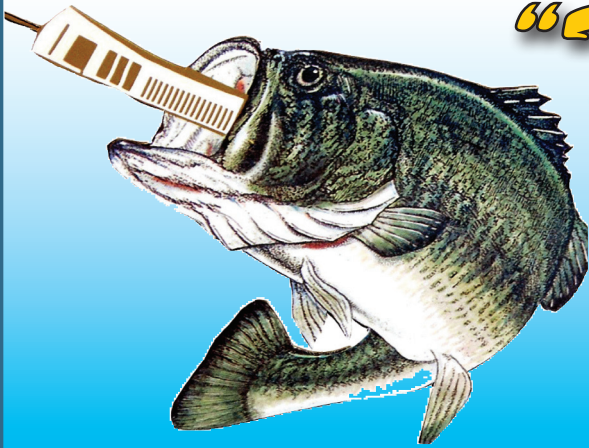


LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital Of Texas"



"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" "Lines To Get Hooked On"

1 Section

www.fishguidenews.com

Free

Vol. 22

September, 2020

No. 253

Sealy Outdoors Lake Fork Big Bass Splash

By Don Hampton

Anglers get ready for family, fishing & fun at the Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork, the Big Bass Capital of Texas, presented by Sealy Outdoors. This great event will be held September 18th, 19th,

and 20th out of Lake Fork Marina. With \$516,000 Guaranteed in Cash and Prizes this is one event you do not want to miss. First Place Overall will take home a Triton 19 TRX Powered by Mercury equipped with MinnKota, Lowrance,

Power Pole and Navionics; RAM Truck Plus.... \$7,000 CASH! Second Place Overall will take home a Triton 18 TRX Powered by Mercury equipped with MinnKota, Lowrance, a RAM Truck (See Sealy Outdoors....

Continued on Page 4)



Misty Rhoden caught this nice Lake Fork hawg while fishing with guide David Ozio in August. Weight not provided. C.P.R.



Asher Hoffman, 8 years old from Shreveport, La., caught this nice bass, his personal best while fishing Lake Fork with his Grandfather, Randy Barker at his place at Bridgeview RV Park. Weight not provided. C.P.R.

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Our Dedication To Promoting Lake Fork
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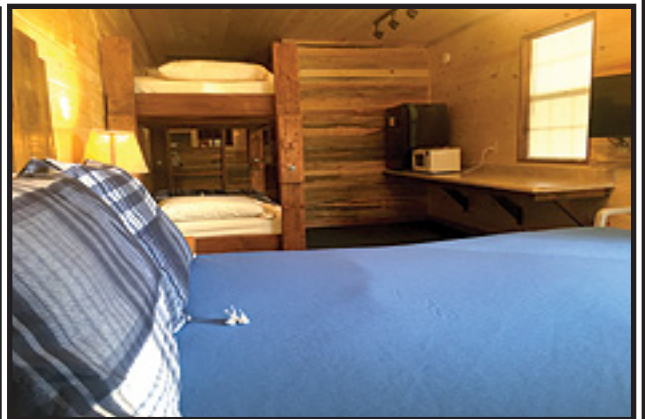
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"All It Takes Is One Good Bass For Bubba To Get In Someone's Pocket"

By Don Bubba Hampton

Bubba is known in his circle of friends to be a pretty fair fisherman. He even has photos and witnesses of him catching some 9 and 10 pound bass. It is a good thing he does have proof because knowing how Bubba can embellish a fish tale, he needs proof.

Bubba practices CPR. This is most definitely not to say he is medically trained. His extent of medical training was dating a bossy nurse before he met Bubbette. She didn't like to fish, didn't like Bubba to fish, and it wasn't long before she didn't like Bubba and he surely didn't like her! To Bubba, CPR only means catch, photo, and release. If he ever catches a big one in a major tournament and has chest pains, he is done for.

Bubba never has the big fish to show for all his efforts, but when he catches a hawg, he definitely makes sure he has a photo and witnesses.

This man has almost as many cameras in his boat as the "Love Boat" did. His best times on the lakes used to be those "Kodak Moments". Now thanks to modern technology he refers to them as "Canon digital moments"! He really is a hi-tech redneck with his new cameras. He can now show his buds his fish without having to go get the film developed first.

When it comes to the big tournaments, Bubba just can't put it all together. He knows it can't be because of his stuff. He has more stuff than Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. He has won more than his share of club tournaments and placed in a few others to get checks, but he just can't seem to get the whole enchilada.

When speaking with him after one of his tournaments he said, "One o' these days it's gonna be my turn and I'm gonna get off into those tournament director's pockets and they are just going to have to give me a boat!"

Now I was really glad none of the tournament directors

were around to hear that statement. Not knowing Bubba as we do and how he has a way of putting things, they just might have been a little on the nervous side rather than understanding that was just Bubba's way of saying he was planning to win one of their tournaments.

To this date Bubba will confess, "I've never really been beat in a tournament, heck, I just run out of time!"

I have all the confidence in the world that one of these times Bubba is going to do just what he says and win in one of the big tournaments. He says he's going to and the one thing you can be assured of with him is if he gives his word on a matter, it is just a matter of fact.

He will do this only if Bubbette lets him live long enough!!

After one of his tournaments Bubbette told him sternly, "Bubba, you've got too much stuff! Not even you know what all you have. Twenty rod n' reels in your boat and more lures than Bass Pro Shop! You can't be using all that stuff!" She went on to add, "You probably get all that stuff

out on your boat and get confused what to do next and spend more time trying to think than fishing."

Bubba didn't know whether to take this as a compliment or an insult. No one had ever accused him of thinking too much and besides that, a man can never have too much fishing stuff!

Well, after he pondered this for a bit, it went over like treble hooks in a brush pile with Bubba. You would have thought somebody said his boat was ugly, wouldn't run and he'd never fish again. I even felt sorry for poor ole Bubba.

Bubbette even saw the pain she had inflicted on poor ole Bubba's fishing ego because the next day she bought him a new digital scale.

On the card Bubbette wrote, "This is so you will know how deep you are going to get in those tournament director's pockets. Good luck, you are the man. I love you!" She signed it, "Yore Sugdumplin!"


Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

40th Semi-Annual Open Tournament

October 10, 2020 * Lake Fork, Texas

Oak Ridge Marina * Hwy 154 N.

Guaranteed Pay-Out Based on 100 Entries 903-360-6994
Drawings Held After Weigh-in for prizes

<p>1st Place \$1,040.00 2nd Place \$780.00 3rd Place \$520.00 4th Place \$260.00 5th ~ 10th \$100.00</p>		<p>There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)</p> <p>1st Place \$500 2nd Place \$300 3rd Place \$200</p>
--	---	---

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Oct. 3, 2020.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Oct. 10, 2020.
4. Check in times: Fri., Oct. 9, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Oct. 10, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at Oak Ridge Marina.
5. To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.
6. Fishing hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (official clock at sign-in station). NO FISHING from midnight till start time.
7. Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer fishing allowed).
8. Contestants must fish from a boat. NO bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
9. Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
10. All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.
11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
12. Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 21" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 21" will be weighed (see state law limits at the time of the tournament).
13. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Fork trailer may be used.
14. Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at sign-in). You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.
15. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
16. No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
17. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).
18. Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of TTB and will be released (with the exception of trophy or dead fish).
19. In the event of a tie for any position, prize money for that position and the following positions will be combined and evenly divided between the tying contestants.
20. Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to the tournament.
21. Contestants may fish with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.
22. Use of alcoholic beverages or controlled drugs are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in.
23. Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish.
24. Any contestant who violates any rule may be disqualified. Any act of a competitor, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon TTB's effort to promote fishing, conservation, clean waters, courtesy or safety shall be reason for disqualification from this and all future TTB tournaments.
25. Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age.
26. All protests must be registered in writing with the tournament judges within 15 minutes after designated weigh-in time. All decisions of the tournament judges will be final in all matters. Anyone protesting the outcome of an open tournament will have to pay for any additional polygraph test given.
27. All boats must be 18 ft. in length or longer. An aerated livewell is recommended to aid in fish survival for live release. Anglers cannot leave boat to land a fish.
28. All contestants are responsible to have read these rules and must agree to abide by them (by signing the entry form) while competing in this TTB event.
29. Contestants will be subject to polygraph test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification.


ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information or for information on joining Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork visit our website: www.texastrailsbassmasters.com

Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Oct. 3, 2020 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (Optional). Print clearly.

<p>Name: _____ Email: _____ Address: _____ Having read and understood all the tournament rules, by my signature I agree to accept all decisions of the judges final, by my signature I waive, release and hold harmless all members, officials and sponsors of any and all alleged liabilities to me or my equipment. Contestant's Signature: _____ Minor's Release: Signed by _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TTB USE ONLY</p> <p>Entry # _____</p> <p>Entry Fee _____</p> <p>Big Bass _____</p> <p>Cash _____ Chk# _____</p>
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Don Hampton, Publisher/Owner
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Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash (Continued from Page 1)

plus.... \$2,000 CASH! Third Place Overall will win a Triton 18 TRX Powered by Mercury equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance, plus \$1,000 CASH. Fourth Place Overall will win \$8,000 CASH and Fifth Place will take home \$6,000 CASH!

There will be fifteen places paid in cash each hour of each tournament day beginning with the 7-8 AM hour and continuing through the 1-2 PM hour for the fifteen single heaviest bass weighed in. Heaviest bass each hour will win \$1,500! Pay-outs will range from there to \$250 for fifteenth place. Hourly updates will

be broadcasted three times each hour live on KMOO 99.9 FM.

Contestants weighing in the first 2.50 exact weight bass each day of the tournament will win \$5,000 in cash. The contestant(s) who weighs in the heaviest bass under the slot each day will win \$5,000. In addition, all contestants are eligible to win a Triton 189 TRX Powered by Mercury, equipped with Minn Kota and Lowrance in the famous "Elimination Drawing".

"You Can't Win if You Don't Play!" There will also be optional Bonus Games such as the Bonus Card "AKA" Insurance Card & the Bo-

nus T-shirt Hours can also win you additional cash.

Due to the seriousness of the COVID Pandemic this year, we will not have a Little Angler's Division. We apologize for this and hope to have it back next year.

Registration is open online for the Big Bass Splash presented by Sealy Outdoors benefiting St. Jude Children Research Hospital. To enter, visit www.sealy-outdoors.com. Early Bird Registration Deadline is Tuesday, September 8. Onsite Registration will be at Lake Fork Marina, five miles north of Alba on

*(See Sealy Outdoors....
Continued on Page 21)*



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Three Texas Parks and Wildlife Employees Perish in Helicopter Crash During Bighorn Sheep Survey

While conducting aerial surveys for desert bighorn sheep in West Texas on Saturday, Aug. 8, three Texas Parks and Wildlife Department employees died in a helicopter crash on TPWD's Black Gap Wildlife Management Area in Brewster County.

The victims include Wildlife Biologist Dewey Stockbridge, Fish and Wildlife Technician Brandon White, and State Wildlife Veterinarian Dr. Bob Dittmar. The pilot, a private contractor, survived the crash and was transported to El Paso for further treatment. "No words can begin to express the depth

of sadness we feel for the loss of our colleagues in this tragic accident," said Carter Smith, TPWD Executive Director. "These men were consummate professionals, deeply liked and highly regarded by their peers and partners alike for the immense passion, dedication, and expertise they brought to their important work in wildlife management and veterinary medicine. Wildlife conservation in Texas lost three of its finest as they so honorably and dutifully carried out their calling to help survey, monitor and protect the bighorns of their beloved west Tex-

as mountains. We will miss Dewey, Brandon, and Dr. Bob deeply and dearly. All of us at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department send our deepest condolences and sympathies to the Stockbridge, White, and Dittmar families in the wake of this devastating tragedy and continue to pray for the health and recovery of the pilot."

The Texas Department of Public Safety, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Texas Game Wardens are currently investigating the incident. Further details will be shared with the public as they become available.



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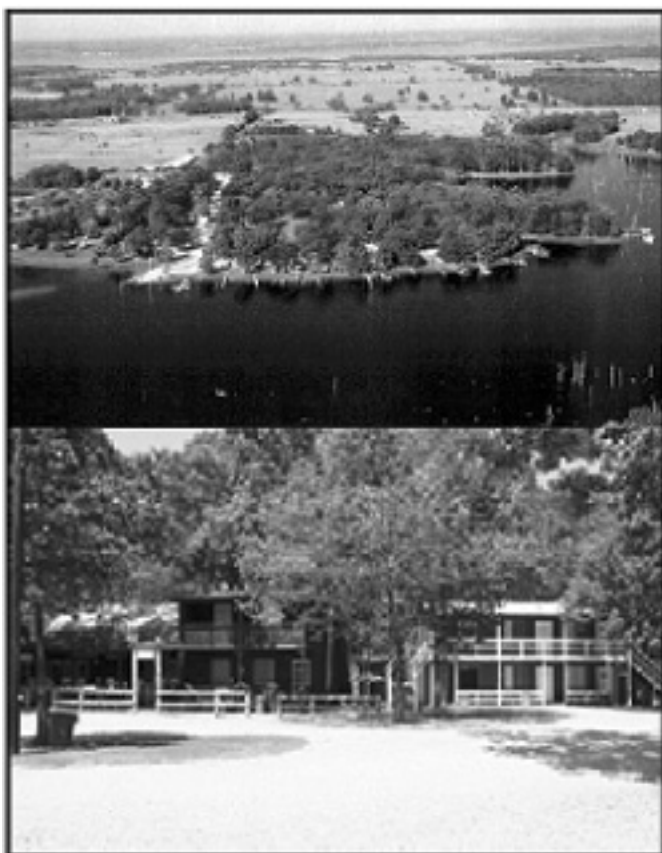
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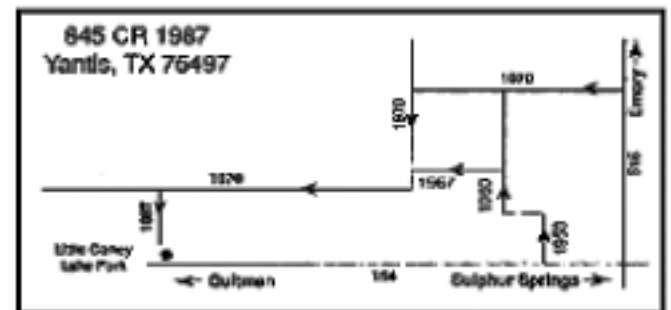
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"Fall Fishing on Lake Fork!"

"Fall bass fishing is just around the corner and many anglers that I have spoken with recently are stoked and ready to have some numbers days. The insanely hot days will start to wind down and the bass will instinctively start to move to the backs of the creeks in search for a free shad meal. Currently Lake Fork is a foot and a half low which will bode well for the shallow bite once the shad rally starts. Vegetation will be key to this bite and there is a myriad of options to choose from across the lake.

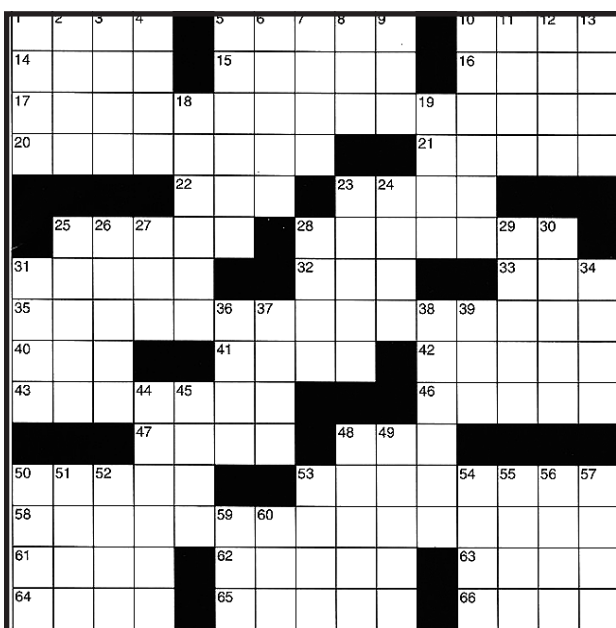
With daylight growing shorter, these patterns should take hold this month and I would be focus-

ing on the shallow bite on a day to day basis especially early in the day with the backs of creeks as a starting point if you are looking for consistent action. Shad will start to migrate to these areas of the lake and schooling activity will start to take place as the water begins to cool. Top water baits, squarebills, Texas rigged worms and shaky heads will lead the attack especially early and late. The lake is currently a little over pool and shallow water vegetation is taking root all over the lake. New grass growth, reeds and alligator grass (that's what I call the thick leafy vegetation) lines most all coves and creek banks. Bass love this new aquatic growth as it provides shade and protection from the summer sun and cover to ambush bait-fish. If it is a cloudy day, the yellow magic might be the call for the entire day along this vegetation. A sunny day would probably require the Texas rig or shaky head fished in the same shallow areas. Water clarity will determine the color of the plastics needed, dark hues for heavily stained water and translucent colors for the much clearer water.

Once you reach the midday time frame, I would start looking to the deeper areas of the lake, humps, ridges, road beds and pond dams for the



larger bass. The football jig is hard to beat during this time of the year and the 3/4oz Talon Custom football jig is the best choice for the job. Add a Talon Repo Craw trailer and your ready to tackle the heavy weights of the lake. As of lately, I have found that setting the boat on the shallowest part of the structure and casting out to the deep areas has produced more bites than the reverse scenario. The Carolina rig will also be a "go to" presentation for the same application. I would use a long leader with a 3/0 hook and a Talon Custom Big 10 inch Swamp Wiggler Worm. When you get a



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Outer garments | 40. Tell on |
| 5. Claudio ____, pianist | 41. Greek goddess of discord |
| 10. Jab | 42. Overlays upper surfaces |
| 14. Gent | 43. Takes for granted |
| 15. Act of encouraging someone | 46. Lesion |
| 16. Large burrowing rodent of South America | 47. Molding at the base of a column |
| 17. Nauseous | 48. Makes computers (abbr.) |
| 20. North and South | 50. Sacred shrines |
| 21. Cornea deposit | 53. Coax |
| 22. Pig genus | 58. Dr. Seuss book |
| 23. Naked | 61. Perceive sound |
| 25. Wrong | 62. Notched, in a way |
| 28. ____, Etheridge, singer | 63. Son of Jacob |
| 31. Feather palm | 64. Plant parts |
| 32. Black tropical American cuckoo | 65. Andrew ____, Union commander |
| 33. ____, Dhabi, Arabian capital | 66. Period |
| 35. Peas and beans | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Siberian river | 29. Of Salian Franks |
| 2. Yeast | 30. White poplar |
| 3. Away from wind | 31. North-central Indian city |
| 4. Forecaster | 34. Former Russia |
| 5. Type of calculator | 36. Bend |
| 6. Rounds of duty | 37. Goidelic language of Ireland |
| 7. Decomposes | 38. Keen insight |
| 8. Residue | 39. Sound unit |
| 9. Shoshonean | 44. Talks |
| 10. Steeples | 45. Indicate pain or discomfort |
| 11. Mineral | 48. Beginning |
| 12. Liberal-rights organization (abbr.) | 49. Hedge |
| 13. Lowest part in polyphonic music | 50. Turkish title |
| 18. Japanese car | 51. Depicted |
| 19. Tapioca plant | 52. Give birth |
| 23. Eduard ____, Czechoslovakian president | 53. Southeast Nigerian people |
| 24. Settled down | 54. Lazily |
| 25. Tapestry | 55. Clarified butter used in Indian cooking |
| 26. Joins | 56. Rock that, in its molten form issues from volcanos |
| 27. Decorate a cake with frosting | 57. Independent ruler or chieftain |
| 28. Necromancers | 59. Santa's helper |
| | 60. Any thick, messy substance |

Answers on Page 21



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(See Fall Fishing
Continued on Page 20)

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Weather, Habitat Conditions Promising for 2020-21 Dove Season

September marks the start of dove season for more than 300,000 Texas hunters per year. While 2020 surveys of dove populations were cancelled due to ongoing public health concerns, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) estimates promising hunting conditions ahead of the start of the season.

With a breeding population of about 25 million mourning doves and up to 15 million white-winged doves in Texas, conditions are ripe for a fruitful season. Dove population numbers

swell during the hunting season as doves migrate into Texas from other areas in the flyway. With favorable habitat conditions throughout much of the state leading into September, hunters can look forward to a favorable season.

Above average rainfall statewide throughout the spring season has led to prime habitat conditions during the peak nesting months of May and June. Biologists suggest that dry conditions in the northern and western regions of the state may help concentrate

birds around food and water sources during the season. Portions of south Texas and the Rio Grande Valley received significant rainfall during Hurricane Hanna but it's unclear if, or to what degree, these rains will have an affect on doves in September.

"It's hard to say exactly how regional dove populations are affected by hurricanes and other extreme weather events," says Owen Fitzsimmons, TPWD Dove Program Leader. "In this case, I anticipate minimal impacts to September hunting, but the extra rain could lead to better late-season habitat when food is often scarce. South Zone hunters should be ready for some potential late-season action." On the other hand, normal seasonal

weather events like cold fronts can be instrumental for hunting success by kick-starting fall migration, Fitzsimmons says.

"Doves will concentrate in bigger fall flights ahead of the fronts, making for

some excellent hunting opportunities," said Fitzsimmons. "These groups will often feed heavily in one area for a few days before moving on. Hunters should look to take advantage of these

(See Weather, Habitat... Continued on Page 11)

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Emory, Texas

"The Moon Report" "Forks Late Summer Crappie"

By Terri Moon

It's been 90 to 100 degree temperatures this month – so that's why I'm happy to say "Late Summer"! I'll be very happy to welcome fall and cooler temperatures. But, one thing about this time of year is the mornings are quite doable and pleasant. Although as nice as the mornings are, those darn crappie wait till about mid-morning before they are wanting to play. Then it seems the hotter it gets the better they bite.

We are having to move around a lot but are finding some quality crappie. The depth is changing daily. Some days they are as shallow as 8 to 12 ft. in 16 to 20 ft. of water and other days they are 16 to 24 ft. in up to 30 ft. of water. Cloud cover and water clarity plays a part in their depths. Also the fish tend to move shallower around a new and full moon.

Tree lines, brush piles, bridges and deep water humps are starting to produce some really nice crappie. Some days they want a very slow presentation and other days they want the bait moving – so don't be



afraid to change it up to see what works for that particular day. Also, some days they want a bigger bait and others they want something smaller.

Don't hesitate to change up color of baits especially if the fishing is slow. I use an assortment of Bonehead, Lake Fork Tackle, and Bubba Baits. Some days they want white and chartreuse or black and chartreuse and L.S.U. is also working for us. Remember the color of choice can change daily so keep a good assortment of colors.

Well, once again around the new and full moon, I took some "ME" time to go bream fishing. They were in 1 to 8 ft. of water around docks, edges of the grass, lily pads, or willows. Crickets, night crawlers, or even Berkley Power

Nibbles, on a bobber or tightlined, is a recipe for FUN! By far – my favorite fish to catch and eat! I'm hoping for one last shot at them this next full moon!

I want to thank the customers that released the giant crappie this month. We've released 14 that were over 16 inches in hopes for a new lake record one day.

Well, it's that time of year again – time to order my 2021 Skeeter Solera – so, my 2020 is now up for sale. This beautiful "luxury liner" is probably the most comfortable boat you will ever fish out of. Skeeter has thought of everything with this one! So, if any of you are interested, just give me a call and I'll be happy to show it to you.

Before I close, I
(Continued on Next Page)

want to send a heartfelt congratulations to long time friends Bob and son Darren Izumi who just won the Canada Cup on Bay of Quinte with 10 largemouths for 37.54 lbs. I'm so proud and happy for them both. I just love it when good things happen to good people! They said the Berkley Chigger Craw and Bunker Hawg were their "go-to" baits. Way to go Berkley and "Team Izumi"! Wishing you many more wins!

Now if your visiting the Lake Fork area and need fresh produce, be sure and check out "Picketts Produce" on Hwy 69 in Alba for some of the best fruits and veggies in the area. There is nothing better than a fresh peach pie to go with your fish fry!


Stay safe all of you and love, hugs and prayers to my family and friends back home.



Calvin Perry and Ryan Lee caught their PB's fishing with Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith on August 8th. C.P.R.



This was a nice surprise for this lady angler when she was fishing with crappie guide Terri Moon and caught this on an Ultralite rod.




TERRI MOON
















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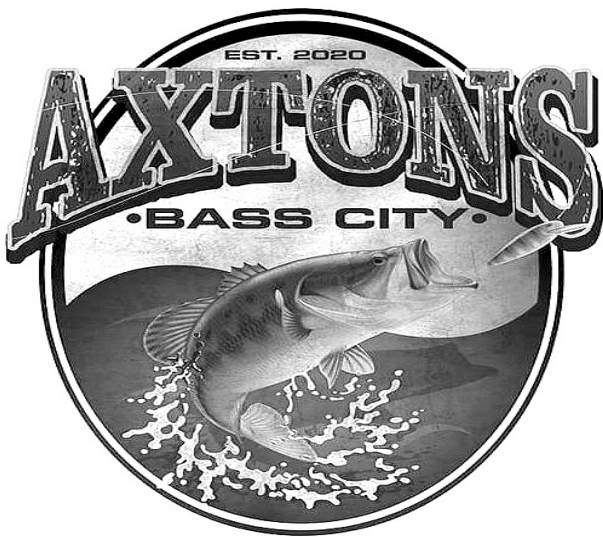
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Chad Jones Named New Texas Game Warden Colonel

Chad Jones has been selected as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's new Law Enforcement Director. Col. Jones became a game warden in 2004 and has held duty stations in Brazos and Trinity Counties, has served as a Team Lead for the Forensic Accident and Reconstruction Team, a Lieutenant at the Game Warden Training Center in Hamilton County, Texas, a Captain in Uvalde and a Major in both Corpus Christi and in the Pineywoods region of East Texas. Jones succeeds Col. Grahame Jones, who recently retired. "Col. Grahame Jones was a devoted and tireless leader within the division during his tenure with TPWD," said Jones. "As Texas Game Warden Colonel, Grahame's passion for Texas, the outdoors, Texas Game Wardens and our non-commissioned staff has been unrivaled. He has laid a solid foundation for all those following in his footsteps."

As Colonel, Chad Jones will set the tone, direction and expectations for the Law Enforcement Division and contribute to the overall leadership of the agency. In addition, Jones will partner with other law enforcement agencies, first responders, TPWD divisional colleagues such as biologists and state park police, and other key constituencies. "Chad follows in a line of distinguished Texas Game Warden Colonels, all of whom

(See Chad Jones....

Continued on Page 12)



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Weather, Habitat Conditions Promising for 2020-21 Dove Season *(Continued from Page 7)*

tage of any fronts during the season."

Texas makes up one-third of the overall mourning dove harvest in the United States. In addition, Texas makes up about one-third of the overall dove hunters in the United States. Throughout the state, there are three dove game species-mourning, white-winged and white-tipped doves.

Despite the cancellation of this year's annual dove surveys, banding efforts were able to continue statewide. TPWD biologists place leg bands on thousands of mourning and white-winged doves to monitor the factors that influence their populations. Information from hunter-reported bands, or "recoveries",

provide estimates of harvest and survival rates. This information is used in conjunction with data from the Harvest Information Program (HIP), Parts Collection Survey and other harvest surveys to help manage populations and set annual hunting regulations. Hunters are encouraged to report any birds they recover that have leg bands.

Dove hunters should purchase their new 2020-21 Texas hunting license prior to hitting the field this fall. Along with their hunting license, those hunting dove must have the migratory game bird endorsement and be HIP-certified. Be sure to accurately answer the HIP questions when getting certified, and, if

along with regulations, bag limits and more can be found in the all-digital Outdoor Annual. Hunters can also access digital copies of their licenses via the Outdoor Annual and My Texas Hunt Harvest apps.

Anyone hunting on Texas Public Hunting Lands are also required to purchase an Annual Public Hunting Permit. Texas has more than 1 million acres of land that is accessible to the public. More information about these lands and locations can be found on the TPWD website. Hunters using public lands can complete their on-site registration via the My Texas Hunt Harvest app.

a vendor does not ask you questions about your hunting activity last season, please ask that they do so. It's also required by law that hunters have proof of their completion of a hunter education course.

Dove season dates for the North, Central and South Zones,

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Chad Jones Game Warden Colonel *(continued from Page 10)*

have led our Law Enforcement team with great professionalism, purpose, and dedication," said Carter Smith, Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "His deep roots in the field and broad experiences in conservation oriented law enforcement across the state will serve Texas and Texans exceedingly well, whether it is redoubling efforts to stop the illegal take of our fish and wildlife, ensuring our lands and waters remain safe for hunters, boaters and anglers, or providing search and rescue operations to help our most vulnerable citizens in times of their greatest need. In Colonel Jones, we have a fair minded and principled lawman who has dedicated his career to protecting the natural and cultural resources that make up our home ground."

Col. Jones will oversee a force of 551 highly trained state game wardens that provide conservation law enforcement across Texas and 128 dedicated non-commissioned support staff.

Though state game wardens focus primarily on conservation laws, they are fully commissioned peace officers authorized to enforce all state statutes providing "law enforcement off the pavement."

"Texas Game Wardens continue to add value to the citizens of Texas by providing not only nationally recognized conservation law enforcement initiatives, but also a continuing model of community-oriented law enforcement off the pavement."

(See Chad Jones....

Continued on Page 18)

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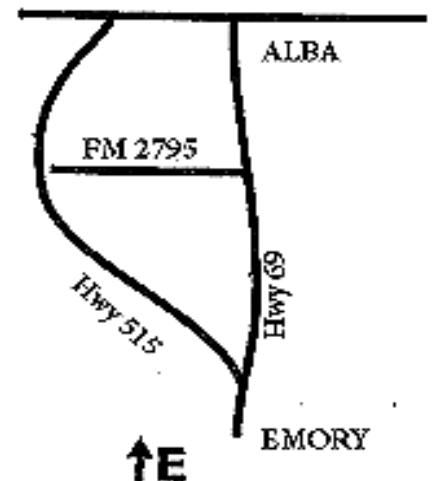
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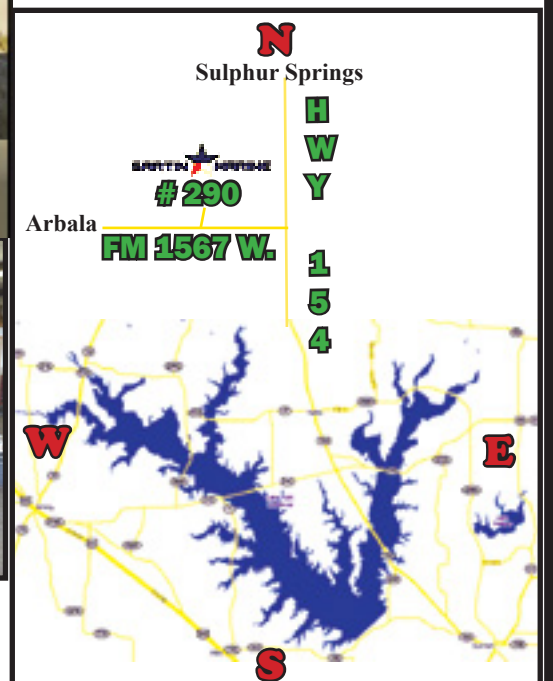
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Great Texas Birding Classic Moves to Fall for First Time Ever

Drop that remote and grab those binoculars, the 24th Annual Great Texas Birding Classic (GTBC) is kicking off fall with its annual bird watching competition. For the first time ever, this spring event has moved to the fall due to the public health crisis. Coinciding with the fall migration, the GTBC is perfect for novice birders and nature lovers who want to get outside and take part in the competition. The deadline to enter is Sept. 14.

Teams can enter one or several categories lasting from a morning of birding to 24 hours of competition during this year's Birding Classic being held Oct. 1-31. Last year, more than 130 teams consisting of 850 participants throughout Texas recorded 411 bird species during a host of regional and statewide tournaments.

"Last year's participation was the highest in the past decade," said GTBC director Shelly Plante, Nature Tourism Manager for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "The Classic is a perfect fit for naturalists, birders, communities, nature centers, bird clubs and school groups. There is something for everyone, regardless of bird watching experience, age, ability or location. We postponed our traditional spring event due to the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, but that gave us a chance to create a really special once-in-a-lifetime Fall Birding Classic!"

This year, participants can choose to compete

in two new categories the "Dispersed Flock" team and the "Intact Flock." "Dispersed Flock" teams consist of team members located anywhere in Texas. Families and friends can also team up to compete from wherever they are quarantining through the "Intact Flock" category.

Participating teams can choose from a variety of tournament categories for this special Fall event, including:

* **The Expanded Big Sit!**: This category is great for teams that have one or two "ringer" birders or if you have lots of people wanting to be on one team together. Due to the pandemic, the size of the Big Sit! circle has increased to a 50-foot diameter to give everyone plenty of space to social distance.

* **The State Park Tournament or Sunrise-to-Noon Tournament** – "Intact Flock": Ideal for a team seeking a more laid-back day without too much traveling. The "Intact Flock" category is ideal for friends or families who are quarantining and interacting together. These are mixed age teams, so kids, teens and adults can be on a team together.

* **Regional and Statewide Big Day Tournaments** – "Dispersed Flock": Perfect for team members who are unable to participate together due to the pandemic. Participants may put together a team of birders with each team member

located anywhere in Texas or in their selected region. Perfect for those who want to bird for most or all of a 24-hour period in their local "patch" (window views, yards, neighborhoods, or outdoor public spaces such as parks if permitted by local/statewide ordinances) within 50 miles of their homes. Categories are separated by age groups.

* **Human-Powered Tournament** – "Dispersed Flock": Participants can bird by bike, on foot, in a kayak or other non-motorized form of transport to take place in this tournament. Teams can be made up of members from any area of the state.

To register online and learn the rules and tournament details, visit: www.BirdingClassic.org. Registration fees and sponsorship dollars go toward conservation grants benefiting birding, nature tourism, and habitat restoration and enhancement projects throughout Texas.



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"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Welcome to Lake Fork during the month of September! September brings near the end of summer and the crazy summer heat. The days begin to shorten and the cooler night time air/morning temperatures can really wake the big bass up. After a long hot summer with water temperatures reaching their highest peak points of the year, bass can become very lethargic and weak. They may only feed ever several days or even exclusively at night. We call this the dog days of summer!

The first signs of fall are when the days begin shortening. This actually happens in mid summer. Next is the cool trending of the water temperatures which begins first with

the cooling of the surface temperature during the night. As the surface temperature begins cooling during the night, the cooler water becomes heavy and sinks through the water column eventually breaking any and all thermoclines. This usually will first start in the northern ends or more shallow parts of the lake. The surface may become filled with yellow bubbles/methane gases and dead decay, oils and/or debris. This is the dead matter that rises from the bottom as the cooler water sinks and the thermocline becomes broken. Amongst the yellow bubbles and decay you will also see floating briozone. Briozone looks like a floating jelly fish blob but its actually living organisms and is a very good sign of a healthy water system.

Once this transition takes place the baitfish will tend to leave the offshore deep water locations and begin migrating to the cooler more shallow back waters. Big schools of bass will gang up, follow and feed profusely on the vulnerable mass of migrating baitfish. They know that winter is coming and its time to fatten up. We call this the fall feast! Find a big school of migrating bait and you just might be on the mother load of big ole Texas size bass. My fa-

vorite lure choices at this time are as follows.

#1- 5" LFT Flutter spoon color "Barfish"

#2- Evergreen SB 125 Top water color "Skeleton Char- treuse" or #Ghost"

#3- Mpack lures 5" shad color "Disco Green" used on a Carolina rig

#4- Santone swim jig

Color "Mean Green" with a white Reaction Innovation little dipper swim trailer.

#5- Owner underspin with Reaction Innovations little dip- per color "white"

If you feel you need more information or would like to book a trip or simply just learn more about Lake Fork, please contact me.



Michael McFarland
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Chad Jones Game Warden Colonel *(continued from Page 12)*

ment," said Jones. "Our wardens rely on input from local communities to continue with a model of providing and protecting adaptive and inclusive hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities across the State."

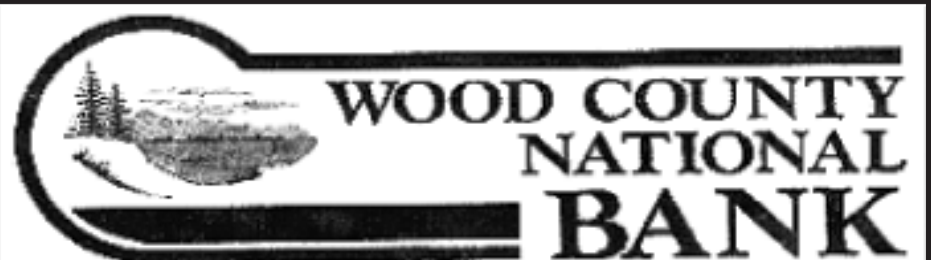
Jones was raised in rural San Augustine County in East Texas, where he was afforded the opportunity to enjoy and interact with the outdoors. Jones was first introduced to Texas Game Wardens in elementary school, knowing then the career path he wished to pursue.

He attended Sam Houston State University and received his degree in Criminal Justice. Following graduation, and while working in Adult Probation in Huntsville, Texas, Jones applied to and was accepted into the 50th Game Warden Cadet Class. Jones is a graduate of the North American Conservation Law Enforcement Academy as well as the FBI's Command College and Supervisor Leadership Institute.

Jones thanks his immediate family, his parents, along with all his mentors, teachers and friends for all their support through the ups and downs, long nights and adventures he has experienced thus far in his career as a Texas Game Warden.



**I'm pretty sure God is telling
me to go catch a bass**



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

By Larry Marler, President

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association membership is a group of passionate workers that want to protect and help keep Lake Fork a great Bass fishery of legendary proportions, attracting anglers from across the country and around the world. Here is a list of projects we continually work on:

Release Boat- The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association's most visible presence on the lake and at fishing tournaments is our 24 foot pontoon boat with three 100 gallon aerated tanks on board to hold the bass caught by tournament anglers so we can release them back into the lake. This is provided to tournaments at no charge. Our members are trained to keep these fish in excellent condition. They remove hooks at times and also use a technique called fizzing that will release air from fish that were caught deep and have a hard time balancing themselves. We release hundreds of fish caught at these tournaments and it is a huge success.

Florida Bass fishing release- We are very proud to work with Texas Parks and Wildlife to release fingerlings using our release boat and our 3 - 100 gallon tanks to move around the lake to release

sites to distribute the fingerlings near vegetation to improve their survivability.

High School Fishing Teams- We help sponsor local fishing teams. We also refurbish and distribute fishing equipment as needed to these teams.

Bridge Identification signs- We also installed on all bridges around the lake emergency aid signs so anglers who might get lost will be able to identify where they are or if having boat trouble can let someone know where to send help.

Sabine River Authority Projects- We have worked and made financial donations towards dock projects around the lake to improve facilities for anglers.

Economic Impact Studies - We also have assisted Texas Parks and Wildlife on economic studies to help our local communities grow and to monitor impact to our lake.

These projects are just a few that the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association work on. As a result, Lake Fork is a vital economic engine for this area creating a tremendous amount of local interest in the quality of the fishery.

We are very proud of being a 2018 Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame inductee.

Our membership meets on the second Tuesday each month at Tiffany's Restaurant 6:30 PM lo-

cated at Lake Fork Marina. Because of the pandemic we have been unable to hold meetings so we have been sending newsletters keeping the members up to date on our projects. On September 8th our meeting will be held outside at 6:30 PM behind the Lake Fork Marina Motel. We invite you to attend. We will have chairs 6' apart and request everyone to wear a mask. Any questions, call Larry Marler at 336-413-3053. If interest to join our group, please call and I will send you a membership application.



TACKLE DONATIONS NEEDED

Rods, reels, tackle, and fishing-related equipment are needed to support the High School Fishing Tackle Program sponsored by Lake Fork Sportsman's Association. LFSA requests donations of new and used fishing articles that will be cleaned, assembled, and refurbished. Items will be further donated to area high school fishing teams.

Call Larry Marler, 336-413-3053, or Mike Kostial, 760-458-7885, for more information or to arrange a donation.



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"Fall Fishing on Lake Fork!" (Continued from Page 6)

bite on one of these, your partner better be headed for the net. Redbug, Watermelon Red or Green Pumpkin Pepper will do the trick as far as colors are concerned.

The next strategy will be focusing on suspended fish that set up just off the side of the same structures. Use your electronics to locate these hovering green monsters, pitch out a marker buoy once you locate a group of fish, then tie on a Talon Big Daddy Lake Fork flutter spoon and go to work. Cast back toward the buoy and count the spoon

down until you hit the desired depth. Twitch the spoon and let it flutter down to draw the strike. Depending on the depth the fish are holding, a crankbait will work equally as well. I would choose the Strike King 6XD or the 8XD. Both are deadly and can be fished on 15lb line on a cranking rod. Also, submerged trees will hold the lion share of bass. Throw the crankbaits around these trees and work the bait through the limbs. You may lose a few lures, the rewards can pay off handsomely.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in September 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 September and some open dates in October. 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 also like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon Custom Lures for making my job the blast that it is. I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". I wish all of you a blessed day."



Justin Bishop with David Ozio



Noah Powell with David Ozio



Mark Spaeth with David Ozio



Misty Rhoden with David Ozio

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Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash (Continued from Page 4)

Highway 17 from 2 PM – 6PM on Wednesday, September 16 and from 10 AM – 8 PM on Thursday, September 17. Registration will continue each morning from 5 AM until 6 AM on days of the tournament. Tournament Entry Fees are \$160 for One Day, \$210 for Two Days and \$260 for Three Days.

The Big Bass Splash events are considered to be the world's largest grassroots amateur big bass fishing tournament of its kind. The Big Bass Splash attracts thousands of amateur anglers to these weekend events. It's what has come to be known as "Fishing, Family and Fun" for everyone. A portion of the proceeds from registration fees will go directly to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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For more information see their ad on Page 13 or go to www.sealy-outdoors.com, call 888.698.2591 or stop by your local tackle store for an official entry form.

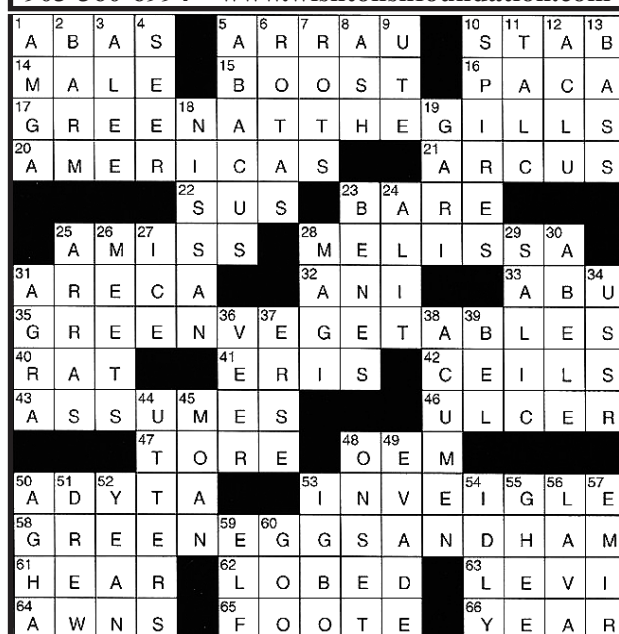
You can also follow them on facebook.com/BigBassSplash.

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Winter Find

There are 14 articles of winter clothing hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--The Other Side of Nowhere-- A Big Bend Ranch State Park Police Officer and a Presidio County game warden were patrolling River Road at night through Big Bend Ranch State Park when the officers noticed a car parked in the Closed Canyon Trail parking lot after the park closed. In the car, they saw a park pass for that day, a car rental agreement, a jug of water and snacks, but the driver was nowhere to be found. The Closed

Canyon Trail is short and stops at the Rio Grande after several steep pour offs. The last pour off is about 60-feet tall. The officers hiked the trail in the dark and far as they could safely go and called out for anyone still down there with no luck. The next morning, another park police officer was informed about a possible lost hiker. He checked the parking lot and saw that the car was still parked there undisturbed. The three officers headed back to the Closed Canyon Trail that afternoon with rappelling equipment to search farther down the trail. When

they reached the first of the three steep pour offs, the officer called out for the hiker who excitedly responded for help. The park police officer was able to rappel down to the hiker who had descended all the pour offs and was at the riverbank. When they reached him, the hiker was dehydrated, exhausted and had injured his ankle. The hiker told the officers that he had gone down the trail alone in the afternoon, fell into a deep-water hole and was unable to climb out. Panicked, he decided to continue down the trail thinking

(Continued on Page 24)

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Avocados Give Pasta Dishes A Delightfully Unexpected Twist

By Sue Hampton

Here's food for thought: Avocados are widely acknowledged to be exceptionally creamy and delicious, but it is less well known that they offer more than delectable flavor. One-fifth of a medium avocado (about 1 oz.) has 50 calories and contributes nearly 20 beneficial nutrients to the diet. Avocados are always available. It is a perfect time to incorporate this remarkable fruit into your diet.

The following recipe for "Tequila-Spiked Fettuccine with Shrimp and Avocado" combines

avocados with pasta for a delightfully unexpected pairing, which highlights the fruit's versatility.

Tequila-Spiked Fettuccine with Shrimp and Avocados

Ingredients

4 large, ripe tomatoes, cored
 ½ lb. Fettuccine
 Salt, for pasta water
 2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil, plus extra for pasta
 1 lb. medium domestic shrimp, peeled and deveined
 1 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
 1 tsp. salt
 ½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
 2 tsp. minced garlic
 2 large, ripe tomatoes, cored, seeded and cut into 1/2-inch dice
 ¼ cup silver tequila
 2 ripe, fresh avocados, halved, seeded, peeled and cut in 1/2-inch dice
 1 bunch basil, cut into thin strips
 2 Tbsp. Butter, cold
 Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

Instructions

1. Puree the whole tomatoes in a blender until smooth, adding a small amount of water, if nec-

essary. Reserve.

2. Fill a large stockpot with water and bring to a boil. Add the pasta and salt to the pot. Cook until al dente, about 8 minutes. Drain in a colander and toss with a little olive oil to prevent sticking.

3. Meanwhile, heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the shrimp, crushed red pepper, salt and pepper and sauté the shrimp for 1 minute on each side. Add the garlic and sauté for an additional 30 seconds.

4. Remove skillet from heat and add the diced tomatoes and tequila. Return skillet to heat and continue to sauté for 3 minutes, stirring constantly. (Be careful as pan might flame.)

5. Stir in half the diced avocado and half the basil. Transfer shrimp mixture to a platter using a slotted spoon, leaving liquid in the skillet.

6. Add the reserved tomato puree to the skillet, bring to a boil, lower heat and simmer until the mixture is reduced by about one-third. Add the butter, stirring until it is melted. Then, add the remaining diced avocado and basil. Taste and add salt and pepper as needed. Toss finished sauce with cooked pasta until thoroughly combined.

7. To serve, divide pasta mixture onto individual entree plates or into shallow pasta bowls. Top with shrimp mixture and serve immediately!



The creamy flavor of avocados adds a twist to a traditional pasta dish.

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

it would lead him back to the parking lot. Temperatures that day were around 106 degrees and he drank river water to try to keep hydrated. He hiked along the riverbank but was unable to navigate the steep canyon walls of Colorado Canyon. The officers requested a helicopter to help extract the hiker, but due to bad weather it wasn't available until the next morning. So, with the help of an additional game warden, two state park rangers, a U.S. Border Patrol agent and a Presidio County Sheriff's Deputy, the team of officers were able to assist the hiker to climb back over the pour offs and navigate the rest of the trail back to his car. Presidio and Terlingua Emergency Medical Services arrived and gave the hiker medical care and he was then taken to the local hospital for further treatment.

--Unsynchronized Swimmers-- A Stephens County game warden received a 911 call from local dispatch involving four people who were stranded in the middle of the Hubbard Creek Reservoir and their boat had washed ashore. The caller was in the boat but was unable to get it started to reach the stranded swimmers. The caller had never been on the lake before and did not know where she was to give directions to the warden. One of the occupants had gotten into the water while the boat was floating in the middle of the lake to swim without a life jacket and the boat floated too far

away for her to reach. Then, her husband, unable to crank the boat, jumped in the water and swam to her with a small ring buoy. The boat continued to float further away when another occupant on board saw the couple struggling in the water and swam out to them to assist with no lifejacket. By the time he reached them, the boat had tripled in distance from the original swimmer. A fourth occupant from the boat decided to swim out to the three swimmers trying to stay afloat with life jackets for them, however, the boat was now about 350 yards away and he was unable to reach them. When the warden arrived, he was able to get the location of the boat and swimmers thanks to landmarks on the lake. The boat was located aground near an island and the three stranded swimmers were about 450 yards away. The swimmers were exhausted and panicked, but all accounted for. Once they were on the boat, they found the fourth swimmer who had multiple lifejackets attached to him but had exhausted himself trying to get to

his friends. Everyone in the water was worn out and frightened, but safe and refused medical attention. Once they were accounted for, the warden helped them get their boat back to where they had launched.

--Lost and Found-- A recent game warden academy graduate was enjoying a weekend of camping and fishing at Fayette Lake before reporting to his first duty station later this month in Starr County. One Sunday morning, the new game warden came across a small aluminum boat that was abandoned at the dam. He called local dispatch and gave them the boat registration numbers, then towed it back to the Oak Thicket boat ramp and secured it. When the local game warden arrived, a park worker told him that a boat had been stolen during the night from one of the campers. After talking to the campers, it became apparent their missing boat was the same one the new game warden had found on the other side of the lake

(Continued on Next Page)



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that morning. The campers were overjoyed and grateful for the recovery of their boat.

--Does Your Mother Know That You're Out?--

While patrolling the Sabine River late one night, a Gregg County game warden and an Upshur County game warden saw two individuals fishing near a public boat ramp. When the wardens made contact, they noticed one of the individuals grew visibly irritated and evasive. Fictitious information was offered to the wardens as local law enforcement arrived to assist. The subject was placed in handcuffs for safety precautions. Once in handcuffs the individual began complying with the officers and provided their real identification information. Concealed drug paraphernalia was later found in the subject's underwear. It was later discovered that the individual was evading a felony parole warrant for injury to a child. The subject's parents arrived to assist and thanked the wardens for helping them regain some control of their child. The subject was released to another agency, who transported them to the Gregg County jail. Additional charges pending investigation.

--Linked by Ink-- Two Liberty County game wardens completed an investigation that began in mid-February of this year when they were notified about some potential hunting without landowner consent. A hunting lease member contacted the

wardens when they captured a picture of a man on their game camera and on their property without permission. The picture was clear enough to see the very distinctive tattoos the man had. After a few weeks of talking to local residents, the wardens were able to identify the name of a possible suspect. They ran the name through the Liberty County Sheriff's Department to check for priors and they discovered that he had been through the system and they had pictures of his tattoos on record. After a quick comparison of the tattoos, the wardens had enough probable cause to get an arrest warrant for the suspect. He was soon arrested on the Class "A" Misdemeanor charge of Hunting Without Landowner Consent and a brief interview was conducted at the Sheriff's department. During the interview, the suspect admitted to the crime. Case pending.

--It's Tradition-- A Lubbock County game warden was travelling to Buffalo Springs Lake when he came across a group of five young men shooting skeet on a county road. While approaching the group, he noticed numerous empty shell casings on the road. When the warden questioned the group about what they were doing, one of the individuals admitted they were skeet shooting, but did not know the owner of the field they were shooting across and into. At one point, a family member

of one of the young men became frustrated and said, "we have done this for years." Citations were issued to the individuals for Discharge of Firearm on Public Roadway and Trespass by Projectile.

--A-B-C, It's Easy as 1-2-3-- A Hamilton County game warden and Johnson County game warden were patrolling Lake Pat Cleburne when they conducted a water safety check on a pontoon boat that had three women, one man and two dogs on board. The boat had expired registration, no throwable floatation device and the captain of the boat had a freshly opened 16 oz. can of beer next to his seat. During the water safety check, the warden could smell alcohol on the man and noticed he had a hard time keeping his balance standing. The warden asked the captain, "How much have you had to drink? Have you had anything to eat today?" The captain said, "I've had about 5 beers and I had some watermelon earlier." The warden then asked the man to say his ABC's and he missed several letters. During the standard field sobriety test on shore, the man said under his breath, "I can't even do this sober." The captain was placed under arrest for Boating While Intoxicated. He consented to provide a breath specimen, which produced a result of 0.182 g/210L blood alcohol content. The captain was booked into the Johnson County Jail.

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Oct. 10 ~ Jake Wilson Memorial
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Oct. 17 - 18 ~ Berkley Big Bass
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Oct. 24 ~ JC Outdoors Fall
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