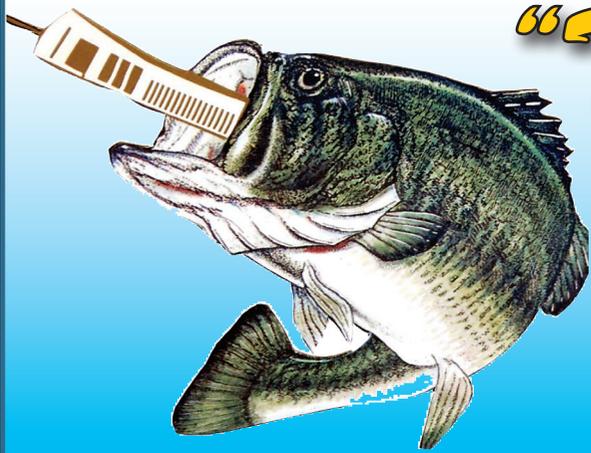


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Vol. 23

November, 2021

No. 267



Chad Foraker from Kemp, Texas made a good showing at the 16th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork when he weighed in this hawg weighing 10.89-lbs. in the last hour of the tournament winning 1st Place Overall. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Sue Hampton)



Henry Jones from Hosston, Louisiana won big time in the 16th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament with this under the slot bass weighing in at 3.16-lbs. Not only did he win \$1,000 in two hours but also the grand prize for heaviest under the slot. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Sue Hampton)

16th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

As all anglers know and can testify to, fishing is tough in the midst of a cold front especially with the lake turning over. These were the conditions facing 1,206 anglers representing 28 states at the 16th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork. The nighttime temperature dropped from 72 degrees on Thursday night to 44 degrees on Friday night

before the Saturday start of the tournament. These conditions did not detour the angler's efforts to try and win a portion of the over \$150,000 to be awarded. Though the large bass that Lake Fork is known for seemed to have lock jaw from the front, there were a lot of under the 16" slot in the upper 2-pound range weighed in.

Hunter Cerar from Fate, Texas, 7 years old, in the Junior di-

vision was the first to weigh-in. He came to the scales with a bass weighing 1.96-pounds. He was somewhat sad though because catching the bass he lost his favorite rod n' reel. He told this story to Chad Potts, Tournament Director and Owner of BassChamps, and Chad being the gracious person he is, gave Hunter a rod to make up for his loss. Luckily for Hunter

(See 16th Annual Berkley..
Continued on Page 4)



Tim Weaver won Big Bass and 1st Heavy Stringer with a total weight of 14.54-lbs. with the help of this Lake Fork hawg weighing 7-lbs. in the 41st Semi-Annual Texas Trails Bassmaster Tournament. (Story on Page 9)



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"Bubba Thinks Everyday Should Be Thanksgiving!"

By Don Hampton

The four most important things in Bubba's life are God, family, country and of course, fishing. Imagine the last one!! I know this to be true because I have seen a sign in his house that reads "Fishing isn't a matter of life or death, it is much more important than that!" Bubba doesn't fish to live, he lives to fish! According to Bubba that is the order of importance in his life. The way he feels, if he loves the first three with all his heart and unwavering dedication, fishing is allowed. Always, no matter how strong the desire to be on the lake, the first three always come first.

In most everyday situations, if you asked Bubba what he would do, unless extremely serious, he would say, "Have a BBQ sandwich, drink a few beers and celebrate life." If it were a semi-serious situation he would counsel you...saying something like, "Go fishing, relax, give it some thought and the answer will come to you!" In matters of extreme importance he has only one answer, "Trust in God and country, for the Lord helps those who help themselves!" This is probably the best answer anyone could apply to any given situation.

Bubette has told Bubba many times that he does have a way at times of being painfully honest. Just recently in a conversation he was having with another fellow fisherman he remarked, "I love all bodies of water except those darn pity-puddles. A lot of people swim in them but nothing can survive and prosper in them. They are always filled with self-remorse and pity. People sink into them and expect others to pull them out. At that time they quit helping themselves and just become dependent." To my way of thinking this was the most profound statement I had ever heard from Bubba.

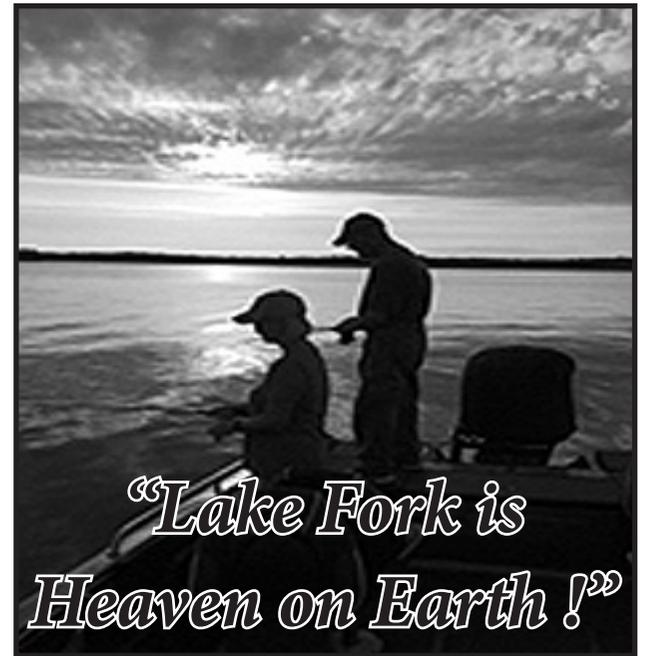
Bubba has a way of comparing life and situations with fishing. He proved this to me by adding, "The only thing you can catch from a pity puddle is blame. People that swim in them want to blame everyone and everything in life for their problems. What people in these puddles need to do is take swimming lessons or grab their ears and pull themselves out." (Well, that is not quite how Bubba said it, but you get my drift!) Bubba opened my eyes that day and gave me some food for thought that nourished my spirit.

I believe in Bubba's way of thinking. If more people did, the enjoyment of living would be ever present. This shines in Bubba

everyday. Whenever you see him he has a smile and happiness to share. As a matter of fact, sometimes he smiles so much people wonder what he's up to!

To Bubba life is not a mystery that he has to go in search for the answer, it is a gift. Every morning when he opens his eyes for another day, it is Thanksgiving and he is thankful for the gift of life.

Maybe we all should make "Thanksgiving" an everyday ritual. "That's what Bubba does!"



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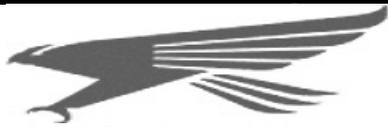
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16th Annual Berkley (Continued from Page 1)

he won two new Abu Garcia Revo Reels in the course of the tournament and won third place in the Junior Division. Grace Pratt, 8 years old from North Lake, Texas was the youngest Lady Angler, fishing the Junior Divi-

sion to ever weigh-in during any of the previous tournaments and she won fourth place.

On the first day of the tournament there was only one bass that bested the 24" slot. This bass was caught by Justin Stokes from

Rockwall, Texas and weighed 7-pounds. He won first in the hour and was leading for the 2021 Skeeter Bass Boat. To win first in any of the other hours the lightest bass weighed 2.63-pounds. In the 11 o'clock hour Henry Jones from Hosston, Louisiana was leading for the heaviest under the slot with a 2.80-pound bass. This changed in the 2 o'clock hour when Curtis Daniels from Alba, Texas weighed in a 2.86-pound bass, but Henry couldn't be counted out yet.

Day two of the tournament proved just as exciting as day one with some leaders on the



Hunter Cerar and Grace Pratt also got their moment in the spotlight when interviewed on KMOO by KO.

(Continued on Next Page)



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board being changed and their hearts broken. In the 8 o'clock hour Don Penick from Alba, Texas took the lead for the heaviest bass under the slot when he weighed in a 2.96-pound bass. It seemed his bass would hold up as the heaviest under the slot and he'd be taking home a new Skeeter Bass Boat. As they say, "Dreams Die First". In the 11 o'clock hour this changed when Henry Jones brought his bass to the scales. Henry's bass weighed a whopping 3.16-pounds. A bass this size under the slot is hard to beat and his wasn't. He caught this one at the same place, at the same time, and on the same bait he'd caught the 2.80-pound bass on the previous

day. His bass remained the heaviest under and for his great catch he took home the 1st Place Grand Prize for heaviest under the slot of a new Skeeter ZX 150, powered by YamahaSHO.

It was looking good for Justin with this 7-pound bass to be taking home the 1st Place Grand Prize until the very last hour of the tournament. During the 2 o'clock hour, Lake Fork showed what lunkers swim here. At the last weigh-in, Chad Foraker from Kemp, Texas brought to the scales a hawg weighing 10.89-pounds. His last-minute catch not only won first in the hour but also Grand Prize for the heaviest over the slot. For this he took home a new Skeeter ZX 200,

powered by YamahaSHO.

In all it was a great tournament and many of the anglers reported good catches but in the slot. The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association Live Release Boat with their volunteers did an excellent job of taking care of all bass brought to the weigh-in and releasing them back into the lake in good health to be caught another day.

(See More Tournament Photos on Page 13)

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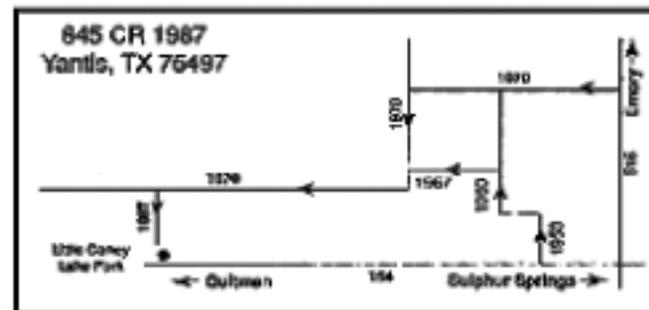
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"Better Late Than Never!"

By David Ozio

"Fall is finally upon us and, wouldn't you know it, it's somewhat late as everything else has been this entire year. Cold fronts have finally started rolling in during the first week of October and lake turnover coupled with these fronts have reeked some havoc on the bass fishing to date. Scores have been lower than normal in most tournaments including the Sealy Outdoors Splash as well as the Berkley. The great news is that the temp changes of the current fronts have leveled out which will stabilize the lake and it will finally be "game on". Shad are moving into the creeks by the droves and the foodfest will be on especially on days

prior to the next front. Winter is just around the corner and the big green fish need to fatten up to survive the chilly winter waters.

With the lake being about two feet low as of this writing, the water quality overall is in great condition and the backs of some creeks have great visibility. Lack of rain has not affected the water clarity which ranges from somewhat clear down south to lightly stained in the backs of the main creeks that feed the lake. How you approach the bass will depend upon where you prefer to fish and how far down in the water you can see your lure before it disappears. With this in mind, the shallow bite is ramping up and big bass can be caught in all parts of the lake. Let's start the morning searching for top water fish. Shallow vegetation is key to your success and now that the water is back up, bank grass, milfoil, alligator grass and hydrilla will dominate the skinny water. In extreme off color water, use a noisy bait that stirs up the water. Prop baits are excellent choices in this case. If the water is only slightly stained in the backs of the creeks and pockets, tie on a Zara Spook, Yellow Magic or a Sammy and start covering water. Shad are also moving to the backs of these areas and big bass are right on their tail. Focus on using shad colors on most any lure you throw and hang on for some jolting strikes. Pick out secondary

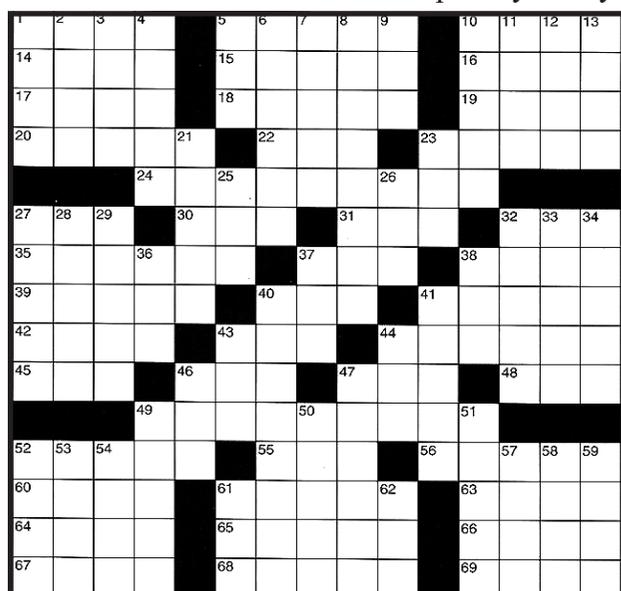


points or small points of vegetation. All should hold fish. Also, don't be afraid to chunk a Spro frog around any vegetation you encounter. Huge bass can't resist the way they move through the water.

As the sun eases it's way higher into the sky, switch your strategy to baits that descend into the water column. If the water is heavily stained, throw the chatterbait, spinnerbait or squarebill in the same areas. If the water is slightly stained, use a five inch swimbait, swimjig or chatterbait. Hydrilla or milfoil will change the game slightly, use a lipless crankbait and key on the outer edges of the grass. As the water temps degrades throughout the month, switch your lipless

(See Better Late....

Continued on Page 20)



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Lean-fleshed fish often farmed
- 5. Assume
- 10. Feeling of deep, bitter ill-will
- 14. South American armadillo
- 15. Greek city
- 16. Phil _____, former CIA agent
- 17. Drunk (slang)
- 18. Someone worthy of imitation
- 19. Optical device
- 20. Starches
- 22. Supervises interstate commerce
- 23. Anwar _____, Egyptian statesman
- 24. Hearths
- 27. _____ Dhabi
- 30. Light brown
- 31. Mauna _____, Hawaiian volcano
- 32. Chest muscle (slang)
- 35. Bend in a golf course
- 37. Calendar mo.
- 38. Make a ringing sound
- 39. Units of metrical time
- 40. Scoundrel
- 41. Short and fat
- 42. Hebrew month
- 43. Founder of Babism
- 44. Knight's garment
- 45. City that never sleeps (abbr.)
- 46. Made by manufacturer (abbr.)
- 47. A way to soak
- 48. _____ Marvin, actor
- 49. Walls
- 52. Mini
- 55. Drain of resources
- 56. Hard to penetrate
- 60. Bantu
- 61. Type of acid
- 63. Eagle's nest
- 64. About ear
- 65. Grassy plain (Spanish)
- 66. Aisle
- 67. Despicable
- 68. Accepted as true without proof
- 69. Resorts

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Expresses audibly, in a way
- 2. Capital of Western Samoa
- 3. Resounded
- 4. Validation
- 5. Autonomic nervous system (abbr.)
- 6. Dampen
- 7. Neglects
- 8. Represented by drawing
- 9. Create from raw stuff
- 10. Festivities
- 11. Used of tobacco
- 12. Russian river
- 13. So that not
- 21. Lots
- 23. Large body of water
- 25. Annoy
- 26. When born (abbr.)
- 27. Advertisement author
- 28. Songbird
- 29. Uralic language
- 32. Ride a bicycle
- 33. Tidal flow
- 34. Bonnie and _____, criminals
- 36. Scientists' arena (abbr.)
- 37. Unbelievable (slang)
- 38. Mail holder (abbr.)
- 40. A short negligee
- 41. Of the head
- 43. Sound unit
- 44. CNN's founder
- 46. Awkward, stupid person
- 47. Plunder
- 49. Absence of mental stress
- 50. Wrap
- 51. Closes
- 52. Spot
- 53. Plant genus
- 54. Wading birds
- 57. Lowest tide
- 58. Transfer RNA (abbr.)
- 59. Visual organs
- 61. Sandwich (abbr.)
- 62. Folds up for storage

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Answers on Page 21

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Favorable Conditions Could Provide Hunters with a Good Season For Ducks

With millions of ducks in the Central Flyway and promising conditions in many parts of the state, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists suggest these factors could indicate a good waterfowl season for Texas Hunters.

For the second straight year, the May Breeding Waterfowl Survey was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns in both the United States and Canada. Instead, TPWD biologists largely relied on fellow biologists in the breeding grounds of Canada and the United States prairie states to help with

the Texas forecasts for this season.

"Duck production in prairie potholes of North Dakota, South Dakota, Saskatchewan, and Alberta were reported to be below average due to extensive drought this summer," said Kevin Kraai, TPWD Waterfowl Program Leader. "With that said, there are still millions of ducks in the Central Flyway and we are on the heels of multiple excellent breeding seasons for ducks over the last few years."

The special youth-only duck season occurred in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit

Oct. 23 — 24, followed by youth-only duck season in the South Zone Oct. 30 — 31 and the North Zone occurs Nov. 6 — 7. Regular duck season in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit opened Oct. 30, in the South Zone on Nov. 6 and the North Zone on Nov. 13. Consult the 2021-22 Outdoor Annual, which was made possible in part by support from Chevy Silverado, for other season dates and bag limits, including those for "Dusky" duck.

"We are already hearing good reports of birds building in many

of flooded rice fields and coastal marshes along the Texas coast," Kraai added. "Most successful hunters will be mobile and always have been. Hopefully, we will continue to see more great cold fronts, lots of cold tempera-

tures and snow to the north of us, and frequent and timely rainfall to attract more birds to Texas."

Coastal Texas has experienced many extended periods of rainfall, as well as periods of dryness, this summer

and early fall. Overall, conditions are in better than average condition across much of the coast. Landowners and managers are currently busy pumping and managing water, and growing foods in (See Favorable Condition.. Continued on Page 11)

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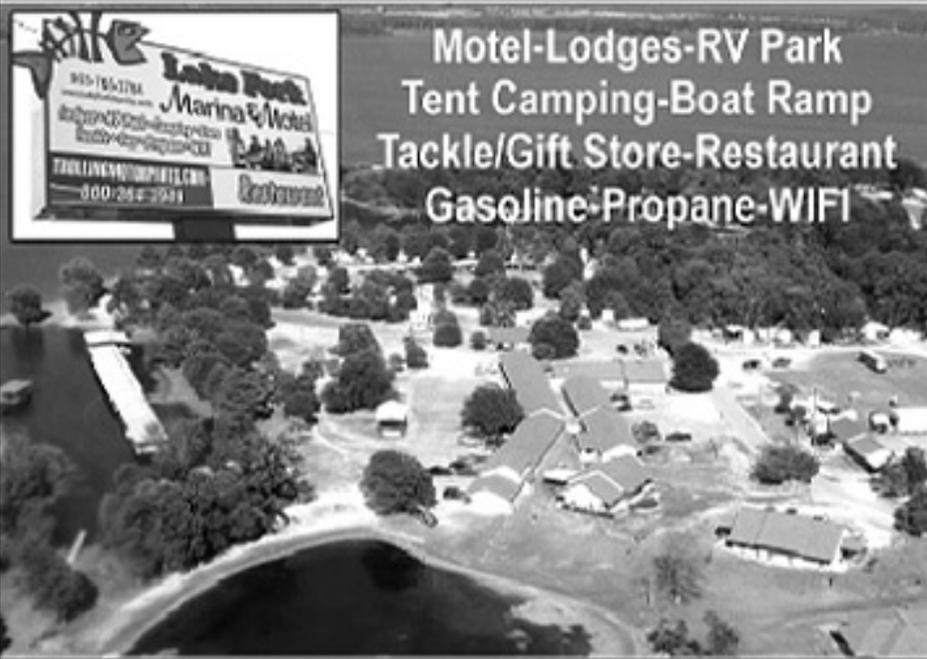
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"The Moon Report"

"Fork's Best and Worst of November"

By Terri Moon



The best part of this time of year is that the water temperatures have started to drop triggering the fall migration that sends the crappie into "feeding frenzy" mode. They will follow the baitfish back up the creeks following the same routes they took in the spring. So, if your crappie have disappeared, you might want to look shallower.

The worst parts of this time of year are the "wicked" fronts that are moving through along with the crazy wind! Personally, the WIND is the toughest obstacle to deal with and we've had more than our fair share of it lately! Then when you combine it with those mornings with temperatures in the upper 40's - it HURTS! That's when I'm grateful that some of these crappie are showing up in the coves out of the wind. I'm targeting 10-18 ft. depths, in 12 to 24 ft. of water Look for the bait fish and target timber, creek channels and flats around secondary points.

The crappie we're catching have been definitely on a feeding pattern. I can't believe the size of the shad in their bellies! So, it might not hurt to go to larger bait like a 3" shad colored bait and it doesn't hurt to stick a Berkley power nibble

on it either! On the flip side, if the fish are finicky and not feeding, go to a smaller bait like a "ity-bit" and work it "slow motion" to "no motion." It's critical to not take your eyes off your line because I promise you will see the bite before you feel it! I'm amazed at the amount of bites people miss - so, I do my best to help watch their line so I can let them know when a crappie is knocking! The crappie have been pushing the bait up so watch for slack line - it could be a giant!

The colors working for us have been Skipper Jigs in black & chartreuse, blue/chartreuse and pink/chartreuse or Bonehead 3 inch slimstick in white & chartreuse and pink & white.

November has always been a "BIG FISH" month so don't miss out on it. Also, November is Lake Fork Marina's customer appreciation month and

rooms are \$58 a night and in their new incredible store, their tackle, clothing and gifts are 25% off. They've got some great gift selections for all the fishermen in your family - so keep them in mind for your holiday shopping!

I want to thank again all of you who came to fish with me in October. It was so good to see you all that have fished with me before and great meeting first timers also! It was a busy fun month and Buddy enjoyed seeing everyone again and has made many new friends (especially during the Berkley tournament)! Thanks to all who shows him some love while he waits for me to get off the water!

Don't miss out on the November excitement - just bundle up and have fun. There will be nice days ahead!

My best to you all and especially to my family and friends in Missouri.



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Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork Open Tournament October 9th

By Don Hampton

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork hosted their 41st Semi-Annual Bass Tournament on October 9th out of Oak Ridge Marina.

Fishing hours for the tournament were from 6 am to 3:30 pm. The tournament was a 5 bass bag limit and also paid the top 3 big bass caught in the tournament. This event also served as some pre-fishing for anglers fishing the Berkley Big Bass starting the following Saturday and 36 anglers came to compete.

Big bass of the tournament caught by Tim Weaver weighed 7-pounds winning him an additional \$175 in cash. Second big bass was caught by Kevin Bates weighing 6.88-pounds winning him an additional \$105 in cash. Third place big bass was brought in by Chad Chaddock weighing 2.34-pounds winning an extra \$70 in cash.

The tournament paid the Top 5 heavy stringers brought to the weigh-in. 1st Place with a total weight of 14.54-pounds was Tim Weaver; 2nd heavy stringer with a total weight of 8.84-pounds was Kevin Bates; 3rd heavy stringer with a total weight of 7.76-pounds was Mike Butler; 4th heavy stringer with a total weight of 7.60-pounds was Chad Chaddock; 5th heavy stringer with a total weight of 7.52-pounds was Richard Osborn.

This being a fundraiser for the club, on behalf of myself and all of Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork I would like to thank all of our sponsors that help us make this event such a success. Most anglers took home some really nice gifts from the raffle drawing.

For more information on how to join this great club you can visit our website at www.texastrails-bassmasters.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.



Kevin Bates won 2nd Big Bass with this nice 6.88-pound bass and 2nd heavy stringer



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Quail Surveys Yield Modest Prospects

Quail season began statewide Oct. 30 but outside of South Texas, bobwhite and scaled quail populations continue to their long, slow road to recovery following several years of drought. As such, hunting opportunities and success will vary across the state.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) experts say that during the annual Quail Roadside Survey period in August, which consists of biologists traveling more than 3,300 miles, male Bobwhite quail could be heard calling regularly during morning drives, but adult and brood sightings remained low. Despite reports of birds calling along most routes, the final survey numbers left much to be desired given how great habitat looked across much of the state.

"Apart from the winter storm in February, mild winter conditions statewide were a welcome reprieve for the bobwhite populations coming off a third year of below average abundance," said John McLaughlin, Upland Game Bird Program Leader for TPWD. "However, a relatively dry start to the year likely put a damper on early nesting activity. In the Rolling Plains and South Texas, survey numbers were surprisingly the lowest they have been since the survey's inception in 1978."

There has also been the suggestion that the winter

storm may have hurt populations, added McLaughlin. To what extent the storm impacted birds is tough to assess, and would be mostly speculative, but it likely presented yet another hurdle to survival and to individuals ramping up for the nesting season.

Scaled quail are better evolved to withstand drought than bobwhites but nonetheless also rely on timely rainfall in the spring and late summer to grow populations. Unfortunately, late rains delayed spring nesting activity and put most counties behind the eight ball.

"Although scaled quail in the Trans-Pecos fared better than their counterparts in the Rolling Plains and South Texas, and have for some time, populations were below average in 2020," said McLaughlin. "Broadly, we expect hunting conditions will be below average to fair for most counties, especially those along or close to the New Mexico border."

McLaughlin added, farther east in Terrell County and across the Pecos River in Crockett County in the Edwards Plateau, scaled quail seemed to have benefited from additional May rainfall. These areas are where our biologists observed the majority of their scaled quail coveys.

"The most encouraging reports for scaled quail outside the Trans-Pecos have come from the Panhandle

and southern Rolling Plains regions, where birds appeared to have caught enough spring rainfall to make a modest push this year," said McLaughlin. "However, we expect that hunting conditions will be below average to fair, which should hold true for scaled quail across most other parts of the state as well."

A regional breakdown of this year's TPWD quail index survey for northern bobwhite and scaled quail, including highlights and prospects, is available online.

For county specific regulations regarding upland game birds, along with information on means and methods, license requirements and more, consult the 2021-22 Outdoor Annual, which was made possible in part by support from Chevy Silverado. Hunters can download the free Outdoor Annual mobile app for iOS and Android.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation TPWF, our official nonprofit partner, is sponsoring a quail conservation license plate to raise critical funding to enhance quail conservation efforts, including habitat, conservation and education. For just \$30 anyone can put one of these conservation license plates on their vehicle, motorcycle or trailer. For every license plate purchased, \$22 goes to TPWF to support quail conservation.



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Favorable Conditions Could Provide Hunters with a Good Season For Ducks *(Continued from Page 7)*

the rice prairies. Ducks and geese will concentrate quickly on these locations and hunting success should be excellent in these areas.

East Texas has seen above average rainfall most of the summer. Soil moisture is high and any new rainfall this winter will begin to pond quickly creating conditions important to duck populations. Reservoirs are higher than normal for this time of year and the shallow shorelines and river mouths will be a big draw to ducks very soon.

The playa wetlands of the Panhandle experienced a greater amount of rainfall this summer compared to 2020. Unfortunately, some of the hottest and driest weather of the season was in late

August and September. Temperatures exceeding 100 degrees, coupled with high winds, has caused a loss in surface water over the last few weeks. Canada geese will likely still be abundant in this area due to their newfound attraction to waters in urban areas. Hunters hunting grain fields closest to towns with multiple city lakes and ponds will have higher success.

Habitat conditions in the Winchester Lakes region in Knox and Haskell counties are once again very good. This area had timely rain events and many of the natural wetlands are currently holding water. This water, mixed with the grain and peanut fields in the area, will be a huge draw for

tens of thousands of small Canada geese and white-fronted geese. Hunters visiting the region this winter will see quite a show.

Early reports from Canada indicate the light goose and white-fronted goose hatch may be better than previous years. Light and dark goose season

starts in the East Zone on Nov. 6 and Nov. 13 in the West Zone. The light geese conservation order season begins in the East Zone on Jan. 31, 2022 and on Feb. 14, 2022 in the West Zone. More information regarding seasons and daily bag limits can be found in the Outdoor Annual.

Hunters should purchase their new 2021-22 Texas hunting license prior to hitting the field. In addition, waterfowl hunters must have a migratory game bird endorsement, federal duck stamp, and be Harvest Information Program (HIP) certified. Biologists note the importance for those purchasing a hunting license to answer HIP survey questions correctly as these surveys allow biologists to get an accurate sample of hunters so harvest surveys can be delivered to hunters later in the year from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

It's also required by law for hunters to have proof of their completion of a hunter education course.

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 accessible to the public. More information about these lands and locations can be found on the TPWD website. Hunters using public lands can complete their on-site registration via the My Texas Hunt Harvest app.

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Texas Game Wardens Request Public's Help in Pronghorn Poaching Case

Texas Game Wardens are requesting the public's help to identify individuals responsible for killing five pronghorn between Friday, Sept. 24 and Sunday, Sept. 26. The bodies were discovered one mile north of Interstate Highway 40, just east of Adrian. The carcasses were dumped on private land with the skull and horns missing.

"This is a considerably egregious crime, not just in the manner in which it was committed but also due to the significance of the animal that was

harmed," said Oldham County Game Warden Wesley Driskill, who is overseeing the investigation. "The pronghorn is one of the few big game species native to our state. Its habitat is limited to west Texas and the panhandle which is why their hunting season is shorter than most and hunting permits are highly regulated. A crime of this magnitude impacts everyone working to conserve pronghorn for future generations."

Texas Game Wardens believe this was an act of irrespon-

sible trophy hunting. They encourage anyone with information about the individuals responsible to call the Operation Game Thief Hotline at 1-800-792-GAME (4263). Relevant information may include anything out of the ordinary like strange gunshots, unfamiliar vehicles in the area, headlights in a field on those nights or observing a truck with a bloody tailgate. Information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons responsible will be eligible for a \$1,000 reward.

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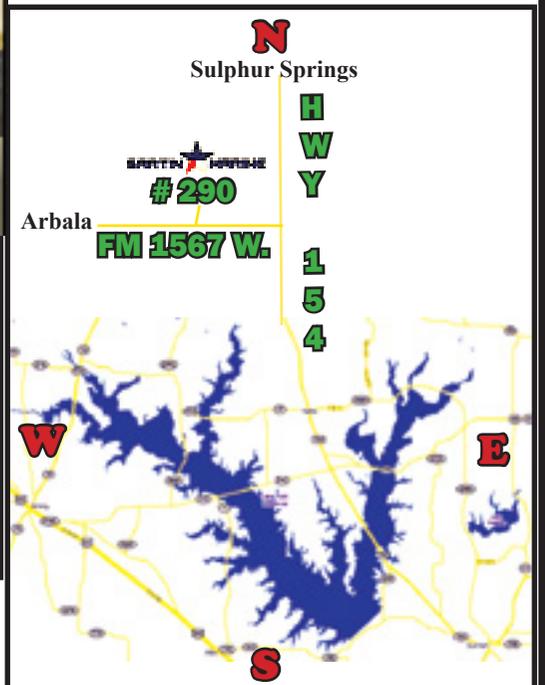


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Biologists Remind Landowners and Hunters to Be Mindful of CWD

With the opening of deer season, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists are asking that hunters and landowners throughout the state be mindful of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) as new cases of the disease have been discovered in individual locations within multiple counties throughout Texas.

The new positive cases were found in a free-ranging mule deer in Lubbock County, as well as within seven captive deer breeding facilities in Hunt, Uvalde, Matagorda, Mason, and Duval counties. TPWD is concerned that CWD could have been introduced into free-ranging deer herds on properties that received deer from these deer breeding facilities where CWD positive animals were discovered. More than 1,700 deer were released to high fence pastures in 119 properties scattered across the state. These maps depict counties that contain properties where those deer were released and the number of potentially CWD exposed deer that were released by county.

The level of suspected risk for these properties that received released deer exposed to CWD is of

significant concern to TPWD. The movement of live deer is readily accepted as the greatest risk of spreading CWD across the state. Eradication of CWD is very difficult if not impossible when established in free-ranging deer populations and in the environment. TPWD and the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) have been working diligently to conduct epidemiological investigations and establish testing plans for those release sites in hopes of preventing CWD from becoming established in the free-ranging deer populations.

These recent discoveries of new cases bring the total number of CWD positive deer to 261 in 14 counties. To date, 168 of those positives are associated with captive breeding facilities, 25 from release sites associated with those positive captive breeding facilities, and 68 in free-ranging deer populations. Fifty-seven of the free-range positives are in the Trans Pecos and Texas panhandle, with the remaining 11 in Medina and Val Verde counties.

CWD surveillance of hunter-harvested deer, road-kills, and sick deer is critical for early detec-

tion and containment of the disease. Landowners and hunters play a critical role in managing CWD and are encouraged to report any tagged deer, or deer that appear to be sick or behaving strangely, to a TPWD biologist. Anyone hunting deer this season is encouraged to voluntarily provide samples for testing by taking deer to the nearest check station or by contacting a biologist in their area.

Learn more about CWD on the TPWD web site or the TAHC web site.



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"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Its November and its time for the fall feast and I do not mean Thanksgiving dinner! Cooling night time low temperatures cause water temperatures to begin rapidly falling. Bass and other predator species of fish recognize this as a time to feast before winter comes. Big bass will gorge themselves on baitfish (shad), brim, yellow bass and crawfish. They will school up in large numbers at the mouths of creeks, drains and inlets thus trapping schools of baitfish and literally taking turns of attack. One of the most popular and old school favorite techniques for this time of year is the good old fashioned spinnerbait. A 1/2 oz. double willow leaf bladed spinnerbait paying atten-

tion to match the hatch in blade size can absolutely be deadly. As a child, spinnerbaits were one of my most favorites. As a professional fisherman, I will tell you they are a must have and I will always have spinnerbaits in my arsenal for attack at any time. Over the years many big bass have fallen victim to the spinnerbait; however, I have found a bait that I like even better, especially for fall feast fishing. I call it the spinnerbait on steroids! It catches multiple fish at the same time and is absolutely one of the most deadly big fish catching baits I have ever used. It is called the Alabama rig. Basically the Alabama rig is a umbrella rig or spreader rig like used in the ocean. It is used in the ocean to mimic a school of baitfish as teasers thus attracting a school of predators accordingly.

These ocean spreader rigs are usually very large and have several hundred or even thousands of dummy baits and blades (no hooks) on them. In the bass fishing world we have down sized the spreader rig to a size that is castable and only has multiple baits and blades, sometimes as many as a dozen or so. Yes these baits have hooks and you simply cast and retrieve the bait in the same fashion and locations you

would throw a spinnerbait. It is a bit heavier and much larger than the common spinnerbait so yes you will need a special rod, reel and line to do the job correctly.

Some states limit the amount of hooks you can use so be sure to check your regulations. There are literally dozens of brands, versions, sizes and models available. Last year I had many 5lb+ doubles (two fish at the same time) as you see in the picture provided. Thats 10lbs of bass in one cast. Wow, that's all I can say. If your wanting to catch more fish and even bigger fish in the fall, I suggest you take a good look into and consider using the Alabama rig. If your wanting to learn more about Alabama rig fishing or just want more information about Lake Fork fishing reports in general, please watch and subscribe to my U-tube channel "The Lake Fork guide". You can also find me on Facebook at "Lake Fork adventures guide service". Thanks much I wish you all great fishing.



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Texas Horned Lizard Hatchling Release Marks Milestone to Save State Reptile

Once common, the Texas horned lizard is now one of more than 1,300 species of concern across the state. But there is good news for the little "horned toad." Recently, a coalition of zoos and wildlife scientists released 204 captive-raised hatchlings into the wild (100 of them hatched at the Fort Worth Zoo), and this follows new evidence this year that previously released lizards are now reproducing. Meanwhile, a landmark bipartisan proposal now moving through Congress, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, would bring the resources needed to save this species and

hundreds like it. This August at Mason Mountain WMA, after years of captive-raised hatchling releases, TPWD biologists and graduate students discovered a breakthrough milestone. They found 18 hatchlings believed to be offspring of zoo-raised hatchlings released in 2019. To their knowledge, this marks the first time that captive-reared horned lizards have survived long enough to successfully reproduce in the wild. For more than 10 years, the Texas Horned Lizard Coalition, including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Christian University and zoos in

Fort Worth, Dallas, San Antonio and elsewhere, has been studying how to restore Texas horned lizards to formerly occupied habitats. Reintroduction efforts have happened at TPWD's Mason Mountain and Muse Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) where extensive habitat management and restoration have provided vital "new homes" for the lizard. Researchers tried translocating adult lizards, capturing them in the wild and then releasing them on the WMAs. This provided a wealth of valuable data, but it also highlighted challenges. Many relocated

(See Texas Horned ... Continued on Page 21)



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Lake Fork Sportsman's Association "Preserving the Legend That is Lake Fork"

By Carolyn West

The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association raffle ended at the Berkley Tournament on Sunday, October 17, 2021, with the drawing of winners of twenty-two (22) valuable prizes. Because COVID had a profound impact on the Association's access to tournaments, the usual twice a year raffle extended across ten months and was combined into one drawing.

Larry Honza won the \$100 gift card sponsored by LFSA. At each major tournament where raffles are sold, during registration, anglers are given a chance to win the free gift card at the end of the tournament.

The winners of the twenty-two raffle items were:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
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| 1911 US Arm .45 pistol | Debbie Elledge |
| Amphibia Sunglasses Certificate | Brent Cooley |
| Amphibia Sunglasses Certificate | Fernanda Quintana |
| Abu Garcia Revo Rod and Reel | Johnathan Goodson |
| Bass Champs Team Event Entry Fee | |
| | Derek Jones |
| Pro Qualifier Rod & Reel | Bart Clay |
| Pro Qualifier Rod & Reel | Ryan Mayfield |
| Full Day Guided Fishing Trip w/ Jim Range | |
| | Misty Bride |
| Minn Kota Trolling Motor | Casey Osbon |
| Yeti Hopper M30 Cooler | Ted Vaughn |
| Legend of Lake Fork Rod & Reel | Mike Williams |
| Legend of Lake Fork Rod & Reel | Stuart Smith |
| Legend of Lake Fork Rod & Reel | Roger Actlazeh |
| Membership to LakeForkMaps.com | Mark Meng |
| Lew's Reel and Moby Rod | Jimmy Hammett |
| Bass Pro Shop Gift Card | Mike Williams |
| Bass Pro Shop Gift Card | Tyler Green |
| Pandora Silver Bracelet | Kevin Morrison |

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Howard Skinner

Inflatable Life Jacket

Brandon Hertel

Inflatable Life Jacket

Johnathan Goodson

LFSA thanks everyone for the purchase of tickets and the local businesses who helped make this fundraiser possible:

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Special thanks to Miss Alaina Nantz (pictured with LFSA members Ed Swenson and Ken West) for drawing the winners' tickets.)



Lake Fork Sportsman's Association
Preserving The Legend

TACKLE DONATIONS NEEDED

Rods, reels, tackle, and fishing-related equipment are needed to support the High School Fishing Tackle Program sponsored by Lake Fork Sportsman's Association. LFSA requests donations of new and used fishing articles that will be cleaned, assembled, and refurbished. Items will be further donated to area high school fishing teams.

Call Larry Marler, 336-413-3053, or Mike Kostial, 760-458-7885, for more information or to arrange a donation.



Alaina Nantz did an excellent job drawing the winners of the LFSA raffle for some great prizes at the Berkley Tournament.

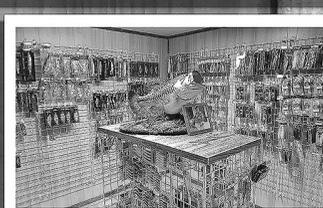


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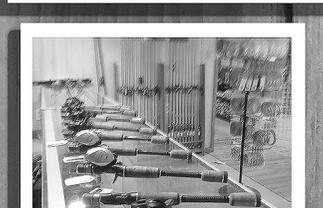
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"Better Late Than Never!" (Continued from Page 6)

colors to gold or red. Now that you have photo's of several great fish during the morning, migrate your way out to deep water and graph the usual haunts, humps, ridges, roadbeds and structure. Fall on Fork has always been great fishing for these patterns during the afternoon hours. Flutter spoons, jigging spoons, Carolina rigs, drop shots and football jigs will be the "go to" baits when you locate bass stacked up on any of these features. Pitch out a marker buoy and go to work. Gold is a great color for the spoons and a ten inch worm will get the job done on the C-rig. Blue fleck, redbug, green pumpkin and bamabug are all

great colors to start with. The same colors apply to the football jig and I favor the Talon Carolina Worm in redbug for my drop shot. Barfish are the key to these deep spots. Find those on your graph and the bass will be mixed in with them.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in November 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 November and some in December. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dream't of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skee-21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook and Instagram at <https://www.facebook.com/LakeFork-GuideDavidOzio>. I would 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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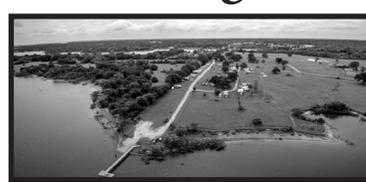
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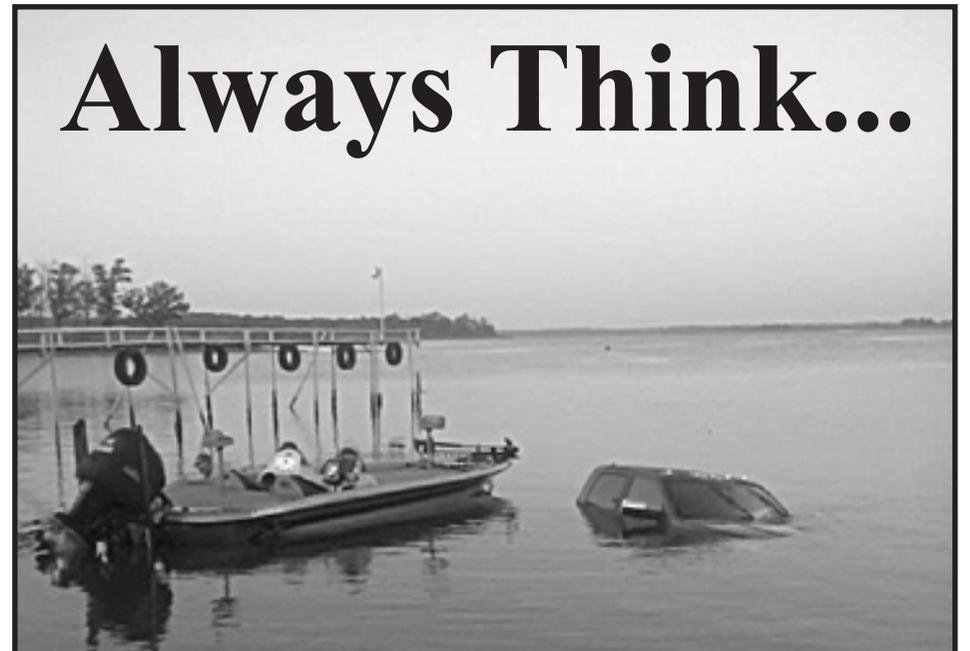
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Texas Horned Lizard (Continued from Page 18)

lizards died, killed by predators. Normal wild mortality ranges from 70-90% and scientists have seen this with translocated adults. Also, capturing and translocating sufficient adults in the wild to establish self-sustaining populations may prove unsustainable long-term.

For these reasons, in recent years the focus has shifted to captive breeding Texas horned lizards at partner zoos, which makes it possible to breed and release hundreds of lizards at once. Texas horned lizards have large clutch sizes with many eggs, often with multiple clutches each year.

The Fort Worth Zoo developed the breeding and husbandry protocols required to successfully breed and care for these animals in managed collections. These practices have since been implemented and modeled at several zoos around the state. The Fort Worth Zoo has the longest-running captive breeding effort in Texas and, in fact, the zoo hatched its 1,000th Texas

horned lizard recently. Biologists remain optimistic that continued research and restoration work will ultimately lead to self-sustaining wild populations of Texas horned lizards. But they say the Recovering America's Wild-

life Act would provide the funding needed to make this dream a reality. People can learn how to help in the on-line toolkit of the Texas Wildlife Alliance, a grass roots coalition formed to support RAWA.

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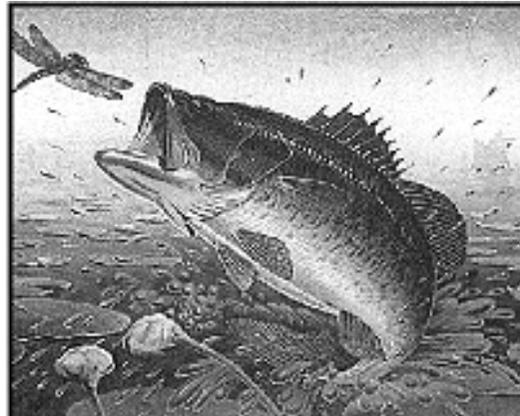
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39	M	O	R	A	S	40	C	A	D	41	P	O	D	G	Y
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52	B	R	I	E	55	S	A	P	56	D	E	57	N	S	E
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67	B	A	S	E	68	T	E	N	E	T	69	S	P	A	S

Subject Search

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

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| ALGEBRA | GEOMETRY |
| ASTRONOMY | GRAMMAR |
| BIOLOGY | HISTORY |
| CALCULUS | LITERATURE |
| CHEMISTRY | PHYSICS |
| DIVISION | READING |
| GEOGRAPHY | WRITING |

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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--If I Could Turn Back Time-- Henderson County game wardens were conducting an inspection on a local processor when they came across a license that did not have an archery endorsement. During the inspection, wardens found out the deer was harvested the same day the license was purchased, but the license was bought by the hunter later in the evening. The wardens visited the hunter and learned that the deer

was harvested under the license of another individual. After further questioning, it was discovered that the hunter asked his wife to go buy a hunting license the same day he harvested the deer so that he could use her tag to harvest another buck. After denying the incident, the wardens were able to use cell phone photos with consent from the couple to put together a timeline proving the deer was harvested by the hunter before the license was purchased by his wife. To further the false claims that his wife had harvested the deer, he had her pose

for photos with the deer, which wardens found on the phone. Cases pending.

--Oh Deer-- A Lavaca County game warden was on patrol when they heard a rifle shot come from an area where they had previously seen deer hunting violations. When they went to investigate, the warden saw a man drive out of the brush, head home, pick up his wife and then return to the woods. An hour later, the wife returned to the house with the head and meat of a white-tailed buck. The warden approached the wife, who

(Continued on Page 24)

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New Trend Along With Decadent Dessert for your Thanksgiving Holiday

By Sue Hampton

While Thanksgiving Day has long been known as "Turkey Day," the past several years have seen the eponymous big bird lose its luster as the crown jewel of the holiday meal.

This easy recipe for "Pork Loin Roasted with Orange and Ginger" is the perfect way to sample this trend on your own. The high point of this roast is, of course, the glaze, which combines ginger, honey and orange juice for a unique flavor that really captures the fun of holiday cooking.



This "Pork Loin" and no-bake "Peanut Butter Pie" are sure to be favorites at your Thanksgiving celebration!

Pork Loin Roasted With Orange And Ginger

- 1 loin of pork (4 to 5 pounds)
- 2 teaspoons salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 1 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1 tablespoon ground dried ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Rub the pork roast with salt and pepper to taste, and place fat side up in a roasting pan. Cook 1-1/2 to 3 hours or until a meat thermometer placed in the flesh of the roast reaches 180F.

Combine the orange juice, honey, ginger and cloves in a small saucepan and simmer 30 minutes. During the last hour of cooking, brush the roast several times with this mixture to produce a shiny glaze. Serve with rice pilaf.

In honor of Peanut Butter Lovers' Month, try your hand at this easy no-bake recipe for Peanut Butter Pie.

Peanut Butter Pie

- 8 chocolate wafer cookies, crushed
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 4 ounces light cream cheese
- 4 ounces fat-free cream cheese
- 1 can fat-free sweetened condensed milk (14 ounces)
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 cup frozen light whipped topping, thawed (8 ounces)

2 teaspoons chocolate syrup

Lightly coat a 9-inch pie plate with non-stick spray. Scatter the cookie crumbs evenly over the bottom. Set aside.

In a large bowl, using an electric mixer set on medium speed, beat together the peanut butter, light cream cheese and fat-free cream cheese until smooth. Gradually beat in the milk and lemon juice. Fold in the whipped topping. Spoon into the pie plate, spreading evenly over the crumbs. Drizzle with chocolate syrup. Using the top of a knife, decoratively swirl the chocolate syrup. Cover with plastic wrap and chill for at least 4 hours, or until set.

We wish all of you a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!





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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

then lead the warden to where she was meeting her husband in the woods. The man was surprised when his wife showed up with the game warden to their hidden cleaning rack. Citation was issued for taking a white-tailed deer in closed season and civil restitution was filed. Case pending.

--Crossbow Drive-by-- Two Trinity County game wardens received a call from the local sheriff's office about a hunter who had just shot a buck in a yard from a vehicle. The landowner thought a rifle was used and was able to write down the license plate number and get a good description of the vehicle. The wardens and sheriff's office called a local constable who lives in the same neighborhood for some back up. The constable was able to find the vehicle quickly while the wardens traveled to the scene. After a brief interview upon their arrival, the hunter admitted to shooting the buck out of his vehicle with a crossbow from the public roadway. Wardens filed multiple charges for hunting from the public roadway and hunting during closed season. Cases pending.

--Drunk and on the Hunt-- A Cass County game warden was on patrol when they saw a vehicle stop twice near a large pasture and stick what they thought was a rifle out of the window. While following the vehicle to confirm what they had seen, the subject was driving erratically on the county road. When the vehicle stopped again,

the warden conducted a traffic stop. The warden then approached the vehicle and saw an AR-15 rifle in the passenger's seat. The weapon was secured, and the driver was checked for warrants. The warden noticed the thermal scope was still on, so they asked the driver about hunting and told him that they had seen him stick the rifle out of the window. The driver then admitted to hunting the field for hog and admitted to being intoxicated. The driver was arrested and charged with hunting without landowner consent and hunting non-game from a motor vehicle.

--Bee Careful!-- A swarm of bees attacked a rancher utilizing an open top bulldozer to clear brush from his property when he inadvertently ran over their hive. Unable to be removed from his vehicle, a ranch hand covered him in blankets and called emergency services for assistance. Supported by local EMS, Sheriff's Department, and Eldorado Volunteer Fire Department, Schleicher and Sutton County Game Wardens

responded to the incident. The volunteer fire department sprayed down the area to remove some of the bees. One of the responding wardens, an avid beekeeper in his spare time, applied his knowledge to reach the rancher. Wearing his personal beekeeping suits, the wardens and sheriff were able to remove the man from the bulldozer. Since the area was inaccessible to EMS vehicles, the wardens cleared their truck and transported the severely stung operator to EMS vehicles who were waiting to take him to the hospital. He recovered from his injuries.

--Tubin' to the Oldies-- Real and Uvalde County Game Wardens received a call about a 67-year-old man who had been separated from his family while tubing down the river. After interviewing the family and the outfitter, wardens determined that the tuber failed to exit at the designated area and continued downstream. One of the wardens drove to a nearby ranch where he launched a

(Continued on Next Page)

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drone in an attempt to locate the tuber. At the same time the other warden spoke to the foreman of the ranch and requested assistance in locating the tuber. The foreman spoke to a group of tubers who said they saw the individual. The information was relayed to both wardens and based off their tips, the wardens located the individual and returned him to his family.

--**Shell Shocked**-- A warden was contacted by a state biologist about an inquiry made by a local elementary school regarding rehabilitating Texas tortoises. After learning more about the situation, the warden determined that the school was keeping approximately 24 tortoises inside a small atrium on school property. Unfortunately, the tortoises were a threatened species and unable to be possessed by any individual or entity. School staff stated that several years ago they acquired two tortoises and over the years, students brought more tortoises into the facility. The warden arrived at the school to collect the tortoises for TPWD assisted relocation. In doing so, the curious students and staff gathered around the atrium to watch and the warden made use of the attention by turning the removal into an impromptu educational program on the tortoises and their natural habitat. The tortoises were later released at a nearby ranch in prime Texas tortoise

habitat.

--**Mother Knows Best**-- Over the Memorial Day weekend, game wardens conducting water safety patrols were sent videos of a male jumping off a red and white boat, harassing and capturing a Canada Goose. Despite efforts to locate the boat and the individuals involved, wardens were unable to track them down. Two months later while conducting a water safety check on a different boat, the same wardens who initially received the videos noticed several of the occupants on the vessel wearing identical hats to those in the video. One of the Wardens humorously asked about the hats and if they knew the individual who had caught the goose in the video. The occupants confirmed they knew him and affirmed their knowledge of the "goose video". They pointed to a male in the back of the boat and identified him as the "goose capturer". The Wardens asked the identified male to join them on their boat for further questioning. The male admitted he was the one in the video and said his mom had warned him that he was going to get into trouble. He added, "I should've listened to my mom!" Wardens explained to the individual the definition of "Hunt," according to Texas law is "To capture, trap, take or kill, or any attempts thereof." Accordingly, the individual was issued a citation for "Hunting

Canada Geese in a Closed Season." He was also issued a written warning for "Hunting Canada Geese by Illegal Means and Methods." The goose survived.

--**Old Fishing Buddy**-- Texas Game Wardens were patrolling for water safety and recreational fishing activity when they received information regarding a boat that potentially possessed over the daily bag limit of red snapper. The Wardens located the unoccupied boat moored at a dock. Upon performing an inspection, twenty-one red snapper were found on board, exceeding the individual fishing limit. Wardens attempted to contact the occupants of the house where the boat was docked. After approximately thirty minutes of knocking, announcing, speaking with neighbors and attempting to call the suspect and his family members, an individual exited the residence. The suspect was immediately evasive when questioned about the red snapper in the boat. He stated that he had caught them with five other people but only provided one name. The Wardens contacted the individual who stated he had not talked to the suspect in fifteen years. The suspect admitted to going over his daily bag limit to the wardens. Seventeen red snappers were seized, and citations issued, along with civil restitution.

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