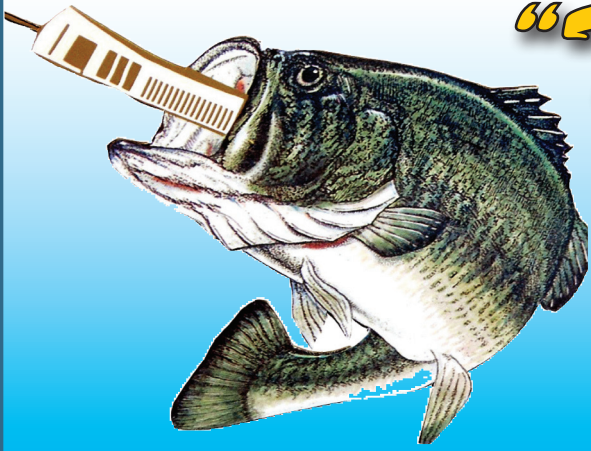


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Vol. 23

July, 2022

No. 275



Over 200 area youth and their parents or guardians came out to participate in Kidfish 2022 on Lake Fork held on June 7th at SRA Headquarters. (See Story on Page 4)



Kerry Halter from Texarkana, Arkansas won the 28th Annual Skeeter Owner's Tournament with an 11-pound hawg and took home a 2022 Skeeter FXR20 powered by Yamaho SHO. (See Story on Page 7)

"Heaven Gained Three Angels In June And Lake Fork Lost Three Loved Ones!"



Ronnie Parker, Owner of Lake Fork Trophy Lures.



Nova Carleton, mother of Lake Fork Crappie Guide Terri Moon, joined her sweetheart.



Bob Roberts, Web designer and owner of www.basstournamentfinder.com



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"If You Ask Bubba A Question, Expect the Unexpected Answer"

By Don Hampton

Bubba may not be making public speeches because his grasp of the English language is just straight to the point. He is very seldom misunderstood simply for the fact he doesn't beat around the bush. I just wish our politicians and a few other choice folks would take a lesson from Bubba. Bubbette often describes him as painfully honest. I hope she doesn't change him because I find Bubba quite amusing when conversing with others.

When asking Bubba a question, one really should prepare themselves for an answer they may not be expecting to hear.

After a fishing trip on Lake Fork recently, we were sitting in a restaurant feeding our faces when an old acquaintance of Bubba's came to our table. The first thing out of his mouth was, "Bubba I haven't seen you in a coon's age! Where have you been?" You or I would have simplified the matter by saying ... working, busy, on the run, or just doing the same old same old. That is definitely what I would have said but not our Bubba? Bubba just calmly looked up between bites and asked, "Where have you been looking?" Then he reached in his back pocket, pulled out his wallet, produced his driver's license and studied it for a moment. He then looked up at his acquaintance and said, "Yep, that's my address, it hasn't changed!"

I still live in the same place, have the same noisy dog owning neighbors and even my phone number is the same as it was the day I loaned you \$20!"

Well, Bubba's reply cut the conversation a little short, but he did get his \$20 and the guy even promised Bubba he would see him around.

On another occasion, we had just come in from a fishing trip and were loading the boat. As we were strapping the boat down, an acquaintance of Bubba's came up and asked him if we had had any luck that day. Bubba went into detail the great experience we had that day and the good catches and even told him what we caught them on and how deep. This was more information than I would have given but not Bubba... he does like to talk fishing. Then the fellow said something to Bubba I'm sure he regretted after the reply he received. He told Bubba, "I sure would like to get me a big ole' bass, but I haven't been on the water all month!" Bubba's reply must have come from the sky blue when he calmly replied, "Well they aren't going to swim up here and surrender!" I was hoping the guy wouldn't get mad at me for laughing, but being the good sport he is and the way Bubba has of saying things, he found it as humorous as I and agreed with Bubba's philosophy.

One factor in life will always remain constant and that is, Bubba will talk fishing anywhere he might be. The only good advice I can give is never ask

Bubba where the fish are when the time is drawing near for him to fish a tournament. For this he has only one answer that he gives everyone that asks. He will very calmly and while smiling all the time tell you, "Somewhere between where you think they are and where they ought to be!" If you ask him at that time what the big bass are being caught on, his answer for that is, "The ability to endeavor to persevere!"

Another good piece of advice about Bubba, never cancel a tournament or not fish because you think the weather might be too bad. If you do, don't let Bubba know because then he will classify you as a member of the WFWF. For those of you that don't know, that is Bubba's abbreviation for "Wimpy Fair Weather Fishermen!"

When it comes to being painfully honest, Bubba doesn't leave himself out either. After weighing in a small limit of fish at a tournament, the MC asked Bubba what the problem was on the water. Bubba lazily said, "I guess I was trying to qualify for the 'Rinky Dink Bass Club'!" Isn't that the club that uses just small fries, or is it shrimp?"

Bubba would never try to hurt someone's feelings or try to be a smart-alack, but watch what you ask him. He might come up with an answer that you've never heard before or one that you really didn't want to hear!

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Website: www.fishguidenews.com



Annual Wood County Kidfish Held on June 7th

By Don Hampton

The Wood County 28th Annual Kidfish was held on Lake Fork on June 7th. This annual celebration is held each year on the first Saturday of June to introduce the youth to the pleasure of fishing.

It is presented by the Wood County Sheriff's Department, Texas Game Warden Peace Officer Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Sabine River Authority Headquarters. All are to be commended for their diligent hard work and the

many hours they put in to make this event such a success for our children.

This year over 200 youth accompanied by parents, grandparents, or guardians from all over the area came to enjoy the beautiful weather and a day of fishing Lake Fork. For many of the children this would be considered their first tournament of many more to come in their lifetime. The love of fishing for these children could be accredited to Kidfish.

During this event no one participating is required to have a

fishing license. This gives parents that do not usually fish an opportunity to spend this time with their children and perhaps introduce the love of fishing to the whole family.

The event is free to all children and their parents. Each child is given a commemorative T-shirt, their own rod n' reel, and bait and tackle are furnished. Cold drinks, refreshments, hot dogs, and chips are provided for the parents and children. This year serving the parents and children were the many volunteers that give their time

for the event.

The format of this event is a mock tournament and divided in age group divisions. These divisions include 4 years old and younger, 5- to 8-year-old, 9- to 12-year-old, and 13- to 16-year-old. Each child weighing in the heaviest fish of that species in their age group wins a trophy presented by Wood County Sheriff Kelly Cole and a year's worth of bragging rights. The categories of species is bass, crappie, perch, catfish, and other. In the other category there were a great number of turtles

and drum weighed in this year. One of the turtles weighed in was a softshell and weighed 20.20-pounds. As an extra benefit there is a drawing at the end

of the award presentation and bicycles are given to the winners.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork did an excellent job. (Continued on Next Page)



Lakeyn Busby won in the 5 to 8 year old other category when she weighed in this 20.20-lb. softshell turtle.

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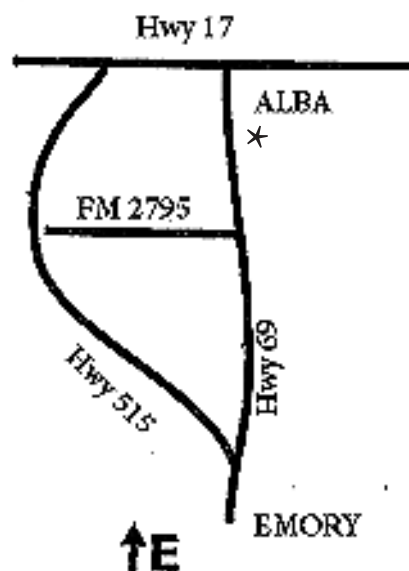
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lent job of weighing in all the fish and of course the turtles. This was my 25th year to be the weight master over the event. I am very proud of this fact. I now see parents bringing their children to the event that I weighed their fish, in my first years of the event.

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association did an excellent

job of keeping the scores as the fish were weighed and keeping the scoreboard in order.

Overall, the event was quite a success and the many smiles present were abundant. I do believe that this event changes the lives of our children in a very positive way.

A very special thanks goes out to all of the great sponsors

that make this event possible. After all, our children are the future. Photos of the winners and event can be viewed on Pages 13 and 15.



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"Lake Fork is in Awesome Shape!"

By David Ozio

"I can think back many years and have never seen it this hot in June! Surface temps as of this writing range from 90-92 degrees and with these windless days, it's probably going to get worse. Two weeks ago some big bucket mouths were on the bottom but now I'm starting to see more suspended fish just as you might see in August or September. We need wind but not in the 30+ mph range. We have been fortunate to bag some giants recently but most are very late in the day and on one or two spots. A good cold front might change that up and be welcome in my book.

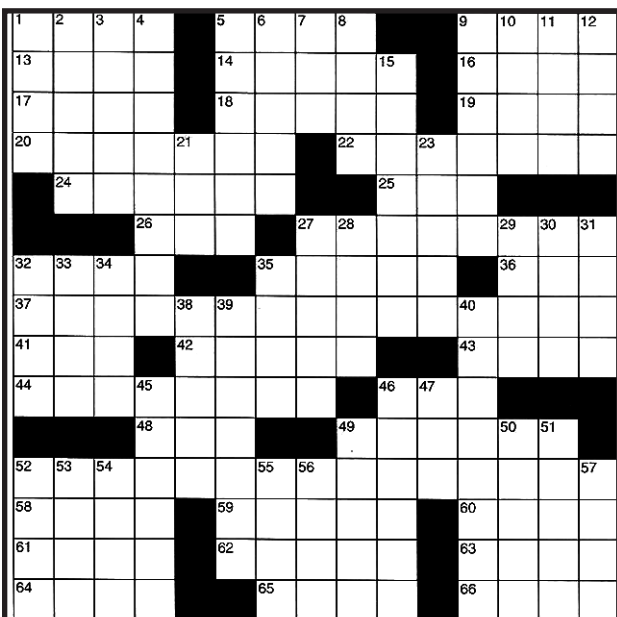
The lake is in awesome shape being as the water level is six feet low. The small amount of recent rain has allowed the lake to settle down but not cool down. Maybe some schooling activity may start and open another window for catching. The spawn seemed to be great this year as every exposed stump had a band of fry around it which bodes well for future bass population growth. Last years heavy rains also produced a good spawn and there are tons of small bass rambling the lake which will grow to the next generations ShareLunker. July is a great month to target all sizes of bass using top water, crankbaits and drop shots. It's all about locating the fish and then it's game on. Electronics play a huge roll in finding these huge schools of bass and the more time you spend graphing the key locations, the greater the chance to have a monumental day. Main lake points, ridges, road beds and pond dams should be your locations of focus and pay close attention to the 18-24ft range. Even if you only see a group of ten fish at a given depth, pitch out a marker buoy and spend fifteen minutes to see if you can get the bass to commit. If nothing rattles your cage, move on to the next location. Let's say you see a ton of good arc's at the next spot. My first choice is the drop shot rigged with a Talon Carolina Worm or a Robo-worm. Use any color you want as long as it is red. Drop straight down to them and barely jiggle the rod tip. Active fish will load the rod and you may think your hung up. Set



the hook and figure out the rest later. If the drop shot is not your game, throw a Carolina rig or a football jig to the area where you first spotted the bass. A 3/4 ounce stand up head is also a great choice. On the C-rig, you might try a fluke, brush hog or a Zoom magnum trick worm. Under bright sun, I will use redbug or plum colors and when it's cloudy, any version of green pumpkin will suffice. As for the jig, PB&J, Mexican Heather or black/brown/amber will do the trick. Match a craw trailer to the jig and your in business. For the stand up head, any big straight tail worm will suffice.

The topwater bite is good early and late on main lake points and a Zara Spook is the ticket. Yellow Magic's will

(See The Bass....
Continued on Page 20)



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Commoner | 41. Retirement fund (abbr.) |
| 5. Beverage made of fermented honey and water | 42. ___ Lansky, U.S. gangster |
| 9. Weapon | 43. Poverty |
| 13. Jeer | 44. Auroras |
| 14. Give out | 46. London radio station (abbr.) |
| 16. Impressive in size or scope | 48. Sunup in New York (abbr.) |
| 17. Blue dye obtained from plants | 49. Abnormal absorption with the self |
| 18. Withdraw from drugs | 52. "The Howdy Doody Show" character |
| 19. Sans serif | 58. Swiss river |
| 20. Loosen grip | 59. Renaissance card game |
| 22. Mended shoes | 60. Private school in New York |
| 24. Vogues | 61. Scum |
| 25. ___ de cologne | 62. Hedge |
| 26. Craze | 63. Potential unit |
| 27. Immigrants | 64. Sound unit |
| 32. City in southern Japan | 65. Copied |
| 35. French region | 66. Epic |
| 36. Bravo | |
| 37. De Saint-Exupery story | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Small sailboat | 32. Elevator man |
| 2. Scottish waterfalls | 33. Beginning to end (informal) |
| 3. Command | 34. ___ Connery, 007 |
| 4. Overabundance | 35. Infection of the eyelid |
| 5. Brought together into a group or crowd | 38. Compound derived from ammonia |
| 6. Fish genus | 39. With a good will |
| 7. Vestment worn by priests | 40. Penetrating and sharp |
| 8. Actor | 45. Change mind, in a way |
| 9. Way to dishonor | 46. Swollen, in a way |
| 10. Opaque gem | 47. British thermal unit (abbr.) |
| 11. Parasites | 49. Person's legal place of residence |
| 12. Breezed through | 50. Crouch |
| 15. Upper vegetation | 51. ___ Park, California city |
| 21. Flower petal | 52. Skip |
| 23. Sylvan deity | 53. Saint's aura |
| 27. Tent events | 54. Oil-producing nation |
| 28. At all times | 55. Yugoslavian river |
| 29. Sea eagle | 56. Catch |
| 30. Contest of speed | 57. Scabs |
| 31. Cast off skin | |

Answers on Page 21

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Fish Friendly

Annual Skeeter Owner's Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

The 2022 Lake Fork Annual Skeeter Owner's Tournament was held on June 14th and 15th and hosted out of Lake Fork Marina by BassChamps.

Over 1,800 anglers came to cast a line to try and win the many cash and prizes to be given away. All were in hopes of winning the Grand Prize of a new Skeeter FXR20 powered by a Yamaha SHO.

In the tournament there were nine bass over the slot weighed in. Darryl King from Dry Prong, Louisiana caught a nice one weighing 9.25-pounds; Jeremy Goodgion from Graham, Texas weighing in an 8.60-pound bass; Michael Pardo Sr. from Hale Center, Texas weighed in an 8.51-pound bass; Brandon Mims from Conroe, Texas weighed in an 8.32-pound bass; Michael Harp from Linden, Texas weighed in an 8.31-pound; Alec Breaux from Houma, Louisiana weighed in a 7.49-pound; Austin Thompson from Haltom, Texas weighed in a 6.26-pound bass; and Jason May from Grand Prairie, Texas

weighed in a 5.99-pound bass.

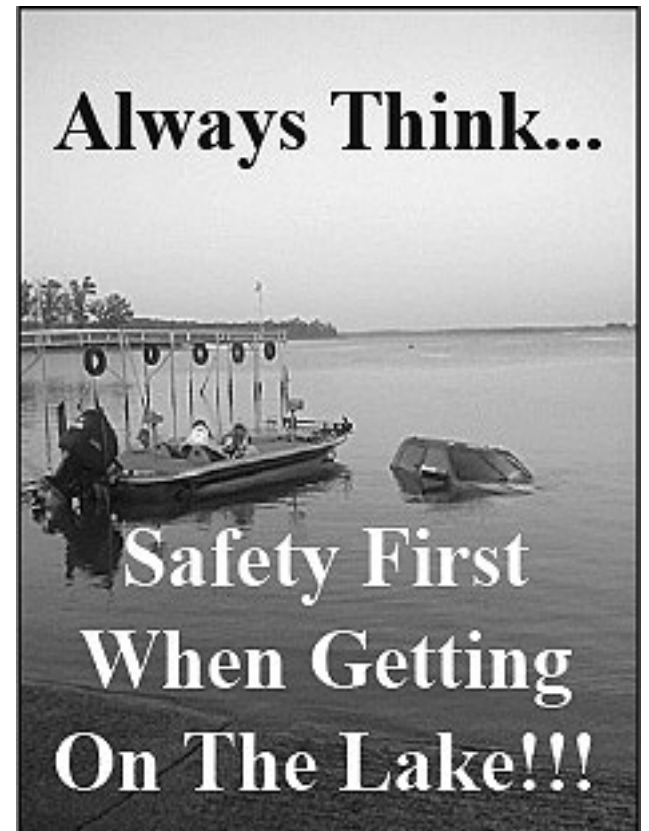
Kerry Halter from Texarkana, Arkansas caught the heaviest bass of the tournament. His bass tilted the scales at 11-pounds. His great catch not only won him the 1st place in the hour but also the Grand Prize of a 2022 Skeeter FXR20 powered by a Yamaha SHO. The heaviest bass under the slot was caught by Sam Bownds from Wichita Falls, Texas. His bass weighed 2.97-pounds. For his catch he won hourly money and took home a 2022 Yamaha Viking VI EPS.

In the ladies' division Shirley Moore from Wagner, Oklahoma won 1st place with a bass weighing 2.82-pounds. Coming in 2nd place was Amy Warren from Meridian, Texas with a 2.64-pound bass. Bringing up 3rd place in the division was Carla Shelton from Mineola, Texas with a 2.54-pound bass.

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association is to be commended. With their Live Release Boat and crew on hand taking care of all the bass brought to the weigh in, they were released back into the lake to be caught another day.

The Skeeter Owner's Tournament is al-

ways held the first part of June each year. If you own a Skeeter, make your plans now and Fish Friendly.



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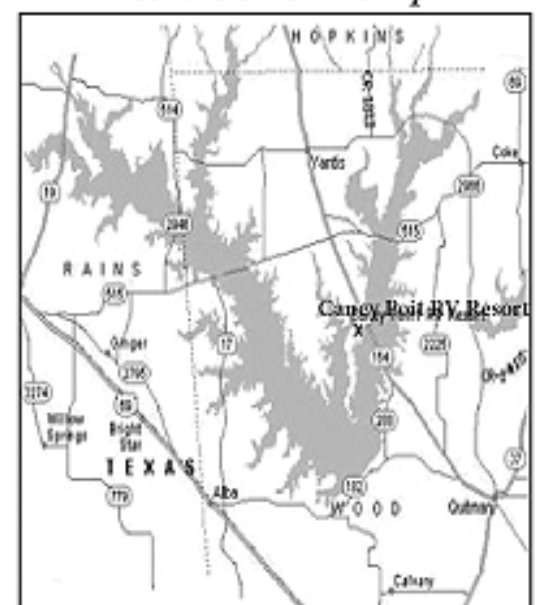
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"The Moon Report"

"July Crappie"

By Terri Moon

Well – I have sad news for those of you that haven't heard – but, June 6th we lost my "Sweet Mama Nova" Carleton at 92 years old. It was a shockingly sudden stroke that the doctors said was inoperable, and unsurvivable. Those were tough words to hear. But, I took comfort in knowing she was no longer in pain and what a joyful reunion it had to be on the other side. I'm so grateful for my "sisters of the heart" for getting me to the hospital so late at night and being with me through such a tragic event. Also, a huge thank you for all the prayers, condolences and blessings sent my way that truly touched my heart and got me through this one day at a time. I'm also thankful she was here with me and not at home alone.

Thanks for the lifetime of awesome memories "Mama Nova"! You might have been little but you made up for it in that huge heart, with strength, grace, and love for everyone. You were one amazing lady! I know you are having the time of your life – enjoy – you deserve it!

I found that getting back on the water was just what I needed! But my – those 100 degree days hurt! I am so grateful for ANY cloud cover.



The crappie are settling in their summer pattern. Early in the day we've found them 10 to 15 ft – then as the sun gets up we're checking that 15 to 25 ft. depths, around tree lines, ledges, brush piles, and bridges. You might catch several small ones for every keeper – and you have to get past the bream to get to the crappie. We are using a slow presentation with just a twitch – unless they are aggressively feeding and hitting on the fall. That's when its really fun! If you keep an eye on your rod tip and line, you will see the bite before you feel it. If your not watching it, your missing a lot of opportunities!

Also I want to give a shout out to all of you that took the time to bring their kids and grandkids fishing – making memories they will remember for a lifetime. It was so much fun when we stopped to let the kids bream

fish! We hit them just right around the last full moon in 4 to 8 ft. just off the bottom. (I even had to go back and catch me some – they are my favorite to catch and eat!) You can use a pinch of a night crawler or crickets. Then all you need is oil, cornmeal and salt! YUM!!

Also it was great to have the Skeeter Boat Owners Tournament back to Lake Fork hosted by Lake Fork Marina – another amazing job by all! The fishing industry sure appreciates all that Skeeter/Yamaha does for the sport.

Once again, my sincere thanks for all the prayers, love, and blessings sent my way.

Be safe out there – the holidays can be crazy!

**I'M NICER
WHEN I
GET TO
FISH.**



Lake Fork guide Randy Oldfield caught this nice hawg weighing 10.25-pounds. Caught, Photo, & Released. C.P.R.



Chandler Stoner from Ft. Worth, TX., caught this nice Double-Digit bass while fishing with Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith. C.P.R.



Larry Scheller from Amarillo, TX., won't be quiet after catching this nice Lake Fork bass while fishing with guide Randy Oldfield. C.P.R.



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TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith Announces Retirement

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Executive Director Carter Smith announced recently he will retire effective January 2023, ending a nearly 15-year tenure that strengthened private-lands stewardship, expanded state parks and wildlife management areas, bolstered conservation, law enforcement, and park funding, and brought a renewed focus on connecting Texans young and old with the state's natural resources.

"The opportunity to work alongside the immensely talented and dedicated men and women of this Department has been the privilege of a lifetime," said Carter Smith, Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "Their unending passion for stewarding and protecting Texas' rich bounty of fish and wildlife resources, creating new opportunities for Texas families to get out and make lasting memories in the outdoors, and helping to leave the lands and waters, habitats and parks of our home ground better than before has been a great inspiration to me, personally and professionally. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Chairman Aplin and to the entire TPW Commission, past and present, for placing their trust in me, as well as for their leadership, mentorship and commitment to advancing our mission. Last, but not least, as a Dad, a sportsman, a conservationist, and as a proud Texan, I am grateful beyond measure for all the landowners, land stewards, outdoor enthusiasts, and partners across Texas who not only make conservation possible, but actually happen."

Smith, who began his professional career in 1992 as a TPWD management intern in the Wildlife Division, has served as executive director since January 2008, overseeing policy, personnel, funding, and strategy for an agency

of more than 3,300 professionals in 13 divisions. During his tenure the department has acquired significant new public lands such as Palo Pinto Mountains State Park and the Powderhorn Wildlife Management Area; directed major initiatives towards enhancing and restoring freshwater and coastal habitats; added important new biologist, park, and law enforcement positions; constructed new facilities such as the Game Warden Training Center and the John D. Parker State Fish Hatchery; launched the Texas Outdoor Family and Texas Children in Nature programs; secured significant new funding for state and local parks through the dedication of the Sporting Goods Sales Tax and strongly championed the need for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Prior to his naming as executive director, Smith was state director of The Nature Conservancy of Texas, which he first joined in 1998. He was the first executive director of the Katy Prairie Conservancy. An accomplished wildlife conservationist, his work as a biologist spanned from Mexico to Canada.

In addition to his work at the department, Smith has served on conservation-related boards of directors and advisory councils, including as Chairman and executive committee member of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. He is also a Professional member of the Boone & Crockett Club and a lifetime member of the Texas Big-

horn Society, The Dallas Safari Club and the Houston Safari Club. He is an outstanding alumnus of departments at Yale University and Texas Tech and was honored by the Botanical Research Institute of Texas International Award of Excellence in Conservation, the Texas Wildlife Association's Sam Beasom Conservation Leader Award, and the Harvey Weil Professional Conservationist Award.

"Working alongside Carter Smith for the last five years, I can say without reservation that he is one of the finest Executive Directors to ever run the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department," said Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Commission Chairman Arch "Beaver" Aplin III. "He has stewarded the state and our resources with vision and integrity since his tenure began in 2008. In an agency full of incredible individuals, he has been an inspiring leader. Though he will be missed, I wish him and his family the very best as they embark on a new chapter of life. We will work hard to find the next head of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, but there is no replacing Carter Smith."

The TPW Commission will launch an executive search committee to recruit TPWD's next executive director. The search committee will identify and interview prospective candidates and provide a recommendation to the commission in time to ensure a smooth transition and continuity of leadership for agency operations.

Danny Holder

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Texas Game Wardens Saw Reduction in Citations During Memorial Day Weekend

Texas Game Wardens issued fewer boating-related citations over Memorial Day weekend than they did in 2021. They cited increased boating safety awareness and patrols by game wardens and other marine safety officers as contributors to a drop in incidents.

Between Friday and Monday, 352 game wardens conducted 10,218 safety checks on vessels, issuing 62 fewer citations than they did the year before. Texas Game Warden Colonel Chad Jones attributed this decrease to factors including expansion of boating safety awareness outreach.

"First off, I want to commend those who conducted themselves safely and responsibly over what is always a busy weekend," he said. "Our game wardens have really focused on increasing boating safety awareness over the past year, and I think we are starting to see the fruits of that effort. Combined with our patrols on Texas rivers, lakes and coastal bays, we saw a general reduction in cases over Memorial Day weekend."

Game wardens did, however, respond to 15 boating accidents and six drownings that occurred on waterbodies including the Rio Grande, Lake Somerville, Grapevine, Blan-

co River, Cedar Creek Lake and Lake Buchanan.

"Unfortunately, drownings and deaths on the water are a painful reality our game wardens must contend with over holiday weekends," Jones said. "So, while we are proud of the progress we've made in awareness of safe boating practices, we know we must continue our work to see people return home safely."

This year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department launched new social media channels focused on water safety. Game wardens attended outreach events including Houston Boat Show, Poteet Strawberry Festival, Duck's Unlimited and Mayfest, and used other digital media tactics to broaden awareness, said Boater Education Manager Kimberly Sorensen.

"With boating season in full swing, we encourage all boaters to take the boater education course," Sorensen said. "Boater education is required for anyone born on or after Sept. 1, 1993. If you are a new boater, learn the required safety equipment for your boat, use your engine cut off switch, avoid alcohol while boating and be aware of carbon monoxide even on open-air motorboats."

Over the Memorial Day weekend, game wardens rescued capsized boaters, including at Lake Nasworthy, where they pulled 13 people from the water, and Lake Lewis, where some of the 16 rescued from choppy waters were not wearing life jackets, and instead were clinging to their overturned boat while waiting for help.

They also worked a cliff-jumping injury that resulted in a broken femur, broke up a fight at a swimming area and a hunting without consent case for a pronghorn killed in Sherman County, among other incidents.



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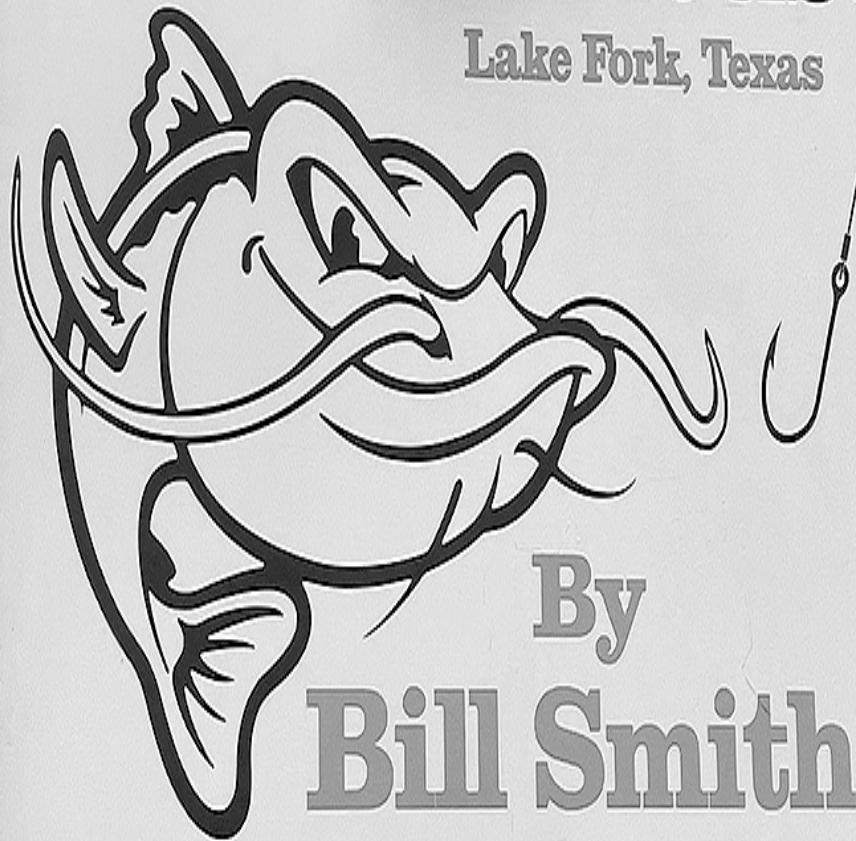
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Applications Being Accepted for Bird City Texas Program

Audubon Texas and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), partners in the Bird City Texas program (BCT), are now accepting applications from communities that wish to receive Bird City Texas certification. Now in its fourth year, the program recognizes the contributions that communities make to improve nature in and around where people live, work and play.

"All communities, big and small, are eligible to participate" says Richard Heilbrun, TPWD Urban Wildlife Program Leader. "Bird City Texas is a great way to demonstrate that a community val-

ues nature, that they're willing to improve that nature, and that residents are encouraged to get outside and experience nature."

Certification is based on work in three categories: education and engagement, habitat management and improvement and removal of threats to birds. Community residents are encouraged to be part of the process, says Heilbrun.

"Bird City programs are led by either municipal staff or by community members in partnership with city or county staff," said Heilbrun. "The strongest applications are those that have a team of people working to-

gether."

Applications for Bird City certification will be accepted through Dec. 2, but applications must be started by Nov. 1. BCT partners welcome pre-application consultations with interested communities. More information and resources can be found on the Bird City Texas website. Communities interested in applying for Bird City Texas recognition can learn more on the "How to Apply" page of the Bird City Texas website.



The grunt is a fish named for the grunting sounds it makes when removed from the water.





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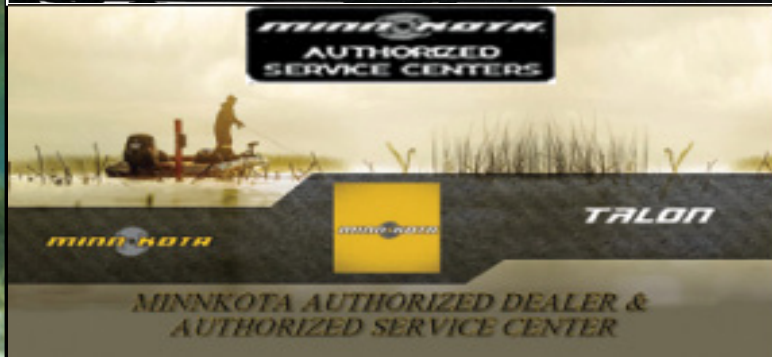
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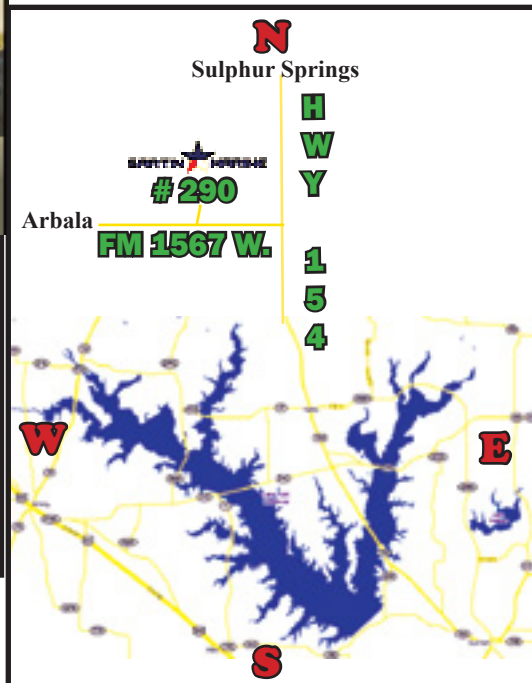


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CATFISH	Gabrial Mosley 1.74-lbs.	Canyen Nixin 3.65-lbs.	Michael Taylor 2.72-lbs.	Brennen Mounsey 3.86-lbs.
PERCH	Alana Thomas .43-lbs.	Cullen McManis .43-lbs.	Devon Allen .46-lbs.	Dooley Briscoe .53-lbs.
CRAPPIE	No Entry	Emori Bates 1.05-lbs.	Coplend Tunnel .83-lbs.	No Entry
OTHER	Willow Busby 3.24-lbs. (turtle)	Lakeyn Busby 20.20-lbs. (turtle)	Casen Powell 4.28-lbs. (turtle)	Sierra Barnhart 3.10-lbs. (turtle)



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Retired Florida Largemouth Bass Broodfish Transported to Rio Grande Valley Community Fishing Lakes

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries Division stocked several retired Florida largemouth bass broodfish into three Rio Grande Valley community fishing lakes in June. Dean Porter Park Resaca in Brownsville, Town Lake at Fireman's Park in McAllen and the Old Hidalgo Pumphouse Channel in Hidalgo received these special fish.

The broodfish, adult bass that average more than four pounds, are coming from their former home at the A.E. Wood State Fish Hatchery in San Marcos and are expected to provide excellent fishing opportunities and rewarding catches to anglers. In addition, the broodfish will add outstanding Florida largemouth bass genetics to these popular fishing destinations.

"We are excited to bring these extraordinary fish to these local communities and are committed to improving freshwater fishing in the Rio Grande Valley," said Greg Binion, Inland Fisheries Corpus Christi District Supervisor.

Old Hidalgo Pumphouse Channel will receive 3,000 bluegill this fall. A popular prey of largemouth bass, the bluegill will offer additional food for the largemouth bass and offer additional fishing opportunities for anglers. The City of Hidalgo

received a Habitat and Angler Access Program (HAAP) grant to enhance fish habitat and improve shoreline angling access at the historic Old Hidalgo Pumphouse Channel site. The grant funding will enable the construction of a T-head fishing pier and an additional fishing dock, plus fish habitat structures and a pond aeration

system.

The program, which launched in June 2021, is primarily funded by the purchase of freshwater fishing licenses. HAAP supports projects to restore and enhance fish habitat in Texas' public inland waters as well as develop, enhance, and increase shoreline fishing access. The TPWD Inland Fisheries Division is dedicated to improving fishing opportunities in the valley and throughout the state.



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Public Fishing, Paddling Access Expands with Two New Sites

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is expanding public fishing and paddling opportunities in the state with the addition of two leased river access sites through the River Access and Conservation Area (RACA) program.

The new site at Cupgrass Cabins provides a second leased access point near County Road (CR) 150 on the South Llano River, giving ample public parking at this popular crossing. The new RACA site at John Knox Ranch is the first on the Blanco River.

"Both the Blanco and South Llano riv-

ers are beautiful Hill Country streams just a short drive away from major urban areas like San Antonio and Austin," said John Botros, TPWD River Access Coordinator "Historically in Texas, recreation on rivers has been limited by a lack of public access points. These new sites are an important step in expanding the public's options for safe, legal and high-quality fishing and paddling access on rivers."

Anglers will find a gated entrance to Cupgrass located off U.S. 377, approximately 0.24 miles southwest of CR 150, near Junc-

tion. TPWD River Access at Cupgrass offers a complimentary parking area and an access point to the South Llano River via Bailey Creek. Access for launching non-motorized boats, canoes or kayaks for the purpose of fishing is open from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Reservations to park on the property must be made in advance by texting the visiting vehicle make and color to (512) 407-9357. Canoes and kayaks can be launched in Bailey Creek and ingress/

(See Public Fishing...
 Continued on Page 21)



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

By Carolyn West, President LFSA

What a month of activity for Lake Fork Sportsman's Association! June was active and rewarding for our members. The first weekend of June is always Kid Fish at the Sabine River Authority site. LFSA was in charge of logging the catches and recording the weights for the kids' catches. The best description of the Saturday morning is hectic but great fun. Watching first time anglers bring in a small turtle for weighing and seeing more experienced anglers with their bass, crappie, turtles, bream and other species was a great experience. Our members look forward to supporting this event annually. It was a hot day but the kids didn't seem to notice as they grinned when they heard their names and the weight of their catch announced.

The Skeeter tournament was a success again at Lake Fork Marina. LFSA brought our Spring Raffle to an end and awarded the prizes. Our Association appreciates the contributions of the businesses and individuals who contributed their valuable merchandise to be raffled: Bass Champs, Texas Ranch Outfitters, Martin's Maps, Jim Range-Guide, The Fisherman's Guide News, Custom Angle Rods, Native Outdoors, Minnow Bucket Marina, Hooten's Hardware and Zilla Gear Outdoors. The Winners were:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Richard Bird | Registration Drawing-\$100 Gift Card |
| 2. Kenny Cole | Bass Champs Team Entry |
| 3. Shane Ray | Bajio Sunglasses |
| 4. Lewis Keese | Abu Garcia REVO X Rod and Reel |
| 5. Tony Kokovals | RTIC Tumbler |
| 6. Richard Sexton | Glock Pistol |
| 7. Phillip Massoletti | Mini Drone |
| 8. Edwin Pulda | Martin's Maps Lake Fork Subscription |
| 9. Steven Broom | Martin's Maps Lake Fork Subscription |
| 10. Stanley McDonald | Jim Range Guide Trip |
| 11. Elaine Philipsan | Temple Fork Rod and Reel Combo |
| 12. Scot Terpening | Temple Fork Rod and Reel Combo |
| 13. Clarence Mee | Custom Angle Rod |
| 14. Mark Murphree | Tackle Warehouse GC |
| 15. Keith Floyd | 410 Single Shot |
| 16. Justin Gossett | Minnow Bucket Room Rental |
| 17. Lewis Keese | Minnow Bucket Room Rental |
| 18. Al Seeley | Case Hunter's Knife |
| 19. Jason Barnett | Comhole Game |
| 20. Loren | Rod Storage rack |
| 21. Kasey Carson | Pelican Cooler |
| 22. Les Moore | Echo Show 8 with Alexa |
| 23. Dean Stone | AO Cooler |
| 24. Dana Deason | GillZilla Garment |

On a very sad note, we had to say goodbye to a long-term member, a Lake Fork advocate, a fisherman extraordinaire – Bob Roberts. Bob passed suddenly and left a legacy of contributions in all he touched. At his memorial service, his friends and family talked in depth about his career, his outreach activities and yes, his fishing skills. He was a bril-

liant man with the warmest smile; he served his community but fished as often as he could. LFSA members are heart-broken at his sudden passing and will miss his contributions and guidance. We continue to send our sympathies to his wife, Bobbie, and his surviving family.

Vice President, Terry Long and Board Members, Pat and Mike Kostial were invited to attend the National Donor's Day celebration at Bass Pro Shops, Grapevine. To recognize LFSA's High School Tackle Program, Bass Pro donated 100 refurbished rods and reels as their Donor's Day contribution to our local 501(c)(3) organization. To say we are grateful is an understatement!

At our June meeting, we had the Live Release Boat available for members who needed training to work during tournaments. Al Lahti was trained by Captain Bruce Allen. We remain proud of this service to assure the fish are safely

returned to the lake to be caught again.

Our monthly meetings are at 6:30 pm in Lovell's Restaurant at Lake Fork Marina on the second Tuesday of each month. We invite potential members to visit us and hear the progress of LFSA.



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"Lake Fork is in Awesome Shape!" (Continued from Page 6)

catch their share of fish but the spook bags the big one's. This bite only lasts about an hour but it is well worth being on the water early as daylight has it's own majesty. Once this bite stops, move the boat out to about 15ft and throw a C-rig, squarebill or jig up to the 5-7ft range and work it back slowly. This will account for extra bites to fulfill the morning. A Texas rig blue fleck power worm fished with a 3/8 ounce tungsten weight in that same depth range will also deliver some rod bending results.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in July 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 at https://www.facebook.com/davidoziolakeforkguide. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing, Talon Custom Lures, Skeeter Boats, dakota Lithiums and Hennessey Outdoor Electronics 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."



Cameron Narramore with David Ozio



Melanie Throne with David Ozio

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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Guided by Gobble-dygook-- Around 11 p.m., Schleicher County dispatch contacted a local game warden about a 911 call from two lost turkey hunters who stayed out too late and couldn't find their vehicle. The warden called the hunter's cell phone trying to find their location, but they were in a ranch they didn't know the name or location of and were shown where to park by an

out of town guide that was paid in cash and whose first name was all they knew. Due to poor cell service, the call was dropped so the warden texted them asking them to drop a pin of their location and call him back. The warden and two Schleicher County Deputies responded to the location where the 911 call was made, but the hunters had left. They turned on their emergency lights and sirens hoping to reach the hunters through the PA speakers. At 12:45 a.m., the hunters found cell service and called back. Their guide sent the pair

a pin of his location and told them to walk to him. This pin was in the opposite direction of law enforcement and four miles away through three additional ranches. The warden confirmed that the hunters could hear the sirens and told them to walk to his location. Around 2 a.m., two very tired and dehydrated turkey hunters emerged from the woods and were given water. The hunters described the road they drove to the ranch they were hunting on and found out the ranch they were currently on was not where the hunt

(Continued on Page 24)

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'Fire Up' Fourth of July Fun

By Sue Hampton

Independence Day festivities are chock full of fun. This holiday brings out the child in everyone!

Nothing sums up the holiday better than spectacular fireworks displays. Why not bring the excitement into your holiday meal as well.

Barbecued Chicken Quesadilla with Avocado Salsa

- 1 cup Jack Daniel's BBQ Sauce (or your favorite sauce)
- 2 chicken beasts – boneless and skinless
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 – 6" flour tortillas
- ¼ cup grated Monterey Jack cheese



Try these delicious recipes at your 'Fourth of July' celebration. They'll cheer for this Stars and Stripes Cheesecake that's almost as easy to make as it is to enjoy!

¼ cup grated white cheddar cheese

Avocado salsa:

- 1 ripe avocado – coarsely chopped
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped red onion
- 1 tablespoon minced jalapeno
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- Salt and pepper to taste

Prepare BBQ sauce to medium-high heat. Brush the chicken with the sauce and season to taste with salt and pepper. Grill the chicken for about 4 minutes per side or until done. When the chicken is cool enough to handle, slice it and set it aside. Place 2 tortillas on an ungreased baking sheet. Spread ½ of the cheeses and the chicken on each tortilla and season to taste with salt and pepper. Stack the layers, cover with the remaining tortilla. Brush the tortillas lightly with olive oil. Grill for 3 minutes on each side or until the tortillas are crisp and the cheese is melted. Cut into quarters and serve hot, garnished with the avocado salsa.

To make the salsa: Combine all of the avocado salsa ingredients together in a bowl and season with salt and pepper.

TIP: Always add lemon or lime juice to any recipe with avocado. This will help prevent the avocado from turning brown in the recipe.

Stars and Stripes Cheesecake
(By special request)

Graham Cracker Crust:

- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
- 2 tablespoons sugar

Cheesecake:

- 3 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons corn starch
- 1 cup Karo Light Corn Syrup
- 3 eggs
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 pound strawberries, halved (about 3 cups)
- 1 cup heavy or whipping cream, whipped; or whipped topping

Preheat oven to 325F. To prepare graham cracker crust: Combine crumbs, butter and 2 Tbsp. Sugar. Press into the bottom of a 13X9-inch baking dish.

To prepare cheesecake: Beat cream cheese, sugar and corn starch in a large bowl with mixer at medium speed until smooth. Beat in corn syrup, eggs and lemon juice until blended and smooth.

Pour into prepared baking dish. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or just until set.

Cool on wire rack. Refrigerate until well chilled. Arrange blueberries (about 30 to 40) in rows in upper left corner of cheesecake to form a rectangle, spacing rows about ½ inch apart (to leave room for whipped cream).

Arrange halved strawberries on top of remaining portion of cheesecake also in rows about ¾ inch apart, like a flag. Place whipped cream in a plastic bag and snip off the corner of the bag.

Use the bag to pipe whipped cream between the rows of blueberries and strawberries, completing the flag design. Keep refrigerated.

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

started. The hunters went through the unlocked, shared neighboring gate thinking it was a pasture gate. The hunters finally contacted their guide who was driving every county road and highway in the area and not at the location of his dropped pin. The warden coordinated with the guide to pick an intersection for them to meet and the hunters were dropped off with the guide around 3 a.m. One citation for no hunting license was issued and strong encouragement to learn the full names of guides and precise locations of any fuP[]ure hunt.

--**FIN-ito**--Two Harris County game wardens were searching the web when they saw a restaurant advertising shark’s fin and shredded chicken soup on their menu. The wardens visited the location and inspected the restaurant’s aquatic resources and invoices. During the inspection, the wardens found what appeared to be frozen shark fins inside one of the freezers. One of the wardens asked the owner about the item in the freezer and they confirmed it was shark fin and showed the warden to a near-by stove where sharks fin soup was being cooked for personal consumption. Shortly after, the second warden found another piece of shark’s fin wrapped in cellophane in a near-by freezer. The owner again insisted that it was for personal consumption. The warden then picked up a menu off a nearby table and pointed

to the soup section which listed sharks fin soup for sale. All sharks fin was seized, and charges are being filed with the Harris County District Attorney’s Office.

--**Oy(ster) Vey**-- Three Harris County game wardens were inspecting commercial oyster on Galveston Bay when they came across a boat that had a sack of oysters with 15.29% undersized-three times the allowed limit. When asked about what they were using to measure the oysters, the captain said “Nothing.” This was the captain’s second time being cited for possessing undersized oysters. Approximately 1,100 pounds of oyster were returned to the reef.

--**Blinded by the Lights**-- Two Limestone County game wardens responded to a vehicle accident east of Mexia involving a vehicle overturned in a creek bed with a man trapped inside. Local authorities were able to safely remove the driver from the vehicle and wardens were assisting with traffic control on the road. While traf-

fic was being safely guided, the wardens saw an SUV trying to go around their patrol vehicle, ignoring the emergency lights and roadblock. The wardens signaled the man to stop and when they approached the vehicle, saw that the driver had bloodshot eyes and was slurring his speech. There were also several alcoholic beverages in the vehicle. The driver was detained and admitted to drinking several alcoholic beverages. After failing a field sobriety test, he was placed under arrest for Driving While Intoxicated and transported to the Limestone County Jail for booking.

--**Acting Squirrelly**-- An Angelina County game warden was approaching a boat ramp on the Angelina River just before dark when he saw someone driving in his direction. A man quickly laid a gun on the bow of the boat and walked away. When the warden approached the two people aboard the vessel, one decided to change out of wet socks while the other kept talking on their

(Continued on Next Page)

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cell phone. The warden unloaded the .22 rifle left on the bow and inspected the cooler in the boat which contained a squirrel that was dressed and put on ice. Since the man started squirrel season six days early, he was issued a citation for hunting squirrels during a closed season. Case is pending.

--That's a Twist; That's Very Twisty-- A Williamson County game warden was contacted by a Travis County Sheriff's Deputy about a boat the deputy had stopped on Lake Travis that had the boat hull identification number visibly removed. The operator of the boat said he bought the vessel a short time ago and showed the officers a title and bill of sale. The deputy and warden investigated the paperwork of the vessel and found out the title was legitimately signed, but the bill of sale was falsified. Upon further inspection, the officers determined that the vessel didn't match the paperwork the operator of the boat had presented. The registration number on the paperwork belonged to a Wellcraft, and the validation number belonged to the operator but for a Kayot boat. Additionally, the engine horsepower, serial number and sterndrive number returned to a Baja vessel. The Baja was listed as stolen out of Travis County in January, along with the trailer. The owner of the Baja was contacted, and the boat was verified as the stolen vessel. The vessel

and trailer were returned to the original owner and the operator of the vessel was charged with possession of stolen property.

--Hook, Line, and Sinker-- While patrolling Lake Lewisville, two Denton County game wardens responded to a call of an assault to find that a bank fisherman had flung his lure towards a boat, hooking a female occupant in her right hand. As the woman pulled the hook loose, she lost her phone. Charges are pending.

--Float On-- As a Bell County game warden was wrapping up his day, he responded to a call on Belton Lake in regard to a capsized kayak with a female occupant who was unable to get back in and continued to cling to the boat as she drifted farther from the shoreline. The warden arrived to meet the local fire department as they were transporting one male and one female, still wearing the personal floatation devices (PFDs), and kayaks back to shore. The male subject made the comment to EMS that he had always been made fun of for wearing his PFD while kayaking but noted that wearing them undoubtedly saved two lives that evening.

--You Must be This Tall to Drive-- Denton County game wardens patrolling Lake Lewisville noticed a boat with an adult male driving and a child as his passenger. Minutes later, they no-

ticed the same boat entering a local marina but with the child operating the boat. Upon conducting a water safety inspection and discussing a malfunctioning navigational light with the adult, one of the wardens noticed the smell of alcohol and numerous cues that he was impaired. Since the adult had just been observed operating the boat only a few minutes earlier, he was arrested for Boating While Intoxicated.

--Watts up with that?-- A Houston and a Trinity County game warden patrolled the Trinity River for fishing violations when they approached a man in a boat who appeared to have casually thrown something into the water upon seeing them. Wardens contacted the boat and asked the man what he threw. He denied having thrown anything into the water but one of the wardens recognized him from years ago when he had been caught shocking fish. The man eventually said that he threw a small fish back into the water, but it was later determined by wardens to be wires. Wardens located a shocker still running inside a battery box. While one of the wardens was attempting to open the battery box, the man said that if the box was that hard to get into, the shocker probably wasn't in there. Several cases have been filed and evidence was seized.

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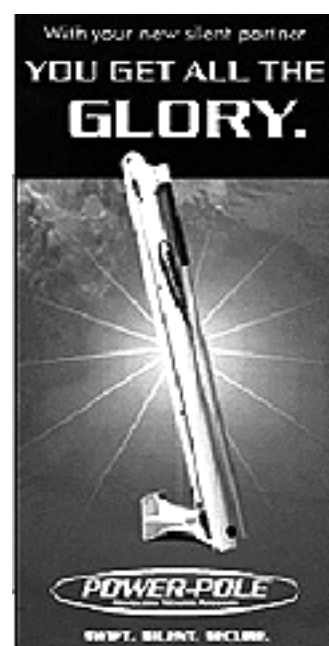
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