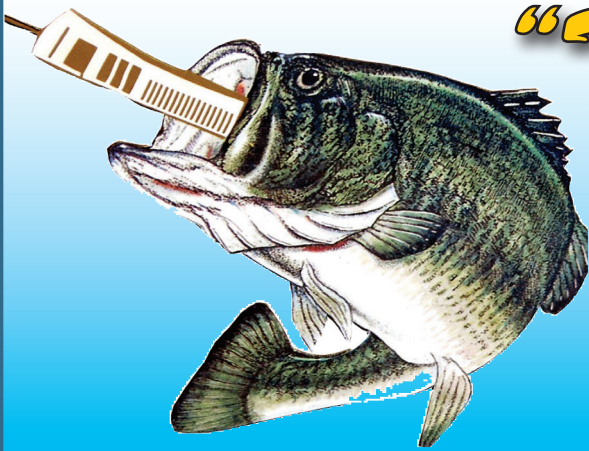


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June, 2023

No. 286



Mark Van Winkle from Converse, Louisiana took home \$40,700 when he brought to the scales this winning bass overall in the 18th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament weighing 9.48-pounds.



Cody Abbott from Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma was leading in the 18th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament with his bass weighing 9.47-pounds before getting edged out by 1/100 of a pound.



Tim Weaver from Edgewood, Texas won the heaviest bass under the slot in the 18th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament with his bass weighing 2.52-pounds winning him a total of \$30,700.



Royce Farmer, Jr. from Jennings, Louisiana couldn't believe when his name was drawn for the \$20,000 early entry incentive by Lilly Anderson, a Wish to Fish Foundation Participate and St. Jude Child of the Month. (See Full Story on Page 4)



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"Bubba Can't Be Cured From Pre-Tournament Dithers!"

By: Don Hampton

Bubba does tend to get into a dither whenever he is about to fish a tournament. His behavior before the event can only be compared to a child's before Christmas morning anticipating their first new bicycle.

Bubette misses him when he is out of town fishing tournaments but the one thing she doesn't miss are the preparations he goes through to prepare himself. This is the time when the game room in their home takes on the look of a ½ off sale at a major fishing tackle store.

Bubba will take everything out of his boat just so he will only take what is essential for the "Rip a Lip" event. He'll have a stack of plastics, all different shapes, sizes, and colors covering the top of their pool table. Spinnerbaits, buzzbaits, different colored skirts, trailer hooks, and changeable blades will fill the sofa. (Sometimes he will pull out the hide-a-bed so he will have even more room).

The bar in the game room is reserved for Bubba's crankbaits. This space is never large enough for his assortment of the necessary array of deadly baits the bass just can't resist, so usually there is a folding picnic table replacing the stools to allow for enough space. This accumulation of "Bubba's Stuff" could fill a long row at Bass Pro Shop. He will have his lipless baits such as Rattlin' Rapalas and Rattle Traps all lined up in assorted weights, colors and sizes all in a neat little row. Then

he'll take and line up all his diving baits. All categorized (according to him) in color, diving depths, and weight.

Once all the tackle has completely taken all available space in the game room, then it is time to break out the rods and reels. His scrutiny of these would put a safety inspector at NASA to shame. He'll check the gears, the bearings, the seating, and all working components. When this is completed to his satisfaction then it is time for the line. This in itself is quite an ordeal. On each of the multitude of rod n' reels he has to have just the right pound test and just the right colored line for the water to be fished.

After this two-day process has been completed, he is then ready to downsize and take just what will be important for the tournament. At this stage of preparation it is Bubba jumping from one piece of furniture to another picking out baits he can't float his boat without.

Bubette really finds this stage of preparation the most humorous. She takes a ringside seat to watch Bubba slip into his "in a dither mode". She just loves it when he starts talking to his baits and mumbling his expectations of them all in the upcoming event. He'll make comments at each stop. These comments will range from, "Oh, I've got to have that," or "That one is sure enough a killer," or "Can't go anywhere without that pack!" Having seen this comedy sketch many times before she knows exactly what the outcome will be.

Well, it never fails! When Bubba has finally downsized

to just the essentials needed so he'll have more room in his boat, everything is back in the boat! Not one bait, lure, or hook is left behind. "Heck, that might be the one that catches the winning fish," Bubba will say.

Then comes packing for the trip. A survivalist attempting a track through the Amazon could learn much from Bubba. He takes coffee pot, coffee, filters, ointments, lotions, lots of extra clothes and caps, (he has to look the part), food, food, and more food, and a first aid kit in case he gets a scratch and Bubette isn't there to kiss it and make it better. After this he is ready. He has to be, there isn't room for anything else except his fishing partner and he is only allowed one tackle bag and one rod n' reel.

With all preparations completed at last it is time to get some rest. Bubba really presses his luck with Bubette here because he wants all televisions off at 9 P.M. Bubette is amazed how he'll always set the alarm an hour earlier than necessary and always wakes before it goes off. She'd like to know how to get him to do this on a workday without hitting the snooze control four or five times.

Bubba also has a system for determining how good a day of fishing he is going to have. If he backlashes the toilet paper first thing in the morning, he knows its not going to be a good day. If the toothpaste slips out of his hand, he's going to lose a big one, and if Bubette doesn't tell him to be sure and put the plug in the boat... need I say more!!

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18th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

Excitement ran high over Lake Fork at the 18th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament. Though Mother Nature blew in a northern on Thursday night having everyone scuffling for coats on Friday morning, that was the only intense weather. Friday the weather cleared, the wind laid down and the rest of the weekend proved excellent weather.

Over 800 anglers representing 23 states and 2 countries converged on Lake Fork. A few of the states represented were Washington, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, North

Carolina, New Mexico, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, and Iowa.

Lake Fork being a slot lake, meaning anything between 16" and 24" cannot be brought to the weigh-in, the tournament rule is no bass can touch 16". The reason for this rule is not only to protect the anglers but also because we give a grand prize away for the heaviest under 16".

Whether it was the lake having come up close to 6-feet in the past few months or the much changing weather we've had, the bite on Lake Fork could only be described as fair. Anglers reported a lot of bass being caught in the

slot but as we all know, they are great to catch but do not help in a Lake Fork tournament. It was disappointing for the anglers that brought those slot fish to the scales and had their visits with the men in tan with badges.

On Friday there were two bass over the slot of 24" brought to the scales. This didn't hurt the feelings of the 2-pound plus winners in the hours. In the 9 to 10 o'clock hour Cody Abbott from Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma weighed in a bass weighing 9.47-pounds. In the following hour James Harrison from Alvord, Texas weighed in an over weighing 5.77-pounds.

(Continued on Next Page)



Jerry Simonson from Tenaha, Texas won 1st Place in the 7 to 8 o'clock hour on Saturday of the 18th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament when he weighed in this hawg weighing 9.42-pounds. For his great catch he took home an extra \$700. (More pics on Page 9)

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On Saturday there were three over the slot bass brought to the weigh in. It began with the 7 to 8 o'clock hour. In this hour Jerry Simonson from Tenaha, Texas weighed in a 9.42-pound bass. The next bass was a heart breaker beating out the 9.47-pound by 1/100 of a pound. This bass was weighed in during the 10 to 11 o'clock hour by Mark Van Winkle from Converse, Louisiana and weighed 9.48-pounds. The third over the slot was weighed in during the 11 to 12 o'clock hour by Richard Holly from Ranger, Texas and weighed 8.68-pounds.

On Sunday there was only one over weighed in. This bass weighed in during the 7 – 8 o'clock hour and was caught by Hayden Gowin from

Wills Point, Texas and weighed 7.46-pounds. During the 9 to 10 o'clock hour Tim Weaver from Edgewood, Texas weighed in an under 16" bass weighing 2.52-pounds. This bass stood as the heaviest under during the tournament, not only winning him the hour but also the grand prize of \$30,000.

Mark Van Winkle's bass weighing 9.48-pounds held up as the heaviest during the tournament winning him an extra \$40,000.

In the early incentive drawing, by Wish to Fish special child Lilly Anderson and also a St. Jude Child of the month, Royce Farmer Jr. was the name she drew out of all the early entries. For his name being drawn and for hav-

ing entered before April 30th, he took home an extra \$20,000 in cash.

In closing, I would like to send out a very special thank you to all of our sponsors and local businesses for helping us to make this tournament an annual success. I especially want to thank all my workers that lighten the load for me and for doing such a great job. This couldn't be done without all of you!

Anglers mark your calendars for the 19th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament to be held May 17, 18, 19, 2024.

For all the hourly results see page 18 and for more photos page 9.

Take care, stay healthy, fish friendly, and God Bless.



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"Much Will Change as We Coast into June!"

By David Ozio

"Quite a different scenario this year compared to this time last year. Fork is almost pool level and the surface temps are substantially lower as of this writing. Much of this will change as we coast into June and I suspect the lake will be at full pool before we know it. We are coming off a very unusual spring in which fish in general have been quite hard to find. The bulk of numbers that we have had through April were mostly bed fish. I also saw the moving bait bite to be insanely tough heading into the summer action. Big bass have finally started to move deep and I sus-

pect June will see them grouped up. Seriously looking forward to that! It's time to sharpen your skills with the electronics because these graphs will be the key to locating these roaming big fish pods.

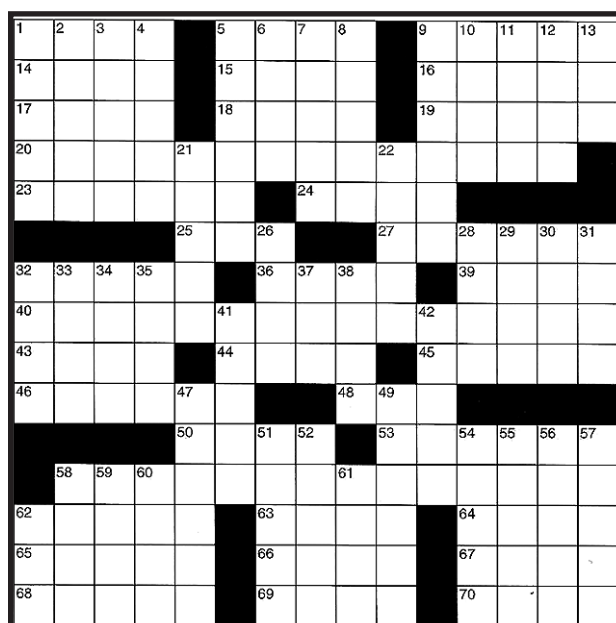
Understanding what you see on your electronics is critical and I take for granted that everyone already has the ability to read these high tech graphs. If not, there are several skilled gentlemen around Lake Fork who can open your eyes to what these amazing machines can do for you. The next skill would be to determine where to look and how to recognize the bass that will start to gang up on certain types of structure. As stated earlier, humps and ridges are excellent but you can start with long tapering points. The next chore will be to ascertain what depth range where the green critters will set up shop. Start your scan in 35ft and graph your way into the 15ft range and then reverse course and head back to the starting point using a different track. Repeat this process until you have covered the entire point from front to back. If you see a group of arches on the screen during any one pass, set a waypoint on that location and put out a marker buoy on that spot once you have combed the entire area. During this time of the year, most fish will be on the bottom so you can fo-



cus your fish catching strategies on the Carolina rig, drop shot, Texas rig, jigs or crankbait. Flukes, brush hogs or any straight or curl tail worm will work using standard colors such as watermelon candy, red-bug, plum or watermelon red. As for cranking, shad colored crankbaits along with chartreuse blue back also works well.

Next, let's venture out to the offshore humps or ridges. Graph these locations back and forth until you spot the likely targets. Drop a waypoint on the fishy looking spot and fish each technique until you determine what presentation they favor. If your after

a lunker of a lifetime, the jig with matching trailer will be your "go to" bait. To round out your search, target roadbeds and submerged structures such as brush piles or laydown timber. If the arches show up on your graph, pitch out a marker buoy and go to work. It's not rocket science, it's just locating where the fish are positioned. If all of this is somewhat confusing, your best bet will be to hire a full time Lake Fork guide and spend the day covering the aforementioned areas and have him point out what you need to be fishing. Bass move from day to day and they may be set up in one spot today and a hundred yards away tomorrow. Water temps, current from waves and sun angle all



CLUES ACROSS

1. Large chest muscles
5. Ready money
9. Dark or somber
14. Make whoopee
15. Celery (Spanish)
16. Declare
17. Look
18. Will not (obsolete)
19. "1836 siege" of United States
20. "____ Stranger," 1952 Bette Davis film (four words)
23. Swimming movement
24. Flatfish
25. Tax collector
27. Productive
32. Moses' elder brother (Bible)
36. Fabrics
39. Get possession of
40. Vonnegut novel
43. Friends (French)
44. Where computer nerds meet
45. Frederick _____, French statesman
46. Puffed
48. Way to gain a point
50. Despoiled
53. Fervent
58. 1953 Morton Thompson best seller
62. Confines
63. Defy
64. God of fire (Hindu)
65. Elicit, in a way
66. Lyrics
67. Tai
68. Military quarters
69. Understands
70. Goidelic language of Ireland

CLUES DOWN

1. Supports
2. Octet
3. Beautify
4. One who takes dictation
5. Sign of the zodiac
6. Capital of Samoa
7. Window frames
8. Royal _____ way, London university
9. Without excess
10. Quick tempo (abbr.)
11. Side of a ship
12. Buddhist monk
13. Tokyo
21. Supplementing with difficulty
22. Blink of an eye
26. To satisfy
28. Water (Spanish)
29. Male singer
30. Falsehoods
31. Want
32. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
33. _____ mater, one's school
34. H₂O
35. Remove
37. Social gathering
38. Subject
41. Enwraps
42. Classical music
47. Deletes
49. Loving touch
51. Portuguese folk songs
52. Hebrew letter
54. Enzyme
55. Lasiocampid moth
56. Babies (Spanish)
57. Cycle
58. Ryukyu Islands city (Japan)
59. Old-Irish alphabet
60. Part-time employee
61. Gum, for one
62. Reciprocal of sine (abbr.)

Answers on Page 21

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(See Much Will Change....
Continued on Page 20)

TPWD Provides Anglers with Best Practices for Catch and Release of Alligator Gar

Alligator gar hold a special place in Texans' hearts as the largest and longest-living freshwater species in the state. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) works to ensure healthy populations remain in Texas for future generations to enjoy. As waters warm and alligator gar fishing heats up this summer, TPWD is working with anglers, who play a key role in conservation efforts through proper catch-and-release practices.

"Catch-and-release fishing for alligator gar has become quite popular and data from a current evaluation in progress indicates high survival rates for released fish," said Dan Daugherty, TPWD Inland Fisheries senior scientist. "We've even recorded some fish being caught and released three or four times over multiple years."

TPWD biologists have put together some best practices for anglers to follow when they head out to the water in search of these massive fish. Alligator gar can grow up to eight feet long and weigh more than 300 pounds. The best available science suggests gar anglers follow these key guidelines to maximize survival:

1. Use non-stainless-steel tackle and hooks no larger than 3/0.

TPWD recommends the use of single hook styles no larger than 3/0 when fishing for alligator gar. Larger hooks are more likely to result in damage to internal organs, particularly for smaller fish. Stainless steel hooks and leaders have been shown to persist in fish for years, while bronze hooks and leaders degrade relatively quickly.

2. Land large fish on shore rather than on a boat.

Whenever possible, landing the fish on shore is a better practice than lifting the fish over the gunnel and onto a boat deck. The use of lassos or snares to lift a fish over a boat gunnel may result in internal injury to a heavy fish like alligator gar. If possible, keep the fish in or near the water; fully support the weight of the fish when taking photos before release. Minimize handling time.

3. Cut the line or leader on deeply hooked fish. Hooks lodged beyond the mouth cavity (in the throat, gullet or stomach) should not be removed — most studies suggest additional dam-

age is often caused by attempting to remove a deep hook. Long-term survival is more likely if the line or leader is cut and the hook left in place. Non-stainless-steel hooks degrade relatively quickly and can be more easily shed by a gar.

TPWD's alligator gar webpage provides comprehensive information on the species, including management practices and additional tips for anglers.

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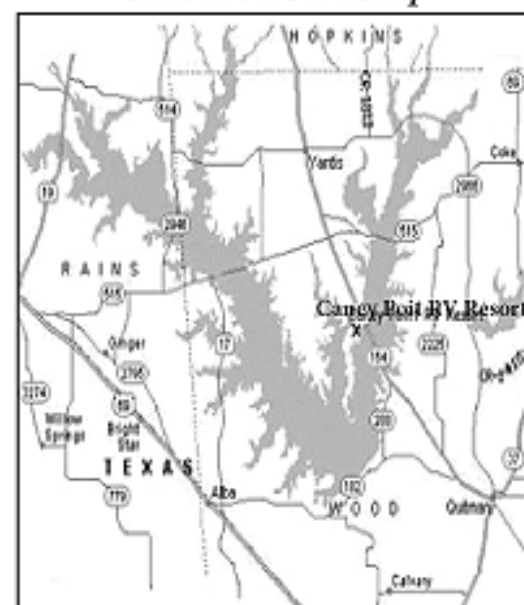
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"The Moon Report"

"June Fishing on Fork"

By Terri Moon

Ahhh – June fishing on Fork – it's one of my favorite months to fish! June can produce 'BIG' fish in all species. It's so exciting when we are surprised by a huge bream, a big bass, or a hard fighting white bass, or catfish while crappie fishing!

The majority of the crappie are "post spawn" and have moved out to structure in 10 to 30 ft. depths. You might find a few late spawners shallower around the new and full moon this month.

The crappie are showing up around bridges, standing timber, in creek channels, and brush piles. Don't be afraid to change up your presentation. Some days they want the bait moving, and other days they want it dead still. It's sure fun to watch the reaction of the fish on Live Scope! Those crappie don't always "SLAM" the baits – so, you need to be vigilant in watching your line because the sneaky ones will push your bait up and your line will go slack. If your not watching, you'll probably miss that fish.

Also, the color jig they prefer can change daily, so keep a good assortment on hand. Right now I am using an assortment of "Limits Tackle, Skipper Jigs, and Bonehead Stump Bugs. The colors pro-



ducing now have been white/and chartreuse, grey/black, electric chicken, and L.S.U. These are all available at Lake Fork Marina along with all your crappie fishing needs.

Another reason I love June fishing on Fork is it's time for some bream action! They are showing up in brush piles and around bridge ledges. But, around new and the full moon, they will be in 1-5 ft. on slip bobbers. Others will back off in that 5-15 ft. and I will tightline with night crawlers or crickets just off the bottom. Hang on tight because you never know what you might catch while fishing for these bream! I'm sure looking forward to the next full moon!

It's great to be back after a few weeks in Missouri. Our lake level is finally back to normal and looking beautiful! The fish are biting and it feels so good to be back in my "Luxury Liner" – (my Skeeter Solera). A 'BIG' thank

you Skeeter for creating such a comfortable boat for us crappie fishermen!

Hey don't forget – the second weekend in June is the incredible "Skeeter Boat Owners Tournament" at Lake Fork Marina, so come out to watch the hourly weigh-ins and check out all the vendors. They put on an amazing event.

Now for more exciting news – Lake Fork Marina has announced the opening of their newest lodge: "Gunter Oaks Lodge" that is now completed and ready for reservations. It's a 4 bedroom 2 bath lodge with additional space for events of all kinds thats perfect for your next corporate or family get together. For more information call Lake Fork Marina 903-765-2764.

Happy Fathers Day to you all and happy heavenly fathers day to both my dads – sure miss you.

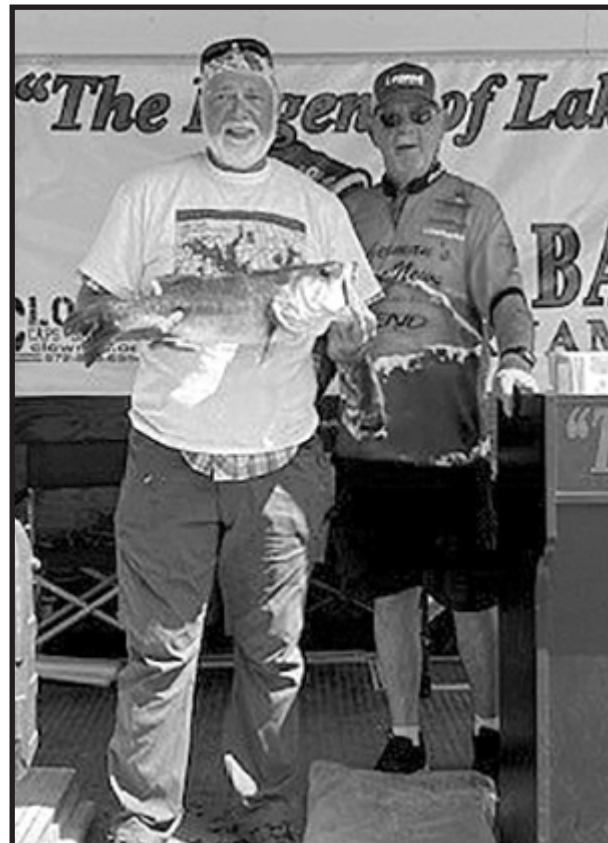
My best to you all!



Richard Holly from Ranger, Texas won 1st Place in the 11 to 12 o'clock hour on Saturday with this bass weighing 8.68-pounds.



Hayden Gowin from Wills Point, Texas won 1st Place in the 7 to 8 o'clock hour on Sunday when he weighed in this 7.46-pound bass.



James Harrison from Alvord, Texas won 1st Place in the 10 to 11 o'clock hour on Friday with his bass that weighed 5.77-pounds.



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Hords Creek Lake 'Fully Infested' with Invasive Zebra Mussels

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has designated Hords Creek Lake in Coleman County as "infested" with invasive zebra mussels, signifying that an established, reproducing population is present in the lake.

Staff with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers initially found a single zebra mussel attached to dam infrastructure in April. TPWD biologists followed up with shoreline and substrate surveys and discovered the presence of multiple size classes of zebra mussels. The survey results indicate the presence of a reproducing population in the waterbody.

Zebra mussels began spreading westward in Texas when lakes O.H. Ivie and Brownwood

were designated as infested in 2020 and 2021, respectively. Hords Creek Lake is located near these two waterbodies but had no invasive mussel reports before April.

"Unfortunately, zebra mussels have now spread to 35 Texas lakes, but there are far more lakes in Texas that still haven't been invaded and are at risk," said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries regional director. "Each boater taking steps to clean and drain their boat before leaving the lake — and allowing compartments and gear to dry completely when they get home — can make a big difference in protecting our Texas lakes."

Because zebra mussels are most often transported on or in boats, boaters play a critical role in

larvae are invisible to the naked eye, meaning they can be unknowingly transported by residual water in boats.

TPWD urges boaters to follow these three simple but crucial steps to clean, drain and dry boats and gear before traveling from lake to lake. Remove plants, mud and debris. Drain all water from the boat and gear. Once back home, open compartments and allow everything to dry completely for at least a week, if possible.

If a boat has been stored in the water at a lake with invasive mussels, it is likely infested and poses an extremely high risk for transporting these invasive species to a new lake. Before moving the boat, call TPWD at (512) 389-4848 for guidance.

In addition to the harm invasive species can cause to aquatic ecosystems, water infrastructure and the recreational experience at lakes, the transport of these organisms can result in legal trouble for boaters. Transporting prohibited aquatic invasive species in Texas is illegal and punishable with a fine of up to \$500 per violation. It's also the law that boaters must drain all water from

(See Hords Creek Lake Fully Infested.....)

Continued on Page 21)

preventing them from spreading to new lakes. Zebra mussels attach to boats and anything left in the water, including anchors, and can survive for days out of water, often hiding in crevices where they may escape notice. Their microscopic

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Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Awards \$5.14 Million in Recreational Trail Grants to Texas Communities

During a recent meeting, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved more than \$5.14 million dollars in grants funding 15 construction projects and one educational development across the state.

The National Recreational Trails Fund (NRTF) supports recreational trail construction, renovation and acquisition. The grants are funded from a portion of the federal gas tax generated by gasoline purchases for off-highway vehicles. Thirty percent of the total NRTF grants must be earmarked for motorized recreational trails, while another 30 percent must be spent on non-motorized trail projects. The remaining 40 percent is discretionary.

The Texas Legislature has added an additional \$1,000,000 per year to the program (pending passage of the state budget), which includes an additional \$1,000,000 for this year from Sporting Goods Sales Tax funds. Additionally, several projects funded in previous years were completed under budget and five projects were cancelled, creating another \$700,000 avail-

able for re-allocation this year.

Projects awarded funding are listed in alphabetical order by county below:

The Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area in Bandera County received a \$300,000 grant for the construction of six miles of natural surface recreational trails at the new state natural area.

The city of Schertz in Comal County received a \$300,000 grant for the Dry Comal Creek Park and Trailhead project. The project includes construction of .78-mile natural surface trail, .22-mile boardwalk, bridges, trailhead, signage and benches.

In Crockett County, the Texas Motorized Trails Coalition (TMTC) received a \$365,600 grant for the TMTC Escondido Draw Recreation Area 2023 projects. The project includes an off-highway vehicle training area, wildlife water distribution and viewing areas, safety and rescue equipment, and an extension of electrical utilities, signage and fencing. Construction of new trails pending acquisition.

Audubon Texas in Dallas County received

a \$59,301 grant for the Trail to Damsel Fly Pond project. The project includes construction of 150-foot composite boardwalk with an observation deck and bench.

In Harris County, TMTC received a \$2 million dollar grant for the TMTC Rio Bravo 2023-acquisition project which includes the acquisition of Rio Bravo Moto-cross Park.

The University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) in Harris County received a \$265,884 grant for the UHCL Nature Trail Network project. The project includes construction of 1.9 miles of stabilized granite surface multi-use trails and renovation of .53-mile of trails including bridges, signage, bike rack, trash receptacles and seating.

Great Springs Project in Hays County received a \$300,000 grant for the San Marcos Outer Loop Trail-La Cima Segment project. The project includes construction of a 1.75-mile multi-use natural surface trail, trail corridor easement trailhead ki-

(See TPWD Awards \$5.14 Million.....

Continued on Page 17)

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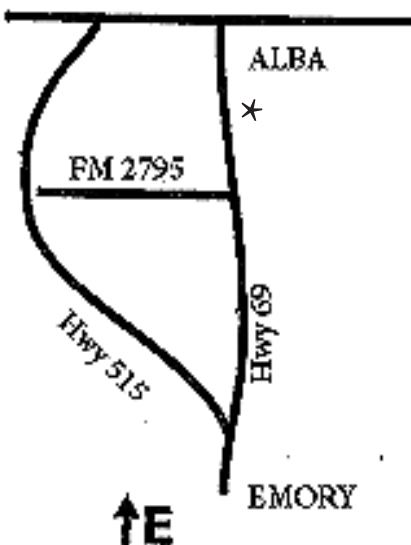
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TPW Commission Approves Purchase of Fairfield Lake State Park

During a recent public meeting, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission unanimously voted to authorize Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) executive director to take all necessary steps to purchase approximately 5,000 acres in Freestone County including Fairfield Lake State Park.

The potential purchase of Fairfield Lake State Park and its adjacent acreage is made possible thanks to lawmakers from both the House of Representatives and the Senate who have shown their support for land acquisition and made it one of their top priorities.

This action reinforces the continued commitment and support of state leadership, TPW Commission and TPWD to saving the park while adding new park land for all Texans now and in the future.

The Commission also discussed scheduling a special commission meeting in the first week of June to explore additional legal options to save Fairfield Lake State Park.

TPWD acquired Fairfield Lake State Park by lease in 1971 from Texas Utilities, now Vistra Energy. The

park opened to the public in 1976. Named after 2,400-acre Fairfield Lake, it sees an average 80,000 visitors a year and is known for activities such as horseback riding, family reunions, paddling, fishing, camping and hiking.

TPWD is grateful to the more than 5,700 visitors who supported the park since the gates were reopened in March and looks forward to having the chance to welcome more Texans in the future.

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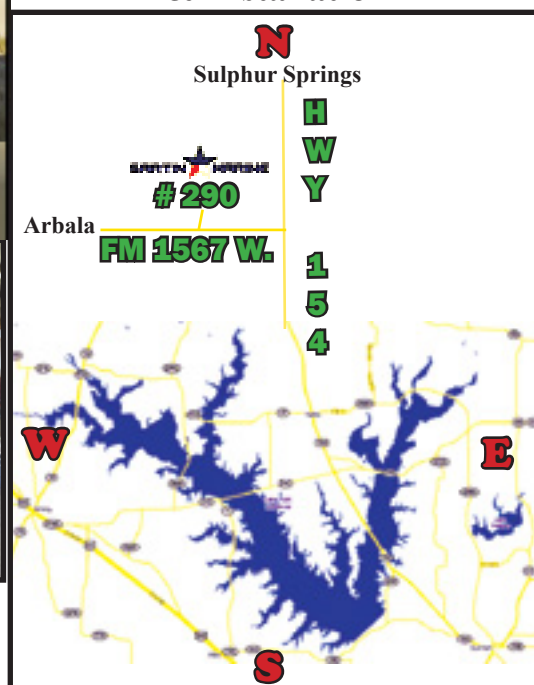
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Daron Blackerby is Texas Wildlife Officer of the Year

On May 25, Game Warden Daron Blackerby was recognized by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission as the National Wild Turkey Federation's Texas Wildlife Officer of the Year.

The National Wild Turkey Federation aims to conserve wild turkey and preserve hunting heritage. Each year, they recognize an officer for his or her outstanding dedication surrounding community, teamwork, attitude, leadership, achievements, accomplishments and innovation.

Blackerby has worked as a game warden for more than 15 years and is known as a skilled game warden, mentor

and leader.

"Everything Daron touches, he makes better," said Captain Steve Stapleton, Blackerby's captain and award nominator. "Blackerby demonstrates excellence in leadership across Grayson County and with partnering agencies in Texas and Oklahoma. His dedication and commitment to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's mission is evident in his cases, and his outreach in the community is unparalleled," continued Stapleton.

Recently, Blackerby became aware of illegal hunting activity in Grayson County. He investigated the situation and observed a man hunting turkey over baited corn.

Since it is illegal in Texas to bait turkey during the eastern spring turkey hunting season, Blackerby issued a citation to the hunter and seized the turkey.

"I have received lavish compliments from hunters, anglers, constituents and even violators about Game Warden Blackerby, his outstanding conservation work and his positive impact for the state of Texas," said Stapleton.

While all those around him praise Game Warden Blackerby on his daily accomplishments, he sees his work as part of his responsibility as a game warden, conservationist and steward of Texas.

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TPWD Awards \$5.14 Million in Recreational Trail Grants to Texas Communities *(Continued from Page 11)*

osk, benches, signage, bike racks and picnic tables.

The North American Butterfly Association in Hidalgo County received a \$292,810 grant for the Pixie Preserve Wilderness Recreation Trail project. This project includes construction and renovation of 5.5-miles of trails, including 3.5-miles of natural surface trail and 2-miles of decomposed granite-surfaced trails with bridges, benches, signs and trailheads.

The city of Jefferson in Marion County received a \$75,000 grant for the Jefferson Recreational Trails Rehabilitation project. The project includes renovation of 1.2-miles of recreational trail with boardwalk repairs and signage.

In Montgomery County, the Sam Houston Trails Coalition, Inc. received a \$300,000 grant for the Richards-Raven Equestrian Trail- Phase V project. The project includes construction of a trailhead, three bridges and one creek crossing to serve a 35-mile trail system.

In Polk County, the city of Onalaska received a \$119,828 grant for the Caney Creek Park Trail project. The project includes construction of .6-mile concrete

surface trail over an existing trail corridor with culverts and benches.

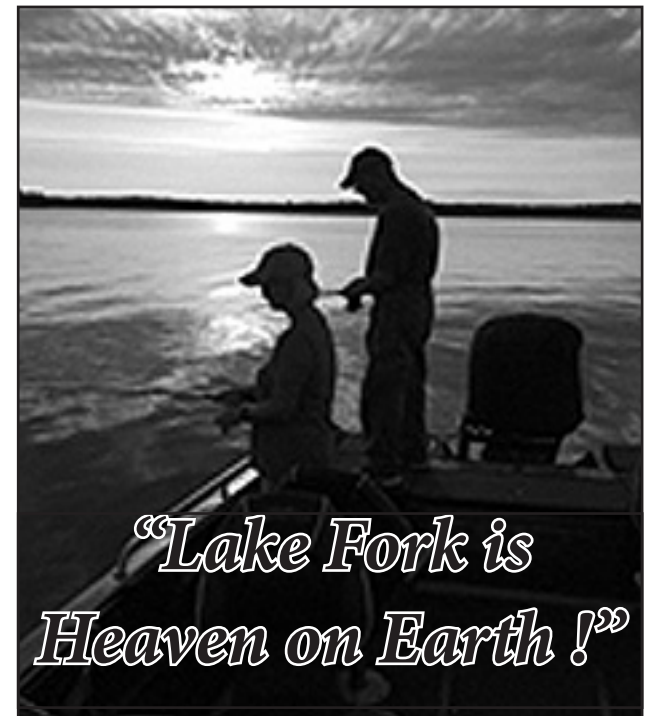
The Eaton Hill Nature Center and Preserve in Sutton County received a \$18,028 grant for the Eaton Hill Trail Signage and Amenities Improvements project. The project includes fabrication and installation of new signage, repairs to trailside exhibits and picnic tables.

Bike Texas in Travis County has received a \$75,000 grant for the educational project named 2024 Texas Trails and Active Transportation (TTAT) Conference. The funding will support the educational TTAT conference, which will focus on the creation and maintenance of trails in Texas.

In Tyler County, the Texas A&M Forest Service received a \$79,147 grant for the Dogwood Trail Rehabilitation project. The project includes renovation of .8-mile of natural surface trail, foot bridges, parking improvements and a kiosk.

The city of Del Rio in Val Verde County received a \$300,000 grant for the San Felipe Creek Trail project. The project includes construction of .5-mile multi-use granite gravel trail, ADA crossings with ramps, signage and crosswalk striping.

The Brushy Creek Municipal Utility District in Williamson County received a \$293,616 grant for the Community Greenbelt Trail Expansion and Rehabilitation project. The project includes renovation of .4-mile of crushed granite trail, as well as construction of a new .85-miles of crushed granite trail, 350 feet of concrete trail, signage, kiosks, benches and ADA parking.



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| J. Spriggs 2.11 | B. Lindsey 1.79 | J. Simonson 9.42 | J. Goss 1.86 | H. Gowin 7.46 | L. Burnett 1.67 |
| C. Givins 2.05 | J. Carter 1.75 | B. Graves 2.04 | J. Looney 1.83 | M. Harp 2.05 | B. Lindsey 1.58 |
| P. Soto 2.04 | J. Pittman 1.71 | J. Maranto 2.03 | R. Bunch 1.76 | B. Cason 2.03 | |
| J. Fields 2.00 | G. Apple 1.60 | A. Hennan 1.93 | R. Cresswell 1.71 | J. Hicks 2.00 | |
| L. Weaver 1.88 | | T. Gearhart 1.91 | | C. Stokes 2.00 | |
| J. Martin 1.83 | 11-12 Hour | R. Tervin 1.90 | 11-12 Hour | M. Johnson 1.99 | 11-12 Hour |
| G. Broadway 1.82 | R. Cresswell 2.05 | R. Moss 1.90 | R. Holly 8.68 | T. Trevino 1.91 | C. Mims 2.50 |
| T. Wurst 1.82 | W. Mathe 2.02 | L. Diomed 1.70 | J. Shawn 2.50 | F. Howard 1.89 | R. Brunner 2.27 |
| B. Cantrell 1.74 | R. Saccaro 2.00 | R. Cresswell 1.67 | K. Richards 2.29 | R. Littlejohn 1.88 | J. Latino 2.24 |
| R. Foster 1.72 | R. Nicholas 1.97 | R. Hesser 1.66 | J. Carter 2.26 | D. Pusateri 1.86 | F. Carvajal 2.13 |
| 8-9 Hour | M. Welch 1.94 | 8-9 Hour | H. Hoover 2.25 | 8-9 Hour | A. Davis 2.09 |
| R. Hesser 2.46 | C. Stokes 1.94 | J. Crawford,III 2.21 | K. Perry 2.14 | R. Hall 2.36 | J. Aslin 2.08 |
| R. Hodges 2.31 | T. Eschberger 1.91 | D. Fulton 2.13 | B. Spalding 2.11 | L. Adams,III 2.30 | K. Clark 2.06 |
| R. Meek 1.97 | M. Sheppard 1.87 | J. Whitaker 2.05 | B. Graves 2.08 | T. Howard 2.12 | M. Houser,Jr. 1.98 |
| R. Farmer,Jr. 1.90 | T. Wright 1.85 | C. Jones 2.00 | J. Dunn 2.06 | J. Welsh 2.05 | D. Clark 1.96 |
| S. Sheets 1.88 | T. Eraas 1.85 | R. Herndon 1.93 | B. Stedman 2.04 | L. Burnett 1.94 | D. Campbell 1.93 |
| B. Frazier 1.81 | | P. Soto 1.84 | | S. Stewart 1.93 | |
| D. Jones 1.81 | 12-1 Hour | C. Horton 1.72 | 12-1 Hour | J. Hicks 1.92 | 12-1 Hour |
| C. Sutton 1.80 | C. Rhoden 2.26 | R. Farmer,Jr. 1.71 | M. Owens 2.23 | R. Hoenke 1.90 | R. McKinney 2.50 |
| L. Roller 1.69 | T. Weaver 2.07 | J. Willis 1.70 | B. Fulmer 2.23 | S. Hawes 1.85 | S. Wood 2.24 |
| M. Olivares 1.52 | R. Hall 2.02 | R. Tervin 1.66 | J. Belote 2.17 | J. Willis 1.85 | E. Jones 2.18 |
| 9-10 Hour | D. Jones 1.98 | 9-10 Hour | T. Eudy 2.09 | 9-10 Hour | J. Qualls 2.16 |
| C. Abbott 9.47 | J. Niziol 1.95 | G. Cano 2.10 | P. Diomed 2.04 | T. Weaver 2.52 | J. Green 2.11 |
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| R. Heller 2.22 | L. Weaver 1.92 | B. Fulmer 1.98 | E. Dennis 1.99 | G. Strock 2.21 | F. Howard 2.04 |
| R. Cresswell 2.11 | K. Magers 1.90 | L. Adams,III 1.95 | C. Carson 1.95 | C. Barton 2.14 | R. Cresswell 1.96 |
| T. Hughes 2.03 | R. Lee 1.90 | T. Beard 1.95 | K. Carson 1.94 | M. Stephens 2.11 | K. Clark 1.94 |
| M. Adams 2.02 | 1-2 Hour | B. Boyd 1.93 | 1-2 Hour | H. Gowin 2.10 | 1-2 Hour |
| B. Spalding 1.98 | R. McKinney 2.12 | S. Kennon 1.93 | S. Smith 2.42 | P. Brooks 2.04 | M. Swallow 2.45 |
| L. Adams,III 1.97 | R. Cheaney 2.04 | D. Roberts 1.93 | J. Helland 2.27 | L. Beckham 1.93 | M. Whisenhunt 2.27 |
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| 10-11 Hour | L. Lee 1.98 | 10-11 Hour | J. Whitaker 2.21 | 10-11 Hour | L. Keese 2.21 |
| J. Harrison 5.77 | R. Lee 1.95 | M. VanWinkle 9.48 | S. Stewart 2.19 | T. Weaver 2.40 | F. White 2.15 |
| M. Swallow 2.25 | K. Richards 1.92 | T. Thompson 2.33 | K. Barnett 2.18 | B. Spalding 2.10 | J. Brundidge 2.12 |
| T. Crow 2.11 | K. McFarland 1.92 | D. Behrendsen 2.27 | A. Kilcrease 2.16 | M. Davis 1.96 | K. Carson 2.08 |
| J. Crow 2.08 | B. Cantrell 1.91 | R. Davis 2.04 | T. Hix 2.14 | M. McKee 1.88 | J. Latino 2.07 |
| R. McKinney 1.86 | M. Webb 1.90 | B. Fulmer 1.98 | B. Cantrell 2.09 | J. LeBlanc 1.86 | R. Green 2.01 |
| B. Beck 1.85 | M. Webb,Jr. 1.87 | D. Brundidge 1.97 | D. Bland 2.07 | B. Guest 1.85 | M. Painter 2.00 |

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Chronic Wasting Disease Discovered in Deer Breeding Facility in Sutton County

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) received confirmation of a new case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a deer breeding facility in Sutton County. This case marks the first detection of the disease in the county.

The four-year-old white-tailed buck was detected using antemortem (live-animal) testing to determine if the animal was eligible for transfer to a registered release site.

The samples submitted to the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) in College Station were ultimately confirmed as "CWD positive" by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa. Officials took immediate action to secure all deer at the facility.

Initial investigations indicate 10 additional breeding facilities and 18 release sites may have been impacted from previous transfers received from deer that originated in the Sutton County facility. TPWD and TAHC plan to continue working together to conduct additional inves-

tigations into the extent of the disease.

CWD has an incubation period that can span years, meaning the first indication in a herd may likely come through testing rather than observed clinical signs. Early detection and proactive monitoring improve the state's response time to a disease outbreak and can greatly reduce the risk of further disease spread. Antemortem testing provides a continuous testing baseline that can further clarify the epidemiological uncertainties related to the origin of a disease outbreak. In addition to postmortem testing and other surveillance requirements, this testing helps guide future changes to disease management strategy.

CWD is a fatal neurological disease found in certain cervids including deer, elk, moose and other members of the deer family. This slow, progressive disease may not produce visible signs in susceptible species for several years after infection. As the disease progresses, animals with CWD may show changes in behavior and appearance. Clinical signs may include progressive weight loss, stumbling

or tremors with a lack of coordination, loss of appetite, teeth grinding, abnormal head posture and/or drooping ears, and excessive thirst, salivation or urination.

In Texas, the disease was first discovered in 2012 in free-ranging mule deer along a remote area of the Hueco Mountains near the Texas-New Mexico border. CWD has since been detected in Texas captive and free-ranging cervids, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer and elk. For more information on previous detections in Texas, visit TPWD's CWD page.

To date there are no known cases where CWD has infected a human, but recent research suggests that CWD transmission from infected animals to humans should not be ruled out. As a precaution, it is recommended that hunters test harvested cervid species for CWD and not consume the meat of infected animals.

For more information about CWD, visit the TPWD website or the TAHC website.

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"Much Will Change as We Coast into June!" (Continued from Page 6)

come into play when dealing with these wary creatures. Try not to over complicate it, fish what you see and let the results be your guide.

The shallow bite is also an option even in this low water condition and don't rule out top water and frog action especially around stumps and laydowns. Low light is key for success in this arena. Once the sun makes it's way up, shift gears and pitch a creature bait next to the timber and in some cases, let it soak. A 3/8 ounce weight will do the trick and use at least 20lb line. Your favorite colors will work fine, just keep it simple. The most important factor in this pro-

cess will be the accuracy of the pitch. Pick the bush apart until you key on where the bass are positioned. Once that is established, follow that pattern across the lake. It will pay off in spades. If simple action is what you seek especially if kids are involved, I would chase the sand bass. You can use a 1/2 ounce Hopkins spoon or a 1/2 ounce jig head with a fluke jr. attached. This is wicked fun on light line. We can spend a day on the water if you like and I can teach you the ropes how to catch a ton of these entertainment fish.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in June 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 dream't 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> and view my Instagram at DavidOzioLakeForkGuide. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing, Talon Custom Lures, Skeeter Boats and Dakota Lithiums for making my job the blast that it is. I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". I wish all of you a blessed day."



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Hords Creek Lake 'Fully Infested' (Continued from Page 10)

their boat and onboard receptacles, including bait buckets, before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water. They must also remove all invasive plants from the boat and trailer before leaving a lake.

For more information on how to properly clean, drain and dry boats and equipment, visit the TPWD YouTube channel for short instructional video. To learn more about zebra mussels and other invasive species in Texas, visit tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives.

TPWD and partners monitor for invasive species in Texas lakes, but anyone who spots them on boats, trailers or equipment that is being moved can help prevent new introductions by reporting the sighting to TPWD at (512) 389-4848. Any-

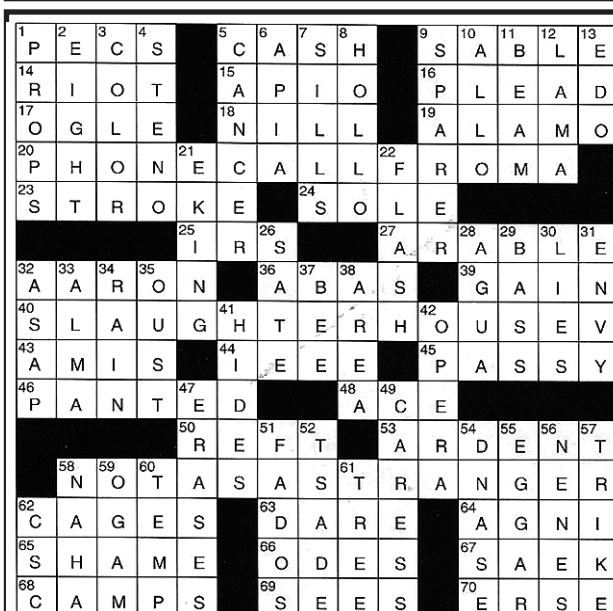
one who finds invasive species such as zebra mussels in lakes where they haven't been found before can help identify new introductions by emailing photos and location information to aquatic-invasives@tpwd.texas.gov.

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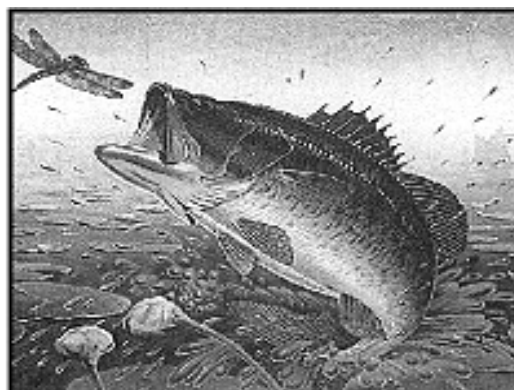
Garden Search

There are 14 plants commonly grown in gardens hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

BEET
BROCCOLI
CABBAGE
CARROT
CORN
DAFFODIL
GERANIUM

LILY
MARIGOLD
PANSY
PEPPER
ROSE
TOMATO
TULIP

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N R O C A R R A T U L I
A E M U I N A R E G A C
P P E P R O C I L L O A
A P I L U T E G C O R B
S E Y N A P R O T E E B
P P I L U S D L O I R A
A N S Y E L R D M A R G
N R C O S I A U T M A E
S O G L O D G L A L Y G
Y S A B R O C C O L I B
L S L E O F P A S N R B
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Does Your Mother Know That You're Out?--Tom Green County Game Wardens patrolled a city street late at night, when a white vehicle sped by in a 40-mph zone. The warden sped up to catch the vehicle and finally paced him at 60-mph. The warden attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver evaded. Once pursued, the suspect drove down a residential alley and crashed into a garage. The sus-

pect abandoned their vehicle and fled on foot. No one on scene was injured. Multiple agencies responded to assist with the crash and search for the suspect. During the investigation, wardens could hear the suspect's cell phone ring over and over. Once in the vehicle, they found the cell phone connected via Bluetooth. The phone continued to ring as they gathered evidence. Eventually, wardens along with their city police counterparts answered the phone. The caller identified herself as the suspect's mother. Believing the officers

were buddies of her adult child and playing a joke on her, she identified the suspect and demanded to speak with them. Wardens explained the situation and discovered that over the years, the suspect accumulated multiple felony warrants. Charges pending.

--Don't Fence Me In--Local ranch managers notified local Polk County Game Wardens that an individual, well known in the area for stirring up trouble, trespassed on their property multiple times in the past few months. The landowner turned over footage

(Continued on Page 24)

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Garlic and Oregano Marinated Grilled Chicken
(Makes 8 servings)

Marinate this chicken with tons of garlic and lots of fresh oregano (fresh really is the best, but if you can't find it, dried is acceptable). Then grill it like



This grilled chicken and melt-in-your-mouth banana cream pie is the perfect menu for your special someone – "Happy Father's Day"!!

any ordinary chicken. The result will be far from ordinary – it will be full of great flavor!

Marinade

2 tablespoons sherry vinegar
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
2 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoon ancho chile powder
12 garlic cloves, coarsely chopped
½ cup fresh oregano leaves
2 cups pure olive oil
Salt and pepper

Chicken

4 chickens, 2-1/2 pounds each, cut into quarters
Salt and pepper

In a blender, combine the vinegar, lemon juice, lime juice, honey, ancho chile powder, garlic and oregano and blend 30 seconds. With the motor running, slowly add the olive oil until emulsified. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Makes about 3 cups.

Season the chicken quarters with salt and pepper to taste and marinate in the garlic and fresh oregano marinade two hours, refrigerate.

Prepare a grill. Remove the chicken quarters from the marinade and shake off any excess. Grill until done, about 10 minutes on each side, and place on a serving platter. Enjoy!!

Try this delicious "Banana Cream Pie" recipe for dessert!

Banana Cream Pie

¼ cup sugar
2 tablespoons corn starch
1/8 teaspoon salt
2 cups milk
4 egg yolks
¼ cup Karo Light Corn Syrup
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 tablespoon butter
1 to 2 medium bananas
1 prepared graham cracker pie crust
Whipped cream, optional

Mix sugar, cornstarch and salt thoroughly in a heavy saucepan OR top of double boiler. Whisk milk, egg yolks and corn syrup together; add to sugar mixture and stir well to combine.

Heat over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture comes to a boil, about 8 to 10 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla and butter.

Slice bananas into bottom of pie crust. Pour filling over top; let cool 10 minutes.

Cover with plastic wrap and chill several hours or overnight before serving. Top with whipped cream, if desired.



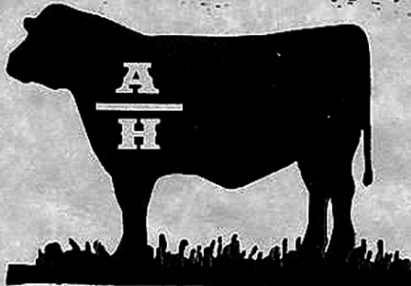
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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

from multiple game cameras showing the suspect riding through the property on a homemade ATV. Eventually, the ranch managers caught him in the act and tried to hold him at gunpoint. They were unsuccessful and the suspect fled into the woods, leaving behind his homemade ATV. Concerned the trespasser was utilizing the unusual route to deal drugs in a neighboring subdivision, one of the wardens drove to the suspect's home. Once there, he spotted the suspect outside with two other males. The warden requested backup from a county deputy since the suspect had a track record of fleeing law enforcement. When the deputy arrived, the suspect was working on a vehicle in the yard. Together, they questioned the suspect, who stated he was unaware that he had been trespassing. The warden informed the suspect that he was trespassing because he crossed a fence as well as other barriers into a property that did not belong to him. The suspect was then arrested without incident and booked into the county jail. Case pending.

--**What Happens in Vegas ...**-- Patrolling for wildlife violations, Harris County Game Wardens observed a flashlight beam in the woods and a truck operating erratically on an adjacent private easement road. The wardens stopped the vehicle and contacted the driver. Wearing full camouflage, the driver exited the vehicle immediately with his hands up. What appeared to be a potential road hunting case quickly changed when the driver and their partner stated that they lived nearby and were investigating a prowler after an alert from their farm dogs. The wardens confirmed their house was located just 200 yards away from where the couple stopped. While interviewing the driver, a loaded revolver was located on the center console. A serial number check revealed that the pistol was stolen during a 2006 burglary in Las Vegas. The driver stated he couldn't remember if he was given the pistol or purchased it but denied any knowledge that it was stolen. With no independent charges to file or evidence that the driver was involved or had knowledge of the theft, the couple were released from the scene and the pistol was seized for return to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

--**When Doves Cry**--While patrolling late at night, a Bastrop County Game Warden heard multiple shots from a nearby property. As he arrived, a truck exited the property, and he initiated a traffic stop. He immediately recognized the driver as a convicted felon he had previously arrested twice. The driver admitted to multiple guns in the truck and claimed they belonged to the passenger. However, the passenger could not answer basic questions on the firearms like how many or what kind they were. The warden also recovered a fish shocker in the backseat and two freshly killed mourning doves in the bed of the truck. The individuals claimed the doves had somehow fallen out of a tree and into the truck. Altogether, the warden seized seven firearms, one shocking device and two mourning doves. Dispatch confirmed one of the firearms was stolen. The male subject was arrested for unlawful possession of firearms by a felon and possessing a shocker within a half-mile from public water. The female passenger was arrested on 11 out-

(Continued on Next Page)

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standing warrants.

--Where Everybody Knows Your Name-- After assisting with a manhunt, a Falls County Game Warden was returning home when another vehicle changed lanes abruptly, almost striking his patrol vehicle. The warden initiated his emergency lights for a traffic stop but it took almost a mile for the driver to pull over to the shoulder. Upon contact, he noticed the driver was under the influence. During the standard field sobriety test, the driver asked several times if he could just be taken home or if someone could pick him up. The warden explained that the test revealed an absolute level of intoxication (three times the legal limit) and he was going to be arrested for driving while intoxicated. The driver became very emotional and sat down on the shoulder, refusing to be placed in the patrol vehicle. With the assistance of a deputy, the warden spoke with the driver for a few minutes and the driver finally agreed to get in the deputy's patrol vehicle. Once at the jail, staff immediately recognized the driver. Just the week before, the driver had been arrested and released for another driving while intoxicated charge.

--Facebook Advertising Works-- A Titus County game warden completed a joint investigation on a local wholesale fish dealer for illegally im-

porting and selling whole unprocessed alligator from Louisiana. This investigation was initiated when an unprocessed alligator was advertised for sell on Facebook in Henderson County by an unlicensed retail fish dealer. The wholesale dealer in Titus County was found to have illegally imported the undocumented alligators into Texas for resale. One citation issued for No Alligator Wholesale Dealer Permit. Two warning citations were also issued for No Alligator Import Permit and two warning citations for Illegal sale of alligator.

--No Overnight Parking-- A Titus County game warden completed an investigation on three men who were illegally entering Lake Bob Sandlin State Park late at night to fish. The subjects were videotaped for months driving the wrong way down a one-way street, attempting to bypass the security cameras, and enter the park without paying. Two of these subjects had been warned numerous times by state park police and park staff, with six citations issued for Fail to Pay Entrance Fee for State Park, two citations for Parking where Prohibited – Handicapped Zone, and one citation for No Fishing License. One subject was also arrested for Fishing after License Suspended or Revoked. Warning Citations were issued to one subject for Assault by Threat and

Disorderly Conduct by Language. All three subjects were also issued a Criminal Trespass Warning from the state park, which will restrict them from entering the premises for a period of one year.

--Hot to Trot-- While patrolling Cow Bayou for water safety violations, Orange County wardens encountered an untagged saltwater trotline that had been freshly set. After they picked up the trotline, one of the wardens attached his card to one of the end posts to see if the fisherman would call him. Later that afternoon in another part of the bayou, the wardens came across a vessel with two fishermen clearly tending another saltwater trotline. When asked what they were doing, one fisherman replied, "About to get a ticket, I guess." He admitted to having placed the untagged trotline, and two others, including the one the wardens picked up earlier. Also, he said that he got the card off his other marker and was going to call after he got off the water. After receiving the citations, he removed the remaining trotlines, and returned the illegally caught resources to the

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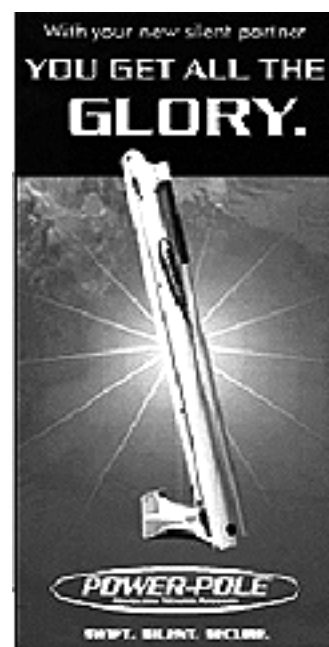
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Minnow Bucket
June 11 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket
June 25 ~ Texas Shoot Out
Lake Fork Marina



July

July 1 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket
July 15 ~ Media Bass
Minnow Bucket



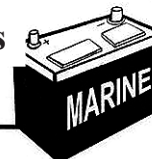
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| 6th.....\$2,500 | 18th.....\$1,020 |
| 7th.....\$2,000 | 19th.....\$1,010 |
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