

*"The Fisherman's Guide,
News You Can Use"
"Lines To Get Hooked On"*

1 Section

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Free

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February, 2023

No. 282



The 2023 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey on Lake Fork showed good results and the future of this majestic bird in our area. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)

Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

The 2023 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey on Lake Fork was held on January 7th and 8th.

Volunteers were invited to come and participate in the count. Over 22 volunteers came to donate their time and efforts for this great cause.

Mr. Sanford Valentine is the State of Texas

MWBES Coordinator for this event. The Survey Headquarters were Oak Ridge Marina and many of the volunteers came early for breakfast and to enjoy sharing stories and fellowship. Everyone was encouraged to bring their cameras and binoculars.

Different paths for the count were drawn out on a map of the lake

area and the hours for the count were from 8 a.m to 11 a.m. Paths included both on the water and land.

Although the count is for two days only the best count for a single day is documented. This secures no overlapping of the count.

This year's survey of Lake Fork was 19 mature bald eagles and 1 immature.

Walley Marshall "Mr. Crapie" is to be inducted into 2023 Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

Fishing Innovator To Be Inducted Into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame committee is pleased to announce that Wally "Mr. Crapie" Marshall of Anna, Texas, will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2023. Marshall revolutionized crappie fishing through innovative products, tourna-

ments and promotion of the sport. Marshall generously gives back to the fish community through his philanthropic work, teaching youth to fish and donating time and products to multiple charitable organizations and events.

"Wally Marshall's out-

standing accomplishments as a trailblazer in the sport of crappie fishing are unparalleled," said Dan Kessler, Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame selection committee chairman. "His leadership in bringing

(See Fishing Innovator.. Continued on Page 5)



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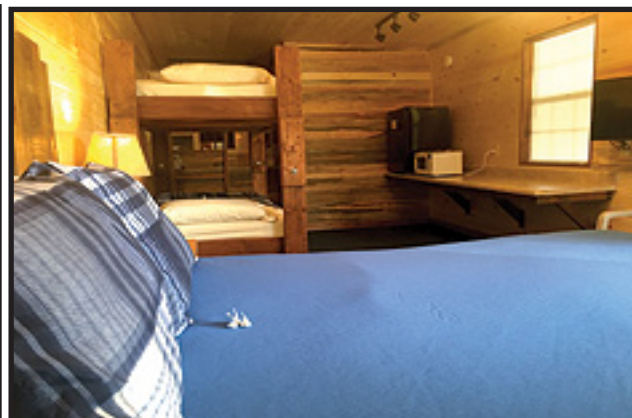
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"Bubba's Valentine Poem To Bubbette!"

By Bubba B. Tuff

Collards is green, My dogs name is Blue, And I'm so Lucky To have a sweet thang like you.	You have some'a Yore teeth, For which I am proud, I hold my head high, When we're in a crowd.	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.	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.	booth Diamonds are forever, They explain, suave and Couth. But for this man, hon- ey, These won't do.	Cause yo're too spe- cial, You sweet thang you. I got you a gift, Without taste nor odor, More useful than diamonds..... IT'S A NEW TROLL'N MOTOR!!!!
Yore hair is like Corn- silk, A-Flapping in the breeze, Softer than Blue's, And without all them fleas.	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.	Cut from the best cloth Like a plaid flannel shirt, You build up my life, More than a fresh load of dirt.	Some men, they buy chocolate, For Valentines day, They git it at Wal- Mart, It's romantic that way.		
You move like the bass, Which excite me in May. You ain't got scales, But I luv you anyway.	Like a good roll of duct tape, Yo're there fer yore man, To patch up lifes trou- bles	When you hold me real tight, Like a padded gunrack, My life is complete, Ain't nuttin' I lack.	Some men git roses, On that special day, From the cooler at Brookeshires, That's impressive, I say.		
Yo're as satisfy'n as okra, Jist a-fry'n in the pan Yo're fragrant as snuff, Right out of the can.	Yore complexion is perfetion, Like new vinyl sidin'. Despite all the years,		Some men buy fine diamonds, From a flea market		



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7 Things to Consider When Choosing a Roofing Company

By Brooks Beeler

There are many options when choosing a roofing company. Here are seven things to consider when choosing yours:

1. **References** – References go hand in hand with experience and how long a company has been in business. Check a company's online profile and website. Check out online reviews. Will the company be around in a year or five years if you have a problem?
2. **Insurance** – Ask the roofing company to provide proof of insurance. If your roofing company has insurance, they should be able to give you a copy of it.
3. **What kind of "Roofing System" are they installing?** – When we talk about a "Roofing System," we are referencing a "brand" and using a particular brand's products. Think of it like driving a Ford truck and taking it in for a repair, and the repair shop wants to repair it with parts from a Dodge. Naturally, you wouldn't like that. A "Roofing System" is the same. A "Roofing System" means all the products installed will be from the same manufacturer. Manufacturers will not warranty mix-and-match products. In-

deed, there are opinions on which brands are the best. Whichever brand is chosen, go all in on that brand using their underlayment, starter, ice and water barrier, field shingles, and hip n ridge product. When you do this, the manufacturer should warranty your roof if installed correctly.

4. **Written estimate** – This one is simple. Get your estimate in writing. Your estimate needs to list the tasks to be completed. It needs to be descriptive. If you do not understand it, ask questions. If it does not include things you agreed to verbally, get it in writing.

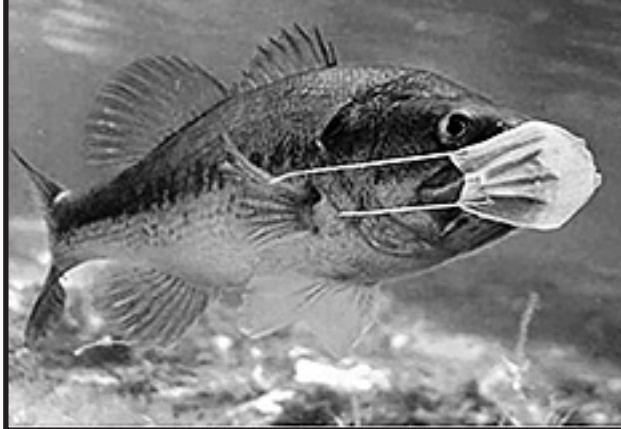
5. **Don't always go with the lowest price** – Low prices are not always the best option. Getting a roof replaced is not as simple as comparing prices at Walmart. Compare options; what kind of roofing system is being installed? Are they removing all existing old roofing material down to the wood decking? Does the contract include repairs to damaged decking? Are they replacing drip-edge? Are they installing all-new accessories like pipe jacks, ventilation, flashing, etc.?

6. **Warranty** – Does the company provide a workmanship warranty? Does the company provide a manufacturer warranty?

7. **Meet in person** – In an age where many things are done online, this should not be one of them. Roofing companies have tools to measure via satellite and drones and others. You can't perform an actual walk around without being there in person. Where will you park a dump trailer? Where will the material be delivered? Where are the septic tanks and water lines? Do you have pets?

An investment like your roof is essential for the protection and value of your home or business. We hope this helps you in making your decision when the time comes.

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Fishing Innovator To Be Inducted Into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame *(Continued from Page 1)*

forth new ideas and innovative products to crappie fishing and the fishing community in general are second to none. On their own merits, these accomplishments warranted Wally's consideration for membership in The Hall of Fame. However, it is Wally's commitment to a lifelong passion for educating current and future anglers as well as the willingness to give his time and resources back to the fishing community that resulted in unanimous support for his induction to the Hall of Fame."

Marshall grew up in Garland, Texas, for 50 years prior to moving to Anna. Marshall's first career was as a master

plumber, but his love and passion are being on the water casting for crappie. Marshall stepped into the crappie fishing spotlight in 1987 when he won the first-ever National Crappie Tournament at Cedar Creek Lake. That tournament victory opened the door for Marshall to promote and teach crappie fishing through seminars at tackle dealers, tackle shows and boat shows, and on radio and television across the state.

Marshall inked his first sponsorship agreement with Joe Hall, owner of Blakemore Lures, maker of the famous "Roadrunner" jig. Marshall launched a crappie fishing guide service in 1989 that operated un-

til 1994 on Lake Fork, Lake Lewisville and Lake Ray Hubbard on weekends and days off. He was the first "crappie only" fishing guide to set up shop on Lake Fork.

Marshall teamed up with Bass Pro Shops to design crappie fishing products in 1997 and trademarked the name "Mr. Crappie" in 1998. Marshall retired as a master plumber in 2002 and pursued his passion of crappie fishing full time, designing "Mr. Crappie" products and promoting the sport of crappie fishing.

Marshall joined forces with Lew's to design "Mr. Crappie" and Wally Marshall Signature Series rods and reels *(Continued on Page 7)*



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"Big Green Fish Still Have to Eat!"

By David Ozio

"A new year has turned the corner and, as usual, Mother Nature has been her normal schizo self. We have recently been engulfed with mild weather stretches only to succumb to single digit temps wreaking severe havoc. I can only imagine what these bass are thinking, "Don't bother me" comes to mind! Nonetheless, with Fork holding around five feet low these big green fish still have to eat. With surface temps much warmer than a year ago this date monsta bass have to be thinking it's time to "Get Down on It". That opportunity to intersect with a ShareLunker

could very well happen shallow on a sunny day.

With all this being said, local guides are your best avenue 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 12-15ft 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

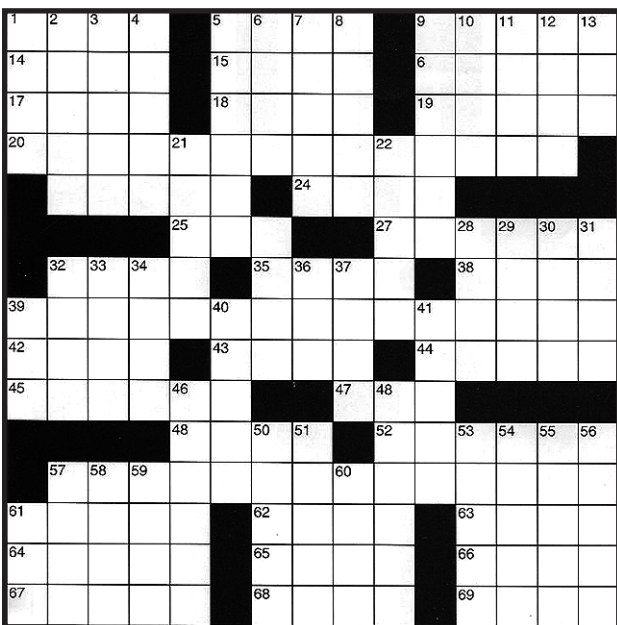


3/16 ounce swimbait head and cover them with any five inch swimbait. As for colors, start with white and adjust from there. I found last year that dark colored baits worked better on a day to day basis. Arkansas Shiner, Dirty Sanchez and Houdini all performed well when using the Reaction Innovation Skinny 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, especially 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

(See Big Green Fish.....
Continued on Page 20)



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Low in degree
- 5. Aid
- 9. _ and Venzetti
- 14. _ Mater, one's school
- 15. A growth-regulating chemical sprayed on fruit trees
- 16. Hindu calendar month
- 17. Double-___ instrument
- 18. Not very intelligent or interested in culture
- 19. Aphrodite's mother
- 20. Watch feature
- 23. Greek Island
- 24. _ Frank's diary
- 25. The compass point
- 27. In a way, expressed audibly
- 32. The compass point that is one point east of southeast
- 35. A small island
- 38. Small drought-resistant sorghums
- 39. Creamy desserts
- 42. Israeli dance
- 43. People descended from a common ancestor
- 44. Walter William ___, British lexicographer
- 45. Musical compositions
- 47. Express delight
- 49. Monotypic genus of palms of Australasia
- 52. Type of bookworm
- 57. Marx Brothers film
- 61. Fops
- 62. ___ Bridges, actor
- 63. A Hindu age
- 64. Turn (obsolete)
- 65. Sunrise (Spanish)
- 66. Egyptian Sun god
- 67. Whole things
- 68. The dried leaves of the hemp plant
- 69. Russian river

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Large cat
- 2. Glyceryl ester
- 3. 24th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 4. Base
- 5. Challenge aggressively
- 6. Hebrew calendar month
- 7. ___dor, Northern country
- 8. A way to dress up
- 9. Make unhappy
- 10. Charge
- 11. Puff filled with cream or custard
- 12. Bevel
- 13. Single unit
- 21. A way to wipe
- 22. Typical geese
- 26. Blame (Scottish)
- 28. A city in the Asian part of Soviet Russia
- 29. Move upward
- 30. Ancient Greek City
- 31. Thou ___ protest too much
- 32. Turn away
- 33. Acquire by one's efforts
- 34. Small nail
- 36. Engine additive
- 37. Mother of Apollo in ancient mythology
- 39. Chronicles, abbr. (Biblical)
- 40. Musical passage
- 41. Escort
- 46. Chalcedonies
- 48. Grand and comic
- 50. Asian rat snakes
- 51. An item of prepared food
- 53. Moshe ___, Israeli leader
- 54. Able to recognize or draw fine distinctions
- 55. A desert in S Israel
- 56. Ethiopian lake
- 57. Longest division of geological time
- 58. Iranian language
- 59. The sister of your parent
- 60. Hearts
- 61. British thermal unit

Answers on Page 21



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Fishing Innovator To Be Inducted Into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame *(Continued from Page 5)*

along with a "Mr. Crappie" fishing line in 2010. Marshall partnered with Strike King the following year to design a wide variety of specialized crappie lures under the "Mr. Crappie by Strike King" brand. As a result, "Mr. Crappie" is one of the most recognized and popular brands in the country.

In 2004, Marshall created the "Mr. Crappie Big Crappie Classic Tournament" with adult and youth divisions to encourage families to spend time together on the water. Marshall had a vision to create a show like the Bassmaster Classic for the crappie industry. Four years ago, the vision became a reality with the inception of the "Crappie Expo." It consists of the "Mr. Crappie" \$300,000 Invitational Tournament, the world's largest crappie fry and a three-day consumer show featuring over 100 exhibitors, including lure and tackle companies, boat manufacturers and tackle dealers.

Marshall has garnered numerous honors and awards throughout his career:

* First-ever National Crappie Tournament Champion at Cedar Creek Lake in 1987

* Multiple crappie tournament titles on Texas lakes that include Texoma, Ray Hubbard, Lavon, Ray Roberts, Lewisville, Fork, Livingston and Tawakoni

* 26-time National Crappie Classic Qualifier

* 2002 National Crappie Angler of the Year

* 2003 National Crappie Classic Champion

* Seven-time National Crappie Classic Runner-Up

* Inducted into the Legends of the Outdoors Hall of Fame in 2008

* Name an "American Icon" in the 2018 February-March issue of Field & Stream magazine

* Numerous articles and TV appearances

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Marshall is committed to introducing kids to the sport of crappie fishing. He has donated numerous fishing trips to youth organizations over the years and took youth fishing from the Buckner's Children's Home in Dallas.

Marshall has donated thousands of dollars of "Mr. Crappie" rods, reels and lures to youth organizations, schools, churches and the Boy Scouts. He was involved with the Garland Police Departments' Mad Dog Fishing tournament that raises money for fallen officers' families. He also donates products and his time to police and fire department functions and fundraisers.

"When I was approached to be nominated, it was a surprise and an honor," said Marshall. "I look at the

years gone by and all the things I've been blessed to do in Texas and abroad. I think about all the people I have met who helped me get to where I am at today as the 2023 inductee. You don't really know how many people you actually touch through your work and I'm grateful that I get to represent Texas in the Hall of Fame. My motto in life and in business is "Whatever It Takes To Get It Done." I wasn't looking for success but I worked hard at it — the reward is having the honor to be included in the Hall of Fame with my peers."

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is housed at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. Its mission is to "recognize and honor those who have made a lasting contribution to freshwater fishing in Texas, and to foster a sense of appreciation, awareness and participation in the sport of fishing."

Since 1997, the Hall of Fame has inducted 37 individuals and organizations, including Gary Klein in 2022. Marshall will be inducted as the 38th member during a ceremony at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center on Oct. 6.

Nomination forms and instructions are available online or by calling (903) 676-2277.

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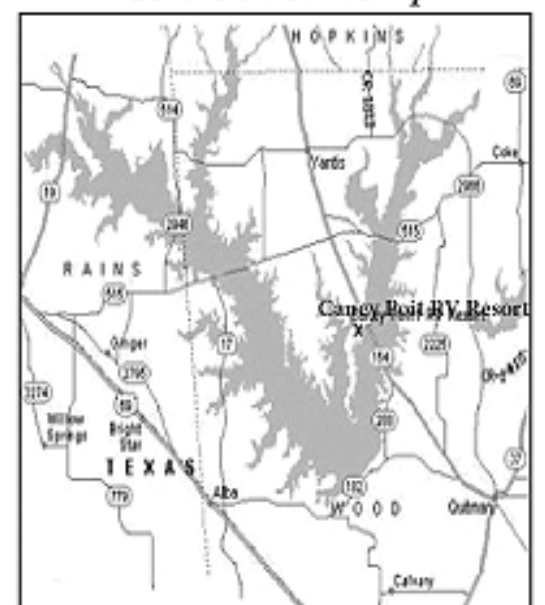
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"The Moon Report" February Crappie

"Forks
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 30-50 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 jig heads. So, if it's 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 5 ft. while they worked 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!

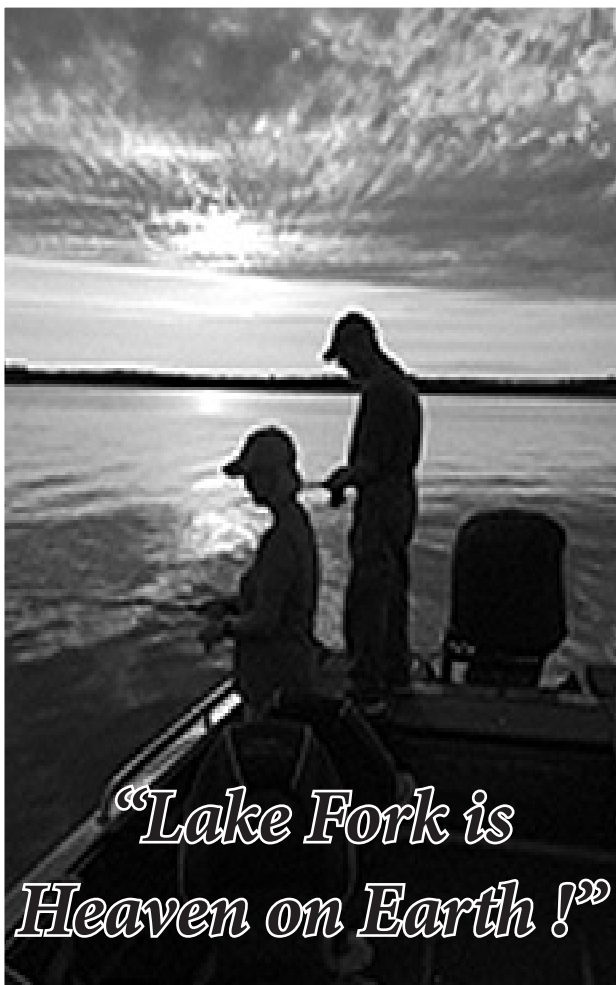
Hopefully this spring we get the much needed rains to help bring our water levels back closer to normal. We've been fortunate to have a milder than usual winter – but, February is notorious for hitting us with an artic blast to remind us "It's still winter!" So, hopefully when it does hit, it won't last long. I'm sure looking forward to the upcoming spring spawn – it won't be long – we're just waiting on water temps to rise. So in the meantime, get your reels re-spooled with fresh line, and get your tackle organized so you'll be ready!

My best to you all!
Be Safe!

Fish Friendly



Dylan, 11 years old, caught his personal best while fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith. A good solid slot. C.P.R.



"Lake Fork is Heaven on Earth!"



Zach Turner and his son were fishing Lake Fork with guide David Ozio when he caught this really nice bass. C.P.R.



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Wilbarger, Montgomery County Game Wardens Honored for Going the Extra Mile

Texas Game Wardens Dyke McMahan and Brannon Meinkowsky were presented recently with separate awards as Shikar Safari Officer of the Year and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife's Officer of the Year, respectively, by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. Nominated by their supervisors for outstanding service in the line of duty, both officers share a passion for conservation, youth outreach and criminal investigation.

Often found patrolling Lake Conroe, Montgomery County Warden Meinkowsky leads his team in boating accident investigations. His thoroughness and attention to detail on cases resulted in high accolades from the Montgomery

County District Attorney's office and various law enforcement organizations.

"As a leader among his peers, he is integral to training local game wardens," said Capt. Jonathan Heaton, Warden Meinkowsky's supervising officer. "He is considered a resource among his peers, devoting his time to classroom instruction for other officers and our partner organizations on Lake Conroe. Those types of cross-agency efforts are the backbone to public safety, especially on the water."

Four hundred miles away in Wilbarger County, Texas Game Warden McMahan's 30-year career in the field culminated with receiving the Shikar Safari Officer of the Year award. Known

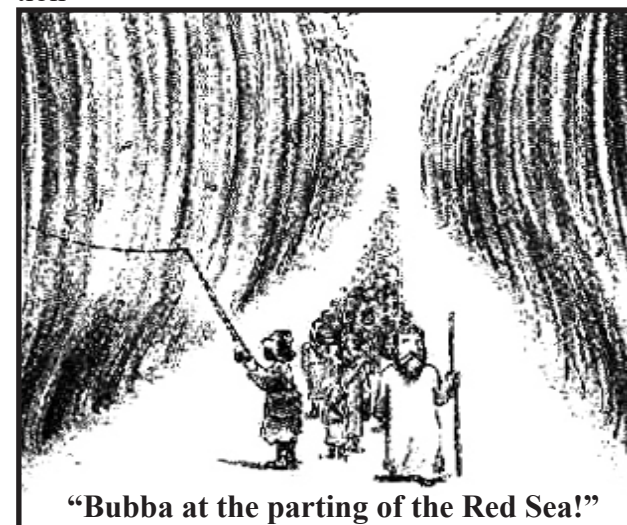
for his positive attitude and wildlife expertise, Warden McMahan's work ethic often makes him the district's "go-to."

public than Warden McMahan," said Capt. Lacy Loudermilk. "Recently, he assisted the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association with felony theft and illegal hunting cases. Numerous stolen cattle, horses, trailers and tack were recovered. Warden McMahan's dedication to community and officer trust sets a precedent throughout the state."

Whether on a ranch or lakeside, Texas Game Wardens continue to support their communities through public outreach and wildlife conservation

for his positive attitude and wildlife expertise, Warden McMahan's work ethic often makes him the district's "go-to."

"There is no one more willing to go the extra mile for fellow officers or members of the



"Bubba at the parting of the Red Sea!"

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Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Confirmed in Texas

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) received test results recently confirming diagnoses of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease virus 2 (RHDV2) in two desert cottontail rabbits and one black-tailed jackrabbit in El Paso County. This marks the first confirmed cases of RHDV2 in wild rabbits in Texas this winter.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) is a highly contagious viral disease that can affect both domestic and wild rabbit species, including hares, jackrabbits and cottontails. This disease is nearly always fatal and primarily affects adult rabbits. The viral agent, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV), is a calicivirus with two strains, RHDV1 and RHDV2, both reported in North America in recent years. RHDV appears only to affect rabbit species (lagomorphs). It is not known to affect humans, livestock or pets other than rabbits. However, pets should not be allowed to consume dead animal carcasses.

TPWD has confirmed RHDV2 in several West Texas counties in recent years. If sick or dead wild rabbits are noticed, a local TPWD wildlife biologist should be contact-

ed. Learn more about RHDV2 in wild rabbits on the RHD page of the TPWD website.

Often, the only clinical sign of the disease is sudden death. In less acute cases, rabbits display dullness/apathy, not eating, bleeding from the nose and eyes or watery, congested eyes. Some may also exhibit neurological signs such as incoordination, excitement or seizure-like episodes.

This highly contagious disease spreads between rabbits through contact with infected rabbits or carcasses, their meat or their fur, contaminated food or water, or materials encountering them. RHDV2 can persist in the environment for a very long time. These factors make disease control efforts extremely challenging once it occurs in wild rabbit populations.

Domestic rabbit owners who have questions about RHDV2 or observe sudden death in their rabbits should contact their private veterinarian. Private veterinarians are requested to contact the USDA-APHIS or the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) to report any suspected cases at 1-800-550-8242. Rabbit owners or breeders should practice biosecurity on their farms

and in their homes. Report all unusual mass morbidity (sickness) or mortality (deaths) events to the TAHC.

Find more information about RHD on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service fact sheet.



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Largemouth Bass Conservation License Plate Celebrates 20 Years of Conservation Milestones

Since 2000, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Conservation License Plate Program (CLPP) has helped generate funds to support state parks, outdoor recreation, wildlife management and research, and conservation projects in Texas. The largemouth bass license plate is celebrating its 20th anniversary and has generated \$893,005 for 93 conservation projects through TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division.

Sales of the largemouth bass license

plate directly fund fisheries habitat, access and conservation efforts in Texas waterways. The largemouth bass plate originally launched in 2002 and was redesigned in 2015. The average annual funding produced by the plate sales is \$41,000.

Projects funded by the largemouth bass plate are implemented in public reservoirs and small fishing lakes across the state. They have included deployment of GPS-marked fish attractors, installation of underwater greenlights at fish-

ing piers, use of aeration systems to improve water quality in small fishing ponds, establishment of native aquatic vegetation, installation of gravel spawning beds, placement of submerged brush piles and support for angler access projects.

"Funds generated from the sale of largemouth bass license plates provide TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division with funding streams that we can leverage into on-the-ground projects to improve

(Continued on Page 15)



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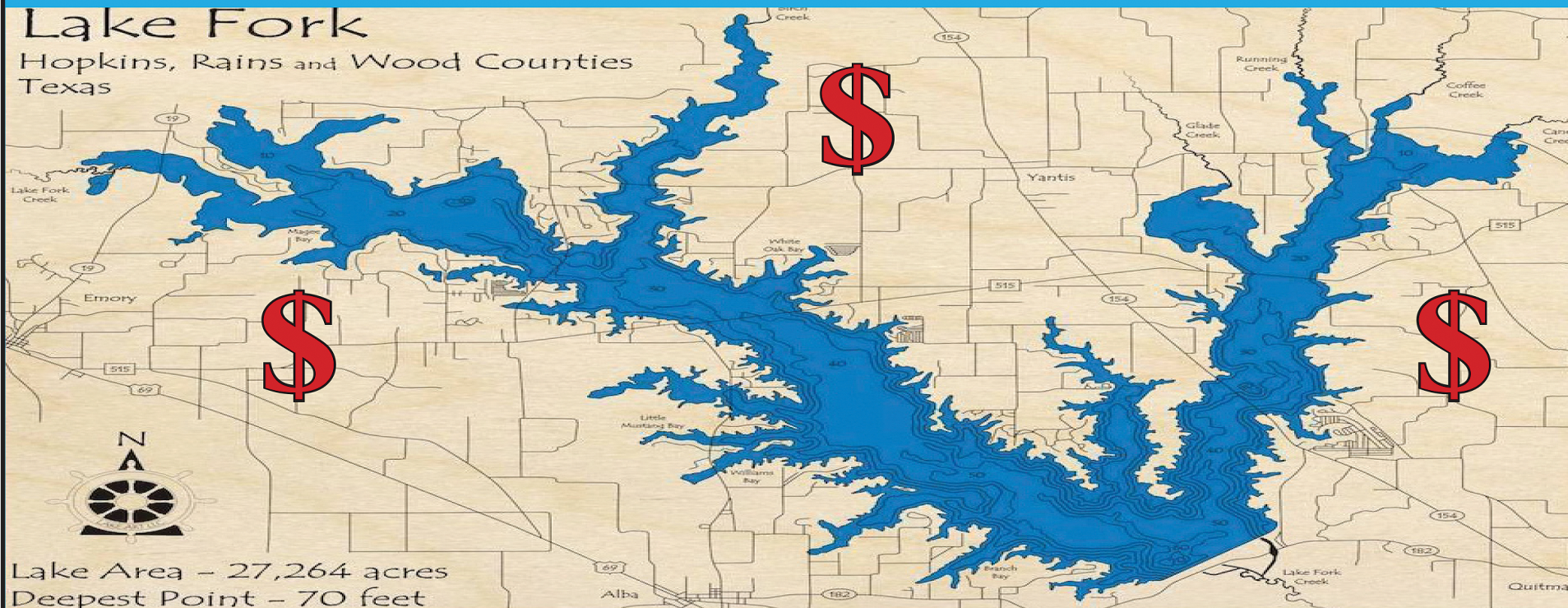
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18th Annual Legend of Lake Fork



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May 19, 20, 21, 2023

\$210,000

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11 PLACES PAID HOURLY 1ST - \$600 • 2ND - \$400 • 3RD - \$300 • 4TH - \$200 • 5TH - \$175
6TH - \$150 • 7TH - \$135 • 8TH - \$125 • 9TH - \$115 • 10TH - \$110 • 1ST OUT OF 10TH \$100 GC

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: **903-360-6994** OR **903-383-7748** EMAIL: **FISHNEWS@LAKEFORK.NET**



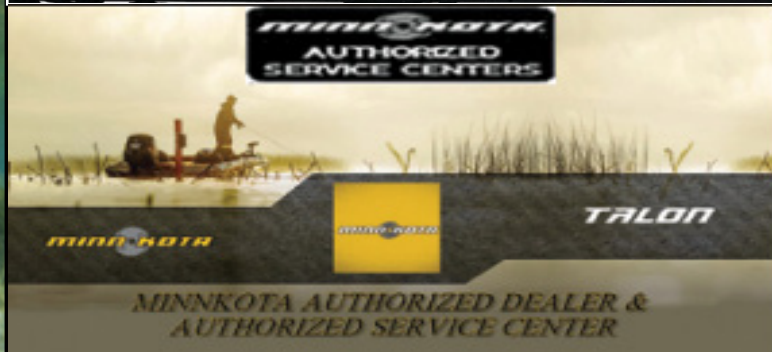
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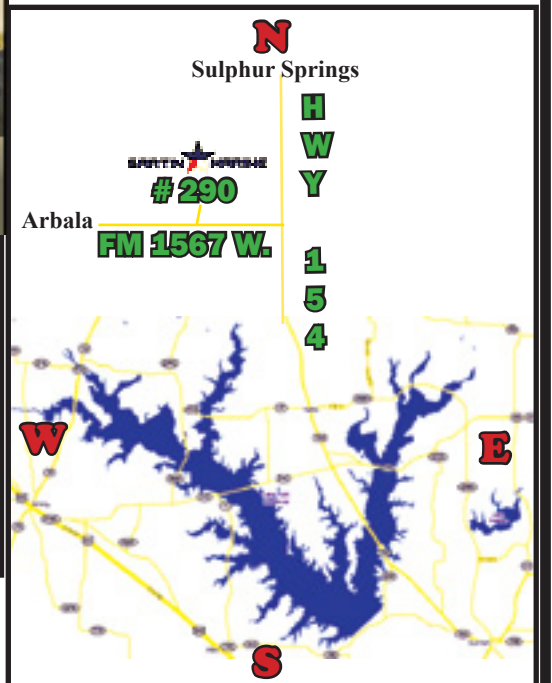


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Largemouth Bass Conservation License Plate Celebrates 20 Years of Conservation Milestones *(Continued from Page 12)*

freshwater fishing, angler access and resource conservation," said Michael Homer, coordinator of TPWD's Reservoir Fish Habitat Initiative.

In addition to the largemouth bass license plate, the Texas rivers plate raises an average of \$40,000 per year for inland fisheries conservation, recreation and management projects. Launched in 2017, funds from the Texas rivers plate are used to support projects that promote paddling and fishing access, invasive species control and fish habitat enhancement in Texas' rivers and streams. Recent projects include rock installation at the Bosque River paddling trail access point below Lake Waco and at the Barrett Road access site above the lake to improve the parking areas and kayak launches.

Funds from the Texas rivers license plate have also been used to purchase plant materials, seed or geotextile fabric for stream bank conservation projects on the Llano, Brazos and Colorado rivers. Rivers plate funding has also supported the Inland Fisheries Division's River Access and Conservation Areas Program, which leases private land along

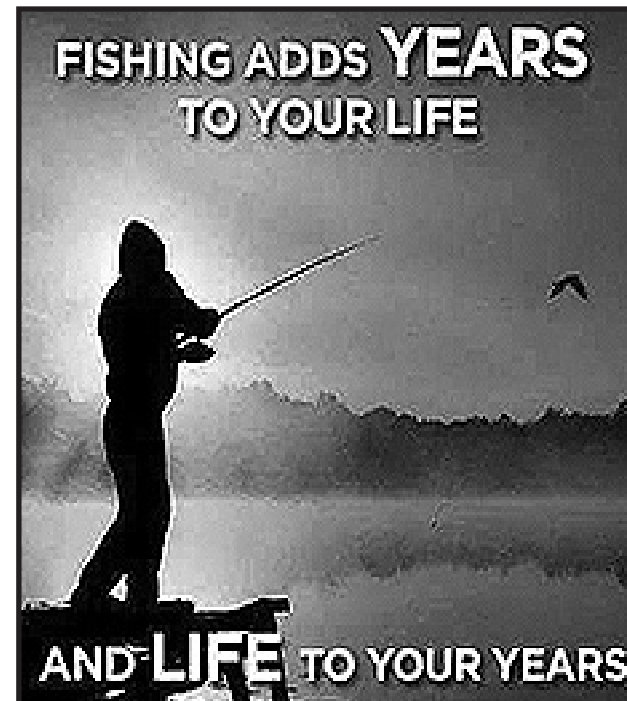
Texas rivers for public access to fishing and paddling. The program is currently supporting 21 public river access areas on nine different rivers.

"The bass and Texas rivers conservation license plates look great on any vehicle," said John Botros, the Inland Fisheries Division's river access coordinator. "When I see one on the road, I know that there is a person who contributes to improving Texas' fishing and paddling resources. It is always fun to see others who help us make life better outside."

Since its debut 22 years ago, the Conservation License Plate program has generated more than \$11 million. In addition to the largemouth bass and Texas rivers plates, other plates in the collection include horned lizard, rattlesnake, monarch butterfly and hummingbird plates benefiting wildlife diversity, white-tailed deer and bighorn sheep plates benefiting big game management, camping and bluebonnet plates benefiting state parks and a roadrunner plate benefiting nature tourism and habitat conservation.

To buy the largemouth bass or Texas rivers plates or one of the other available designs,

visit www.conservationplate.org or your local county tax assessor-collector's office. The plates are available for vehicles, trailers and motorcycles and cost just \$30 – with \$22 going directly to conservation projects. Buyers do not have to wait until they receive a renewal notice, they can order at any time and the cost will be pro-rated.



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May 19, 20, 21, 2023

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For May 19, 20, 21, 2023

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Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Awards \$9.8 Million in Local Park Grants

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved more than \$9.8 million in local park grants to help create and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities.

The competitive grants are allocated to local government entities on a 50/50 reimbursement match basis. Once funded, the sites must remain parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public. Twenty community parks statewide will gain nature trails, native gardens, playgrounds, splash pads, dog parks and sports fields. The commission, which administers the local park grants program for Texas, awarded grants to projects in various categories based on community population and scope.

* Urban Outdoor Recreation Grants are reserved for local units of government with populations of more than 500,000. One community received this grant.

* Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Grants fund park projects in municipalities under 500,000. The commission approved awards to projects in 10 communities.

* Small Community Recreation Grants serve towns of less than 20,000 and were awarded to nine communities.

For more information about the local park grants

program, visit the TPWD local park grants page. The grant awards are listed alphabetically below by region:

Central Texas

The City of Belton in Bell County received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for its Community Park Project at the Historic Water Standpipe. Proposed developments include a playground, pavilion, restroom, native landscaping, parking and site work.

The City of Charlotte in Atascosa County received a \$82,500 small community grant for its Charlotte Baseball Field project. Proposed developments include a ballfield, scoreboard, bleachers and restroom improvements.

The City of Marion in Guadalupe County received a \$50,000 small community grant for its Marion City Park project. Proposed developments include a trail, exercise stations, LED lighting, playground, resurfaced basketball court, native landscaping, butterfly gardens and site amenities.

The City of Nolanville in Bell County received a \$150,000 small community grant for its Fox Park project. Proposed developments include a playground with universal elements, pavilion, skate park, solar lighting, site amenities, butter-

fly garden and native landscaping.

East Texas

The City of Bullard in Smith County received a \$110,082 small community grant for its Bullard Kid's Park — All Inclusive Addition project. Proposed developments include an inclusive playground and poured-in-place safety surfacing.

The City of Hempstead in Waller County received a \$150,000 small community grant for its Hempstead City Park project. Proposed developments include a pavilion, asphalt trail, LED trail lighting, exercise stations, native landscaping, interpretive signage, site amenities and restroom improvements.

The City of Hughes Springs in Cass County received a \$150,000 small community grant for its Hughes Springs Recreational Complex project. Proposed developments include pickleball courts, outdoor fitness elements, solar lighting, interpretive signage, sidewalk replacement, site amenities and parking.

The City of Missouri City in Fort Bend County received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for its Freedom Tree Park project. Proposed developments include a playground, pergola, multi-

(See Texas Parks and Wildlife ... Continued on Page 18)



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Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Awards \$9.8 Million in Local Park Grants *(Continued from Page 17)*

use trail, labyrinth, interpretive signage, native landscaping, site amenities and site work.

North Texas

The City of Bedford in Tarrant County received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for the third phase of its Boys Ranch Park project. Proposed developments include a hike-and-bike trail, tennis courts, disc golf course, pickleball courts, gaga ball pit and site amenities.

The City of Denton in Denton County received a \$598,532 non-urban outdoor grant for its Bowl-

ing Green Park project. Proposed developments include concrete trails, a pavilion, raised ADA planters, habitat restoration, interpretive signage, native landscaping, pedestrian bridge, parking, site amenities and site work.

The City of Kaufman in Kaufman County received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for its Kings Fort Park project. Proposed developments include 10-foot-wide trails, a playground with accessible components, native landscaping, irrigation, site amenities and parking.

The Town of Little Elm in Denton County received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for its Little Elm Park Campground Improvements project. Proposed developments include primitive camping, trails, boardwalk, community green area, native landscaping, irrigation, interpretive and wayfinding signage, site amenities and site work.

The City of Mansfield in Tarrant County received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for its James McKnight Park West project. Proposed developments include trails, playground, disc golf course, pavilion, native landscaping, irrigation, interpretive and wayfinding signage, site amenities, parking and site work.

The City of Newark in Wise County received a \$150,000 small community grant for its Delora Doughty Royal Park project. Proposed developments include a basketball court, pavilion, trail, butterfly garden, native landscaping, solar lighting, site amenities, parking and site work.

The City of Quinlan in Hunt County received a \$150,000 small community grant for its Quinlan Community Park project. Proposed developments include a concrete trail, exercise stations, solar LED trail lighting, pickleball courts, ballfields, native landscaping and interpretive signage.

The City of Reno in Lamar County received a \$150,000 small community grant for its Reno Kiwanis Park All-Inclusive Playground project. Proposed developments include a playground with ADA elements and playground surfacing.

South Texas
The Cameron County Parks and Recreation Department received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for its Bejarano-McFarland Memorial Park improvements project. Proposed developments include a recirculating splash pad, trail, sidewalk, covered basketball court, pavilion, universal playground elements, native landscaping, irrigation, LED lighting, interpretive and park signage, restroom improvements, site amenities and site work.

The City of Laredo in Webb County received a \$656,065 non-urban outdoor grant for its Riverbend Trails project. Proposed developments include hike-and-bike trail improvements, concrete trails, a gazebo and site amenities.

The City of Port Isabel in Cameron County received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for the second phase of its Laguna Madre Park Renovation project. Proposed developments include a universal design ballfield, field lighting, scoreboards, irrigation, ADA fitness equipment and a bike rack with a bike repair station. Additional


(See Texas Parks and Wildlife ... Continued on Page 21)

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

44th Semi-Annual Open Tournament

Mar. 18, 2023 * Lake Fork, Texas
Oak Ridge Marina * Hwy 154 N.

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

<table border="0"> <tr><td>1st Place</td><td>\$1,040.00</td></tr> <tr><td>2nd Place</td><td>\$780.00</td></tr> <tr><td>3rd Place</td><td>\$520.00</td></tr> <tr><td>4th Place</td><td>\$260.00</td></tr> <tr><td>5th ~ 10th</td><td>\$100.00</td></tr> </table>	1st Place	\$1,040.00	2nd Place	\$780.00	3rd Place	\$520.00	4th Place	\$260.00	5th ~ 10th	\$100.00		<p>There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>1st Place</td><td>\$500</td></tr> <tr><td>2nd Place</td><td>\$300</td></tr> <tr><td>3rd Place</td><td>\$200</td></tr> </table>	1st Place	\$500	2nd Place	\$300	3rd Place	\$200
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2nd Place	\$780.00																	
3rd Place	\$520.00																	
4th Place	\$260.00																	
5th ~ 10th	\$100.00																	
1st Place	\$500																	
2nd Place	\$300																	
3rd Place	\$200																	

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00
 2. Early entries must be postmarked by Mar. 11, 2023.
 3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Mar. 18, 2023.
 4. Check in times: Fri., Mar. 17, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Mar. 18, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at Oak Ridge Marina.
 5. To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.
 6. 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.
 7. Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer allowed).
 8. Contestants must fish from a boat. NO-bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
 9. Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
 10. 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.
 11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
 12. 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).
 13. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.
 14. 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.
 15. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
 16. No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
 17. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).
 18. 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. 11, 2023 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.

<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contestants Signature _____</p> <p>Minor's Release: Signed by _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">TTB USE ONLY</p> <p>Entry # _____</p> <p>Entry Fee _____</p> <p>Big Bass _____</p> <p>Cash _____ Chk# _____</p>
---	---

Parent/Guardian _____

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

By Terry Long, President 2023 LFSA

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association is preparing for the 2023 Tournament Season here on Lake Fork and we recently held Captains training for our 24' Live Release Boat (LRB). The training program for 6 members was instructed by Captain Bruce Allen. Mr. Allen is a charter member of LFSA and has operated the Live Release Boat for a number of years along with Captain Ray Carter. Both Mr. Allen and Mr. Carter are stepping down from running the LRB this year. On behalf of LFSA and all the Tournament Director's we thank them for all their hard work and dedication in running the LRB. This year Director Mr. Roger Belk will be heading up the schedule and use of the LRB.

The Live Release Boat was purchased in 2000 and is available at no cost to be reserved on a first come basis for tournaments on Lake Fork. The personalized attention the fish receive along with three 100 storage tanks on the LRB help to reduce the stress on the fish that are caught and weighed in during a tourna-

ment. We have an estimated 99% success rate of safely returning bass back into Lake Fork during a tournament. Come by and get a tour of the LRB during your next tournament. To schedule the use of the LRB at your tournament you can contact Mr. Roger Belk, GoFish Lures / GoFish Cafe, at 903-309-8465 or Terry Long at 214-206-7504.

LFSA conducts their monthly meet-

ings at 6:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month at Moser's Restaurant located at Lake Fork Marina. We would love to grow our membership in order to continue Preserving the Legend of Lake Fork. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Tight Lines!



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.



For the past 24 years Lake Fork Sportsman's Association has been Preserving the Legend that is Lake Fork with their Live Release Boat at tournaments releasing catches back healthy in the lake, planting new grasses, and establishing fish habitat.

Practice C.P.R.

Practice Safe Boating

"Wish To Fish Foundation"

903-383-7748

Needs Your Help!!!

If you know a family that has a child that meets our criteria, just have them call us.

We'll take over from there!

*"Every child deserves a chance to fish!" Children diagnosed or who have experienced a life-threatening illness or accident sometimes do not have that opportunity. Now through the "Wish to Fish Foundation" they can have that day in the sun with their family. Any family with a child between the ages 3 to 18 years of age that has been diagnosed or treated for a life-threatening illness or accident is invited to come fish Lake Fork for any species of fish at **NO COST!** Lodging, meals, and fishing are provided for. This allows the family to spend quality time together fishing without worries or expenses. The outing includes one night lodging, meals, refreshments, snacks, all on a 26' Tritoon Pontoon, (accompanied with a 9-1-1 chase boat for any emergency that may occur. All bait and fishing equipment provided. If you are, or know of a family that meets the above criteria, contact us! Help us spread the word, we are here for the children!*

*For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director
visit our website: www.wishtofishfoundation.com*



"Big Green Fish Still Have to Eat!" *(Continued from Page 6)*

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 USA, Talon Custom Lures, Dakota Lithium Batteries and Skeeter Boats 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."



Clancy Sneed with David Ozio



Zach Turner & son with David Ozio

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Texas Parks & Wildlife Awards *(Continued from Page 18)*

improvements include a universal playground with surfacing, universal design picnic site, native habitat enhancement, improvements to restroom/concessions, site work and interpretive signage.
West Texas
El Paso County re-

ceived a \$1.5 million urban outdoor grant for its Horizon View Park project. Proposed developments include a playground with inclusive elements, playground surface, multi-sport courts, soccer fields and accessible outdoor fitness equip-

ment. Additional developments include a hike-and-bike trail, pavilion, picnic shelters, a garden, site amenities with ADA components, lighting, native landscaping, parking, sidewalks, interpretive signage and site work.



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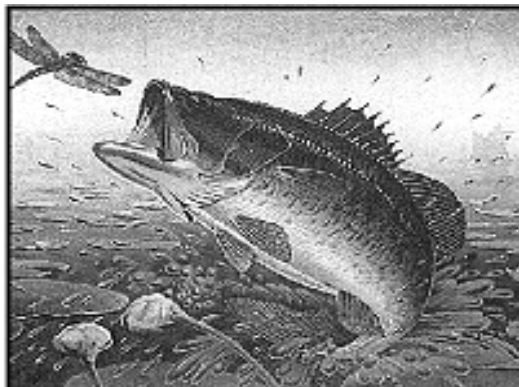
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Up, Up and Away Word Find

Search up, down and diagonally to find and circle each of the "high-flying" words in the puzzle below. Ready for takeoff?

- | | | |
|----------|---------|------------|
| FLYING | KITE | LIFT |
| AIRPLANE | SHUTTLE | HELICOPTER |
| JET | PILOT | COCKPIT |
| WINGS | BALLOON | |
| BIRD | GLIDER | |

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

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

--Premature Celebration-- A Red River County game warden was assisting a landowner in the evening when he heard what he believed to be duck hunters shooting well past legal hours. After relocating and talking to multiple deer hunters, the warden was able to locate a group of duck hunters celebrating their recent kill nearly 45 minutes after legal shooting hours. The five duck hunters killed a total of 21 ducks. Multiple

citations were issued for hunting ducks after legal shooting hours and various other violations. Cases and civil restitution pending.

--Poaching on the Job-- A Bexar County game warden received an Operation Game Thief complaint about a deer killed in San Antonio City limits and immediately went to pick up the poached deer. The next day game wardens made contact with construction workers that were working at the housing development where the deer was killed. After interviewing one of the subjects, he said that he had killed a deer in Devine.

After more questioning he confessed that he did indeed shoot two deer in the housing development construction property. The landowner was notified, and the workers are no longer allowed on the property and charges are pending.

--Dazed and Confused-- Two Montgomery County game wardens approached a man parked by a local boat ramp when they noticed the odor of marijuana coming from his vehicle. He admitted to possessing the marijuana and was arrested while protesting, "I thought this was Harris County!" After being told he was

(Continued on Page 24)

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Football Fans Score A Touchdown With Simple Avocado Dishes

By Sue Hampton

Super Bowl time is here and now is the time to plan your game day menu. Tired of the same old party foods. With bragging rights on the line, delicious food is the most important element of any event!

Preparing a Super Bowl party doesn't have to mean limited game day snacks. The must-have item across the country is the Hass avocado. Fans are learning that this fruit is so much more than guacamole. It adds a creamy and delicious



"Hass avocados are easy to work with and add a burst of flavor to your dishes!"

flavor that will transform ordinary snacks into tantalizing meals.

Avocados are an easy ingredient to work with and will add a burst of flavor to your dishes. Some simple ways to incorporate Hass avocados into recipes include:

- * Topping a burger or a hot dog with fresh slices of a avocado – the marrying of warm grilled meat with cool and creamy avocado is delicious
- * Making a base of guacamole dip and setting up small bowls of "add-ins" so that each party-goer can personalize his or her own game day dip
- * Creating wraps or sandwiches with mashed avocado as a spread along with your favorite meats
- * Making a chunky salsa of Hass avocados, corn, bell pepper and chilies to top off your barbecued meats
- * Adding avocados to your make-ahead salads. They can bring a velvety texture to potato salads, pasta salads and green salads

For the ultimate grilling experience, try grilling Hass avocados right on your barbecue.

Haute Grilled Hass Avocados

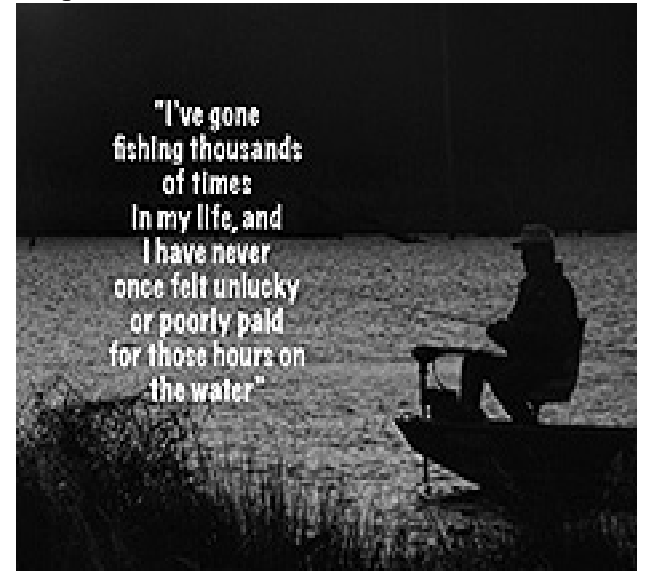
- 2 Hass avocados
- 2 Tbsp. Fresh lime or lemon juice
- 1-1/2 Tbsp. Olive oil
- Seasoned salt to taste
- 1/2 cup fresh salsa, optional for half shell version

Instructions For Grilled Slices:

1. Cut avocado in half, seed, peel and slice.
2. Drizzle with fresh lime or lemon juice and brush lightly with olive oil.
3. Gently place slices on grill over hot coals for 2 minutes on each side.
4. Season with salt to taste.

For Grilled Half Shells:

1. Cut avocado in half and remove seed.
2. Drizzle with fresh lime or lemon juice and brush lightly with olive oil.
3. Gently place cut side down on grill over hot coals for 2-3 minutes.
4. Season with salt to taste.
- 5 Optional: Fill with fresh salsa.





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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

in Montgomery County, he was transported to the Montgomery County Jail. Case pending.

--Familiar Faces--A Titus County game warden caught three men fishing on Lake Welsh without fishing licenses. One of the subjects gave a false name and date of birth, refusing to cooperate in providing his identity and even requested an ambulance because he was so upset. After the ambulance arrived, he refused transport and gave the EMT's a different date of birth when he signed the refusal for transport. The man was arrested and transported to the Titus County Jail for failure to identify and no fishing license. At the jail, his real name and date of birth was located and found to have been previously issued a citation in 2009 by the same warden for no fishing license. Citations were issued to the man for no fishing license and for failure to identify, and he was released.

--Fishing for Trouble-- Several Bexar County game wardens were patrolling Calaveras Lake when they stopped an unregistered vessel. The operator said he was only test driving the boat, but later revealed he was fishing and had purchased a one-day fishing license. After a short investigation, it was discovered that he was wanted for felony warrants by the Bexar County Sheriff's Office. The operator was arrested, transported, and booked into the Bexar County Jail.

--Be One With the Tree-- A Bexar County game warden was patrolling the property around Ca-

laveras Lake where access is restricted when two subjects were caught trespassing on powerplant property. When the warden identified himself as law enforcement, the pair fled into the brush. One surrendered and came back to the roadway, so they were cited and released. The other could not be located because of the thickness of the brush. The warden called for backup and a second Bexar County game warden came to assist in the search for the other trespasser. The wardens searched the brush for about an hour and found the subject hiding behind a mesquite tree waiting for a vehicle to pick him up. The man was arrested for criminal trespass and evading arrest or detention, and booked into the Bexar County Jail.

--Creeping on Critters--Two game wardens were conducting night patrols in Kimble County where several reports of possible night road hunting had been occurring. The wardens had been sitting in their location for about 10 minutes when they heard the first of multiple gunshots and saw a group

of people spotlighting. With the use of night vision goggles, the wardens located the individuals and made contact with them. The 11 individuals had permission to be on the property they were hunting on, but all were from out of state and did not possess a valid Texas hunting license. The individuals had shot several jack rabbits, raccoons and other non-game animals. The wardens issued 11 citations for hunting non-game animals without a valid Texas hunting license.

--Axis Denied-- An Edwards County game warden and a Real County game warden had been investigating an individual for several weeks for hunting from a public roadway. One day, a landowner called in a suspicious vehicle driving very slowly so the Edwards County game warden responded to the call from several miles away. While in-route he received a second call saying the individuals were seen taking an axis deer from the public road. The individuals were apprehended and confessed. Mul-

(Continued on Next Page)

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tiple charges have been filed and cases are pending.

--Oh, Crap(pie)--Two Travis County game wardens were patrolling Decker Lake when they encountered two different groups of men fishing with cast nets from boats and jet skis. Upon further investigation, the game wardens found both groups in possession of multiple game fish including bass and crappie. The wardens took possession of the fish and donated them to a family on the shore. Multiple citations and civil restitution are pending.

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

--Lost and Found--Two Angelina County game wardens responded to a call about a lost hunter in Angelina National Forest. Upon arrival at the scene, the wardens found out the man had been missing for several hours and was a diabetic. Temperatures were dropping because of an approaching cold front so the wardens called UAV operators from TPWD's

Wildlife Division and a Tyler County game warden, and a TPWD K-9 handler for assistance as part of a joint operation with U.S. Forest Service rangers, Jasper County EMS, a Texas Department of Public Safety helicopter and fire department volunteers. After searching for several hours, the wardens received a GPS coordinate of the missing man and they were able to locate him in the woods. He was in a pre-hypothermic state when he was found and was treated by EMS.

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

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

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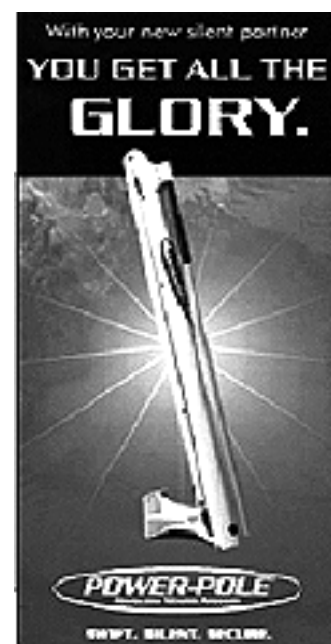
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February

Feb. 18 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket

Feb. 19 ~ Media Bass
Minnow Bucket

Feb. 25 ~ BassChamps N. Div.
Lake Fork Marina

Feb. 26 ~ JC Outdoors Individual
Minnow Bucket



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Mar. 18 ~ Tex. Trails Open
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Mar. 19 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket

Mar. 25 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket

Mar. 26 ~ Mega Bass (Bass Champs)
Lake Fork Marina



April

Apr. 15 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket

Apr. 29 ~ Media Bass
Minnow Bucket

Apr. 30 ~ JC Outdoors Individual
Minnow Bucket

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