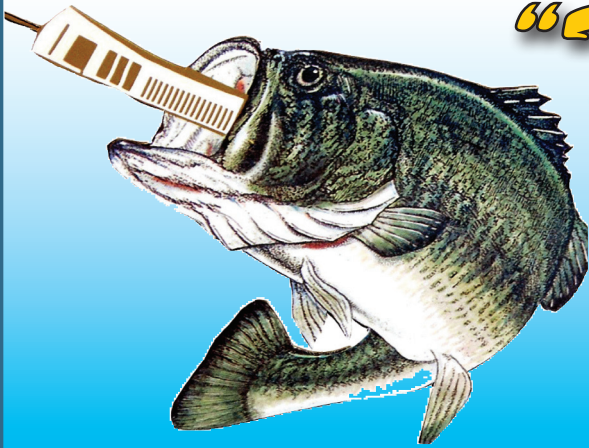


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1 Section

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Vol. 23

September, 2021

No. 265



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Lake Fork- Alba, Texas – September 17-18-19, 2021 - Fishing, Family & Fun at the Big Bass Splash presented by Sealy Outdoors. \$500,000 Guaranteed in Cash and Prizes with 1st Place Overall winning a 2021 Triton 19 TRX Powered by Mercury equipped with Minn Kota, Lowrance, Power Pole and Navionics; 2021 RAM Truck Plus.... \$7,000 CASH!

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Contestant(s) weighing in the first 2.50 exact weight bass each day of the tournament will win \$5,000 and the contestant(s) who weighs in the heaviest bass under the slot each day will win \$5,000 as well. In addition, all contestants are eligible to win a 2021 Nitro Z18 Powered by Mercury, equipped with Minn Kota and Lowrance in the famous "Elimination Drawing".

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Registration is open online for the Big Bass Splash Presented by Sealy Outdoors benefiting St. Jude Children Research Hospital. To enter, visit www.sealyoutdoors.com. Early Bird Registration Deadline is Tuesday, September 7. Onsite Registration will be at Lake Fork Marina from 10 AM – 8 PM on Thursday, September 16. Registration will continue each morning from 5 AM until 6 AM on days of the tournament. Tournament Entry Fees are \$166 for One Day, and \$215 for Two Days, \$265 for Three Days:

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

Sponsors includes Triton Boats, Nitro Boats Mercury Marine, Minn Kota, Lowrance, Power Pole, TH Marine, Shimano, Huk, X2Power Batteries, Navionics, River2Sea, Texas Fish & Game, RAM-Weaver Motors of Kirbyville, TX, Fire Disc and Wood County. For more information go to www.sealyoutdoors.com or call our office at 888.698.2591. Please follow us on [facebook.com/BigBassSplash1984](https://www.facebook.com/BigBassSplash1984)



Lake Fork Crappie Guide, Terri Moon caught this hawg fishing in August. Quite the feat on Ultra-Lite and light line. C.P.R.

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"Thanks To Bubbette, Bubba is Becoming a High Tech Redneck!"

By: Don Hampton

If it wasn't for Bubbette I'm afraid Bubba would still be in the dark ages. When it comes to new technology Bubba could care less if it doesn't go on his bass boat or help him locate and catch bass.

Bubba doesn't have a problem learning, he just has a problem taking the time out from fishing to learn. He'll spend more time reading, studying, and learning about his new Lowrance HDS 12 Gen 3 Depth finder/GPS unit than a college student preparing for final exam. When it comes to new items and learning their use, Bubbette just has to be forceful with him. Being forceful with Bubba isn't easy but a little threat of her not cooking will do it every time.

Bubbette finally got him away from his polaroid camera and into the digital age. This was a task in itself because Bubba liked the way his camera spit the photo out the front and he had his pictures to show off sixty seconds later. Now he loves his digital because when he downloads them on his computer he can send to all his buds. Just another giant step for Bubba and mankind.

When everyone else was getting cell phones, Bubba had a beeper that he left in his truck most of the time. When cell phones became small and

compact, Bubba had a bag phone he did leave in his truck all the time. Bubbette has finally got him up to date and in modern times and he is now carrying an Apple 12-S phone but he still has the old habit of leaving it in his truck at times. I'm pretty sure he does this on purpose because he doesn't want to be disturbed or found when he is hiding out on the lake.

When Bubbette took Bubba to a new level of advanced technology, I just wish you could have seen his face when she told him his phone and truck had "Blue Tooth" technology! "A blue tooth", Bubba exclaimed. "What would I do with a blue tooth? I have a full mouth of teeth! Corn on the cob, no problem! Steak, no problem! Apples, no problem!"

At this time Bubbette had to explain to Bubba just what a "Blue Tooth" was because he was really getting carried away! He had heard of false teeth, decayed teeth, green teeth, and no teeth, (the latter of which he knows a lot of jokes about people in a neighboring state) but he had no idea about Blue Tooth Technology.

After a lengthy explanation of how he could answer all his calls, hands free, while he was driving down the road, he went for it and loved it. He just thought this was neater than peanut butter and sliced bread.

He was calling all his friends while driving down the road talking fishing! That was until he found out just how many others didn't know what he was doing! More than once someone asked, "Bubba why are you always talking to yourself going down the highway?" Those who know Bubba should know not to ask questions of that nature. He told one such unfortunate, "I am communicating with my 'Starship BassGetter' when I finish lunch I'll have them beam me back to my Legend V21!" To another he was pretty short when he said, "It's the only way I can hear myself. My shotgun damaged my hearing when I was answering an off the wall question!"

You won't see Bubba talking to his truck too much anymore! I think what really turned him off to it was an incident that occurred while he was driving down the road. He was just talking away on it to Bubbette when a car with some youth past him and were looking at him laughing. He figured they either thought he was talking to himself or that he was taking up karaoke!

The way Bubba views this now is that this may still be a little before his time. Whatever the case, if you see Bubba driving down the road just talking away, do yourself and Bubbette a favor and don't ask!

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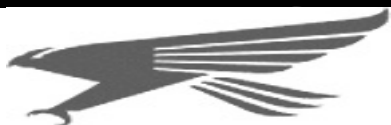
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The start of a new hunting season is right around the corner and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is reminding hunters and anglers that current year Texas hunting and fishing licenses (except the Year-from-Purchase All-Water Fishing Package) expired the end of August. New licenses for the 2021-22 season went on sale Aug. 15.

Annually, Texans purchase more than 2.7 million hunting and fishing licenses and directly fund a multitude of conservation efforts and recreational opportunities, helping make Texas one of the best places in the country to hunt and fish. Some of the many projects made

possible by license sales include fish stocking, wildlife management, habitat restoration, public hunting leases, river fishing access and Texas Game Wardens.

Outdoorsmen and women can purchase a variety of licenses online through the official TPWD website, by phone at 1-800-895-4248 during regular business hours or in person at more than 1,800 retailers across the state. Anyone planning to buy their license from TPWD's Austin Headquarters is reminded to make an advance appointment. Appointments may be scheduled up to one week in advance. Call 1-800-262-8755 or 512-389-4828 to schedule.

TPWD encourages repeat license buyers to use the expedited checkout process, which speeds up re-purchasing the same license bought in recent years.

Customers can access their past and current licenses in several ways: (1) an electronic photo of one's license, (2) an emailed receipt of your purchase; (3) one's account in the online license sales system; (4) via License Lookup in the Outdoor Annual app or in the My Texas Hunt Harvest app. Hunters and anglers must still have a physical license for any activities requiring tags.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the 2021-

(Continued on Next Page)



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22 season are available online at outdoorannual.com, on the Outdoor Annual mobile app or in the printed Outdoor Annual booklet. The mobile app is free, and once downloaded, it works without internet connectivity which makes it easy for hunters and anglers to view regulations in even the most remote locations. Other features include license lookup, location-based functionality such as "Hunting Seasons and Regulations by Location," "Where to Fish," and more.

Printed copies of the Outdoor Annual can be picked up at license retailers when customers purchase their license or at TPWD offices. Additionally, the Outdoor Annual website offers the option to download and print all or select sections of the

Outdoor Annual.

The My Texas Hunt Harvest app, which can be accessed through the Outdoor Annual app, enables electronic submission of mandatory harvest reports, including alligator harvest reporting. The app also allows hunters to complete their on-site registration for many TPWD public hunting lands. Hunters can hunt on more than one million acres of public land with the purchase of an Annual Public Hunting Permit.

When buying their license, resident hunters and anglers may wish to purchase an entry in the Lifetime License Drawing. Three lucky winners will each win a Lifetime Super Combo License and never need to buy a Texas hunting or fishing license again. Entries are \$5 each and can be pur-

chased online, by phone or at any license retailer. The first entry deadline is Sept. 30.

When making their purchase, license buyers can also add a donation of \$1, \$5, \$10 or \$20 to help support the Hunters for the Hungry program or the Fund for Veterans Assistance. Donations to the Hunters for the Hungry program provide hunters with a way to donate legally harvested deer to participating processors. The processed meat goes to local food banks to feed Texas families in need. Donations to the Fund for Veterans Assistance program provide grants to veteran service organizations and nonprofit charitable institutions, assisting veterans and their families at the community level throughout Texas.



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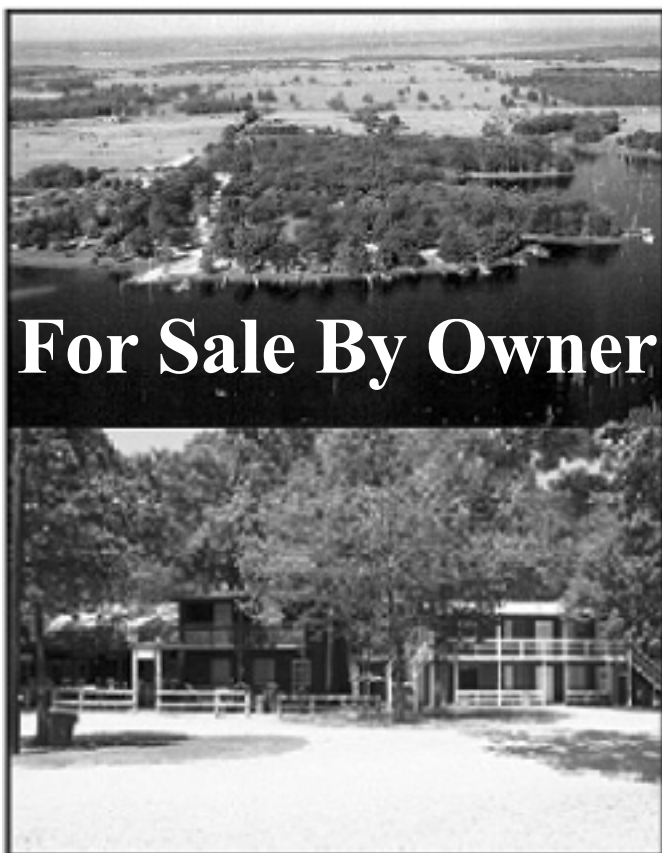
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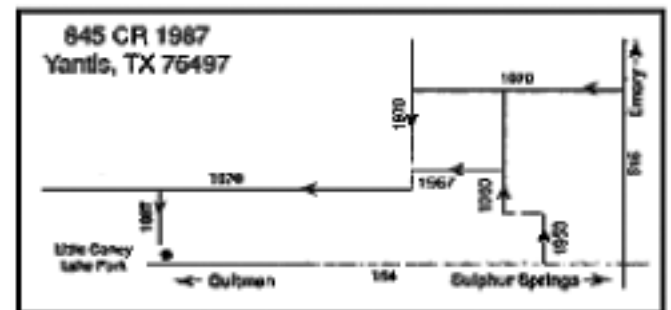


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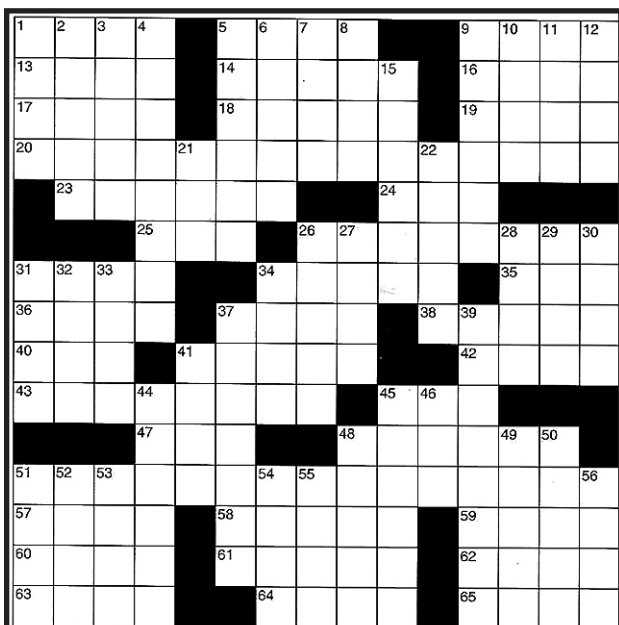
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"September is Incredible Bass Fishing on Fork!"

By David Ozio

"After this smoldering summer cooler temps will be very welcome and September is the gateway to some incredible bass fishing here on Lake Fork. The daylight time frame is growing more narrow as each day passes and this is the trigger for the shad to start moving back into the creeks followed by the goliaths looking to feed up for the winter. Main lake water temps seem to be in the same vicinity as last summer so it won't be long before seasonal cold fronts will drop the surface temp starting the lake turnover process. I actually love this because this opens the door for some awesome shallow water bassin.

Certain patterns should take hold and as just mentioned



CLUES ACROSS

1. Optimism
5. Comes to pass
9. Char
13. Terminated
14. Liaison
16. Groundless
17. Jai __, sport
18. Ceremonial or emblematic staff
19. Tributary of the Colorado River
20. "Advancement of Learning" author
23. Flexible
24. Swiss river
25. Business auditor (abbr.)
26. Loman, for one
31. Goidelic language of Ireland
34. Georges __, French philosopher
35. Someone who is highly skilled
36. Constrictors
37. The central part of the earth
38. Oliver __, author
40. Episodic or semantic (abbr.)
41. Transactions
42. Sediments
43. Rayons
45. Ten liters (abbr.)
47. Macaws
48. Type of bribe
51. Punch (slang)
57. Circle of light
58. Type of jelly
59. Dark bluish black
60. Polite interruption sound
61. Meaningless sound
62. Condition requiring relief
63. Biological groups
64. School organizations (abbr.)
65. Mastery (Scottish)

CLUES DOWN

1. Type of avocado
2. Eurasian primrose
3. Oyster's gift
4. Buildings
5. Castro's capital
6. Cylindrical spikelike inflorescence
7. Cochon de lait
8. Tall evergreen of Japan and China
9. Cuban exports
10. Of an ode
11. Quick tempo (abbr.)
12. Inadequate in quantity
15. The exchange of goods
21. Knock
22. Yellow edible Indian fruits
26. Infections
27. Greek god of war
28. Spice made from the nutmeg seed
29. Feel pain
30. Strip of land projecting into a body of water
31. City 3000 B.C.
32. College army
33. Unchanged
34. Alone
37. Romance language
39. Conceding
41. Cutty __
44. Washington city
45. Moves rhythmically
46. Kilo yard (abbr.)
48. Indian monetary unit
49. Ship
50. Red pear-shaped tropical fruit
51. African stimulant plant
52. Ryukyu Islands city (Japan)
53. Genus of spiny shrubs
54. Employee stock ownership plan (abbr.)
55. Utter with anger or contempt
56. English park

Answers on Page 21

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

Once you reach the midday time frame, I would start looking to the deeper areas of the lake, humps, ridges, road beds and pond dams for the larger bass. The football jig is hard to beat during this time of the year and the 3/4oz Talon Custom football jig is the best choice for the job. Add a Talon Repo Craw trailer and your ready to tackle



the heavy weights of the lake. As of lately, I have found that setting the boat on the shallowest part of the structure and casting out to the deep areas has produced more bites than the reverse scenario. The Carolina rig will also be a "go to" presentation for the same application. I would use a long leader with a 3/0 hook and a Talon Custom Big 10 inch Swamp Wiggler Worm. When you get a bite on one of these, your partner better be headed for the net. Red-bug, Watermelon Red or Green Pumpkin Pepper will do the trick as far as colors are concerned.

The next strategy will be focusing on suspended fish that set up just off the side of the same structures. Use your electronics to locate these hovering green monsters,

(See September is.....

Continued on Page 20)

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Commemorating 25 Years of Big Time Texas Hunts, Entries Open for 2021-22 Season

This season, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Big Time Texas Hunts (BTTH) program commemorates 25 years of offering Texans some of the very best hunting opportunities in the state. Ten premium guided hunt packages are offered in this year's Big Time Texas Hunts drawing.

In the last 25 years, Big Time Texas Hunt participants have helped raise over \$17 million to fund wildlife research, habitat conservation and public hunting access.

The 2020-21 hunting season was the biggest revenue producing year for the program, raising over \$1.24 million. Conservation efforts funded

by Big Time Texas Hunts include desert bighorn sheep restoration work in West Texas, thousands of acres of brush control work across the state for the benefit of species like mule deer, pronghorn and quail, along with multiple grassland restoration projects. Public hunting efforts include the funding of numerous public hunting leases and the purchase of hunting equipment like ADA accessible blinds for a number of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA).

"Hunters pay for conservation and the BTTH program is the perfect example of that," said Justin Dreibelbis, TPWD's Private Lands and Public

Hunting Program Coordinator. "After 25 years, we are extremely excited to continue offering hunters an opportunity at once in a lifetime hunting opportunities and raising important wildlife conservation funding at the same time."

Some of the popular hunts included in this year's drawing include an Exotic Safari, where the winner and a guest will have a chance to hunt gemsbok, axis deer, and scimitar-horned oryx at Mason Mountain WMA, the Texas Grand Slam which offers the winner four separate hunts for desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, and desert mule deer, and the Powderhorn Cast and

Blast. The Powderhorn Cast and Blast is the newest BTTH offering and provides one lucky winner and a guest a chance to hunt white-tailed deer, exotics, and waterfowl on the more than 15,000 acres of the Powderhorn WMA, in addition to a guided fishing trip on

Matagorda Bay.

"The animals I harvested and the fish I caught, the incredible vastness of the land, the variety of animals, and the top-notch TPWD staff and guides, all made this a hunt I'll never forget," said Roger Wolfe, winner of the first Powderhorn Cast and

Blast drawing in 2020.

Big Time Texas Hunts entries are available online for \$9 each or for \$10 each at license retailers, or by calling 800-895-4248. The deadline to purchase entries is October 15 and winners will be announced within two weeks.

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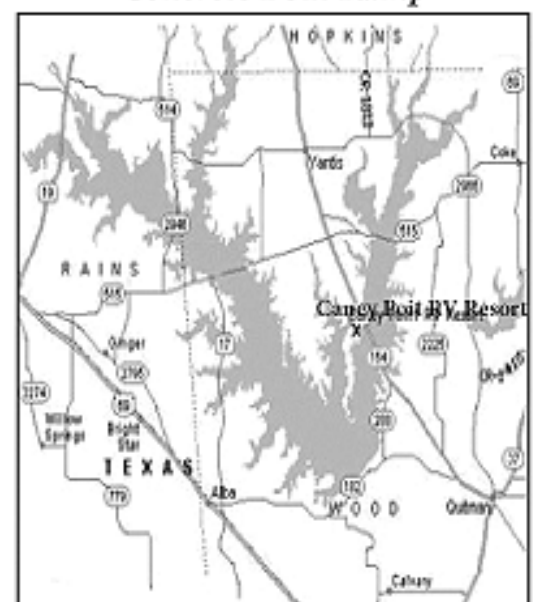
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"The Moon Report"

"Fork's Late Summer Crappie"

By Terri Moon

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

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

Tree lines, brush piles, bridges and deep water humps are starting to produce some really nice crappie. Some days they want a very slow presentation and other days they want the bait moving – so don't be afraid to change it up to see what works for that particular day. Also, some days they want a bigger bait and others they want something smaller.



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

Well, once again around the new and full moon, I took some "ME" time to go bream fishing. They were in 1 to 8 ft. of water around docks, edges of the grass, lily pads, or willows. Crickets, night crawlers, or even Berkley Power Nibbles, on a bobber or tightlined, is a recipe for FUN! By far – my favorite fish to catch and eat! I'm hoping for one last shot at them this next full moon!

I want to thank the customers that released the giant crappie this month. We've released 14 that were

over 16 inches in hopes for a new lake record one day.

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

Stay safe all of you and thanks for all prayers and well wishes for my mom! A special thank you to George and Ann for house sitting while I'm gone!

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TPWD Community Outdoor Outreach Program Grant Accepting Applications

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is now accepting grant applications for the Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP). CO-OP provides grant funding to tax-exempt organizations for programs that engage under-represented populations in TPWD mission-oriented activities. These grants support community-based conservation and outdoor recreation activities such as archery, fishing, camping, hiking, hunting, nature education and more.

CO-OP was established by TPWD in 1996 and has awarded more than \$22 million in outdoor program grants over the past 25 years. Funds are derived from a dedicated portion of the state sales tax col-

lected on sporting goods and distributed to organizations within the state of Texas through a competitive grant process each year. Grant awards range between \$5,000 — \$60,000 and can be used to support personnel, training, travel, food, park fees and program supplies.

The deadline to submit a CO-OP grant application is 5 p.m. CST, Nov. 1. Applications are available now online and grant awards will be announced on March 1, 2022. CO-OP staff will host a Grant Writing Webinar on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 1 p.m. This online webinar will discuss grant program requirements, provide an overview of the application process, review the scoring criteria, and answer questions

from applicants. Register for the webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2061593515098859536>

For more information and to apply, please visit <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/community-outdoor-outreach-program-co-op-grants>.





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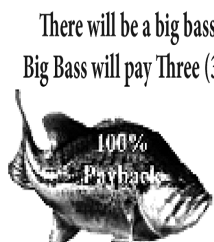
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Drawings Held After Weigh-in for prizes

1st Place	\$1,040.00
2nd Place	\$780.00
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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 Oct. 2, 2021.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Oct. 9, 2021.
4. Check in times: Fri., Oct. 8, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Oct. 9, 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 allowed).
8. Contestants must fish from a boat. NO-bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
9. Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
10. All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.
11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
12. Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (or state law limits at the time of the tournament).
13. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.
14. Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at sign-in). You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.
15. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
16. No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
17. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).
18. Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of TTB and will be released (with the exception of trophy

- or dead fish).
19. In the event of a tie for any position, prize money for that position and the following positions will be combined and evenly divided between the tying contestants.
20. Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to the tournament.
21. Contestants may fish with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.
22. Use of alcoholic beverages or controlled drugs are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in.
23. Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish.
24. Any contestant who violates any rule may be disqualified. Any act of a competitor, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon TTB's effort to promote fishing, conservation, clean waters, courtesy or safety shall be reason for disqualification from this and all future TTB tournaments.
25. Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age.
26. All protests must be registered in writing with the tournament judges within 15 minutes after designated weigh-in time. All decisions of the tournament judges will be final in all matters. Anyone protesting the outcome of an open tournament will have to pay for any additional polygraph test given.
27. All boats must be 18 ft. in length or longer. An aerated livewell is recommended to aid in fish survival for live release. Anglers cannot leave boat to land a fish.
28. All contestants are responsible to have read these rules and must agree to abide by them (by signing the entry form) while competing in this TTB event.
29. Contestants will be subject to polygraph test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Oct. 2, 2021 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (Optional). Print clearly.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Having read and understood all the tournament rules, by my signature I agree to accept all decisions of the judges final, by my signature I waive, release and hold harmless all members, officials and sponsors of any and all alleged liabilities to me or my equipment.

Contestants Signature _____

Minor's Release: Signed by _____

Parent/Guardian _____

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Entry # _____

Entry Fee _____

Big Bass _____

Cash _____ Chk# _____

Dove Populations Point to Favorable Hunting Season

September marks the start of dove season for almost 300,000 Texas hunters per year. After Winter Storm Uri hit the state in February, many hunters are wondering how the snowfall and below-freezing temperatures may have affected dove populations. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists report that hunters can expect a good

dove season, especially in the South Zone.

"Our spring dove surveys suggest that there may have been some impacts from the winter storm, particularly in the northern half of the state, but it's difficult to know the extent since dove populations naturally fluctuate from year to year," said Owen Fitzsimmons, TPWD Dove Program Lead-

er. "The most evident impact seems to be in the North Zone, where white-wing estimates are below average overall. I don't anticipate any long-term impacts. The good rainfall this spring and summer has resulted in good production, which will help offset any losses and allow a quick recovery."

Fitzsimmons says that

(Continued on Next Page)

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statewide breeding populations are about average this year with 25 million mourning doves and 12 million white-winged doves.

"Overall, breeding population estimates range from average to below-average in the North and Central Zones, but they are still well within normal, and even a little up from 2019, when we last did surveys," Fitzsimmons added. "In the areas with good hatch-year production, we are expecting an average to good season. Our estimates for the South Zone are above average so we anticipate another excellent season there."

One effect of the winter storm that hunters in every Dove Zone may notice this fall is frostbite damage on doves they harvest. The frostbite damage, however, doesn't appear to be impacting the overall health of the birds. Fitzsimmons says that it's

not unusual to find doves that migrate in from the northern states with missing toes or even the tips of their bills. Fitzsimmons notes that Winter Storm Uri did take a toll on Texas birds though, especially white-winged doves.

"They are a sub-tropical species and not very cold-hardy, but they are pretty resilient," Fitzsimmons said. "Despite their injuries, most of the ones we've encountered are otherwise healthy and in good condition."

Habitat conditions have been favorable throughout the state this year thanks to abundant rainfall, which could make for good hunting conditions all season long. Fitzsimmons encourages hunters to be ready for action-packed days in the field throughout October and even into the second half of the season.

Hunters may notice there are six Special White-winged Dove Days instead of the usual four this year. This is the only regulatory change for the 2021-22 season.

"Since federal regulations restrict the South Zone Regular Season from opening prior to September 14, the Special White-winged Days provide some early September hunting opportu-

nity, and they continue to grow in popularity every year," Fitzsimmons said. "We worked with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service this year to bump up from four days to six, which will provide three-day weekend opportunities for our hunters."

Dove hunters should purchase their new 2021-22 Texas hunting license prior to hitting the field this fall. Along with their hunting license, those hunting dove must have the migratory game bird endorsement and be HIP-certified. Hunters must accurately answer the HIP questions when getting certified, and, if a vendor does not ask questions about hunting activity last season, hunters are encouraged to ask that they do so. It's also required by law that hunters have proof of their completion of a hunter education course.

Dove season dates for the North, Central and South Zones, along with regulations, bag limits and more can be found in the Outdoor Annual. Hunters can also access digital copies of their licenses via the Outdoor Annual and My Texas Hunt Harvest apps. Additionally, hunters are encouraged to report any birds they recover that have leg bands.

Anyone hunting on Texas Public Hunting Lands are also required to purchase an Annual Public Hunting Permit. Texas has more than 1 million acres of land that is accessible to the public. More information about these lands and locations can be found on the TPWD Public Hunting website.

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Richland Creek WMA Northern Unit Named to Honor Biologist Carl Frentress

To honor the memory of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologist Carl Frentress, the northern unit of Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) has been renamed the Carl Frentress Unit. Frentress served as a biologist with TPWD for 32 years and was instrumental in the establishment of the Richland Creek WMA.

Frentress, a fifth-generation East Texan, graduated from Texas A&M University in 1968 with a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Following his graduation, he served as a summer student for TPWD at both the Kerr and J.D. Murphree WMAs before going into the U.S. Army for three years, working as a medic and dental assistant in South Korea and Fort Benning, Georgia. Later, he attended graduate school at Oregon State University and was then offered a job with TPWD in Corpus Christi as a Wildlife Biologist.

Frentress embraced a common-sense approach to wildlife management and had a passion for waterfowl and bottomland hardwood ecosystems. He promoted the notion that the protection of our natural resources was the responsibility of all people and that human well-being is one-in-the-same as the well-being of our resources.

Frentress played a vital role in the Wetland Water Reuse Project, in partnership with the Tarrant Regional Water District, as well as the restoration of many native grasslands, savannahs, and other wetland areas. He became an expert in many areas of wildlife and habitat management and worked alongside landowners and policymakers to establish the Texas wildlife tax valuation to help improve wildlife and habitat management on private lands. Frentress was a mentor to countless young biologists and sportsmen and women, all while working tirelessly to promote conservation among landowners and anyone who appreciated the outdoors.

After retiring from TPWD, Frentress continued his conservation work in the private sector as an environmental wetland consultant for another 14 years. Frentress passed away in 2019 with his wife of 48 years and his three children by his side.

Hunters hoping to visit the Richland Creek WMA this season will notice the name change in the Annual Public Hunting Lands booklet. Legal game in the Carl Frentress Unit for the 2021-22 hunting season include dove, feral hog, snipe, squirrel, rabbits and hares, bullfrogs, and fishing is also al-

lowed. An Annual Public Hunting Permit, along with a valid Texas Hunting License and Hunter Education certification, is required for all hunters at the WMA.

For more information on the Carl Frentress and Trinity Units of Richland Creek WMA, call 903-389-7080 or visit the Richland Creek WMA page of the TPWD website.



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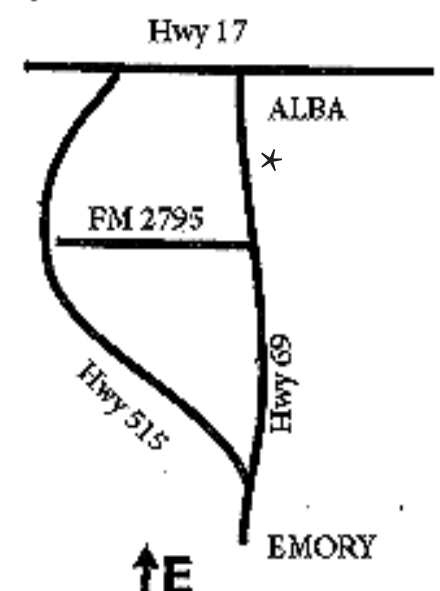
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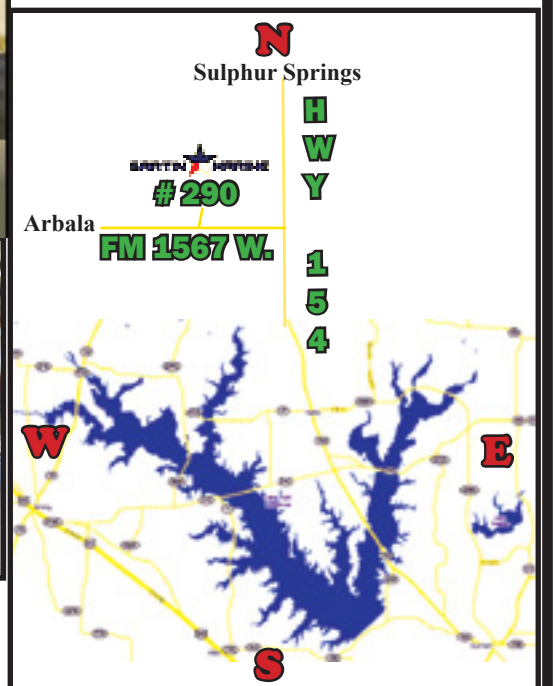
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"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Hello my friends and fellow fishermen – welcome to Lake Fork. Its September and it is still very hot! In spite of the fact that the days are shortening and even some leaves are beginning to fall it is still summer.

Lake Fork water temperatures have reached their peak levels with average daily temperatures ranging from upper 80's to lower 90's. It's the dog days of summer!

Catching big bass during this time of year can be very difficult but extremely rewarding. The big bass will tend to suspend in open water in or above deep offshore submerged trees making it very difficult to find them. First of all, there are so many trees in Lake Fork its like finding a

needle in a haystack. Second the bass will often suspend relatively shallow and therefore will not allow the boat to go over the top of them. Because of these reasons I typically use and exclusively rely on my sonars sidescan abilities to search for them. Im looking for big schools that will cast shadows on the sidescan images. I will set my left & right range settings varying from 60ft. to 100ft per side depending on the scenarios.

The Hummingbird sidescan images can be so clear that when you find them you can literally count each and every shadow/fish. I have personally found schools of big bass with more than 150 fish in the school. Once you find a good school of fish stay with them. It's simply a matter of time before they bite. Its is very common that once one of

them bites they all bite. To catch them I use the common summer techniques like big worms, jigs and even Carolina rigs. Just keep in mind that the fish are suspending so lighter presentations and slower fall rates can sometimes be the secret.

Try using an 1/8 oz. weight on your Texas rigged worm or 1/4 oz. jig with heavy skirt and trailer.

One of the very best ways is a weightless bait presen-

tation like a Senko or Mag fluke counted down to a desired level. This takes extreme patience but can truly be deadly.

For giant bass I tend to find them in much smaller groups and or rogue/solo. With all this being said now you know you must spend the time and pay your dues studying each day to find them. Everyday is a new day and cooler night time temperatures are on their way which once again will bring big changes to how we find and catch the big bass here at Lake Fork.

For more current detailed, Lake Fork fishing reports and information find my U-tube channel "The Lake Fork guide". Please subscribe and watch my weakly "Lake Fork RUNDOWN". You can also follow me on Facebook business page "Lake Fork adventures guide service"

Thanks for reading, I wish you great fishing and may God bless.



Michael McFarland
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Black Gap Wildlife Management Area Designated As An International Dark Sky Sanctuary

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is proud to announce that Black Gap Wildlife Management Area (WMA) has been designated as an International Dark Sky Sanctuary by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). Black Gap WMA is the second TPWD property to receive the Sanctuary designation, joining Devils River State Natural Area – Del Norte Unit which was designated as a Dark Sky Sanctuary in 2019.

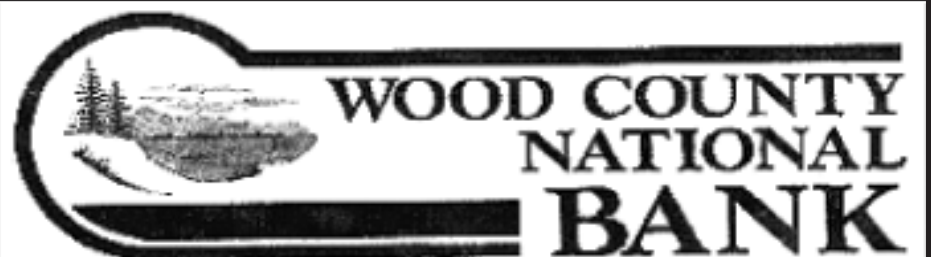
"This designation will help preserve the night skies in the Big Bend Region of Tex-

as and will serve as an economic benefit to the area overall," said Travis Smith, a TPWD Natural Resource Specialist at Black Gap WMA. "It will aid in the future goal of establishing a Dark Sky Reserve in the local area."

Within the TPWD system, there are now two International Dark Sky Sanctuaries and four International Dark Sky Parks, including Big Bend Ranch State Park Complex, Copper Breaks State Park, South Llano River State Park, and Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, designated by the IDA.

Black Gap shares a boundary with Big Bend National Park and is a short distance away from Big Bend Ranch State Park (BBRSP), both International Dark Sky Parks, making this area of the Big Bend one of the largest contiguous areas under dark-skies protection in the United States.

Mark Garrett, Project Leader for the Trans-Pecos Wildlife Management Areas echoed Smith's statement adding that, "we recognize the value of natural nighttime darkness and are fully committed to protect-

(Continued on Next Page)

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ing it as any other element of conservation."

At approximately 103,000 acres, Black Gap is the largest WMA managed by TPWD. Black Gap WMA is located in the rugged and remote Trans-Pecos region of far west Texas in the Chihuahuan Desert. The Trans-Pecos encompasses seven of the largest and most sparsely populated counties in the state. It is surrounded by protected public lands on both sides of the international border with Mexico.

Black Gap shares its western and southern boundaries with Big Bend National Park, the fourteenth largest park in the National Park Service system at over 800,000 acres. Its eastern boundary follows 25 miles of the Rio Grande and borders the Mexican State of Coahuila at the U.S./Mexico border. This stretch of the Rio Grande is part of the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River which represents 196 miles of federally protected river course celebrated for its natural and cultural significance.

This effort was led by Amber Harrison, an Interpretive Ranger at BBRSP with the goal of strengthening existing protections, as well as extending outreach and programming to focus on the entire region.

"We are always looking for ways to strengthen our partnerships within the region and we want to expand responsibly so your dark skies can

be experienced by those who live here alongside those who are visiting," said Cassie Cox, a TPWD Regional Interpretive Specialist.

As part of this initiative, BBRSP revised their Interpretive Management Plan and extended their Dark Sky Steward volunteer program to include Black Gap. The Dark Sky Steward volunteer program helps monitor the condition of the night sky over time. It enlists volunteers with experience in astronomy and/or astrophotography to gather observations of the night sky from various locations. The observations and images generated by our volunteers are used to track the quality of the night sky, as well as for promotional and educational purposes.

Not only does this designation mean continued protection of pristine night skies, but it also represents a collaboration between the State Parks and Wildlife divisions of TPWD, our partners at the McDonald Observatory, and local advocacy groups – all working together for the greater goal of becoming an International Dark Sky Reserve.

"The commitment from all members in this community will pave the way for a landscape-scale conservation approach that will provide the greatest impact for preserving night skies in this area," said Ruskin Hartley, Executive

Director of IDA.

The IDA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Tucson, Arizona, which advocates for the protection of the nighttime environment and dark night skies. It does so by educating policymakers and the public about night sky conservation and through the promotion of environmentally responsible outdoor lighting. The IDA established the International Dark Sky Places conservation program in 2001 to recognize excellent stewardship of the night sky. Designations are based on stringent outdoor lighting standards and innovative community outreach. Currently, 32 Communities, 106 Parks, 18 Reserves, 14 Sanctuaries, two Urban Night Sky Places, and six Dark Sky Friendly Developments of Distinction are recognized with International Dark Sky Places designations.

Those interested in the Dark Sky Steward program can contact Amber Harrison at the Barton Warnock Visitor Center by calling 432-424-3327. Additional information can be found on the TPWD Dark Skies website.

Learn more about the IDA mission and International Dark Sky Places conservation on the IDA website.

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"September is Incredible!" (Continued from Page 6)

pitch out a marker buoy once you locate a group of fish, then tie on a Talon Big Daddy Lake Fork flutter spoon and go to work. Cast back toward the buoy and count the spoon down until you hit the desired depth. Twitch the spoon and let it flutter down to draw the strike. Depending on the depth the fish are holding, a crankbait will work equally as well. I would choose the Strike King 6XD or the 8XD. Both are deadly and can be fished on 15lb line on a cranking rod. Also, submerged trees will hold the lion share of bass. Throw the crankbaits around these trees and work the bait through the limbs. You may

lose a few lures the rewards can pay off handsomely.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in September searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in September and some open dates in October. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook and Instagram at DavidOzioLakeForkGuide. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing, Talon Custom Lures, Nextgen Lithiums and Skeeter Boats for making my job the blast that it is. I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". I wish all of you a blessed day."



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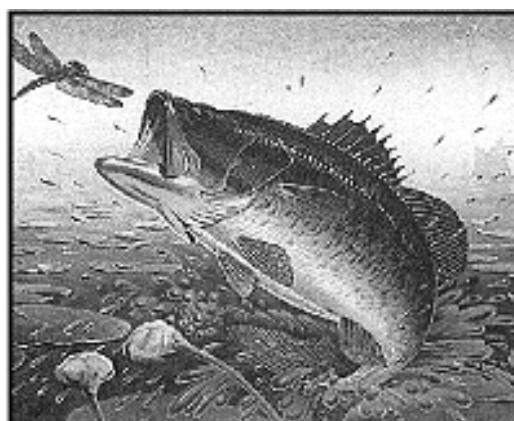
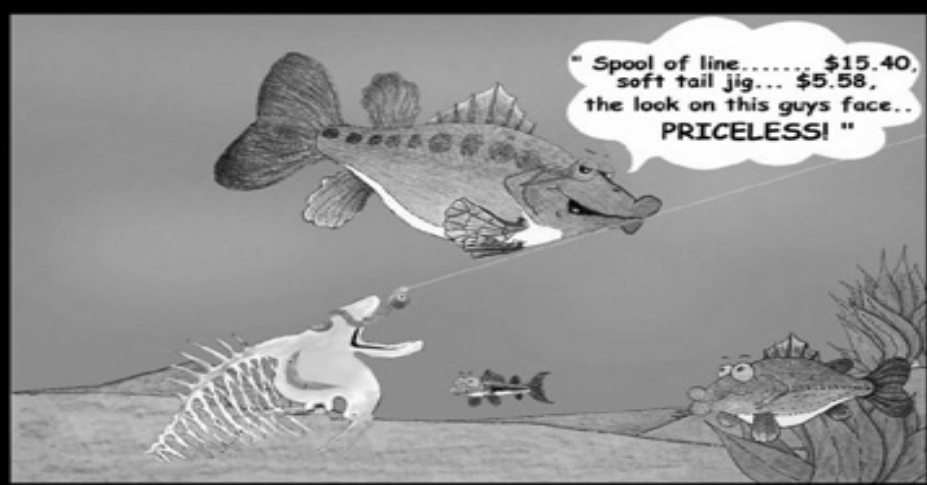
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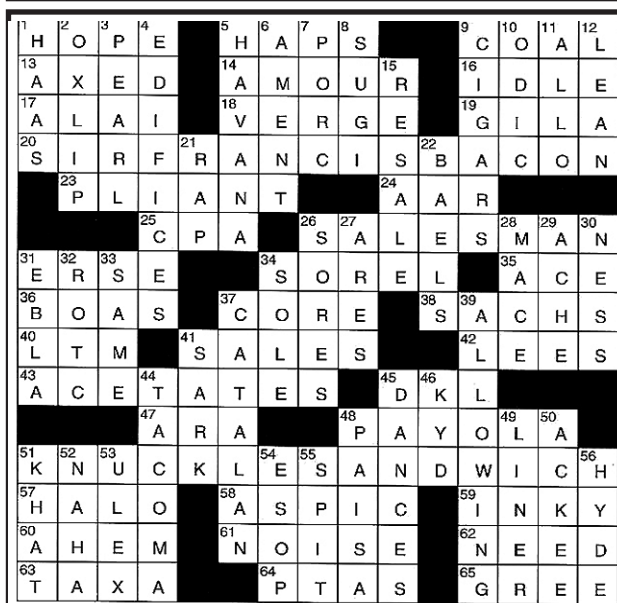
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Labor Day Word Find

See how many different jobs you can find and circle throughout the puzzle below. Which one would you like to do when you grow up?

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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Curiosity Caught the Cat-- A game warden received a call from an Andrews County deputy asking about the legality of shooting mountain lions in Texas. After explaining the regulations, the deputy told the warden someone had claimed to have seen several mountain lions hanging around an old abandoned house near the state line. The warden contacted the indi-

vidual who had allegedly seen the cats and located where he had spotted them. The warden spoke to the landowners in the area and found out the individual did not have permission to be on their property. After investigating further, it was determined that four individuals were trespassing on the ranch. Appropriate charges were filed and are currently pending.

--Punch Buggy! Wait...That's MY Buggy!-- A Polk County game warden was patrolling an area recently hit

with several burglaries when he noticed an unoccupied UTV. While searching the UTV for a serial number, a person pulled up in a truck screaming for help. The person claimed that someone had just broke into their property, then said "Hey! That's my buggy!" The thief had used the UTV to transport stolen goods from the burglary that morning. Trail cameras, which were also stolen, sent partial images of the thief to the owner's cell phone. The next day, the warden vis-

(Continued on Page 24)

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'Wrap' Up the Summer With a Fabulous Labor Day Celebration

By Sue Hampton

The end of summer brings an end to vacation and a fresh start to school and work. It also brings one more opportunity to have an outdoor celebration – Labor Day (Sept. 6)!

Observed annually on the first Monday in September, this legal public holiday is a popular time for enjoying picnics or backyard barbecues with family and friends.

With so many warm-weather activities still to accomplish, everyone seems to be rushed, especially when it comes to preparing a tasty Labor Day dish to serve to guests. This month, make



Wrap up a terrific summer with a fabulous, tasty dish of Taco Rico Wraps!

it "rice to the rescue," as September also marks National Rice Month.

Versatile, nutritious and easy to prepare, rice makes a delicious dish for any occasion. So, why not wrap up a great summer with a fabulous and fun rice dish – the following recipe for Taco Rico Wraps is sure to be tasty. Enjoy!

TACO RICO WRAPS

(Makes 6 servings – 3 tacos each)

1 pound lean ground beef
1 – 16-ounce jar prepared chunky salsa
3 cups cooked rice
1 – 11-ounce can corn, drained
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Monterey Jack cheese
18 flour or corn tortillas, warmed

Brown beef in large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat; drain fat and liquid, if necessary. Stir in salsa, rice and corn. Cook over medium heat, covered, for five to 10 minutes or until no liquid remains. Spoon 1/3 cup mixture into each tortilla, top with about 1 tablespoon cheese. Roll up; serve.

Add the following "Cran-Blueberry Pie" to complete your Labor Day celebration!

Cran-Blueberry Pie

1 package (12 ounces) frozen blueberries (about 2-1/2 cups)
2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries
3/4 cup sugar

1/2 cup Karo Light Corn Syrup
1/4 cup corn starch
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon salt
2 (9-inch) unbaked pie crusts

Glaze:

1/4 cup powdered sugar
1 to 1-1/2 teaspoons milk

Preheat oven to 375F. Combine blueberries, cranberries, sugar, corn syrup, corn starch, cinnamon and salt in a large saucepan. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, until cranberry skins begin to pop.

Assemble pie by placing one crust in pie plate. Pour in filling. Top with remaining crust. Flute edges and cut slits in top crust to vent. Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until top is lightly browned.

Prepare Glaze: Stir powdered sugar and milk together until smooth. Spread over hot crust. Cool pie on wire rack. (Let pie cool completely before cutting, or filling will be runny.)



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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

ited a nearby house that was being worked on to see if anyone recognized the subject. One of the workers said, "Yes, that guy borrowed my phone, he said his buggy broke down." The warden saw the text messages the subject sent and was able to gather their name and address. The case was handed to Polk County Sheriff's Office due to subject being part of an organized crime ring in Polk, Liberty and San Jacinto Counties. Multiple warrants have been issued.

--We Found Dove in a Hopeless Place--Two game wardens responded to a call regarding individuals shooting birds near a gun range in Donna. With the wardens approaching the area from opposite directions, two men were found exiting a brushy area carrying a rifle and piece of plywood with a target affixed, while a third man was sitting under a blue tent near his pickup truck. The wardens confronted the men and asked if either of them owned the property or had the landowner's permission to be there. They readily admitted that they did not have permission, although one offered that he had hunted there a couple of years before. They were then asked if they had been hunting birds, but categorically denied it. Unfortunately for them, the Wardens were able to find the

seven white-winged dove they had hidden in a bait bucket. After consulting with the landowner, it was determined that "Criminal Trespass - Agricultural Land" and "Hunting During Closed Season" would be the charges filed. In addition, the individual claiming to have killed the birds was assessed the civil restitution value for each of the white-winged dove.

--We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together-- A Montgomery County game warden received a complaint from a woman saying her boyfriend and his friend had killed a deer a couple of days ago and still had it hanging in the garage. The warden arrived at the location and found the deer had gone to waste. The boyfriend admitted to shooting the deer from a public road at night and was arrested for a Felony Warrant, Hunting at Night and Failing to Retrieve or Keep in Edible Condition. The next day, the warden contacted the

friend who had admitted to helping the boyfriend kill the deer and leaving it hanging in the garage without processing it completely. After further investigation, the warden found that the friend also had a felony warrant. He was arrested for the Felony Warrant, Hunting at Night and Failing to Retrieve or Keep in Edible Condition.

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

(Continued on Next Page)

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the jail, his real name and date of birth was located and found to have been previously issued a citation in 2009 by the same warden for no fishing license. Citations were issued to the man for no fishing license and for failure to identify, and he was released.

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

--Be One With the Tree-- A Bexar County game warden was patrolling the property around Calaveras Lake where access is restricted when two subjects were caught trespassing on powerplant property. When the warden identified himself as law enforcement, the pair fled into the brush. One surrendered and came back to the roadway, so they were cited and released. The other could not be located because of the thickness of the brush. The warden called for backup and a

second Bexar County game warden came to assist in the search for the other trespasser. The wardens searched the brush for about an hour and found the subject hiding behind a mesquite tree waiting for a vehicle to pick him up. The man was arrested for criminal trespass and evading arrest or detention, and booked into the Bexar County Jail.

--Creeping on Critters-- Two game wardens were conducting night patrols in Kimble County where several reports of possible night road hunting had been occurring. The wardens had been sitting in their location for about 10 minutes when they heard the first of multiple gunshots and saw a group of people spotlighting. With the use of night vision goggles, the wardens located the individuals and made contact with them. The 11 individuals had permission to be on the property they were hunting on, but all were from out of state and did not possess a valid Texas hunting license. The individuals had shot several jack rabbits, raccoons and other non-game animals. The wardens issued 11 citations for hunting non-game animals without a valid Texas hunting license.

--Axis Denied-- An Edwards County game warden and a Real County game warden had

been investigating an individual for several weeks for hunting from a public roadway. One day, a landowner called in a suspicious vehicle driving very slowly so the Edwards County game warden responded to the call from several miles away. While in-route he received a second call saying the individuals were seen taking an axis deer from the public road. The individuals were apprehended and confessed. Multiple charges have been filed and cases are pending.

--Oh, Crap(pie)-- Two Travis County game wardens were patrolling Decker Lake when they encountered two different groups of men fishing with cast nets from boats and jet skis. Upon further investigation, the game wardens found both groups in possession of multiple game fish including bass and crappie. The wardens took possession of the fish and donated them to a family on the shore. Multiple citations and civil restitution are pending.

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