was going over a small island he gunned the throttle even more to make it over the supposed island. The boat eventually ran out of water well onto the bank. Thankfully no injuries occurred.

--That's Not a Serpentine Belt-- Game wardens got an unusual request for assistance recently when an employee at a business next to their office stopped in to ask for help removing a large snake from the engine compartment of his vehicle. The individual was unsure of the species and reluctant to attempt removal. The wardens assisted in untangling a six foot rattlesnake, which had wrapped itself around the engine parts. The vehicle’s owner believes the snake may have hitched a ride earlier in the week while he was parked at a farm. The snake was exhausted but unhurt. Lake Bob Sandlin State Park employees asked to keep the snake for a few days to use for educational purposes before they released it back into the wild.

--Stretching the Limits-- Game wardens investigating possible bass fishing tournament fraud in Travis and Bastrop counties discovered a unique sleight of hand while checking the potential violator after he had submitted questionable photos to a tournament on Decker Lake. The catch and release kayak fishing event used photos taken by contestants out on the water of their catches placed on a measuring board, with the angler having the most inches of bass in the aggregate declared the winner. Upon inspection of the violator’s vessel, a cut tail of a bass was found in the paddle well of the kayak. The violator initially stated he found the cut tail in the reeds and was taking it to shore to turn it in. Later the violator confirmed to have used the tail to place over another bass, using his hand to cover the questionable area, to make the fish look longer on multiple occasions. The violator was arrested for fraud in a fishing tournament. The charges are pending.

--Bad Sense of Smell-- A Tyler County game warden got a tip about two deer that were potentially poached out of season. The warden patrolled to the area of the violation and, with the assistance of Tyler County Sheriff’s Office, contacted a known drug violator at his residence. Immediately upon contact, they caught a strong odor of rotting meat coming from an ice chest in the backyard. After numerous knocks at the door, the officers got the subject to come outside, and asked about the contents of the ice chest. The subject admitted he and his roommate shot two deer and had forgot about part of the meat in the ice chest. The subjects later showed the warden where they had shot the deer. Charges were filed and the case is still under investigation for possible hunting without landowner consent.

--Lost and Found-- On May 18, game wardens were contacted about a missing person in Copper Breaks State Park near Quanah. The game wardens, park superintendent, another park employee, Hardeman County Sheriff’s Office and Foard County Sheriff’s Office were on scene. The subject was a diabetic that had possibly walked off the state park property.

(See Game Warden...Continued on Page 28)
Celebrate The Season With Savory Shrimp Creations

For festive holiday gatherings, deck the halls, trim the tree and serve the shrimp! For large gatherings or small family entertaining, these wonderful shrimp appetizers are sure to please.

**Shrimp, Artichoke and Spinach Dip**

- 12 oz. carton of SeaPak Shrimp Scampi
- 8.5 oz. can quartered artichokes, well drained
- 9 oz. carton frozen spinach
- ¼ cup Italian bread crumbs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 3 Tbsp. precooked bacon crumbles
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese

1. Defrost spinach in microwave according to package directions and drain well.
2. Heat large skillet for 1 minute on medium high. Add frozen shrimp scampi, sauté for 7 minutes. Add artichokes, spinach, bread crumbs, sour cream, bacon crumbles and cheese to the skillet with shrimp. Stir well to incorporate all ingredients. Cook additional 3 minutes or until cheese is melted and shrimp is fully cooked. Scoop mixture into bread bowl (or a regular serving dish) and serve with crackers.

**Sugared Shrimp Butterflies**

- 10 slices of bacon, cut in half to make 20 pieces
- 20 SeaPak Butterfly Shrimp (frozen)
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Wrap 1 piece of bacon (1/2 slice) around each frozen shrimp. Place shrimp in a single layer on large baking sheet. Mix brown sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl then sprinkle over shrimp. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until bacon is fully cooked. Serve immediately.

Tip: Line your baking pan with nonstick aluminum foil for easy cleanup.

**Making The Most of Holiday Leftovers**

Holiday time means turkey, and turkey usually means leftovers. Now you can jazz up roast turkey and watch it disappear.

**The Reuben Tortilla**

- 4 8-inch whole wheat or white tortillas, softened
- ½ cup fat-free or regular Thousand Island dressing
- 4 oz. cooked turkey (and/or pastrami or corned beef)
- 4 slices (3/4 oz. each) Swiss cheese
- 1 cup well-drained Krisp Kraut (my choice is Bush’s Best Sauerkraut)

1. Spread each tortilla with 2 Tbsp. dressing. Top with 1 oz. turkey, 1 slice cheese and ¼ cup sauerkraut. Fold opposite edges of tortilla over to cover filling. Roll up from one unfolded edge to the other, forming wrap sandwich. Microwave each 20 seconds to 30 seconds or serve at room temperature. Serves four.

Serves four.

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The game wardens were able to track the subject’s footprints down a dirt road for approximately a mile and then tracked him to where he possibly walked down a steep embankment to get to the river. The park superintendent was sent around to search the river bottom below the embankment on a four wheeler. The subject was located under a deer hunting stand and glad to see help. He was dehydrated but did not need medical attention. He had been missing for approximately four hours in 95 degree heat. The search party found the subject less than half an hour before a storm that dumped three inches of rain blew in that would have made the search almost impossible.

--Choose Your Friends Wisely--

Game wardens were patrolling Lake Kirby in Abilene recently when they contacted a vehicle parked close to the water. After a brief conversation with the occupants, a couple, the subjects provided their identifications. After running their information, the sheriff’s office advised that both subjects had outstanding warrants. After running their information, the sheriff’s office advised that both subjects had outstanding warrants. They were placed under arrest and transported to jail by a Taylor County deputy. While waiting for the deputy, the male subject had made arrangements for his vehicle to be picked up. Shortly after the deputy left, two females arrived to take possession of the vehicle. After obtaining their identification, the sheriff’s office advised that one of them also had outstanding warrants. The female was transported to the Taylor County jail, as well, and the vehicle was released to the other female.

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

For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director
visit our website: www.wishtofishfoundation.com
Lake Fork Tournament Schedule Dec. thru Feb. 2020

December
Dec. 7 ~ JC Outdoors Fall Teams
Minnow Bucket
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January
January Every Thursday
Lake Fork Anglers Bass Club
Minnow Bucket
If you are having a Tournament on Lake Fork and wish to have it listed, contact us fishnews@lakefork.net

February
Feb. 15 ~ Media Teams
Minnow Bucket
Feb. 23 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
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