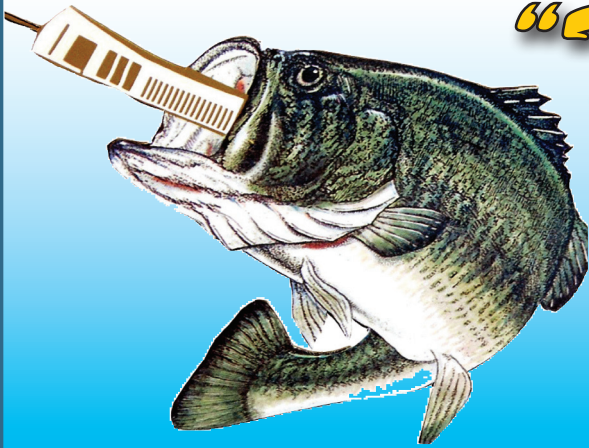


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Vol. 22

February, 2021

No. 258



"The angels descended and took back with them one of the greatest guides on Lake Fork." Mark Pack lost his battle with COVID this past January and will truly be missed. He was a good friend and shared his vast knowledge with many an angler. Our lake lost one of its greatest ambassadors. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Donna and family.

Texas Toyota ShareLunker Program Launched Its 35th Season

January signaled the beginning of the 35th season of the Toyota Sharelunker program. The year-round Toyota Sharelunker program offers four levels of participation for catching bass over 8 pounds or 24 inches in Texas. "We were excited to kick off another ShareLunker season," said Toyota Sharelunker Program

Coordinator Kyle Brookshear. "Not only for the selective spawning and stocking of these world-class offspring, but (See Texas Toyota..... Continued on Page 4)



Sam Trinca caught this nice bass while fishing on Lake Fork with guide Johnny Glass in January. Weight unavailable. C.P.R.



One of the most beautiful sights on Lake Fork is our eagle population. They reside and nest here year round. Whether you are riding around the lake in your car or going down the lake in your boat, keep an eye out for this majestic bird. (Photo by Don Hampton)



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"A Romeo Bubba Will Never Be As Long As There Are Fishes In The Sea"

By: Don Hampton

Bubba thought hard and then he thought long...

On Valentine Days of the past...And how he'd went wrong...

On this day of romance he always tried his best...

But for one reason or another he never passed the test...

To Bubba's way of thinking this day must be cursed...

For each one that passed seemed to have been the worst!

On one such day he almost bought her perfume, but couldn't find the right odor...

That was the one when he bought her a new trolling motor!

He's tried even to get her something in which she'd truly delight...

But she wasn't impressed when he bought her a floating crappie light!

Bubba tries so hard to show through gifts the love for Bubbette he does feel...

But still she wasn't impressed with the Shimano combination rod n' reel!

The next year he just knew she'd think

his gift was so devine...

But still she wasn't impressed with the spool of new braided line!

Bubba thought for a year Bubbette would know she was his dream...

So he bought her a subscription to BASSMASTER magazine!

He'll never forget the Valentine's Day when he got hit with rocks...

That was the one he bought her the new bass angler's tackle box!

He thought on one such day, it would only show he loved her more...

And went out and bought her a new riding lawn mower!

But Bubba learned a lesson on Valentine's Day this past year...

That was when he bought her a floating fishing pier!

On Valentine Days in the past Bubba has bought Bubbette everything from lures to hooks...

And always finds himself the next day dodging vases and books!

Bubbette knows Bubba's love for her is so very strong...

But when it comes to buying gifts he has the tendency to go wrong!

He'll leave the house with intentions of buying perfume, clothing or jewels...

But when he gets home from town he's bought fishing equipment or tools.

Bubbette has tossed at Bubba some hints and clues...

On some of the more particular don'ts and do's!

More well defined you might could say she made a threat or two...

This way to Bubba the thought is more likely to get through!

So Bubba listened to her while thinking of his boat and the lake...

And the light went off upstairs and he knew this year he'd not make a mistake!!!

Because of the thinking long and hard, Bubba is playing it smart so he doesn't have to sleep in the yard...

He's going to go buy something with the Hallmark seal, that tells her of the love in his heart and how he really does feel.

But also to keep him from landing in the yard, he is going to include in the package her own WalMart gift card...

To My Bubbette, Happy Valentines Day!

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Texas Toyota ShareLunker (Continued from Page 1)

also to help gather vital catch and genetic data to help our fisheries biologists better manage trophy bass populations throughout the great fisheries of Texas."

During the first three months of the season (Jan. 1 through March 31), anglers who reel in a 13+ pound bass can loan it to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the ShareLunker selective breeding and stocking program. These anglers can call the ShareLunker hotline at (903) 681-0550 to report their catch 24/7 until April 1, 2021.

Anglers who catch and donate one of these 13+ lunkers earn Legacy Class status, receive a catch kit filled with merchandise, a 13lb+ Legacy decal for their vehicle or boat, VIP access to the Toyota ShareLunker Annual Awards event and a high-quality replica of their lunker fish. These anglers will also receive entries into two separate drawings; a Legacy Class Drawing and the year-end Grand Prize Drawing. Both drawings will award the winner a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license.

Anglers who enter data for any lunker they catch greater than 8 lbs. or 24 inches during the calendar year 2021 also receive a catch kit, a decal for their vehicle or boat and an entry into the year-end Grand Prize Drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and annual fishing license. ShareLunker entry classes include the Lunker Class (8lb+), Elite Class (10lb+), and Legend Class (13lb+).

Once a lunker is reeled in, anglers need to enter the

(Continued on Next Page)



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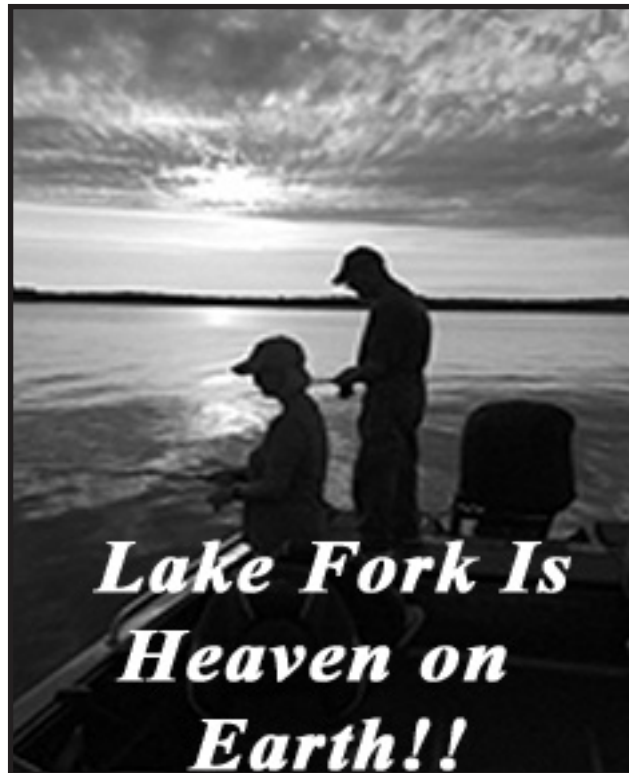
catch data on the Toyota ShareLunker mobile app – available for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play – or on the Toyota ShareLunker online app at TexasSharelunker.com. In addition to providing basic catch information, anglers can also provide a DNA scale sample from their lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Toyota. Toyota is a longtime supporter of Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing ma-

jor funding for a wide variety of fisheries, state parks and wildlife projects.

Prize donors Bass Pro Shops, Lake Fork Taxidermy, American Fishing Tackle Co. and Stanley Jigs also

provide additional support for this program. For updates on the Toyota ShareLunker Program, visit facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram/ or TexasSharelunker.com



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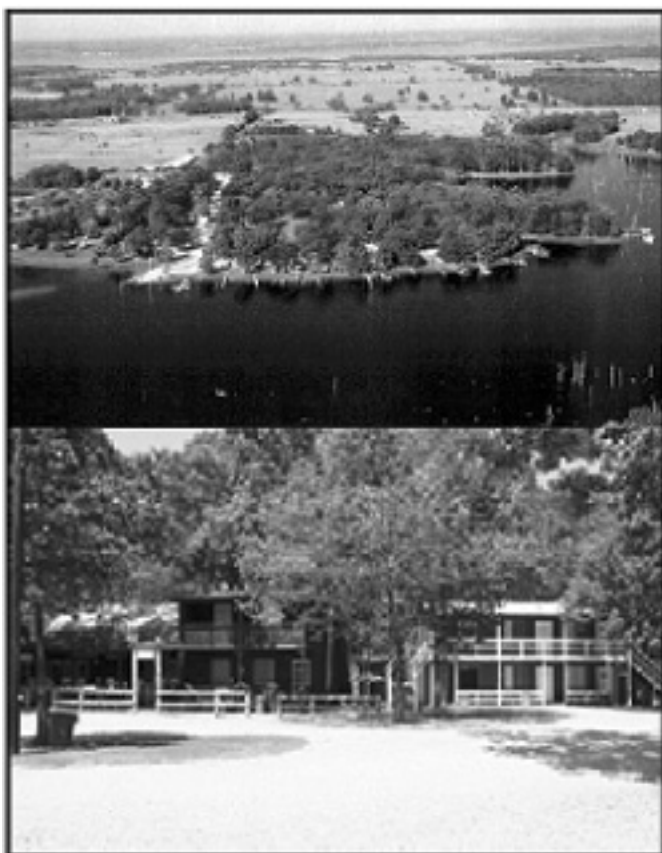
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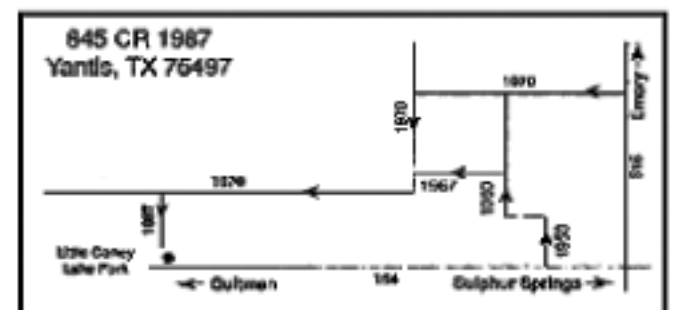
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"Prespawn is just around the corner!"

"Typical winter weather has made current bass fishing on Fork rather gnarly! No big shocker but fear not, pre-spawn is right around the corner. The lake is only about ten inches under pool at this point which allows the big bellied green fish to move up to shallow vegetation and do their business as we stroll into late February. Sunny days will also be a bonus especially in the afternoon time frames as bass will move shallow to soak up the warmth. This can also be an opportunity for the trophy of a lifetime.

Now let's take a look at the options on how to attack the wary green fish. On the clear sunny days you need to head to the backs of the creeks and pursue the shallow bite particularly in the afternoon. Shallow water will ab-

sorb the sun's rays more quickly causing the bass to move up for the warmth. By the same token, this same water cools more quickly when a major front slides through. Bass will move back out until the high pressure dissipates. While this transition is taking place the deep bite will be in vogue. Staging bass will hold on points and areas just outside of their spawning grounds. The key depth range should be focused in the 12-15ft area. Big bass will stage at key junctures at the mouths of pockets also and play a waiting game with the water temps that suit their liking. This is when you bring out the big guns to usher in the trophy bass. The A-rig will be the go to strategy and it's set up is all important to the trophy success. Everyone has their favorite way to rig these umbrella monstrosities but common sense will lead you down the right path based upon the "where" you will be throwing it. Naturally, if you are in open water with no timber, the best rig would be to use a 3/16 ounce swim-bait head and cover them with any five inch swimbait. As for colors, start with white and adjust from there. I found last year that dark colored baits worked better on a day to day basis. Arkansas Shiner, Dirty Sanchez and Houdini all performed well when using the Reaction Innovation Skinny Dippers. I will go as far to say that we had some great days using the Little Dippers instead of the five inch versions. It all comes down to what the fish want. Op-



tion two is to rig the A-rig with weedless swimbaits using belly weighted hooks. This will keep you out of trouble when casting into timber. Once rigged, I use 25lb P-line on a 5:1 gear ratio reel all loaded on a 7'11" rod. This is a great launching pad for this heavy rig and it allows you to hurl it quite a ways. Once you make the cast, let it sink to the bottom, then retrieve it slowly back to the boat. A large bass will literally knock the rod out of your hands. It's a must do pattern in February.

Big swimbaits will also play a huge roll this month, especially the expensive jointed baits. Swim or twitch them slowing in shallow water during the afternoons and hold on to your business. Strikes can be vicious. Other

(See Prespawn.....

Continued on Page 20)

Fish Friendly

Practice C.P.R.

If you would like

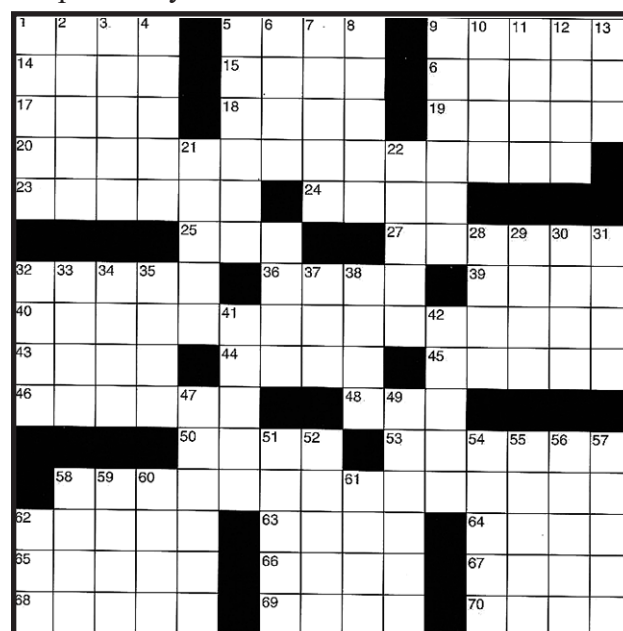
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Fish Friendly



CLUES ACROSS

1. Leon ____, singer
5. Male red deer
9. A clique that seeks power
14. Soviet city
15. Pitcher
16. Unaccompanied
17. West African
18. A strong cord
19. Indian seaport
20. Winter garments
23. Adds piquancy
24. Ticket or check
25. A shag rug made in Sweden
27. Florida city
32. Severo __, U.S. biochemist
36. People descended from a common ancestor
39. Greasy
40. Ray Charles song
43. Lubes
44. State of Cambodia
45. Tree fiber
46. Hunting dogs resembling greyhounds
48. Office dept.
50. A university in Connecticut
53. Eras
58. Verdict, of sorts
62. Blocks
63. Helicopter
64. Small ornamental ladies' bag
65. The 1st letter of the Hebrew alphabet
66. Oxalis
67. Fellow
68. An arm or outlet of a lake
69. Showing sound judgment
70. Totals

CLUES DOWN

1. Laugh lines (slang)
2. South Dravidian
3. One of Caroline Islands
4. White (French)
5. Disbelief
6. Truant
7. Cloths
8. Process
9. Yellowish melon
10. Astringent
11. Cold wind
12. Geese genus
13. Lease
21. Chemical solution
22. Cabal
26. Type of text
28. Containers
29. Register
30. Hebrew calendar month
31. Auld lang __, good old days
32. Native American people
33. Blue flowered plant
34. The large room of a castle
35. Southern Japan city
37. Supplement with difficulty
38. Gomer __, marine
41. Bearded reddish sheep of southern Asia
42. Filippiano __, Italian painter 1457-1504
47. Japanese Islands
49. Force from office
51. Nigerian capital
52. Author, ____, Jong
54. Russian lake
55. Quoted
56. Hunting dog
57. Annoyances
58. Monetary unit of Botswana
59. Heed
60. Melon, cucumbers, pumpkin
61. Urban center
62. Taxi

Answers on Page 21

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More Than 2,600 Visitors Hit the Trails for a First Day Hike at a Texas State Park

Visitors from across Texas laced up their shoes and packed on plenty of layers to usher in 2021 with a First Day Hike at a Texas State Park. In total, 2,668 people hiked and biked a total of 8,173 miles statewide.

This year, parks hosted a total of 60 events across the state and many were self-guided to encourage social distancing.

"I am thrilled that Texans bundled up and joined others in hiking Texas State Parks on the first day of the year," said Rodney Franklin, Director of Texas State Parks. "It is a testament to the spirit of our visitors and their love of the outdoors

to see so many for First Day Hikes. It was great to welcome folks young and old and see them enjoying the day. First Day Hikes is one of my favorite events and I would like to thank everyone that participated. Here's to a better 2021 and I look forward to hosting even more of you for First Day Hikes in 2022!"

Dinosaur Valley State Park in Glen Rose, about an hour southwest of Fort Worth, had the most participants for the second year in a row with 262 visitors.

Below are highlights from the field for this year's First Day Hike events:

* At Tyler State Park, visitors braved the cold and wind for their hikes. Although the weather hurt overall attendance this year, all hikers were in high spirits and had a lot of fun!

*Choke Canyon State Park had two guided First Day Hikes with a total of 16 participants. No more than 10 people were on each hike to practice social distancing. Both walks were on the Emperor Run Trail and visitors learned about the history of Caliham, the town that was once in the park, native plants and the wildlife that call the park home.

* Although the scheduled paddling event was

cancelled due to creek conditions and it was cold and soggy from recent rains, visitors still made the trip to Village Creek State Park to participate in self-guided activities to ring in the New Year. Activities included a scavenger hunt and bird migration game.

* Seven inches of snow would put a damper on some people's First Day Hike plans, but one couple headed to Lake Colorado City State Park and hiked two miles on the Cactus Cut Trail to welcome in the New Year. They said they had a great time!

* Fort Richardson State Park had five inches of snow fall, but that doesn't mean the park was empty. The park saw a jump in attendance as many families came out to have snowball fights and build snowmen on the parade field.

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"The Moon Report"

"Forks February Crappie"

By Terri Moon

It's always good to get back on Fork after taking some family time through the holidays. Buddy and I have made it through 3 snow storms while we were up there! He has been quite the trooper and just happy to be along for the ride! (But he sure misses seeing all of his friends at Lake Fork Marina!) Once again, my apologies to anyone who tried to reach me while I was away – but, I have zero cell service while at Mama Novas (it's off the grid). So, if you haven't heard back from me, please try again and I'll get with you as soon as I can.

This time of year can be exciting because about mid February is when the BIG crappie start moving up the creeks. Right now target that 35 to 45 ft. around creek humps and bridges. As the water warms, start moving back and check that 22 – 35 foot depths. The key is to look for the baitfish. Also, check tree lines and stump beds. This is when my Lowrance combined with my Garmin gets to be fun! I'm still learning on my Garmin, but sure grateful to have it!

I like to use either a jig with a split shot or double rigged jigs about a foot apart. This way it's easier to spot on my screen as it falls. The working can change daily so keep a good assortment on



hand, and don't hesitate to try something different if what your using isn't working (a different presentation might help too). The shallower they go, the more aggressive they become. Be sure and check out the latest Bonehead baits and jig heads available at Lake Fork Marina, and they also carry Bubba Baits. They have definitely got on board with expanding their crappie fishing equipment! They are always on top of stocking all our fishing needs.

I'm so excited – my 2021 Skeeter Solera 205 (my "luxury liner") is in the works! My hats off to Skeeter for jumping into the crappie fishing world with this Solera. If your looking for quality, comfort and safety, this is your boat! They've thought of everything! Plus, Diamond Sports Marine is right here on Lake Fork to handle all your Skeeter needs. Fred and Kathleen will fix you up! I'm not only excited about the new 2021 Solera for me – but, I'm excited for whoever is

getting my 2020 Solera. They are going to love it! It is made perfect for us seniors!!! :-)

I am so ready for the spring transition. I'm hoping mother nature will ease up on her fierce winds this spring. February can be quite exciting (weather permitting). Water temperature will be the key factor to when this transition takes place. I'm sure looking forward to it!

Before I close, I want to send a heartfelt thanks to the generous anonymous bidder for the crappie trip with me to help with the Mark Pack auction items. Tragically Mark lost his battle with COVID – such a heart-breaking loss throughout the fishing world and especially here on Lake Fork. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family and to all that have suffered a loss from this crazy covid.

Be Safe!

Practice C.P.R.



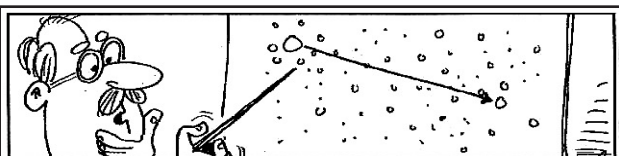
David Gilmore from Spring, Texas was night fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when he caught this hawg. He had back to back big catches. C.P.R.



Nice Lake Fork hawg while fishing with guide Michael McFarland in January. (Weight and name not provided) C.P.R.



Nice Lake Fork hawg while fishing with guide Michael McFarland in January. (Weight and name not provided) C.P.R.



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Despite Pandemic, Great Texas Birding Classic Saw Record Participation in 2020

For the first time, the 24th annual Great Texas Birding Classic (GTBC) took place in fall instead of spring last year after having been postponed due to the public health crisis. The postponement allowed event organizers to further plan and implement health and safety measures. Despite postponement, the event garnered a record 138 teams registered, with a total of 650 participants across the state.

Money raised through 2020 team registrations and sponsorships made it possible for the GTBC to award \$34,000 in Conservation Grants, bringing the 24-year tournament total to \$1,027,000 in on-the-ground habitat acquisition, restoration and enhancement projects.

"It is truly remarkable and gratifying to top the \$1 million mark after 24 years of work," said Shelly Plante, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department nature tourism manager, who has been involved with the event since 1998. "From the beginning, we wanted a way to not only encourage bird-

ing in friendly competition, but to also raise money to restore and protect natural habitat for birds and people."

Birding in October presented birders with different weather and challenges never experienced during the usual spring event. Participants were able to see birds as they migrate south and count different species not as often seen during the spring season. Unfortunately, birding during the fall also meant that participants had to contend with four different hurricane events on or near the Texas coast.

"We spent several hours watching Bald Eagles work to rebuild their nest that was cut in half after Hurricane Delta," said Christina Lokey, a member of the Upper Texas Coast Big Sit! team in Beaumont.

A total of 357 species were identified by all 138 teams. A complete list of final tournament results can be found on the GTBC website. The GTBC is made possible by sponsorship and registration fees and donations from event sponsors including

Toyota, Texas Ornithological Society, Swarovski Optik, N.A., and awards ceremony sponsor, Audubon Texas.

For the first time, participants were able to compete in two new categories, the "Dispersed Flock" team and the "Intact Flock" team. "Dispersed Flock" teams consisted of team members located anywhere in Texas. Families and friends were able to team up and compete from wherever they are quarantining together through the "Intact Flock" category.

Teams could choose from a variety of tournament categories including the Expanded Big Sit!, the State Park Tournament or Sunrise to Noon Tournament, ideal for teams who wanted a laid back day without much traveling, the Regional and Statewide Big Day Tournaments, perfect for those who were unable to participate together and who wanted to bird for most or all of a 24-hour period in their area, and the Human-Powered Tournament, allowing participants to bird by bike, foot, kayak or other non-motorized form of transportation.

"Part of the fun was the text stream all day long, checking to see what folks had, making jokes, and sharing photos of the nice areas we birded," said Lynn Thompson, a member of the Heart of Texas East Adult Regional Big Day and the Dispersed Flock team, the Masked Boobies.



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TPWD Asks Public to Report Rabbit Mortality Events

In April, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) received test results confirming that Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHDV) was found in several species of wild rabbits in Texas. Since June, TPWD, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) have not confirmed any new cases in wild rabbit populations in Texas. However, TPWD is seeking input from the public, especially hunters, asking that they report any dead rabbits found this fall and winter.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHDV) is a highly contagious viral disease that can affect both domestic and wild rabbit species. RHDV has been known to exist in all biological tissues

and fluids within rabbits. In addition, RHDV has been known to survive on the landscape for more than 120 days and can withstand freezing temperatures. This disease is nearly always fatal and primarily affects adult rabbits.

The disease can spread between rabbits through direct contact with other infected rabbits or carcasses, contact with their meat or fur, contaminated food or water or other contaminated materials. These factors make disease control efforts extremely challenging.

As deer, waterfowl and quail hunting seasons are in full swing, TPWD asks that hunters report any rabbit mortality events, especially in areas of the Panhandle and Trans Pecos regions where

and Ward counties. Reports of dead rabbits should be made to a local biologist in the county in which they were found. Biologist contact information can be found on the TPWD website.

RHDV appears only to affect rabbit species (lagomorphs). It is not known to affect humans, livestock or pets other than rabbits. However, pets, such as hunting dogs, should not be allowed to consume dead animal carcasses. Often the only clinical sign is sudden death. In less acute cases, clinical signs in rabbits have included the following: dullness/apathy, not eating, bleeding from the nose and eyes or watery, congested eyes. Some may also exhibit neurological signs such as incoordination, excitement or seizure-like episodes.

TPWD advises all rabbit hunters voluntarily clean rabbits in the harvest location and discard non-consumed carcass parts in the same area. Hunters can also minimize the spread of this disease by reducing the movement of biological materials and carcasses across Texas. TPWD also requests that hunters thoroughly clean coolers containing rabbits with a 10% bleach solution after use.

More information on RHD can be found on the USDA and TPWD websites.

J & M Guide Service Lake Fork, TX

Licensed Professional Guide

John Morris

Phone: (903) 413-6919

Email:

bassmr@geusnet.com

web:

www.jmguideservice.com



previously positive cases were confirmed by both the USDA and TAHC.

To date, counties with known mortality events include the following: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Gaines, Hale, Hockley, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Lubbock, Pecos, Potter, Presidio, Randall



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Whooping Cranes Are Heading to the Texas Coast

With the first sightings of iconic, endangered whooping cranes along the Texas coast, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is reminding Texans to be on the lookout for these impressive birds as they move through the state.

Whooping cranes are the tallest, rarest birds in North America. Currently, there is a population of around 506 individuals. Thanks to coordinated conservation efforts, whooping cranes are slowly returning from the brink of extinction.

Whooping cranes make a 2,500-mile journey from their breeding grounds of northern Alberta's Wood Buffalo National Park to the coastal marshes of Texas each year. The migration south to Texas can take up to 50 days.

During their migration, whooping cranes seek out wetlands and agricultural fields where they can roost and feed. The birds often pass large urban centers like Dallas-Fort Worth, Waco and Austin. Though whooping cranes rarely stay in one place for more than a day during migration, it is important that they not be disturbed or harassed at these stopovers. As a federally protected species, it is illegal to disturb or harass these birds.

Wade Harrell, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Whooping Crane Coordinator at the Aransas National Wildlife Ref-

uge (NWR), says that over half of the banded whoopers he studies have made their way to Texas. The first of the season was spotted in the Seadrift area on Oct. 19. Typically, Whooping Cranes arrive in pairs or family groups.

"The recent cold front really put the birds on the move southward," Harrell said. "For the most part, all of the banded birds have moved out of Canada, but some are still as far north as the Dakotas and still in migration. Typically, we don't have all the birds on the Texas Coast until December, so November is often

our big month for migration sightings here in Texas."

Once whooping cranes arrive on their wintering grounds, many stay in the same general area. Younger birds, however, often haven't paired yet and may wander a little off their usual flight path, using areas quite distant from the Aransas NWR area.

Harrell says that due to the La Nina weather pattern forecast for this winter, the Southwest is in for a drier, warmer season, on top of the drought much of Texas is already experiencing. As such, freshwater wells on the

(See Whooping Cranes. Continued on Page 18)

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

41st Semi-Annual Open Tournament

March 20, 2021 * 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



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| 1st Place | \$1,040.00 |
| 2nd Place | \$780.00 |
| 3rd Place | \$520.00 |
| 4th Place | \$260.00 |
| 5th ~ 10th | \$100.00 |



There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry
Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)



| | |
|-----------|-------|
| 1st Place | \$500 |
| 2nd Place | \$300 |
| 3rd Place | \$200 |

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Mar. 13, 2021.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Mar. 20, 2021.
4. Check in times: Fri., Mar. 19, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Mar. 20, 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 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (or 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). Pork 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 Mar. 13, 2021 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.

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.

Contestants Signature _____

Minor's Release: Signed by _____

Parent/Guardian _____

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Entry # _____

Entry Fee _____

Big Bass _____

Cash _____ Chk# _____

If you have news or photos on
Lake Fork Contact Us!
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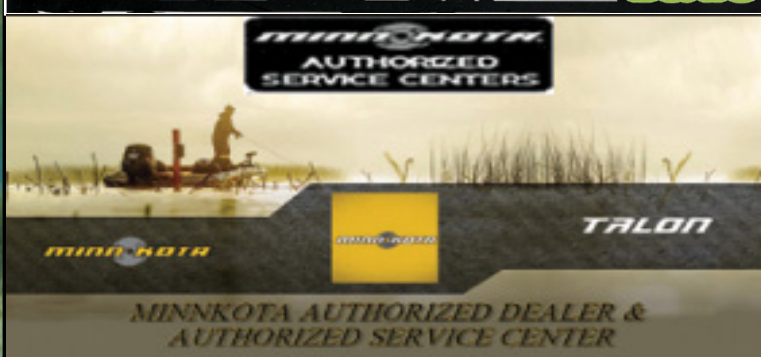
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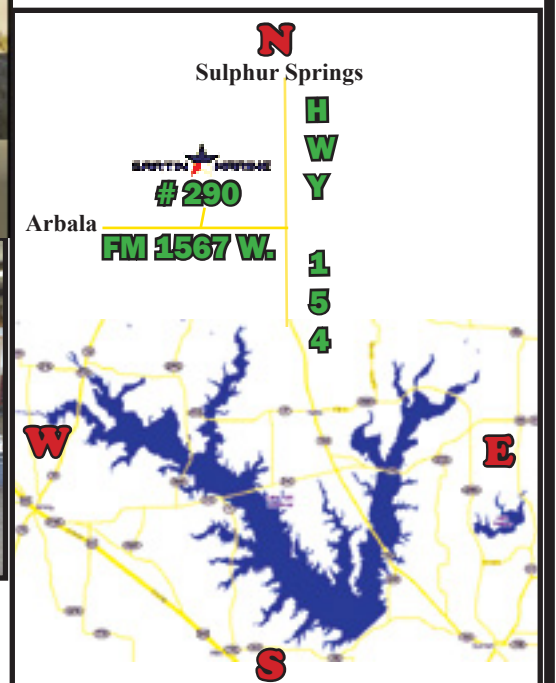
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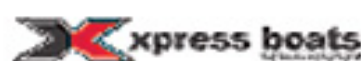
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(Early Entries ONLY and must be present to win.)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 903-360-6994 OR 903-383-7748 EMAIL: FISHNEWS@LAKEFORK.NET





**Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork
Open Tournament March 20th**

Oak Ridge Marina

Sign Ups Mar. 19, 4 pm to 9 pm

Mar. 20, 5 am to 6 am

Tournament Hours 6 am to 3:30 pm

Entry Fee; \$45 ~ \$10 Big Bass Optional

Call Don for more information

903-360-6994

"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

The Loon, one of the most amazing bait fish eating birds to ever exist. These birds can hold their breath for up to 12 minutes and dive reaching depth levels of more than 60 meters (that's 180 feet).

Why and how would the Loon be a benefit to a bass fisherman you ask?

Well the Loon prefers to search for food that has a larger profile, like gizzard shad and or adult threadfin shad. This makes the diving Loon a great tool in finding larger bait fish. Uniquely enough the same large

profile baitfish is also preferred by the more mature and giant largemouth bass. The Loon is a migratory bird that spends most of its time in the more northern territory lakes of the United States however they do tend to migrate a bit south when the northern lakes freeze over. We see them here at Lake Fork from about December through May. I use and depend on them daily this time of year, its a very important part of the equation.

Each day I will follow, watch and study the actions and areas that the Loon and or Loons prefer to hunt and search. By paying close attention to the Loon and its actions I can narrow my search thus finding the bigger bait fish and ultimately yes the bigger bass!

Here are 3 examples of some common behaviors one may observe.

1-The Loon is diving, searching and moving at a brisk pace and does not stay in one area for

very long (I call this hunting). If you see this, keep moving.

2-The Loon is diving repetitively in the same area or zone (likely to have some baitfish present). Keep watching!

3-The Loon dives and comes up with baitfish in its mouth, eats and redives (he has found the key location or what many great bass fisherman will call THE JUICE). Finding the juice is obviously a bass fisherman's greatest desires; however, it sure can be tricky at times. That being said I must say its very nice to have a friend like the Loon. If you would like to learn more about the Loon behaviors and finding bigger bass on Lake Fork, I would love to show you around.

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



Michael McFarland

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2021 Skeeter FXR20 APEX

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Whooping Cranes (Continued from Page 12)

Aransas NWR and surrounding areas will be very important for the whooping cranes upon their arrival. The USFWS is encouraging landowners to consider providing freshwater on their properties as well to aid the birds during their migration and wintering period.

With sandhill crane and waterfowl hunting seasons open and whooper migration in full swing, TPWD urges hunters to be extra vigilant. Whooping cranes are sometimes found in mixed flocks with sandhill cranes, which are gray and slightly smaller. With

their all-white body plumage and black wingtips, whooping cranes may also resemble snow geese, which are much smaller and have faster wing beats. A video detailing the differences between snow geese and whooping cranes can be found on the TPWD YouTube Channel.

There are several other non-game species that are similar in appearance such as wood storks, American white pelicans, great egrets and others, but a close look will reveal obvious differences. More information on look-alike species is available online.

The public can help track whooping cranes by reporting sightings to TPWD's Whooper Watch, a citizen-science based reporting system to track whooping crane migration and wintering locations throughout Texas. More information about Whooper Watch, including instructions for reporting sightings, can be found online and by downloading the iNaturalist mobile app. These observations help biologists identify new migration and wintering locations and their associated habitats.

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Spring is around the corner and our bass are fattening up for their spawn. All fishermen are watching weather, water temperatures and getting ready to chase the bass, crappie, catfish and carp. Fishermen are putting new line on their reels with a drop of oil and checking out all their lures and gear. Lake Fork Sportsman's Association is gearing up to support tournaments with our Live Release Boat and preparing for our Spring Raffle which helps us support our many activities.

This year we will again grow Aquatic Plants using local high schools in the area. We are also working on a newer program named LCSS – Life Cycle Support Strategy. The program considers the basic needs of fish, including food, environment and location. An assembly of spawning beds, minnow factories, habitat protection factories, t-habs (vertical and horizontal) will be placed in the lake starting in the shallows and continuing into deeper water.

We are also kicking off our 2021 High School Tackle Program by refurbishing, assembling and cleaning donated fishing rods, lures, reels, tackle boxes which are generously donated by fishermen. The program affords high school teams in the area a chance to continue their participa-

tion in the sport without incurring the burden of purchasing the expensive equipment. If you have fishing equipment to donate, please contact Larry Marler at 336-413-3053 or Mike Kostial at 760-458-7885. We can arrange to meet at Lake Fork Marina or we can pick up at your location.

Another of our projects is assisting Texas Parks and Wildlife with their fingerling release program in mid-spring. LFSA's Live Release Boat will be used to distribute thousands of fingerlings in the lake.

Currently Lake Fork is about 10-inches under pool. We actually are in great shape with the current rains and spring rains starting.

Please watch for us at the upcoming tournaments and visit our Live Release Boat and booth. Based on all the reports we are receiving from local experts, this should be an outstanding fishing year.



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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"Prespawn is just around the corner!" (Continued from Page 6)

options to target bass would include using jigs, black/blue, in the creek bends towards the back of most all major creek arms. They are all lined with timber and will harbor toad stature green fish. The final option as mentioned above deals with the shallow water bite. Take time to locate submerged vegetation and this will be the key to success in the late afternoons. As the water warms, dig out a rattletrap and cover some water around this vegetation. Chatterbaits will also work in these same areas and traps need to be red or gold with the chatterbait dressed in white. Using the right equipment is critical at this time of

the year. I use the Okuma Scott Martin and EVX Carbon rods to get the job done. For giant swimbaits use an extra heavy rod, chatterbaits I use a heavy rod and for small swimbaits my go to is a MH rods. For traps and small squarebills I use a medium rod which offer more bite forgiveness. I don't get too crazy with reel gear ratios as I mostly use 6:3 to 1 selections.

February is also a great month to catch numbers on the power plant lakes. You can destroy them on the hot water impoundments and catch 30-50 fish per day up to the eight pound mark. If cabin fever has set in, give me a call and we can wear them out where the water temps are summer like. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in February searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. 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 and Instagram at <https://www.facebook.com/DavidOzioLakeForkGuide>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon Custom Lures for making this an awesome job. 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."



Greg Wadley with David Ozio



Robert Hamilton with David Ozio



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 903-360-6994 OR 903-383-7748 EMAIL: FISHNEWS@LAKEFORK.NET

TPWD Closed Oyster Harvest in Galveston Bay

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) closed TX-1, TX-5, TX-6, TX-7 in Galveston Bay to commercial and recreational oyster harvest on Jan. 16, 2021.

This closure is based on samples recently collected by TPWD showing low abundance of legal-sized oysters. Texas Parks and Wildlife has worked with the industry to develop criteria for closing areas when they fall below certain thresholds based on the abundance of legal-sized oysters (greater than 3 inches) and the percentage of small oysters (2-2.9 inches) for determining when an area should be closed.

"Sampling results indicate the number of legal oysters is very limited in these areas," says Galveston Bay Ecosystem Team Lead Christine Jensen. "This closure is designed to provide some protection to undersize oysters so they can reach

legal size. These areas will continue to be monitored by TPWD and will reopen when criteria thresholds are met."

A map showing the area can be found on the Department of State Health Services website.

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| A | L | E | P | H | | O | C | A | S | | G | E | N | T |
| B | A | Y | O | U | | S | A | N | E | | A | D | D | S |

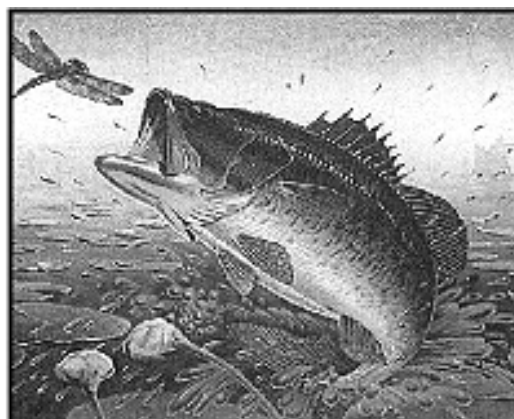
Science Search

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

ACID
ATOM
ELECTRON
ELEMENT
ENERGY
GAS
HYDROGEN

MATTER
MOLECULE
NEUTRON
NUCLEUS
OXYGEN
PROTON
REACTION

T A M A G S U E L C U N
N O T O R P L U C E L O
U X O X N O I T C A E R
K Y G Y N R D U L C R T
L G E P R A T M O I N U
I E L E M E N T S D M E
O N E R N C E L E M I N
S U C O E T R C A H T E
R E T T G O G E N Y T C
A C R A O N Y L E D E T
T L O E R S N U G O R O
I S N I D A I C D N I N
O U X O Y G R E N E R P
N M A T H S T L Y N D E
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Penny Pinching--

A Shelby County game warden followed up on an ongoing investigation of a local individual who had hunted without a valid hunting license when he shot a buck in 2019. The subject confessed to not buying the license to save money for college. Case pending.

--Mama's Got Your Back--

Two Harris County game wardens followed up on a local poaching

complaint and discovered a suspect who had harvested a white-tailed doe had done so without landowner consent. The suspect confessed to poaching and when asked to collect the deer meat, was surprised to find his mom had hidden the illegal deer meat under the couch while the wardens visited with him outside the home. Multiple charges and restitution pending.

--Holy Crappie--

An Upshur County game warden received an anonymous tip about a substantial

amount of fish that had been cleaned and dumped at Lake O' the Pines near Ore City. The warden and his partner responded and inspected the property where the fish were dumped and discovered that two out of state fishermen were responsible. The two fishermen had been fishing every day for a week and were staying at a motel at the local marina. Further investigation revealed 273 crappie, 173 fish over the legal state possession limit, were taken, filleted and stored in

(Continued on Page 24)

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"Have A 'Wing'-ding Super Bowl Party!"

By Sue Hampton

There's a cold winter breeze whistling outside and watch-out because the chips, dips and beer are about to fly off the shelves in your favorite market. Just when you thought the festivities were over... it's Super Bowl time.

The unofficial "holiday" is a time for friends, family and football fans to come together and root for their favorite team. Some have planned all year for Super Bowl Sunday – stocking up on snacks and shop-

ping for the very latest team gear and kooky hats. Now, Game Day has finally arrived, and all that's left to figure out is what to serve at the Super Bowl party. These Chinese chicken wings are sure to be a hit. Loaded with tangy flavor, these appetizing morsels are a cinch to prepare, leaving you plenty of time to focus on more important matters – like choosing which team jersey to wear.

CHINESE CHICKEN WINGS

(Always marinate chicken wings for at least 24 hours so the flavors permeate the meat.)

4 pounds chicken wings (about 16 to 20)
Chinese Marinade or other marinade
1 tablespoon white sesame seeds, toasted
Chinese Marinade
1 cup hoisin sauce
¾ cup plum sauce
½ cup low-sodium soy sauce
1/3 cup white or red wine vinegar
¼ cup dry sherry
¼ cup honey
½ cup minced green onion
6 cloves garlic, finely minced
2 tablespoons finely minced ginger
¼ cup white sesame seeds, toasted

Cut off and discard the wing tips. In a large container, toss the wings with the marinade until well coated. Let the wings marinate,

stirring two or three times, for 24 hours.

Preheat the oven to 375F. Line a shallow baking pan with foil. Add a rack sprayed with oil. Place the wings, smooth skin down on the rack and roast 30 minutes. Brush the wings with marinade, turn them over, brush on more marinade and roast another 30 minutes. Remove the wings from the oven. Using poultry shears or a knife, cut the wings in half through the joint. Serve at once. Or, return the wings to the wire rack. Within 2 hours, reheat the wings in a 325F oven for 15 minutes. Sprinkle with the toasted sesame seeds. Transfer to a heated serving platter and serve at once.



Just when you thought the festivities were over... it's Super Bowl time. These tangy Chinese chicken wings are sure to be a hit for football fans and chicken wing fanatics alike.



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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

ice chests and freezers on the property. More than 350 crappie fillets were seized and donated to multiple families around the area. Multiple charges and restitution pending.

--**Turtle-y Illegal**-- A warden was notified about a complaint regarding a local pet store in San Antonio that had a tortoise for sale. Upon inspection of the pet store, the warden seized a Texas Tortoise (a threatened species) that was "given" to the store. Further investigation revealed the store was also selling Mississippi Map Turtles and River Cooter Turtles without a non-game dealers license. The Texas tortoise was released back into the wild. Charges pending.

--**What's in the Bag?**-- A Val Verde County game warden was patrolling the northern end of the county for white-tailed deer hunting compliance when he contacted several subjects who were acting evasive when asked simple hunting related questions. Further questioning revealed the group had been trespassing and duck hunting without licenses or duck stamps in between their deer hunt. The breasted-out ducks were found neatly stored in a potato chip bag. Multiple cases and restitution pending.

--**See You Later, Alligator**-- Three game wardens from Johnson, Ellis and Harris Counties

and a State Park Police Officer concluded a three-month investigation into an alligator poaching case. In mid-September, game wardens received a tip about an individual living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area who had poached an alligator somewhere on the Trinity River at night while bow fishing. After an extensive search, the subject was identified and found to live in Waxahachie. Two of the wardens questioned the individual at his home and, after some time, he admitted to shooting the alligator. The man also told wardens that it happened on a stretch of the Trinity River near Centerville and his friend had been driving the boat and working the spotlight. Further investigation revealed that the friend shot the alligator with a pistol after it had been shot with the bow twice. The head of the alligator, which was buried on his parent's property, was recovered from the suspect. With information about the ad-

ditional suspect, a warden and park police officer questioned the friend who also confessed to poaching the alligator. Multiple charges and civil restitution pending

--**Fowl Play**-- A Knox County game warden received a call about someone hunting without landowner consent, so they partnered with a Haskell County game warden and responded. After a quick investigation, the landowner requested that the deer hunter remove his belongings and leave the property. Soon after, the wardens stopped on a road that travels through a ranch and saw an unknown vehicle with two men driving towards them. When they made contact, the men told the wardens they had not hunted that morning. One of the wardens found three turkey feathers and blood stuck to the hitch rack at the rear of the vehicle. When asked about the feathers, they denied kill-

(Continued on Next Page)



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ing anything. The men were separated, and wardens were able to get a confession from one of them about killing two turkeys an hour earlier. The hunter that killed the turkeys failed to tag the birds and had hidden the breast under the back seat of the vehicle. The turkey meat was seized and donated to a family in need. Multiple charges and restitution pending.

--Repeat Offender-- A Uvalde County game warden was on patrol when she saw a subject shoot from a vehicle on a farm to market road. After a short pursuit, the truck pulled over and she contacted the subject. At first, he said he didn't shoot but finally admitted to shooting at a coyote. When the warden was retrieving the gun, she noticed a deer backstrap in a plastic bag in the back seat. The man said he got the meat from his uncle. The warden and the man went to the uncle's house to confirm the story, and after a short visit the man finally admitted to shooting the deer at night from another public road in the area. Multiple charges and restitution pending.

--Nutty Timing-- Two Newton County game wardens received a call about two suspects hunting white-tailed deer on private proper-

ty without landowner consent. The wardens responded to the area and were able to locate the suspects in possession of an untagged white-tailed deer and several squirrels. After further investigation, the wardens determined they had been hunting on multiple private tracts of land that morning without landowner consent and had illegally harvested the squirrels and a white-tailed doe. Multiple charges and restitution pending.

--Mississippi or Bust-- A Lubbock District game warden was patrolling for mule deer compliance in Lamb County when he came across a group of hunters loading up a mule deer buck. After checking their hunting licenses, the warden noticed a mule deer tag missing from one of the hunters' license. The hunter said he hadn't taken a deer this season. When asked about the missing tag, the man told the warden that he had put the tag on a mule deer another hunter killed. The warden asked where the antlers were located, and the hunter wasn't certain. Further investigation revealed the antlers were probably in Mississippi with a local taxidermist. The warden called the taxidermist and the antlers were in fact there. A Mississippi warden was contacted and the antlers were seized. The hunter

was cited for allowing another to hunt under their license. The warden later contacted the hunter who actually shot the mule deer and she was cited for hunting without a hunting license, hunting under someone else's license and no hunter education. Charges and restitution pending.

--Facebooked-- A Limestone County game warden obtained a social media picture involving a female hunter posing with a freshly harvested white-tailed doe in Kosse. The warden began their investigation and it was determined that the suspect did not have a valid Texas hunting license. Since the woman resided in College Station at Texas A&M University, the warden reached out to a Brazos County game warden for assistance. After a brief interview, the woman admitted to harvesting the white-tailed doe during opening weekend and using her father's hunting license tag to properly tag her deer. The meat was processed and taken to her father's residence in Montgomery County. A Montgomery County game warden contacted the father and inspected the deer meat. Multiple charges and warnings were issued, and civil restitution is pending.

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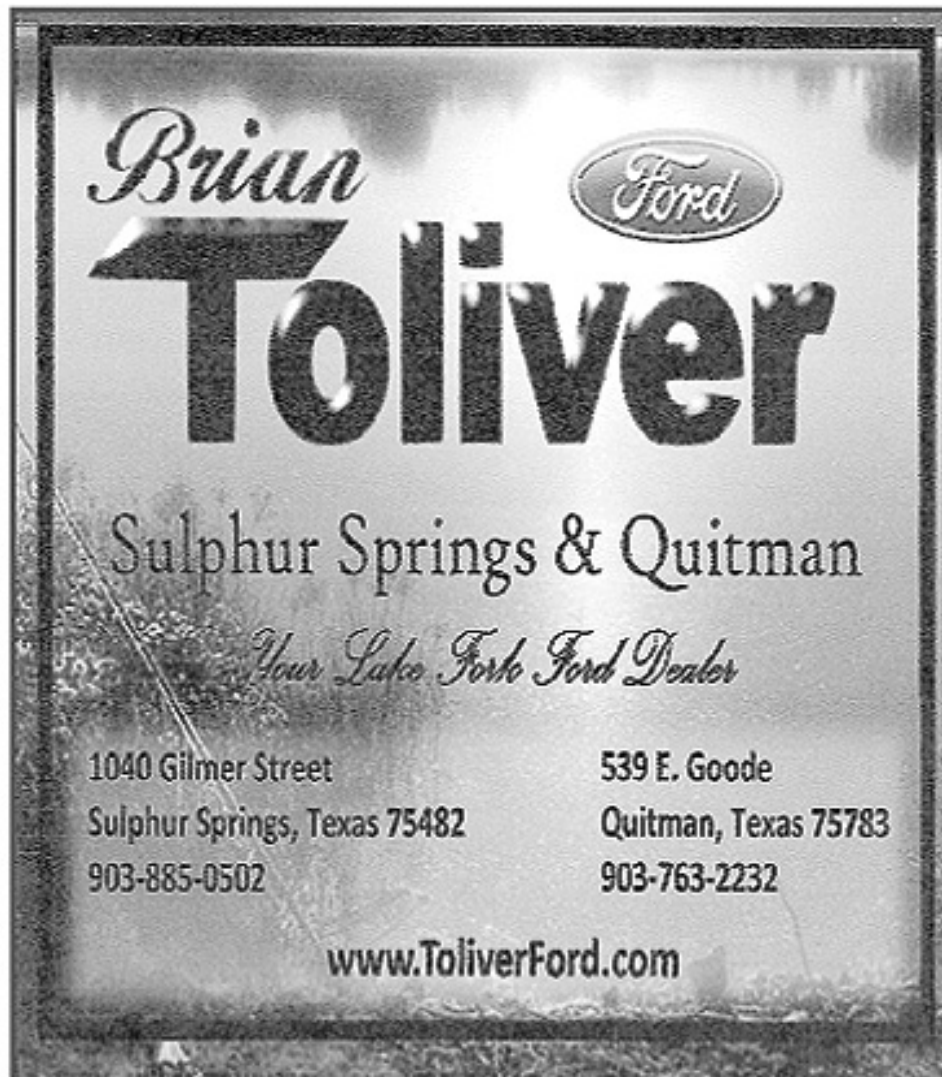
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Feb. 20 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
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Mar. 13 ~ Media Bass Teams
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Mar. 28 ~ Mega Bass
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Apr. 10 ~ Media Bass Teams
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Apr. 17 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
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Apr. 25 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
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