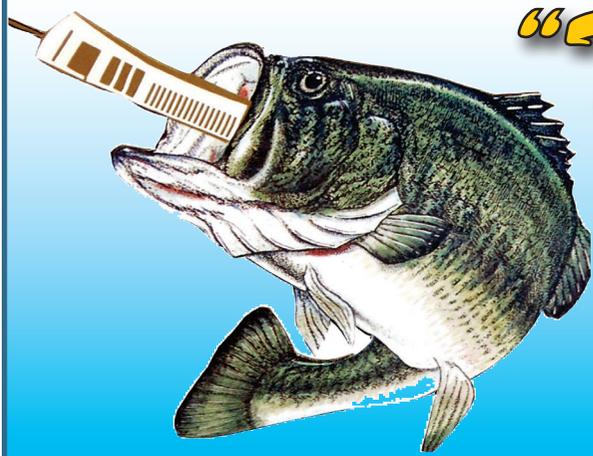


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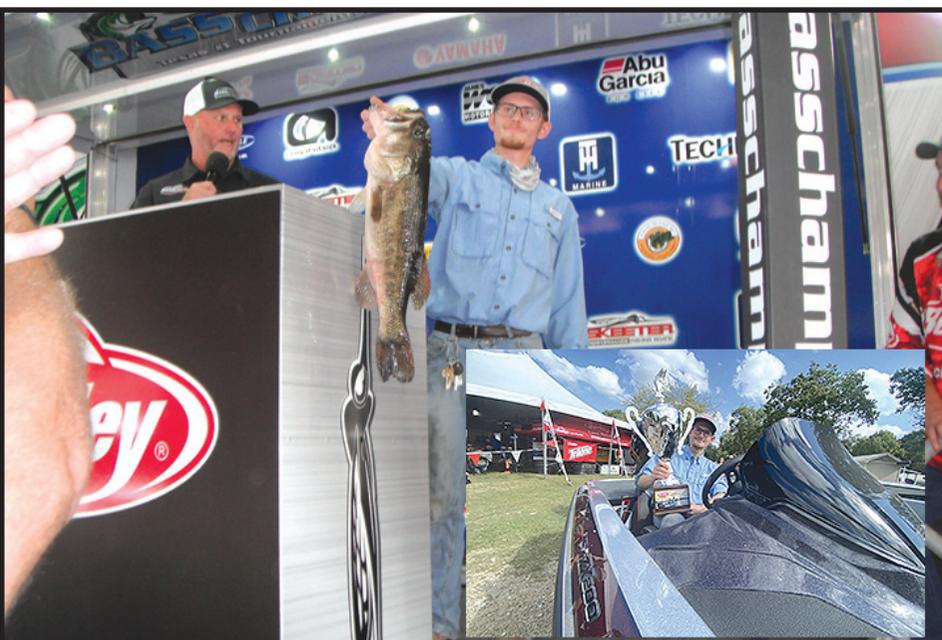
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Vol. 22

November, 2020

No. 255



Aaron Anderson from Carrollton, Texas won big at the 15th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork. He took home \$1,000 in cash plus a new Skeeter ZX 200 Yamaha SHO with a Skeeter built trailer. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Sue Hampton)

Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest to Benefit TPWD Arrives at Lake Fork Nov. 5-8

The Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest (TBTF) is heading back to Lake Fork for the second year in a row, bringing world class bass fishing, shopping, and a variety of outdoor activities to Texas' most iconic bass fishing lake. The event is scheduled for Nov. 5-8 and benefits the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The tournament was originally scheduled for June 5-9, but the ongoing public health

situation forced the postponement of the spring competition. The TBTF is a Bassmaster Elite Series tournament, where 85 of the top bass anglers in the world will be competing for a total prize purse of \$1 million.

This unique tournament showcases a "catch-weigh-immediate release" format that was designed to honor this lake's special size limits and reduce han-

dling stress on large bass. TPWD will be on site at the Sabine River Authority from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 7-8 to highlight family-friendly fishing, hunting and camping opportunities in the state.

"On top of showcasing Texas' world class bass fisheries and promoting the conservation-minded 'catch, weigh, and immediate release' tournament format;

(See Toyota Bassmasters....
Continued on Page 7)

15th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

The 15th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork hosted by Bass Champs, Inc. was held on October 17th and 18th. The tournament was held out of Lake Fork Marina just off Highway 17N.

There is no doubt in a fisherman's mind that the weather dictates how the fish will respond and how the bite will be. This was the main factor in this tournament. On Satur-

day, more than a few anglers were wishing they had brought warmer clothes. With the winds blowing out of the northwest and temperatures in the upper 40's it was quite frigid on the lake. Sunday was a typical Texas day with temperatures in the mid 80's and anglers were shedding their warm wear. With northerners moving in since the first part of September the large bass Lake Fork is known for remained suspended

with lock jar as the scales told.

With two fully outfitted Skeeter boats up for grabs and twenty places paid per hour, 1,137 participating anglers from various parts of the nation gave their best efforts to take home some prize money.

With the slot on Lake Fork being 16" to 24" this meant any bass caught between these numbers could not be brought to the

(See Berkley Big Bass.....
Continued on Page 4)



Curtis Daniels from Fort Towson, Oklahoma won for the heaviest bass under the slot weighing 2.97-pounds in the Berkley Tournament. He took home \$1,000 in cash plus a new Skeeter ZX 150 Yamaha SHO with a Skeeter built trailer. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Sue Hampton)



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"When It Comes To Thanksgiving, Bubba May Be The Turkey Full of Grace"

By: Don Bubba Hampton

Bubba isn't an individual that is asked to say the grace much when it comes to meals. Don't get me wrong Bubba considers himself religious and is always thankful to the "Good Lord" for all his blessings. But, come on people, Bubba is Bubba!

If Bubba is asked to say the grace, you never know what kind of thanks you may hear. If he is really hungry you might hear, "Good bread, good meat, God Bless, let's eat, AMEN!" If he is really hungry and not feeling like a bear just out of hibernation and in a good mood you might hear, "Rubby dub, dub, bring on the grub, Yeah God, AMEN!" But, if Bubba has had a snack just before meal time, like tasting the turkey as he is slicing it, get ready for a long winded grace like you've never heard before. During these blessings he would have a country revival preacher squirming in his seat. During this course you might hear Bubbette throw in four or five AMENS. Not because she's filled with the spirit or that she agrees with what Bubba is saying, but rather because she's trying to shut him down. This is something one can really expect to hear at Thanksgiving at Bubba and Bubbette's home.

Each year at Thanksgiving and Christmas, Bubba is the designated turkey smoker. He does smoke a

mean turkey and all his relatives think he is the best and his smoked sweet potatoes and oyster dressing is a culinary delight also. The bad part of this is that the cook tastes his cooking before he will serve it. If you thought this would spoil his appetite, you are wrong. This just puts him at the table not being hungry as a bear and it being Bubba's household the Thanksgiving blessing belongs to him.

The beginning and the end of his grace are book worthy. It is just all of those things in the middle that will have you starving before the last AMEN. Believe me when he says, "AMEN", there is a chorus of "AMENS" around the table!

He will start by thanking God for all the blessings he has bestowed on his family and friends. He asked him to bless this great country we live in and for all the soldiers that defend our freedom and way of life. He will thank God for the food they are about to partake of and that he will nourish it to the goodness of their bodies, but then Bubba will say thanks for everything he feels important.

He is liable to start off by thanking the "Good Lord" for Lake Fork and all of the good lakes he has fished throughout the year. He'll be thankful for his sharp hooks, strong line, and prized possessions such as his rods and reels. He'll put in how much he appreciated the fish biting and that they

might on his future trips be as hungry as some of his kinfolk are getting at the table during his blessing. He will thank the Lord for his boat, motor, electronics and as always for his pick-up truck. He'll be thankful for the weather, the tournaments he won, the great guide trips he has been on, and on, and on, and on! Sometimes during these blessings Bubba would run down the EVEREADY Bunny! I do believe he would stretch them out more if he wasn't afraid his food would get cold!

Bubba is pretty smart in a sense the way he explained it to me. He said, "I've got a captive audience! No matter how long I say grace, none of my kinfolk are going to get up and leave a table full of good vittles!"

When Bubba finally says "AMEN", I think the chorus of "AMENS" is basically because everyone's so glad he's finally come to an end, but probably to drown out Bubba putting in a P.S.

Bubba always finishes his prayer with sincere thanks. He is thankful for his life, his wife, his family and friends, for the great country we live in, and that all may be blessed with the Lord's spirit.

Isn't that something we all should put in our prayers!

"Happy Thanksgiving from our home to yours!"

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Berkley Big Bass Tournament *(Continued from Page 1)*

scales. Though no 24" or overs were brought to the scales on Saturday, it would seem that the two Skeeter boats would be going to the two heaviest bass 16" or less. This gave high hopes to BJ Shelton from Alba, Texas who was leading for 2nd heaviest under with a bass weighing 2.78-pounds that also won him \$1,000 cash for first place in an hour. Leading the first day's activities with an under weighed in during the 11 o'clock hour was a 2.97-pound bass by Curtis Daniels from Fort Towson, Oklahoma. Though the big bass bite was not on, it speaks volumes for

this great reservoir on the weights of the bass that were weighed in under the slot. During the two-day competition of the tournament the lightest bass to win first place prize was weighed 2.32-pounds and was caught by Greg Graves from Yantis, Texas winning him \$1000 in cash.

On the second day of the tournament with warmer weather and conditions changing, the bite seemed better. There were some really good under the slots still being weighed in. Randy Bunch from Yantis, Texas weighed in a 2.84-pound bass securing him \$1,000 in a first-place hour-

ly win. The dynamics changed in the 12 o'clock hour when Aaron Anderson from Carrollton, Texas brought in a bass measuring over 24" and weighing 6.98-pounds.

Aaron's bass was the only one over the slot brought to the scales during the tournament. This made him an incredibly happy angler. He caught his bass using a Berkley PowerBait MaxScent Hit Worm Magnum, Green Pumpkin Magic Texas rigged in 6-feet of water. For his efforts he took home \$1,000 in hourly pay plus a new Skeeter ZX

(Continued on Next Page)



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200 Yamaha SHO and Skeeter built trailer. Curtis Daniels weight of 2.97-pounds held up as the heaviest under the slot. He caught his bass on a Berkley PowerBait MaxScent Hit Worm Magnum, Plum Apple on a Drop-Shot in 8-feet of wa-

ter. For his great catch he won \$1,000 hourly plus a new Skeeter ZX 150 SHO and Skeeter built trailer. The only exact weight bass to be brought to the scales was an even 2.50-pound bass caught by Paul Walls. He received \$500 in

hourly pay and \$1,000 in Abu Garcia Exact Weight Bonus.

For more information and details go to their website: www.bass-champs.com or for more details you can call them at 817-439-3274.

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The winning bait of the tournament. The heavy over the slot was caught on this worm in Green Pumpkin color Texas Rigged fishing in 6-feet of water. The heaviest under the slot was caught on this same worm in Plum Apple color on a Drop-Shot in 8-feet of water.



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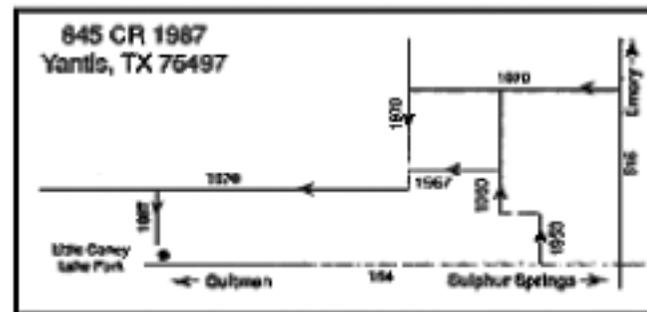
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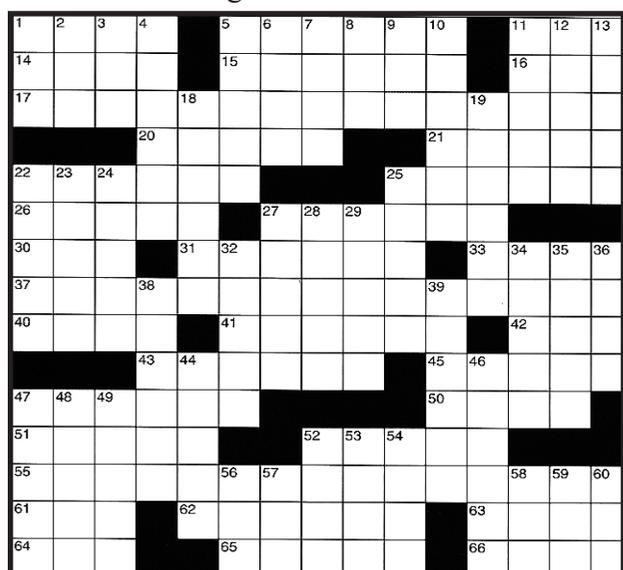
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"Weather is a Factor on Lake Fork!"

By David Ozio

"Man O' Man! This fall is way different than 2019! Cold fronts started rolling in during the first week of September and it's been down hill ever since. Scores have been low in most tournaments including the Sealy Outdoors Splash as well as the Berkley. The great news is that the temp changes of the current fronts have leveled out which will stabilize the lake and it will finally be "game on". Shad are moving into the creeks by the droves and the foodfest will be on especially on days prior to the next front. Winter is just around the corner and the big green fish need to fatten up to survive the chilly winter waters.

With the lake being about two feet low as of this writ-



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Hacks
- 5. Esteem
- 11. Returned material authorization, abbr.
- 14. Absorbed
- 15. Bullrings, for one
- 16. Food grain
- 17. Words heard at a trial
- 20. Base of statue
- 21. Reeds and sugar cane
- 22. Forms
- 25. Can or bottle _____
- 26. Not technical
- 27. Makes containers
- 30. Programs for _____ arrays (Computers)
- 31. Recluse
- 33. Executes
- 37. Murder trial issue
- 40. Goidelic language of Ireland
- 41. Jean Paul _____, author
- 42. Manipulate
- 43. Readies
- 45. Locomotor organ
- 47. Preferences
- 50. Children
- 51. Drama awards
- 52. Any valuable or useful possession
- 55. Dominate
- 61. Substitute, abbr.
- 62. Right-wingers
- 63. Oh, God!
- 64. A very large body of water
- 65. Hoodwinks
- 66. Dekagrams

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Electronic equipment, abbr.
- 2. Swiss river
- 3. Barrels per day, abbr.
- 4. Extensive plain without trees
- 5. Forays
- 6. Bulky grayish-brown eagle
- 7. Favourites
- 8. Unnilhexium, abbr.
- 9. To, in Scotland
- 10. Discharge
- 11. French city
- 12. French river
- 13. Oil or perfume obtained from flowers
- 18. Resound
- 19. Exaggerate
- 22. Type of noose
- 23. One who expects
- 24. Reference book
- 25. Aquatic animal
- 27. Fishing vessel (Naut.)
- 28. Shaded colors
- 29. Sways
- 32. Razor clams
- 34. Extinguished, sort of
- 35. Black colors
- 36. Eyelid infection
- 38. Musical group
- 39. One who floors someone
- 44. Iranian city
- 46. Donated income regularly
- 47. Cloaks
- 48. White aspen
- 49. Nuthatch genus
- 52. Celery (Spanish)
- 53. Vomit
- 54. The dried leaves of the hemp plant
- 56. The winged goddess of the dawn
- 57. A large vessel
- 58. Honorable title (Turkish)
- 59. Annoy constantly
- 60. Tooth caregiver, abbr.

Answers on Page 21

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

As the sun eases it's way higher into the sky, switch your strategy to baits that descend into the water column. If the



water is heavily stained, throw the chatterbait, spinnerbait or squarebill in the same areas. If the water is slightly stained, use a five inch swimbait, swimjig or chatterbait. Hydrilla or milfoil will change the game slightly, use a lipless crankbait and key on the outer edges of the grass. As the water temps degrades throughout the month, switch your lipless colors to gold or red. Now that you have photo's of several great fish during the morning, migrate your way out to deep water and graph the usual haunts, humps, ridges, roadbeds and structure. Fall on Fork has always been great fishing for these patterns during the afternoon hours. Flutter spoons, jigging spoons, Carolina rigs, drop shots and football jigs will be the "go to" baits when you

(See Fall Bass Habits Continued on Page 20)



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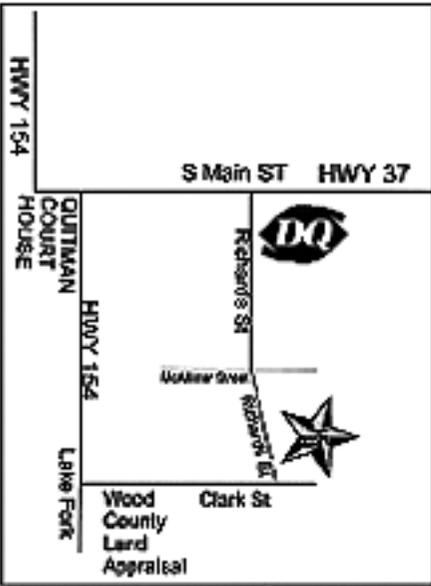
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Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest to Benefit TPWD Arrives at Lake Fork Nov. 5-8 *(Continued from Page 1)*

Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest provides TPWD with an exciting opportunity to engage directly with Texans to highlight all of the outdoor opportunities available in our state," said Tom Lang, TPWD Inland Fisheries Division Outreach and Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center Director.

With proper public health protocols in place, visitors can mingle outdoors with fisheries biologists, state park rangers, outdoor educators and game wardens at more than nine outdoor booths, including:

* Texas State Fish Art: Get great tips for painting your favorite state fish and learn how you can enter the Texas State-Fish Art Contest.

* Toyota ShareLunker Trailer: Stop by the Toyota ShareLunker trailer to see how you can partner with TPWD to make BIGGER BETTER BASS in Texas.

* Making Fishing Better: Have a question about your favorite lake? Enjoy a meet and greet opportunity with Texas fisheries biologists in the "Making Fishing Better" area.

* Aquatic Invaders: Discover how invasive species impact aquatic environments, where they hide and how we can control their spread across

Texas.

Other weekend activities at TBTF include various vendor booths with the latest fishing merchandise, seminars taught by Bassmaster Elite Series pros, the annual Bassmaster High School All-American Fishing Team Tournament and more.

Saturday's entertainment lineup includes Elite angler "meet and greets," and several special TPWD ceremonies to honor anglers who have made an impact on fishing this year.

During the first special ceremony, TPWD will be honoring the three

Toyota ShareLunker Legacy Anglers who caught and donated 13 pound or larger large-mouth bass to support TPWD's selective breeding program in 2020. This presentation will include an official announcement of the winner of the Legacy

Class Prize Drawing for a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license.

TPWD will also recognize the 2020 inductee into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. During this presentation,

Shane Wilson, of South Padre Island, will be honored for his efforts to engage people in fishing. Wilson is a retired public educator of 35 years and founder of the non-profit organization Fishing's Future –

(See Toyota Bassmasters... Continued on Page 11)

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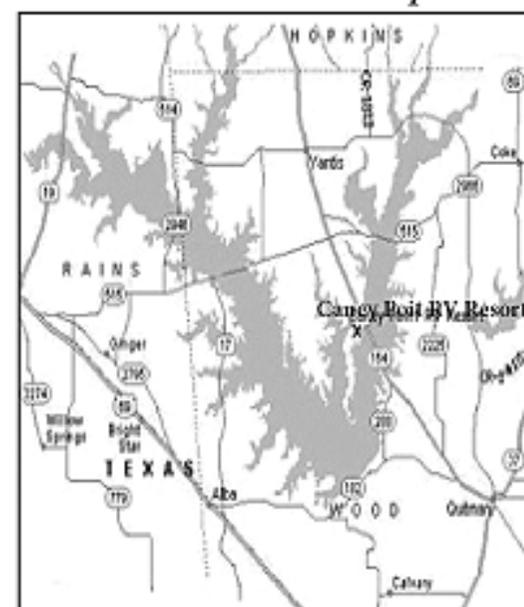
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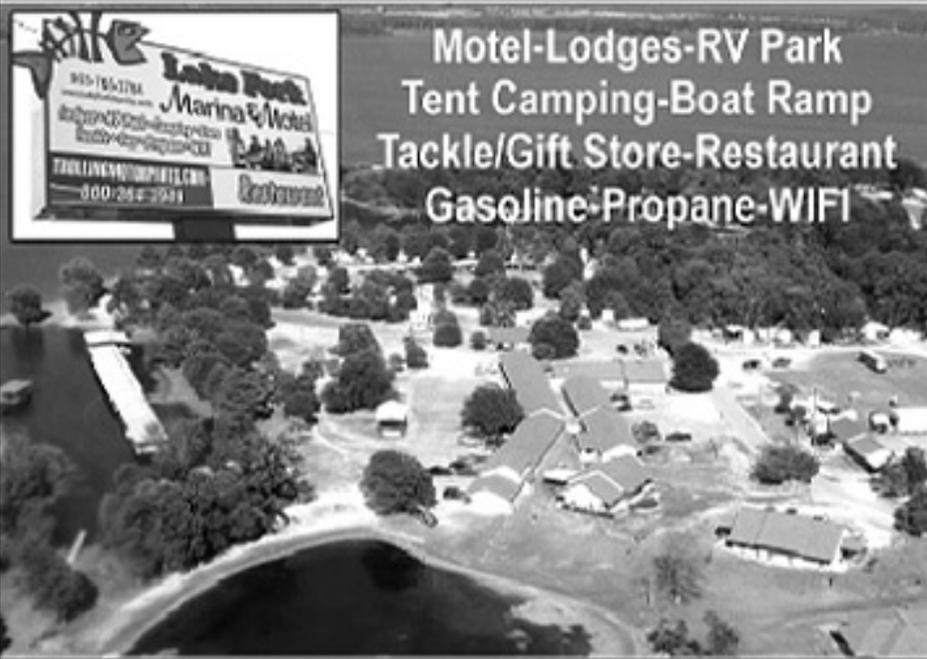
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"The Moon Report"

"November Transition"

By Terri Moon

Our water temperatures are starting to drop quickly triggering the fall migration. Its time to target creek channels and flats around secondary points. I'm checking 10 to 20 ft. depths in 12 to 25 ft of water. These fierce fronts that are moving through with crazy winds have made it tough on the fishermen! Keep an eye on that depth finder so you know how deep to target and try to stay above the fish.

One thing we've noticed the last few trips is that these crappie are spooky. You'll pick up 1 to 3 nice ones then they just reject you! So, we just keep moving and hit other spots and check different depths. Also, I've noticed the size of the shad in their stomachs lately and they are big. So, I'm going to a Bonehead 3-inch Slim Stick and colors producing are white/chartreuse, blue/chartreuse, or pink/white. We're also using 1/4 oz. Bubba Baits in black/chartreuse, white, or electric chicken. If your fish are finicky, tip your jig with a Berkley Crappie Nibble or a minnow. Try a slow motion no



motion presentation instead of "hopping" the bait. Once you get to your depth, just slowly raise it, then slowly lower it. I've seen on the Garmin if you hop it, it tends to spook the fish. It's been interesting to see how the fish react to your bait with the Garmin!

The bonus I had this month was that Johnny Guice, Lake Fork Bass and Crappie Guide, who also does the Northeast Texas fishing reports for the "TEXAS INSIDER FISHING SHOW" was on Lake Fork filming with Beautiful Brie the co-host of T.I.F.S. and camera man Collin. Since we have the same sponsors, Yamaha - Skeeter - and I have a Garmin, we went hunting for big crappie in my Skeeter Solera. You can't help but love Brie's excitement

when landing a big fish! The weather was chilly and of course windy. But, we got some good videos and I have a couple of them on my Facebook page. Also check out Texas Insider Fishing Show U-tube channel and their show on Fox Sports Outdoor channel. It was great having them visit Lake Fork and hope they'll come back again soon!

As a reminder, November is Lake Fork Marina customer appreciation month where rooms are \$58 a night and in their incredible store, their tackle, clothing and gifts are all 25% off. They have some great gift selections for all the fishermen in your family so keep them in mind for your holiday shopping!

I have always end-
(See November Transition. Continued on Page 21)



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Lake Fork crappie guide caught this hawg crappie fishing in October. Quite an accomplishment on Ultralite rod and reel. C.P.R.



Don Kopecky from Iowa caught this nice hawg while fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith. C.P.R.



Cain LeBlanc from Houston, Texas caught this nice bass fishing with Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith on 9/25/20. C.P.R.

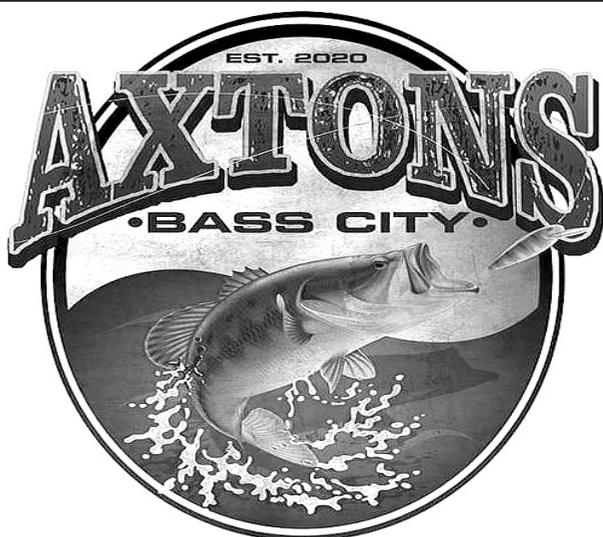


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Modest Quail Numbers Expected Statewide Ahead of Season Opener

Quail season opened in Texas on Oct. 31 and while the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) surveys have returned relatively low quail numbers in comparison to previous years, hunters hitting the field this season will see more favorable conditions in certain portions of the state.

"Texas quail live on the edge of feast or famine," said Robert Perez, the Upland Game Bird Program Leader for TPWD. "Because Texas is such a large state, quail in one area of the state can be plentiful while quail in an area

nearby may be difficult to locate. The population density of quail in February, along with the amount and timing of rainfall received throughout the year, and the amount of suitable habitat for the birds through time and space are the three key factors driving quail populations."

Overall, the South Texas Plains and Rolling Plains ecoregions of Texas host the highest populations of bobwhite quail.

Despite below average roadside count numbers, South Texas is showing the most promise to buck state-

wide predictions. Reports from the Coastal Sand Plain, including Kleberg, Kennedy and Brooks Counties, are encouraging in terms of range conditions, bobwhite activity and reportedly had good chick production. Additionally, reports from Hebbronville and Brooks counties suggest summer and hurricane rainfall buoyed quail populations.

The average number of bobwhites seen per survey route was 3.8 compared to 13.8 last year. The Chaparral and Daughtrey Wildlife Management Areas

(See *Modest Quail...*
Continued on Page 18)



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Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest to Benefit TPWD Arrives at Lake Fork Nov. 5-8 (Continued from Page 7)

which is devoted to strengthening family bonds through fishing.

Gulf States Toyota, a long-term supporter of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will donate proceeds from the tournament to support TPWD's youth fishing and urban outreach programs. Programs benefiting from this tournament include the Neighborhood Fishin' Program, which brings fishing to families at 18 community park lakes in 10 urban areas, and the Texas Division of the Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest, which seeks to interest youth in grades K-12 in fishing.

"Since 2007, this tournament has raised more than \$3.25 million for the Texas Parks and Wild-

life Department's youth fishing and outreach programs in Texas," Lang said. "These dollars have made a direct impact on increasing fishing participation in Texas – particularly in urban and suburban areas where access to fishing is limited. We are grateful for this support and look forward to continuing this work to bring fishing closer to Texans in the years ahead."

Local hosts of Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest include the Wood County Economic Development Corporation and the Sabine River Authority.

"These local organizations deserve special thanks for helping us bring a Bassmaster Elite Series event to Lake Fork for the second consecutive year," Lang said. "Without the Sabine River Au-

thority and others, Lake Fork would not be the top trophy bass lake in Texas. I wouldn't be surprised if we see four-day catch records broken at TBTF this year, and that success would be a direct reflection of the hard work and support of these organizations, the entire Lake Fork com-

munity, and the efforts our Inland Fisheries team to make the best angling opportunities possible." Admission to the event is free for the whole family. All attendees should maintain a safe physical distance in accordance with public health guidelines and follow local ordinances due to the ongoing public health situation. The Sabine River Authority is located at 353 PR 5183, Quitman, Texas. Learn more at <https://www.bassmaster.com/news/lake-fork-announced-site-2020-toyota-bassmaster-texas-fest>.

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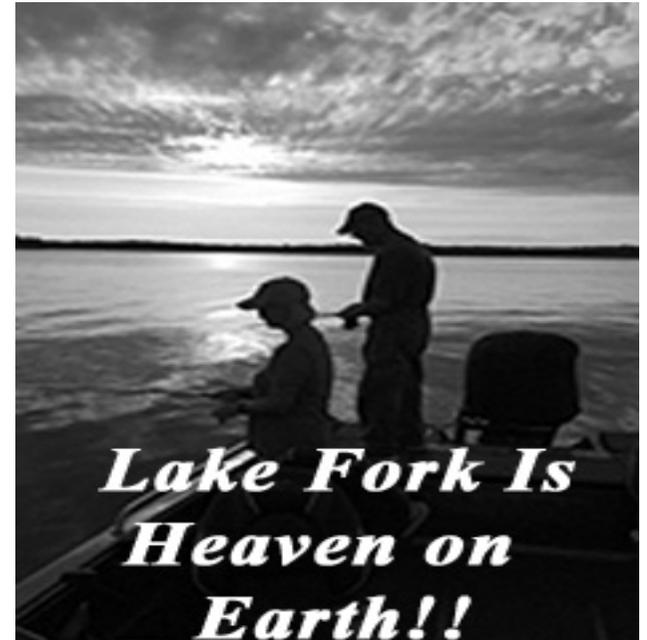
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Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork 40th Semi-Annual Open Tournament

By Don Hampton

The Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork hosted their 40th Semi-Annual Open Tournament on October 10th. The tournament was held out of Oak Ridge Marina and many of the anglers used this tournament to pre-fish for the upcoming Berkley Big Bass Tournament that was held the following week.

This tournament is a fund raising event for the club and it has close ties with the Wish To Fish Foundation. With a low entry fee of \$45 with 80% of all entries being paid back and a \$10 Big Bass with 100% of entries being paid back, anglers found it affordable to try and win good prize money.

The event is a one day individual five fish tournament and Texas Trails Bassmasters host two per year coming in the fall and spring. The spring tournament usually brings out the larger number of entries for obvious reasons.

This year the top five winners in the heavy stringer division were; 1st Place with a stringer

weight of 7.57-pounds was Jody Warren winning \$360; 2nd Place with a stringer weight of 6.71-pounds was Steve Bevolo winning \$300; 3rd Place was Kenny LaDuke with stringer weight of 6.69-pounds winning him \$240; 4th Place with a stringer weight of 6.55-pounds was Glen Irwin winning him \$180; Placing 5th with a string weight of 5.33-pounds was Galen Smith winning him \$120. In the Big Bass category Brian Jackson won first with a 2.05-pound bass winning him \$185; 2nd Big Bass was Chris Large with a 1.94-pound bass winning him \$111; 3rd Big Bass was Jody Warren with a 1.91-pound bass winning him \$74.

If you are looking to join a local bass club, you need look no further than the Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork. They hold one club tournament per month and all lakes fished are within an hour drive with most a lot less. Their 2021 season begins in November so now is the time to join. If interested in joining, you can contact Rodney Ellis at 903-714-6473 or Don Hampton at 903-360-6994 or visit their website

at; www.texas trails bassmasters.com. Come fish with us.



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Wildlife Experts Encourage Bear Safety Amid Sporadic Sightings in Texas

As occasional bear sightings continue to crop up in the west and southwestern portions of the state, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) encourages residents to practice bear safety as the likelihood of spotting a bear in a populated area increases. Black bears are native to Texas and are a part of our natural heritage and the Texas ecosystem.

On Oct. 16, a black bear sow and her cub were spotted in city limits of Del Rio, Texas. TPWD employed standard bear hazing procedures which often include making loud noises, and in some cases, shooting non-lethal flash rounds, paintball rounds or rubber buckshot rounds at the bears. The hope with hazing is to scare the bear out of residential areas and into more wildland environments. If hazing is unsuccessful, and the bears have been allowed time to relocate themselves but haven't done so, trapping and physically removing the animals is the next step.

"Our bear hazing protocols provide the best chance for the bear to live wild and relocate itself naturally," said Jonah Evans, a Mammologist with TPWD. "Trapping and relocating a bear is extremely invasive and puts a lot of stress on the animal, sometimes resulting in mortality, and there's no promise then that relocation will be successful."

Evans says that if bears are relocated, it is not always guaranteed that they will stay in the area where they were moved. In many instances, once bears associate people with food, they are more likely to stay within a residential area.

Following the recent bear sightings in Del Rio, it was discovered that the sow and cub may have been drawn to pet food that is frequently left out by residents to feed local stray cats. Residents in areas where bears have been spotted should secure anything that could be a potential attractant (e.g. garbage, pet food, bird and deer feeders, etc.).

Unfortunately, this incident ended when the sow was shot and killed by a Del Rio resident. The incident is still under investigation by Texas Game Wardens. TPWD biologists have found a suitable rehabilitation solution for the cub at the Cottonwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in New Mexico.

"Bears, in most instances, are not a danger to people," Evans said. "In 120 years in the lower 48 states, there have been fewer than 20 fatal attacks by bears. Compare that to 20 fatal attacks yearly by domestic dogs. Other cities throughout the country have found ways to peacefully live with area bear populations, and we can do the same in Texas."

Bear proof garbage dumpsters are a great

option that many communities in the western U.S. have deployed to reduce or prevent bear encounters. Keeping trash bags in a secure location until the morning of trash pickup are also encouraged practices. Similarly, TPWD biologists recommend feeding pets inside or limiting pet food portions to an amount that can be consumed completely at each feeding. More information can be found on the TPWD website .

Black bears are currently a protected species in Texas. If you see a bear, please stay away and do not attempt to feed it. If you are in an urban or developed area, and a bear exhibits aggressive behavior toward humans or causes property damage, notify your local police or sheriff dispatch immediately and request that they contact the local TPWD Biologist or Game Warden. Noting the bear's size, direction, speed of travel and behavior, especially when it is feeding in town, will greatly aid authorities in determining how to respond. Not all calls regarding bears need further investigation if the bear is not displaying aggressive or threatening behavior. In all instances, staying away from the bear and keeping pets secured indoors and away from the animal will facilitate the overall best outcome.



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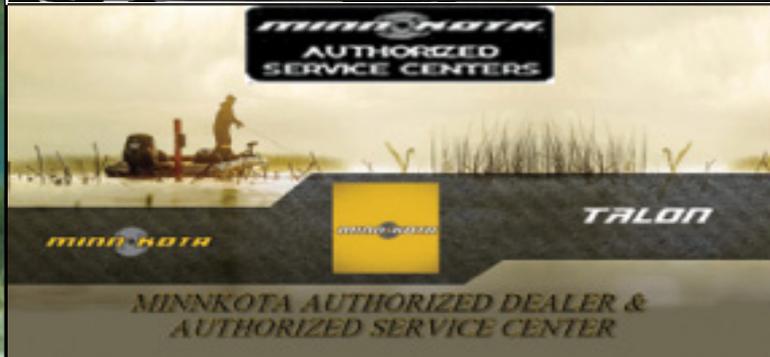
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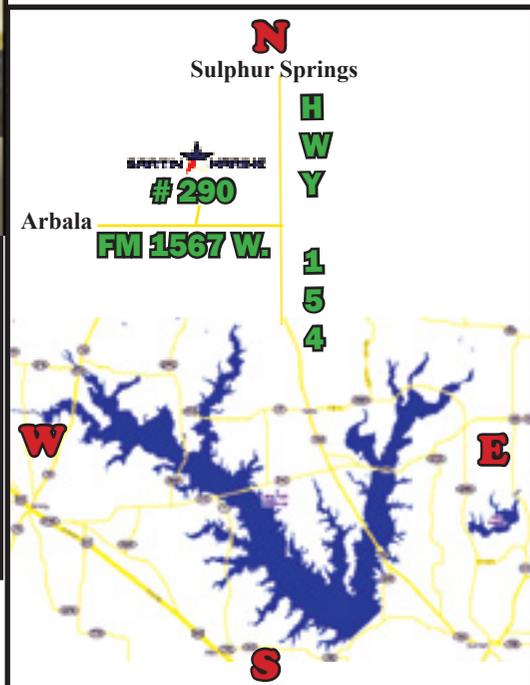


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Waterfowl Hunters Can Help Prevent Spread of Invasive Species

With waterfowl season opening day around the corner, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is reminding waterfowl hunters to clean, drain and dry boats and equipment before traveling from lake to lake to help avoid spreading invasive species like giant salvinia and zebra mussels.

Aquatic invasive plants can easily become entangled or trapped on boats and boat trailers and moved to other lakes. Giant salvinia, one of the most problematic aquatic invasive plants in Texas, can double in size and acreage in less than a week, quickly becoming a problem. Just a small fragment can cause an infestation in a new lake, making it even more important for boaters to clean, drain, and dry their gear.

"Giant salvinia is often thought of as a plant that blocks recreational access for anglers and boaters, but it can cause serious problems for waterfowl hunters too," said John Findeisen, TPWD Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Team Lead. "Not only does it form thick mats that block access for hunters to prime waterfowl hunting areas, it can also outgrow and replace the native plants that waterfowl rely on for food and habitat."

Another major invasive species threat in Texas is zebra mussels. Currently, zebra mussels are found in 30 Texas reservoirs across five river basins as well as in river reaches downstream of

infested lakes. These invaders can litter shorelines with sharp shells, impact recreation, harm aquatic life, damage boats and clog water intakes.

"Waterfowl Hunters can help keep zebra mussels and other invasive species from being moved and harming more lakes by taking a few minutes to remove plants and debris from boats, along with draining water before leaving the lake and allowing everything to dry completely afterward," said Monica McGarrity, TPWD Senior Scientist for Aquatic Invasive Species Management. "Taking just a few minutes for these simple steps can help prevent impacts on ecosystems, infrastructure, and recreation and make a huge difference in our efforts to protect and preserve Texas lakes for future generations."

In addition to cleaning their boats and trailers, hunters should also make sure they aren't inadvertently carrying the invasive species on other equipment like waders, decoys, decoy bags, and marsh sleds. A video to help hunters properly clean, drain and dry can be found on the TPWD YouTube Channel.

On top of the harm these organisms can cause to aquatic ecosystems and the recreational experience at lakes, the transport of aquatic invasive species can result in legal trouble for hunt-

ers. Transporting prohibited invasive species in Texas is illegal and punishable with a fine of up to \$500 per violation. Boaters are also required to drain all water from their boat and onboard receptacles, including bait buckets, before leaving or approaching a public body of fresh water.

The special youth-only duck season began in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit on Oct. 24, followed by youth-only duck season in the South Zone on Oct. 31 and the North Zone on Nov. 7. Regular duck season in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit opened Oct. 31, in the South Zone on Nov. 7 and the North Zone on Nov. 14. Other season dates by waterfowl species can be found in the Outdoor Annual.

TPWD and partners monitor for invasive species in Texas lakes, but anyone who finds them in lakes where they haven't been found before or who spots them on boats, trailers or equipment that is being moved should help identify and prevent new introductions by reporting the sighting to TPWD at (512) 389-4848 or by emailing photos and location information to aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov.

To learn more about giant salvinia, zebra mussels and other invasive species in Texas, visit tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives

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"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Welcome to Lake Fork and the month of November. This is one of my most favorite times of the year and here is why. First of all aside from an occasional cold front the weather is usually stable and beautiful! Second and more importantly a good majority of outdoor anglers are busy hunting thus less traffic on the lake.

Lake Fork is one of the most sought after and highest pressured lakes in the world so less traffic means less fishing pressure and less fishing pressure usually means easier fish to catch. I typically will first begin graphing deep looking to find big schools of barfish (yellow bass). I will search structure like road beds, humps and ledges.

Once I find the barfish I will then slow down and search for bigger sonar arches below and/or amongst the large schools of barfish. Remember this, the big bass eat the barfish in November! Ok so now that we know this its time to break out the big spoons and the good ole ball and chain (Carolina rig) 5" to 7" spoons with a little chartreuse are best. Lake Fork tackle lures makes one in the color Barfish, its perfect! Once I have located what I'm looking for on the sonar I will set up with the spot lock trolling motor and cast the spoon accordingly past my target. I let the spoon sink all the way to the bottom and then begin hopping it back in 1-3 ft hops off the bottom. If no luck with this aggressive approach, I will slow down and let the spoon have more contact with the bot-

tom by barely lifting and dropping the spoon back down without the spoon completely coming off the bottom. Using these spoon techniques can be deadly and many strikes are vicious but most come on the fall and its just a little tick so be sure to watch your line closely.

On the Carolina rig I will use a 1-oz. Egg sinker with an extra long leader like 4-5 feet -5" or 7" mag flukes with tail dipped chartreuse are best. M-Pack lures make the perfect 7" shad in the color chartreuse pepper, highly recommend.

Again I will first locate the fish with my sonar then set up accordingly and cast past the location. You can simply just drag the Carolina rig however I prefer to use it like a jerk bait. I will stroke the rod in an aggressive and upward motion thus pulling the bait up off the bottom then letting it fall back down. Again most bites will come on the fall so be careful between strokes and closely watch your line. If you would like to learn more about these techniques, please contact me I would love to show you how.

Thank you again for reading, may God bless and I wish you all great fishing.



Michael McFarland
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tom by barely lifting and dropping the spoon back down without the spoon completely coming off the bottom. Using these spoon techniques can be deadly and many strikes are vicious but most come on the fall and its just a little tick so be sure to watch your line closely. On the Carolina rig I will use a 1-oz. Egg sinker with an extra long leader like 4-5 feet -5" or 7" mag flukes with tail dipped



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Modest Quail Numbers *(Continued from Page 10)*

(WMA) provide public quail hunting opportunities and TPWD biologists suggest scouting, as well as contacting WMAs, to improve chances for a successful season.

The Rolling Plains ecoregion experienced favorable weather conditions from late winter through early spring. Area TPWD staff reported frequent bobwhite calling activity early in the year but observed relatively few broods. By mid-summer, temperatures were consistently over 100 degrees, drought like conditions had settled in and most nesting activity was curtailed.

The average number of bobwhites seen

per survey route was 3.25 compared to 5.3 last year. Public hunting opportunities can be found at the Gene Howe and the Mator WMAs where staff are reporting some late season breeding resulting from timely rainfall.

More information about bobwhite quail populations in Texas can be found on the TPWD website.

In West Texas, scaled (blue) quail numbers fell from last year. The average number of scaled quail seen per survey route in the Trans-Pecos ecoregion of Texas was 14.1 compared to 25.5 in 2019.

While scaled quail abundance is down,

TPWD biologists suggest there was enough breeding stock and early nesting to provide optimism for an average season.

Hunters hoping to hit the field in the Trans-Pecos can find public hunting lands at Elephant Mountain and Black Gap WMAs. TPWD biologists suggest that opportunities will be more plentiful at Black Gap WMA due to more summer rainfall which has resulted in more scaled quail broods.

More information about scaled quail populations in Texas can be found on the TPWD website. For county

(See Modest Quail... Continued on Page 21)



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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

Do you enjoy fishing on Lake Fork and want to be part of the group which preserves and enhances the legend of Lake Fork? If so, Lake Fork Sportsman's Association (LFSA) cordially invites you to become a member.

Working alongside the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Sabine River Authority, our group is active year round. Here are a few of the projects we are currently involved in.

We utilize our Live Release Boat- to protect the lives of the bass caught during Lake Fork tournaments. After weigh-in, the tournament places the fish in our custom 24 foot pontoon boat's special holding tanks. The fish receive extra oxygen and are bathed in a medicated water. The special care we take with the fish has led to a 99% survival rate. We support up to 40 tournaments per year.

We enhance fish habitat with Aquatic Plants. Local high school students utilize our donated greenhouse to raise native plants to maturity. LFSA and Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel then plant them in the lake to support the fish and increase fishing op-

portunities.

Our association along with Texas Parks and Wildlife use our Live Release Boat to increase the survival rate of bass fingerlings. Rather than having the fingerlings dumped at the water's edge at a single, perhaps unprotected location, we release them in places that offer vegetation that can act as a refuge from predators. On average, we release approximately 250,000 fingerlings per year.

LFSA's Life Cycle Support project entails bolstering all phases of a fish's life cycle. This project entails buying and building structures of several types which are strategically placed in the water. This project utilizes a grant from Friends of Reservoirs. LFSA receives assistance from Texas Parks and Wildlife as well as Yantis and Rains high school's agriculture shop classes.

LFSA supports High School Fishing Teams. We collect fishing tackle donations from local fishermen. After we have the rods and reels refurbished we present all the tackle to local high school fishing teams. They in turn hand out the equipment to students in need. This year LFSA will be providing fishing gear to two schools. The official presentation

will be made during November's monthly meeting. We usually have a meal before our meeting starts. Sign up today and join us.

Our membership dues are \$50 per year. However, if you act now, your \$50 will cover your 2021 membership as well as the remaining portion of 2020.

If you have any questions, please call Larry Marler 336-413-3053.



Lake Fork Sportsman's Association
Preserving The Legend

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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"Weather is a Factor on Lake Fork!" (Continued from Page 6)

locate bass stacked up on any of these features. Pitch out a marker buoy and go to work. Gold is a great color for the spoons and a ten inch worm will get the job done on the C-rig. Blue fleck, redbug, green pumpkin and bamabug are all great colors to start with. The same colors apply to the football jig and I favor the Talon Carolina Worm in redbug for my drop shot. Barfish are the key to these deep spots. Find those on your graph and the bass will be mixed in with them.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in November searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part

of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in November and some in December. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dream't of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/LakeForkGuideDavidOzio. I would like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon Lures for making my job the blast that it is. I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". I wish all of you a blessed day."



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Modest Quail Numbers *(Continued from Page 18)*

specific outlooks, contact your local TPWD wildlife biologist.

For county specific regulations regarding upland game birds, along with information on means and methods, license requirements and more, consult the 2020-21 all-digital

Outdoor Annual. Hunters can download the free Outdoor Annual mobile app for iOS and Android.

Hunters taking advantage of Texas Public Hunting Lands must also have the Annual Public Hunting Permit. It's also important

for public land hunters to consult the Public Hunting Lands Map Booklet to review regulations that may apply to specific areas. The My Texas Hunt Harvest app can be used to complete on-site registration electronically at a public hunting area.

November Transition

(Continued from Page 8)

ed my November articles wishing my brother John a "Happy Birthday" – but, this year, November 2nd I'll be wishing him a "Happy Heavenly Birthday". His long fought battle with A.L.S. (Lou Gehrig Disease) and many other health issues were finally over October 5th – two days after I returned to Texas. It was such a sad ending for us – not having family with him when he passed. Nursing home Covid restrictions kept us from seeing him all year. I sincerely want to thank all of you who sent thoughts and prayers our way, that lifted us up through this tough time. My heart goes out to any of you that have loved ones in a care facility and are dealing with these same restrictions. Blessings to all...stay safe!

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English Class Word Find

See how many words relating to English grammar you can find and circle throughout the puzzle below.

ADJECTIVE	NOUN	PUNCTUATION
APOSTROPHE	OBJECT	SENTENCE
ENGLISH	PERIOD	SUBJECT
GRAMMAR	PREDICATE	VERB

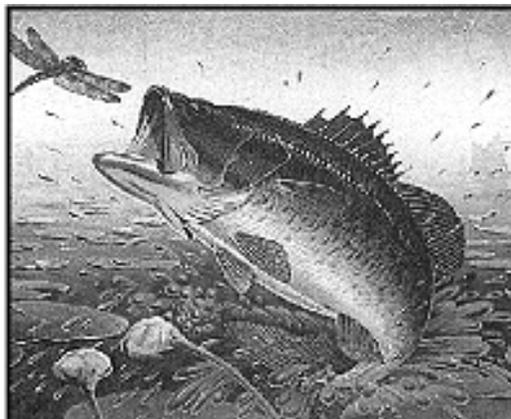
D S E N T E N C E H T N
P A P O S T R O P H E A
R S S N C W G A B T R N
E A S W N O U N O F K S
D R B A S G R A M M A R
I E R A D J E C T I V E
C P U N C T U A T I O N
A S K O F E N G L I S H
T P E R I O D D N R L A
E U O E A O E C Y T T I
V E R B S U B J E C T I
O H E O B J E C T A F T

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D S E N T E N C E H T N
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T P E R I O D D N R L A
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Losing all my Cool- A Polk County game warden was checking fisherman on a nearby shoreline for freshwater fishing compliance when he spotted a man emerging from under a bridge with a pole and tackle box. When the warden asked if he had a fishing license, the man said he didn't need one because he wasn't fishing. The warden showed the man the fresh bait and water dripping off the hook and asked if he would like to start over.

The man then confessed to fishing, not having a license and being on probation. When asked if he had any weapons or illegal narcotics, the man said he didn't want to go to jail and admitted to having marijuana in his car. The warden started to do a pat down search when the man turned and tried to distract the warden, then confessed to possibly having cocaine in his possession. The warden found multiple folded dollar bills containing a white powdery substance. A Polk County Sheriff's Office Narcotics and Probation Officer was contacted and took over the case.

Charges pending.
--Guided by Gobble-dygook-- Around 11 p.m., Schleicher County dispatch contacted a local game warden about a 911 call from two lost turkey hunters who stayed out too late and couldn't find their vehicle. The warden called the hunter's cell phone trying to find their location, but they were in a ranch they didn't know the name or location of and were shown where to park by an out of town guide that was paid in cash and whose first name was all they knew. Due to poor cell service, the call was dropped so the warden texted them

(Continued on Page 24)

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GIVE TOM TURKEY THE NIGHT OFF THIS YEAR

By Sue Hampton

People look forward to the Thanksgiving holiday for a number of reasons: there's the opportunity to see family and friends, children relish a couple of days off from school, and most everyone enjoys the over-flowing table of holiday treats.

Traditionally, Thanksgiving and turkey go hand-in-hand, however that doesn't mean that the holiday would flop should you choose to serve another main course in the turkey's place. (The turkey probably wouldn't mind either!)



Give the turkey a day off when you serve "Bubette's Autumn Chicken With Dijon Cider Sauce" for your Thanksgiving dinner. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

Chicken, that incredibly versatile, healthful cousin of the turkey won't disappoint when you serve it up autumn-style for your Thanksgiving Day meal. Low in fat and smothered in a tangy dijon-cider sauce, this meal is sure to be a hit this holiday season.

"Bubette's Autumn Chicken With Dijon Cider Sauce"

Sauce:

2 cups apple cider
1-1/2 cups 1% milk
2 tablespoons cornstarch
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/8 teaspoon ground red pepper

Apples:

2 tablespoons butter
2 large apples, with peel, cored and cut into 1/4-inch rings

Chicken:

1/3 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
6 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
1 tablespoon dry sherry or apple juice

To make the sauce: In a medium saucepan, bring the cider to a boil over medium-high heat and cook for 15 minutes, or until reduced to 1/2 cup. Transfer to a cup and let cool. In the same saucepan, add all but 2 tablespoons of the milk.

In a cup, dissolve the cornstarch in the remaining 2 tablespoons milk and add to the pan. Stir in the mustard, salt, black pepper and red pepper. Cook and stir over medium heat for 3 to 5 minutes, or until the mixture begins to thicken. Stir in the cooled reduced cider. Cook and stir until bubbly. Remove from the heat and set aside.

To make the apples: Preheat the oven to 200F. Melt the butter in a large skillet. Add the apples and cook over medium heat for 3 minutes per side, or just until tender. Transfer to an oven-safe platter and place in the oven to keep warm. Leave the butter in the skillet for cooking the chicken.

To make the chicken: In a shallow dish combine the flour, salt and pepper. Place the chicken breasts between two pieces of plastic wrap and, using a mallet, pound each to 1/2-inch thickness. Dredge the chicken in the flour mixture and shake off any excess. Place the chicken in the skillet that contains the butter. Cook over medium-high heat for 5 minutes per side, or until a thermometer inserted in the thickest portion registers 160F and the juices run clear. Transfer to the apple platter and keep warm in the oven. Add the sherry, or apple juice to the skillet. Cook and stir over medium heat for one minute, scraping up the browned bits from the bottom of the pan. Add the cider sauce and cook for 4 minutes, or until heated through.

Arrange the chicken and apple slices on 6 dinner plates. Top with sauce.

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

asking them to drop a pin of their location and call him back. The warden and two Schleicher County Deputies responded to the location where the 911 call was made, but the hunters had left. They turned on their emergency lights and sirens hoping to reach the hunters through the PA speakers. At 12:45 a.m., the hunters found cell service and called back. Their guide sent the pair a pin of his location and told them to walk to him. This pin was in the opposite direction of law enforcement and four miles away through three additional ranches. The warden confirmed that the hunters could hear the sirens and told them to walk to his location. Around 2 a.m., two very tired and dehydrated turkey hunters emerged from the woods and were given water. The hunters described the road they drove to the ranch they were hunting on and found out the ranch they were currently on was not where the hunt started. The hunters went through the unlocked, shared neighboring gate thinking it was a pasture gate. The hunters finally contacted their guide who was driving every county road and highway in the area and not at the location of his dropped pin. The warden coordinated with the guide to pick an intersection for them to meet and the hunters were dropped off with the guide around 3 a.m. One citation for no hunting license was issued and strong encouragement to learn the full names of guides and precise locations of any future hunt.

--FIN-ito-- Two Harris County game wardens were searching the web when they saw a restaurant advertising shark's fin and shredded chicken soup on their menu. The wardens visited the location and inspected the restaurant's aquatic resources and invoices. During the inspection, the wardens found what appeared to be frozen shark fins inside one of the freezers. One of the wardens asked the owner about the item in the freezer and they confirmed it was shark fin and showed the warden to a near-by stove where sharks fin soup was being cooked for personal consumption. Shortly after, the second warden found another piece of shark's fin wrapped in cellophane in a near-by freezer. The owner again insisted that it was for personal consumption. The warden then picked up a menu off a nearby table and pointed to the soup section which listed sharks fin soup for sale. All sharks fin was seized, and charges are being filed with the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

--Oy(ster) Vey-- Three Harris County game wardens were inspecting commercial oyster on Galves-

ton Bay when they came across a boat that had a sack of oysters with 15.29% undersized- three times the allowed limit. When asked about what they were using to measure the oysters, the captain said "Nothing." This was the captain's second time being cited for possessing undersized oysters. Approximately 1,100 pounds of oyster were returned to the reef.

--Road Hunting is Not OK-- A Red River County game warden received a report about possible road hunting that had just occurred. According to a witness, the vehicle had an Oklahoma license plate. After receiving information about where the road hunting had happened, the warden set up and waited at the intersection with the only routes back to Oklahoma. A short time later, a vehicle matching the witnesses description approached the intersection and the warden conducted a traffic stop. The passenger admitted to shooting feral hogs from the road on a private property and was taken to the Red River County Jail where the appropriate road hunt-

(Continued on Next Page)



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ing charges were filed. The rifle, equipped with night vision and an attached spotlight, was seized. Cases pending.

--**Blinded by the Lights**-- Two Limestone County game wardens responded to a vehicle accident east of Mexia involving a vehicle overturned in a creek bed with a man trapped inside. Local authorities were able to safely remove the driver from the vehicle and wardens were assisting with traffic control on the road. While traffic was being safely guided, the wardens saw an SUV trying to go around their patrol vehicle, ignoring the emergency lights and roadblock. The wardens signaled the man to stop and when they approached the vehicle, saw that the driver had bloodshot eyes and was slurring his speech. There were also several alcoholic beverages in the vehicle. The driver was detained and admitted to drinking several alcoholic beverages. After failing a field sobriety test, he was placed under arrest for Driving While Intoxicated and transported to the Limestone County Jail for booking.

--**Acting Squirrelly**-- An Angelina County game warden was approaching a boat ramp on the Angelina River just before dark when he saw someone driving in his direction. A man quickly laid a gun on the bow of the boat and walked away. When the warden approached the two people aboard the vessel, one decided to change out of wet socks while the

other kept talking on their cell phone. The warden unloaded the .22 rifle left on the bow and inspected the cooler in the boat which contained a squirrel that was dressed and put on ice. Since the man started squirrel season six days early, he was issued a citation for hunting squirrels during a closed season. Case is pending.

--**That's a Twist; That's Very Twisty**-- A Williamson County game warden was contacted by a Travis County Sheriff's Deputy about a boat the deputy had stopped on Lake Travis that had the boat hull identification number visibly removed. The operator of the boat said he bought the vessel a short time ago and showed the officers a title and bill of sale. The deputy and warden investigated the paperwork of the vessel and found out the title was legitimately signed, but the bill of sale was falsified. Upon further inspection, the officers determined that the vessel didn't match the paperwork the operator of the boat had presented. The registration number on the paperwork belonged to a Wellcraft, and the validation number belonged to the operator but for a Kayot boat. Additionally, the engine horsepower, serial number and sterndrive number returned to a Baja vessel. The Baja was listed as stolen out of Travis County in January, along with the trailer. The owner of the Baja was contacted, and the boat was verified as the stolen vessel. The vessel and trailer were re-

turned to the original owner and the operator of the vessel was charged with possession of stolen property.

--**Familiar Faces**-- A Titus County game warden caught three men fishing on Lake Welsh without fishing licenses. One of the subjects gave a false name and date of birth, refusing to cooperate in providing his identity and even requested an ambulance because he was so upset. After the ambulance arrived, he refused transport and gave the EMT's a different date of birth when he signed the refusal for transport. The man was arrested and transported to the Titus County Jail for failure to identify and no fishing license. At the jail, his real name and date of birth was located and found to have been previously issued a citation in 2009 by the same warden for no fishing license. Citations were issued to the man for no fishing license and for failure to identify, and he was released.

--**Fishing for Trouble**-- Several Bexar County game wardens were patrolling Calaveras Lake when they stopped an unregistered vessel. The operator said he was only test driving the boat, but later revealed he was fishing and had purchased a one-day fishing license. After a short investigation, it was discovered that he was wanted for felony warrants by the Bexar County Sheriff's Office. The operator was arrested, transported, and booked into the Bexar County Jail.

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