Mark Trull from Kennedy, Alabama won 1st Place overall at the Sealy Lake Fork Tournament with this 10-lb. bass.

Glenon McKee from Rosepine, Louisiana won 2nd Place overall at the Sealy Lake Fork Tournament with this 9.98-lb. bass.

John Sanko from Wills Point, Texas won 3rd Place overall at the Sealy Lake Fork Tournament with this 9.83-lb. bass.

Keith White from Brookeland, Texas won 4th Place overall at the Sealy Lake Fork Tournament with this 9.24-lb. bass.

Gary Hall from Newton, Texas won 5th Place overall at the Sealy Lake Fork Tournament with this 9.14-lb. bass. (See Full Story Page 4)

16th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

For all of you anglers that are not only big fans of fishing Lake Fork but also love doing it with Berkley baits, here is the time you have been waiting for. The 16th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork hosted by BassChamps will be held on October 16th and 17th. The tournament will be held out of Lake Fork Marina just off Highway 17N. Registration times will be Friday October 15th from 11 am to 7 pm, and October 16th and 17th from 5 am to 7 am at tournament headquarters. Anglers can fish one day or both days. Entry fee for one day is $160 or $200 for both days.

(See 16th Annual Berkley, Continued on Page 10)

“Heaven has another angler!” Kenneth “Skeeter” Fowler passed away on September 12th. Skeeter lived his entire life for God, his family, and fishing. He was continually investing time and effort to grow the sport and spent time with his sons doing so. Skeeter was a fierce competitor and worked extremely hard on and off the water to be a positive influence to those around him. Whether teaching fishing, competing, or raising funds for someone’s cause, Skeeter gave all he could to support others in the sport he loved so much.
Lake Fork
Located on 515
Between Hwy 154 & Hwy 17
Website: www.scenic515cabins.com
Email: scenic515mascha@gmail.com
Mascha Taylor ~ Property Manager

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Bubba’s favorite holidays are coming up and he is geared up and ready for them. He loves Thanksgiving and Christmas mainly because of all the great food, the get-togethers, (as he calls them), and of course getting new stuff! One of his favorite holidays and Bubbette’s worst is Halloween.

This is one “Spook-tacular Holiday” that Bubba practices year round. He’s like an oversized lapdog when it comes to the treats and a scary movie when it comes to the tricks. He is most childlike on Christmas morning opening his presents and getting new stuff, but he is even more so when it comes to jumping out and scaring someone.

He practices mostly on Bubbette and how either of them has survived these many years is a testimony to “True Love”! On more than one occasion she has threatened his health with a rolling pen but Bubba doesn’t take the threats too seriously. I couldn’t even tell you if he hears them over his own laughter.

Bubba practices his scare tactics constantly to stay in true form. He has Bubbette shaky like a squirrel on a high-line every time she walks in the house. The only time he is quiet is when he’s about to spring with a goulish holler. It doesn’t even matter to him if she has an arm full of groceries. If the timing and setting is right he’ll make his move and then laugh for days afterwards. To Bubba harmlessly scaring someone is one of the funniest things in life. He really must have had a missed childhood or else he just doesn’t wish to grow out of it!

I do believe that Bubba bought Bubbette a new car, not for her benefit but rather for his entertainment. As with most new vehicles this one has an alarm system with remotes. For the first week they had it Bubba couldn’t stop laughing and it wasn’t from the joy of having a new vehicle. Every time Bubbette would go to get in her car Bubba would be hiding around the corner. Her hand would no sooner touch the car door than Bubba’s finger would push the alarm button. With the alarm and horn blaring, and lights flashing, Bubbette would be jumping around thinking she did something wrong, while Bubba would be rolling on the ground with laughter. Needless to say that only lasted for a week because he no longer has a set of keys and alarm remote to Bubbette’s new car.

Bubba doesn’t just practice his scare tactics on Bubbette while at home. Even the dog and cat have to hide from him. He’ll catch them in one of their deep naps, sneak up as close as possible, get on his hands and knees and commence barking and growling like a maddog. Yes, Bubba has been bitten by his own dog, scratched by his own cat, and clobbered by his own wife.

One of the reasons Bubba can’t keep a partner on the “Team Tournament Trail” he fishes isn’t because of the number of fish caught. It is because their heart can’t take it! Bubba watches his partners closely to make sure they are on their toes during a tournament. If they seem to be daydreaming when the action slows down, he has a rude awakening for them too! He will catch them in one of their relaxed moods and then set his plan in motion. He will intentionally get his lure hung up while they are not watching. Once he has it securely stuck he’ll jump up excitedly and holler, “It’s a big one get the net!” At this time he has his rod bent going from side to side acting like he has a real hog on the end of the line. This gets his partner throwing his rod down, scrambling all over the boat to get the net and ready to do his job. When his partner finally gets the net ready Bubba will roll with laughter and say, “Just kidding I’m hung up and wanted to see if you were still with me!” I think Bubba has probably been bit, scratched, and clobbered by some of his fishing partners too! He has had five different fishing partners in the past four seasons and not even that will stop Bubba’s sense of humor or his enjoyment of a good laugh.

Maybe there is a lesson for all of us here to learn from Bubba. It is possible that if we all kept a childlike quality in our hearts and didn’t take ourselves quite so seriously we could find the smaller things in life much more humorous. Then we would all be able to laugh at the bites, scratches and clobberings that life has to offer.

“Have a Spooktacular Halloween!” Bubba will!
Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

Many anglers said fishing was tough on the lake, but they couldn’t have asked for better weather. This didn’t stop all the bass from coming to the scales at the 35th Annual Big Bass Splash held on Lake Fork, September 17th, 18th, and 19th.

A total of 2,468 anglers participated in this great event. Some came from as far as Illinois and Arizona. Anglers and staff could not believe the moderate temperatures they were gifted with.

As anglers are quite aware of the reason it is called fishing and not catching is that the bite isn’t always what they want or expect. There were a lot of 2-pound plus bass brought in and 16 bass over the 24” slot. With the slot on Lake Fork being between 16” to 24” no bass between those measurements could be brought in.

Some anglers did learn the hard way to measure their bass properly. Many of the anglers reported catching bass in the slot or too small to bring to the weigh-in.

On Friday, the first day of the tournament there were eight bass over the slot brought to the scales. In the 7 to 8 o’clock hour Sammy Procell from Zwolle, Louisiana weighed in a 7.56-pound bass; in the 8 to 9 o’clock hour Glenon McKee from Rosepine, Louisiana weighed in a 9.98-pound bass; in the 9 to 10 o’clock hour Darren Miller from Ore City, Texas weighed in a 7.62-pound bass; in the 11 to 12 o’clock hour Raul Ramirez from Baytown, Texas weighed in a 6.97-pound bass; in the 12 to 1 o’clock hour two Lake Fork hawgs came to the scales, Mark Trull from Kennedy, Alabama weighed in a 10-pound bass and Keith White from Brookeland, Texas weighed in a 9.24-pound bass; in the 1 to 2 o’clock hour LaDarius Carpentar from League City, Texas weighed in a 7.60-pound bass.

On Saturday, the second day of the tournament there were eight bass over the slot brought to the scales. In the 7 to 8 o’clock hour Sammy Procell from Zwolle, Louisiana weighed in a 7.56-pound bass; in the 8 to 9 o’clock hour Glenon McKee from Rosepine, Louisiana weighed in a 9.98-pound bass; in the 9 to 10 o’clock hour Darren Miller from Ore City, Texas weighed in a 7.62-pound bass; in the 11 to 12 o’clock hour Raul Ramirez from Baytown, Texas weighed in a 6.97-pound bass; in the 12 to 1 o’clock hour two Lake Fork hawgs came to the scales, Mark Trull from Kennedy, Alabama weighed in a 10-pound bass and Keith White from Brookeland, Texas weighed in a 9.24-pound bass; in the 1 to 2 o’clock hour LaDarius Carpentar from League City, Texas weighed in a 7.60-pound bass.

On Saturday, the second day of the tournament...
ment three bass over the slot were brought to the scales. In the 7 to 8 o’clock hour Jeremy Flowers from Cleveland, Texas weighed a 7.73-pound bass; in the 8 to 9 o’clock hour Patrick Sutton from Arp, Texas weighed an 8.36-pound bass; in the 12 to 1 o’clock hour John Sanko from Wills Point, Texas weighed an 9.83-pound bass.

On Sunday, the last day of the tournament there were five bass over the slot brought to the scales. In the 8 to 9 o’clock hour Richard Calley from Kirby, Arkansas weighed in a 7.78-pound bass; in the 9 to 10 o’clock hour Jeff Belote from McAlester, Oklahoma weighed a 8.47-pound bass; in the 11 to 12 o’clock hour Billy Holeman from Camden, Arkansas weighed in a 7.99-pound bass; in the 12 to 1 o’clock hour Gary Hall from Newton, Texas weighed in a 9.14-pound bass and James Williams from Saline, Louisiana weighed in a 6.54-pound bass.

In Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash Tournaments on Lake Fork the first exact weight of a 2.50-pound bass is worth $5,000 and for any day that exact weight is not caught there is a drawing for the prize money. The heaviest under the 16” slot on any day of the tournament wins $5,000. On Friday the heaviest bass under the slot was brought in by Stoney Stout from Paris, Texas weighing 2.68-pounds winning him an additional $5,000. On Saturday of the tournament the heaviest bass under the slot weighed 2.75-pounds and was caught by Danny Borel from Hemphill, Texas winning him an extra $5,000. On Sunday the heaviest under the slot was 2.53-pounds caught by Johnny Rape from Winnsboro, Texas winning him an extra $5,000.

Since there wasn’t a 2.5-pound exact caught on three days of the tournament, there was a drawing after the tournament for that prize money. In the drawing LaneyJacoby from Lonoke, Arkansas, Ron Hershberger from Newton, Kansas, and Tom Tilton from Weatherford, Texas had a surprise win of a check for $5.000 each.

In the elimination drawing Charles Minard from... (See Sealy Outdoors.... Continued on Page 7)
“Time to Take Advantage of Cooler Temps!”

By David Ozio

“The long awaited bass food fight is upon us and it couldn’t have come soon enough. Hot summer temps have sent all anglers scrambling and it’s time for everyone to take advantage of cooler air temps and get on the hunt for the giant green monsters that lurk in the depths of Lake Fork. As water temps begin to fall, this sends a signal to the baitfish to migrate into the creeks and you know what will follow. Currently, there are more shad on the lake than I have seen in years. This signals a great opportunity to book your favorite guide and go after one of the many super slounches that are parked on this impoundment.

Early October can officiate a small drawback called “Lake Turnover”. This turnover process is very evident when you see brown bubbles floating on the surface across the lake. The occurrence doesn’t happen all at once but in stages according to the strength of the cold fronts as they pass. Not all parts of the lake will turnover at once as some areas cool faster than others. This phenomenon usually lasts about three weeks beginning in late September and throws bass fishing into a tail spin especially for the deep fish. During this transition period, you will need to read the conditions and adapt accordingly. Fall will usually issue in more cloudy days and as the water temps decline, fish will migrate to the shallows in search of food and suitable water conditions thus opening the door to easier catches on moving baits. Where do we start? The answer to that question is wrapped up in the fall bass habits. Creeks will be your starting place and finding the shad will lead you to some of the best bass fishing of the year.

Gear up with a top water for the early bites and focus on any vegetation that you can find such as coontail, lilypads or alligator grass. There is a little bit of hydrilla available but you have to hunt high and low to find it. Zara Spooks are my all time favorite and will draw strikes from the largest bass around. Buzzbaits, Yellow Magic’s and frogs are also excellent choices and truly have a place on the deck of the boat. Once that bite tapers off, I will switch to a Texas rig worm of any sort and work the same areas until noon. If the vegetation is more sparse, use a 1/8th ounce tungsten weight with a 3/0 hook and rig it with your favorite worm. Trick worms, curl tails or speed worms all work great. For thicker grass, move up to a 5/16 ounce weight so that it will get down to where the monsters live. As for worm colors, stick to dark hues on cloudy days and more translucent shades on sunny days. If the water has pitiful clarity, go with the darker colors. If the wind is howling, head to the windiest bank and

Answers on Page 21
Yantis, Texas won a Nitro Z18 powered by Mercury, equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance. In the open drawing Cathy Coleman from Buna, Texas won a Fire Disc Grill.

Mark Trull from Kenneth, Alabama won 1st Place overall for heaviest bass caught in the tournament with his 10-pound bass. For his efforts he won $4,000 hourly pay plus a $4,000 hourly pay plus a Triton 18 TRX powered by Mercury equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance and $2,500 in cash. Winning 4th place overall with a weight of 9.24-pounds was Keith White from Brookeland, Texas. He took home $4,000 in hourly pay plus a check for $8,000. Coming in 5th Place overall was Gary Hall from Newton, Texas with a weight of 9.14-pounds. His bass won him $900 in hourly pay plus a check for $6,000. During the course of the tournament there were sixteen bass weighed in over the slot. On Friday there was a total of 313 bass weighed for a total weight of 630.75-pounds. On Saturday there were 242 bass weighed for a total weight of 478.35. Total bass weighed in the tournament was 799 for a total weight of 1,636.63 pounds. The Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association did an excellent job with their Live Release Boat returning all the bass into the lake to be caught another day.

It was disappointing that the double-digit bass Lake Fork is known for did not show up in a greater number, but the weather was great, safety factors were taken, and the bite for all those winners was terrific.

Before the presentations began, there was a Memorial Service for Skeeter Fowler. He passed away this September from Covid. He was a tribute to Lake Fork, the fishing industry, and anglers both young and old.

For more information on Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash visit their website at www.sealyoutdoors.com

God Bless America, Fish Friendly, and I hope to see you on the lakes.

(Continued from Page 5)

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(Continued from Page 5)
Well – Buddy and I just got back from a “Time Out” trip to Missouri to take Mama Nova to Kansas City for surgery. Gratefully all went well and we both want to send our thanks for all the prayers and well wishes!

Also, I need to send a huge thank you to Sweet Juan Gonzalez of Blue Springs Missouri for coming to my rescue when my alternator quit on my suburban while going down 7 Highway during lunch rush! Luckily my battery kept me going long enough to get to my friends driveway (with no gauges working). That’s some high stress driving! But with one phone call, Sweet Juan came after he got off work and had my alternator replaced before dark! Not only that but he said he would change my much needed brake pads the next day so it would be safe for me to travel again! I thank God everyday for the “Angels among us”! I’m wishing Juan many blessings for his kind heart!

So with everything back stable in Missouri, Buddy and I headed back South to Texas. But once again, my apologies to those of you who tried to reach me while I was gone – please try again. I have no signal while at moms. My phone just jams up. But I appreciate you trying to reach me.

I’m so excited to be back just in time for Lake Forks October November prime fishing months. With the cooler weather, the crappie will be showing up on the points of mouths of the creek arms, and on the channels and secondary creeks. They will be as shallow as 6 ft. and as deep as 18 ft. around the bridges and brush piles. You might also look in the mouths of the coves in 20 – 28 ft. of water. Also, don’t be afraid to change up your presentation. Some days they want it dead still and others they want it moving – (I love it when they hit it on the fall!) Also, some days you need to downsize your bait for a slower fall over your target.

Bait color can make a difference too. On cloudy days with low light conditions, go to a darker color bait and on brighter days with clearer water, go to your brighter colors. It doesn’t hurt to keep a jar of Berkley Crappie Nibbles on hand if the fish are finicky. Lake Fork Marina has a good selection of Bonehead baits and jig heads, and Skipper Jigs, and a big selection of all your crappie fishing needs!

Once again, it’s great to be back on the lake. I think Buddy is happier than me to be back. He has been such a trooper and a good traveler and he made lots of new friends in Missouri but he’s always happy to see all his Lake Fork Marina friends!

My best to you all and sending thoughts and prayers to my friends and family in MO.

Good luck to you all in the Berkley Tournament!
Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be hosting their 41st Semi-Annual Bass Tournament on October 9th hosted out of Oak Ridge Marina. Any of you anglers coming to fish the 16th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on October 16th and 17th, this is a chance to do some pre-fishing and enjoy the great fishing Fork has to offer.

Fishing hours for the tournament will be from 6 am to 3:30 pm. All anglers have to be in line by 3:30 pm. It is a five fish limit and an individual tournament. More than one individual can fish in a boat but each person in the boat must be a paid entry. Bass in the tournament can touch 16” but not break the line. Bass over the slot must touch the 24” line. The Check-it-Stick will be the official measuring board. Bass under the slot must be at least 12” in length. Shorter than 12” cannot be brought to the weigh-in.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork pays back 80% of all entries. There is also a Big Bass Pot, optional to anglers. To get into the Big Bass Pot there is an optional $10 with 100% payback to the top three biggest bass. Entry fee for the tournament is $45 with $10 Big Bass Option. Texas Trails Bassmasters will be taking entries in the white trailer by the lake from 4 pm to 9 pm on Friday October 8th, and again on Saturday from 5am to 6 am.

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

Texas Trails Bassmasters is a highly motivated progressive bass fishing club with ties to the Wish to Fish Foundation and weight masters for the Wood County Annual Kid Fish. If you are thinking of joining a bass club, you can’t go wrong with Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork. We are now accepting new members for our 2022 Season.

Dues to join the club are a mere $30 per year and if you join now, your membership will be good through 2022. Cost for tournament is $25 with a $5 Big Bass Option. There is also a progressive side pot that is optional for $5 for the first 7-pound or over bass.

For more information or to obtain an entry for the tournament, see ad on Page 10. You can visit our website at www.texastrailsbassmasters.com or give Rodney Ellis, President a call at 903-714-6473 or Don Hampton, Vice President/Tournament Director a call at 903-360-6994.

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

Come Fish Beautiful Lake Fork!! Book Your Trip Today 903-335-0941
16th Annual Berkley on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 1)

For anglers participating this will be one of the most exciting tournaments of the year. With the cooler temperatures setting in, the bass are sure to be feeding up and respond well to both Berkley hard and soft baits. Check out some of their new line of topwater baits and the General.

There is over $150,000 guaranteed in cash and prizes with 20 places paid per hour during the two-day tournament starting at $1,000 for 1st place, down to $200 for 10th place; 11th thru 20th place wins a $100 Berkley gift card.

For the lucky angler that catches the heaviest bass over the slot, that angler will be taking home a new Skeeter ZX-200 powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor. For the heaviest bass under the slot, that angler will be taking home a new Skeeter ZX-150 powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor.

There is also available “Exact Weight Bonus Cash”. There is $1,000 for the angler that brings in an exact 3.5, 9.00, or 10-pound bass. Also, during the tournament there will be a Junior Division and a Women’s Division. Don’t forget the Berkley Empty Bag Give Away. Bring an empty package of any Berkley bait with your name written on it legibly and pour it in the bin for drawing of extra prizes.

The tournament is not only a great fishing experience but also terrific entertainment for the entire family. Hourly updates can be heard on KMOO 99.9 FM, so be sure to have a radio in your boat. For more information and details check out their ad on Page 28 or go to their website: www.basschamps.com.
Biologists Say White-Tailed Deer Population Looks Strong Ahead of Archery-Only Season Opener

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists say that 2021-22 is expected to be a white-tailed deer season for the books. Last year, the overall white-tailed deer population was estimated to be 5.4 million deer. While that estimate is down from the previous two years, TPWD biologists say that if fawn recruitment predictions hold true this season, coupled with good carryover of deer from last hunting season, hunters and landowners can expect to see an increase in the overall statewide white-tailed deer population.

“White-tailed deer forecasts and expectations are, in large part, driven by habitat conditions that the deer are experiencing across their range in Texas in the eight to ten months prior to the season,” said Alan Cain, TPWD White-Tailed Deer Program Leader. “Though the end of 2020 was dry, and early 2021 experienced freezing conditions that delayed green up of important browse plants, the late spring and summer rainfall acted like liquid fertilizer for forb, grass, and woody plant production and has provided a buffet of natural forages for deer.”

Cain says that the favorable habitat conditions should boost the body condition of deer populations and set up deer to enter the fall and winter with a substantial layer of fat. The favorable weather conditions were also vital in helping bucks maximize antlers as they finish out the growing season. Antler quality is predicted to be well above average for the 2021-22 season.

While the archery-only season kicks off the first weekend of October, the general season opener is still more than a month away on Nov. 6. The general season runs through Jan. 2, 2022 in the North Zone and Jan. 16, 2022 in the South Zone. A special youth-only gun deer season is set for Oct. 30-31 and Jan. 3-16, 2022.

For additional late season deer hunting opportunities, county specific regulations and information on how to properly tag and report a harvest, consult the 2021-22 Outdoor Annual, which was made possible in part by support from Chevy Silverado. Archery hunters are required to purchase an Archery Endorsement in addition to their hunting license. Hunters taking advantage of Texas Public Hunting Lands must also have the Annual Public Hunting Permit. It’s also important for public land hunters to consult the Public Hunting Lands Map Booklet to review regulations that may apply to specific areas. The My Texas Hunt Harvest app can be used to complete on-site registration electronically at a public hunting area.

Hunters are reminded to review information about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) for information about testing requirements and carcass movement restrictions in the CWD zones for the 2021-22 season. Discovery of new cases of CWD in Hunt, Lubbock, and Uvalde counties has prompted TPWD to establish new containment and surveillance zones in those areas to mitigate the potential spread of CWD. Those interested in learning more about archery and bowhunting, or anyone who is looking to brush-up on their skills ahead of the season, are encouraged to explore Bowhunter by Fall, a newsletter series presented by TPWD’s Community Archery Program.
Alligator Snapping Turtles Seized in Illegal Trafficking Case Are Returned to Natural Habitat

Twenty-one adult, and six juvenile, alligator snapping turtles were recently released back into East Texas as part of a coordinated effort among Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Stephen F. Austin State University, Sabine River Authority, Northeast Texas Municipal Water District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Houston Zoo, and the Turtle Survival Alliance, among others, after being seized in an illegal trafficking attempt.

In 2017, Texas Game Wardens, in coordination with the Service’s Office of Law Enforcement, investigated the poaching of alligator snapping turtles. Large turtles up to 150 pounds were being poached in Texas and transported into Louisiana, which is a federal Lacey Act violation. Alligator snapping turtles are a popular food item with a restricted limit of one per day in Louisiana. This has led to a smaller population of the species in Louisiana, along with poaching in Texas where harvest is illegal.

The turtles were transported to East Texas from the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery in Louisiana, where they were being held following their seizure by law enforcement in 2016. “Alligator snapping turtles have been protected in Texas since the 1970’s,” said Meredith Longoria, Deputy Director of the TPWD Wildlife Division. “We have a unique opportunity to not only return these turtles to their range in Texas from which they were taken, but also to learn more about their habits and their biology so that we can more effectively conserve Texas populations to ensure their viability for generations to come.”
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LEGEND

OF LAKE FORK

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

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6th - $150 • 7th - $135 • 8th - $125 • 9th - $115 • 10th - $110 • 1st Out of 10th $100 Gc

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Welcome to north east Texas. It’s the month of October. What do you choose to do fish or hunt? Well I say this every year, a little of both is good for the soul and a great compromise. I however tend to find the fall fishing to be my favorite and here are some reasons why. First of all most of the locals are busy hunting. This leaves the lake much less pressured and the fish are easier to find and catch. Second the cooler nights cause the shallow water to cool rapidly. The fish feel this and react in what is sometimes known as or called the “Fall Feast”. Most of the best fall fishing you will find will involve very active fish and be achieved by using reaction baits.

A very exciting way to catch them, big schools of bass will follow the masses of migrating baitfish into and out of the back of the creeks, coves and shallow back waters. When they decide to eat the action erupts. With that being said lets tell you about a few of my favorites baits and the techniques I use to catch them. My first 3 choices of baits will be what I call search baits. Small bladed spinnerbaits, small square bill crank baits and small underspins all in shad colors are perfect for covering lots of water and getting the first few bites. Once I have achieved a few bites and determined that a specific area is holding bait and active fish, I will slow down in that area and be much more thorough, basically combing the area out for all its worth. At this time I will also make much more of a point to match the hatch in both size and color. I will add and make a few lures changes as well. These changes will be with intentions to catch more and/or potentially the bigger fish. An Evergreen Jack hammer chatterbait in straight white with a LFT 3.5” live magic shad trailer is dangerous but an Alabama rig with 5-3.5” LFT live magic shads might get your arm hurt! If the bass are busting on the surface, a River to Sea whopper plopper or a full size Yellow magic popper in the color bone white could be the ticket for the bite of a lifetime. Remember that Lake Fork has produced 54 of the states top 75 record big bass and is full of giant fish of all warm fresh water species so you really never know what going to bite your bait or how big it truly might be. I use no less than 15lb line and suggest you always be ready. If you enjoyed this article and would like to learn more about the Lake Fork area, current fishing reports and conditions, you can find me on U-tube “The Lake Fork guide” please subscribe to my U-tube channel and enjoy my weekly fishing reports and rundowns. You can also follow me on my business Facebook page @ “Lake Fork adventures guide service.” Thanks again for reading. I wish you all great fishing.
Applications Being Accepted for Texas Game Warden Cadet Class

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is currently accepting applications for their 65th Texas Game Warden Cadet class.

As fully commissioned peace officers, game wardens are responsible for the enforcement of Texas laws across the state including water safety, natural resource protection and environmental management. Unconstrained by city or county jurisdictions, Texas Game Wardens patrol the state’s natural waterways, oversee hunting and fishing regulation, and often support local landowners. More widely known, are the specialized skills that have made them a reliable resource for disaster response.

“Texas Game Wardens have a long and proud tradition of protecting and conserving the State’s valuable natural resources. That includes our waterways, landscapes, and the wildlife we enjoy daily,” said Col. Chad Jones, TPWD Law Enforcement Director who stressed that the role of a game warden goes beyond the badge. “Not only are game wardens trained in a number of specialized fields like search and rescue and disaster response, we are members of the community. We are out in our neighborhoods hosting fishing events, educating boaters, and encouraging another generation of Texans to enjoy and preserve the outdoors.”

For those interested in becoming a Texas Game Warden, applications are being accepted to Oct 8. Applicants must be 21 years of age with a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college. For a list of requirements, please visit the TPWD Game Warden recruitment webpage.

All cadets who are accepted to the program are required to live at the Game Warden Training Center near Hamilton, Texas for the duration of the 33-week training period, set to begin Oct. 2022. Follow this link to watch a video encapsulating the Texas Game Warden training experience.

For more information, check the game warden career webpage or contact Texas Game Warden recruiter Chelsea Bailey at chelsea.bailey@tpwd.texas.gov.

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The Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association has experienced an unusual year trying to maintain our projects and fundraising during the dreaded covid outbreak. The Spring raffle was canceled and the Fall raffle has been limited. As the major source of revenue, LFSA members decided to go forward with our Fall raffle at major tournaments.

The Sealy Tournament was held September 17-19 at Lake Fork Marina and raffles were sold during the big fishing contest. LFSA was proud to be a part of the weekend in support of our association. Ticket sales were quite successful.

There are twenty valuable prizes being awarded on October 17 at the Berkley Tournament. Anyone interested in tickets, ($5.00 each or five (5) tickets for $20.00) may buy them at the Berkley tournament or any time before the 17th by calling 903-752-2016.

**LFSA High School Tackle Program Summary**

- Program began in 2017 with Mike Kostial as committee chair with Pat Kostial, Bruce and Cheryl Allen as committee members. Since then, well over 100 high school kids have received donated rods/reels/lures/accessories.
- Each kid receives 2 bait casting and 1 open spinning rod/reel combos plus a large number of hard/soft lures, etc.
- Initially all donated tackle (new and used) was from private donors from Texas, California and the U.K. In 2020 and 2021, LFSA began submitting grant requests to corporations with Bass Pro / Cabela’s becoming our first corporate donor to provide substantial donation of rods and reels and some gear
- Mike Kostial had personally inspected and refurbished all used units with In-Kind donation and help of R.T. Reel Repair until his untimely passing from COVID in 2020
- Terry Long took over as committee chair in 2021 with Mike and Pat remaining on the committee for continuity and admin purposes. Terry has helped take the donation program to the next level with corporate grant requests. Terry’s summary is as follows:
  - In 2021, we requested donations from BassPro, Cabela’s and Elevaion Church for the High School Tackle Program.
  - BassPro donated, courtesy of Mr. Ron Dickens, 42 baitcasting rods, 5 new baitcasting rod and reel sets, and 8 Zebco rods. 25 spinning rods, 3 new spinning rod and reel sets and 1 used spinning rod and reel set. Donated reels: 47 right hand baitcasting reels and 3 left hand bait casting reels and 36 spinning reels.
  - Cabela’s donated, courtesy of Ms. Kathie Hays, a 200.00 Gift Card which was redeemed for 59 various styles and types of lures.
  - Elevaion Church donated, courtesy of Pastor Todd Hamilton, 96 Model 3700 Plano/BassPro clear tackle boxes as well as an assortment of lures and miscellaneous fishing gear.
- In addition, LFSA Tackle Program donated 36 non-working baitcasting reels and 22 non-working spinning casting reels to Mark Tutor at Tackle Right in exchange for cleaning and repairing reels for the High School Tackle Pro-
throw a Talon spinner bait. If the water is on the clear side, use the willow blades. Murky water will call for the Colorado blades.

Falling water temps will also issue in a better deep bite as bass start to group up. Deep structures, road beds, points and ridges should all come alive as these fish search for food to fatten up for the winter. Once the afternoon rolls around, start looking deep for bait and you will find bass that just flat live there year round. The electronics are key to this success and once you locate a sizeable wad of fish, pitch out a marker buoy and go to work. You can start with a Carolina rig using any big worm to fool the bass. Blue fleck, Watermelon red and plum all work well. A stand up head is also a great tool for these fish using the same worms. My mantra is “if I can see them, I can catch them”. It’s game on for video fishing and the drop shot rules the roost for this type of play. Put the worm right in front of their nose and wait for the rod to load up. It don’t get much better than that. If you spot the big arc’s suspended, dig out a 5 inch Talon spoon, count it down and hold on. A magnum fluke will work equally well if the wind is not howling. Use a heavy rod and 20lb line for this application.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in October 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 October and some in November. 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 and Talon Lures for making my job the blast that it is. I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. “Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”. I wish all of you a blessed day.”

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Texas Game Wardens Conclude a Successful Labor Day Weekend on the Water

Texas Game Wardens patrolled more than 2,500 hours throughout the busy Labor Day holiday ensuring boaters and anglers enjoyed a relaxing wrap up to their summer.

“With last year’s sharp increase in water-related tourism and accidents, our agency took every precaution available to ensure the safety of all visitors on the water and in our parks,” said Cody Jones, Assistant Commander for Marine Enforcement for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

“We had 354 Texas Game Wardens on patrol and they made contact with at least 3,770 vessels on the water confirming everyone aboard was equipped with life vests, children were supervised, and boats followed state law.”

For those who did not follow the law, 13 arrests were made, along with 782 citations and warnings—up a hundred from last year. Charges included several incidents of boating or driving while intoxicated.

The ramp up in patrols partnered with boater education outreach programs led to the biggest success of the weekend — a 43 percent decrease in boating related accidents and 50 percent decrease in open water drownings since last year.

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Texas Game Wardens Conclude a Successful Labor Day Weekend on the Water

“For me, the numbers are an indicator that what we are doing is working,” said Jones. “Continuing to partner in communities across Texas, educating boaters while also supporting our wardens in the field with state-of-the-art equipment, new technology, and sophisticated training all pushes us to our goal of zero fatalities and zero boating accidents. Until then, we will remain vigilant.”
The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement reports.

--Shrimpin’ Ain’t Easy-- A Calhoun County game warden was patrolling Matagorda Bay in the early morning hours when he saw numerous commercial shrimp boats traveling into the bay. The warden observed them for a while when he saw the boats turn their navigation and deck lights off. With the use of night vision, the warden determined that the boats had dropped their nets in the water and begun shrimping. Two commercial shrimp boat captains were issued citations for shrimping at night and all resources were returned to Matagorda Bay.

--Trial by Fire-- A Polk County Game Warden responded to a boat fire on Lake Livingston. Upon arriving, the warden observed five individuals swimming in the water near a boat engulfed in flames. A young boy swimming from the flames stated he was tired and could not swim well. The warden removed his gun belt, swam toward the boy, and pulled him to safety. He noticed another individual struggling to swim and assisted him safely back to shore. The boat fire was extinguished by Onalaska Volunteer Fire Department. All occupants of the vessel were safe and uninjured.

--Gator Done-- Orange County Game Wardens received a call from the Orange County Sheriff’s Office Dispatch reporting several deputies were attending to an alligator near Bridge City. A game warden (Continued on Page 24)
Enjoy a Spicy Celebration of a Culinary Legend

By Sue Hampton

There has never been anything mild about chili. Ever since the ancient ancestors got the idea to cook chile peppers together with meat, the desire to brew up the best bowl of chili in the world has been a fiery part of the collective human experience.

Many food experts believe that cattle drivers and trail hands of the 19th-century American Southwest are most likely responsible for popularizing the spicy specialty during their travels across the countryside. Legends abound – from a range cook who planted herb gardens along the cattle trails to ensure he’d always have enough spices for chili, to Jesse and Frank James, who are said to have enjoyed a few “bowls of red” before several of their more famous bank robberies.

The legend lives on the hearts, cooking pots and chili cook-offs of “chiliheads” around the world. Now you can dish up your own “bowl of red” for friends and family with this no-sweat recipe for “Red Hot Venison Chili.”

Red Hot Venison Chili
(Makes about 8 cups of chili and eight pieces of fry bread)

Proclaimed the state dish by the Texas legislature in 1977, it is one of the most famous local preparations and the topic of many heated conversations over ingredients and whether beans or tomatoes should be included. If you’re not a devotee of beans in chili, simply omit them.

The fry bread is typical of the fried dough cooked by Native Americans for centuries.

Chili
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 bell pepper, finely chopped
6 garlic cloves, minced
2 pounds ground venison
2 jalapeno chiles, minced, or to taste
1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon chile powder
¾ teaspoon cayenne pepper
2-1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
1 tablespoon dried oregano
1 – (15-1/2-ounce) can red kidney beans, drained
1 – (28 ounce) can tomato paste
3-1/2 cups beef stock
1-1/2 teaspoons salt

Indian Fry Bread
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons solid vegetable shortening
1 cup milk

Vegetable oil for frying

Heat the oil in a skillet over medium-heat. Saute the onion, bell pepper and garlic until tender. Add the venison and cook through, breaking up the ground meat. Drain any liquid. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer, uncovered, for about two hours. Stir occasionally. Adjust the seasonings.

To make the fry bread, sift together the flour, baking powder and salt. Cut the shortening into the flour. Add the milk and stir to form a ball.

Knead the dough on a floured surface for about three minutes, until the flour is incorporated and the dough is smooth. Dust with flour if the dough feels tacky. Divide into eight equal pieces, roll into balls and put back into the bowl. Cover and let rest for 30 minutes.

On a floured surface, roll out each ball into a round about 1/8-inch thick. Cut a quarter-sized hole in the center of each round.

Heat 1 inch of oil in a deep pan to 370 degrees F. In batches, add the rounds and fry, until golden brown, about 1-1/2 minutes on each side. Transfer to paper towels to drain. Serve the chili and the fry bread piping hot.
den responded to the popular fishing spot and discovered three teenagers had caught a 7-foot alligator. The youths had also enlisted the help of another person to kill it. The three teenagers were cited for taking the alligator in closed season. The alligator was turned over to a nuisance control hunter. Cases are pending.

--The Other White Meat-- The Texas Game Warden Criminal Investigation Division (CID) provided Bexar County Game Wardens with information regarding an individual selling deer meat on Craigslist. The game wardens responded to a residence in Southern Bexar County where the suspect admitted to attempting to sell the deer meat and gave information where the white-tailed deer had been killed. The individual was cited for selling white-tailed deer meat.

--What's My Age Again?-- Wise and Jack County Game Wardens observed a male subject who appeared to have passed out on a pontoon boat. His legs were hanging from the passenger compartment near the engine while the vessel was underway. The wardens stopped the boat and determined the subject was underage and highly intoxicated. Other minors on the boat also admitted to consuming alcohol. An adult on the boat confessed to one of the wardens that he provided the alcohol knowing underage occupants were consuming it. One subject was placed under arrest for public intoxication and another arrested for the purchasing/furnishing alcohol to a minor. Citations for minors in consumption of alcohol were issued to the occupants who had a detectable amount of alcohol in their system.

--X Marks the Spot-- Bell County Game Wardens were contacted by a local landowner's agent who was on the property hunting hogs when he came across a male individual digging for arrowheads without the landowner's permission. Wardens arrived on the scene and discovered an eight-foot hole the suspect had dug and several artifacts. The wardens arrested the digger. The suspect had a lengthy criminal history and had recently been released from the penitentiary. He was charged with antiquities code violations, criminal trespass, and criminal mischief. Cases are pending.

--Party Foul-- A Travis County Game Warden issued multiple citations to an individual operating an illegal party boat. In an attempt to skirt party boat regulations and avoid trespassing charges, the captain of the vessel coached the attendees of a bachelorette party to announce themselves to the marina as “friends”. Consequentially, the party boat was denied access to the marina. However, the marina was kind enough to provide a legal captain and lease the party another vessel to finish their celebration.

--Deep in the Weeds-- Jackson County Game Wardens were patrolling the coastal area of Jackson County for fisheries enforcement. They observed two individuals sitting in a truck at a local boat ramp of Carancahua Bay. There were kayaks in the bed of the truck

(Continued on Next Page)
and fish in a trash bag. The individual on the driver’s side appeared nervous during conversation. One of the wardens asked the subject numerous times if there was anything illegal in the vehicle. The male subject changed the topic each time. Eventually, he stated that there was a little bit of weed in the vehicle. After conducting a search of the vehicle numerous drugs were discovered and seized including: 17 grams of methamphetamine, a THC vape pen, and thirty pills of hydrocodone and amphetamine. The male subject was arrested on four narcotics charges and a parole warrant.

--Lost and Found--Two Angelina County game wardens responded to a call about a lost hunter in Angelina National Forest. Upon arrival at the scene, the wardens found out the man had been missing for several hours and was a diabetic. Temperatures were dropping because of an approaching cold front so the wardens called UAV operators from TPWD’s Wildlife Division and a Tyler County game warden, and a TPWD K-9 handler for assistance as part of a joint operation with U.S. Forest Service rangers, Jasper County EMS, a Texas Department of Public Safety helicopter and fire department volunteers. After searching for several hours, the wardens received a GPS coordinate of the missing man and they were able to locate him in the woods. He was in a pre-hypothermic state when he was found and was treated by EMS.

--When Will You Learn?--Two Polk County game wardens were on night patrol with their deer decoy “Corby” when Corby caught someone’s eye. A truck passed the decoy, slowed to a stop, then quickly reversed and the headlights were positioned onto the decoy. After a brief pause, the sound of a small caliber rifle shot was heard from the vehicle. The wardens approached the subject and they were apprehended without incident. A .22 caliber rifle was found in the back seat of the truck with a spent casing still in the ejection port of the rifle. The subject also admitted to being charged for spotlighting on a public roadway near the same area a few weeks prior to this incident by a different Polk County game warden. The subject was charged with hunting white-tailed deer at night, hunting white-tailed deer using artificial light and multiple Class C citations and warnings. Cases pending.

--Liar Liar Deer on Fire--An Upshur County game warden received a call about two deer carcasses dumped along a shared fence line with a neighbor. The caller said the two carcasses had not been quartered and only some of the meat had been taken off of the two deer. The warden called for additional back up from another warden and when they arrived at the property, the two deer were no longer on the fence line. The wardens interviewed the property owner, but he denied knowledge of the two deer. After a quick investigation, it was determined that a nine-point buck was harvested that morning by his juvenile son. When asked about the carcass, the landowner said they had taken the carcass to a creek a mile away to dispose of it. When questioned about the second deer, the landowner continued to deny claims of there being another deer. After further questioning, the landowner confessed to not harvesting all of the meat from the nine-point buck that morning and showed the wardens to a burn pile on the property where they found the wasted buck with its two front shoulders intact and on fire. The landowner continued to deny there had been another deer until one of the wardens found a partially quartered doe hidden in the high brush. The landowner then confessed. Multiple cases pending.
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Oct. 16-17 ~ Berkley Big Bass
Lake Fork Marina
Oct. 23 ~ JC Outdoors Solo Fall Teams
Minnow Bucket
July 17 ~ Media Teams
Minnow Bucket

November
Nov. 20 ~ JC Outdoors Solo Fall Teams
Minnow Bucket

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