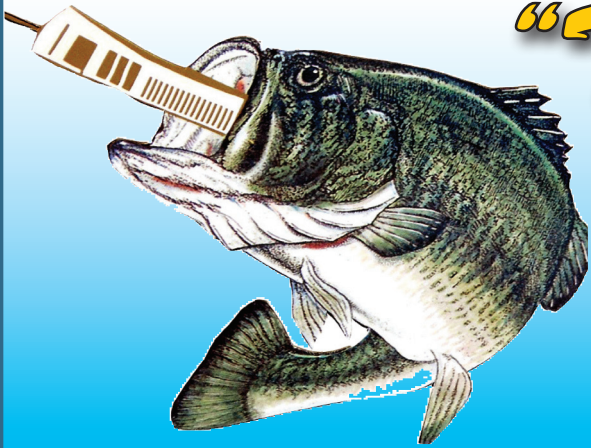


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Vol. 24

July, 2023

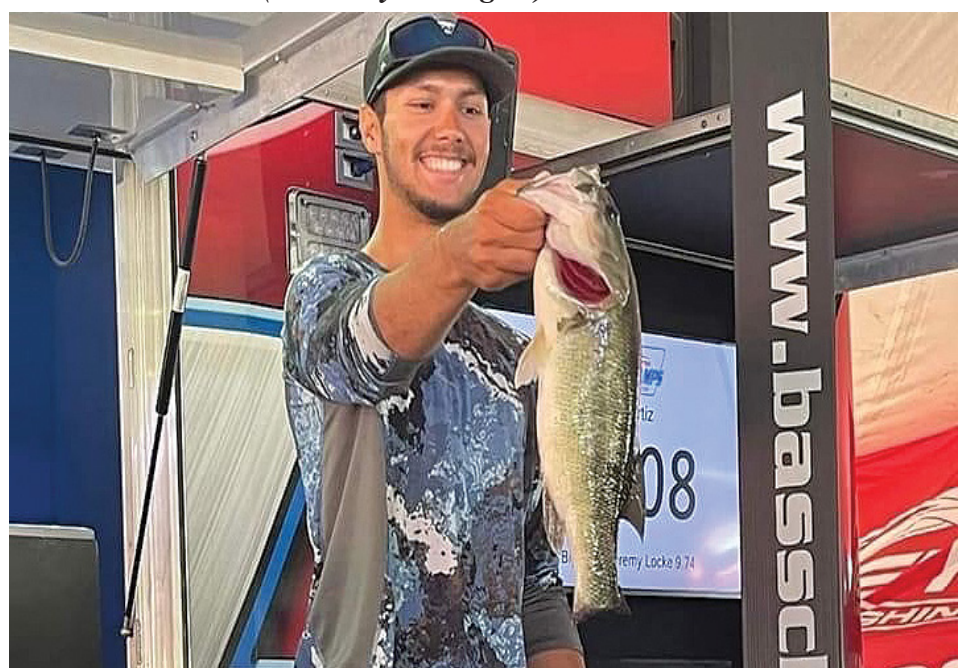
No. 287



Darrell Dodd from Como, Texas and Danny Dulude from Grand Saline, Texas won the Annual Texas Shootout with a total weight of 19.88-lbs. A 8.66-lb. bass and this 10.68-lb. bass put them over the top. (See full story on Page 10)



Jeremy Locke, from Pineville, Louisiana won over 1750 other anglers at the 29th Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament on Lake Fork. He was presented his new 2023 Skeeter FXR21 75th Edition by Jeff Stone, Vice President Skeeter. (See Story on Page 4)



A fish with no tail is the tale! Noah Ortiz caught this bass with no tail during the Skeeter Tournament weighing 3.08-lbs. winning him heaviest under and a 2023 Skeeter ZX150 powered by a Yamaha 150 SHO.



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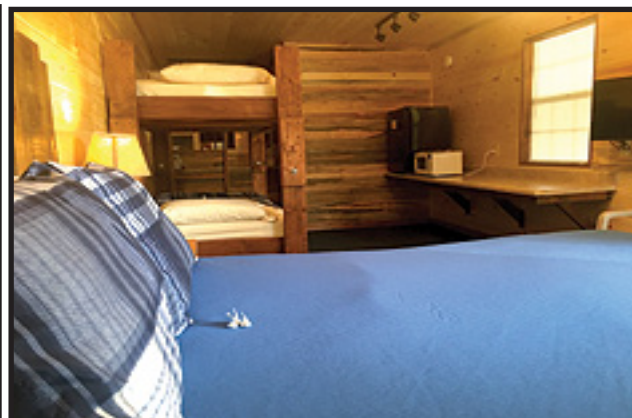
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"Bubba can only win the battle of wits when Bubbette lets him!"

By Don Bubba Hampton

Bubba was attending his bass club's monthly meeting and had just told all his fishing buddies he couldn't make the tournament scheduled for the next Saturday because his wife wouldn't let him go because of their anniversary.

After listening to the jeers and other remarks from his fellow fisherman friends about his manhood and something about being whipped, Bubba left to go home.

When Bubba's friends started arriving at the boat ramp for the tournament, who should be there but Bubba sitting on the deck of his boat, tying on one of his favorite lures.

"How'd you talk your Bubbette into letting you come, Bubba?" asked one of his buds.

"I didn't have to," was Bubba's reply. "When I got home last night I was feeling sad about not being able to fish today so I just slumped down in my chair with a beer to drown my sorrows. Then Bubbette snuck up behind me, covered my eyes, and said, 'Surprise!'"

"When I peeled her hands back she was standing there in her beautiful flannel pajamas and she said, 'Carry me to the bedroom, lock the door and you can do whatever you want.'"

"So here I am and she's still locked in the bedroom!"

Who knows what happened when he got home! I'm sure he will never tell!

Bubbette thinks faster than most people and Bubba doesn't slide by with much and neither do some others that have a battle of wits with her.

One morning Bubba returned after several hours of fishing and decided to take a nap after lunch before going back on the lake.

While he was napping Bubbette decided to take his boat out and enjoy the cool breezy day. She motored a short distance, anchored and started reading a book.

She hadn't been there long before a Game Warden pulled up along side her in his boat and says

"Good afternoon Bubbette. What are you doing?" She replied "Reading a book, isn't that obvious?"

"Well, I need to see your fishing license," he informed her.

"Sorry officer, but I'm not fishing and I don't have a fishing license. I'm reading!" Bubbette replied with a little agitation.

"Yes, but you have all this equipment. For all I know you could start fishing at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up!" the officer stated.

"What, for reading a book?" Bubbette asked.

"No, for fishing without a license" he replied.

"But I'm not fishing, I'm reading" she replied.

"Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start fishing at any moment." he again replied.

"I have to take you in and write you up!"

"If you do that I'll have to charge you with sexual as-

sault", said Bubbette.

"But I haven't even touched you", said the Game Warden.

"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment." Bubbette stated flatly.

"Have a nice day Ma'am", said the Game Warden as he was leaving.

There it is! Now you know who really has the brains in Bubba's family! When he gets by with something it is only because Bubbette let him!

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29th Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament

By Don Hampton

The 29th Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament held on Lake Fork June 10th and 11th had the Skeeters buzzing on the lake.

Over 1,750 anglers from various parts of the country, brought their Skeeter boats to compete for the cash and prizes to be given away. With 10 places paid each hour of the tournament and the possibility of taking home one of the two Skeeter boats to be given away, anglers were hoping to get a lot on the line.

One of the 2023 Skeeter boats was to be presented to the

angler that caught the heaviest bass over the 24" slot and the second to go to the heaviest bass under the 16" slot.

Heavy bass under the slot weights ranged high. The lightest to win money in any hour was a 2.02-pound bass and most ranging near the 2.5-pound and higher range.

The heaviest bass under the slot to win the 2023 Skeeter ZX150 is the tale of no tail. Noah Ortiz from Kingwood, Texas caught this bass weighing 3.08-pounds. After calling in to the tournament officials and speaking with the

game warden giving the description of the bass, it was determined it was a legal fish and could be brought in to the scales. Evidently the tail had been bitten off the bass at a younger age and had healed completely over. (See photo on front page)

During the course of the tournament there were thirteen bass weighed in over the 24" slot. The excitement began the first day in the 9 o'clock hour when Kellis Higginbotham from Caledonia, Mississippi weighed in a 9.57-pound bass fol-

(Continued on Next Page)



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lowed by Michael Whisenhunt from Bul-
lard, Texas weighed
in a 6.26-pound bass.
In the 10 o'clock hour
David Burton from
Wylie, Texas weighed
in an 8.07-pound
bass. In the 11 o'clock
hour Alan Richard-
son from Millsap,
Texas weighed in a
7.96-pound bass. In
the 12 o'clock hour
Jeremy Locke from
Pineville, Louisiana
brought a 9.74-pound
bass to the scales. In
the 3 o'clock hour
three overs came to
the scales. Dwight
Bickham from Deni-
son, Texas weighed
in a 9.11- pound
bass, Charles Brown-
ing from Mansfield,
Texas weighed an
8.29-pound bass
and Jerry Steven-
son from Longview,

Texas weighed in a
7.16-pound bass.

On day two of the
tournament during the
9 o'clock hour Charles
Blue from Nashville,
Arkansas weighed in
a 7.55-pound bass. In
the 10 o'clock hour
Jesse McGregor from
Yantis, Texas weighed
in an 8.51-pound bass.
In the 12 o'clock hour
on Sunday which is
the last hour of the
tournament two overs
were brought to the
scales. The first was
Megan Wade from
Garland, Texas with a
9.09-pound bass and
Derrick Underwood
from Rockwall, Texas
with a bass weighing
7.85-pounds. Megan
also won 1st Place in
the Women's Divi-
sion.

Jeremy Locke had
to sweat it out hoping

his bass held up as the
heaviest over the slot
in the tournament. He
was fortunate and his
did remain the heavi-
est of the tournament
and for his great catch
he took home a 2023
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(More photos on
Page 8.)

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"Never Give Up Cruise The Deep Points!"

By David Ozio

"What a contrast from a year ago this date. Surface temps on Fork were scalding hot pushing the envelope to 92 degrees, and now, as of this writing, we are hovering around the 83-85 degree range. Strangely enough, this has severely affected the overall daily bite for the famed Fork green fish. I'm talking this is a head scratcher! You're not going to want to hear it but several days touching the 100 degree mark may be just what this pond needs to get the lunkers out deep and on the bottom. As Iaconelli used to

say "Never Give Up" and keep cruising the deep points. They will show up.

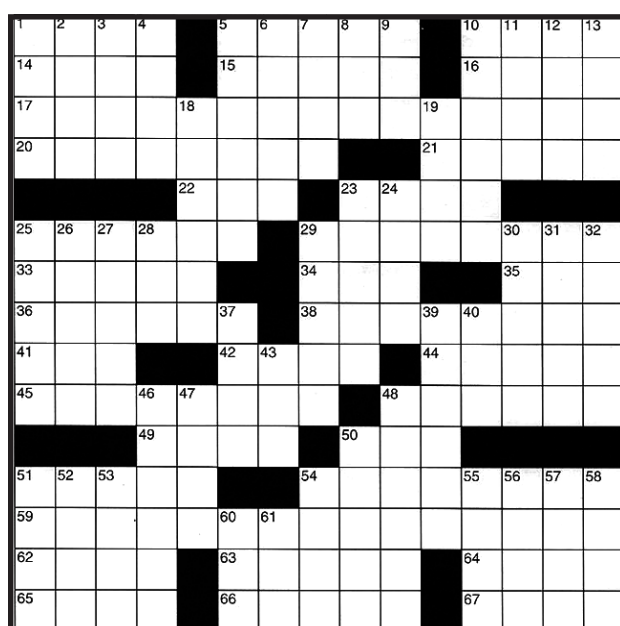
The lake is in great shape being as the water level is about five inches low. Late season rains have allowed the lake to fill and even cool down a few notches. Once this water reaches the 88 degree mark I would think some schooling activity may start and open another window for catching. The spawn seemed to be great this year with flooded vegetation across the entire lake which bodes well for future bass population growth. July is a great month to target all sizes of bass using top water, crankbaits and drop shots. It's all about locating the fish and then it's game on. Electronics play a huge roll in finding these huge schools of bass and the more time you spend graphing the key locations, the greater the chance to have a monumental day. Main lake points, ridges, road beds and pond dams should be your locations of focus and pay close attention to the 18-24ft range. Even if you only see a group of ten fish at a given depth, pitch out a marker buoy and spend fifteen minutes to see if you can get the bass to commit. If nothing rattles your cage, move on to the next location. Let's say you see a ton of



good arc's at the next spot. My first choice is the drop shot rigged with a KVD Finesse Worm or a Roboworm. Use any color you want as long as it is red or Blue Fleck. Drop straight down to them and barely jiggle the rod tip. Active fish will load the rod and you may think your hung up. Set the hook and figure out the rest later. If the drop shot is not your game, throw a Carolina rig or a football jig to the area where you first spotted the bass. A 3/4 ounce stand up head is also a great choice. On the C-rig, you might try a fluke, baby brush hog or a Zoom magnum trick worm. Under

bright sun, I will use redbug or plum colors and when it's cloudy, any version of green pumpkin will suffice. As for the jig, PB&J, Mexican Heather or black/brown/amber will do the trick. Match a craw trailer to the jig and your in business. For the stand up head, any big straight tail worm will suffice. As July rolls on I suspect the deep bite will seriously improve making the afore mentioned tactics the route to follow.

The topwater bite should start to be good early and late on main lake points and a Zara Spook is the ticket. Yellow Magic's will catch their share of fish but the spook bags the big one's. This bite



CLUES ACROSS

1. Excluded from use or mention
5. Athabaskan
10. Shop
14. Central American association
15. Joints
16. Stew with chickpeas
17. Jay and the Americans' hit
20. Exuded, in a way
21. Goddess of the hunt
22. Cablegram (abbr.)
23. Weather report
25. Plates
29. "Masked" mammals
33. One who hauls
34. _____ Tan
35. Worthless message
36. With many branches
38. Plastic
41. 7th letter of the Greek alphabet
42. Round, red root vegetable
44. Punitive
45. Sleeveless, apronlike dress
48. Most broken
49. Used up or exhausted
50. Way to create from raw stuff
51. Mexican Indian
54. Can be cleaned
59. Beatles' hit
62. Goods carried by a large vehicle
63. Rajah's wife
64. "_____ and the King of Siam"
65. Toni Morrison novel
66. Cutting or thrusting weapon with a long blade
67. Radioactivity units

CLUES DOWN

1. Toddlers
2. Feel pain
3. Spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan
4. Cold War enemy
5. Sports equipment
6. Highest waterfall
7. George _____, Australian prime minister
8. Monitor of financial markets (abbr.)
9. Doctrine
10. Game piece
11. Ancient Greek city
12. Waterfall (Scottish)
13. Scarcely detectable amount
18. Rhythmic patterns
19. Of an ode
23. Plant of a clone
24. Acid radical
25. Throat illness
26. Raccoonlike animal
27. Soul in Hinduism
28. Fifth sign of the zodiac
29. Ouida
30. Way to state clearly
31. Grandmothers
32. Hardy wheat grown in Europe
37. Black
39. Indifference
40. 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
43. Before
46. Program
47. Concentrations
48. Tried
50. One who enacts tribute
51. Tools
52. Chinese dynasty
53. Short-necked river duck
54. Drunk (slang)
55. From a distance
56. _____ fide (Latin)
57. Scandinavian city
58. Geological times
60. Wife
61. Cutting tool with a toothed blade

Answers on Page 21

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(See Never Give Up...

Continued on Page 20)

29th Annual Kidfish on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

The Wood County 29th Annual Kidfish was held on Lake Fork on June 3rd. This annual celebration held each year on the first Saturday of June to introduce the youth to the pleasure of fishing.

It is presented by the Wood County Sheriff's Department, Texas Game Warden Peace Officer Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Sabine River Authority Headquarters. All are to be commended for their diligent hard work and the many hours they put in to make this event such a success for our children.

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

During this event no one participating is required to have a fishing license. This gives parents that do not usually fish an opportunity to spend this time with their children and perhaps

introduce the love of fishing to the whole family.

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

The format of this event is a mock tournament and divided in age group divisions. These divisions include 4 years old and younger, 5- to 8-year-old, 9- to 12-year-old, and 13- to 16-year-old. Each child weighing in the heaviest fish of that species in their age group wins a trophy presented by Wood County Sheriff Kelly Cole and a year's worth of bragging rights. The categories of species is bass, crappie, perch, catfish, and other. In the other category there were a great number of turtles and drum weighed in this year. One of the turtles weighed in was a softshell and weighed 20.20-pounds. As an extra benefit there is a drawing at the end of the award presentation and bicycles are given to the winners.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork did an

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

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association did an excellent job of keeping the scores as the fish were weighed and keeping the scoreboard in order.

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

A very special thanks goes out to all of the great sponsors that make this event possible. After all, our children are the future.

Photos of the winners and event can be viewed on Page 11.



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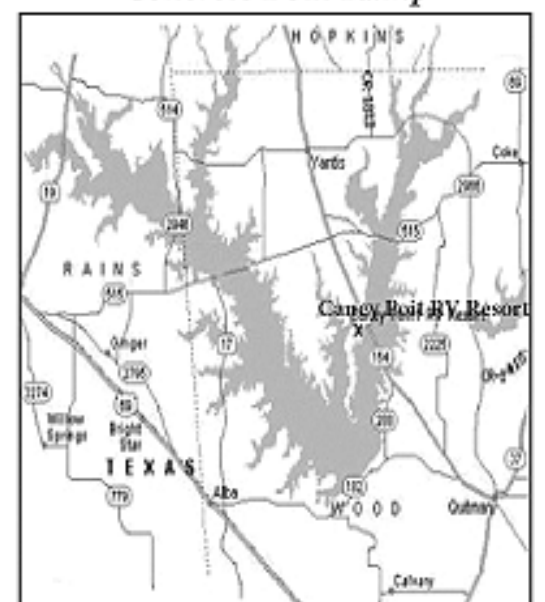
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"The Moon Report"

"Crappie Summer Pattern"

By Terri Moon

It's that time again — 90 to 100 degree days have sent the crappie transitioning to their summertime patterns. Early in the day we are finding them 8-15 ft. down in 16-25 ft. of water. As the day heats up, we are targeting 12 to 18 ft. down in 18 to 28 ft. of water. We are checking tree lines and scattered timber, along with brush piles, ledges and bridges. (In this heat I sure wish more of them would hang out at the bridges!) Right now a slow presentation is working best for us, and that can be tough in some of these winds we've had! But, when they are actively feeding, they will hit it on the fall — so really watch your line because 9 times out of 10 your line will just go slack and if you don't see it, you've just missed a fish.

The baits working for us has been Skippers hand tied jigs 1/8 oz. in chartreuse, or black and chartreuse and Limits Tackle in pink w/white tail or blue/chartreuse. Then in poured baits we use Bonehead Slimstick or brush glider or stumbugs in white/chartreuse, or purple/chartreuse have been working. These are all available at Lake Fork Marina, along with all your crappie fishing needs.

Now for all you bream fans, the next full moon is time to hit the shallows for these treasures! I'll be on the hunt for them for



sure! Right now they are staged back at 8-20 ft. around tree lines, brush piles or bridge ledges, and deeper docks. Crickets, nightcrawlers or meal worms works for these. If you don't want to fool with live bait, pick you up a jar of Berkley nightcrawlers or meal worms. I will usually use a slip bobber when they are in 1-4 ft. of water. But, when they back off deeper, I will tightline for them just working the bait slowly across the bottom in that 4-12 ft. of water. Be sure and hang on tight to your rod because this time of year you never know when a big bass or catfish is going to hit your line! It's ALL fun! — (Next all you need is "oil, cornmeal, and salt!") and it doesn't get any better than that! Many thanks to all of you who found the time to bring their kids and grand-kids fishing — making memories they will remember for a lifetime! That's why I truly enjoy taking so many photos and vid-

eos of the day — so the families will have them to look back on over the years. I would give anything to have photos or videos of the many days I spent fishing with my grandparents when I was little. Those are my greatest memories. I hope my customers enjoy the photos as much as I enjoy taking them! If you want to see some of these fun videos, you can see them on my Facebook page.

Now I would like to give a big "shout out" to Skeeter Boats for yet another AMAZING Skeeter Boat Owner's Tournament out of Lake Fork Marina here on Lake Fork! You all did an incredible job. It was bigger and better then ever — and the food was awesome! The fishing industry sure appreciates all that Skeeter/Yamaha does for the sport!

Hey you all be safe out there — the holidays can be a little crazy! Blessings to you all!

Practice C.P.R.



Megan Wade from Garland, Texas caught this nice bass weighing 9.09-pounds during the Skeeter Owners Tournament.



Dwight Bickham from Denison, Texas caught this nice bass weighing 9.11-pounds during the Skeeter Owners Tournament.



Kellis Higginbotham from Caledonia, MS. caught this nice bass weighing 9.57-pounds during the Skeeter Owners Tournament.



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BassChamps Texas Shootout on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

Though not the 1st Annual BassChamps Texas Shootout bass tournament, it was the 1st Annual Texas Shootout to be held on Lake Fork.

"Jeff Welch, Vice President of BassChamps said," We had previously intended to move the tournament to Lake Fork but because of the low water conditions had held off." Now with Lake Fork finally at full pool it is hopefully on for upcoming years.

There were 164 two-man teams that fished the tournament in hopes of earning that \$50,000 grand prize. Total collected from

entries was \$82,000 with a \$500 entry fee. The total payback for the tournament was \$80,350 making it a 98% payback percentage.

The total of fish that were weighed in was 275 for a total weight of 411.55-pounds. This brought the average weight to 1.50-pounds. There were 42 limits brought to the scales with 101 zero's. This does not mean that they did not catch rather that they chose not to weigh in their catch. Many of the anglers reported catching good slot fish between 16" and 24". One angler said his heart was broken when he caught a nice bass that measured 23.75" and probably went over 9-pounds.

Every angler that fishes Lake Fork knows that feeling.

There were 3 bass over the slot to be weighed in during the tournament. Darrell Dodd from Como, Texas weighed in during the morning a bass weighing

8.66-pounds and Brandon Davis from Alba, Texas weighed in an 8.18-pound bass. After they weighed their fish toward their five fish limit they could go back on the lake and try for another. The 3rd over weighed in was caught by Darrell Dodd's partner Danny Dulude from Grand Saline, Texas. Danny's bass weighed 10.68-pounds.

The team of Darrell Dodd and Danny Dulude won 3 bass heavy stringer of the tournament with a total weight of 19.88-pounds. Danny's bass also won them heavy bass of the tournament. With the Garmin and HUX Bonus they won a total of \$51,200. Not a bad day of fishing.

Winning 2nd Place in the tournament was the team of Brandon Davis from Alba, Texas and Rodney Eschberger III from Van, Texas. They had a total weight of 12.73-pounds with five fish winning them \$6,000.

In the course of the tournament 18 places were paid with the 18th place winning a check for \$1,000.

Overall it was a great tournament and put on very professionally. I know many anglers are looking forward to next year.

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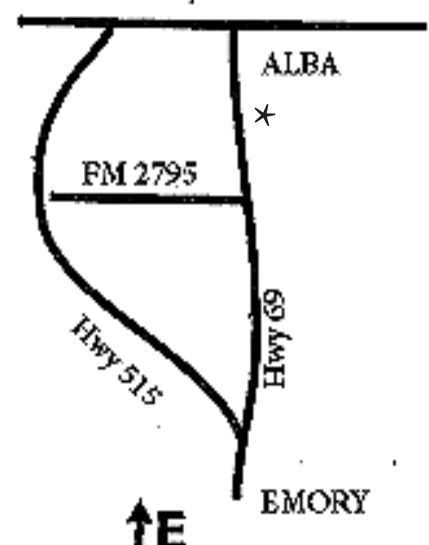
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Texas Game Wardens Assist Perryton Tornado Response

On Thursday June 15 Texas Game Wardens responded to a strong thunderstorm that developed into an EF3 tornado striking the town of Perryton. In addition to causing widespread property damage, the storm claimed three lives and injured hundreds of others. Through the aftermath, Wardens remained on scene assisting local and state first responders with search and rescue efforts as well as traffic enforcement and community support.

"The destruction caused by tornado is very surreal. It ripped

through Perryton and did not discriminate. It has deeply affected so many people's lives," said Ochiltree County Game Warden Jeremy Schwalk. "I'm proud to be a part of such a resilient community that has come together, without fail, in moments of need. This is a humbling experience and as a community we are eager to rebuild the city we love so much."

Due to the devasta-

tion caused by the tornado, Texas Governor Greg Abbott traveled to Perryton and signed a disaster declaration for Ochiltree County on Saturday, June 17. Texas Game Wardens remained on scene in Perryton for the next several days assisting local and state partners with law enforcement services as the people of Perryton continued cleanup and rebuilding efforts.



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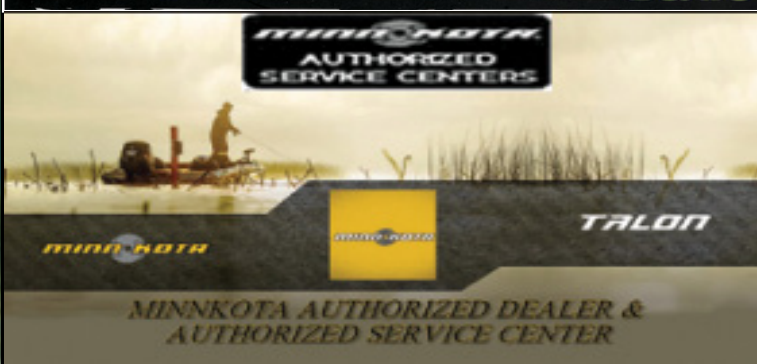
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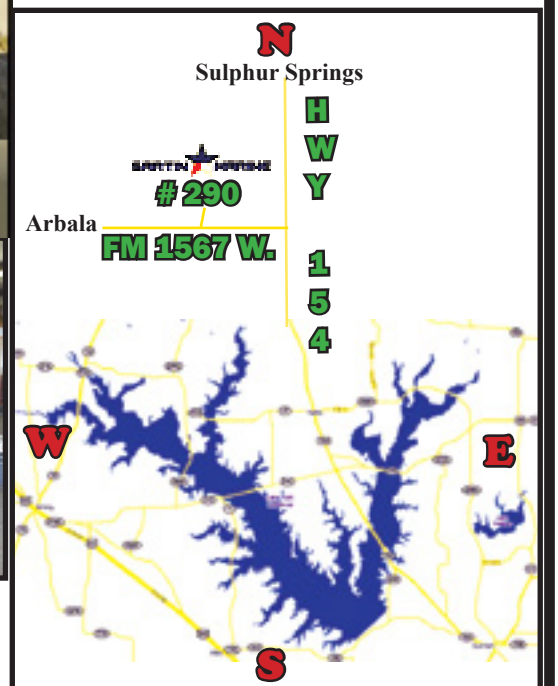
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Texas Game Wardens Respond to Flooding in Potter County

Due to historic flooding along the Canadian River recently, the Potter County Sheriff's Office requested that Texas Game Wardens assist with swift-water search and rescue needs.

Along with local game wardens, members of the game warden search and rescue team responded with swift-water boats and additional resources. Within hours, Texas Game Wardens arrived on the scene and initiated coordination efforts to deploy search and rescue boats and teams to the northern Panhandle area.

"Through strong inter-agency efforts and intensive training, Texas Game Wardens were prepared

and ready to respond to an incident in the Panhandle," said Potter County Game Warden Ryan Hunter. "The search and rescue team maintains highly skilled members across the state and has a long history of supporting local authorities during times of severe weather crisis."

Potter County officials initiated an incident command structure to streamline the response to the flooding. Under that process, the Texas Game Warden Search and Rescue Team facilitated multiple vehicle related rescues at low level water crossings. After Potter County issued an emer-

gency declaration closure of the Canadian River area near the U.S. Highway 287 bridge, wardens assisted with enforcement efforts through river patrols.

Potter and Randall County Fire and Rescue, Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Public Safety and many others assisted with the response. With severe weather and rain expected through the week, Texas Game Wardens continued to work closely alongside local agencies and officials to coordinate response efforts to the current flooding event in the Amarillo area.

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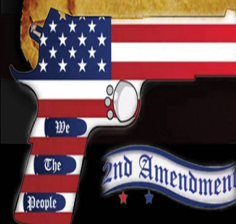
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May 19,20,21, 2023

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Big Bass Tournament, The Fisherman's Guide News, & The Wish to Fish Foundation, we would like to thank all of our sponsors and all of the anglers that participated in the 18th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament. It is your dedication and participation that makes this a success. We hope to see all of you next year at the 19th Annual.

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Game Wardens Helped To Keep Public Safe during Memorial Day Weekend

Memorial Day weekend, Texas Game Wardens patrolled Texas lakes and rivers to ensure visitors were recreating responsibly. They cited a decrease in accidents this year but noted an increase in citations issued, warnings and arrests.

Between Friday and Monday, 358 game wardens conducted 12,141 vessel checks across Texas — 19 percent more than in 2022. They responded to 13 accidents, two boating fatalities and two drownings. The two boating fatalities occurred at Choke Canyon and the Neches River and the two drownings occurred at Toledo Bend and Lake Halbert.

"Although the weekend was relatively safe, unfortunately deaths and drownings still occurred," said Texas Game Warden Colonel Chad Jones "Our sorrow and sympathy are with the family and friends of the victims as well as the game wardens who assisted in their rescue and recovery. We are proud that more people are aware of and practicing safe boating techniques, but we must continue to educate the public so everyone returns home safely."

At Lewisville Lake, Kim Sorensen, Boating Education Manager for the Texas Parks and

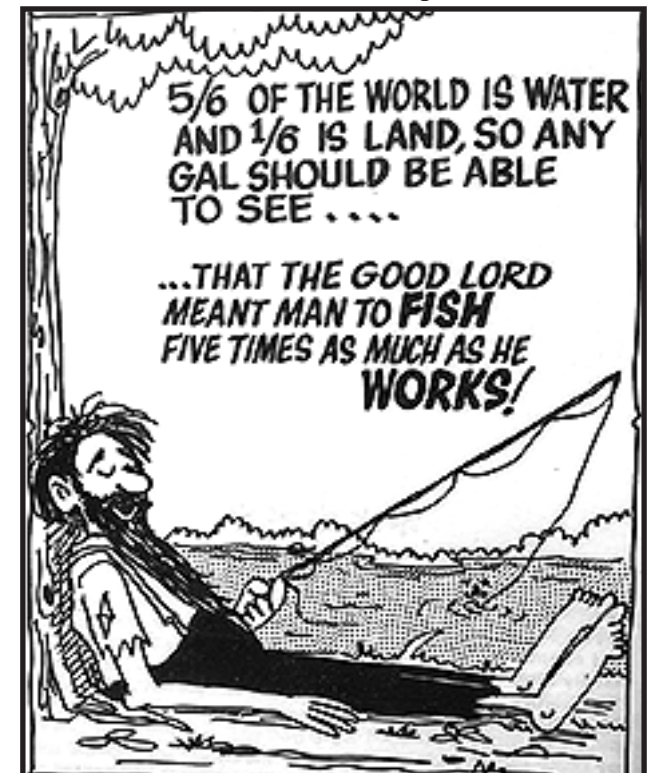
Wildlife Department (TPWD), hosted an educational outreach program for visitors. She was joined by Texas Game Wardens and Army Corps of Engineers Rangers who completed vessel safety checks and assisted boaters by loaning them missing safety equipment. Other partners, LV Project and Powerline Safety Initiative, joined TPWD and assisted with safety outreach and life jacket distribution.

"We had a successful event over the weekend," said Sorensen. "Along with our partners, we reminded boaters to carry the appropriate boating safety equipment including life jackets for all passengers on board, a fire extinguisher, a throwable device, a certificate of number and their boater education card if they were born on or after September 1, 1993. Furthermore, we stressed that children under 12 years of age must wear life jackets while on board."

In addition to vessel and safety checks on the water, game wardens assisted with many other incidents across the state including Driving While Intoxicated violations, trespassing, pursuing a stolen vehicle, recovering a missing vehicle, assault and recovering and transporting a small alligator.

Summer is the busiest time for Texas lakes

and rivers, and it's important for everyone to continue practicing safe water and boating practices every time they hit the water. A complete list of safety equipment required is found in the Texas Water Safety Act. For more information about water safety, visit Water Safety — Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.



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Traveling Art Exhibit Honoring 100 Years of Texas State Parks Moves to Houston

In honor of the Centennial Celebration of Texas State Parks, the Houston Museum of Natural Science will display a new traveling art exhibit beginning May 26 through October 1.

The Art of Texas State Parks is a visual arts survey of state parks featuring more than 30 parks by some of Texas' finest artists. Along with the traveling exhibit, the project also includes a commemorative book published by Texas A&M Press. Proceeds from book sales and the sale of the artwork through Foltz Fine Art in Houston will be donated to Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation to benefit Texas State Parks.

The project was several years in the making. In anticipation of the 2023 Centennial Celebration of Texas State Parks, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University, and the Bullock Texas State History Museum to present The Art of Texas State Parks. Thirty notable Texas artists were commissioned to create works celebrating parks across Texas. Additional support for the project is provided by H-E-B, presenting sponsor for the Texas State Parks Centennial Celebration.

"We hope that in displaying these extraordinary pieces, visitors will be inspired to get out, and en-

joy and explore the stunning natural landscapes we're fortunate to have right in our backyards," said Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Executive Director David Yoskowitz, Ph.D. "We are grateful for the collaboration that is bringing The Art of Texas State Parks to museums across Texas, spreading the message about these natural treasures that belong to us all."

The Art of Texas State Parks is intended to increase public awareness of Texas parklands and heighten their popular appeal through the elegant and inspired works of Texas' best contemporary painters. While the national park system has benefitted from their chroniclers in art, no such artistic record has yet been undertaken for state parks. The Centennial Celebration of Texas State Parks offers the perfect occasion to create a lasting visual record of Texas State Parks in art and, at the same time, memorialize the past and ongoing development of the distinctive collection of Lone Star parks and natural areas.

Participating artists include:

Randy Bacon (Abilene); Mary Baxter (Marfa); David Caton (Utopia); Charles Criner (Houston); Margie Crisp (Elgin); Ric Dentinger (San Antonio/Santa Fe NM); Fidencio Duran (Austin); Janet Eager Krueger (Encinal); Joel Edwards (Waco); Malou Flato (Austin); Gordon Fowler

(Austin); Pat Gabriel (Fort Worth); David Griffin (Lubbock/Dallas); Brian Grimm (Fredericksburg); Clemente Guzman (San Antonio); Karl E. Hall (Houston); John Austin Hanna (Fredericksburg); Billy Hassell (Fort Worth); Hailey Herrera (Bryan); Lee Jamison (Huntsville); Denise Mahlke (Whitehouse); Jim Malone (Fort Worth); Talmage Minter (Waco); William Montgomery (Elgin); Kermit Oliver (Waco); Noe Perez (Corpus Christi); Jeri Salter (Hutto); Jim Stoker (San Antonio); Bob Stuth-Wade (Dublin); and Terri Wells (Austin).

The exhibit can be seen at the Houston Museum of Natural Science May 26 – October 1. It will then be exhibited at the Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon from Oct. 27 – Feb. 18, 2024. The exhibit will also be displayed in 2024 in College Station, Albany and Tyler. The commemorative book is available online through several sources, including Texas A&M Press and Amazon.

"It was a real pleasure to see the passion these artists brought to this project, and we're thrilled these works will be on display at prestigious museums across Texas," said Andrew Sansom, co-author of the commemorative book and founder of the Meadows Center for Water and the Envi-

(See *Traveling Art Exhibit Honoring...*

Continued on Page 21)

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



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

By Terry Long, LFSA President

Congratulations to Jeremy Locke, Pineville, Louisiana (pictured below) for outfishing 1750 Anglers at the 29th Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament on Lake Fork. Jeremy's fish weighed in at 9.74 pounds. He takes home a 2023 Skeeter FXR21 75th Edition powered by Yamaha and \$775.00. Lake Fork Sportsman's Associations own Peggy McWhorter is pictured behind Jeremy on our Live Release Boat.



A big LFSA Thank you to the husband-and-wife team of Mike and Peggy McWhorter for "Preserving the Legend of Lake Fork" by working the Live Release Boat during the Skeeter Tournament. The use of our Live Release Boat is at no charge for tournaments, on Lake Fork, on a first come first served basis. LFSA's Live Release Boat has a success rate of better than 99% to return Bass into Lake Fork alive.

LFSA's Spring Raffle came to a close at the end of the Skeeter Tournament. We had a successful Spring Raffle thanks to the fishermen who supported LFSA by buying raffle tickets. The Raffle could not have been a success without the leader-

ship of Susan and Marty Jarrell, Carolyn and Ken West, Ed Swenson, Peggy York, Ted Warren, Vivian Leopold, Roger Belk and Pat Kostial. I would be remiss in not thanking all those who acquired prizes, sold tickets, set up and took down our booth and delivered our trailer to the tournament sites. Pictured below are Carolyn West and Larry Lewis.

LFSA meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. July's meeting will be held at GoFish Café 3736 TX-154, Yantis Texas. Hope to see you there!



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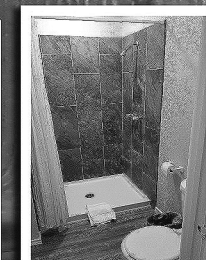
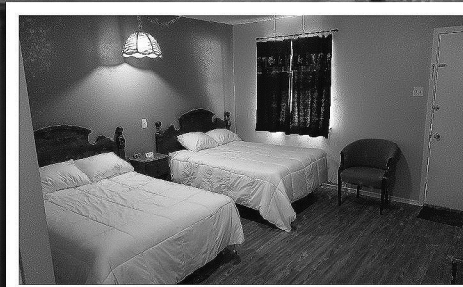
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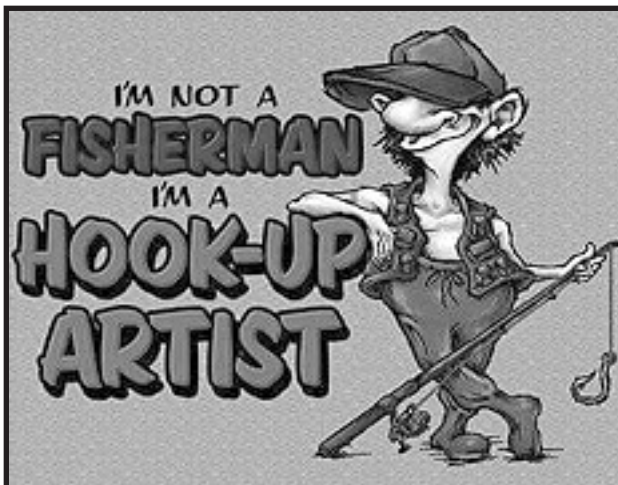
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"Never Give Up Cruise The Deep Points!" *(Continued from Page 6)*

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

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in July searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I also have

gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/davidoziolakeforkguide>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing, Talon Custom Lures, Skeeter Boats, Dakota Lithiums and Hennessey Outdoor Electronics for making my job the blast that it is. I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". I wish all of you a blessed day."



Carson Henry with David Ozio



Gilbert Little with David Ozio



LeRoy Beasley with David Ozio



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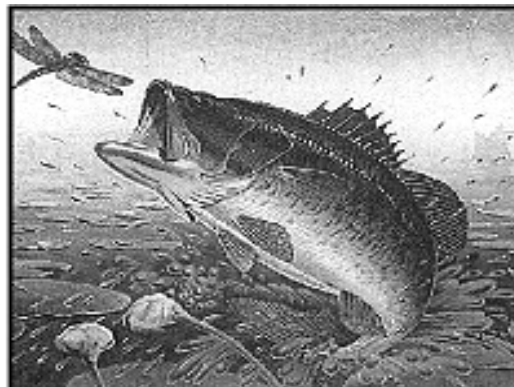
Traveling Art Exhibit (Continued from Page 18)

ronment at Texas State University. "It is our fervent hope that these works of art will inspire present and future generations of Texans to forever appreciate and protect their parks."

Along with The Art of Texas State Parks, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation is part-

nering with TPWD to celebrate Texas State Parks all year long. H-E-B, the presenting sponsor of the Centennial Celebration, donated \$1 million to help Texas State Parks engage all Texans in discovering and exploring their parks. For

more information on the Centennial Celebration, including special community events at all Texas State Parks, the history of Texas State Parks and how to make a day visit or overnight reservation, visit TexasStateParks.org/100years.



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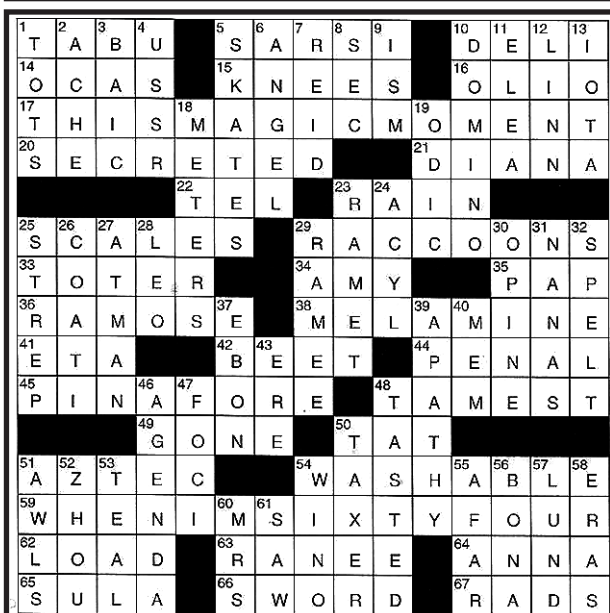


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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Gesundheit!-- A Real County game warden assisted the Real County Sheriff's Department on a call about a reckless driver that had been pulled over just south of Leakey. After the deputy made contact with the driver, he told the game warden the driver was acting very nervous. While the deputy was running the driver's information the subject sped away and a pursuit ensued. Real County sheriff's of-

fice, the game warden, the DPS trooper and the Real County Constable were involved in the pursuit. After pursuing the subject for about 5 miles south of Leakey the subject stopped and fled on foot. The driver ran towards the Frio river and jumped in the river. The game warden drove to the other side of the river to try and apprehend the subject, but the subject made it back across the river. A bystander told the warden where the subject crossed the river again, and he and the other officers began a search for the subject. While waiting for the

Edwards County sheriff's office K9 unit to arrive, the game warden was continuing the search when he heard someone sneeze in the tall grass. The warden began searching the area where he heard the sneeze and shortly after found the subject in a ditch covered up with grass. The subject was apprehended transported to the Real County Jail. The subject said he fled because he was scared and was out on bond. He also had two bags of marijuana stuffed in his boots.

--What Happens at the Lake House--Llano County game wardens

(Continued on Page 24)

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'Fire Up' Fourth of July Fun

By Sue Hampton

Independence Day festivities are chock full of fun. From spirited parties to boisterous parades to fireworks at the lake, Fourth of July brings out the child in everyone.

Nothing sums up the holiday better than spectacular fireworks displays. Why not bring the excitement of those sparklers, rockets and noisemakers into your holiday meal by putting some bang into the food you serve. Firecracker Wings are sure to fire up your festivities.

FIRECRACKER WINGS

(Yield: 24 wings)



Happy Fourth of July to each and every one of you! Be Safe!

Dragon Wing Dust

2 tablespoons anise seeds

2 tablespoons salt

2 tablespoons Chinese

5 spice

2 tablespoons

superfine sugar

1 tablespoon paprika

1 tablespoon garlic

seasoning

2 teaspoons cayenne

2 teaspoons black

pepper

1 teaspoon garlic

powder

Wings

24 chicken wings

1 gallon Fried

Chicken Marinade

(recipe follows)

Peanut Oil

4 cups flour

1 stick butter, melted

Sweet and sour sauce for dipping

To make wing dust, grind anise seeds into powder in an electric coffee grinder. Mix next eight ingredients together with anise powder. Grind this mixture

again in coffee grinder and set aside.

Wash wings. Place in marinade and refrigerate for four hours. Drain and discard marinade. Heat oil to 375 degrees in a heavy skillet. Oil should be about ¼ inch deep. Toss wings in flour until well coated. Turn heat to medium. Fry wings until golden brown. This takes about 12 to 15 minutes. Place wings on a sheet pan. Dip pastry brush into melted butter and daub on wings. Generously sprinkle with wing dust. Serve with sweet and sour sauce.

SECRET FRIED CHICKEN

MARINADE

(Yield: 1 Gallon)

1 gallon plus 2 cups cold water

6 tablespoons chicken

base

2 tablespoons salt

2 teaspoons fine

ground black pepper

1 teaspoon cayenne

1 tablespoon liquid

hickory smoke

Prepare two days before frying chicken. Bring 2 cups of water to a boil. Add chicken base and dry ingredients. Mix well and remove from heat. Add hickory smoke and immediately add to 1 gallon water. Let marinade stand overnight before using.



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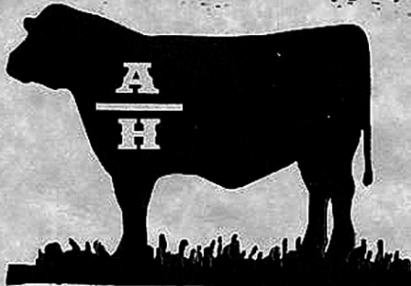
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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

responded to a shots fired call with deputies. Multiple callers stated an individual in a subdivision was shooting an automatic rifle at a buoy in the lake near houses and towards boats in the water. A rental house was located with eight people where the shooter was identified. The shooter admitted to hiding the rifle inside the residence. Consent was given to search the house which yielded the rifle, bags of marijuana, unprescribed Adderall, and psilo-cybin mushrooms. A total of five people were arrested for charges ranging from possession of marijuana, deadly conduct-3rd degree felony, and possession of controlled substance 1>4 grams — 2nd degree felony.

--Stop Methin' Around-- An Ellis County game warden received a call from the Cedar Hill police chief to discuss issues and complaints they were receiving on a rural part of the city where their officers couldn't easily access. After the game warden met with the chief and lieutenant, he patrolled the area and located a white truck trespassing with the driver still sitting in the vehicle. A meth pipe was in his hunting jacket and the suspect admitted to waiting on his friend to go hog hunting. The game warden located 1.6 grams of meth in the vehicle and a loaded 30-30 rifle. The suspect was a convicted felon and the rifle came back as stolen out of Montgomery County. The subject was arrested and placed in

the Ellis County Jail. Multiple charges pending. **--Extremely Loud & Incredibly Dumb--** While patrolling the San Jacinto River for fishing license violations in eastern Montgomery County, San Jacinto and Montgomery County game wardens heard a gunshot that sounded extremely close. After looking at a map, they noticed a pipeline about 50 yards away. As they made their way down the pipeline, the wardens noticed a pickup and ATV tucked away into the woods. While approaching the pickup, they witnessed two individuals tucking things into the toolbox of the truck. It appeared they had interrupted what was about to be a hunt without consent case. A bag of hogwild attractant was found in the toolbox as well as a shotgun with buckshot and a rifle with a thermal scope. The ATV had been reported stolen out of Liberty County in 2018, so it was seized for further investigation. The registered owner of the ATV listed a guide on his hunting lease as his primary suspect. The guide just happened to be

the same individual who was in possession of the ATV. Charges Pending.

--Lights Out-- A Sabine County game warden observed a truck traveling on State Highway 87 near Milam, Texas with inoperable taillights and license plate lights. The warden initiated a traffic stop on the truck and upon contacting the driver and passenger, the warden located a whitetailed buck deer in the bed of the truck. After a brief interview, the warden was able to obtain a confession from the individuals. The deer was shot from the road with the aid of an artificial light. Both subjects were arrested for hunting white-tailed deer at night and hunting with the aid of artificial light. Cases Pending.

--Food Truck Bandits-- While returning a recovered stolen game camera from a previous hunting case to the land manager of a local development company, a Montgomery County game warden learned that they had been having

(Continued on Next Page)

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theft issues from the active construction areas on some of their development properties. The warden and a Grimes County game warden made a pass through the development while on routine patrol and witnessed four individuals loading thousands of dollars of construction materials into the back of two pickup trucks. When the wardens contacted the group, they claimed that an unnamed friend who worked there told them they could have what they were taking. The land manager was able to quickly contact the construction superintendent of the project who verified that no one other than him had the authority to give away material and he did not give anyone permission to take anything. All four individuals were arrested for theft \$750-\$2,500, a class A misdemeanor. Upon further questioning, the group caught stealing were discovered as the drivers of food trucks for several local developments, including the one they were caught in.

--That Dog Does Hunt-- While patrolling the Sam Houston National Forest, a Montgomery County Game Warden contacted four individuals who had firearms, rope and GPS tracking equipment. The hunter's claimed that their dogs had gotten off the private property they were hunting, and they were trying to get them back. The warden asked if they knew it was illegal to

run dogs in the national forest and they said that they did but were only trying to retrieve their dogs. The warden told them to gather their dogs and leave the forest as soon as possible. Once out of sight, the warden parked his vehicle and doubled back on the group just in time to witness them dragging a pig out of the woods. All four individuals received citations and a few warnings, and one was taken to Montgomery County Jail on local warrants.

--Smile! You're on Camera-- Hardin County Game Wardens wrapped up a week-long investigation that resulted in apprehending two local subjects in the act of taking 35 catfish by way of hoop nets that were placed in Village Creek near the Polk/Hardin County line. The warden had begun the investigation the week prior and walked several miles along the creek until he discovered a boat that was tied up and unattended in a very remote part of the creek. After a quick inspection of the boat, he believed it was possibly being used to run hoop nets. The wardens devised a plan to enter the property before daylight, ahead of a forecasted heavy rain event, to catch the subjects in the act. After lying in wait for over 6 hours, the wardens heard the subjects arrive by vehicle and get in their boat that was still tied up on the creek. After they emptied one hoop net upstream, they

returned to check a net downstream that just happened to be right in front of the wardens hiding spot. The subjects were captured on video removing fish from their nets and the look on their face when they were caught was "priceless." Two hoop nets and 35 catfish were seized and several charges for taking fish by illegal means and possessing hoop nets in prohibited waters were filed.

--Dug Himself into A Hole-- Houston County Game Wardens were watching bank fishermen on the Trinity River near the Lock and Dam when they observed a fisherman pull in his stringer and remove a white bass. The fisherman then cut off a large portion of the tail, baited his hook with it and reset his line in the water. He then turned around and began digging a hole into the side of the riverbank. The wardens watched as the fisherman then placed the cut up white bass in the hole and covered it up to hide the evidence of what he had been doing. The wardens made contact with the fisherman and after denying even catching a fish he finally admitted to what he had been up to and uncovered the buried white bass. He was charged for using game fish as bait and given a warning for waste of game. Case pending.

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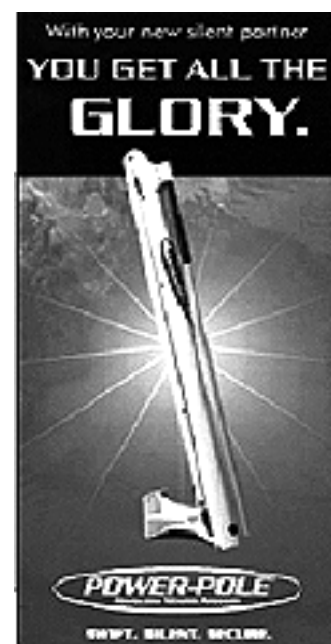
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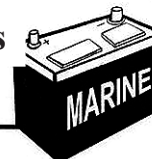
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