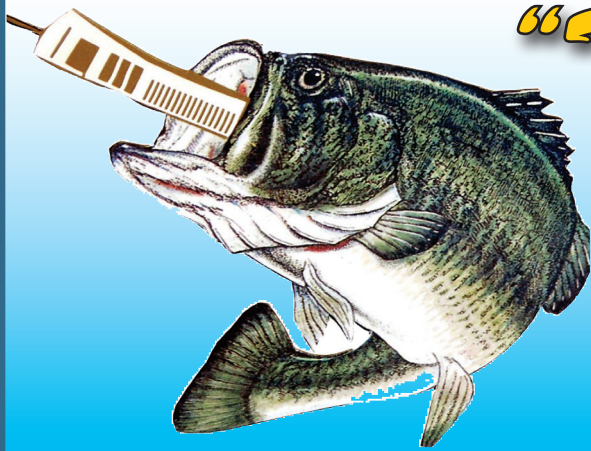


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1 Section

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Vol. 23

February, 2022

No. 270

2022 Stage Two Bass Pro Tour on Lake Fork February 19th thru 24th Out of Oak Ridge Marina



Jeff Sprague calls for anglers to reel in their personal bests during Stage Two of the 2022 Bass Pro Tour on Lake Fork. He caught this big 'un when the Bass Pro Tour visited Lake Fork for the 2020 Stage Three.

While the air temperatures may be low when the 2022 Bass Pro Tour rolls into Texas and the MLF pros fish Lake Fork, look for the big bass weights to be high: a few 10-pound-plus bass may be caught.

"We are going to be there early," said Bass Pro Tour angler Jeff Sprague. "We may get fewer bites, but the bites available can be phenomenal. An angler has a great chance for a personal best, and if it's tough fishing, the bass are

big enough that you could only catch three in a day and still be in it. Reaction bites or slow-moving baits may both play." Texas is Sprague's home field and he's racked up three Top-10 finishes during the first three events of the MLF Bass Pro Tour. He's also the 2020 Challenge Cup Champion. Sprague has more than 20 Top 10s in his career.

"February can be the most volatile time of the year

here," Sprague said. "How good the fishing is usually depends on the weather. We should see a few bass caught over 10 pounds, if not larger." **About this great fisherie:** Lake Fork provides over 27,000 acres of bass-filled water. Think loads of submerged timber, making it tough to navigate at times. Submerged vegetation also exists in the form of hydrilla, milfoil, and a variety of

(See 2022 Stage Two....
Continued on Page 4)



Greg Vinson is looking forward to Stage Two of the 2022 Bass Pro Tour on Lake Fork. He caught this hawg when the Bass Pro Tour visited Lake Fork for the 2020 Stage Three.



'Hard Working' Harold Bredemeier caught this nice Lake Fork bass braving the cold weather of January on this great reservoir fishing in 4 to 7-feet of water.



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Collards is green,
My dogs name is Blue,
And I'm so Lucky
To have a sweet thang

like you.

Yore hair is like Corn-
silk,
A-Flapping in the
breeze,
Softer than Blue's,
And without all them
fleas.

You move like the bass,
Which excite me in
May.

You ain't got scales,
But I luv you anyway.

Yo're as satisfy'n as
okra,
Jist a-fry'n in the pan
Yo're fragrant as snuff,
Right out of the can.

You have some'a

Yore teeth,

For which I am proud,
I hold my head high,
When we're in a crowd.

On special occasions,
When you shave under

yore arms,
Well, I'm in hog heav-
en,

And awed by yore
charms.

Still them fellars at
work,

They all want to know,
What I did to deserve

Such a purdy, young
doe.

Like a good roll of duct
tape,

Yo're there fer yore
man,

To patch up lifes trou-
bles

And fix what you can.
Yo're as cute as a

junebug,
A-buzzing overhead.

You ain't mean like
those

far ants,

I found in my bed.

Cut from the best cloth
Like a plaid flannel
shirt,

You build up my life,
More than a fresh load
of

dirt.

When you hold me real
tight,

Like a padded gunrack,
My life is complete,
Ain't nuttin' I lack.

Yore complexion is
perfection,

Like new vinyl sidin'.
Despite all the years,

Yore age, it keeps hi-
din'.

Me' n' you's like a
moon

pie,

With a RC cold drank,
We go together,

Like a skunk goes with
stank.

Some men, they buy
chocolate,

For Valentines day,
They git it at Wal-Mart,
It's romantic that way.

Some men git roses,
On that special day,
From the cooler at

Brookeshores,

That's impressive, I
say.

Some men buy fine
diamonds,

From a flea market
booth

Diamonds are forever,
They explain, suave
and

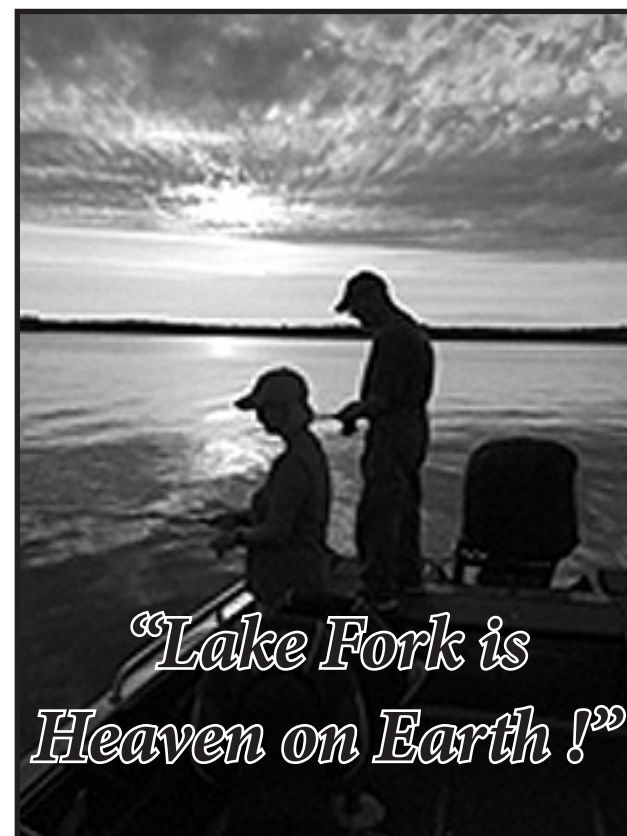
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Don't Advertise!

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Don't Advertise!

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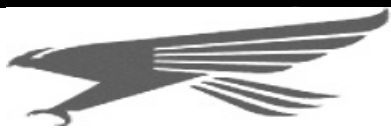
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TEXANS.****FALCON RODS****CARA NOW IN STOCK!!!!****2022 Stage Two Bass Pro Tour** *(Continued from Page 1)*

other plant species.

As far as big bass, the Texas state record fish of 18 pounds, 2.8 ounces, was pulled out of Lake Fork along with more than 65% of the Top 50 largest bass caught in Texas. A fish needs to be 24-inches in length or weigh at least 8 pounds to qualify for the Toyota Share-Lunker Program.

Look for boathouses, docks, hydrilla, and points to be solid locations for the Bass Pro Tour anglers to locate scorable bass. The submerged brushpiles planted in the lake and bridge pilings can also produce behemoth bass.

The local Lake Fork Sportsmans' Association (Friends of Reservoirs Chapter) works with Texas Parks and Wildlife to build and install the man-made fish attractors. They are located throughout the lake.

The last time the Bass Pro Tour fished Lake Fork, Tennessee pro Ott DeFoe was victorious. Though, the last day of that event was fished on Lake Athens.

Even though Lake Fork at the time is 6.27-feet low due to the repairs on the dam by SRA, this will not hinder the fishing. The lunkers that swim in this great

reservoir will likely be bunched up in pre-spawn areas with the males moving closer to the shallow water.

To view more photos of the Lake Fork lunkers caught by some of the pros at last year's tournament go to page 15.

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Texas is known for its oil, but the state is also a leading wind energy producer with wind projects generating over 1,200 megawatts.



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Wild Game & Fish Dinner, Country Gospel Music

It's time once again for the annual WILD GAME & FISH DINNER at LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH. It will be held on Saturday, February 26, 2022, 6:00-8:00pm, in the Family Life Center at 9483 W. FM 515, Alba, TX.

This year the guest speaker will be Zack Tunnell, local outdoor enthusiast, hunter, and fisher of men. He will tell us his most interesting hunting and fishing stories and his bucket list dreams. He will also inspire us with the spiritual lessons he has learned along the way.

Country gospel music will again be provided by the Cross Country Cowboy Church Band.

Door prizes will include a new Garmin Echomap UHD 93sv and a Panopix Liveview package valued at \$2600, guided fishing trips, rod & reel combos, and other merchandise. You must be present to win.

The menu will include dishes made from venison, elk, wild hog, fish, ducks, pheasants, and anything else that is donated and edible.

Tickets are \$10 per person and may be obtained at the church office. This year you can buy a table for 6 that will be reserved for you and your friends until 5:45pm. This year tickets will be limited to 325 and the event is always a sell out, so get your tickets NOW. You will have a fun evening that could change your life.

If you would like to purchase or reserve tickets or donate some fish or game, please contact the church office at 903-473-9523.



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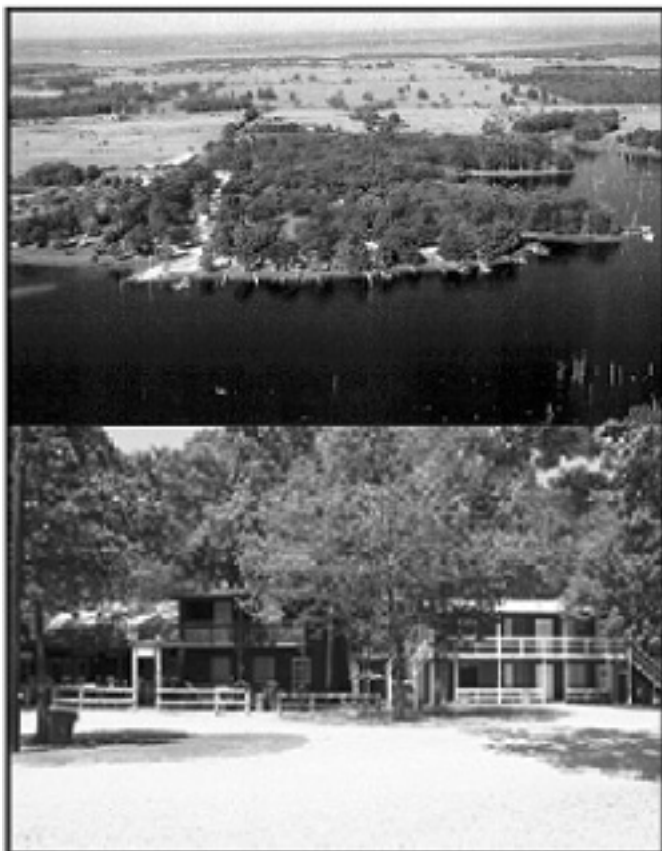
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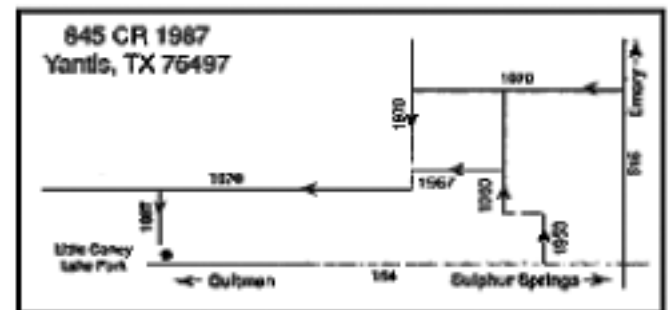
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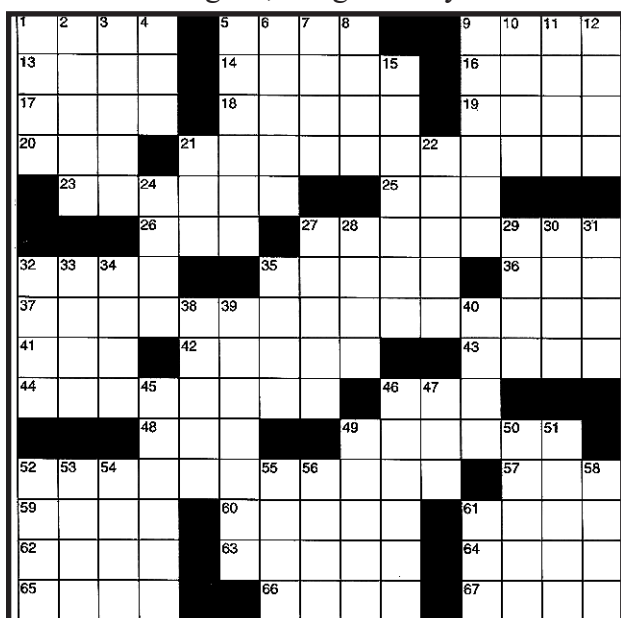
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"Spawn is just around the corner!"

By David Ozio

"It's some serious cold outside and the bass have their winter jackets on with a sign on the back that says "Leave Me Alone"! With the lake being six plus feet low at the moment it would seem that the bite would be awesome. Not so! Nonetheless, prespawn is right around the corner and any warming of the water temps will usher these skittish green fish to move shallow. Sunny days will be the key especially late in the afternoon to boat the monsta of a lifetime. Fork is a "bad moma jama" and the Tournament Pro's as well as local guides prove this out every year.

With all this being said, local guides are your best avenue



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Small fry | 41. Word element meaning "nitro-" |
| 5. Jonas _____, cured polio | 42. Rabbits |
| 9. Flew off! | 43. This weighs _____ (two words) |
| 13. Algerian city | 44. Lets it be known, in a way |
| 14. Bay window | 46. Angle (abbr.) |
| 16. Reign | 48. Being a single unit |
| 17. Ear part | 49. Caps |
| 18. Eruption from the sun's surface | 52. Spanning |
| 19. Egyptian sun god (var.) | 57. Copycat |
| 20. Doctors' group (abbr.) | 59. Partisanship |
| 21. Made endless | 60. Excuse |
| 23. Digressions | 61. Weight unit |
| 25. "_____ Boot," 1981 film | 62. Spanish river |
| 26. Distant | 63. Lounges about |
| 27. Pertaining to speech sound | 64. Away from wind |
| 32. Formal close (music) | 65. Hankerings |
| 35. Israeli city | 66. Jubilant delight |
| 36. Upward (prefix) | 67. Approves food (abbr.) |
| 37. Good-looking image | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Weapon | 32. Cleaning lady |
| 2. Pleasant odor | 33. Any thick, messy substance |
| 3. Cakes | 34. Twains |
| 4. Compass point (abbr.) | 35. Rabbit |
| 5. Give in | 38. African country |
| 6. French city | 39. View or pass |
| 7. Fibber | 40. Challenge |
| 8. Lout | 45. Trunks |
| 9. Approval | 46. _____ the Menace (female) |
| 10. Dawdle (slang) | 47. Work unit |
| 11. Take to one's heels | 49. Good Book |
| 12. To be disposed | 50. Afrikaans |
| 15. Opening move | 51. Velocity |
| 21. Yeddo | 52. Comply |
| 22. Veranda | 53. Feeling (slang) |
| 24. Hebrew month | 54. Acquire by one's efforts |
| 27. Bullfighting maneuvers | 55. Wooden-soled shoe |
| 28. To show disapproval | 56. Mound |
| 29. Stretched tight | 58. Ancient Greek city |
| 30. Japanese waist pouch | 61. Follows sigma |
| 31. Herb _____, columnist | |

Answers on Page 21

to discover the current strategies that will land the trophy you've long dreamt of. On the clear sunny days you need to head to the backs of the creeks and pursue the shallow bite particularly in the afternoon. Shallow water will absorb the sun's rays more quickly causing the bass to move up for the warmth. By the same token, this same water cools more quickly when a major front slides through. Bass will move back out until the high pressure dissipates. While this transition is taking place the deep bite will be in vogue. Staging bass will hold on points and areas just outside of their spawning grounds. The key depth range should be focused in the 12-15 ft area. Big bass will stage at key junctures at the mouths of pockets also and play a waiting game with the water temps that suit their liking. This is when you bring out the big guns to usher in the trophy bass. The A-rig will be the go to strategy and it's set up is all important to the trophy success. Everyone has their favorite way to rig these umbrella monstrosities but common sense will lead you down the right path based upon the "where" you will be throwing it. Naturally, if you are in open water with no timber, the best rig would be to use a 3/16 ounce swimbait head and cover them with any five inch swimbait. As for colors, start with white and adjust from there. I found last year that dark colored baits worked better on a day to day basis. Arkansas Shiner, Dirty Sanchez and Houdini all performed well when using the Reaction Innovation Skinny



Dippers. I will go as far to say that we had some great days using the Little Dippers instead of the five inch versions. It all comes down to what the fish want. Option two is to rig the A-rig with weedless swimbaits using belly weighted hooks. This will keep you out of trouble when casting into timber. Once rigged, I use 25lb P-line on a 5:1 gear ratio reel all loaded on a 7'11" rod. This is a great launching pad for this heavy rig and it allows you to hurl it quite a ways. Once you make the cast, let it sink to the bottom, then retrieve it slowly back to the boat. A large bass will literally knock the rod out of your hands. It's a must do pattern in February.

Big swimbaits will also play a huge roll this month, es-

(See Spawn is just....

Continued on Page 20)

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Texas Game Warden's Investigation Results in Organized Crime Ring Bust and Multiple Arrests

What started off as a run-of-the-mill investigation into a series of boat title discrepancies, concluded this past summer with multiple felony charges against three individuals suspected of running an interstate theft ring and the recovery of over \$275,000 worth of stolen watercraft and other vehicles. Sergeant Game Warden Jonathan Griffin of the Marine Theft Investigation Unit facilitated an impressive two-year investigation into the organized crime ring leading to a nomination for Investigator of the Year Award by the International Association of Marine Investigators.

"Considering that this is an international award I am really humbled to have been nominated," said Sergeant Griffin. "I am very grateful to the Galveston County Auto Crimes Task Force and the other agencies across Texas, Alabama, and Florida who assisted with the resources necessary to build a strong case to hand over to the district attorney's office for prosecution."

Sergeant Griffin further explained that the case began with a tip from the La Marque

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement Office regarding an individual titling numerous jet skis in their name at very low purchase prices. Eventually, a Florida county tax office notified the Sergeant that the suspect and a second individual were also titling a number of jet skis in Florida in the same manner.

Over the following months, the Marine Theft Investigation Unit worked to trace the jet skis that were bought and sold by the suspects. The investigators uncovered that the jet skis being titled were actually stolen throughout Texas and then sold across multiple gulf states with false titles and identification numbers. Their work then identified a third suspect who had participated in the activity.

"After recovering 27 stolen vessels and trailers, we filed charges and arrested the three suspects for theft and engaging in organized crime," said Griffin. "While the charges are pending, we are working to locate and recover more stolen jet skis and boats that may have been sold using the same scheme.

It has been satisfying to be able to help get this property back to the rightful owners."

The case is currently being handled by the Galveston County District Attorney's office.

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"The Moon Report"

"Forks February Crappie"

By Terri Moon

I don't know where January went but February came fast! Looking back on past Februarys, I've found that some of my biggest crappie have been caught during this month! It seems to me that the giants are the first to transition shallow – so, February can be quite exciting (weather permitting!).

The water temperature will be the key factor to when these transitions take place. Right now water temperatures are running in the low to mid 50's – but, when they reach 55 to 60 degrees, start checking secondary points and 25-35 ft depths keeping an eye on your graph to see what depth the fish are holding and keep targeting those depths. The fish will be on the move so some days you just have to look a little harder for them! Meanwhile, keep checking those deep water humps, creek channels, tree lines and main lake points 30 to 50 ft. till water temperatures start to rise. I would use a slower presentation while they are still deep then you can change it up as they move shallower.

Remember the colors producing can change daily so get a good assortment of colors to try out, and an assortment of different weights of jigheads. So, if its too



cold to fish, stop by Lake Fork Marina and stock up! They've got all your fishing needs and more! They have a great assortment of Bonehead, Skipper Jigs, and Limits Tackle available along with a great bunch of the latest crappie rods.

Just a quick reminder – the 10 inch minimum doesn't go back in effect till March 1st and please – please – be careful out there! With our lake level down over 6 ft. while they work on the dam, it's very dangerous. The channel markers aren't necessarily where they should be and even some longtime guides have taken out lower units. Not only that, but there is the hazard of floaters. You just can't be too careful right now.

Now I want to give a shout out to a "Real Warrior" – Brady Winans our Costa rep who was in that horrific boat accident in the fog on Cedar Creek in

December. I have never witnessed such sheer determination to get past what he has been through. He is truly an inspiration and I appreciate him sharing his journey on Facebook daily! Continued prayers for Brady and his sweet family. Also, Benefit Tournament and Raffle/Auction on Lake Tawakoni is Feb. 22. A huge thank you to everyone that is making this possible. There are raffle tickets available at Lake Fork Marina. #BUILD-BACKBRADY! (I bet they do a movie about you one day Brady!) – a PSA on dangers of fishing in the fog. I think back about some trips in the fog and I would hear boats going wide open running their trails and it would scare the heck out of me – lesson learned after seeing what happened to Brady in a split second. Be safe and use good judgment my friends!

(Continued on Next Page)

Once again, if you tried to reach me this past month, I was off the grid at Mama Nova's – then my phone crashed and lost a lot of info. So, my apologies and hope you'll try again. Thank you for the prayers for Mama Nova. She fell before Christmas and sprained her ankle and got two compression fractures in her back. So, she's still not mobile and in a lot of pain, but hoping she'll be better soon!

My best to you all!



The largest fish is the whale shark, which weighs more than twice as much as an African elephant!



Chris Kelly caught this nice bass while fishing Lake Fork with guide Danny Holder. C.P.R. Weight not provided.



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ZACHARY TUNNELL
Senior Pastor, Lake Fork Baptist Church

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Independent Panel to Examine Rolling Pines Wildfire

At a recent meeting of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) announced the selection of an independent panel to review the circumstances and cause of a recent escape of a prescribed fire at Bastrop State Park.

The panel was ordered through Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) and consists of experts from across the southern United States knowledgeable about prescribed burns on both public and private land. These specialists have expertise in how fire reacts in environments similar to Bastrop State Park.

A five-member team of wildland fire experts from the state forestry agencies in Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma and South Carolina comprise the review team with specific qualifications and experience spanning that of Incident Commander Type 2, Operations Chief Type 2, Safety Officer Type 1, Firing Boss and Task Force Leader.

The team members will come from the Southern United States where they have experience with similar ecosystems, fuel types, fire culture, land use, land ownership, prescribed fire programs and wildland fire response.

"Our role in this review is helping acquire the review team," said Wes Moorehead, Fire Chief for Texas A&M Forest Service. "Through an interagency ordering system, Texas A&M Forest Service has the ability to bring in resources

from states with similar burn programs for such reviews. While our agency is not part of the actual review team, we are glad to help TPWD by facilitating the ordering process."

Some of the objectives of this review will include:

- * Review the preparation, planning and execution of the prescribed fire

- * Evaluate staff, equipment and safety resources

- * Determine whether the burn plan conformed to best practices related to prescribed fire

- * Develop and issue recommendations to TPWD

Prescribed burns at Bastrop and Buescher State Parks have temporarily been suspended until the independent review is complete and the results and recommendations have been fully evaluated.

"We fully support this independent review and will continue working every day to earn the public's trust for the continued safe and effective use of prescribed fire," said Carter Smith, Executive Director of TPWD. "Prescribed burns are a carefully calculated risk but are essential in managing many of our habitats, landscapes and private and public lands across Texas, including the iconic

Lost Pines Forest at Bastrop. We are committed to using the highest safety and operational standards with our prescribed burn program and look forward to a thorough evaluation of not only the events that unfolded with the planning and execution of the prescribed fire, but our response upon recognition the fire had escaped. Ultimately, any and all lessons learned from the review will help make our fire program better and safer."

Historically, wildland fire is a natural element of both grassland and forest ecology that helps regulate flora and fauna across the state. A lack of naturally occurring fire over the last century has led to an imbalance in fire-adapted plant and animal communities and an increase in extreme wildfires. Prescribed burns play a key role in reclaiming and restoring fire-adapted ecosystems while also reducing the risk of extreme wildfires.

As a land management tool, prescribed fires are important and help minimize the threat and severity of major wildfires by reducing the amount of existing and dormant vegetation. If left unchecked, the excess of leaves and plants would fuel a minor situation into a major wildfire.

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2022 Toyota ShareLunker Legacy Class Season Kicks Off

It didn't take long for the first pair of Legacy Class largemouth bass of the 2022 Toyota ShareLunker season to find their way into angler's boats. It was more than fitting that Tyler Anderson from Austin and Wendell Ramsey, Sr. of San Angelo, landed 14.48 and 14.92 – pounders respectively during week one of the season at O.H. Ivie. Last year, the fishery produced 12 of the 23 Legacy Lunkers during a remarkable 2021 season.

Anderson hooked his personal record Legacy Lunker Wednesday Jan. 5 using an Alabama rig in about 28 feet of water. Anderson, who grew up in Austin and has always wanted to catch a 10-pounder, set out to do a series of YouTube videos called "10 Days for a 10" targeting big large-

mouth bass. He selected O.H. Ivie to begin the series and reeled in seven and five pounders on the first day. On day two, the first fish of the day proved to be the fish of a lifetime for Anderson.

"I stumbled upon a school of what looked to be eight or nine fish," said Anderson. "My cast ended up being a little too short and landed right on top of where they were. My Alabama Rig fell right into the school of fish, but I didn't even have to retrieve the lure. I lifted it right up and started my retrieve and the fish was already on there. I've known about O.H. Ivie for many years and last year's success with ShareLunker's reinvigorated my desire to get out there."

Anderson plans to continue his video series with some stops at additional lakes along the way. He will have this catch posted in a couple of weeks and hopes another Lunker may land in his boat during this journey.

"I have wanted to be a part and contribute to the ShareLunker program for a long time," added Anderson.

"When I quickly weighed the fish in my boat and saw the scale, I told myself my fishing for the day is done with this lifetime catch. I headed into Concho and everyone there was great. It was all about taking care of the fish until TPWD personnel arrived. This fish did great, and we made the transfer for its trip to Athens."

Ramsey, who is a fishing guide in West Texas with a lot of experience on different lakes, secured his Legacy Lunker on an umbrella rig with 3.5 rage tail swimmers Saturday, Jan. 8. Ramsey was asked by a good friend to take their grandsons fishing.

"We started out working some spots for white bass and black bass to get a few bites for the kids and have a good time," said Ramsey. "It was slow, and we moved around the lake to some different spots before we circled back to where we started. I spotted a fish suspended in about 14 feet of water and quickly grabbed a fishing pole. I sent the cast past the fish and slowly let it go down to about eight feet before I started reeling. The fish hit the bait and when I set the hook it didn't budge so I knew it was a really big fish. The battle started and I eventually brought it into the boat with the dip net."

Once the fish was in the boat, Ramsey instantly

(Continued on Next Page)

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knew it was over 12-pounds but had no idea it would top the 14-pound mark until he got it on his digital scales.

"I asked the boys to go with me and witness this whole process with the Toyota ShareLunker program and I think they really enjoyed it," added Ramsey. "While we waited for the truck to come pick up the fish, I took the boys back to their family's boat to let them continue fishing. What a special time for me and them as well."

Once Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries biologists were notified Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, they quickly got on the road to collect and transport "ShareLunker 609" and "ShareLunker 610" to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, where biologists are providing them top-notch care. Biologists plan to attempt to spawn them to make bigger, better bass to stock in and enhance fishing in Texas lakes.

"This is a great start to the 2022 collection season," said Kyle Brookshear, Toyota ShareLunker Program Manager. "After the historic 2021 season, it seems fitting that the first two entries come from O.H. Ivie. Many predict another record season for trophy bass catches across the state and with the 2022 season underway, time will soon tell."

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 TPWD 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 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 TPWD, providing major funding for a wide variety of fisheries, state parks and wildlife projects.

Prize donors including Bass Pro Shops, Lake Fork Taxidermy, American Fishing Tackle 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.


For pictures of all of the Legacy Class ShareLunkers caught during the 2022 season, visit the TPWD Flickr album here: <https://flic.kr/s/aH-BqjzxNwz>

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork


42nd Semi-Annual Open Tournament


Mar. 19, 2022 * Lake Fork, Texas
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Guaranteed Pay-Out Based on 100 Entries 903-360-6994
Drawings Held After Weigh-in for prizes



1st Place	\$1,040.00
2nd Place	\$780.00
3rd Place	\$520.00
4th Place	\$260.00
5th ~ 10th	\$100.00





There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry
 Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)

1st Place	\$500
2nd Place	\$300
3rd Place	\$200

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 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.
 1. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
 2. 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).
 3. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.
 4. 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.
 5. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
 6. No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
 7. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No cooling of fish).
 8. Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of TTB and will be released (with the exception of trophy or dead fish).
 19. In the event of a tie for any position, prize money for that position and the following positions will be combined and evenly divided between the tying contestants.
 20. Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to the tournament.
 21. Contestants may fish with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.
 22. Use of alcoholic beverages or controlled drugs are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in.
 23. Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish.
 24. Any contestant who violates any rule may be disqualified. Any act of a competitor, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon TTB's effort to promote fishing, conservation, clean waters, courtesy or safety shall be reason for disqualification from this and all future TTB tournaments.
 25. Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age.
 26. All protests must be registered in writing with the tournament judges within 15 minutes after designated weigh-in time. All decisions of the tournament judges will be final in all matters. Anyone protesting the outcome of an open tournament will have to pay for any additional polygraph test given.
 27. All boats must be 18 ft. in length or longer. An aerated livewell is recommended to aid in fish survival for live release. Anglers cannot leave boat to land a fish.
 28. All contestants are responsible to have read these rules and must agree to abide by them (by signing the entry form) while competing in this TTB event.
 29. Contestants will be subject to polygraph test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification.

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

Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before 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.

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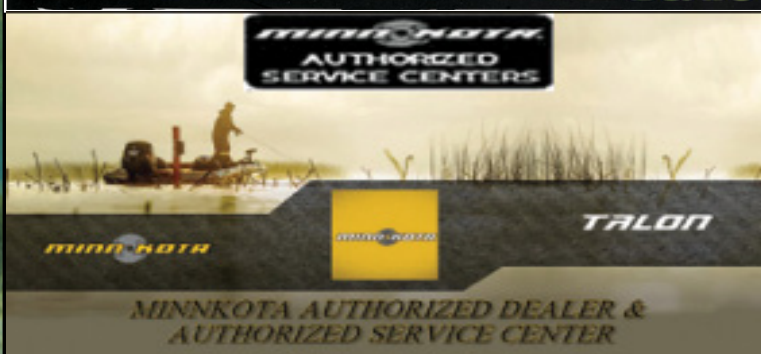
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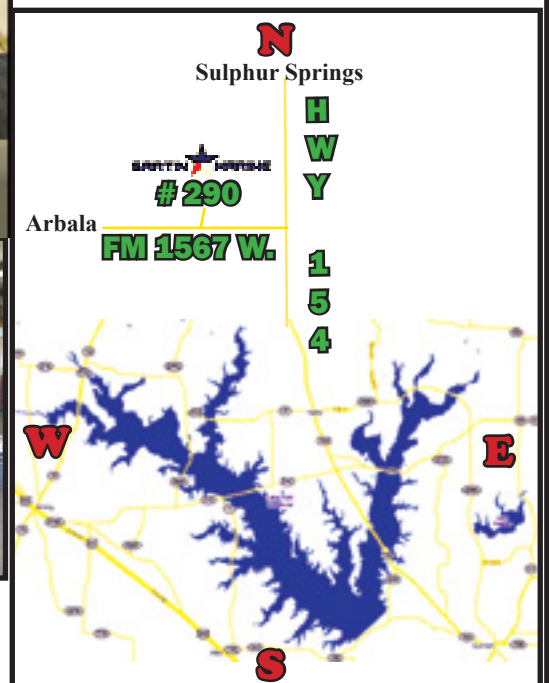
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"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Big bass "ShareLunker" February!!! The month of February tends to bring some of the biggest bass of the year to the scales here at the world famous Lake Fork. They are called "ShareLunkers"!!! The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offers a very unique program called the "Share Lunker program". To qualify you must catch a bass between the months of November 1st thru April 1st. The fish must be over 24" long and weigh a minimum of 13lbs.

If you catch a bass that meets this criteria, first keep her alive and healthy! You can bring the fish to a local marina and should immediately call and report it to Texas Parks and Wildlife. TPW will come take the fish from you wherever you are. They will take the fish to the hatchery head quarters where the TPW department biologist will test its DNA. Only pure Florida strain genetics are allowed. Once this test is finished you will be notified of these results. Wrong genes, TPWD will return your fish to you at the place where you caught it. If your fish has the right genes, is healthy and

has growing eggs, they will keep her, milk the eggs, hatch her babies and share the fingerlings in restocking programs throughout many Texas lakes. When they are finished with your fish, they will meet you back at the lake where you caught the fish so you may release it back as well. In addition you will receive a "ShareLunker" certificate and a free replica of your fish. Remember a big bass must be over 24" to bring to a local marina scales so be sure its right, dont want to see high hopes turn into a ticket. For more fishing reports, techniques, lake levels/temperatures and/or if your interested in trying to catch one of these giants check out my U-tube channel "The Lake Fork guide". Also find me on Facebook "Lake Fork Adventures Guide Service "

Thank you, wish you all great fishing.



Michael McFarland
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Conservation Agencies, Bass Clubs, and Local Youth Increase Fish Habitat in Coletto Creek Reservoir

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Corpus Christi Inland Fisheries team partnered with the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA), Texas B.A.S.S. Nation, Coletto BassMasters Friends of Reservoirs (FOR) chapter, and several youths from St. Joseph's High School to complete Phase 2 (native aquatic vegetation planting) of a greater habitat initiative to restore and enhance fisheries habitats in the reservoir.

The overarching goal of the project is to improve habitat conditions resulting in positive impacts on rec-

reationally important sport fish populations like Largemouth Bass, crappies, and catfishes.

Phase 1, completed in early 2020, deployed 92 fish habitat structures across 11 locations that can be viewed with an online map. The website also includes the coordinates of each structure and anglers can enter these coordinates into their GPS or download the coordinates for use in GPS devices.

Phase 2 followed with the planting of various desirable native vegetation species at numerous pre-determined locations with hopes to reestablish and increase

the abundance of native plants throughout the reservoir.

"We are grateful for the collaborative efforts with GBRA, local anglers, Luminant, and St. Joseph's High School to work collectively on this very important project," said Greg Binion, TPWD Inland Fisheries Division Corpus Christi District Supervisor. "This is a great community initiative and the partnerships that have developed provide an exciting opportunity for collective natural resource stewardship to restore and enhance this great resource, ex-

(See Conservation ...
 Continued on Page 21)



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

By Carolyn West, LFSA President

After the huge impact of Covid on the association's activities, LFSA is ready to expand their activities for 2022.

In December, members elected their Board of Directors, selected their officers, and started planning their programs and projects for 2022. The Board of Directors are:

-Carolyn West	President
-Terry Long	Vice-President
-Ed Swenson	Secretary
-Bruce Allen	Treasurer
-Mike Kostial	Director at Large
-Pat Kostial	Director at Large
-Katie Carter	Director at Large

Terry Long, VP of Programs, 2022 will focus the programs on teaching, learning, and participating with our mission of Preserving the Legend of Lake Fork in mind. LFSA's Live Release Boat will be emphasized at tournaments and used as a teaching tool for tournament visitors to understand safe handling of fish and the importance of returning them to the lake. A training class will be taught to club members and guests to learn safe operation and use of the pontoon. The association will be working with Texas Parks and Wildlife this spring to administer the TPWD grant awarded in 2021. Members and guests will be able to hear the progress of the larger scale project to replenish grasses in Lake Fork. Outdoor meetings will be held to

attract the public to new areas of interest such as the Sabine River Authority new park and tournament area.

Planning continues as LFSA recovers from the restrictions of COVID.

How low can it go? Bill Kirby, SRA, says the repair at the dam is almost complete. A supply chain issue with concrete slowed the progress. While they finish this needed repair there is something we can do to help the lake. In addition to praying for rain, we can take the opportunity to clean the shoreline. Emphasis from SRA lately has been to clean plastics and other waste from the lake for the safety of fish and other aquatics. What an opportunity to be good citizens and make the lake safer by removing trash. And certainly, being mind-

ful of securing loose items in boats will ease the threat of even more unwanted items in the lake.

LFSA will soon start our 2022 Spring Raffle. As usual, LFSA members will attend tournaments selling tickets to participants guests. Guns, tackle, rods, reels, safety items and fishing trips will be offered. Tickets are \$5.00 each or five (5) tickets for \$20.00. Look for our table when visiting the tournaments.

LFSA meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Most meetings are at Lovell's Restaurant at Lake Fork Marina. Special meetings may be offsite. We welcome visitors. Anyone interested in learning more about LFSA can call 903-752-2014 with questions or to verify location of meetings.



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 Pat Kostial, 760-458-7885 or Terry Long, 214-206-7504 for more information or to arrange a donation.

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"Spawn is just around the corner!" (Continued from Page 6)

pecially the expensive jointed baits. Swim or twitch them slowing in shallow water during the afternoons and hold on to your business. Strikes can be vicious. Other options to target bass would include using jigs, black/blue, in the creek bends towards the back of most all major creek arms. They are all lined with timber and will harbor toad stature green fish. The final option as mentioned above deals with the shallow water bite. Take time to locate submerged vegetation and this will be the key to success in the late afternoons. As the water warms, dig out a rattletrap and cover some water around this vegetation. Chatterbaits will also work in these same areas and traps need to be red or gold

with the chatterbait dressed in white. Using the right equipment is critical at this time of the year. I use the Okuma Scott Martin and EVX Carbon rods to get the job done. For giant swimbaits use an extra heavy rod, chatterbaits I use a heavy rod and for small swimbaits my go to is a MH rod. For traps and small squarebills I use a medium rod which offer more bite forgiveness. I don't get too crazy with reel gear ratios as I mostly use 6:3 to 1 selections.

February is also a great month to catch numbers on the power plant lakes. You can destroy them on the hot water impoundments and catch 30-50 fish per day up to the eight pound mark. 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 February 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 and Talon Custom Lures for making this an awesome job. 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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Nathan Howland with David Ozio



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Conservation Agencies (Continued from Page 18)

pand fishing opportunities, and better the quality of fisheries for Texans."

The Coletto Creek Bassmasters participated in both phases of the project and provided some of the volunteer labor necessary to complete this project.

"We want to do what we can to make fishing better for all anglers at Coletto Creek Reservoir," said Larry Nors, South Region Director of the Texas B.A.S.S. Nation. "Many people might not realize that the Texas B.A.S.S. Nation has a strong conservation program. Our affiliated bass clubs, from across the state, are eager to join forces with like-minded partners, and assist on projects that benefit freshwater fishing."

The Coletto Creek Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project is being supported by TPWD's Conservation License Plate (CLP)

Program as well as both cash and in-kind contributions from various project partners, including TPWD and GBRA. The CLP, mainly from the sales of the Large-mouth Bass conservation license plate, supports projects to restore and enhance fish habi-

tat in Texas' public inland waters.

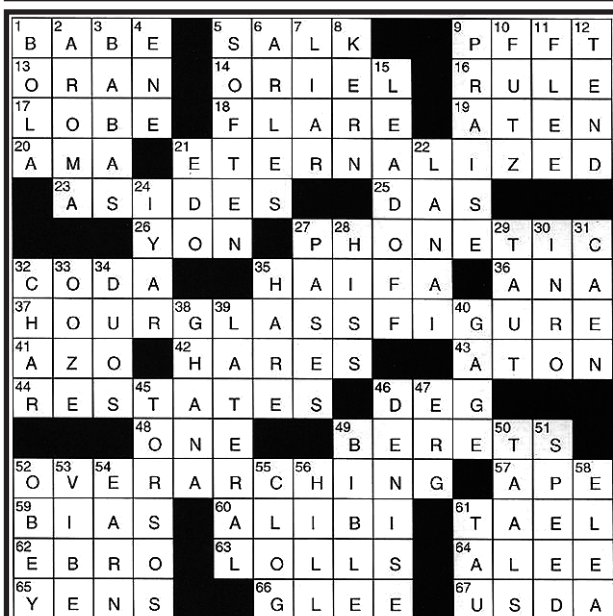
For more information on the CLP program or anyone interested in purchasing a plate to support fish habitat or other conservation projects, please visit the Conservation License Plate website.

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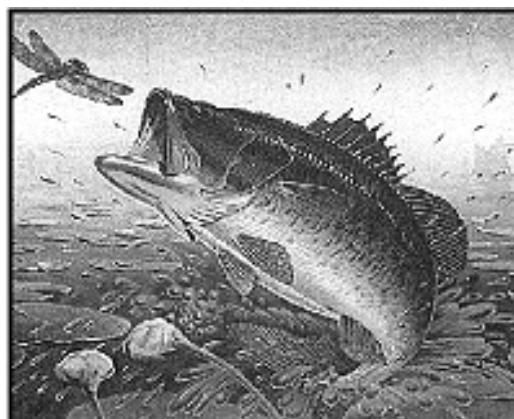
Celebrity Search

The last names of 14 talk-show hosts are 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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JONES
LAKE
LENO
LETTERMAN
O'BRIEN
O'DONNELL

OSMOND
PHILBIN
POVICH
RAPHAEL
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I L E T T E H M A N H E
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F O R N A M R E T T E L
R N O I H I T F W I A L
E Y F B P W O F I C H P
Y N E L A O P R N F P H
P O V I C H S D F E A I
H S O H L A H E E G R L
I M E P O V O B R I E N
B O N H W I T N E F R Y
S N J O N E S N P F I O
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--No Regrets-- A Henderson County game warden was contacted by a local landowner about some duck hunters who had been hunting during the closed season split. The landowner was able to provide the warden with the license plates of the suspected duck hunter's vehicles. The wardens responded to the location but were unable to find the suspected duck hunters. As the investigation continued, the

wardens were able to track down the hunters at their residence. During an interview, one of the hunters admitted to duck hunting and was proud to say it was his "best morning ever." After the investigation was over, it was clear the hunters were new to duck hunting and were unaware of the split.

--SoFISHticated Operation--With the assistance of CID, Bexar County game wardens set up a buy with an individual attempting to sell six steaks of yellowfin tuna for \$200. A time and location were set up and the wardens sat and waited outside of an HEB for the seller to

show up. As they waited, they saw the seller standing outside the doors with a dog and a blue bag in a basket. As the wardens approached the man, he gave the dog to a woman and went inside the store. The woman then began to walk into the parking lot with the blue bag. Wardens then went up to the woman and asked where the man went. She said the man went inside of the store to shop. The wardens searched the blue bag and found the tuna steaks. One of the wardens went inside to retrieve the man and, once outside, he was interviewed. The man did

(Continued on Page 24)

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For Valentine's Day, No 'Ifs' or 'Ands' – Just Fudge

By Sue Hampton

There has always been something seductive about chocolate. Let's face it, Valentine's Day may have started as a celebration of love, but for many it is but an excuse to indulge in the rich, dark, decadent stuff of romance, from tortes to truffles and everything in between.

This year, pamper your sweetie (or yourself!) with this classic "Chocolate Fudge Cake." As easy to prepare as it is to enjoy, this cake is a surefire way to start a whole new romance – with chocolate.



This decadent cake will make you fall in love all over again... with chocolate!

Chocolate Fudge Cake

½ cup unsalted butter
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1-1/4 cups sugar
1 cup chopped good-quality semisweet chocolate
1/3 cup milk
2 cups all-purpose flour
1/3 cup cocoa powder
1 tablespoon baking powder – pinch of baking soda
2 eggs

Fudge Topping

½ cup heavy cream
1 tablespoon light corn syrup
1-1/4 cups chopped good-quality semisweet chocolate

1. Preheat the oven to 325 F. Line two 6-cup loaf pans, each 8-1/2 by 4-1/2 by 2 inches.
2. Combine the butter, oil, sugar, chocolate, milk and 2/3 cup water in a large saucepan and stir over low heat until the sugar dissolves and the chocolate melts. Remove from the heat. Sift together the flour, cocoa, baking powder and baking soda into a bowl. Beat in the chocolate mixture (using a wire whisk means the mixture is less likely to form lumps).
3. Gradually beat the eggs, one at a time,

into the chocolate mixture. Pour into the loaf pans and smooth the top with the back of a spoon. Place the pans on a baking sheet and bake for 50 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean when inserted into the center of each cake. Cool in the pans for five minutes, turn out onto a wire rack; peel off the paper and cool completely, crust side up.

4. To make the fudge topping, bring the cream and corn syrup just to a boil in a small saucepan, then remove from the heat. Put the chopped chocolate in a heatproof bowl and gradually add the cream a little at a time, stirring after each addition, until all the cream has been added and the mixture is smooth. Place the bowl into a larger bowl of ice or refrigerate until the mixture has cooled and thickened. Spoon onto the cakes and spread over the top with a flexible metal spatula. It may run a little over the sides.

(This deliciously wicked cake is guaranteed to delight family and friends, whether served plain or with whipped cream or ice cream).



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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

not have the proper licenses to sell aquatic species. The individual was educated about the sale of aquatic species and issued a citation. The tuna was seized to be donated. Cases pending.

--Fast and Furious-- A Bell County game warden received a call from a fisherman on Lake Stillhouse about a boat driving around and shooting at ducks. The warden, with assistance from an additional Bell County game warden, were able to stop the individuals as they were pulling out of the boat ramp. Upon further inspection, the individuals had more than 20 violations and had killed two buzzards along with three coots. Some of the violations included no hunting license, utilizing lead shot, rally and disturb, hunt from a watercraft and no migratory duck stamp, just to name a few. Wardens issued multiple citations.

--Stop Lying, it's the Pits-- A Hardin County game warden and a game warden cadet were fueling up at a gas station near Kountze when they noticed a man in a nearby truck putting ice in a cooler and struck up a conversation. They learned the man was putting ice on a quartered deer he had just harvested, so they asked to see the head and the tag. The man explained he had left the head and the tag back at his hunting camp. When asked for his hunting license, he produced a license without any missing tags. The warden followed the hunter back to his deer lease to retrieve the deer head and complete the investigation. A citation was issued for possession of an un-

tagged deer and a warning for failure to complete the harvest log. Case pending.

--Lawn Enforcement-- A Newton County game warden completed an investigation into a hunting without landowner consent case. The case involved one subject who thought it was OK to mow two 200+ yard lanes into a neighboring landowner's property and hunt them. The subject was caught in the act of hunting the neighbor's property. After all necessary documentation was obtained, the subject was arrested and taken to the Newton County Jail and charged with hunting without landowner's consent, a Class A misdemeanor. Case pending.

--I'm Not As Think As You Drunk I Am-- A Montgomery County game warden was traveling behind a vehicle that appeared to be having a difficult time keeping his truck between the marked lanes on the roadway, but not enough for probable cause. The warden followed the truck into a gas station parking lot and saw a man exit the truck and fail to put it into park, causing it to roll back about 40 yards before he

was able to stop it. Once the vehicle was stopped, the warden approached the man and noticed the zipper on his pants was down, his shirt had spills and stains on it, and there were several empty beer cans inside the truck. An intoxication investigation was completed, and the male was placed under arrest for driving while intoxicated. A blood specimen was taken, and toxicology and the case is pending.

--Where They're Going, They Don't Need Roads-- An Angelina County game warden responded to a trespassing complaint regarding two individuals who were found in their Jeep after it got stuck inside the hunting club. The driver was arrested for criminal trespassing and for a warrant issued by the Lufkin Police Department. Upon further investigation it was discovered the Jeep they were driving was stolen from a hunting club in Trinity County and used in the commission of a robbery. Additional charges were filed for theft.

--You Can Run, But You Can't Hide-- A

(Continued on Next Page)

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Somervell County game warden was checking fisherman on the Paluxy River in Glen Rose when he noticed two individuals put their fishing poles down and walk in the opposite direction of the game warden. As he started to approach the individuals, he noticed one of them start to jog away and duck behind a house. The warden was able to make contact with the other individual who said he did not have a fishing license and his driver's license was in his father's truck. The warden followed the individual to his father's truck to retrieve the license, and during a check the individual was wanted for sexual assault on a child. The warden directed the individual to place his hands on the vehicle, but he refused and started to run away. The warden was able to apprehend the individual without incident and during a search of the individual he discovered marijuana and a marijuana pipe. The other individual was located by the Somervell County Sheriff's deputies in a vacant lot claiming to be lost and was unable to produce a fishing license. Cases pending.

--Plenty of Guts, But No Glory-- A Gaines/Andrews County game warden received a tip from an anonymous caller about a mule deer that may have been shot illegally on a property about 20 miles southeast of Seminole. The warden contacted the landowner and found a gut pile on his property. The warden then contacted the neighboring ranch that is current-

ly still in their Managed Lands Deer Program season and found an individual had shot a mule deer over their fence line and gutted it on the opposite side. The landowner determined he thought it was an honest boundary mistake and didn't believe charges were necessary. The deer and head were seized, and the hunter was cited for hunting mule deer out of season and warned for improperly tagging that deer with an MLDP tag. Charges and restitution are pending.

--For He's A Jolly Bad Felon-- A Gaines/Andrews County game warden received an anonymous tip from a local contact who said that there might have been an illegal deer shot in the past year on a property southeast of Seminole. Upon interviewing four individuals, it was determined there were four mule deer bucks shot on the same property without the consent of the landowner. Through the investigation, it was also determined that two of the three subjects were convicted felons. Three rifles, four sets of small mule deer antlers, and deer meat was seized. Charges include unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, hunting mule deer without landowner consent, various warnings, and civil restitution on four mule deer bucks. Cases are currently pending.

--How Shellfish-- Aransas County game wardens inspected a commercial oyster boat in Aransas Bay. The boat possessed 26 sacks of oysters and the cargo was determined to be 17.3% undersized. The oysters

were returned to the water with an estimated value of \$1,040.00. The captain and two deckhands were cited for undersized oysters. It was determined the captain had two prior convictions since 2017. The boat was escorted to the harbor and the captain was arrested for an enhanced undersized oyster case. The captain was transported and placed into the Aransas County Detention Facility. The case is pending prosecution.

--Racked 'Em Up-- A Bowie County game warden received information about possible illegal hunting activity on a farm in the northern part of Bowie County. The warden responded to the area and located two white-tailed doe and one feral hog laying near a residence on the farm. A short time later a vehicle drove up and the warden detained two male subjects in the truck after discovering two more white-tailed doe in the bed of the pickup. During a search of the immediate area, the warden located two ice chests containing what appeared to be deer meat. In addition to harvesting the four does, the two subjects also admitted to harvesting the deer in the ice chests a few nights before. Both individuals were taken into custody and booked into the Bowie County Jail for hunting at night. Since then, game wardens have searched several areas of the farm and located additional deer carcasses. The investigation is on-going, and cases are pending.

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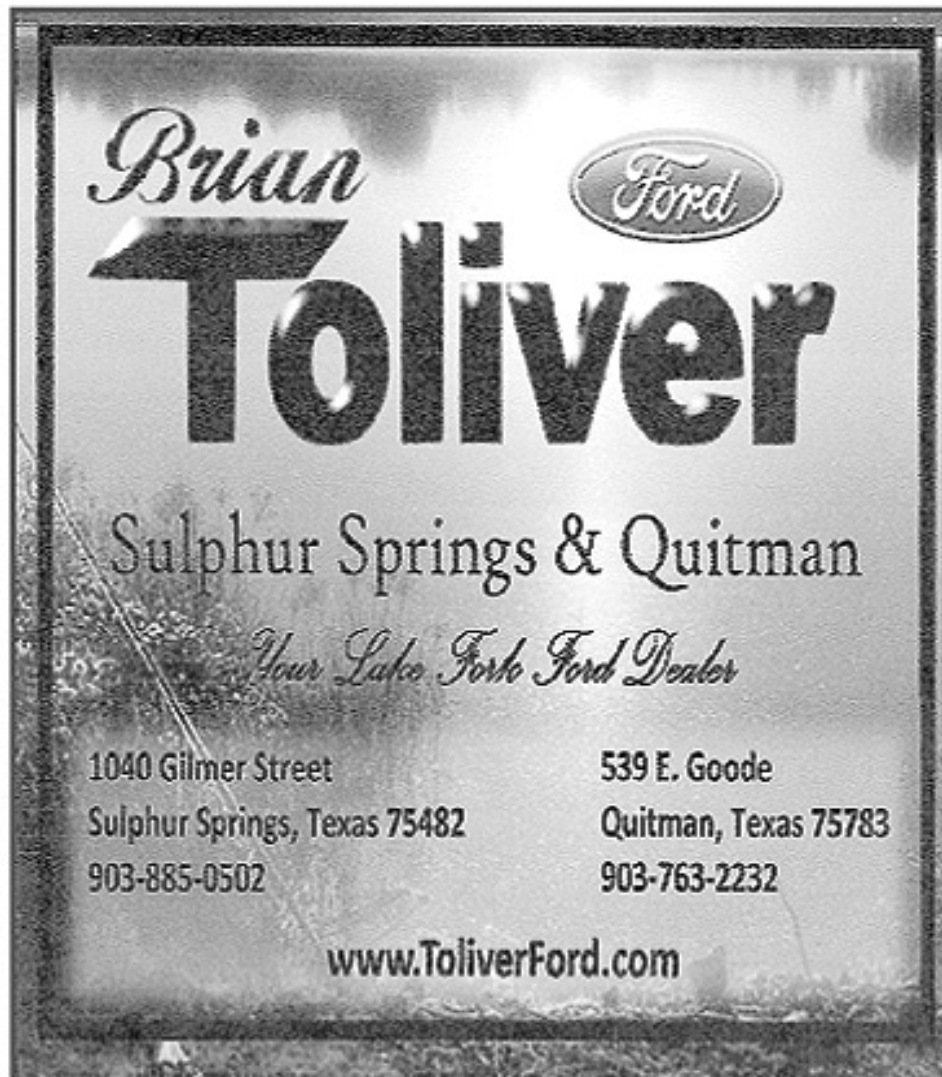
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