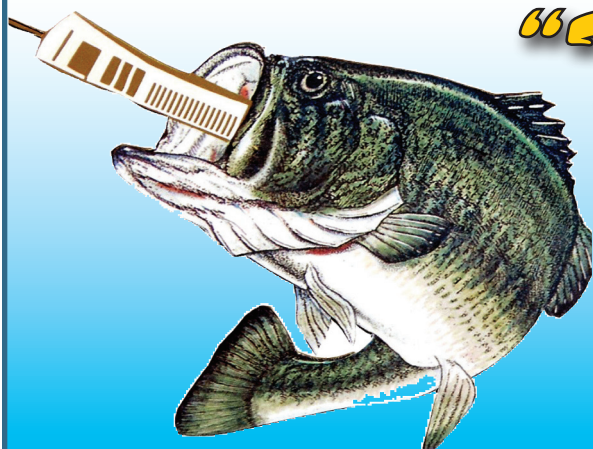


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Vol. 23

January, 2022

No. 269



"An Angel Gone To Heaven" Tonya Turner, wife of Chuck Turner owner Serice Marine passed away on December 15th. She was known by many of us anglers and always greeted each of us with a smile. She will be missed.



"Another Great Loss To Lake Fork!" Louie Vaughn passed away on December 21st. He was a great guide on Lake Fork and owner of Reel Time Rods. His wife, Kari and him built the Burnin' Stump Lodge on Lake Fork. He was a good friend and will be missed.

Lake Fork Water Level Down For A Good Reason

Engineers have recommended that the Sabine River Authority of Texas, Lake Fork Division, make minor repairs to the soil cement along the Lake Fork Dam, some of which are currently located underwater. Recent wave action dislodged numerous small sections of the soil cement along the upstream side of the embankment, which protects the earthen portion of the dam.

To facilitate these superficial and routine repairs, a drawdown of the reservoir began Monday, December 13th to a target elevation of 397' msl. The current schedule is to have the work completed

and the lake trending back up by the end of January 2022, but the rate of rise will depend on the progress of work, rainfall, and inflow from upstream tributaries.

The drawdown will give lake side property owners an opportunity to inspect and make necessary repairs to boathouses, piers, retaining walls, and related structures. Construction approval applications for this type of activity can be obtained from the Lake Fork Division Office (903-878-2262).

Extreme caution needs to be taken by all anglers coming to catch one of the many Lake Fork large

bass swimming in our lake. Hopefully the lake will be on the rise once construction on the dam is completed. Once again how fast it might get back to normal depends on the spring rains and run off. As of January 25th the lake level was -5.95 feet below pool level. This isn't a major problem to be concerned about, a few years ago during the major drought we had the lake got down to -8 feet below pool. Now is a great time to be positive by learning where the humps come out, where the creeks bend, new passage ways, and submerged stumps you didn't realize were there at full pool.



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"Bubba's New Year Just Has To Get Better!"

By Don Hampton

Well Bubba had just a great Christmas with his family coming to his homestead. He does love his kids and grandkids. What he says he really enjoys is spoiling his grandkids while they're at his house, giving them candy and cookies and then sending them home for his kids to go through what he had to go through raising them. He does have a sense of humor when it comes to that.

I do believe what he enjoyed the most was the eating and opening presents though. I'm not real sure just how much he loved picking up all the wrapping paper and the cleanup afterwards, but we all know he can put on a good show and how much he loves that crap!

It is a good thing he got some fishing stuff from Santa to play with because his New Year just isn't starting off with him in the best spirits. The way he has been acting you would think his dog ran away and he had a fish hook stuck in his back side. The main reason for his change of attitude is his boat is broke. It would seem just before the holidays he hit a stump (his lack of judgment I'm sure) and broke the driveshaft in his motor. Well with the holidays you can't get parts because everyone is celebrating with their families. Ac-

cording to Bubba this is all just wrong when it comes to his boat getting fixed!

A bad part of the situation is he has good insurance and they have already sent him the check to have it fixed. He will sit staring at the check in his hand and whining like his little great granddaughter when Bubbette won't give her candy or let her have his way. Whenever Bubba can't just get up and go fishing when he wants, you would think the world came to an end. To top it all off, all his fishing buds are spending holidays with their families and won't take him fishing. To Bubba this ain't right either!!! He believes holidays, anniversaries and birthdays are great fishing times! Sunshine, rain, sleet or snow, a fishing he will go!

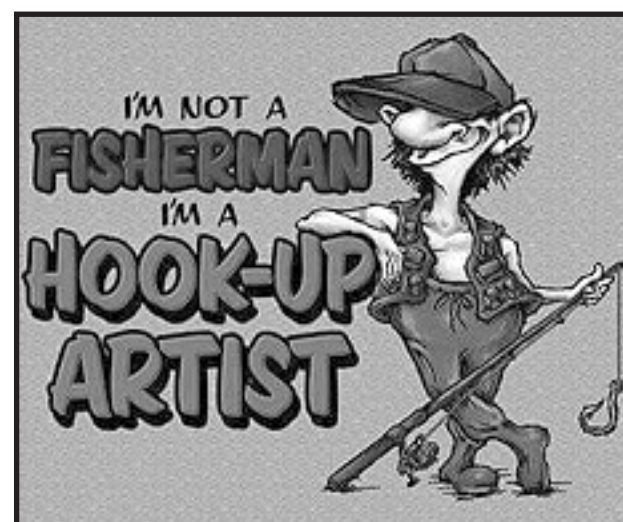
To top it all off, Bubbette isn't making matters any better. With Bubba around the house more, she's putting him to good use. She has him running errands, helping with house chores, going shopping with her, exchanging gifts, visiting friends. You know, all that crap Bubba really loves!

Bubbette is getting so tired of his moping around the house, she's ready to smother him with a pillow in his sleep, run away from home or buy him a boat to get him back to normal. Bubba would really like the last one,

he doesn't care much for the others though. Especially the one with the pillow. She does believe he loves that boat way too much! At times she gets a little jealous of how much Bubba loves his boat and fishing but she knows there are a lot of worse habits a man could have.

The best thing is within the next week Bubba will be back in his boat and on the lake and doing what he loves with a passion! This will give his mechanic, his dealership, Mercury, his friends, his relatives and everyone involved and around Bubba a reprieve and make him and them happy once more!

Happy New Year & Stay Safe!!



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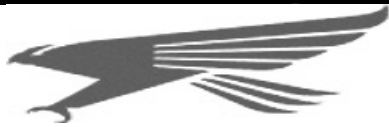
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Texas Game Warden Memorial Moving To New Home

Since 2012, the Game Warden Peace Officer's Association has been working to relocate the memorial from the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens to the grounds of the Texas State Capitol. The life-size bronze figure of a Texas Game Warden stands to honor the wardens that lost their lives in the line of duty and serves as a reminder of the enduring legacy of the Texas Game Wardens.

"The Association saw this as a necessary move since other memorials—

specifically peace officer memorials—are housed on the grounds of the Texas State Capitol," said Game Warden Peace Officer Association President and current Texas Game Warden Major, Quint Balkcom. "Housing the memorial on Capitol grounds would also serve a larger audience, many who have never interacted with a Texas Game Warden. This is an educational opportunity to learn more about our history and our critical conservation efforts."

When the Game Warden Peace Officer's Association

took the reins of this project, they also facilitated the necessary funding and legislative efforts required for relocation. After multiple attempts, a 2017 resolution in support of the project passed through both chambers of the Texas legislature. A recent hearing of the State Preservation Board cleared logistical hurdles that had stalled relocation.

"This is an incredible step in the right direction," said Colonel Chad Jones, Director of Law Enforcement for the Texas Parks

(Continued on Next Page)



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and Wildlife Department. "The fallen wardens this memorial honors aren't just the wardens of the past. Some of them were my friends and colleagues. Placing the memorial at the Capitol ensures their sacrifices will be remembered daily by the leaders, residents, and visitors to this state."

Despite overcoming monumental hurdles, the memorial still faces an uphill battle to its final home.

"Now that the project has received final approval from the State Preservation Board, we have moved into the planning phase of relocation which will be a lengthy process as

well," said Balkcom. "Ordering the granite for a new pedestal and physically moving the memorial takes months to plan and perform, but I am thrilled the project is one step closer to its new home and honoring our fallen family the way it was intended."

Balkcom added that an updated sculpture will be replacing the memorial in Athens in the future.

As the state's only conservation law enforcement agency, Texas Game Wardens patrol its vast network of waterways, respond to natural disasters and oversee hunting and fishing regulations. Through the

agency's 125 year history, 19 Texas Game Wardens have lost their lives while serving the people of Texas.

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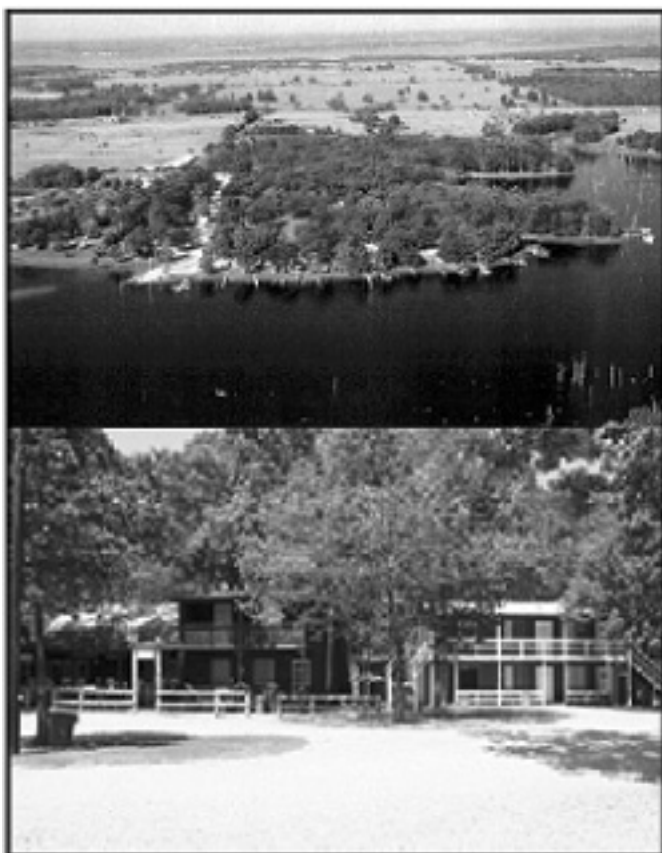
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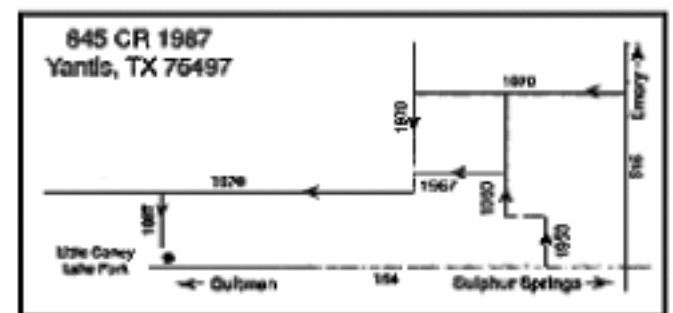
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"Lake Fork in 2022!"

By David Ozio

"It was almost eighty degrees at Christmas when I penned this article! I mean, good grief! Now add in the fact that the SRA pulled the plug on the lake so they could do repairs on the dam! Well, here we go. It's going to be a very interesting 2022. The most interesting thing about this whole ordeal is what we talked about in a recent seminar at Lake Fork Marina. New areas will come into play that haven't been fished since 2015. Humps and pond dams that were originally too deep will now be a prime-time location. Also, creek bends, wood and even submerged tires will be the new norm. At least temporarily. Oh yah, add in some cold temper-

atures that are headed our way and we will have to put on our thinking caps.

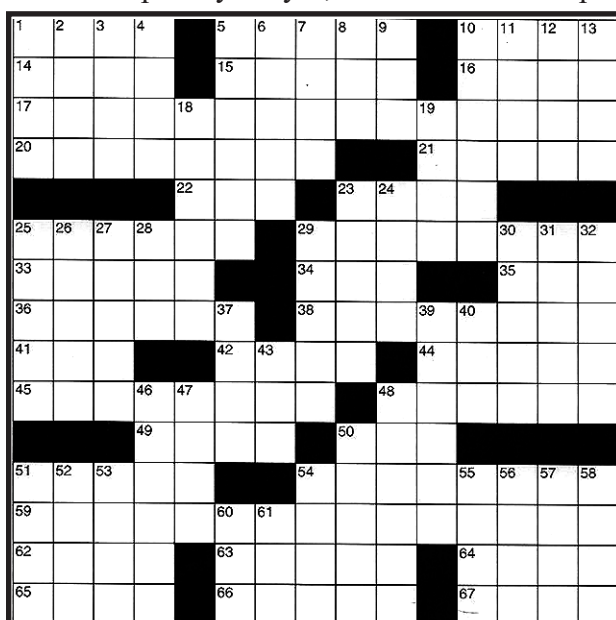
As it stands now, the lake is six foot under pool and the water temps are hovering around the high 50's to low 60's which points to the fact that most bass are looking to set up for their long winter nap. There are a few caveats that will move them to grab a meal and the plan is to shed some light on what should or can happen. Stable water in January will move the green beasts to their typical winter lairs even though the lake is low and can be caught on the right day. Their feeding habits are slowed down due to the cold water and one good meal could last them a while. The key is to target schools of shad and bar fish in the 20-30 foot range. Good electronics are the key and pay strict attention to the hooks that surround the school. The A-rig will be the go to set up to target these monster bass and rig it with any five inch swimbait on a 3/16 oz head. A flutter spoon or jigging spoon will also do the trick and my color choice will be gold. Focus your search on humps, roadbeds, long points and pond dams. If you notice the big arches laying on the bottom, switch to the Carolina rig or football jig in black/blue to attract the larger bites. Use a long leader on your C-rig with a 3/0 or 4/0 hook. Creature baits, large worms or giants lizards will be the baits of choice. I use blue fleck and chartreuse pepper on cloudy



days and watermelon red or watermelon candy colors when the suns beaming down in full force. Drop shots will play a huge roll in the coming months especially if the lake stays at this level or slightly below. January is the time of the year when the ultra giants are moving around and it offers the extreme possibility to boat the trophy of your dreams.

An alternate pattern targets the skinny water. Fishing shallow on the bright sunny days is the place to be, especially between 2:00 and 5:00pm. It is the warmest part of the day and the top layer of water offers comfort to the sluggish bass. Vegetation is the attraction, if you can find any, for these bass and I would throw a rattle-

(See Lake Fork in 2022.....
Continued on Page 20)




CLUES ACROSS

1. Large cat
5. Gets
10. Dutch distiller
14. Ruler
15. What belongs to you
16. Rookie reporter's assignment
17. Christmas symbol
20. Trains
21. Incompetent
22. Federal housing department
23. Rescue
25. Transmits
29. Military punishments
33. Smell (var.)
34. "Norma ____," film
35. Attorneys' organization (abbr.)
36. Anger
38. Intensely happy
41. Embryo
42. French abbot
44. Planet on which we live
45. Provençal verses
48. Native American boats
49. Dry
50. Gullible person (slang)
51. Missouri town
54. Italian or Frenchman
59. What Santa's doing with his list
62. Aboriginal race
63. River in France
64. Thomas ____, British composer, 1700
65. Form bubbles
66. Commands
67. Pumpkin or poppy

CLUES DOWN

1. One who did it (slang)
2. Asian river between China and Russia
3. Journey
4. Bead
5. Island in the Mediterranean
6. Expressed delight
7. Disarrange
8. Slip
9. South-southeast
10. Woman's hat
11. Double-reed instrument
12. Programming language
13. Proofreaders' mark
18. Pakistani city
19. Flowering plant
23. Universe
24. Sweet beverages
25. Anchor ropes
26. Saying
27. Part of bell sounds
28. Birth-control means
29. ____ cycle
30. Inward (prefix)
31. 12 characters to an inch
32. Oliver ____, banker
37. Aristocrat
39. Beverage container
40. On (Dutch)
43. Injurious
46. Powder
47. Asian nation (var.)
48. Menus (French)
50. Grease in sheep's wool
51. Canadian flyers
52. Tributary of the Mississippi River
53. River in Siberia
54. Armor plate
55. Belonging to the Public Works Administration
56. Republic of Ireland
57. Inflammatory disease
58. State of extreme poverty
60. Similar (suffix)
61. Born of

Answers on Page 21




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Toyota ShareLunker Program Kicks Off 36th Season

The month of January begins a new year and with it the beginning of the 36th season of the Toyota ShareLunker program when anglers across the state, and for that matter the nation, cast their lines and fish for Largemouth Bass in Texas' world class fisheries. The Toyota ShareLunker program has played an integral part in making Texas a destination for hundreds of thousands of anglers in search of this prized sport fish.

The 2021 season 35 was one for the record books. Last year saw multiple milestones reached and memories made by anglers and the dedicated Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries staff that make the program a success. Anticipation is high for what 2022 could have in store for anglers across the state and the nation.

What better way to jump start the new year than to grab a pole and hit the water in search of a 13-pound plus Largemouth Bass. Nothing beats the feel of the line being cast, seeing the lure land on the water, and the anticipation of a strike from a possible fish of a lifetime.

"We are excited to kick off another ShareLunker season," said Toyota ShareLunker Program Coordinator Kyle Brookshear. "The Sharelunker program contributes to the selective spawning and stocking of these world-class offspring and also helps us gather vital catch and genetic data to help our fisheries biologists better manage trophy bass populations throughout the great fisheries of Texas."

During the first three months of the season (Jan. 1 through March 31), anglers who reel in a 13+ pound bass can loan it to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the ShareLunker selective breeding and stocking program. These anglers can call the ShareLunker hotline at (903) 681-0550 to report their catch 24/7 until April 1, 2022.

Anglers who catch and donate one of these 13+ lunkers earn Legacy Class status, receive a catch kit filled with merchandise, a 13lb+ Legacy decal for their vehicle or boat, VIP access to the Toyota ShareLunker Annual Awards event and a high-quality replica mount of their Lunker fish from Lake Fork Taxidermy. These anglers will

also receive entries into two separate drawings- a Legacy Class Drawing and the year-end Grand Prize Drawing. Both drawings will award the winner a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license.

The year-round Toyota ShareLunker program offers four levels of participation for catching bass over eight pounds or 24 inches in Texas. The 2022 season offers an opportunity to join the special club of premier anglers who have submitted a Legacy class ShareLunker.

Anglers who enter data for any lunker they catch greater than 8 pounds or 24 inches during the calendar year 2022 also receive a catch kit, a decal for their vehicle or boat and an entry into the year-end Grand Prize Drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and annual fishing license. ShareLunker entry classes include the Lunker Class (8lb+), Elite Class (10lb+), and Legend Class (13lb+).

Once a lunker is reeled in, anglers need to enter the catch data on the Toyota ShareLunker mobile app – available for free from the Apple

(See Toyota ShareLunker...Continued on Page 21)

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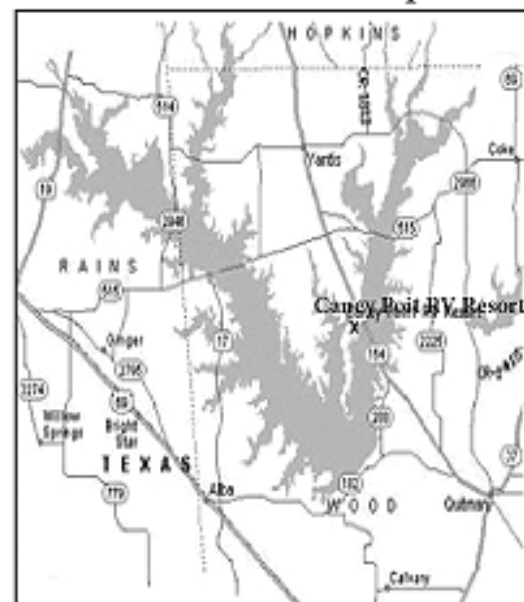
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"The Moon Report"

"Hopeful for 2022"

By Terri Moon

Wow – where do I begin??? It has been a year full of blessings but also a year of shocking, heartbreaking, tragic events for the Lake Fork fishing community. First we lost the GREATEST Lake Fork guide Mark Pack to covid. He was such an ambassador to the sport and especially to Lake Fork. Then we lost Skeeter Fowler – another great Lake Fork guide who was always there to help others in this sport. Sadly it was also to covid.

Next, Brady Winans (the Costa rep) and his fishing partner Scott Dean were in a horrific boat wreck on Cedar Creek when they ran into heavy fog and crashed into the dam – ejecting them both! They are both alive thank God but Brady suffered a broken back, two broken legs, two broken ribs and a broken clavicle, and was care flighted to Tyler where he has had many surgeries, and serious rehab ahead of him. But he is such a fighter! #BUILD-BACKBRADY! Scott suffered a broken jaw and of course a totaled boat. Please keep these guys in your prayers for the long road ahead of them. Also, there is a go-fund-me account set up for them to help their families get through the coming days. They are also planning a benefit tournament with a raffle/auction on Lake Tawa-



koni Feb. 27, 2022. A huge thank you to everyone who is making this possible.

Sadly we lost sweet Tonya Turner, the wife of Chuck Turner, owners of Service Marine in Emory, Texas after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Special prayers for Chuck and family.

Finally, just before Christmas, I got word that a dear friend, Lake Fork guide and co-owner of Reel Time Rods, Louie Vaughn passed away. I've known Louie since I first started guiding on Lake Fork. I loved fishing group trips with him and if I was already booked, he would be the one I'd call to help me out. My husband Jerry thought the world of Louie. They became fast friends – so he made Louie a great deal on a beautiful white and blue Skeeter boat. Louie told me it was his first ever Skeeter boat and he guided out of it for many years and just loved it! I will always cherish

knowing Louie and all the great memories on Lake Fork. Prayers for his sweet wife Kari to get her through the days ahead. It's a tough journey for all these devastated families touched by these tragedies. I think all of us are hoping for a better 2022! I'm just grateful for all the blessings that I've witnessed during these heartbreaking times.

Now for all of you that haven't heard, the Lake Fork water level is in a draw-down to 6 ft. low for repairs on the dam. It's so important to exercise extreme caution if you are going to be on the water. There are still hazards even in the boat lanes because not all channel markers are where they are supposed to be. So, please – please – please be careful out there!

The crappie have moved out to 30 to 50 ft. of water. The depth they are holding at can change daily so keep a close eye on that graph
(Continued on Next Page)

to see how deep you need to target. The tough part of when the crappie go so deep – is the strong winds we've had to deal with in open water. It sure makes me appreciate my Skeeter Solera. It was definitely made for rough water. I've never felt safer in a boat than this one!

The baits that have been producing are Skipper jigs 1/4 oz. in black/chartreuse or chartreuse/white – also, Limits tackle 1/8 oz. in grey/black, pink/chartreuse or Bonehead 1/4 oz. jig heads with 3 inch slimsticks in silver shad, or slick neon.

I hope you all have had as good a holiday as possible, and wishing you all the best in 2022!

Also, prayers for Mama Nova who took a tumble just before Christmas and sprained her ankle and hurt her back – wishing her a quick recovery. Love to all.

Hope to see all of you on the water and have a very blessed year!



Dave Settle couldn't let 2021 go out without catching at least one more bass for the year! He caught this nice hawg on 12/31/21. C.P.R.



Ben Martin from St. James, MO., was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith on 12/8/21 when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.



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Public Access Lease for Guadalupe River Trout Fishing is Open

Anglers have the opportunity to target rainbow trout during the peak of cold-weather stocking and fishing season thanks to a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) "no fee" public access lease on the Guadalupe River.

"This lease location provides great bank angler access to river trout fishing coupled with gorgeous Guadalupe River scenery," said Patrick Ireland, TPWD Inland Fisheries Division San Marcos and Austin District Supervisor.

The site is at Camp Huaco Springs, which is located between New Braunfels and Sattler, featuring nearly a half-mile of bank access along alternating pools and riffles on the Guadalupe River. Anglers can utilize the bank, which is gently sloped and rocky, or wade fish both upstream and downstream. There is a low-water dam at the upper end of the property and deep pool at the lower end.

Public access to the site is open from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset through Saturday, March 5, 2022, for angling from the banks and launching non-motorized boats, canoes, kayaks, or other floatable devices for the purpose of fishing.

TPWD will stock this and other sec-

tions of the Guadalupe River, also known as the Canyon Reservoir Tailrace, with more than 20,000 rainbow trout during weekly stockings from early December through late-February. Be sure to check the 2021-22 Trout Stocking Schedule online before you go fishing to confirm the stocking date and to find other winter trout stocking program angling locations and tips.

Camp Huaco Springs falls under the statewide trout regulations so, anglers may keep up to their daily bag limit of five trout with no minimum length limit. Trout anglers 17 years of age and older will need a valid fishing license that includes a freshwater fishing endorsement.

Anglers may find public access to the river in other areas being stocked with trout – including Guadalupe Park, operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – but should note that special regulations and limits are in effect starting 800 yards downstream from the Canyon Dam release to the second bridge cross-

ing on River Rd.

Camp Huaco Springs is located at 4150 River Road, New Braunfels, TX 78132. For more information, or to find leased River Access and Conservation Areas on other rivers in Texas, visit the RACA program website.

FIVE THINGS I LIKE ALMOST AS MUCH AS FISHING

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2. TALKING ABOUT FISHING.
3. MOVIES AND TV SHOWS WITH FISHING (OR BOATS, OR EVEN BETTER--FISHING BOATS).
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Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork Open Tournament March 19

By Don Hampton

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be hosting their 42nd Semi-Annual Bass Tournament on March 19th hosted out of Oak Ridge Marina. Any of you anglers coming to fish the 14th Annual Mega Bass Tournament on March 27th, 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. 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 Pot is an optional \$10 with 100% payback to the top three biggest bass. Entry fee for the tournament is \$45 with \$10 Big Bass Option. Texas Trails Bassmasters will be taking entries in the white trailer by the lake at Oak Ridge Marina from 4 pm to 9pm on Friday, March 18th, and again on Saturday, March 19th from 5 am to 6 am.

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

Texas Trails Bassmas-

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

Dues to join the club are a mere \$30 per year. Cost for tournament is \$25 with a \$5 Big Bass Option. There is also a progressive side pot that is optional for \$5 for the first 7-pound or over bass.

For more information or to obtain an entry form for the tournament see ad on Page

12. You can visit our website at www.texas-trailsbassmasters.com or give Rodney Ellis, President, a call at 903-714-6473 or Don Hampton, Vice President/Tournament Director a call at 903-360-6994.

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

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Texas State Parks Ambassador Program Accepting Applications for New Central and West Texas Cohort

After a two-year hiatus, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is proud to announce that the Texas State Parks Ambassador Program will relaunch in early 2022. The program started accepting Ambassadors applications for Central and West Texas State Parks on Dec. 15.

Texas State Parks Ambassadors are a diverse group of conservation-minded young adult volunteers between the ages of 18 and 30 that are paired with a Texas State Park to help foster a new generation of outdoor stewards. The program seeks to attract a younger audience to Texas State Parks to continue the conservation of Texas' wild things and wild places for years to come.

"Connecting young and diverse audiences with service and recreation opportunities in our state parks is more crucial now than ever," said Samantha Toback, Texas State Park Ambassador Program Coordinator. "It is especially important considering the recent substantial increase in visitation to our state parks and the approaching centennial of Texas State Parks in 2023."

Those interested in joining the program must first fill out their application, indicate the parks they would like to be paired with, and then the top candidates will be selected for an interview. The final group that are selected as Texas State Parks Ambassadors will then be required to attend Ambassador Leadership Training before beginning their six-month Ambassadorship. During that time, Ambassadors will complete 40 hours of hands-on service, community outreach, and social media projects for their parks.

The five-day Ambassador Leadership Training for the new cohort of Central and West Texas Ambassadors will take place in March 2022. During the training, new Ambassadors will be introduced to park interpretation, outdoor education programming like Project Wild, provided tips on how to be a successful Ambassador, and will also get to participate in activities like kayaking, backpacking, mountain biking, and more.

While previous outdoor experience and a desire for a career in natural resources is not required, the Texas State Parks Ambassador program has led 27 previous Ambassadors into careers with TPWD.

"Going into the Ambassador program, I had no idea how much it would change my outlook on life or that I would end up where I am today as a result," said Steven Simmons, former Ambassador, and current Park Operations Trainee at Tyler State Park. "For young adults looking to gain rewarding and valuable experiences with TPWD, the Ambassador program provides vast amounts of networking, support, and allows you to make lifelong friendships that help you to grow personally and professionally."

Applications for Central and West Texas Ambassadors opened Dec. 15 and will close on Jan. 26 and must be submitted online. The six-month term for new Ambassadors will begin April 1 and run through Oct. 1. Applications for the Panhandle and North Texas region will open in February, along with South and East Texas applications in August. Those interested in applying must be between the ages of 18-30 and have a high school diploma. Applications from anyone who turned 30 in 2020 and 2021, during the program's two-year hiatus, will also be accepted.

Learn more about the Texas State Parks Amba-

sador Program online and get updates about the program, as well as a glimpse into what it's like being an Ambassador, via Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.





Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

42nd Semi-Annual Open Tournament

Mar. 19, 2022 * Lake Fork, Texas

Oak Ridge Marina * Hwy 154 N.

Guaranteed Pay-Out Based on 100 Entries 903-360-6994
Drawings Held After Weigh-in for prizes

 <p>1st Place \$1,040.00 2nd Place \$780.00 3rd Place \$520.00 4th Place \$260.00 5th ~ 10th \$100.00</p>		<p>There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)</p> <p>1st Place \$500 2nd Place \$300 3rd Place \$200</p>
--	---	---

Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00
 Early entries must be postmarked by Mar. 12, 2022.
 All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Mar. 19, 2022.
 Check in times: Fri., Mar. 18, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Mar. 19, 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Oak Ridge Marina.
 To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.
 Fishing hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (official clock at sign-in station).
NO FISHING from midnight till start time.
 Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer fishing allowed).
 Contestants must fish from a boat. NO-bank fishing or leaving the boat to and a fish.
 Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
 All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.
 No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
 Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (or state law limits at the time of the tournament).
 All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.
 Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at sign-in). You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.
 All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
 No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
 Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No cooling of fish).
 Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of TTB and will be released (with the exception of trophy or dead fish).
 In the event of a tie for any position, prize money for that position and the following positions will be combined and evenly divided between the tying contestants.
 Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to the tournament.
 Contestants may fish with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.
 Use of alcoholic beverages or controlled drugs are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in.
 Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish.
 Any contestant who violates any rule may be disqualified. Any act of a competitor, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon TTB's effort to promote fishing, conservation, clean waters, courtesy or safety shall be reason for disqualification from this and all future TTB tournaments.
 Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age.
 All protests must be registered in writing with the tournament judges within 15 minutes after designated weigh-in time. All decisions of the tournament judges will be final in all matters. Anyone protesting the outcome of an open tournament will have to pay for any additional polygraph test given.
 All boats must be 18 ft. in length or longer. An aerated livewell is recommended to aid in fish survival for live release. Anglers cannot leave boat to land a fish.
 All contestants are responsible to have read these rules and must agree to abide by them (by signing the entry form) while competing in this TTB event.
 Contestants will be subject to polygraph test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification.

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

Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Mar. 12, 2022 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (Optional). Print clearly.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

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

TTB USE ONLY

Entry # _____

Entry Fee _____

Big Bass _____

TPWD Sets Public Scoping Meetings to Gather Input on Spotted Seatrout Regulations

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is seeking public input on the proposed rules changing bag and size limits for spotted seatrout on the middle and lower Texas coast. The proposed rules would reduce the spotted seatrout bag limit to 3 fish and restrict the allowable size to 17-23 inches for two years. The goal of this rule is to leave more spawning fish in the water for two spawning seasons in order to help the populations recover quickly from the 2021 winter storm. These regulation changes would only affect Matagorda Bay, San Antonio Bay, Aransas Bay, Corpus Christi Bay, and the Upper and Lower Laguna Madre systems.

The public is encouraged to provide comment on the proposed regulation changes. Opportunities to provide comments for or against these proposals include:

* Public hearings: TPWD Coastal Fisheries staff will be hosting several public hearings on the coast to receive input from stakeholders and constituents concerning the proposed

regulation changes.

* Tuesday, Jan. 11 from 6 p.m.- 8 p.m. at the Natural Resources Center (Room 1003), Corpus Christi, TX 78412

* Tuesday, Jan. 11 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Port Isabel Event and Cultural Center, 309 Railroad Street, Port Isabel, TX 78578

* Wednesday, Jan. 12 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Aquarium at Rockport Harbor Education Center, 706 Navigation Circle, Rockport, TX 78382

* Thursday, Jan. 13 from 6 p.m. -8 p.m. at the USDA Bauer Building, 186 Henry Barber Way, Port Lavaca, TX 77979

* Online: Official public comments of the changes can be provided on the TPWD public comment page until Jan. 26.

* Phone or Email: The Coastal Fisheries Division at 512-389-8575 or cfish@tpwd.texas.gov

* Zoom Webinar: TPWD Coastal Fisheries staff will present proposed fishing regulation changes and answer questions in an online webinar on Jan. 10 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. The we-

binar will also be posted on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's YouTube channel and Facebook page.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission will vote on the adoption of these rules during the January 2022 Commission Meeting.





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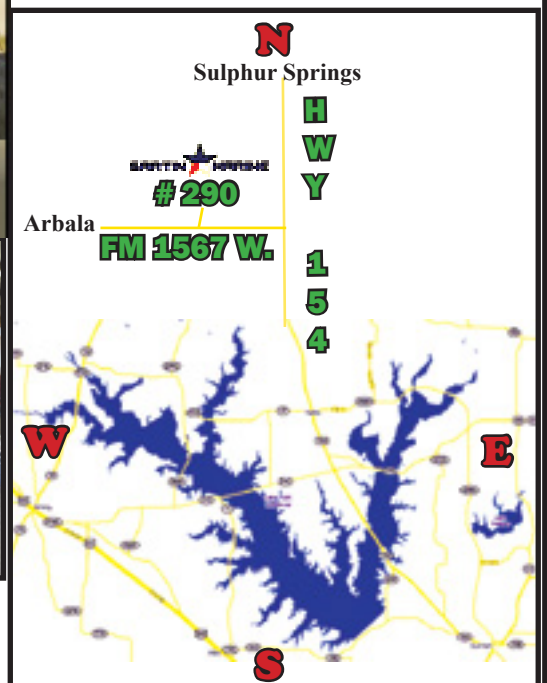
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If you think that Lake Fork isn't at one of its lower points, you might want to think again. Looking south down Running Creek from the bridge on FM 2966 you can visibly see the channel, but as you get closer to the bridge you will notice shallower water.

Looking north up Running Creek from the bridge on FM 2966 you can visibly see that the boat docks are out of the water. The tributary of Running Creek can be distinguished as to where it runs but you also see the many stumps anglers have gone over in the past.



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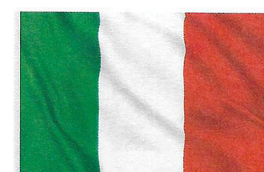
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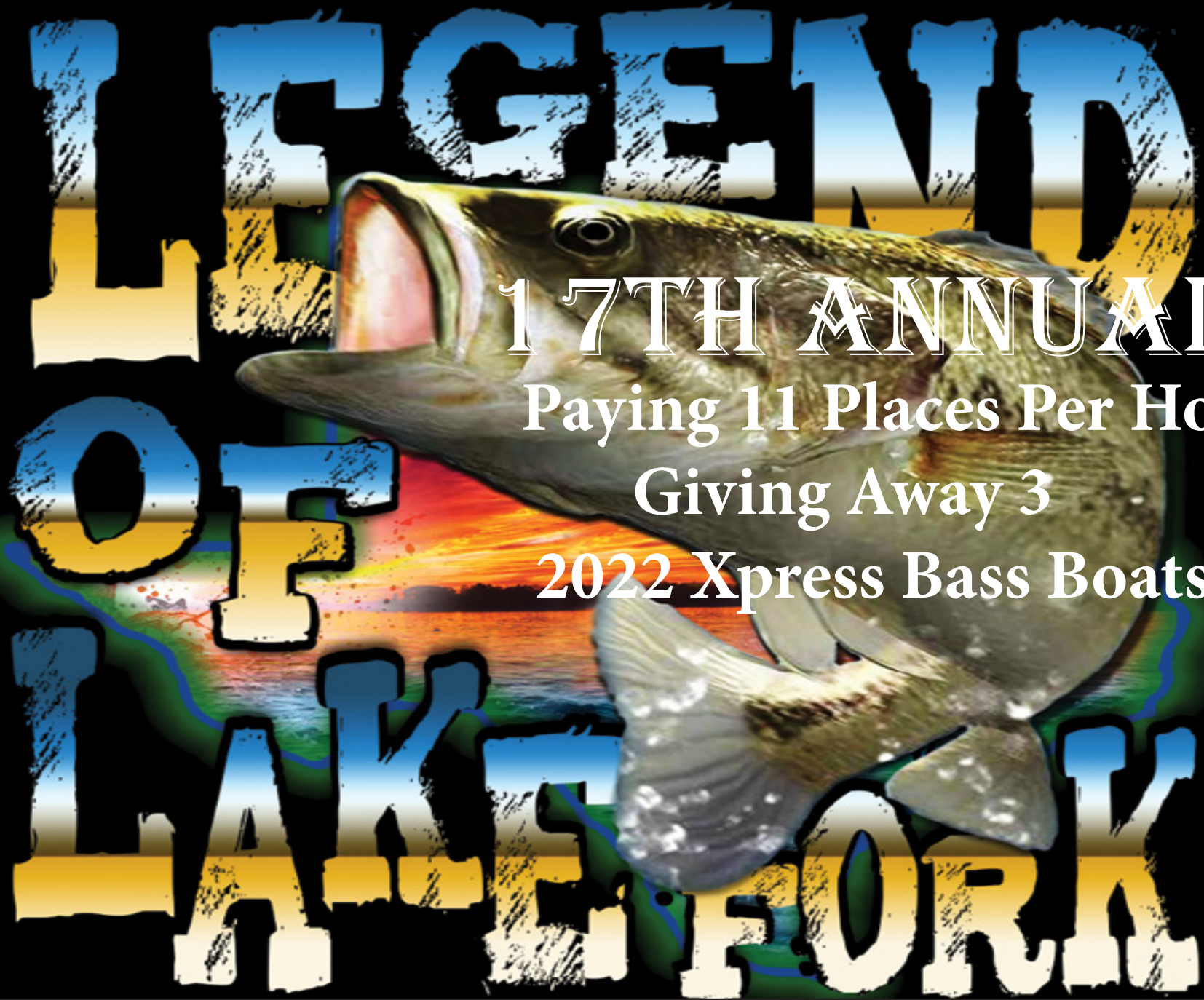


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"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

The cold weather has finally arrived here in north east Texas. Better late than never, as they say. Cold weather conditions are definitely excellent for hunting but how about for bass fishing? Well if you will take the time look in the archives and search Google just a bit, you will find that some of the biggest bass ever caught were caught during the coldest months of the year. In fact many of them were caught during the middle of the heaviest and worst of cold front conditions. Cold water, rain, snow and cold front conditions will definitely slow down the overall activity of the average population of bass, however some of the biggest, oldest and most mature seem

to not be bothered. Here at Lake Fork its like the biggest bass litterally have a calendar and will migrate into staging areas and spawning grounds regardless of the cold water temperatures. In fact one of Lake Fork's biggest bass ever caught was caught on Valentine's day by fishing guide Mr. Larry Barnes.

Accordingly she was named Valentine.

These big bass I am talking about are very large females filled with thousands of growing eggs that require a great deal of food and protein thus making the big female bass very hungry and aggressive. With that being said here is what to look for if you are going to fish Lake Fork in January.

Threadfin shad, brim & crawfish lure imitations are all great choices for bass

across the entire country so lure imitations of the sort can definitely work well here on Lake Fork as well. With these type of baits (jigs, Texas rigged creature baits, senkos, worms etc.. you will want to be fishing channel swings and creek bends, preferably ones with tree stumps and roots. On a daily basis you will want to target 3 key depth ranges. 6-12ft, 12-18ft and 18-22ft. Once you find a

bite in one of these ranges you will then know what key depth to work for the rest of given day. Now, if you are here at Fork and truly looking for one big bite of a lifetime then you will need to be thinking Gizzard shad swimbaits! In fact very large gizzard shad swimbaits. The big bass seem to key in on the 7 to 10 inch size but bigger baits are not uncommon. Bull gizzard shad can grow to reach more than 15 inches and literally weigh several pounds. Lake Fork is filled with very large schools of mature gizzard shad. This abundant large food source is much more easily utilized and digests much faster than brim and crawfish so the big female bass love them. To find gizzard shad on Fork you simply need to look for the Loon (diving bird). Please go back and read my last month's article to learn about the Loon, I believe you can find the article on line. Thank you for reading I wish you a Happy New Year and great fishing.



Michael McFarland
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TPWD Closing Oyster Harvest Area in Mesquite Bay

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) closed TX-28 in Mesquite Bay, part of the Aransas Bay complex, to commercial and recreational oyster harvest Dec. 21, 2021.

This closing is based on samples recently collected by TPWD showing low abundance of legal-sized oysters. TPWD has worked with the oyster industry to develop criteria for closing areas to harvest. The criteria include param-

eters for oysters when they fall below certain thresholds based on the abundance of legal-sized oysters (3 inches or greater) and the percentage of small oysters (2-2.9 inches).

After this closure, 17 out of 27 approved or conditionally approved areas will be closed to oyster harvest. These areas will continue to be monitored by TPWD and will re-open when criteria thresholds are met.

A map showing oyster harvesting

areas can be found on the Department of State Health Services website.

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

By Carolyn West

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association (LFSA) was recently awarded a \$12,512 grant to enhance and further develop their vegetation renewal program. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department awarded the funds through their "Habitat and Angler Access Program" and allowed application in three (3) categories:

1. Habitat Restoration or Enhancement
2. Shoreline and Bank Angler Access
3. Both Habitat Restoration/Enhancement and Shoreline and Bank Angler Access.

LFSA applied for the grant for Habitat Restoration or Enhancement to further the programs currently being supported by the association.

Three projects were approved through TPWD and the grant. One will be a new program to further develop a prototype used on the shoreline of the Sabine River Authority which will be designed by LFSA, manufactured by local high school shop students, and maintained under experimental conditions in Winnsboro High Schools greenhouse. The Fragment/Seed Generator concept is to use five tanks per system, place aquatic plants in three "growing" tanks equipped with pumps and as the plants grow and produce seeds and plant fragments, they will be transferred to the harvesting tanks via weir outlets. Seeds will again be filtered out before exiting into the second harvesting tank. Fragments will be manually cut and will be captured there as well. The ultimate goal is to identify

areas in Lake Fork with soil qualities rich enough to host the new seeds and plants.

The second project will be building and deploying floating planters of aquatic grasses. LFSA, again working with local high school shop students and biologists with Texas Parks and Wildlife, will manufacture large and small floating planters using PVC, poultry fencing and material to weight the planters. As the aquatic plants grow, seeds will be dispersed around them to provide for propagation along shorelines.

The third project for habitat restoration is an expansion of the high school aquatic grass program in greenhouses. Currently one school is participating; the grant allows expansion to three schools. As a minimum. Star Grass, Eel Grass and Water

Willow will be grown from starter plants. Students are taught to plant the grasses in pots, place them in large aquatic tanks in their greenhouses on campus, and maintain them until an appropriate planting time. Then the students are taken out on Lake Fork to plant the mature vegetation in locations chosen by TPWD.

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association's mission is to Preserve the Legend of Lake Fork. It is obvious that the once plentiful vegetation is no longer available for the aquatic habitants. LFSA recognizes the need to replace much of that vegetation to make the lake healthier, provide habitat for fish, give better access to the fishing population and to prove to everyone that Lake Fork is indeed the Number One bass fishing lake in America.



TACKLE DONATIONS NEEDED

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

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

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"Lake Fork in 2022!" (Continued from Page 6)

trap or chatterbait to draw a strike. Depending upon the water temp, a suspending jerkbait would be the ticket if the temps are lagging into the mid 40's. Red colors are the main choice for the moving baits and I would have a chrome version tied on as a back up. Gold has worked well on partly cloudy days and I always keep one handy on whatever lure I present. Don't be afraid to hurl them into the thick grass and rip it out as bass will hit it once it clears the outer edge. Experiment to see where the green fish might be positioned. Make some casts out to the deep edge of the grass and slow roll the bait back to the boat. You might be surprised at the results.

January is also a great month to catch numbers on the power plant lakes. If cabin fever has set in, give me a call and we can wear them out where the water temps are summer like. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in January searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook and Instagram at <https://www.facebook.com/DavidOzioLakeForkGuide>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing USA and Talon Fishing Unlimited 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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Toyota ShareLunker (Continued from Page 7)

App Store and Google Play – or on the Toyota ShareLunker online app at TexasSharelunker.com. In addition to providing basic catch information, anglers can also provide a DNA scale sample from their lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Toyota. Toyota is a longtime supporter of the Texas Parks and Wildlife

Foundation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of fisheries, state parks and wildlife projects.

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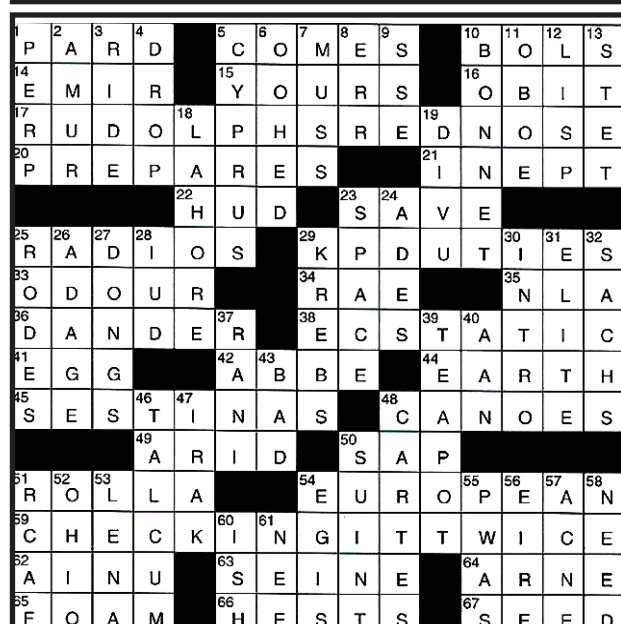
Co., Stanley Jigs and Sixth Sense Lures also provide additional support for this program. For updates on the Toyota ShareLunker Program, visit facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram/ or TexasSharelunker.com

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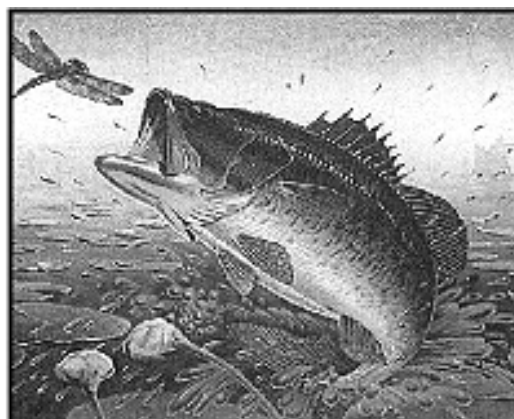
Winter Find

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

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BOOTS
CARDIGAN
EARMUFFS
GLOVES
HAT
MITTENS

MUFFLER
PARKA
SCARF
SNOWSUIT
SWEATER
TURTLENECK
WOOL SOCKS

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A W R K O N A F L G E S
T E F R U M U F F L E R
E A F A P I R U K O W S
S T L P A T U M I V T N
V E C L G N F R F S I W
O R A E O S F A R A U S
T U R T L E N E C K S U
U I D H V L M U A N W T
R G I A S N I F R R O I
T S G W E O T F D O N R
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Drive-by Poaching-- In Nov., a Henderson County game warden was contacted by a landowner who said he heard a gunshot near the end of his driveway right after sunset. The landowner walked down to the county road and found a freshly wounded doe in the ditch. Approximately 45 minutes after the doe was shot, the warden was talking to the landowner when a truck stopped for a few seconds where the

deer had been shot, then proceeded to leave the area. The warden made contact with the driver who said he was going to his girlfriend's house. The warden noticed a shotgun in the passenger seat and again asked the driver what he was doing in the area. After a short discussion, the driver admitted to shooting a deer from the county road and said he had come back to pick it up after he made sure no one heard him shoot. As the warden was busy with the driver of the truck, the landowner came to the scene with another individual. The landowner stated he watched this individual,

with his thermal scope, as he tried to drag the doe to the county road so they could load it up. Both individuals were arrested and booked into Henderson County jail for multiple violations.

--Bag o' Bass-- In Nov., a Williamson County game warden received a telephone call from a complainant regarding a fisherman keeping undersized striped bass in Lake Georgetown. The game warden arrived on scene and made contact with a fisherman matching the description the complainant gave. The game warden immediately observed

(Continued on Page 24)

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By Sue Hampton

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start with a *roux*. Warm up your home with Louisiana seafood.

Creole Seafood Gumbo

1-1/2 cups oil
1-1/2 cups flour
3 cups scallions, chopped
2 cups yellow onion, chopped
5 cloves garlic, chopped
1 tsp. Dill weed
4 bay leaves, whole
Cayenne pepper to taste
3 lbs. Louisiana shrimp, 31-35 count, peeled
3 qts. water, hot

1 lb. Louisiana blue crab claw meat
1 lb. Louisiana lump blue crab meat
1 pt. Louisiana oysters, reserving liquid
In large heavy pot over low flame, brown flour in oil, stirring constantly, until golden brown. Add vegetables, herbs and seasonings; gently stir until vegetables are soft.

Add shrimp and simmer until pink. Pour in hot water and reserved oyster liquid; blend carefully. Add claw crabmeat and cook over medium heat approximately 45 minutes. Add lump crabmeat and oysters. Cook until oyster edges curl, about 5 minutes. Ladle gumbo over rice in soup bowl. Serves 12.

Top off your meal with this delicious cake

for dessert!

Easy Sponge Cake

4 eggs, separated
3/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup cold water
3/4 cup sifted flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1-1/2 tablespoons Cornstarch
1 teaspoon salt
3/4 teaspoon lemon extract

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease bottom only of one 9-inch cake pan. In medium bowl, beat egg yolks until thick and lemon colored. Add sugar gradually and beat until smooth; stir in water. Combine flour, baking powder, cornstarch and salt; gradually add to egg yolk mixture. Add lemon extract and blend. Beat egg whites until stiff but not dry; gently fold into batter.

Pour into pan and bake 30-40 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Split in half horizontally; fill between layers with preserves or other fruit filling. Frost top of cake (see recipe below).

Frosting

Pour 2 cups cold whipping cream into chilled medium bowl; add 1/2 cup granulated sugar and 2 Tbsp. Cornstarch; stir to mix slightly. With an electric mixer on low, mix for about 30 seconds, then whip on high speed until stiff peaks form – about 2-1/2 minutes.

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

three undersize striped bass flopping on the ground next to the fisherman. The fisherman had a red bag that was open and in plain view there was a fish tail sticking out. The warden identified the angler and checked for a valid fishing license. The angler said all of the fish were his and said they were white bass. The game warden explained to him the difference between white bass and striped bass. The angler had a total of 7 undersized striped bass measuring 15-16 inches. Four of them were in plastic bags, wrapped with black electrical tape, and stuffed in his bag. The angler was issued citations and civil restitution was filed. The fish were donated to a family in need.

--Poaching on the Job-- In Nov., a Bexar County game warden received an Operation Game Thief complaint about a deer killed in San Antonio City limits and immediately went to pick up the poached deer. The next day game wardens made contact with construction workers that were working at the housing development where the deer was killed. After interviewing one of the subjects, he said that he had killed a deer in Devine. After more questioning he confessed that he did indeed shoot two deer in the housing development construction property. The landowner was notified, and the workers are no longer allowed on the property and charges are pending.

--Operation Lights Out-- In December, 20 game wardens were called in to take part in Operation Lights Out, which focuses on illegal activity in Red

River, Bowie and Lamar Counties. Their efforts over a weekend resulted in a total of 37 charges filed, three arrests, one felony arrest and one impounded vehicle. The violations consisted of hunting from a public roadway, possession of an open container, hunting duck over a baited area, possession of drug paraphernalia and discharge of a firearm from a public roadway, just to name a few.

--Puff, Puff, Crash-- Two Henderson County game wardens received a call in the evening from a local landowner who said he and members of his church were conducting a bible study when an unknown vehicle sped through his front gate and crashed in the pasture behind his property. As the wardens arrived on scene, the driver of the vehicle fled on foot and couldn't be found. However, the driver left behind his wallet and identification card in the car along with other personal items. After searching the area with no success, the wardens decided to continue the investigation the next morning. Early the next day, the landowner called the wardens saying he had gone

deer hunting and as he was leaving the deer stand the driver appeared out of nowhere, smoking a cigarette. The driver asked him "Where am I? How did I get here?" The wardens responded to the call and found the landowner and driver sitting down by a fire having coffee. The driver told the wardens he decided to smoke some Kush cannabis after leaving his parole officer's office. The driver spent the night outside in freezing temperatures and was so impaired he had no clue how he got to this ranch or where his car was.

--Furry Detectives-- A Limestone County game warden was contacted by a landowner who was concerned about an undersized white-tailed buck deer head found on his front porch. He told the warden he believed his dogs took the deer head from his neighbor's house across the street. The warden spoke to the neighbor and found the man who harvested the undersized buck. The man admitted he knew he made a mistake but was afraid to call the game warden because he didn't want to get in trouble. The

(Continued on Next Page)

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warden filed several cases including taking an illegal buck under 13 inches, untagged deer and a harvest log violation.

--Let Minnow How That Works Out--A Navarro County game warden received a call from a local fisherman about multiple people cast netting and keeping everything they caught. The caller told the warden they had been recording them with their cellphone. When he arrived, the warden found the people and a white five-gallon bucket. The bucket was nearly full of fish. The warden asked them about the fish and one person said they were just minnows. The warden told them most of the fish were undersized crappie. When asked for fishing licenses and identification, one of the individuals said they would "just throw them back" and attempted to reach for the bucket. The warden stopped them and said the fish were now evidence and many of the fish looked dead. Upon further inspection of the fish within the five-gallon bucket, nearly 100 fish were identified. Of those fish, more than 70 were undersized crappie of which 61 were either dead or too injured to be released back into the water. There was also one catfish, numerous sunfish, shad and yellow bass. Many of the crappie measured between three and five inches in length, with the longest being nine inches long. Non-game fish were returned to the individuals, as they had current fishing licenses. Multiple citations were

issued to the individuals.

--Guilty Conscience-- A Cherokee County game warden was patrolling near Rusk when he found an open gate and fresh tire tracks. The warden continued into the property until the road ended at a gas well. A man and young girl dressed in camo were found as they were preparing to go hunting. After speaking with the duo, he found out they had been hunting the area for the past few weeks. When asked for their hunting license, the man handed the warden his license and said, "I haven't tagged the deer I got two weeks ago yet!" The warden asked if he could see a picture of it and the man was happy to show it. A citation was issued for an untagged white-tailed deer and harvest log violation.

--Getting Schooled-- Two Hood County game wardens were alerted by a TPWD Criminal Investigation Division (CID), motion activated camera that was triggered at 6 a.m. by two men in camouflage walking with bow and arrows on Acton School property. The camera had been set up in attempt to catch illegal hunters. When they arrived on scene, the wardens spread out through the wooded area to search for the men. At 10 a.m., the camera was tripped again capturing a photo of one of the men exiting the property. One of the wardens ran to a different part of the property and found a vehicle driving through the school parking lot at a high rate of speed. The driver

saw the warden and slammed on the brakes. Thinking the warden was one of their buddies, the driver stopped to pick him up. The warden approached the vehicle and the woman who was driving said she wasn't in the area to pick up anyone hunting. After being interviewed further, she revealed she was picking up her boyfriend and his friend. She was instructed to call her boyfriend and tell him to meet her. The boyfriend told the woman he had left the property and went to the parking lot of a Kroger. After he was detained, he admitted to hunting on school property. He also admitted to hunting with his friend and said he told him to run when they saw the game warden. The TPWD K9 team was deployed and the second man was tracked for a long distance until his scent was lost. Further investigation revealed the second man was on parole and had previous convictions for hunting without landowner consent and his hunting license was suspended. Evidence was collected and the subject was later arrested on a parole blue warrant. The investigation is ongoing.



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