Sixteenth Annual
Legend
of Lake Fork
Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

Expectations were high for all the anglers that came to participate in the 16th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament that was held on May 14th, 15th, 16th. The tournament was hosted out of Lake Fork Marina.

The weatherman and Mother Nature were the worst enemies of the anglers this year. With all the heavy rainfall that we have had lots of current was created. On Thursday, prior to the tournament five gates were open and on Friday two gates were open. For all of those that know Lake Fork, they are aware the big bass are not used to nor do they like when curr-

Cody Broadway from Tyler, Texas won in the 16th Annual Legend of Lake Fork for the heaviest bass under the slot weighing 2.60-lbs. For his catch he won $600 in hourly pay and a 2021 Xpress X19Pro.

Kamari Burnett from Plano, Texas wasn’t going to send his entry in early but with his father-in-law’s urging he decided to enter early and was real glad he did when his name was drawn for a 2021 Xpress H20B center console bass boat.

Patrick Sutton from Arp, Texas won in the 16th Annual Legend of Lake Fork for the heaviest bass over the slot weighing 11.19-lbs. For his catch he won $600 in hourly pay and a 2021 Xpress X21Pro.

17th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament May 13, 14, 15, 2022
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By Don Hampton

If you see Bubba running, he either just saw a snake, someone told him his boat was sinking, big bass are schooling, or Bubbette just rang the dinner bell. Whichever the case “DO NOT GET IN HIS WAY!”

Bubba believes in physical fitness, but his and Richard Simon’s definition of exercise are in no way similar. To Bubba’s way of thinking he is in shape. After all round is a shape!

Bubba believes jogging has something to do with the fear factor. He will run to get away from something or to something he is afraid he might miss. Everything else can be handled with a brisk walk if he’s in a hurry.

He has gone so far with this belief that he now, (to his way of thinking) has proof jogging is bad for you and can be fatal. He heard on the news that a man, shortly after jogging in California, had just returned to his house when an earthquake struck toppling the man’s home with him inside. Bubba believes he was too tired to exercise the fear factor and run outside. He now thinks if you see anyone jogging you should trip them and it would save their life. He explained, “Those skinned up knees will heal in time, but a house falling on you is hard to recover from!”

Bubba’s definition of a sit-up is something he has to do to eat at the dinner table or to watch television when Bubbette is in his recliner.

Remember the side straddle hops from gym class? To Bubba that is something you do to keep from stepping in something.

A push-up to Bubba comes in different flavors and his favorite is orange sherbet. A chin-up is something he does after an outstanding accomplishment or feat he is especially proud of.

Especially confusing to Bubba are aerobic exercise tapes to music. In his book, when you dance you are supposed to have a partner and the slower the music the closer you get. His aerobic exercising to music consists of the “Texas Two-Step” and a nice waltz.

Words like slim fast and fat free do not have a true meaning to Bubba. None of his friends have ever gotten slim fast, especially the ones over forty. Friends of his that try dieting, it seems the older they are the slower the diet works. He will not call any names but for some it has been years with no showing results. He thinks the only way they could see themselves as slim fast is to buy one of those novelty mirrors they have in the circus. And fat free! What is completely fat free? Every item of nourishment has fat. Some may be reduced and some may have very little, but fat is in our food. He believes this is a packaging gimmick. If a consumer sees an item marked “Fat Free” they will consume twice as much believing they will get slim fast.

Bubba will not go on a diet because of one very important reason. He does not eat for nourishment, he eats because he likes to eat and taste counts. He refers to sitting at a dinner table eating as building his table muscles.

When it comes to exercising, Bubba has his own definition of exercising. You might refer to it as Bubbacising (or sizing).

Polishing his boat builds up his arm and chest muscles. Hooking the boat up to the truck is pretty strenuous. Putting the boat in the water takes a controlled effort. Walking up and down the deck of the boat changing lures is a workout on the leg muscles. Casting a favorite lure all day is great exercise and setting the hook on the big one is muscle control and coordination.

Bubba isn’t a health fanatic, he is a fishing fanatic. People may not feel like jogging at times or doing their routine of exercising, but Bubbacising, he never misses a chance to work out.
ren is created by having the flood gates open. On Friday evening the gates were closed and the fishing began to get better. As I assured all the anglers, the weather would be nice during the tournament hours because I had spoken to our Lord about the matter. True to my faith the bad weather didn’t hit until Sunday at 12 noon, two hours before the conclusion of the tournament and the presentations.

Due to the tournament having to be postponed in 2020 because of state borders being closed due to the pandemic, attendance was down but not by much. Overall anglers representing 24 states converged on Lake Fork to try to catch the lunkers that swim here.

Lake Fork being a slot lake, meaning anything between 16” and 24” cannot be brought to the weigh-in, the tournament rule is no bass can touch 16”. The reason for this rule is not only to protect the anglers but also because we also give a boat away for the heaviest under 16”.

Anglers reported a lot of bass being caught in the slot but as we all know, they are great to catch but do not help in a Lake Fork tournament.

The first day of the tournament was especially great for Cody Broadway from Tyler, Texas when he weighed in a bass under 16” that tilted the scales at 2.60-pounds. His bass remained the heaviest under to be brought to the scales for the three days of the tournament. His bass won him not only $600 for first in the hour but a 2021 Xpress X19Pro bass boat, powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor, and Humminbird electronics. On Friday there was only one bass over the slot brought to the scales. This bass was weighed in the last hour by Justin Garnett from Fairfield, Texas and weighed 6.88-pounds.

On Saturday of the tournament there were six bass 24” and over brought to the scales. It all began in the 7 to 8 o’clock hour when Patrick Sutton from Arp, Texas brought a hawg weighing 11.19-pounds. In the 8 to 9 o’clock hour (Continued on Next Page)
John Leach from Killeen, Texas brought in a bass weighing 8-pounds and John Berech from Garland, Texas weighed in a 7.92-pound bass. During the 10 to 11 o’clock hour Jaxon Hansen from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma weighed an 8.29-pound bass. In the 11 to 12 o’clock hour there was an 8.37-pound bass brought to the scales by Jacob Callahan from Yantis, Texas. In the 12 to 1 o’clock hour Paul Bacon from Emory, Texas weighed in a 7.13-pound bass.

On Sunday, the last day of the tournament only one bass over 24” came to the scales. I do believe this was because of the inclement weather about to set in. This bass weighed 9.77-pounds and was caught by Bryan Tennison from Noble, Oklahoma. Patrick Sutton’s 11.19-pound bass held up as the heaviest over the slot winning him an hourly paycheck and a 2021 Xpress X21Pro, powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor, and Humminbird electronics. Kamari Burnett won the early incentive 2021 Xpress H20B bass boat, powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor, and Humminbird electronics.

There was a little history made this year in the tournament. In all the years I have never weighed a bass as light as the one I weighed in this year. Julian Boze from Henderson, Texas weighed in a bass weighing .12-pounds. As in all my tournaments, the first one to get knocked out of 10th place gets a $100 gift certificate from one of the local sponsoring businesses. Julian’s small bass won him that gift certificate.

The rains came on strong during the closing ceremony and the umbrellas and rain gear were apparent as the crowd stayed for the final presentations.

In closing, I would like to send out a very special thank you to all of our sponsors and local businesses for helping us to make this tournament an annual success.

Anglers mark your calendars for the 17th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament to be held May 13, 14, 15, 2022.

For all the hourly results see page 13 and for more photos page 15.

Take care, stay healthy, fish friendly, and God Bless.
“Big Bass Are Moving!”

By David Ozio

“Surely someone around here is building an Ark!! The rain has been relentless to date and the gates have been open since I don’t know when. It’s gotta stop! Nonetheless, big bass are moving out to deep water way ahead of schedule based upon current water temps. Seems like everything is totally screwed up this year. Bass are both shallow and deep and there are even reports that some are still on beds. I guess it’s pick your poison. Senko’s shallow or drop shots deep. Both work at the moment but knowledge of the electronics will move you to the next level scouting the deep locations.

Understanding what you see on your electronics is critical and I take for granted that everyone already has the ability to read the high tech electronics. If not, contact Slade Dougherty at 817 797-8762 and he will open your eyes to what these amazing machines can do for you. The next skill would be to determine where to look and how to recognize the bass that will start to gang up on certain types of structure. As stated earlier, humps and ridges are excellent but you can start with long tapering points. The next chore will be to ascertain what depth range where the green critters will set up shop. Start your scan in 35ft and graph your way into the 15ft range and then reverse course and head back to the starting point using a different track. Repeat this process until you have covered the entire point from front to back. If you see a group of arches on the screen during any one pass, set a waypoint on that location and put out a marker buoy on that spot once you have combed the entire area. During this time of the year, most fish will be on the bottom so you can focus your fish catching strategies on the Carolina rig, drop shot, Texas rig, jigs or crankbait. Flukes, brush hogs or any straight or curl tail worm will work using standard colors such as watermelon candy, redbug, plum or watermelon red. As for cranking, shad colored crankbaits along with chartreuse blue back also works well.

Next, let’s venture out to the offshore humps or ridges. Graph these locations back and forth until you spot the likely targets. Drop a waypoint on the fishy looking spot and fish each technique until you determine what presentation they favor. If your after a lunker of a lifetime, the jig with matching trailer will be your “go to” bait. To round out your search, target roadbeds and submerged structures such as brush piles or laydown timber. If the arches show up on your graph, pitch out a marker buoy and go to work. It’s not rocket science, it’s just locating where the fish are positioned. If all of this is somewhat confusing, your best bet will be to hire a full time Lake Fork guide and spend the day covering the aforementioned areas and have him point out what you need to be fishing. Bass move from day to day and they may be set (See Big Bass..... Continued on Page 20)
Texas State-Fish Art Contest Announces 2021 Winners

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center is pleased to announce the Texas division of Wildlife Forever’s Fish Art Contest winners for 2021. The Fish Art Contest is part of an international conservation education program designed to foster youth interest in fish, fisheries, and fishing. The program encourages K-12 students to submit original artwork of any officially designated state fish and an essay or poem about the participant’s fish entry, its habitat, or efforts to conserve it.

“The State-Fish Art Contest does a tremendous job of exposing students across Texas to the wonders of fish and fisheries resources through the nexus of art,” said Tom Lang, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center Director. “We always look forward to this time of year when we are once again amazed by the outstanding work and artistic interpretations of these young Texans.” This year, judges at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center chose the top 12 out of 767 total entries from Texas students. These top 12 works of art will be featured at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center and in the 2022 Texas Fish Art Calendar.

In the K-3 category, winners were: First Place, Lisa Hwang of Garland; Second Place, Ivan Zaklyazminskiy of Frisco; Third Place, Laina Sidlik of Richardson.

In the grades 4–6 category, winners were: First Place, Grace Cao of Sugar Land; Second Place, Seha Jeong of Lewisville; Third Place, Jaden Whisneant of Silsbee.

In the grades 7–9 category, winners were: First Place, Elise Akin of Irving; Second Place, Jaini Parekh of Southlake; Third Place, Julia Jarmulak of Roanoke.

In the grades 10–12 category, winners were: First Place, Joshua Thomas of Southlake; Second Place, Michelle Huang of Coppell; Third Place, Abigail Montgomery of Dickson.

First-place winners in each of the four age groups advanced to the national level and competed against winners from other states. Two Texas winners were announced as national winners by Wildlife Forever. Grace Cao’s Guadalupe bass won second place in the nation for the 4th through 6th grade category and Lisa Hwang’s bluegill won third place in the Kindergarten through 3rd grade category. (See Texas State Art, Continued on Page 12)

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By Terri Moon

For those of you trying to find big schools of crappie, it’s still a little early. These crappie are just finishing up spawning and believe it or not we’re catching a few white crappie still loaded with eggs. The crazy weather has just started to warm consistently so we are still having to move around a lot!

The key factor this time of year is bait-fish and structure. You need to be targeting mid-range stump beds, brush piles and other submerged structure, like hydrilla beds, or creek channels.

This is a time when GOOD electronics are a “must”. The other “must” is paying close attention to them because if you don’t know what depth to target, you are wasting a lot of time guessing... when you could be catching! When fishing structure in open water, I’ve realized what an important factor these depth finders play in a successful day of fishing! I’m still amazed at the detail of my Lowrance HDS units when set on the Downscan. It’s truly amazing! It is so detailed you can actually count how many fish are in the brush pile! So, if your fishing isn’t what you think it could be, you might want to consider upgrading because I’ve personally realized having quality equipment like “Lowrance” is “PRICELESS”!

The baits working for us right now are Bonehead Stump Bugs... white/chartreuse, black/chartreuse and purple/chartreuse. They have been producing consistently at 16 to 21 ft. in 24 to 30 ft. of water.

Now for my very favorite fish... the bream! I finally got a day off and went and caught me a load of some giant ones! There can’t be anything more fun. It was around the new moon and they were in 1-4 ft. of water. I used night crawlers and tightlined for them. I can’t wait till the next full moon. It should be “game on”!

If you’re not catching them shallow, back off to 5 to 10 ft. depths.

I hope you all get the chance to get out and enjoy this beautiful weather we’ve been having because summers coming! I want to thank all in Missouri for making this year’s morel hunt a “memorable one”! It’s very much appreciated!

I’m looking forward to this year’s “Skeeter Boat Owner’s Tournament”. It’s always great seeing such a quality event come to Lake Fork! All your hard work is very much appreciated. My best to you all!
Mike Hansen caught this nice bass while fishing Lake Fork with guide Michael McFarland during the month of May. C.P.R.

Frank Hutchison caught this nice Lake Fork bass weighing 8-lbs. while doing some night fishing off of his dock. C.P.R.

Steven Wood caught this nice Lake Fork hawg measuring 24.5” in length and weighing 9.67-lbs. Problem was he caught it just before he fished the Legend Tournament. C.P.R.

Come Fish Beautiful Lake Fork!! Book Your Trip Today 903-335-0941
Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center Resumes All Operations

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center is pleased to announce a return to full operational status. Due to the public health situation, TFFC, located in Athens, had limited operations and visitor services since March 2020. During the pandemic, in anticipation of reopening, TFFC personnel utilized the partial closure to focus efforts on renovations and upgrades to enhance the visitor experience.

“We are excited to again be able to provide the opportunity for Texans to see and experience our fisheries and aquatic resources, and the vital work of TPWD fish biologists firsthand,” said Tom Lang, TFFC Director.

Tram tours of the TFFC hatchery were a highlight for visitors but had to be suspended during the pandemic. The previous tram toured more than 400,000 visitors around the facility but had endured significant wear and tear. The Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center utilized this opportunity to purchase and donate a beautiful new tram, which has been dubbed the “Ethel Express.” The Ethel Express is wrapped with beautiful artwork of Texas freshwater fishes, fish habitat, and hatchery ponds and will provide an enjoyable experience for visitors for many years.

“During the closure, the TFFC team stayed focused on the mission and worked diligently to prepare the facility for families to return, to learn, and to make wonderful memories,” Lang said. “There’s nothing like seeing someone catch their first fish here, seeing their eyes get big when their face to face with a giant Alligator Gar, or hearing the oohs and aahs that occur during the dive show.”

The indoor portion of the visitor center, including the dive theater and gift shop, and the Texas Game Warden museum are now re-open to visitors. While these areas were closed, TFFC personnel worked diligently to refresh the space and update and develop new exhibits. Many of these enhancements are complete but TFFC personnel will continue to regularly add and upgrade exhibits to enhance the visitor experience. Long-term, substantial upgrades and renovations are currently being planned for the TFFC aquariums by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

Group reservations have also resumed along with tours of the hatchery facilities. Visitors to the TFFC can also enjoy all outside aquaria, recreational fishing, the Angler’s Pavilion, antique lure and fishing equipment exhibit, and wetland trail. Guests are still encouraged to wear masks, maintain appropriate social distances from others outside their party, and use hand sanitizer and wash their hands regularly.

Built as a joint venture between TPWD, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and the Athens community (Athens Economic Development Corporation, City of Athens, and Athens Municipal Water Authority), TFFC combines a Visitor Center, educational programming, recreational fishing ponds, Angler’s Pavilion, and a production freshwater fish hatchery. Developed on a 106-acre site, the facility includes more than 300,000 gallons of indoor and outdoor aquariums displaying dozens of species of native fish, waterfowl, alligators, and amphibians in recreated habitats. A 14,000-sq. ft conservation center completed in 2007 provides space for meetings, special events, and outdoors educational classes.

Operational hours for TFFC are 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Regular admission rates are $5.50 for adults, $4.50 for seniors 65 and older, and $3.50 for children ages 4 through 12. Season passes valid for one year from date of purchase are available for $15 for adults, $12.50 for seniors and $8.00 for children. Season pass holders are eligible for a 10-percent discount in the gift shop.

Discounted rates are available for youth/school groups of 10 or more. Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance to receive the discounted rate. An online reservation form is available or visitors can call (903) 676-2277 for additional information and to make a group reservation by phone.

For more information and to plan your visit, visit the TFFC website.
Prepare to “Rock Your Boat” This Summer by Taking a Boater Education Course

With fatalities on Texas waterways up 40 percent in the first quarter of 2021, Texas boaters are being urged to take boater education before heading to lakes and rivers this summer. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is launching a “Rock Your Boat” campaign urging boater education to help reduce fatalities and injuries on Texas waterways.

“We want people to enjoy Texas’ waterways this summer and ensure they are prepared before they head out to the lakes and rivers,” said Cody Jones, Assistant Commander for Marine Enforcement at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). “Of fatalities and accidents in 2020, on average more than 60 percent of boat operators had not completed a mandated boater safety course.”

In order to operate a personal watercraft or a boat with a 15-horsepower rating or more, anyone born on or after Sept. 1, 1993 must complete a boater education course. TPWD offers online resources for a wide range of boater education and safety training, including a free online paddle craft safety course, on the TPWD Boater Education web page.

“Boater education is key to helping reduce accidents and fatalities on the water,” said Kimberly Sorensen, Boating Education manager at TPWD. “As we enter boating season, we ask you all to ‘Rock Your Boat.’”

Five safety tips to “Rock Your Boat” on the water include:

- Wearing a life jacket. Avoiding alcohol. Watching your kids and others around you. Use the engine cut-off switch, and ensuring all know how to swim.
- The most common boating accident types in 2020 involved boat collisions on waterways, fixed object collision, being struck by a vessel, collision with a recreational vehicle, being struck by a vessel, collision with a recreational vehicle, collision with a motorized vehicle, or being struck by a vessel.
- On average, 70 percent of boating accidents were on open waterways, 27 percent were on lakes, and 3 percent were on rivers.
- As of the end of 2020, 69 percent of vessels involved in boating accidents were under 26 feet in length. Boating accidents were more common on private waterbodies than public, with weekends seeing the peak figures.
- Accidents on the water happen fast. U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in 1993 recreational boating fatalities in 2019, and that 86 percent of those who drowned were not wearing a flotation device.

“Life jacket wear on the water is imperative to safety, enjoyment and returning from your weekend without incident, or worse, losing someone you care about,” said Sorensen.

When choosing a life jacket, ensure that it has the ability to support your size and weight and is approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. The U.S. Coast Guard requires one wearable life jacket for each person onboard that fits them.

Important safety precautions recommended by TPWD include checking the weather before heading to the water, learning to swim, check equipment, plan, use an engine cut-off switch, and know where you are going.

“Other important precautions Texans should take on the water include traveling at safe speeds, ensuring you have functioning water-proof communication devices (and backup devices), never boat under the influence and know the rules of the waterway beforehand,” said Sorensen.

For more information about boating safety, laws and requirements, visit TPWD’s boating laws website. The public is encouraged to check with managing authority of the waterbody they intend to visit for any local ordinances still in place. All boating laws are still in effect.

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Texas State-Fish Art Contest Announces 2021 Winners (Continued from Page 7)

3rd grade division.
Wildlife Forever and the Western Native Trout Initiative awarded artwork representing western native trout. Alice Won’s Yellowstone cutthroat trout won first place in the 7th through 9th grade division. Seha Jeong’s cutthroat trout won first place and Celina Yin’s Gila trout won third place, both in the 4th through 6th grade division.

Scholarships for the first, second, and third place Texas winners are provided by the 2020 Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest. Scholarships in the grades 10–12 division are $1,000 for first place, $750 for second place and $500 for third place. Awards in the 4–6 and 7–9 grade levels are $200 for first, $150 for second, $100 for third. In the K—3 division awards are $100 for first, $75 for second, $50 for third.

Scholarships for Texas winners are supplemented with additional support provided by the William E. Armentrout Foundation and Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

“Sponsor support for the Texas contest has been a key factor in making it the biggest in the nation,” said Zoe Ann Stinchcomb, Texas coordinator. “The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center hosts a day of fishing, fun and recognition for the top forty winning students, their teachers and families. And each child participating in the Texas contest receives a certificate. All of this happens because of the support of our sponsors.” Stinchcomb also pointed out that research done on the Texas contest shows that participation in the contest makes students more likely to become interested in fishing. “Getting youth involved in the outdoors is a key goal of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and we applaud our sponsors for helping grow the future generation of stewards of our outdoors.”

Honorable mentions for Texas students in grades K–3 were awarded to: Ryuuki Hotta of Missouri City; Evelyn Lee of Frisco; Akshitha Muthaluru of Irving; Mishka Patel of Richmond; Claire Kim Pranivong of Dallas; Elizabeth Sun of Coppell; and Eric Xiao of Coppell. Honorable mentions in grades 4–6 were awarded to: Cecilia Chen of Dallas; Taylor Davis of Coppell; April Hyun of Irving; Manini Puniani of Irving; Sabrina M. Tam of Irving; Ivory Vanover of Keller; and Celina Yin of Cedar Park.

Honorable mentions for grades 7–9 were: Olivia Dennis of Woodville; Diya Hegde of Irving; Sharanjeet Kaur of Vega; Nataliya Kuryshina of McKinney; Alanna Sun of Coppell; Rebecca Thomas of Southlake; Cindy Wang of Dallas; Alice Won of Flower Mound.

Honorable mentions for grades 10–12 were: Lily Brooks of Longview; Mary Harutyunyan of Euless; Samuel Jung of McKinney; Teresa So of Sugar Land; Makinna Tibbetts of Warren; and Arwen Varner of Keller. Educators who wish to have their students enter the 2022 contest can find entry forms, rules and guidelines and more online. A lesson plan can also be found that offers interdisciplinary curriculum including lessons and activities, a species identification section profiling each state fish, a glossary and student worksheets. Learn more at www.wildlife-forever.org.

To view or download high resolution images of the winning artwork, visit the 2021 Fish Art Contest Album on the TPWD Flickr page.
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290 FM 1567 WEST
Jackson Boze shows off his $100 he received for drawing the winner of the draw boat. Julian Boze made history when he weighed in the lightest bass at the Legend weighing .12-lbs. won 100 GC.

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Plenty of Parking & Turn Around For You & Your Boat
Crappie anglers from several states traveled to Lake Fork, TX. The May 8, 2021, Region 4 event was hosted by Emory Tourism and presented by Bass Pro Shops/Cabela’s.

In addition to the event, anglers are competing in the $50,000 points race, an opportunity to compete at the Regional Championships, and the 2021 Crappie USA Classic on Lake Hartwell, Anderson, SC.

Competing anglers were met with partly cloudy and windy conditions. With wind gusts up to 30 mph, boat control was difficult.

A total of 14 boats fished the event, 9 in the Pro Division and 5 in the Amateur Division. A total of $4,350 was distributed to the winners.

**Pro Division Results First Place:** Clay Gann from Hideaway, TX, and Todd Froebe from Lindale, TX put the right strategy together to take the top spot on Lake Fork. They brought 15.59 pounds to the scales to claim the top honors and earn a check for $4,345. Their bag included Big Fish with a 2.97-pound slab and they also won the Jenko Bonus.

The team fished timber all day. Mainly in the creek channels using LiveScope and staying on the move. They did hit some flats that were about 15 feet deep. They caught 2 or 3 of their weigh-in fish in those areas before the wind forced them out. Luckily they fish from a big Ranger 620 Fisherman Series.

“We fished timber in 15-25 feet of water,” recalled Gann. “We were pitching 1/4oz Slab Syndicate hand-tied jigs in silver/chartreuse, black/chartreuse, and grey on 11 foot Kevin Rogers signature series rods. We also used Jenko Afterburner plastics in disco color.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank God,” concluded Gann. “And my beautiful wife Cassandra Gann for all her hard work behind the scenes.

“I also want to thank some incredible companies for making all of this possible,” continued Gann. “What an honor to be representing each of these. You cannot beat the quality of service and product they provide. Check them out and tell them we sent you! They are, Siteone Landscape Supply, Hunter Industries, Jenko Fishing, Shut up and Fish.com, Jalapeno Tree, Brookshires, Tyler Candle Company, Ushealthadvisors, Barry McDonald, Slab Syndicate Crappie Jigs, Healey Homes, Phat Spice Blend, Lake Side Lure and Tackle, Crappie Anglers of Texas, Circle M Crawfish, Lindale Tire, A R Tactical Plumbing, and American State Bank.”

**Second Place:** McKinney, TX angler, Jerry Hancock, and Paul O’Brien from Gunter, TX teamed up to claim the runner-up spot. They brought a weight of 14.43 pounds to the scales to earn the second-place check of $2,500.00.

Hancock and O’Brien fished timber in 15 to 17 feet of water. Indicating that their boat handled well in the wind. They ventured into some 30-foot depths also but didn’t find any fish deeper. The fish they did find were 4 feet off the bottom.

The team fished in one general area using LiveScope to find the fish. They returned to some trees 5 or 6 times because they were holding fish. They used Beaver Bottom baits and G-Daddy Bait and hair jigs tipped with minnows to catch 40 to 50 fish on the day.

**Third Place:** James Rains from Point, TX, and Jeff Schwietermann from Parker, TX brought in the third-place weight of 14.15 pounds. They earned a check for $1,305. Their bag included 2nd Big Fish to add $105 to their payout.

Rains and Schwietermann used LiveScope to locate their fish. They targeted 12 to 14 feet of water while trying to stay out of the wind.

“Six out of 7 fish were caught roaming,” reported Rains. “They were not on a tree. The last one was sitting on the bottom.”

The team caught well over 50 fish on a good bite. Their biggest fish came from only a foot of water.

(See CUSA PRO.... Continued on Page 18)
“Knowing What To Look For!”
By Michael McFarland

BEDROOMS & KITCHENS
Finding the big bass during the month of June usually means deeper water, offshore structures/cover and shell beds (live mussel beds).
Lake Fork most certainly offers plenty of deep offshore structure and heavy cover for the big bass to live in.
A hump, a long point, a break, a channel edge, a bridge pylon, a road bed, a culvert, a sunken boat, these serve as structures.
Submerged trees, laydown trees, brush piles and grass serve as cover. Find a combination of these (structure with cover) and you just might have an offshore big bass bedroom. With that being said during the month of June, I will rely completely on my electronics. Each day I will search for the big bass suspending in the submerged trees and or large under water structures. These places I call the bedrooms.
If there is a nearby shell bed area or two, thats even better. Depending on the daily wind and water current the bass will often use the shell bed areas as feeding grounds.
Live shell bed areas hold high concentrations of plankton. Plankton is food for shad, crawfish and other small or young species of fish.
Thus I call these areas the kitchen.
If I am fishing for the bass in the deep structure/submerged trees and or heavy cover (THE BEDROOM) I will use 3/8oz. Texas rigged Berkley worms 10” or larger, Carolina rigs with Zoom magnum flukes or brush hogs and 1/2oz. Santone rattling jigs. Colors vary but mostly brim and crawfish.
If I’m fishing for bass in the shell beds (THE KITCHEN) I will use the Santones 3/4 oz. Football jig tipped with Berkley rage craw & Santones 5/16 oz football shakeyhead with Zoom magnum trick worms. I will intentionally set the boat position up to drag the baits uphill thus making more contact with the bottom and deflecting of the live mussels within the shell bed area. Again the colors I will tend to use will vary, mostly natural colors from the Brim and crawfish families.

*Remember this, if you are fishing for the bass in the bedrooms expect to go slow and grind, its a territorial bite. If your fishing for the bass in the kitchens, its all about the timing. When the bass are there they are there to eat and it can be fast and furious.
If you would like to learn more about how to find these types of big fish areas, please consider booking a trip. I would love to show you.

Mike@mcfarlandfishing.com
602-826-1524
CUSA Pro Division on Lake Fork

Amateur Division Results First Place:

Chris Scott from Aubrey, TX, and Willie Scott from Sanger, TX teamed up to bring 12.59 pounds to the scales and earn a check for $1,200.

Team Scott was able to stay in one general area and find their weigh-in fish. They were targeting water ranging from 9 to 12 feet deep. They found the fish suspended about 3 feet down to the bottom. They used a combination of hand-tied, Crappie Magnets and Constant Pursuit jigs to tempt the fish. They reported a variable bite, with some crappie being very aggressive while others were not. They caught more than 50 fish on the day.

Second Place Amateur:

The runner-up spot in the Amateur Division went to Jerry Jones from Bullard, TX. The solo angler had a weight of 11.82 pounds to claim second place and earn a check for $700.

With high winds to fight, Jones ended up fishing near the boat ramp.

“I began fighting the wind,” reported Jones. “Then moved out in about 25 feet of water in the pocket and caught 4 or 5 of my best fish.”

Jones used LiveScope to find the fish and then presented them with Hayes hand-tied jigs to bring them to the boat.

Third Place Amateur:

Another Jones brought in the third-place weight. Joseph Jones from New Madrid, MO had a tournament weight of 7.84 pounds to earn a check for $400.

“I found some fish on Thursday,” reported Jones. “Fortunately they were there today.”

With the wind as a big consideration, he tied up to trees all day long. He said he found his fish down in the grass. He had a huge day catching crappie, putting somewhere between 75 and 100 Lake Fork crappies in the boat.

Tournament Director Bobby Brown sent special thanks to Emory Tourism and the Minnow Bucket Marina for supporting the tournament. He also thanked the lodging host, Best Western, and Jimmy Leonard.
Chronic Wasting Disease Discovered at Deer Breeding Facilities in Matagorda and Mason Counties

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been discovered in deer breeding facilities in both Matagorda and Mason counties. This marks the first positive detection of the disease in these counties.

An epidemiological investigation found that both deer breeding facilities had received deer from a Uvalde County premises where CWD was found on March 29. Postmortem tissues samples were submitted by the permitted deer breeders to assist the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) with the epidemiological investigation. The National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa, has since confirmed CWD in those tissue samples.

TPWD and TAHC officials have taken immediate action to secure all cervids at the Matagorda County and Mason County deer breeding facilities and plan to conduct additional investigations for CWD. In addition, other breeding facilities and release sites that have received deer from these facilities or shipped deer to these facilities during the last five years have been contacted by TPWD and cannot move or release deer at this time.

On March 31, TPWD and TAHC reported two CWD confirmations at breeding facilities in both Hunt and Uvalde counties. The Hunt facility underwent further DNA testing to confirm animal identification and origin, and on May 12 the DNA test results confirmed the deer’s connection to the premises.

“Regrettably, the gravity of this situation continues to mount with these new CWD positive discoveries, as well as with the full understanding of just how many other facilities and release sites across Texas were connected to the CWD positive sites in Uvalde and Hunt Counties,” said Carter Smith, Executive Director of TPWD. “Along with our partners at the Texas Animal Health Commission, we will continue to exercise great diligence and urgency with this ongoing investigation. Accelerating the testing at other exposed facilities will be critical in ensuring we are doing all we can to arrest the further spread of this disease, which poses great risks to our native deer populations, both captive and free-ranging alike.”

TPWD and TAHC continue to work together to determine the extent of the disease within all the affected facilities and evaluate risks to Texas’ free ranging deer populations. Quick detection of CWD can help mitigate the disease’s spread.

CWD was first recognized in the U.S. in 1967 and has since been documented in captive and/or free-ranging deer in 26 states and three Canadian provinces.

In Texas, the disease was first discovered in 2012 in free-ranging mule deer along a remote area of the Hueco Mountains near the Texas-New Mexico border and has since been detected in 228 captive or free-ranging cervids, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer and elk in 13 Texas counties. For more information on previous detections visit the CWD page on the TPWD website.

CWD is a fatal neurological disease found in certain cervids, including deer, elk,

(See Chronic Wasting.... Continued on Page 21)
“Big Bass Are Moving!”

up in one spot today and a hundred yards away tomorrow. Water temps, current from waves and sun angle all come into play when dealing with these wary creatures. Try not to over complicate it, fish what you see and let the results be your guide.

The shallow bite is also an option and don’t rule out top water and frog action especially around flooded willow trees and grass beds. Low light is key for success in this arena. Once the sun makes it’s way up, shift gears and pitch a creature bait as far back in those willow trees as possible. A 3/8 ounce weight will do the trick and use at least 20lb line. Your favorite colors will work fine, just keep it simple. The most important factor in this process will be the accuracy of the pitch. Pick the bush apart until you key on where the bass are positioned. Once that is established, follow that pattern across the lake. It will pay off in spades. If simple action is what you seek especially if kids are involved, I would chase the sand bass. You can use a 1/2 ounce Hopkins spoon or a 1/2 ounce jig head with a fluke jr. attached. This is wicked fun on light line. We can spend a day on the water if you like and I can teach you the ropes how to catch a ton of these entertainment fish.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in June 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 at https://www.facebook.com/davidoziolakeforkguide and view my Instagram at DavidOzioLakeForkGuide. 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. Romans 10:13. “Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”. I wish all of you a blessed day.”
Chronic Wasting Disease (Continued from Page 19)

moose and other members of the deer family. CWD is a slow and progressive disease. Due to a long incubation, cervids infected with CWD may not produce any visible signs for a number of years after becoming infected. As the disease progresses, animals with CWD show changes in behavior and appearance. Clinical signs may include, progressive weight loss, stumbling or tremors with a lack of coordination, excessive thirst, salivation or urination, loss of appetite, teeth grinding, abnormal head posture, and/or drooping ears.

To date there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk to humans or non-cervids. However, as a precaution, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization recommend not to consume meat from infected animals.

For more information about CWD, visit the TPWD Chronic Wasting Disease page or the TAHC web site.
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“Why lease...when you can own!!!”

Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Reunited and It Feels So Good--A Marine Theft Investigator was contacted about a suspicious vessel on the banks of Little Cypress. Upon arrival, he discovered the hull identification number plate was removed, so the vessel was seized. After further investigation, the warden was able to locate it, finding no record listed for the vessel. Realizing that a local outdoor retailer sells this brand of vessel, the warden contacted them about finding a possible owner through their system. After a brief search, he was able to find the owner of the vessel and verified that he had reported a theft 3 years prior. The warden contacted the owner and returned his vessel. The owner, who is a veteran and has a passion for fishing in his private lake, was beyond excited the have his vessel back.

--Safe and Sound--Game Wardens were headed to a night set to watch for illegal oyster activities. As the wardens were getting set up, they received an assistance call from the U.S. Coast Guard for three wade fisherman who needed to be rescued. The fisherman were lost in Saltwater lake outside of Port O’Connor near the banks of the Powder Horn Wildlife Management Area. The subjects were wade fishing in a lake off Matagorda Bay and didn’t make it back before dark. As the game wardens left their night set to rescue the fisherman, conditions got worse due to rain, fog, and cold weather. The (Continued on Page 24)
Try this delicious recipe for dinner or simply a side dish! It is so easy to prepare!

This dish of spinachy rice with feta and black olives is extremely simple. It’s perfect for a dinner or side dish, and though it is easy to prepare, it is still a tasty way to entice your palate.

GREEK-STYLE RICE WITH SPINACH, FETA AND BLACK OLIVES
(Serves 4 as a side dish or supper with crusty bread)

- 2 pounds fresh spinach, washed and tough stems removed
- Coarse sea salt
- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- ¾ cup finely chopped onions or leeks
- ½ cup thinly sliced scallions
- ½ cup fresh tomato puree reduced by boiling to 3 tablespoons
- ½ cup long-grain rice
- ¼ cup chopped dill
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Oily black olives for garnish
- Chunks of feta cheese or spoonfuls of thick yogurt for garnish

1. Wash the spinach and tender stems until the water runs clean; drain. If leaves are large and crinkly, sprinkle lightly with salt and mix well. Let stand in a colander 15 minutes; rinse and squeeze out excess moisture. Shred the spinach to make about 3 cups.

2. Heat 3 tablespoons of the olive oil in a 10-inch straight-sided skillet. Add the scallions, onions, a pinch of salt and ¼ cup water and cook, covered, over medium-low heat for ten minutes. When the water evaporates, slowly let the onions turn golden, stirring occasionally. Add 1 cup water, the reduced tomato puree, and rice. Cover and cook for ten minutes.

3. Spread the spinach and dill over the rice, cover, and cook ten minutes longer. Remove from heat, mix, then lace a double thickness of paper toweling over the rice, cover again, and let stand until cool. Adjust the seasoning with black pepper and salt and drizzle with olive oil. Serve at room temperature garnished with black olives and feta cheese or yogurt.
Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

There were several instances of game wardens responding to various situations:

--Texas Means Friendship--In late February, a Uvalde County game warden contacted the Uvalde County Emergency Management Chief about getting pallets of bottled water for the Rocksprings school. Uvalde County had just received several shipments of bottled water that they wanted to share with neighboring counties. An Edwards County game warden said the Rocksprings school needed bottled water since the county was still without water in many places. The wardens, with the help of two other game wardens, loaded and delivered four pallets of water to the school. The Edwards County warden, his wife and several students worked together to unload the water at several locations around campus.

--Lending a Helping Hand--In mid-February, two Zapata County game wardens collected more than 500 invasive tilapia and 50 plecoscostomus catfish from Falcon Lake that were stunned by the winter storm. All of the tilapia were donated to Zapata County residents, the majority of whom had been without power for more than 85 hours at the time.

--Who Ya Gonna Call--A Jasper County game warden received a call about a deer killed out of season. Upon arriving at the residence, the warden and their partner noticed a bloody cooler with loppers lying next to it. The owner of the residence told the wardens that he picked up the deer from the side of the road. When asked if he notified anyone, the man said, “Yes, I called 911, but no one answered.” It was later determined the individual shot the deer on his property. Citations were issued.

--From the Mouths of Babes--Three Williamson County game wardens were checking night fishermen at Lake Granger and the San Gabriel River when one of the wardens spotted a man and child using a cast net along the bank of the Wilson Fox Fishing Pier. The wardens contacted the individuals and the child said they had several fish in a bucket and one was a really big fish. The warden inspected the fish and pulled out a largemouth bass measuring 14 inches and asked the child if he caught the big fish. The child replied, “No, my brother caught it with the cast net.” When confronted, the adult admitted to catching one largemouth bass and a crappie. Citations and civil restitution were filed.

--Whoops--A Bexar County game warden was patrolling the southside of San Antonio when they saw vehicle tire tracks entering a water treatment facility. The warden entered the property to search for trespassers when he saw a man on a kayak along the banks of the private lake. The suspect caught a five-pound bass, weighed it, took a picture with his cell phone and then put the bass in to his kayak. When the man saw the game warden truck, he said “Hi.” The man told the warden he drove...
his vehicle around the gate and fence to enter the property. Water treatment security arrived at the scene to sign a non-consent form. The suspect was arrested and booked. The case is pending.

--Adopt Don’t Shop-- A Mitchell/Howard County game warden received a call about a Howard County resident who admitted to being in possession of a juvenile American Alligator without a proper permit. The warden met with the resident and was able to take custody of the juvenile alligator. When interviewing the resident, the warden discovered that the resident was given the alligator by another individual who could not take care of it. Later that week, the warden met with the original owner who admitted having possession of the alligator. The juvenile alligator was relocated to a rehabilitation center and charges are pending.

--Game Wardens’ Best Friend-- An Orange County game warden responded to a call from a petroleum company to report someone hunting without landowner consent. Upon arrival on the property, the warden identified and made contact with an individual that was within the property and admitted to hunting hogs with dogs. Another subject was hiding in the woods, but the warden was able to get his name and phone number from one of the dogs’ collars. After more than an hour and a half, the subject came out of the woods. The warden identified and released both subjects to obtain non-consent affidavits from the landowner’s agent. Cases pending on both subjects.

--Oh, Crap(pie)-- Three Williamson County game wardens were checking night fishermen at Lake Granger and the San Gabriel River when they saw a man and woman loading up their fishing gear and getting ready to leave. The warden identified himself and asked if they had any luck, and the woman replied and said they had caught two fish. Both individuals showed the wardens their valid fishing licenses and let the warden see the two fish they had on the stringer. The warden saw a Styrofoam ice chest and asked them if they had any fish in there. The man said, “Yes, we do but one might be small.” The warden opened the ice chest and found two undersized crappies measuring nine inches. Citations and civil restitution were filed.

--Caught Red Handed-- A Matagorda County game warden received a call about a group of individuals keeping undersized redfish on Sargent Beach. The warden and their partner drove to the location and spotted the vehicle. While waiting for the initial vehicle to exit the beach, another call came in about another vehicle suspected of keeping too many redfish. The wardens had both vehicles in their sight, so when contact was made with the first vehicle, the second vehicle turned around and started heading away from the wardens. One of the wardens made contact with the fleeing vehicle before it got away. A total of 26 separate violations were found. Appropriate citations were issued and the seized fish were donated. Cases and restitution are pending.

--Fishin’ for Trouble-- An Orange County game warden and a Newton County game warden teamed up to conduct a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) patrol out of Sabine Pass into the Gulf of Mexico. On their way back to the port, they spotted a boat doing some commercial fishing and conducted a patrol stop. During their inspection, they found the boat did not display commercial fishing plates. The captain also did not have written authorization to use the license and a helper on the boat was not licensed as a general commercial fisherman. Cases pending on both commercial fishermen.
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Lake Fork Tournament Schedule June thru Aug 2021

**June**
- June 3-6 ~ Skeeter Owners Tourn. Lake Fork Marina
- June 5 ~ Kid Fish SRA Park
- June 6 ~ JC Outdoors Solo Minnow Bucket
- June 19 ~ Media Bass Teams Minnow Bucket
- June 26 ~ JC Outdoors Teams Minnow Bucket

**July**
- July 3 ~ Fish For Life Veteran’s Benefit Lake Fork Marina
- July 10 ~ JC Outdoor Teams Championship Minnow Bucket
- July 11 ~ JC Outdoors Solo Championship Minnow Bucket
- July 17 ~ Media Teams Minnow Bucket

**August**
- Aug 1 ~ Victory Bass Night Lake Fork Marina
- Aug 8 ~ Victory Bass Night Lake Fork Marina
- Aug 15 ~ Victory Bass Night Lake Fork Marina
- Aug 29 ~ Victory Bass Night Lake Fork Marina
On Behalf of Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament, The Fisherman’s Guide News, & The Wish to Fish Foundation, we would like to thank all of our sponsors and all of the anglers that participated in the 16th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament. It is your dedication and participation that makes this a success. We hope to see all of you next year at the 17th Annual.

Be Safe, Fish Friendly, & God Bless

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