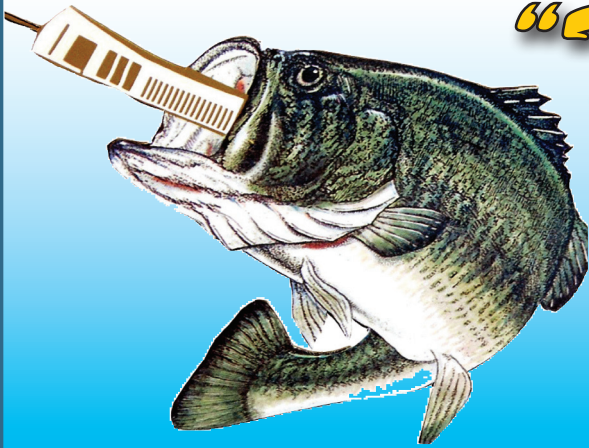


# LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital Of Texas"



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

1 Section

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Free

Vol. 22

March, 2021

No. 259



### Mega Bass On Lake Fork March 28th

By Don Hampton

The 13th Annual Mega Bass Tournament presented by BassChamps will be held on Lake Fork March 28th hosted by Lake Fork Marina.

This is the high-

est paying single day tournament for amateur bass anglers with \$20,000 in cash payouts guaranteed every hour of the tournament.

The heaviest bass brought to the scales each hour will receive

\$15,000; 2nd heaviest \$1,000; 3rd \$900; 4th \$800; 5th \$700; 6th \$600; 7th \$500; 8th \$400; 9th \$300; and 10th \$250. There will also be a T-shirt bonus each hour. If

(See Mega Bass.....

Continued on Page 4)



By Don Hampton

Anglers get ready for one of the most exciting, fun filled bass catching tournaments of the year on Lake Fork.

The 16th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament to be held May 14, 15,

16 and hosted out of Lake Fork Marina. All boats, makes, and models are welcome to fish the tournament. You couldn't pick a better time of the year to catch that lunker bass and win some cash. There will be some big females on the beds, but on the most part

they will have already spawned and feeding up with an appetite. At the 15th Annual there were 25 bass over the 24" slot weighed in during the tournament with an 11.97-pound bass taking 1st Place overall and a 10.02-pound bass

(See 16th Annual.....

Continued on Page 7)



### 41st Semi-Annual Open Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be hosting their 41st Semi-Annual Bass Tournament on March 20th hosted out of Oak Ridge Marina. Any of you anglers coming to fish the 13th Annual Mega Bass Tournament on March 28th, this is a chance to do some pre-fishing and enjoy the great fishing Fork has to offer.

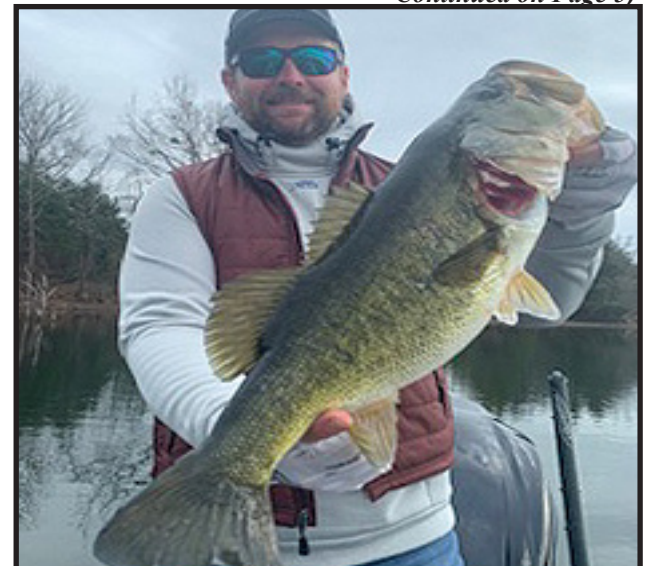
Fishing hours for the tournament will be from 6 am to 3:30 pm. All anglers have to be in line by 3:30 pm. It is a five fish limit and

an individual tournament. More than one individual can fish in a boat but each person in the boat must be a paid entry. Bass in the tour-

nament can touch 16" but not break the line. Bass over the slot must touch the 24" line. The Check-It-Stick will be

(See 41st Semi-Annual.....

Continued on Page 5)



Charles McCallum caught this nice Lake Fork bass fishing February with guide David Ozio.





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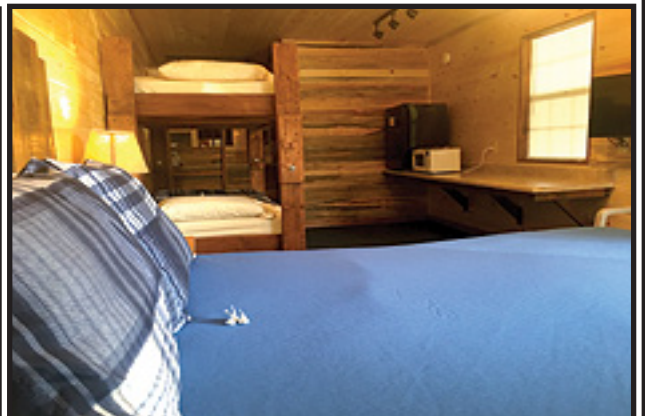
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# "Bubette May Be Pruning Bubba's Family Tree"

By Don Hampton

Most individuals are proud of their heritage and can tell you where their ancestry derives from. Some are so proud of it they hold it up about the same level as their nose is in the air. Some can even trace their ancestry back to the Mayflower. Bubba tried to find out once if one of his ancestors came over on that boat. He just knew that if one did they set a record for fishing across the Atlantic.

In his search to complete his family tree he learned he had some "Blue Blood" in his family line. Bubba tried to speak with an English accent for a week after that one! With his last name being what it is, he was hoping he could trace it to Nottingham, England or at least to kinfolk owning a hotel chain. He would have really liked being an heir to an estate in England but he would have settled for free rooms when he went out of town on tournaments. Having his hopes of being an heir to the throne, Bubba lost his English accent and since he wasn't kin to the owner of the hotel chain he made his reservations with his credit card.

In his search he found out his ancestors were just hard working poor immigrants that came to America and settled in Arkansas and even

named a town after themselves. Bubba found pride in this, especially after he saw none had ever married a "Clinton"!

One item of information that Bubba gained that made him beam with pride and hard for us to live with, is that his great grandmother was a full blood Cherokee Indian. He couldn't find out if she was a princess or daughter of a chief but knowing he had Indian ancestors changed Bubba's life. The English accent was nothing compared to what we all have to live with now!

Knowing Bubba as long as I have, when he said, "How?", it was a question and he expected an answer. Now he says "HOW" in a deep base voice and it is a greeting of hello or goodbye, I haven't figured it out yet.

You really have to pay closer attention and listen more attentively than before when speaking with Chief Bubba of the Cherokee Nation.

Now when you ask Bubba a question he may answer with an "Ugh!" What the heck does that mean? Is it a yes, no, or indifference? He now refers to his bass boat as his canoe. He refers to his RV as his teepee, because he can move his tribe from one fishing ground to another. I'm truly expecting any day now for him to quit using SPF-100 so he can truly be a red-

skin! Where he used to say, "Well I'm going home now!" he'll say, "Must go to wigwam now!" I have not heard that since early John Wayne movies, or was it "The Three Stooges in the West!" Whichever the case I'm quite sure that is where he picked that phrase up!

Bass Pro Shop, Academy, Cabella's and all of the fishing stores where Bubba shops, I apologize, for Bubba has renamed you all! From this day forth you will be known only as "Happy Hunting Grounds!" You can thank Chief Bubba for that!

Because of this heritage knowledge Bubba has attained he best keep his health. He no longer puts his faith in "Pale-Faced Doctors". He now believes only in "Doc", his tribal "Medicine Man". Bubba also believes that when he leaves this earth he will follow his ancestors to the "Happy Fishing Grounds!"

Don't be too concerned about Bubba though! The next time you see him he may have less hair, but he'll be his old self because Bubette has assured me that if he calls her his "Squaw" one more time, "SHE'S GOING TO SCALP HIM!" Bubette said, "I've never pruned a family tree before, but I'm about to top his out!"

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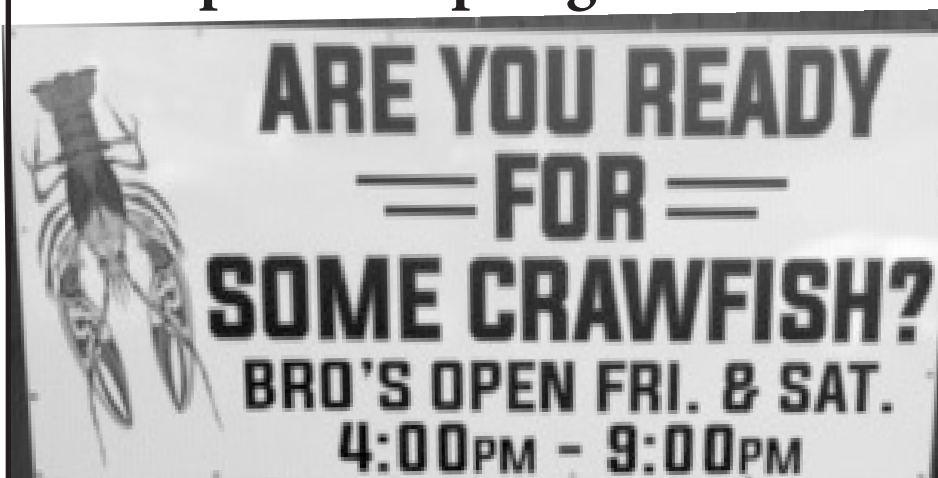
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an angler purchases a T-shirt and is in 11th or 12th place in any hour, they will receive \$200. Even adding more excitement to the tournament, any angler that weighs in an exact weight of 2.5-pounds, 3-pounds, 9-pounds, or 10-pounds, that angler will receive an extra \$500.

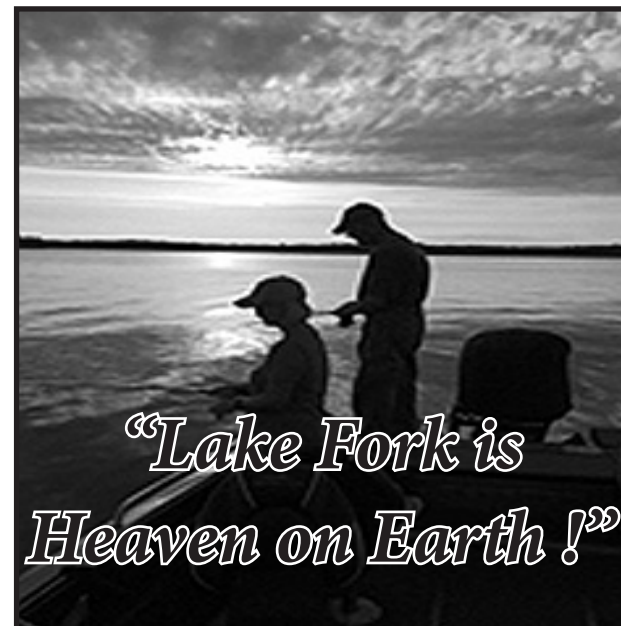
Mega Bass is open to all boat brands. For the angler that brings the heaviest bass of the tournament to the scales, they will not only have \$15,000 in their pocket but also be taking home a 2021 Skeeter ZX 200.

Early entries received before March

24th are eligible to win prizes in a drawing from Techron, Berkley, Abu Garcia, Amphibia, and more. For those that wish to enter at the tournament, registration will be on Friday March 26th from 5 pm to 7

pm, Saturday March 27th from 12 to 7 pm and Sunday March 28th at 5 am.

For more information about the tournament go to [www.basschamps.com](http://www.basschamps.com) or call 817-439-3274. Check out the ad on Page 28.



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## 41st Semi-Annual Open *(Continued from Page 1)*

the official measuring board. Bass under the slot must be at least 12" in length. Shorter than 12" cannot be brought to the weigh-in.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork pays back 80% of all entries. There is also a Big Bass Pot, optional to anglers. To get into the Big Pot is an optional \$10 with 100% payback to the top three biggest bass. Entry fee for the tournament is \$45 with \$10 Big Bass Option. Texas Trails Bassmasters will be taking entries in the white trailer by the lake at Oak Ridge Marina from 4 pm to 9 pm on Friday, March 19th, and again on Saturday, March 20th

from 5 am to 6 am.

If you cannot come and fish with us, everyone is welcome to come out, visit with us and even buy some raffle tickets for the many prizes to be given away thanks to our many sponsors.

Texas Trails Bassmasters is a highly motivated progressive bass fishing club with ties to the Wish to Fish Foundation and weight masters for the Wood County Annual Kid Fish. If you are thinking of joining a bass club, you can't go wrong with Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork. We are now accepting memberships to our club.

Dues to join the club are a mere \$30 per year.

Cost for tournament is \$25 with a \$5 Big Bass Option. There is also a progressive side pot that is optional for \$5 for the first 7-pound or over bass.

For more information or to obtain an entry form for the tournament see ad on Page 12. You can visit our website at [www.texastrailsbassmasters.com](http://www.texastrailsbassmasters.com) or give Rodney Ellis, President, a call at 903-714-6473 or Don Hampton, Vice President/Tournament Director a call at 903-360-6994.

Fishing is going to be great! Come out and fish with us! Who knows you may catch that bass of a lifetime and finish in the tournament a big winner!



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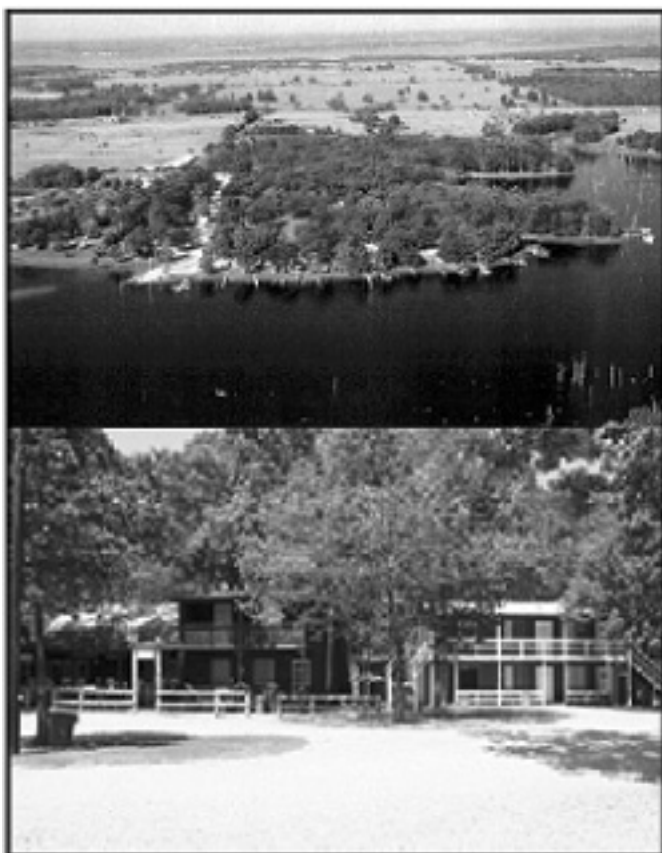
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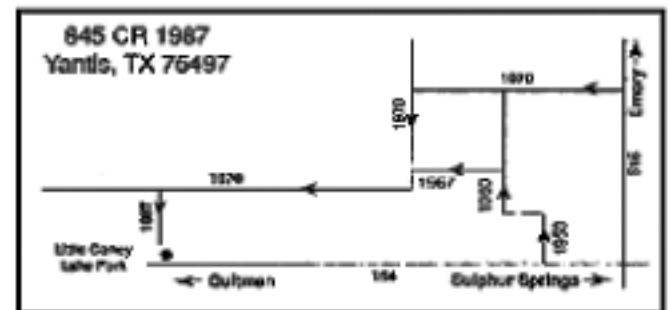
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# "Big Bass Are Going To Be Super Hungry!"

By David Ozio

"There's a chance we may finally get a line in the water this week after this horrendous historic cold snap. Fork was iced over in all the creeks and I have never seen that in my thirty plus years tackling this lake. Quite amazing actually! As of this writing the surface temps are 42-45 degrees across the lake and few bites are being had as the elusive green fish are locked up tighter than a drum. The good news is we have a super warming trend on the horizon and this will change the game drastically. Add some decent rain to the mix and this will make March a much different month than in past years. My guess is that everything will be pushed back a couple of weeks as the

surface temps will be slightly behind the seasonal curve. Nonetheless, find the critical staging areas and it's game on for the trophy of a lifetime.

I would think that big bass will be super hungry and looking for a good meal as the spawn is right around the corner. Concentrate your focus on these pre-spawn bass around main lake and secondary points at the entrance of major creeks, creek channel edges and bends, drains and ditches that are in close proximity to spawning flats. These staging fish will normally feed heavily through late February and early March while waiting for water temps to reach a consistent 58-62 degrees before advancing to the bedding areas. Water temp is the single most important factor during this time of year and a huge cold front can spell trouble for the advancing bass especially if it's near the March full moon.

Once conditions are stable, start your search on the northwest side of the largest creeks and key on the current water temps in that area. The higher the thermometer reading, the better chance you have of seeing those giants cruising the shallows. Once the bass feel comfortable in an area, the ritual begins. Your job will be to target these big fish as they are setting up house. The all time best bait to capture your trophy of a lifetime will be on a big swimbait. There are several types on the market and you will need to find one that is weedless. Color choices can



range from a bone color to light hitch or dark hitch. All will work under varied conditions. Throw these baits into very shallow water in the aforementioned areas of the lake and get ready for some heart stopping action. Don't be afraid to chunk these baits into the thickest cover. They are designed to slide right out and keep on truckin.

During this time of the year, there are other patterns that will work equally as well. The Strike King 8.0 squarebill will deliver it's share of the pre-spawn giants. Shad colors work well and direct your efforts to the main lake and secondary points which are located in the near vicinity of the spawning areas. Shell beds also play a key role in how these fish will set up and spending time with a lo-

(See Big Bass....

Continued on Page 20)

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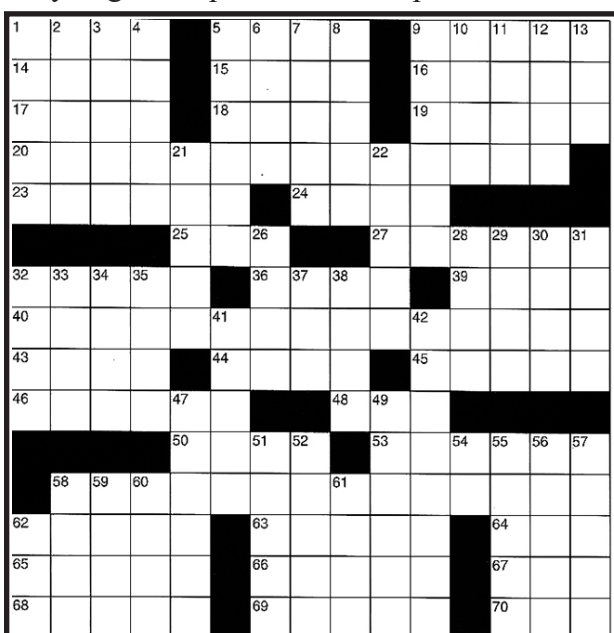
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## CLUES ACROSS

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Gull-like jaeger of northern seas | 43. Prevarication                     |
| 5. Make move                         | 44. Pastries                          |
| 9. Marten                            | 45. Awkward                           |
| 14. Compact                          | 46. Separates with an instrument      |
| 15. Field                            | 48. Jawless fish                      |
| 16. Electronic communication         | 50. Arthropod genus                   |
| 17. Businessmen                      | 53. Chordophones                      |
| 18. Egyptian goddess                 | 58. Laws                              |
| 19. Elias __, Nobel prize chemist    | 62. Expression                        |
| 20. Swizzlesticks                    | 63. Anchorage                         |
| 23. Inactiveness                     | 64. Cookie                            |
| 24. Graphite                         | 65. Emil von __, Czech engineer       |
| 25. Soviet labor camp inmate         | 66. Enameled metalware                |
| 27. Crystals                         | 67. Give temporarily                  |
| 32. African title of respect         | 68. Helicopters                       |
| 36. Inflammatory disease             | 69. Type genus of the Otididae        |
| 39. Ancient Greek City               | 70. Thomas __, British composer, 1700 |
| 40. Couple's decision                |                                       |

## CLUES DOWN

- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Attacks                      | 33. Harm                        |
| 2. Expressed gold               | 34. King of Huns (Scandinavian) |
| 3. Shade                        | 35. I                           |
| 4. Niche                        | 37. After B                     |
| 5. Fabric finish                | 38. Birthplace of Constantine   |
| 6. Kiln                         | 41. Recesses                    |
| 7. Run                          | 42. Sunk in the sea             |
| 8. Turn out                     | 47. Curatives                   |
| 9. Break up                     | 49. Homes                       |
| 10. Egyptian god of life        | 51. Novo seaport                |
| 11. Cartoon prankster           | 52. Traveling by foot           |
| 12. Consists                    | 54. City in North Zambia        |
| 13. Town in Cambridgeshire      | 55. Panelist                    |
| 21. Indian title                | 56. Water                       |
| 22. David __, U.S. playwright   | 57. Rock                        |
| 26. Japanese persimmon          | 58. Turkish brandy              |
| 28. 13 to 19                    | 59. Wife                        |
| 29. Protoctist                  | 60. Venice beach                |
| 30. Brainstorm                  | 61. Colombian Town              |
| 31. Flavor                      | 62. Seasoner                    |
| 32. Bacon-lettuce-tomato snacks |                                 |

Answers on Page 21

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# 16th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 1)

taking 2nd Place overall.

Fishing hours for the tournament are from 6 am to 2 pm with 11 paid places each hour. To add more fun to the tournament and not break some angler's hearts, the first each hour to be knocked out of 10th Place receives a \$100 gift certificate from one of the sponsoring businesses here on Lake Fork.

For added incentive to anglers there will be three Xpress bass boats given away. For the heaviest bass over the 24" slot caught during the tournament they will not only be taking home a check for 1st

Place in an hour but also an Xpress X21Pro equipped with Yamaha, MinnKota, and Humminbird electronics.

This is the same type of boat that Bassmaster Elite Pros, Bill Lowen, Harvey Horne, Dale Hightower, and Caleb Sumrall fish the circuit in.

Having been a guide on Lake Fork for 18 years and owned this newspaper for 22 years I can attest to many anglers having never caught a bass weighing over 10-pounds. Well, Lake Fork is definitely your best chance to do this. For this very reason when I began this tournament, I wanted an

extra incentive for the anglers. This is when my wife and I came up with the great idea to give a grand prize to the heaviest bass under the 16" slot. For the angler that catches the heaviest bass under the 16" mark they will be taking home a check and an Xpress X19Pro fully equipped.

By getting your entry in early before April 30th you could also be a big winner. In a drawing of all the early entries one lucky angler will be taking home an Xpress H20B, 20-foot center console, equipped with Yamaha, MinnKota, and Humminbird electronics.

There also will be a T-Shirt hour every hour of the tournament. If the angler has a T-Shirt with him when he weighs his bass and wins 1st Place in the hour, they will get an extra \$100.

Anglers can also purchase Killer Outdoors

7'2" MH rods for only \$60 while supply last.

For more information on the tournament see ad on Page 15 or go to [www.legendoflakefork.com](http://www.legendoflakefork.com) to download entry and for all tournament rules. If you should have any questions, you can contact me at fish-

[news@lakefork.net](mailto:news@lakefork.net) or give me a call at 903-360-6994.

Hope to see you at the tournament or on the lake

The Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament is solely owned by Don and Sue Hampton.

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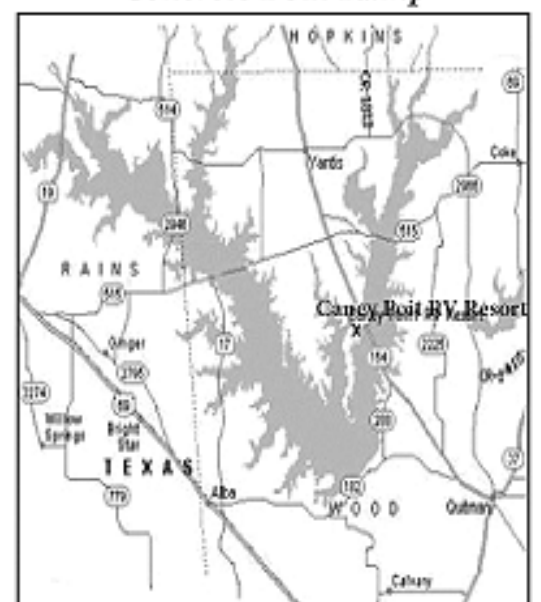
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# "The Moon Report" "March "Mayhem" on Fork"

By Terri Moon

Well as if the past year hasn't been crazy enough – the entire state of Texas was blasted with a crippling blizzard! Everyone is still trying to recover from all the damage this created. It's devastating what everyone had to endure and so sad the loss of life – but, also "heartwarming" to see all the friends, neighbors and total strangers pitch in and help one another get through it! I am sure grateful to everyone that helped me out!

While all of you were going through the blizzard in Texas, I was snowed in at Mama Novas in Missouri, and we were on our 3rd blizzard, so it worked out good that I couldn't get home. We were blessed with not losing power or water. We were sure sending prayers your way! Once again, I apologize to anyone who tried to reach me – but, when I'm at Mama Novas I don't have cell service – it's off the grid – just ask Verizon!! If I drive 20 miles to town, it will work – but, our roads looked like yours did. Going to town was not an option! (It's making me think hard about a 4-wheel drive). Looks like roads should clear this week so I'm sure looking forward to the warmer weather and



the lake thaw out.

The water temperature took a dive to the low 40's – OUCH! That will slow things down a little. It didn't slow Cameron down. He had a great video of breaking the ice to go fishing! I love it!

I think we are all excited for the spring migration to get under way. You might check that 30 to 40 ft. depths around the creeks and timber lines, and keep an eye on the water temps. Won't be long they'll come through the bridges. Last year at this time water temps were low 60's and we were fishing 16 – 24 ft. Come on sunshine!

I'm very excited to get to see my new Skeeter Solera 205 and get it rigged out. (I'm having "live scope" withdrawal!)

While the weather is bad, it's a great time to get your reels re-spooled and oiled so you can be ready to go when the weather breaks. Also, it's a

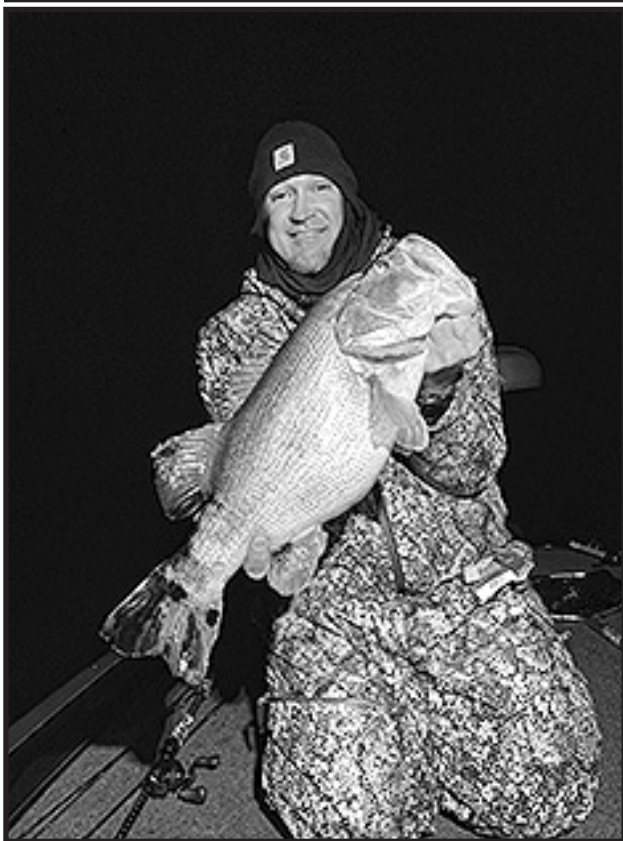
good time to visit Lake Fork Marina store and check out all the new Bone Head rods and baits they have available now. Make sure you have a good assortment of their jig head sizes and bait sizes and colors to accommodate fishing conditions and fishing depths. Lake Fork Marina is great about carrying all your crappie fishing needs!

Let's all hope for consistent warmer temperatures and hopefully those March winds will be kind to us!

Please remember – sadly we are still in the grips of Covid – so please do what you can to stay safe and keep your distance till we all can be vaccinated. Prayers to all who have lost loved ones to this and wishing you many blessings!

Don't forget the 10-inch minimum length goes back in effect March 1st!





Brad Penny, 2003 World Series Champion MLB pitcher was fishing with Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith on Monday February 22 when he caught this nice hawg, C.P.R.

## Bird City Texas Certifies Three New Communities

Bird City Texas, a partnership program between Audubon Texas and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), is proud to announce that Galveston, San Antonio and Surfside Beach have been certified as Bird City Texas communities. These three communities join the inaugural 2020 Bird City Texas communities and will be certified through December 2023.

Bird City Texas is a community-focused

certification program that was created to help people protect birds and their habitats. The criteria required to attain certification is designed to be impactful and efficient against habitat loss and other harmful factors impacting birds. The program is centered on science-based bird conservation initiatives and community action to help enhance and restore bird habitats, increase native plant coverage, reduce population-level

threats, increase public awareness of the benefits and challenges of bird conservation and promote environmental stewardship. "Intuitively, many people understand the value of nature and green spaces,

and the need to escape to green spaces was highlighted in 2020," said Audubon Texas Director of Conservation Strategy, Romey Swanson. "Communities that

(See Bird City Texas.. Continued on Page 21)



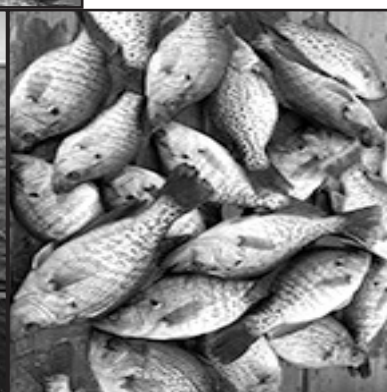
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**LAKE FORK**

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**FISHING TRIPS**

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# Toyota ShareLunker Program Caps off the 2020 Season

Anglers across the state entered 340 lunker bass greater than 8 pounds in the Toyota ShareLunker program from 86 lakes during the 2020 season, which wrapped up Dec. 31. In addition to helping produce bigger, better bass for Texas lakes, anglers who enter their big bass catches in the program receive special recognition and prizes, including an entry into a year-end drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license.

"We are excited to announce that after wrapping up another great year of data collection in the Toyota ShareLunker program, angler Roy Saunders of Abilene was randomly selected from the 2020 entries to win the coveted year-end \$5,000 shopping spree to Bass Pro Shops," said Kyle Brookshear, Toyota ShareLunker program coordinator. "We want to remind anglers that every certified ShareLunker entry will earn you a chance of winning this drawing along with many other great prizes in 2021, so be sure to download the Toyota ShareLunker mobile app and get fishing."

Saunders reeled in an Elite Class Lunker on Feb. 16, 2020 on Kirby Lake, making him eligible for entry into the drawing. The fish checked in at a weight of 10.22 pounds with a length of 23.25 inches. It's the largest bass Saunders has ever caught and it's also his first entry into the ShareLunker program.

"We went out tube fishing on Kirby Lake and I was catching some small bass to start off the day," said Saunders. "Out of the corner of my eye, I saw some bullrush movement and knew there had to be something out there. I headed that direction and dropped in a green/orange crawdad bait and the fish bought it. I scooped the fish up in my net and it turned out to be the largest bass I've ever reeled in. When we go fishing, we catch anything and everything we can. We don't usually go out targeting one specific fish, we just want to catch fish."

"It was exciting to get the call that I had won the drawing from Kyle [Brookshear] and have the chance to participate in this great program," added Saunders. "To the young anglers, my advice is to get out there on the water and do your best, because it will pay off."

"All anglers participating in the ShareLunker program, like Roy, play a vital citizen scientist role in helping manage Texas' world class fisheries

for current and future anglers," added Brookshear. "When these anglers provide the catch and genetic data from their Lunkers throughout the year, it supplements the intensive sampling data collected by our fisheries biologists. Ultimately the additional data better enables our biologists to make even better management decisions for Texas' fisheries, and that is a win for everyone."

Once a lunker is reeled in, anglers need to enter the catch data and appropriate photos 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](https://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 year-round and offers four levels of participation for bass over 8 pounds caught in Texas. In 2020, anglers entered 4 Legacy Class bass over 13 pounds and loaned them to TPWD for the selective breeding and stocking program during the spawning window Jan. 1 through Mar. 31. Anglers tallied 3 additional Legend Class bass over 13 pounds that were caught outside the spawning window. 84 Elite Class bass weighing 10 to 12.99 pounds and 249

(Continued on Next Page)



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Lunker Class bass weighing between 8 and 9.99 pounds or at least 24 inches.

The top five ShareLunker producing lakes in 2020 included: Lake Fork with 60 entries, Lake Conroe with 20 entries, the Brazos River with 16 entries, Sam Rayburn Reservoir with 15 entries, and Falcon Lake and Lake Athens tied with 10 entries each. To see how your favorite fishing location fared in 2020 or how the fishing is so far in 2021, visit the archives at TexasShareLunker.com.

The 2021 season is off to a hot start with four Legacy Class Lunkers being reeled in during the month of January. Anglers who catch a 13+ pound bass can loan it to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the ShareLunker selective breeding and stocking program

through the end of March. 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 li-

cense. ShareLunker entry classes include the Lunker Class (8lb+), Elite Class (10lb+), and Legend Class (13lb+).

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 major 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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# Public Help Sought to Report Fish and Wildlife Impacted by Winter Storm Uri

Recent snowfall and freezing temperatures affected many fish and wildlife species throughout the state and now Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is asking for the public's help in reporting any animal mortality events they observe on their property, ranches, or in their neighborhoods through this project on the iNaturalist website. Citizens are encouraged to report observations so that biologists can better understand the impacts of Winter Storm Uri to natural resources.

The prolonged period of subfreezing temperatures, coupled with a limited availability of food resources due to snow and ice has had some impact on wildlife resources; however, given the secretive nature of most wildlife species, the full extent of the impact cannot yet be determined. Some of the wildlife species impacted by the storm include exotic, non-native ungulates like axis deer, blackbuck and nilgai antelope that originate in temperate climates, various bat species and multiple bird species.

While TPWD has no regulatory authority regarding the management of exotic species, the cold weather did have a significant impact on these species. Native species like white-tailed and mule deer are much more tolerant to these extreme cold weather events than the exotics.

TPWD does not foresee any significant losses of white-tailed or mule deer. Noticeable white-tailed deer mortalities, except for a few older deer, are not being reported. Some mortality of very old white-tailed deer, or those in poor body condition, is to be expected.

Despite the potential significant loss of axis and blackbuck, this mortality event may lower free-ranging exotic populations in areas of the Texas Hill Country where they were overpopulated, ultimately helping native habitats that benefit white-tailed deer and other wildlife.

At this time, the more pressing concern is possible impacts the cold weather had on the native deer habitat in some regions. In South Texas, some brush species still had green leaves prior to the freeze and snowfall. Now, however, TPWD staff are noticing many shrubs shedding leaves and turning brown. Additionally, the winter herbaceous vegetation, which are critical for deer this time of year and into the early spring, were impacted and burned by the freezing temperatures. TPWD is hopeful that, despite the cold temperatures, the moisture from the snow and ice was able to be absorbed by the soil and as temperatures warm up, the usual spring green-up will take place statewide.

Across the state, citizens, biologists, and park employees are reporting dead bats under bridges, along with finding live bats that were downed due to the freeze because of dehydration, starvation, and cold body temperatures. Currently, wildlife

rehabilitators and other organizations are being inundated with the bats that survived the storm and doing everything they can to help.

Should citizens find dead or live bats, it's extremely important that people do not handle bats. The best course of action is to record the observation via iNaturalist and then, if the downed bat is still alive, contact a rehabilitator. A list of wildlife rehabilitators can be found on the TPWD website as well as on the Bat World Sanctuary website.

TPWD staff continue to receive reports of dead birds, including waterfowl. Biologists have received reports of dead songbirds and woodpeckers, possibly resulting from poor body condition

and lack of cover from ongoing drought conditions in certain habitats. Insectivorous and nectivorous bird species likely suffered greater losses than other bird species. Quail, however, fared well according to some reports. Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), among other WMAs with wetland ecosystems, reported hundreds of dead coots and multiple dead Blue-winged Teal.

As staff are able to continue visiting field sites, along with reports from the public through iNaturalist, TPWD will be able to better analyze the long term Winter Storm Uri impacts on wildlife and other resources.

## 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



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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

TTB USE ONLY	
Entry # _____	
Entry Fee _____	
Big Bass _____	
Cash _____ Chk# _____	





## **16th Annual Big Bass Tournament**

**May 14, 15, 16, 2021**

***Now Accepting Reservations For  
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***For May 14, 15, 16, 2021***

*Anglers from all over the nation will be converging on Lake  
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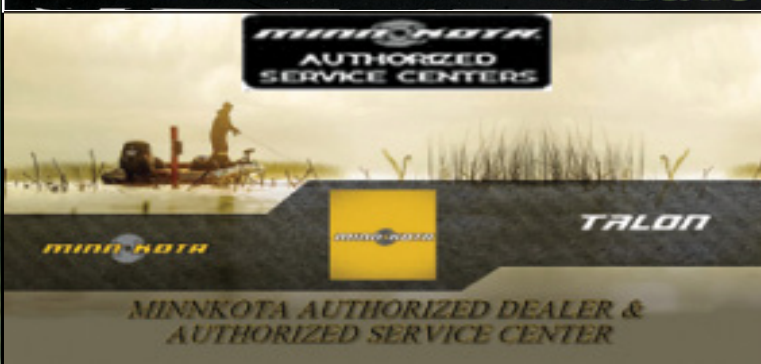
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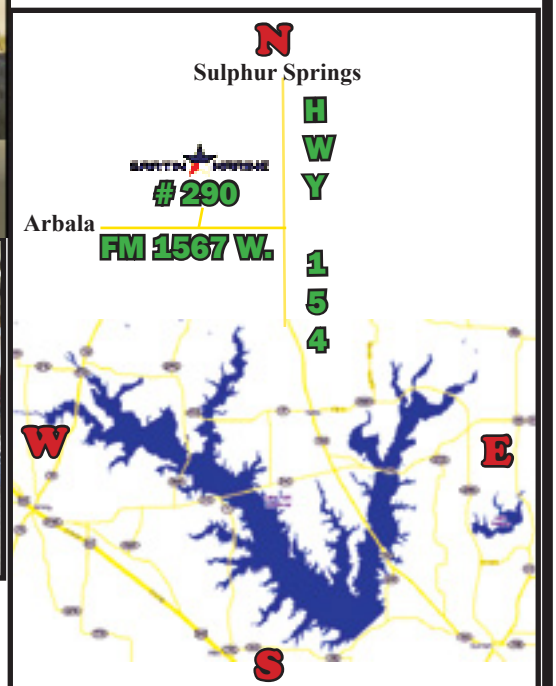
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All Boats, Makes, Models Welcome  
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**\$210,000** Guaranteed in  
Cash & Prizes

Benefiting "The Wish to Fish Foundation"

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

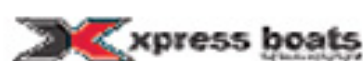
## GRAND PRIZES INCLUDE:

(3) 2021 Xpress Boats, Powered by Yamaha, MinnKota, HUMMINBIRD Electronics  
To Be Awarded For: 1 for the Heaviest Over The Slot,  
1 for Heaviest Bass Under The Slot, 1 for Draw Boat  
(Early Entries ONLY and must be present to win.)

11 PLACES PAID HOURLY 1ST - \$800 • 2ND - \$400 • 3RD - \$300 • 4TH - \$200 • 5TH - \$175  
• 6TH - \$150 • 7TH - \$135 • 8TH - \$125 • 9TH - \$115 • 10TH - \$110 • 1st Out of 10th \$100 GC

**BONUS T-SHIRT HOUR EVERY HOUR OF THE TOURNAMENT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 903-360-6994 OR 903-383-7748 EMAIL: [FISHNEWS@LAKEFORK.NET](mailto:FISHNEWS@LAKEFORK.NET)








Crappie Anglers  
of  
Texas






# 8th ANNUAL CRAPPIEFEST

## Saturday, March 27, 2021

### Lake Fork

Tournament Hours—7:00 AM—1:00 PM  
Must be in Weigh-In line by 2:00 PM @ Rains Cty. High School, Emory, TX

**INDIVIDUAL – BIG FISH TOURNAMENT**

SINGLE POLE | \$75 Per Person Entry Fee  
C.A.T. Membership NOT required to participate

NEW THIS YEAR!

**DRIVE-THRU  
WEIGH IN**

# \$38,950 Guaranteed Payout



*Fish from Boats,  
Banks or Docks*

**TOP 20 BIG FISH PAYOUTS**

\$1,250 to the Top finishing C.A.T. Member

\$7,500 "SeaArk Boats Monster Crappie Bonus" for 3 pound + Crappie (if more than one 3 lb. + crappie is caught the bonus money will be split)

\$500 for the FIRST Crappie weighing exactly 1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 1.75 and 2.00 lbs.

CRAPPIEFEST

**GOLDEN  
TICKET**

CRAPPIEFEST

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**Multiple  
Golden  
Tickets**

**worth  
\$1000  
each!!**

Adult participants NOT weighing in a "Top 6 Fish" are eligible for a chance to win!! (Drawing after the Tournament!!)

**ONE FISH WEIGH IN**

Jr. Anglers (2 Divisions—ages 10 and under; 11-17)  
Are encouraged to participate (NO entry fee, Prizes only)



Please visit our Website [www.crappieanglersoftexas.com](http://www.crappieanglersoftexas.com) for membership, meeting information, tournament entry forms and complete tournament rules.

## Public Input Sought on Texas Freshwater Fishing Regulation Proposals for 2021-2022

Changes to length and bag limits for blue and channel catfish statewide and at specific locations highlight this year's list of proposed freshwater fishing regulation changes. The proposed changes also include minor modifications to passive gear float dimensions.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is taking public comment on the following proposed changes to the 2021-2022 Statewide Recreational and Commercial Fishing Procla-

mation, with input to be considered before any action by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at its March 25 public hearing.

"A team of TPWD fisheries biologists have worked for the past two years to review our current catfish regulations with the goals of continuing to provide good angling, meeting current angler needs, and reducing the number of regulation categories," said Craig Bonds, TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division Director. "These

proposed regulations address what we have heard from anglers about their fishing motivations and can be appropriately used across the diversity of our state's waters."

The current statewide regulations for blue and channel catfish consist of a 12-inch minimum length limit and a 25-fish daily bag limit that combines both species. The proposed changes would remove the minimum length limit (fish of any length could be

(See Input Sought ....  
Continued on Page 18)

### World Championship Bass on the Fly Fishing Tournament



LAKE FORK, TEXAS at Lake Fork Marina  
SATURDAY MAY 1, 2021 6:00AM- 2:00PM

RODS, REELS AND FLIES MUST BE EXCLUSIVELY FOR FLY FISHING.  
THIS IS A CATCH-PHOTO-RELEASE TOURNAMENT.  
ALL COVID PROTOCOLS MUST BE FOLLOWED.

#### TWO DIVISIONS

**BOATERS:** 1-2 PERSON TEAM, 5-FISH PHOTOS, TOTAL LENGTH; BIG BASS.  
**KAYAK** (kayak, float tube, pontoon, canoe or bank fishermen. No power.)

Individual, 5-FISH PHOTOS, TOTAL LENGTH; BIG BASS.

**CLUB TROPHY:** 3 big fish, total length for Club.

**COST:** \$70/PERSON, includes \$5 big bass pot.

**PAYOUT:** 1-\$1000, 2nd-\$600, 3-\$400, 4-\$300, 5-\$200, 6-10 \$100. Big Bass - \$300, \$200. (100 entries)

#### PLANNED ACTIVITIES

**FRIDAY - 1-5pm- FREE CASTING CLINICS & CONTESTS, PRODUCT & KAYAK DEMOS**  
3-6pm -BIG SUNFISH TOURNEY \$10, optional, pay on site.  
6 pm – Lake Fork Guide report.

**SATURDAY - 9am-NOON- FREE CASTING CLINICS, PRODUCT & KAYAK DEMOS**  
2:00 pm- PHOTO "WEIGH-IN", CASTING CONTESTS  
3:00pm- WINNERS PAYOUT & DOOR PRIZES

**REGISTRATION & PAYMENT:** ONLINE at [www.ianglertournament.com](http://www.ianglertournament.com)  
Or ON SITE Noon-9:00 PM Friday or 5-6:00 AM Saturday, cash or online.  
Must be registered by April 15 to be eligible for drawing for A SAGE FLY ROD.

ALL CONTESTANTS MUST **CHECK-IN** AT THE TOURNAMENT SITE  
WITH SIGNED RELEASE FORM BEFORE FISHING.  
**YOU MUST HAVE A SMART PHONE TO TAKE & TRANSMIT PHOTOS**

Check website, [www.bassonthefly.org](http://www.bassonthefly.org), for rules & registration. Or [info@bassonthefly.org](mailto:info@bassonthefly.org).  
Proceeds benefit Reel Recovery and Patriot Anglers

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## "Knowing What To Look For!"

A historic freeze has hit Texas and man it hit us hard. February can be cold and yes we can get some snow and ice but its usually a one or two day deal and we are back to normal. Well this was not the case this time. After 230 hours of below freezing temperatures, record setting lows reaching negative numbers, more than 1 foot of snow and ice and our lakes even freezing over it only took 48 hours to melt it all off. Gotta love Texas weather.

Now lets talk about fishing--Fork during the month of March. The big question is will this epic week long cold spell change the fishing in March? The direct answer is yes however not as

much as you may think. It really depends on a few important factors so here are some important things to realize and some great tips to help you find and catch bass over the next few weeks here at Fork. First you need to understand and believe that once the bass has committed to moving into the shallows to spawn they will not migrate back out because of bad weather or cold water conditions. They simply hunker down and stay I promise you.

Pay very close to the warming trends. Not just the day time but more importantly the night time. When the night time lows stay above the current water temperature, the lake will have

a 24 hour period of warm trend, 2 days in a row (48 hours) and the water temperatures change very quickly. Look for fog in the morning, this will point you to where the warmest water is on the lake, these are the first areas you will find the big bass. Look for dirty water. Dirty water will warm up much faster than clear water. In fact dirty water with

floating debris or matted vegetation is ideal.

Best baits in March. •1/2 oz. Lipless crank baits/ rattle traps

Colors- reds, reds/orange, red/chartreuse

•1/2 oz. Gold double willow leaf spinner bait.

Colors- chartreuse or chartreuse/white.

•3/8 oz chatterbait/jack hammer. Colors- white, white/chartreuse, sungill and/or green pumpkin.

•Santone 1/2oz rattling jig- Pakes perch, Mexican heather, Black & blue

•Texas rigged creature baits ( V&M j-bug, Zoom brush hogs etc..)

Colors- green pumpkin, june bug, black/blue.

I hope this will give you confidence and help you locate and catch more bass during the month of March.



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2021 Skeeter FXR20 APEX

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harvested) and retain the 25-fish daily bag. However, of the 25 blue or channel catfish that could be harvested per day, anglers would be limited to harvesting no more than 10 fish that measure 20 inches or longer.

Two new exceptions to the statewide regulations for blue and channel catfish are being proposed. The first category would follow the no minimum length limit and 25-fish daily bag limit for blue and channel catfish from the proposed statewide regulations but would further limit the number of fish 20 inches or larger that could be

harvested per day to five and further limit the number of fish 30 inches or larger that could be harvested to one. A total of 12 locations are proposed for this category. Following are the locations and their current regulations.

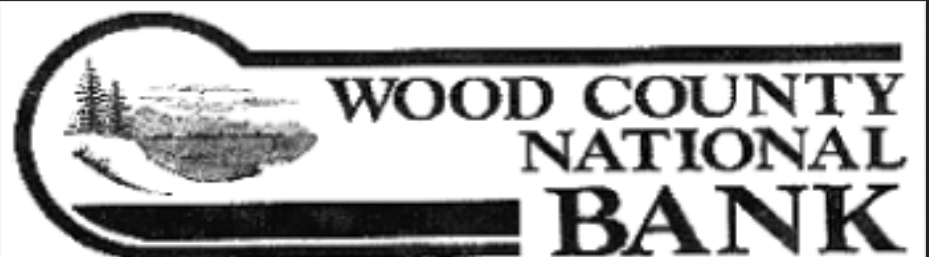
\* Six locations that are currently under statewide regulations: Lakes Belton (Bell and Coryell counties), Bob Sandlin (Camp, Franklin, and Titus counties), Conroe (Montgomery and Walker counties), Hubbard Creek (Stephens County), Lavon (Collin County), and Ray Hubbard (Collin, Dallas, Kaufman, and Rock-

wall counties).

\* Three locations currently under a 30- to 45-inch slot length limit: Lewisville (Denton County), Richland-Chambers (Freestone and Navarro counties), and Waco (McClennan County).

\* Two locations currently under no minimum length limit but with harvest limits of five fish that measure 20 inches or longer: Kirby (Taylor County) and Palestine (Cherokee, Anderson, Henderson, and Smith counties).

\* Lake Tawakoni (Hunt, Rains, and Van Zandt counties) currently is under simi-

*(Continued on Next Page)*

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lar regulations: no minimum but with harvest limits of seven over 20 inches and two over 30 inches.

The final new exemption category proposed is a 14-inch minimum length limit and a 15-fish combined daily bag for blue and channel catfish. Locations proposed for this category, which are currently under statewide regulations, are:

\* Lakes Braunig (Bexar County), Calaveras (Bexar County), Choke Canyon (Live Oak and McMullen counties), Fayette County (Fayette County), and Proctor (Comanche County).

Additionally, two reservoirs will be added to an existing blue and channel catfish regulation category: no minimum length limit and a 50-fish bag limit with the additional restriction that no more than five fish of 30 inches or larger could be harvested per day. Those reservoirs are Lake Livingston (Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker counties), which has a 12-inch minimum length limit and 50-fish daily bag limit, and Lake Sam Rayburn (Jasper County), which is currently under statewide regulations.

These two reservoirs, Lake Livingston and Lake Sam Rayburn and these reservoirs, Lakes Caddo (Harrison and Marion counties)

and Toledo Bend (Newton Sabine, and Shelby tpwd.texas.gov.

counties), and the Sabine River (Newton and Orange counties), which are currently in the above regulation category, will also be added to the regulations for commercial harvest.

Current statewide length and bag limits for commercial harvest will remain at 14 inches and 25 fish [both species combined], and a

five-fish bag limit will apply on all community fishing lakes and lying totally within a state park.

Changes are also proposed to standardize the descriptions for float dimensions for some passive gears as length and width rather than height and diameter. Also, inadvertently, the width of the float for minnow traps was listed as 6 inches, and it should be 3 inches.

Additional details on the proposed regulation changes, including narrated presentations on the proposed changes, can be found on the public comment page and in the Texas Register.

Opportunities to provide comments for or against these proposals include:

Online: At TPWD public comment page until March 24.

Phone or Email: Comments on the proposed changes may be submitted to Ken Kurzawski at (512) 389-4591, email: ken.kurzawski@

Online Webinar: TPWD staff will present proposed fishing regulation changes and answer questions in an online webinar at 7:00 p.m. Mar. 4. The webinar will also be posted on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's YouTube channel and Facebook page.

In person: The TPW Commission will take public comment on the proposed changes at their meeting on Thursday, March 25 in Austin. Public testimony will normally be limited to three minutes per person.



### 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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# "Big Bass Are Going to be Super Hungry!" (Continued from Page 6)

cal guide can be the big bass education you've always needed. They will show you what to look for and how to cover the right water to locate the "always elusive" slouch's. Like I said before, cold fronts can be a game changer when pursuing trophy bass so pay close attention to the areas that you are fishing. Fish will pull back during these conditions and you will need to back out and target wood in the 6-14ft range to collect your trophy prize. A black/blue jig will gain the starring role and be sure to stay in contact with the jig to feel the bite. Big bass will often bite very softly so you will need to control the

slack line to feel the jig as it scours the bottom.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in March 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 dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LakeForkGuideDavidOzio>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon Custom Lures for making my job the blast that it is. I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". I wish all of you a blessed day."



Charles McCallum with David Ozio



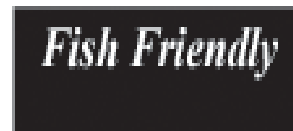
James Mason with David Ozio



Zach Turner with David Ozio



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## Bird City Texas (Continued from Page 9)

achieved certification in January 2021 did outstanding work in creating and maintaining places of respite for people and wildlife alike. Galveston, San Antonio and Surfside Beach all embody the conservation ethic and leadership both TPWD and Audubon Texas want for all our Texas communities."

Working within local COVID-19 restrictions, Bird City Texas communities will provide virtual or socially distanced birding opportunities in the coming months and will conduct conservation work to the best of their ability. To learn more about Bird City Texas community programming, those interested can visit the Chamber of Commerce web-

sites for each community, as well as the TPWD Bird City Texas website.

The 2021 Bird City Texas application cycle will begin in early summer. Communities interested in applying for cer-

tification can visit the Bird City Texas website for more information.

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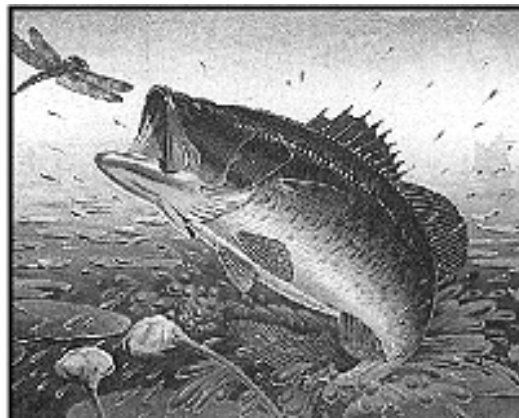
### Famous Authors Word Find

See how many of the world's most famous authors you can find and circle throughout the puzzle below.

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ALCOTT  
BRONTE  
COOPER  
ELLISON  
FAULKNER  
HEMINGWAY  
HOMER

LEWIS  
MILNE  
ROWLING  
SENDAK  
SHAKESPEARE  
SWIFT  
TOLKIEN  
TWIN

M I L N E E N A R T B H  
N L H F L R D O O O R E  
H E H O L E B E W L O M  
X W S W I F T I L K N I  
L I D O S S H N I I T N  
Y S H H O M E R N E E G  
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## Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Small World-- A Polk County game warden was contacted by a woman on social media asking if he had any meat to donate for her family of six. The warden donated deer meat and after getting to know the family, learned the dad was a disabled veteran and hadn't been hunting in over 10 years since before the military. The warden then reached out to local landowners and got

a hunt donated for him and one of his children at Rocky Creek Ranch. The veteran took his eldest daughter of 13 on her first hunt and during the hunt, the warden found out his kids were from the same town the warden grew up in. Small world, great memories.

--Giving Back--Recently, Polk County game wardens reached out to local landowners to find ways to give back to their community through the outdoors. The decision was made to organize a disabled

veteran and youth hunt. A drawing was held on social media to select qualifying participants for the hunt, which in turn created great support from local businesses and community members. A father (retired Navy veteran) and son (first time hunter) were selected to participate in the hunt. The father and son joined Game Wardens on the Simon Peter Bend Ranch for an amazing hunt. Both hunters and the landowner were thrilled about the experience, and now

(Continued on Page 24)

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## "Fresh Vegetables Herald the Arrival of Spring"

By Sue Hampton

It's difficult not to feel some excitement as spring approaches. The days lengthen, the birds return and temperatures begin to rise. As the weather clears, many can't wait to venture out with family and friends and relieve the past winter's "cabin fever."

One great way to welcome the season is with a spring dinner party. Open up a bottle of white wine and serve up this delightful recipe for a spring vegetable saute'. Simple to prepare, the dish is an ideal way for

guests to enjoy the return of warmer weather.

### SPRING

#### VEGETABLE SAUTE'

¾ pound new potatoes, cut in half  
½ pound sugar snap peas, trimmed  
2 tablespoons butter  
3 to 4 small spring onions, thinly sliced  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
½ teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg  
2 to 3 tablespoons chopped fresh mint  
Salt

Freshly ground black pepper

Place a large pot of salted water over high heat and bring to a boil. Add the potatoes and cook for 20 minutes or until tender. Add the snap peas during the last two minutes of cooking time. Drain.

Heat the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onions and garlic and cook for five minutes or until tender. Add the potatoes, snap peas, nutmeg and mint. Toss to coat well. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

In the next recipe, the versatile sweet potato takes center stage in a delicious muffin.

#### SWEET POTATO MUFFINS

(Makes 12 muffins)

1 cup plus 2 tablespoons brown sugar  
½ cup canola or corn oil  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 eggs

2 cups unbleached white flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg

½ teaspoon freshly grated all-spice

½ teaspoon salt

2 large sweet potatoes (about 1-1/3 pounds), peeled and finely grated, to make 4 cups

½ cup raisins

1 cup chopped walnuts

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Butter or oil a tin to hold twelve muffins.

2. In a small bowl, whisk together the brown sugar, oil, vanilla and eggs.

3. In a large bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder, spices, salt and grated sweet potatoes. Make a well in the center, and pour in the egg mixture. Stir in the egg mixture, gradually incorporating it with the flour mixture. Stir in the raisins and walnuts. Spoon the batter into the tins. Fill each tin to the rim to make a large cap (no, the batter does not overflow). Bake the muffins for 25 to 30 minutes or until a knife inserted into a muffin comes out clean.

4. Take the muffin tin out of the oven. Run a paring knife carefully around each muffin, then invert the pan, and knock one edge against your work surface to release the muffins. Serve the muffins right away.



Welcome the return of warm weather with this delightful, fresh-tasting spring vegetable saute' and delicious sweet potato muffins!

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# Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

plan to keep in contact with one another. Moyer's Processing donated full processing of the meat, and McQuilkin Taxidermy donated a full shoulder mount of the deer. A big thank you to Scott and Toni Cochran-Hughes for the Texas hospitality and amazing meals, as well as fully supporting our nation's heroes.

**--Brotherly Love--** A Cass County game warden was contacted by a landowner about a man he caught on his game camera carrying two rifles. The warden recognized the person and contacted the suspect's brothers to confirm the location of the suspect and to help set up an interview. Wardens interviewed the suspect, who admitted to hunting from the roadway and shooting a pig. The pig ran onto a hunting lease and the suspect admitted to searching for the pig on the lease with both guns. Charges Pending.

**--Safe Harbor--** Cass County game wardens received a call from a couple of duck hunters who were unable to get back to land from the Sulphur River. Wardens responded with a flat bottom boat, attempting to locate the hunters. Both hunters were located and transported to paramedics, who were waiting nearby. One hunter was hypothermic due to exposure to the cold water and the other was checked out and later released.

**--Tractor Pull--** A Cherokee County game warden came upon a hunter on a tractor attempting to dump the carcass of a doe deer. The subject stated that he was not aware that doe days had closed on Nov. 29. Upon questioning, it was determined that the subject's friend who was back at camp had also had some success that morning and had taken a buck. Upon arrival at the camp, the warden discovered an untagged buck that also failed to meet antler restrictions. Cases pending.

**--Dove Tales--** A Real County game warden received a call from a group of people who were trying to fish on their own property. The caller stated while they were fishing, they were peppered by shot gun pellets and were seeing a lot of dove flying in the area. The warden arrived at the location and met a truck leaving the property, asking the driver if he had been hunting. The driver said he had been dove hunting and killed seven

birds. The warden informed the hunter that dove season in the Central Zone ended on the 14th. The hunter was cited for Hunt Dove in Closed Season and his birds were seized and donated. Case pending.

**--Ineligible--** A Webb County game warden and Duval County game warden completed an investigation on an individual who had entered a deer into the local Muy Grande Deer Contest. The individual who shot the deer was from out of state and did not possess a license. She then bought a license five hours later after entering the deer into the contest. The deer scored 172 5/8 Boone and Crockett Score. Cases and Civil restitution pending.

**--Decoyed--** While checking duck hunters along the Frio River, a game warden contacted a boat containing four duck hunters. The "so-called" guide stated he did not have

*(Continued on Next Page)*



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a hunting license, identification and failed to have enough PFD's for his hunters on board. While inspecting the ducks, one hunter attempted to awkwardly pick up a pile of decoys and move it away from the warden. When the warden asked the hunter what was under the pile of decoys and why he tried to move them in such a weird manner, the hunter stated he found a large alligator skull on the bank. He attempted to hide it as he was unsure if it was legal for him to possess. The hunter was informed he could not possess the skull which was found on the Daughtry Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Multiple cases were filed for hunting without a license, insufficient PFD's and illegal possession of an alligator. The alligator skull is expected to meet or exceed the record for the largest alligator documented on the Choke Canyon.

--**Citizen Assist**-- A Lubbock District game warden received a call regarding hunters being on the Dimmit Playa WMA in Castro County. The Dimmit Playa WMA is a drawn only hunt property and the informant that called was a hunter who had won the drawn hunt and was currently scouting the property for the upcoming weekend. The informant told the warden that when he arrived at the

Dimmit Playa there was a pickup parked at the gate of the property. As he got closer, he noticed three hunters firing shotguns inside the property. The Castro County Sheriff's Office was dispatched and arrived on scene first due to logistics. After interviewing the suspects, the sheriff discovered they had killed five pheasants. The warden coordinated with the sheriff and all five pheasants were seized and civil restitution was filed. The suspects were also cited for the following violations: Taking or Possessing species from a Wildlife Management Area, Failure to have an Annual Public Hunting Permit and a No Upland Game Bird Endorsement Violation.

--**The Munchies**-- Wardens were patrolling in Childress County for state law violations when they observed a vehicle with a Louisiana license plate traveling East on a rural highway. A traffic stop was conducted and during the initial contact with the driver, the warden's pointed out that there was a small purple box with a marijuana leaf insignia on it that appeared to have "THC" written on the box. Warden's had the driver exit his vehicle and questioned him about his trip across the U.S. During the investigation, the driver admitted to having some mari-

juana and THC edibles inside the vehicle. A probable cause search of the vehicle yielded several containers of THC wax, THC edible candy, marijuana and several drug paraphernalia items. The driver was booked into the Childress County Jail without incident and charged with possession of a controlled substance PG2 4<400G, possession of marijuana less than 2oz, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

--**Unintended Consequences**-- A Williamson County game warden received an Operation Game Thief call regarding a buck shot out of season. The warden contacted the hunter who admitted to shooting a small four-point whitetail deer on Jan. 9. He said it was unintentional and thought it was a spike. The hunter was asked for his hunting license and he went inside his house to retrieve it. When the hunter gave it to the warden, he noticed the harvest log was not filled out and upon inspection one buck tag was missing. The warden asked to see the tag since the hunter stated he processed deer at home. The hunter took out the tag from his shirt pocket and gave it to the warden. The tag was not filled out and the dates were not cut out. Citations were issued.

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# Lake Fork Tournament Schedule Mar. thru May 2021



**March**

Mar. 6 ~ JC Outdoors Teams  
Minnow Bucket

Mar. 7 ~ JC Outdoors Solo  
Minnow Bucket

Mar. 13 ~ Media Bass Teams  
Minnow Bucket

Mar. 20 ~ Texas Trails Bassmasters  
Oak Ridge

Mar. 27 ~ 8th Annual CrappieFest  
Rains Cty. High School

Mar. 28 ~ Mega Bass  
Lake Fork Marina

**April**

Apr. 9-10 ~ Patriot Sporting Challenge  
Links at Land's End

Apr. 10 ~ Media Bass Teams  
Minnow Bucket

Apr. 17 ~ JC Outdoors Teams  
Minnow Bucket

Apr. 25 ~ JC Outdoors Solo  
Minnow Bucket



**May**

May 2 ~ JC Outdoors Solo  
Minnow Bucket

May 8 ~ Media Bass Teams  
Minnow Bucket

May 14,15,16 ~ Legend of Lake Fork  
Big Bass Tournament  
Lake Fork Marina

May 22 ~ JC Outdoors Teams  
Minnow Bucket



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**12 Places per hour**  
**GUARANTEED**  
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**EVERY HOUR**

1st place.....	\$15,000
2nd place.....	\$1,000
3rd place.....	\$900
4th place.....	\$800
5th place.....	\$700
6th place.....	\$600
7th place.....	\$500
8th place.....	\$400
9th place.....	\$300
10th place.....	\$250



**T-shirt bonus**  
**\$10.00**

11th ....\$200  
 12th ....\$200

**Even Weight Bonus \$\$**  
 2.50 lb - \$500 - 3.00 lb - \$500  
 9.00 lb - \$500 - 10.00 lb - \$500  
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**Amateurs Only - Open to all boat brands**

**Big Bass of the day**  
**WINS \$15,000 CASH**  
**and a SKEETER ZX 200**

**includes hourly win**



**Lake Fork**  
**Sunday, March 28th, 2021**

**Lake Fork Marina**

**Entry Fee: \$200 per person**  
 (Includes \$10 cash/check discount)

**Checks NOT accepted on site**

**On site registration times:**

Friday 5-7 PM

Sat 3/27: 12-7 PM Sun 3/28: 5 AM

**EARLY REGISTRATION DRAW PRIZES**

Entries received before March 24th  
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**For additional info. and rules go to [www.basschamps.com](http://www.basschamps.com) or call 817-439-3274**

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