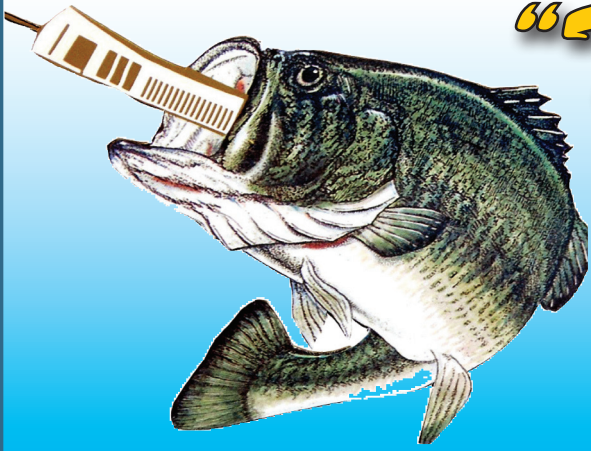


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Vol. 24

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No. 288

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association New Approach For Enhancing Lake Fork Shoreline Habitat



By Ed Swenson
HAAP Project Leader

Significant shoreline aquatic plant habitat is critical for any fishery and has historically been abundantly available on Lake Fork. Vegetation has contributed to the success of this great lake. That key element has been significantly stressed by turtles (devouring plant growth, droughts (ending in 2015) and the recent drawdown of the lake for dam repair starting January 2021. The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association (LFSA)

has been proactive with programs with Yantis High School, Friends of Reservoirs and Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) in efforts to improve this habitat for several years. That has been accomplished by developing and implementing projects to grow aquatic plants in a greenhouse and then transplanting them into the lake. These efforts continue with an expanded effort via a grant from TPWD funded by both Sabine River Authority (SRA) and TPWD. The

grant titled "Habitat Angler Access Program" (HAAP) was offered starting in September of 2022. LFSA initiated efforts to identify how to expand the habitat improvements using funding from such a grant. Those efforts resulted in a project proposal to expand the engagement of two additional high schools in the plant growing process. Quitman and Alba-Golden were approached with a proposal and both were interested in in- (See LFSA New Approach Continued on Page 4)





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"Hats Off To Bubba & Hats Off'ed By Bubbette"

By: Don Hampton

Bubbette has always liked decorative borders around the top of the walls where it joins with the ceiling. Bubba does too! It is just their definitions of an attractive border are two worlds apart!

When Bubba and Bubbette first met, the borders in her house were a pretty shade to match the carpet with just darling little flowers and butterfly prints throughout. Bubba's was 463 baseball caps lining the wall throughout the house. These caps lined the ceiling joints throughout his three-bedroom house. These caps, side by side, lined the living room into the kitchen, down the hall into the bedrooms and the bathrooms. No space at the top of any wall was blank. Before he moved, it took him a week to fill the nail holes and repaint the walls.

At first Bubbette pretended to like this macho decoration of Bubba's, but we know the real truth because Bubba is no longer in charge of interior decorating and his cap collection is minimal.

Bubba had a cap that advertised businesses, products, festivals, carnivals, you name it he had a cap for it. If he'd worn most of them he could have gone for years without being seen in the same cap twice. But, we all know what the largest majority of the caps had on them! That is right, fish!

Bubba had a cap for the kind of hooks he used, the lures, the line, the type of boat he had, the motor, his

bass clubs, you name it! If it was fishing related, he had a cap that had something to say about it. I think he was hoping fishing tournaments would start being double-headers!

Bubba's love for caps began at an early age when he would push his little cap down over his eyes pushing his ears out so far it was comical and walk to the pond catching grasshoppers with a cane pole over his shoulder. He uses much more expensive items than a cane pole now, but he still occasionally catches grasshoppers to fish with and his love for a cap has never diminished, especially since his hair has begun to!

Bubba has had a lot of people try to discourage him from wearing caps all of the time. (You will not see Bubba without a cap on.) Most would use the old "cliché" wearing a cap would make you lose your hair sooner. Well, Bubba had seen pictures of his ancestors in the photo albums and knew his hair was doomed with heritage. He knew without a doubt his hair might go but baseball caps would always be around. The way he feels about this is, his fishing caps displaying his favorite lures, rods, lines, fish or whatever he has on them, looks a lot better than some of the wigs and toupees he has seen some guys wear. To his way of thinking a toupee is a cap without a brim and besides it probably sheds and don't let the dog get hold of it. Bubba's remark on this one was, "I take my cap off for the National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, prayer and when I

go to church. I think it would be funnier than all get out if they had to take off their little hairy cap!" I have to agree with him on this one, it would be funny.

As for the hair implants, he has seen some of those that his friends got at the place he calls "Hair R Us". He thinks those resemble hair on old dolls belonging to his daughter he had to throw away. They shed too! He doesn't like the "Hair R Us" definition of "Plugs". To his way of thinking the only plugs in his life are the ones good for fixing a flat or topwater baits. To Bubba's way of thinking, this seems painful and expensive when really all they need is to get a cap.

Bubba's inventory in the cap department has really been depleted since his marriage to Bubbette. Her interior decorating does not allow for Bubba's cap collection as a ceiling border. Not to be remorseful, Bubba is understanding. Even though Bubbette still collects her ceramic angels, he can't have a cap collection. Now he is limited to just a few and if the number begins to grow in the collection, somehow certain ones seem to disappear. "Funny how things happen that way." All of that is fine with Bubba because now he has a new hobby that Bubbette can't get to when it's locked up in his boat! That's collecting "Fishing Stuff"!!

"Hats off to Bubba" now has a complete new meaning for him. To Bubba it means Bubbette has off'ed all his caps in a garage sale.

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LFSA's New Approach For Enhancing Lake Fork Shoreline Habitat *(Continued from Page 1)*

tegrating those efforts with their Vocational Ag classes. Costs for implementing and operating those additions were identified by LFSA member, Carolyn West, and a HAAP grant application started.

LFSA has been seeking other options for enhancing shoreline habitat. Many aquatic plants can propagate from fragments of the plant itself. TPWD and SRA have been running an experimental setup for pumping lake water into tanks with aquatic plants, fragmenting plants through manual clipping and those clippings flowing back into the lake



for broadcast by the wind to the lake shore. While this system worked well for growing, fragmenting and releasing the plants back into the lake, it is a rather expensive operation requiring solar powered pumps and fixed locations for the setup. To replicate that would become quite involved if deployed to areas beyond SRA control. Ed Swenson, another LFSA member, researched other options for using a fragmentation method and discovered that the state of Arkansas had started using floating planters filled with grasses. Jake Norman, TPWD Lake Fork Biologist, was contacted to see if he knew who was involved with the Arkansas project. Sean Lusk was identified as the key resource; he was contacted and provided needed input about the construction of the planters themselves and the plants used in the planter. Sean indicated that they have had the best success using Coontail grass. Given this input an addition to the HAAP Grant was developed, submitted and approved.

These floating planters are anchored to move up and down with the wave action of

the lake causing the plants inside to fragment and then move by the wind. They allow for seed and turions, flower buds produced by the plant that go dormant over winter and start a new plant in the spring, to be deposited in the area around the planter. The planters are placed in 10-15 feet of

(Continued on Next Page)



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water and are free to move with changing lake levels thus maintaining the capability to support a founder colony during different lake levels. The floaters themselves are constructed using PVC tubing. Two different sizes have been made- two large, 4'x6' with 2 baskets, and four small, 4'x4' with 1 basket. These baskets are covered with different plastic mesh configurations to contain the Coontail but allow fragments to escape. The baskets were loaded with Coontail grown in the Quitman Ag greenhouse. Yantis HS Ag shop classes have been involved with other LFSA projects and constructed the floaters. Instructor Mike Moore stated that "This has been another great opportunity of Yantis High School to work with LFSA. From my perspective, this project is a win-win because it benefits our community and gives our students real-world experience in stewardship". The plan is to construct and deploy 4 more small planters this year.

While Ed Swenson was unloading the first 2 planters at Pope's Landing, a young man who had just launched his boat approached him and said, "You've got some work to do." He was Remi Lawrence, a college student and a member of their fishing team. He further stated "I'm from north central Arkansas,

and down here at great Lake Fork. I attend Arkansas Tech in Russellville home of Lake Dardanelle in south central Arkansas and am around all the central and south lakes all the time. This project they have been working on especially on Lake DeGray and Dardanelle has really brought all the grass back and you can see a big difference in what Parks and Wildlife and Arkansas Game and Fish are doing to help all these lakes." Photos of planters are shown here. Be aware that they are TPWD property and are not to be moved, damaged, disturbed or used for any other purpose.

This is an effort to significantly improve shoreline habitat on Lake Fork with positive results expected in 1 -2 years and beyond. Lake Fork community support is greatly appreciated. LFSA is always looking for new members interested in working on these projects.



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"Warmer Weather Deeper Depths!"

"If you plan to fish this summer, you may as well practice in your oven before you head this way. A "hot box" is putting it mildly. I would have thought these extreme temps would drive Fork bass to the bottom in droves but that has not been the case to date. Numbers on each guide trip have been on the low side for most of the month and I don't see a change coming. To mix things up even more, we have had some good rain-fall over the past several weeks which cools the water temps down then the scorching sun and temps scissor it back up. Add the fact also that the lake is finally almost back to full pool which has put the bass in a state of confusion with all anglers as well.

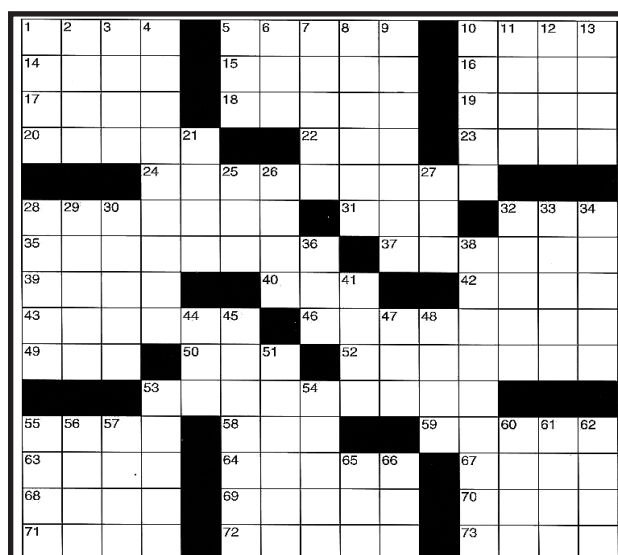
As I stated Lake Fork is currently close to pool level and water clarity is incredibly good across the expanse of the impoundment. Surface temps, at times, have been ranging from 88-92 degrees then we will have a nice segment of rain which drops it to the 85-87 level. These extremes have recently delegated where the bass have been holding with regard to structure. Shallow water temps have been much higher based upon lake location. Saw 94.2 just the other day in the back of a creek after several days of low wind. Even though the surface temps are in the upper range, bass seem to be occasionally holding on the bottom relating to points, pond dams, ridges, roadbeds and hard structures. I have recently noticed when the surface temps are super high bass tend to be camped in the 12-16ft range. When the clouds and rain roll in, they drop back to the 20-24ft levels. As of this writing I have been catching bass in 12-14ft early and then fading back to the 20-24ft range on the same structures to tangle with the bruisers. Targeting these fish is the directive and your electronics will be the tool to getting the job done. I suspect as we roll into August the thermocline will rise up in the water column causing the bass to suspend. With the water temps being this warm at the moment, I really could see this happening at any time. Break lines have been the



key to date as the big green fish just refuse to move up onto the tops of the humps and ridges. Could it happen in August, stay tuned.

Morning and late evening bass are no huge challenge as they will hit top water baits along with the squarebill crankbaits. Shad colors are always recommended and focus these efforts on main lake points. This action will be short lived as the bite dissipates as the sun starts to peek over the tree lines. This is when you shift gears and tie on a deeper diving crankbait and back out on these points and focus on the 8-15ft depth range. Same colors apply during this time of the year and covering water

will be the ticket to success. Once mid morning is upon you, this will be the time to break out the Carolina and Texas rigs to probe the 20-26ft depths using any plastic of your choice. Big worms usually will get the job done and I favor any version of red during the summer months. Redbug is hard to beat especially if you see the bass on the screen and decide to tackle them using a drop shot. I opt for 12lb line on the drop shot in this situation and use a 3/8 ounce weight on calm days, 1/2 ounce weight on the windy outings. If you are strictly after the biggest fish in any school, break out the one ounce football jig with matching trailer and hang on for dear life when the rod tip loads up. Fluorocarbon lines in the 17-20lb range



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Utter in a grating voice
- 5. Shrub
- 10. Bodily cavities
- 14. Predatory whale
- 15. Marketplace in ancient Greece
- 16. Competently
- 17. River duck
- 18. Irritant
- 19. Disconsolate
- 20. In a way, confined
- 22. European river
- 23. Workplaces
- 24. Way to deliver a blow to
- 28. One who assists
- 31. Centre
- 32. Very fast airplane
- 35. Emphasizing the organic relation between parts and the whole
- 37. Sword
- 39. Ardor
- 40. _____ Ling, Chinese mountain range
- 42. Thomas _____, British composer, 1700
- 43. Serve
- 46. Citizen of Nepal
- 49. Gaming cube
- 50. Swiss river
- 52. Overnight bags
- 53. Divertimentos
- 55. Pop
- 58. Mary _____, cosmetics
- 59. Thomas _____, Secretary of State
- 63. Game fish
- 64. Synchronizes solar and lunar time
- 67. Fallow deer
- 68. Acts as assistant
- 69. Raise the voice
- 70. Small ornamental ladies' bag
- 71. Actor
- 72. Hike
- 73. Slave

CLUES DOWN

- 1. College army
- 2. Location
- 3. Morphine derivative
- 4. Holy Land
- 5. Called Sabbath in Judaism
- 6. Exclamation: yuck!
- 7. Tempers
- 8. Written symbols
- 9. More cagey
- 10. Nautical unit of depth
- 11. City 3000 BC
- 12. Stout stick
- 13. Affirmative votes
- 21. Radiotelegraphic signals
- 25. Scatter
- 26. Emerald Isle
- 27. Round globular seed
- 28. Toward the future
- 29. Food fish
- 30. Fill with high spirits
- 32. Fathers
- 33. Connotation
- 34. Ligneous plants
- 36. Container
- 38. Walls
- 41. Russian river
- 44. No (Scottish)
- 45. Most benighted
- 47. Flat cushion or mat
- 48. Away from wind
- 51. Harvester
- 53. Sword
- 54. African antelope
- 55. Any of several carangid fishes
- 56. Tributary of Mississippi River
- 57. Dress flamboyantly
- 60. Turnstile
- 61. Asian river between China and Russia
- 62. Naive
- 65. Rotating mechanism
- 66. Thrust horse power, abbr.

Answers on Page 21

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(See Warmer Weather.. Continued on Page 20)

Texas Game Wardens Conclude Busy July 4th Weekend of Statewide Enforcement

While thousands of Texans and out-of-state visitors traveled to Texas lakes, rivers and coastal bays to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday weekend, Texas Game Wardens were out in force to ensure everyone stayed safe on the water.

"Texas Game Wardens partnered with thousands of law enforcement agencies across the country for Operation Dry Water to focus on impacts of alcohol on boaters during high-traffic weekends like the Fourth of July," said Cody Jones, Assistant Commander for Marine Enforcement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). "These efforts are represented in the work we did during the holiday weekend."

Texas Game Wardens issued 1,521 citations and 1,891 warnings for various boating safety laws. Wardens also arrested 56 individuals for Boating While Intoxicated and filed four other charges for Driving While Intoxicated. An additional 36 individuals were arrested for a variety of other charges.

Texas Game Wardens also conducted multiple search and rescues over the holiday weekend and assisted with 18 boating accidents at several

Texas lakes and rivers.

Statewide, Game Wardens were involved with numerous waterway assists and other incidents.

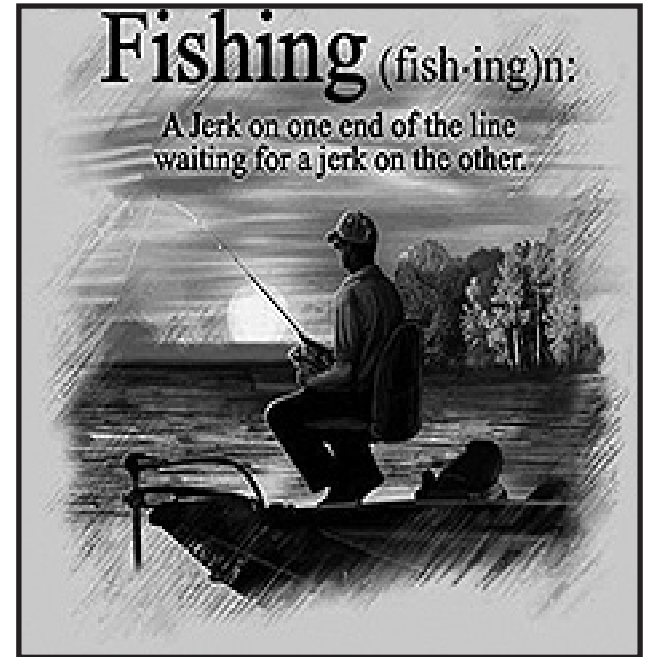
* Game Wardens patrolling Lake Palestine observed a dock fire started by fireworks and were able to extinguish the blaze before major damage occurred.

* Comal County Game Wardens responded to a missing swimmer after a caller reported that a family member was swimming but could not be located. They located the missing person 125 yards offshore swimming outside of the designated area. The swimmer was exhausted and requested a ride back to shore where they were united with family and friends.

* Game Wardens on Lake Travis helped locate a missing seven-year-old female who was found safely with a friend. TPWD aviation assisted Game Wardens in Zavala, Uvalde and Real counties patrolling the Nueces River for riverbed enforcement activities.

* The TPWD Boater Education program had booths at Canyon Lake and Joe Pool Lake over the weekend to promote boating and water safety.

Texas Game Wardens handled one boating fatality and five open-water fatalities on Texas waterways over the Independence Day weekend. The boating-related fatality occurred on Lake Stillhouse. Open-water fatality locations included Lake Lewisville (2), Lake Travis, Marlin City Lake and Cedar Creek Lake.



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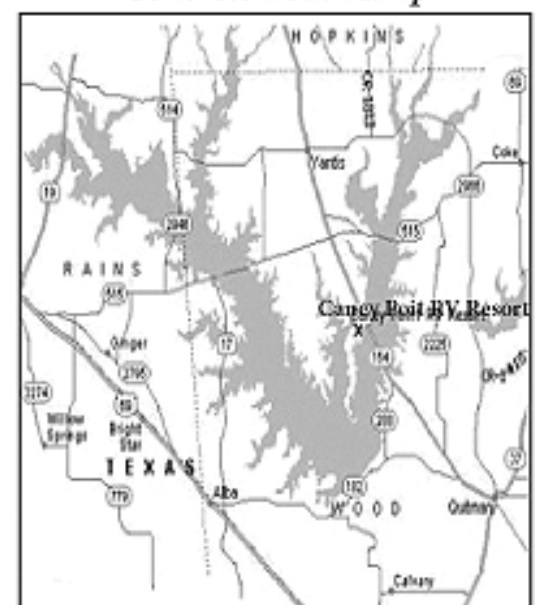
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"The Moon Report"

"Solera" & Crappie Excitement!

By Terri Moon

Skeeter Solera that is!! It's what I like to call my "Luxury Liner"! I can't begin to tell you how MUCH I've enjoyed fishing out of this boat! They have really taken crappie fishing to another level! Their comfort level is off the chart! One of my customers last week told me – WOW – this is like fishing out of my living room! We had comfortable seating, the blue tooth stereo going, cold drinks in the cup holders and fish in the livewell. Life just doesn't get any better!

Yep – Skeeter has expanded the Solera from a 189 to a 205 "dream machine"! So I am "ALL IN"! My favorite thing about the Solera is that it's a "Perfect Boat" for any age and especially for us "Seniors"!!! (I don't know about you but I'd rather ride in a Lincoln Town Car than a little whatever!) Somehow the comfort makes the fishing more fun! So thank you Skeeter for making such a "Family Friendly" boat!

Now as far as the crappie excitement, we are starting to check the deeper areas of the lake like deep water humps, points, and any bends in main creek channels. They like to



have quick access to shallow and deep water. So check any drop-offs or ledges and always look for baitfish. Right now we are targeting 12 to 18 ft. in 20 to 30 ft. of water.

The colors working for us have been Limits Tackle live baby shad in blue gill or white/chartreuse, Skipper Baits in LSU purple/chartreuse or white/chartreuse and Bonehead slim stick in white/chartreuse. It's also taking a very slow presentation so try your best not to overwork your bait. All you need is a little twitch now and then so you can stay in contact with your bait (and don't stop watching your line).

Now for those of you still looking for bream, they have been in 1-5 ft. around the new and full moon. Other than that, look in 5-20 ft. around any structure. Crickets or night crawlers or

Berkley Power Wiggles will work.

Many thanks to all of you who came to fish with me this past month and I'm so glad you all have enjoyed the Solera Boat as much as I do!

Be safe out there while you enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sending thoughts, hugs & prayers to my family in Missouri!



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Don Overstreet caught this nice over the slot bass winning 1st Place in JC Outdoors Team Championship. C.P.R.




Amber from Destin, Florida caught her personal best while fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith. C.P.R.













Michael McWhorter faced the heat in July to catch this nice Lake Fork bass, but we know his wife Peggy let him catch the first one.



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Texas State Parks Recognized Among the Nation's Best

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) along with the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration have selected Texas State Parks as a finalist for the 2023 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

"I'm proud to have the hard work of our Texas State Park staff recognized for building one of the best state park systems in the country," said Rodney Franklin, director of Texas State Parks. "It is an honor for Texas State Parks to be nationally recognized for our efforts to welcome all Texans and preserve the gems of Texas for all generations."

Texas State Parks is competing against three

other state park systems for the top award: Missouri State Parks, Ohio State Parks and Watercraft; and Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails. The winner will be announced in October at the NRPA conference in Dallas.

Founded in 1965, the Gold Medal Awards program honors communities in the United States that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Applications are separated into seven classes, with five classes based on population, one class for armed forces recreation and one class, awarded on odd

numbered years, for state park systems.

Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of community members, staff and elected officials. Four finalists in each class are chosen

to compete for grand honors each year. For more information concerning the Gold Medal Award program, visit <https://aapra.org/National-Gold-Medal-Award>.

"We are especially thrilled to receive this recognition during our Centennial year," Franklin said. "The fact that we were named a finalist among peer institutions across the country really highlights the progress we have made over the past century to fulfill then-Gov. Pat Neff's vision of a Texas dotted with state parks 'to be held in sacred trust by the State for the public good, now and forever.'"

Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation is partnering with TPWD and H-E-B to celebrate 100 years of Texas State Parks. H-E-B, the presenting sponsor of the celebration, has donated \$1 million to help Texas State Parks engage all Texans in discovering and enjoying their state parks throughout the yearlong celebration.

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

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Enjoy State Park Views Indoors at the Houston Museum of Natural Science

Want to appreciate the beauty of Texas State Parks and stay indoors? Visit the The Art of Texas State Parks traveling exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science this summer to stay cool while enjoying the views and vistas found in parks. The exhibit, created in honor of the Centennial Celebration of Texas State Parks, will remain in Houston until October 1.

The exhibit features paintings of 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 (TPWF) to benefit Texas State Parks.

The project was several years in the making. In anticipation of the 2023 Centennial Celebration of Texas State Parks, TPWF 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. H-E-B, presenting sponsor for the Texas State Parks Centennial Celebration,

provided additional support for the project.

"We hope that in displaying these extraordinary pieces, visitors will be inspired to get out and enjoy and explore the stunning natural landscapes we're fortunate to have right in our backyards," said 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 benefited from its chroniclers in art, no such artistic record had been undertaken for state parks.

"The Centennial Celebration 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," said Texas State Parks Director Rodney Franklin.

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); MalouFlato (Austin); GordonFowler (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 (FortWorth); 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 until October 1. It will then be exhibited at the Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon from Oct. 27 through Feb. 18, 2024.

(See Enjoy State Park Views Indoors.....

Continued on Page 21)

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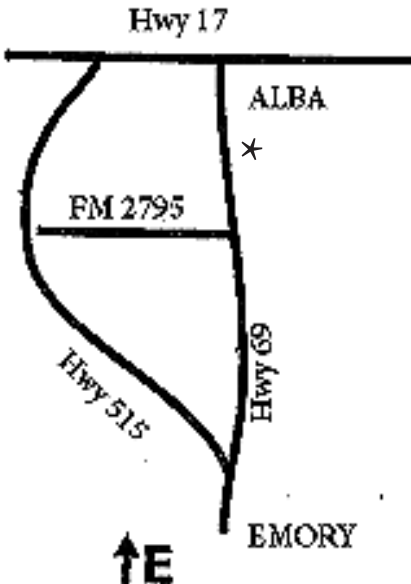
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RACA Program Expands Public Fishing, Paddling Access With New Sites

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is increasing public fishing and paddling opportunities in the state thanks to the addition of two leased river access sites through the River Access and Conservation Area (RACA) program. The new sites are located on the Brazos and San Marcos rivers, giving the public more options and flexibility to access these incredible waterways.

The new site on the Brazos River is in Milam County near Calvert and features two access areas downstream of FM 979. The

new RACA site on the San Marcos River is at the Scull Road Bridge near Martindale.

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

Brazos River site: Area 1 of the TPWD River

Access site in Milam County (10794 FM 979) offers a complimentary parking area for TPWD leased access users. Through this access point, visitors can access the Brazos River to paddle and fish. Area 2 (5988 County Road 259) offers a parking area along with access to the Brazos for paddling and/or fishing purposes. However, a landowner-provided shuttle is required to get from the parking lot to the access point.

Access to these site areas is open from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after

(See RACA Program....
Continued on Page 15)



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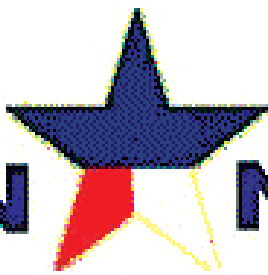
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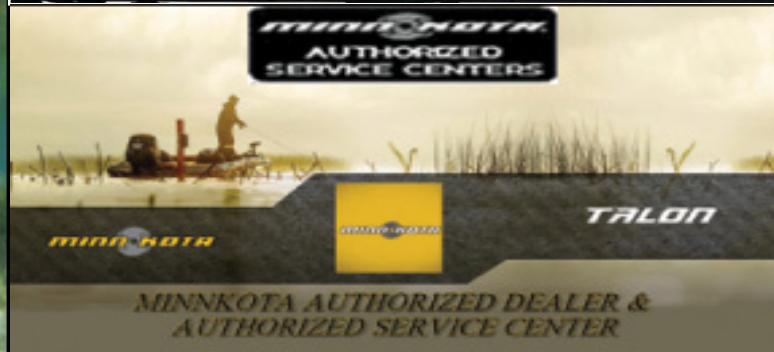
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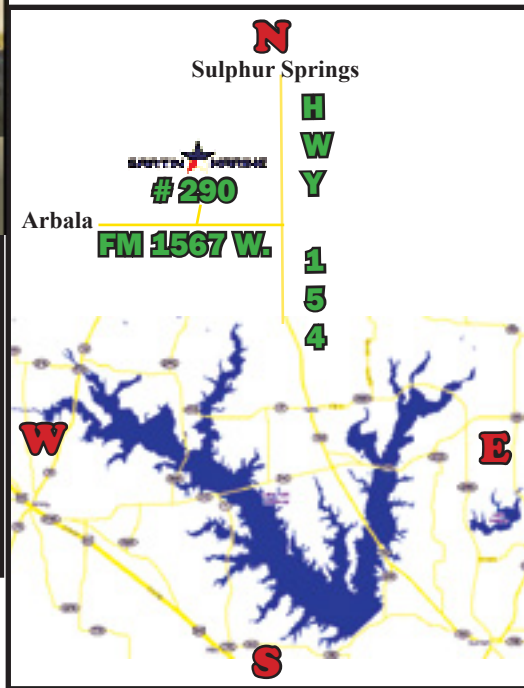


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RACA Program Expands *(Continued from Page 12)*

sunset for wade fishing and launching non-motorized boats, canoes or kayaks to paddle or fish on the river. Visitors are asked to call 979-219-4808 prior to arrival to get the necessary gate codes and check site conditions. Shuttle services must be prearranged with the landowner.

This segment of the river offers ample opportunities to cast for largemouth, spotted and white bass while channel catfish, freshwater drum and sunfish are also prevalent. Anglers and paddlers should note that current water levels at these areas are extremely low and these river condi-

tions pose additional challenges.

San Marcos River site: TPWD has established a new parking area 0.16 miles southwest of the Scull Road Bridge access site for leased access users. Access is open daily from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset for launching non-motorized boats, canoes or kayaks to paddle and/or fish. Angling opportunities are abundant on this segment of the San Marcos River for largemouth bass, Guadalupe bass and channel catfish.

Visitors are asked to text 512-787-5574 before arrival to acquire the correct gate code

and ensure that parking is available. The immediate area around the bridge is for loading and unloading only. Bank fishing and parking at the access site is prohibited.

River Access and Conservation Areas are currently funded by a combination of sources, including donations from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, grant awards from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sport Fish Restoration Program and U.S. Department of Agriculture - Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program, as well as sales of the Texas Rivers Conservation License Plate.

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Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Brooks County Deer Breeding Facility

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) received notification of a new case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a deer-breeding facility in Brooks County. This marks the first detection of the disease in the county and the ninth CWD-positive breeding facility in the state detected in 2023.

A five-year-old doe detected with CWD was transferred in 2022 from a facility in Frio County newly discovered to be positive for CWD. In this case, TPWD regulations required euthanization and testing for CWD as part of the epidemiological investigation.

Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory in College Station initially analyzed post-mortem samples, and the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, confirmed the CWD detection.

CWD has an incubation period that

can span years, meaning the first indication in a herd may likely come through surveillance testing rather than observed clinical signs. Early detection and proactive monitoring improve the state's response time to the detection of CWD and can greatly reduce the risk of further disease spread.

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 irreversible disease process continues, 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 and CWD best management practices for hunters and landowners, visit TPWD's CWD page.

The recently updated TPWD CWD webpage includes a map of all CWD zones, check stations and positive case tracking. This webpage can be utilized to find answers to frequently asked questions, view videos with information from wildlife veterinarians and review the latest news. Additional information regarding TAHC requirements, CWD zones, disease information and details pertaining to susceptible exotic species can be found on the TAHC CWD webpage.

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Chronic Wasting Disease is a Real Threat to Texas Deer

This year, hunters in Texas will notice an increase in messaging about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and its impacts to the state as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) launches a new public awareness campaign.

The campaign aims to share information with hunters and the public about how they can help protect Texas deer and stop the spread of this deadly disease.

"Many have asked, 'What is CWD?'" said TPWD Wildlife Division Director John Silovsky. "Our goal is to create a greater awareness of the presence and consequences of CWD on the Texas landscape."

CWD is a highly transmissible, fatal neurological disease that effects species of cervids (members of the deer family), including white-tailed and mule deer. As the disease continues to spread through the native deer population, TPWD hopes Texans will be ever more vigilant. Proper carcass disposal and CWD testing for each harvest are the greatest contributions a hunter can make to prevent further spread of the disease and assist with necessary surveillance across the state.

"CWD isn't a disease where people can afford to stick their heads in the sand," said TPWD Big Game Program Director Alan Cain. "The

outreach effort is meant to generate discussion, educate folks about the disease, current CWD regulations, and what we can do to manage the disease. We have an obligation to current and future generations of Texans to be good stewards of our native deer species."

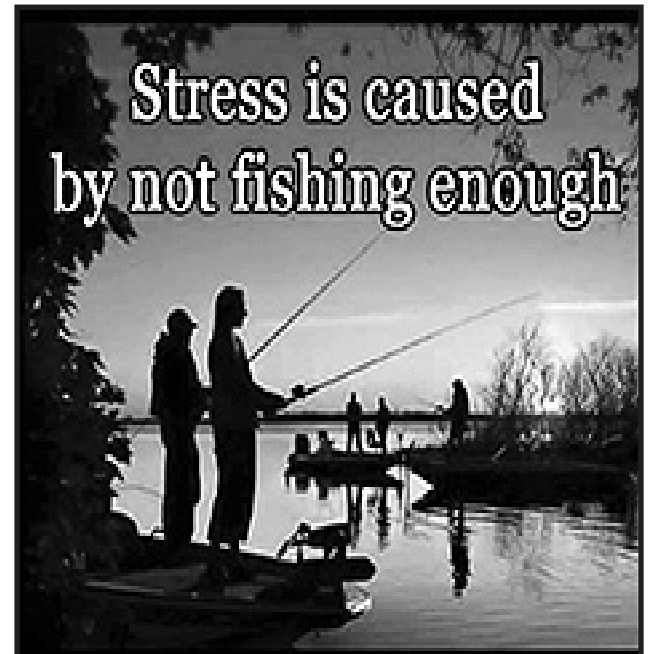
A recent study from the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute estimated that Texas hunters and landowners spend \$4.3 billion a year in their pursuit of Texas white-tailed deer. The significance of CWD's impact on Texas deer may not be recognized this hunting season or even the next. Left unmanaged or uncontained, the hunting heritage we cherish and opportunities for future generations could forever be diminished by CWD.

"Texans are still learning about CWD, but we know they love their state and its wildlife," said Deputy Communications Director Cory Chandler. "This campaign will call on hunters, landowners and the public's appreciation for Texas deer to build awareness about CWD, reinforce TPWD as a reliable resource, and build hunter participation in testing and proper carcass disposal."

Over the next few months, when you see a CWD billboard or a sign when pumping gas, visit the

TPWD website and learn how you can help. The message is clear: CWD is 100 percent fatal. We can all do our part to stop the spread to Texas' native deer population.

The campaign will drive people to a redesigned CWD webpage. The updated page now features easily accessible maps of surveillance zones, check station locations, information about testing requirements and access to hunter harvest test results.



"Wish To Fish Foundation"

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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

It sure is nice to have the lake down only six inches at this time of year. With the water temperature in the upper eighties please be sure and add ice to your livewell to bring the temps down so your catch can survive. I personally place ice in the livewell then fill my livewell, block the over flow and run the oxygenator to keep the fish alive. You may have other methods but this works for me.

After a successful spring raffle, we are getting an early start on planning the fall raffle. Currently Lake Fork Sportsman's Association is fortunate to have Carolyn West, past president and Dianne Spradling heading up the raffle committee.

For the balance of 2023 we currently have our Live Release Boat scheduled to be at the Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash Tournament September 15th, 16th and 17th. As well as the Berkley Big Bass Tournament October 21st and 22nd. Should there be a need for the LRB on another date please contact Mike McWhorter at 214-478-1790. While on the subject of the LRB, I would like to thank Billy Sartin with Sartin Marine for the motor



Pictured from lt. to rt., Terry Long, LFSA, Lisa Mosely, Derrick Vaughan, Matthew Rogers, Camp Akiva.

maintenance on the LRB.

Every year LFSA's High School Tackle Program solicits donations for fishing gear. We provide the gear to High School young anglers so they can take part in their respective High School Fishing Teams. This past year we were blessed to receive donations from BassPro. This donation included approximately 150 new Zebco 202 reels. LFSA has in turn donated the reels to local Christian Camps. One such camp is Camp Akiva, a sister 501 (C) 3, located in Point, Texas. I recently had the pleasure of delivering these fishing reels. Upon arrival I was met by Lisa Moseley, Guest Services Manager and Derrick Vaughan. We loaded the reels into a utility task vehicle and took a tour of Camp Akiva known for hosting foster youth. Arriving at the large onsite lake there were young campers fishing. We pulled up to the storage building and were greeted by volunteer, Matthew Rogers. Everyone was so gracious and thankful for the reels. There was an immediate need for fishing reels.

Practice Safe Boating

Practice C.P.R.

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For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director
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Help Us Spread The Word!

"Because every child deserves a chance to fish!"

"Warmer Weather Deeper Depths!" *(Continued from Page 6)*

work well for this application and make sure you use the San Diego Jam knot to reduce break-offs. As a matter of fact, use the jam knot on all line sizes of fluorocarbon line. It will be a very smart move.

The other half of this deep bass equation equates to these suspended fish. These are much tougher to catch and require great patience both in locating them and putting them into the boat. Again, the electronics play a huge roll in determining where these fish are holding in the water column and then there is the challenge of matching the right lure with the conditions. If it is windy on that given day, choose the flutter spoon as

your means of attack. Size may matter so try smaller versions first then gravitate to the magnum beast if the bite is good. Colors may also vary based upon cloud cover, silver on clear days and gold when the light level is much lower. If there is no wind period, tie on a magnum fluke in any shad color using a 7/0 hook only. In both cases, experiment with the countdown to establish the correct depth range of the given lure. Remember that sequence when a toad grabs hold of the bait and stretches your line into oblivion.

I hope this helps and gives you a starting point on your Lake Fork adventure. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in August searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in August and some in September. 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 would also like to thank Okuma Fishing USA, Talon Lures 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."



Thomas Riley with David Ozio



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Enjoy State Park Views (Continued from Page 11)

The exhibit will also be displayed later 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, founder of the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University and former TPWD executive director. "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."

TPWF has partnered with TPWD to celebrate Texas State Parks all year long. H-E-B 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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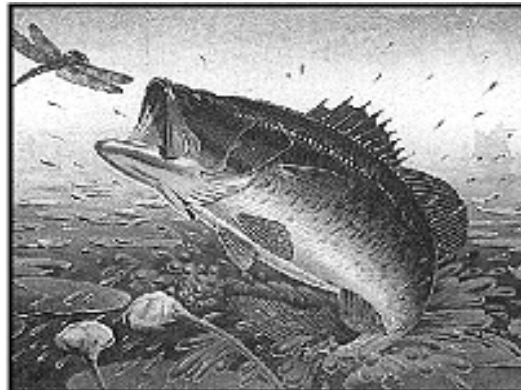
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Fruit Find

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

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| APRICOT | HONEYDEW |
| BANANA | LOGANBERRY |
| BOYSENBERRY | MANGO |
| CRANBERRY | NECTARINE |
| CURRANT | PLUM |
| DATE | TANGELO |
| GRAPE | TANGERINE |

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 Y O G N M A A R C A P R
 T A N G E R I N E P I N
 A T A Y R R T I N E A E
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--You Never Even Called Me by My Name-- While patrolling Cedar Creek Lake, Anderson and Henderson County Game Wardens investigated a potential Boating While Intoxicated case. The violator gave consent for a blood sample resulting in an arrest. The wardens assisted with returning the boat to shore since the other occupant was not familiar with operating a boat. Once on shore, one warden

walked into the boat ramp parking lot. A vehicle sped into the lot and parked in a handicapped space. The driver then yelled an obscene greeting at the warden, who thought maybe the driver failed to recognize his uniform in the dark. The warden turned on his flashlight to ensure the driver saw his badge. Sitting in the passenger seat, the driver's son commented on his mother's regretful choice of greeting. The warden conducted sobriety tests and determined the driver, now belligerent, was intoxicated. The local police department arrived

and transported them to a hospital, where the driver consented to a blood specimen. The test determined that along with her intoxication, she was also suffering from low blood sugar. Her sugar level was treated, and she was placed in jail for a DWI.

--Boat Over Troubled Water-- After a long period of heavy rainfall in Trinity County resulting in high water, swift currents and excessive debris, a Trinity County Game Warden received a call from dispatch regarding a boater who was sinking in a nearby river. The warden spoke with the distressed

(Continued on Page 24)

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By Sue Hampton

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In this heat there is nothing better than a cool, crisp summer salad! Enjoy!

unnecessary fat to the meal. Swanson Chicken Pasta Salad is a lively and delicious dish that combines the season's freshest produce with the time-tested taste combination of pasta and Parmesan. Swanson Chicken Pasta Salad can be served as the main course in a picnic lunch or as an accompaniment to a warm weather family feast.

Swanson Chicken Pasta Salad

1 can (14-1/2 oz.) Swanson Chicken Broth (1-3/4 cups)

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1 tsp. Dried dill weed or dried basil leaves, crushed

3 cups cooked corkscrew pasta

1 cup cherry tomatoes cut in half

1 cup peas, cooked

1/2 cup sliced mushrooms

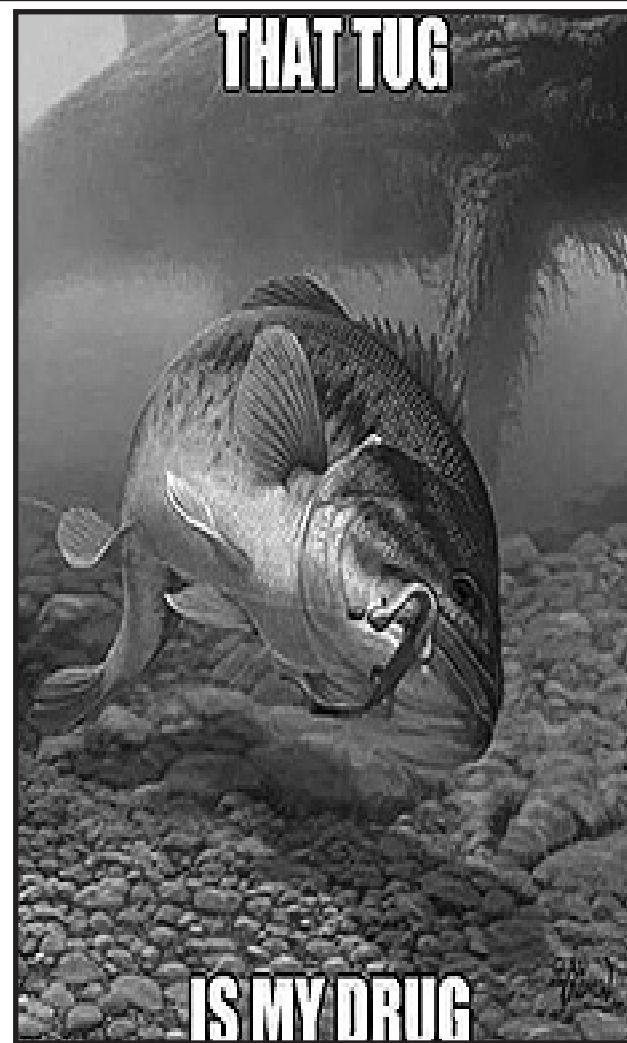
1 small red onion, chopped

2 cups cubed cooked chicken

Lettuce leaves

MIX broth, mayonnaise, cheese and dill weed.

TOSS pasta, tomatoes, peas, mushrooms, onion, chicken and broth mixture until evenly coated. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hrs., stirring occasionally. Serve on lettuce. Serves 4.



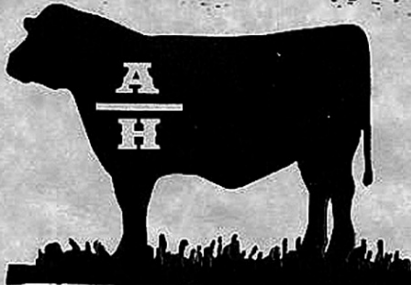

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

boater and advised him to put on a life jacket immediately. He then called the local fire department for backup. The boater dropped an accurate pin for his location, and the warden quickly found him hanging on the top bow of a vertically floating vessel, half submerged. The warden pulled up to the vessel, allowing the boater to jump in. The vessel then completely submerged. However, the warden successfully tied the boat's bowline to a nearby tree stump, saving the vessel, which was later towed to a local boat ramp. Together, the warden and boater recovered an ice chest with fish and a couple of fishing poles. The boater explained that there were a lot of floating trees in the swift water. While he was fishing, a huge floating tree came over his motor, pushing the back of the vessel under water. The boater was very appreciative and tired.

--Playing Possum--A Karnes County Game Warden received a call from a witness who discovered a man lying on the ground next to a dead deer. The complainant found the man after hearing a shot from a nearby county road and yelled at the man to ask what he was doing. The man stood up and ran into the brush. Wardens coordinated with sheriff's deputies and witnesses to identify the subject. When interviewed, the subject indicated that, after partaking in a couple of beers, he shot the deer illegally for food. The warden issued a citation and restitution fee. The deer was donated to

the witnesses for food.

--Riding Shotgun-- While Potter and Deaf Smith County Wardens patrolled the Canadian River Off-Highway Vehicle Area, they received information from multiple parties about adult males off-roading and shooting rifles illegally near the hiking trails around Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, Rosita Creek Flats. Walking through the flats, the wardens located three adult males who displayed multiple anti-police tattoos and clothing. One of the individuals carried two rifles, an AK-47 and a .308 caliber, as well as paper targets. Some of the individuals were from out of state; the wardens additionally observed that their vehicle did not display a Texas OHV decal. Upon checking with the Potter County Sheriff's Office, the wardens learned that one was a convicted felon with outstanding warrants for various charges. The wardens arrested the individual without incident. A National Park Service Ranger arrived on scene and issued a federal citation to the individual

who had been illegally target shooting. The owner of the vehicle also received a citation for failing to display proper decals required by law.

--Never Split the Party--A Williamson County Game Warden responded to multiple reports of two men spearfishing and keeping a large quantity of fish. The warden contacted the individuals as they were exiting the woods and returning to their vehicle. During their conversation, he noticed they did not have any fish or spears in their possession. He learned that the reporting party threatened the men with calling the police. Nervous about police interference, they said they released the fish and stashed their spears in the woods. The warden followed the men into the woods to retrieve the spears. During their walk, one of the gentlemen walked slowly while the other walked further ahead at a quicker pace. Realizing that they were trying to split up, the warden ran to catch up to the man furthest away, catching him with two spears

(Continued on Next Page)

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in his hand and a bag with 70 speared and gutted fish including sunfish, bluegill, Rio Grande cichlids, fresh-water drum, undersized black bass and channel catfish. Neither man possessed a fishing license. The warden issued multiple citations.

--Not Even Once--A Henderson County Game Warden received a call from Malakoff Police Department regarding hunting from a public road. Malakoff Police Department had received a call about a suspicious vehicle and while searching the area, observed a vehicle shining a spotlight from a public road. The driver was found to have a cocked crossbow, with a bolt in place, multiple flashlights and methamphetamine. Numerous reports have recently been received on this vehicle regarding suspicious activity, along with numerous deer carcasses being found in the same area. The driver was placed in jail for both the drug and hunting charges. This investigation is continuing.

--Can't Hide on the Water-- Beaumont District Game Wardens were on patrol transiting through the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Jefferson County when they observed a bass boat traveling at high speed and attempted to stop it for a water safety inspection. Suspiciously, the bass boat occupants never turned around to observe the wardens and the activated blue lights on the patrol vessel. They were able to catch up to the bass boat after ap-

proximately 3 miles at a public boat ramp, and it appeared that the subjects were in a hurry to load their vessel. Contact was made and upon inspection, the wardens found several water safety and fishing violations. Over the limit of red drum (X4), undersized red drum (X5), and one undersized black drum were some of the violations noted. Multiple citations were issued, and civil restitution is pending.

--If the Bolt Fits--A Texas Game Warden was contacted by another Texas Game Warden with information about a white-tail deer that was dead alongside the road in Matagorda County, called in by a concerned Wharton county citizen. The warden arrived on scene to find a white-tail doe shot with a crossbow bolt. While the warden was attempting to retrieve the crossbow bolt, a truck stopped, and a male occupant stated that he may know who shot the deer. On information from the man, the warden drove approximately 50 yards down the road to a residence. In the drive way was a pickup with a male occupant sleeping in the driver's seat with the window down and seatbelt still on. In the passenger seat was a loaded crossbow, with the safety still positioned on fire. In the backseat a loaded crossbow was noted to be on safe. The crossbow bolts were of the same make and model as the one pulled out of the doe. The

warden woke the subject and began an interview. The subject denied shooting the doe at first before the warden told the subject that the crossbow bolt pulled out of the doe matched the crossbow bolts in the subject's truck. The subject confessed shortly after that. Cases are pending for Class A Misdemeanors including: Hunting deer at night, Hunting deer from and public roadway, and waste of game.

--Reunited and It Feels So Good--A Marine Theft Investigator was contacted about a suspicious vessel on the banks of Little Cypress. Upon arrival, he discovered the hull identification number plate was removed, so the vessel was seized. After further investigation, the warden was able to locate it, finding no record listed for the vessel. Realizing that a local outdoor retailer sells this brand of vessel, the warden contacted them about finding a possible owner through their system. After a brief search, he was able to find the owner of the vessel and verified that he had reported a theft 3 years prior. The warden contacted the owner and returned his vessel. The owner, who is a veteran and has a passion for fishing in his private lake, was beyond excited to have his vessel back.

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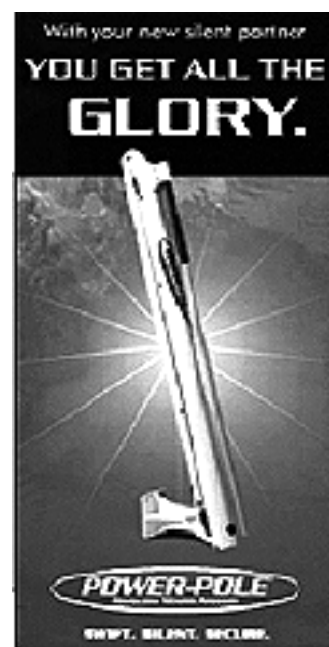
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