

# LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital Of Texas"



## "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

1 Section

"Lines To Get Hooked On"  
[www.fishguidenews.com](http://www.fishguidenews.com) Free

Vol. 27

September, 2025

No. 312



Kelly Perry from Greenville, TX., was fishing Lake Fork in August when he caught this hawg measuring almost 25". C.P.R.



Hayden Sickle from Sulphur Springs, TX., was fishing a Lake Fork tournament in August when he caught this over 24" hawg. C.P.R.



Robert Wooley was fishing Lake Fork in August with guide Danny Holder when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.

### MASSIVE \$550,000 GUARANTEED IN CASH & PRIZES UP FOR GRABS AT LAKE FORK'S BIG BASS SPLASH

**September 19-20-21, 2025** - Fishing, Family & Fun at the Big Bass Splash presented by Sealy Outdoors held at Lake Fork Marina. \$550,000 Guaranteed in Cash and Prizes with 1st Place Overall winning a 2025 Phoenix 721 ZXL Powered by Mercury equipped with Minn Kota, Humminbird and Power Pole; 2025 RAM Truck Plus.... \$5,000 CASH! Fifteen places will be paid in cash each hour of each tournament day beginning with the 7-8 AM hour and continuing through the 1-2 PM hour for the fifteen single heaviest bass weighed in. Heaviest

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minbird in the famous "Elimination Drawing".

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Ernest Khoury was fishing Lake Fork with guide Randy Oldfield when he caught this really nice bass. C.P.R.



Donald Mask caught this nice catfish on Lake Fork weighing 27.5-lbs., measuring 31" and a girth of 17". Released to the Grease....

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## What Does Bubba Dream About

By: Don J. Hampton

It wouldn't take a dream expert to analyze Bubba's dreams. For those of us that know him it would not be difficult to guess just what he dreams about.

In his younger years he will admit he dreamed about the "Playboy Bunnys" and the "Dallas Cheerleaders", but that was before meeting Bubbette the love of his dreams. Now in what he refers to as his "Golden Years", Bubba's dreams consist mainly of fishing 79 miles this side of Dallas.

Now when I refer to Bubba's dreaming, this doesn't mean he is always asleep. This man's daydreams can put Rip VanWinkle to shame. He can be driving his truck or speeding across the lake to get to one of his honey holes and just have a doosie of a dream.

A couple of times, with the fear factor present, I've had to arouse him. When I've asked him where he was at he would reply, "Oh, I was just having a little daydream!"

Bubba has shared some of his dreams with me and believe me that man has a vivid imagination. The best thing about Bubba's dreams though is that no one ever gets hurt and evidently they bring him a lot of enjoyment.

One of his favorites and he insists it might come true because it is a reoccurring dream is that he fishes his way to the Bassmasters and wins.

That is not so far fetched. Many anglers dream of that,

but Bubba's dreams go in depth far beyond that point. In his dream he beats everyone in the competition by 20 pounds per day and at the end of the tournament all the pros want his autograph and insist he give them tips on his fishing expertise. I told him I didn't think he would ever be able to do that with a Zebco 33. (I can't tell you what he told me on that one.)

My favorite one he has shared with me is him catching the new world record largemouth bass. He has even seen this one tilt the scales at 28.62 pounds. That is doing some mighty powerful dreaming. In this dream he even picks up sponsors and does television commercials. Can you imagine Bubba doing a Fruit of the Loom commercial? In case this dream does come true I want to be around for this one. Bubba has been practicing the American Express commercial. It doesn't quite sound like any I've ever heard, but who knows we might have to give him credit.

Bubba's version goes like this: "Howdy you all! You and yours probably don't have a clue as to who I am, that's why I carry this here plastic thang! People may not recognize me in my fishing gear at the rib house or at the chicken fried steak place, which's why I carry this thang. Whether on the pond or on a lake, make no

mistake, you present this and you can get a rib or steak! Don't leave your shack without it!"

Now if you saw this, wouldn't it just make you want to go out and extend your credit rating.

With all dreams there comes the scary ones and Bubba has a few of those. His consists of wanting to go fishing and not being able to find his boat, not being able to find the lake, Bubbette selling all his fishing stuff at one of her garage sales, and the "Dallas Cheerleaders" and the "Playboy Bunnys" all wanting to go fishing with him. (Well okay, maybe not the last one. I just wanted to see what Bubbette would do to him.)

To top all of this off someone made the mistake of sharing with Bubba a superstitious saying. Bubba being a country boy and believing somewhat in superstition isn't taking any chances. This individual told Bubba that if you have a dream and tell it to someone before having breakfast that dream will come true. Now when Bubbette tells him to shut-up and go back to sleep, he gets on the phone to his friends to tell them of fishing the Bassmasters or making an American Express commercial.

So, if you meet Bubba, don't give him your telephone number. You just might get a before breakfast call!

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## TFFC Temporarily Closed for Public Visitation

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) has temporarily closed to visitors while Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) completes emergency repairs to a steel column that structurally supports the main visitor center building.

Unrelated to the recent renovation of exhibits, displays, and aquaria in the main visitor center, routine maintenance and repairs continue to be implemented at the facility. A roof replacement was recently completed to remedy leaks and moisture entering the main visitor center building. The moisture was found to have contributed to significant and critical corrosion of a steel structural support column, which was concealed behind an educational display. The condition of the steel column threatened the structural integrity of the visitor center building and represented a public safety hazard.

Out of an abundance of caution, TFFC will be temporarily closed while the steel column is repaired. Progress updates on the repair and the planned

re-opening date will be communicated through the TFFC website and social media accounts.

Hatchery operations and fish production at TFFC will be unimpacted and continue as normal. "We have enjoyed welcoming so many visitors back to TFFC since reopening," said Tom Lang TFFC Director. "Unfortunately, due to this structural issue, closing TFFC is the only way to ensure the safety of the public and staff. We are working diligently to remedy the situation as quickly as possible. We look forward to once again welcoming visitors from across the country in a safe and family friendly environment."

### About TFFC

TFFC has been delighting visitors for nearly 30 years, welcoming more than 1.1 million visitors to marvel at the schools of fish in the indoor and outdoor aquariums, study the exhibits and learn how Texas' diverse inland waterways support and connect all living creatures. Well-stocked fishing ponds provide an oppor-

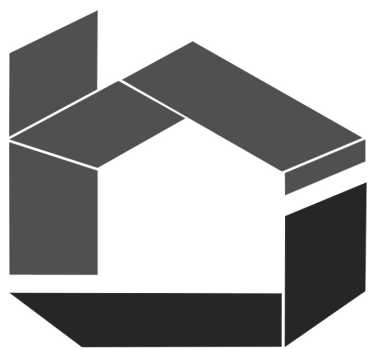
tunity for visitors of all ages to wet a line, and thousands of new anglers have caught their first fish there.

TFFC is the home of the Toyota ShareLunker Program, which invites anglers to donate large-mouth bass weighing 13 pounds or more for research and breeding. It also houses the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, celebrating individuals and organizations that have advanced freshwater fishing in Texas. In addition, the American Fisheries Society's Fisheries Management Hall of Excellence is located at TFFC, recognizing top fisheries scientists from around the world.

TFFC is home to the statewide Angler Recognition Program, which recognizes record fresh and saltwater catches. Additionally, TFFC facilitates the annual Fish Art Contest in Texas, which is part of a conservation education program designed to spark the imaginations of students while providing valuable lessons about fish and the importance of conserving Texas' aquatic resources.

For additional information about TFFC, visit the TFFC website and Facebook page.

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# Texas Hunting, Fishing Licenses on Sale Now

Fall is upon us and for hunters and anglers that can only mean one thing, it is time to renew hunting and fishing licenses. Before taking the boat out or hitting the field, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) reminds hunters and anglers to purchase their new licenses for the 2025-26 season.

Current-year Texas hunting and fishing licenses (except the Year-from-Purchase All-Water Fishing Package) expire at the end of August. Licenses for the 2025-26 season went on sale Aug. 15.

Texans purchase more than 3 million hunting and fishing licenses annually, directly funding a magnitude of conservation efforts and recreational opportunities. Fish stocking, wildlife management, habitat restoration, public hunting leases, river access sites and Texas Game Wardens are just some of the many projects made possible by license sales.

A variety of licenses are available and can be

purchased through the official TPWD website, or in-person at retail locations throughout Texas or TPWD offices. Licenses may also be purchased by phone at (800) 895-4248 during regular business hours, though callers may experience long hold times during the beginning of the season and other peak calling periods. A \$5 administrative fee applies to phone and online purchases.

All recreational licenses and endorsement stamps now have a digital option. The digital license option is available through online purchase only. Digital license holders must keep their digital license available via mobile device while in the field or on the water as they will not receive a printed license or tags. License holders must access and use their digital tags through the Texas Hunt & Fish mobile app. Digital licenses can be viewed through the Texas Hunt & Fish and TPWD Outdoor Annual mobile apps.

For repeat license buyers, TPWD offers an ex-

pedited checkout process, allowing customers to re-purchase licenses bought in recent years.

Paper license holders may show an electronic copy of their license but must possess and apply physical tags for animals that require tagging. Several options exist for customers to provide proof of licensure other than their physical license, including: (1) an electronic photo of their licenses, (2) an emailed receipt of their purchases; (3) their account in the online license sales system; (4) by connecting their license to the Outdoor Annual or Texas Hunt & Fish mobile apps.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the 2025-26 season are available online at outdoorannual.com, or via the free Outdoor Annual mobile app. Once downloaded, the app works without internet connectivity, making it easy for hunters and anglers to view regulations in even the most remote locations. Other features include license lookup,

(See *TTexas Hunting, Fishing License* .....

*Continued on Page 11)*



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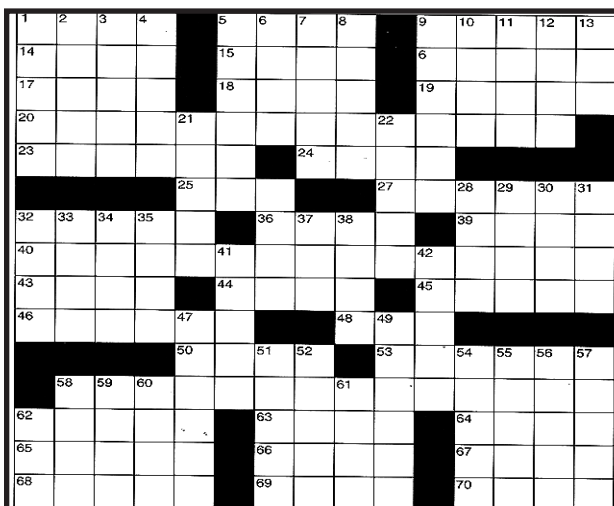




# "September Change in Weather Pattern!"

By Whitt Smith

Ah, September is here. We should see a gradual change in the weather pattern, with slowly cooling temperatures and shorter days/ longer nights. With this change, September usually means "Junk Fishing 101," meaning everything in the tackle box will work at some point in the day at different depths, as



## CLUES ACROSS

1. Leon \_\_\_\_, singer
5. Male red deer
9. A clique that seeks power
14. Soviet city
15. Pitcher
16. Unaccompanied
17. West African
18. A strong cord
19. Indian seaport
20. Winter garments
23. Adds piquancy
24. Ticket or check
25. A shag rug made in Sweden
27. Florida city
32. Severo \_\_, U.S. biochemist
36. People descended from a common ancestor
39. Greasy
40. Ray Charles song
43. Lubes
44. State of Cambodia
45. Tree fiber
46. Hunting dogs resembling greyhounds
48. Office dept.
50. A university in Connecticut
53. Eras
58. Verdict, of sorts
62. Blocks
63. Helicopter
64. Small ornamental ladies' bag
65. The 1st letter of the Hebrew alphabet
66. Oxalis
67. Fellow
68. An arm or outlet of a lake
69. Showing sound judgment
70. Totals

## CLUES DOWN

1. Laugh lines (slang)
2. South Dravidian
3. One of Caroline Islands
4. White (French)
5. Disbelief
6. Truant
7. Cloths
8. Process
9. Yellowish melon
10. Astringent
11. Cold wind
12. Geese genus
13. Lease
21. Chemical solution
22. Cabal
26. Type of text
28. Containers
29. Register
30. Hebrew calendar month
31. Auld lang \_\_, good old days
32. Native American people
33. Blue flowered plant
34. The large room of a castle
35. Southern Japan city
37. Supplement with difficulty
38. Gomer \_\_, marine
41. Bearded reddish sheep of southern Asia
42. Filippiano \_\_, Italian painter 1457-1504
47. Japanese Islands
49. Force from office
51. Nigerian capital
52. Author, \_\_\_\_, Jong
54. Russian lake
55. Quoted
56. Hunting dog
57. Annoyances
58. Monetary unit of Botswana
59. Heed
60. Melon, cucumbers, pumpkin
61. Urban center
62. Taxi

Answers on Page 21

the day and month progresses. So, this means a crowded deck of rods on the boat and rotate through 'em.

This month usually brings back a shallow Crankbait bite at some point, so don't forget to dust off those boxes of square bills and make sure the hooks are good and sharp. Remember, you're rod tip position effects the depth of your crankbait. So, when I'm casting a square bill very shallow, I position the rod tip upward at a high angle, but during the retrieve I gradually lower it to get a little more depth with the lure. I prefer Seaguar InvizX Fluorocarbon for this technique, from 12 to 20 lb test, depending on the size of square bill being used. A mid-depth crankbait is also very effective this month after the sun gets up high. I fish the around creek channel edges and main lake points.

For us frog fishing addicts, September can bring back the best bite in bass fishing. So, keep the frog rod rigged and ready! It's not cold enough, yet, for the vegetation to start dying off and running the bass off and the shorter days and easing temperatures can get the frog bites coming again. I like 65 or 50 lb. test straight braided line for this technique. A lighter, smaller



Shakey Head Worm Rig has accounted for some big September Bass for us in mid-depths around brush, docks or rip rap. A 6-7 inch trick style, straight tail worm on a 1/8 to 3/16 Oz Shakey Head is preferred for this pattern. I find that in the morning, when fishing a brush pile, casting the perimeter to be more effective for big bass and easier for most folks to get them in the boat. For the best hook-up ratio, reel into the bite on the Shakey Head, letting the rod load up, before setting the hook with a "forearm set."

On extremely tough September days, whip out the Ned Rig on 'em and get the Skunk off. Don't let its diminutive size get in the way of using the Ned. I recall a guide trip several years ago about this time. I had been doing the best on Ned Rigs and tried handing my client one. He quickly declined and laughed, asking for a jig. I obliged. I started casting the Ned Rig and stuck a 6 plus pound Bass. The client quickly changed his mind and asked for a Ned Rig. Good times with a repeat customer.

As a reminder, it's time to renew our fishing license and enjoy the World Famous Lake Fork. Be safe and let me know if I can help you with anything.

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**Massive \$550,000 Guaranteed** *(Continued from Page 1)*

in over the 3-day tournament in addition to any hourly winnings. Children ages five to twelve may participate in the Little Anglers Division and win medals and cash for their winning catches of bass, catfish, crappie or perch. Registration is open online for the Big Bass Splash Presented by Sealy Outdoors benefiting St. Jude Children Research Hospital. To enter, visit [www.sealy-outdoors.com](http://www.sealy-outdoors.com). Early

Bird Registration Deadline is Tuesday, September 9. Onsite Registration will be at Lake Fork Marina from 10 AM – 8 PM on Thursday, September 18. Registration will continue each morning starting at 5 AM until 4 PM on days of the tournament. Tournament Entry Fees are \$190 for One Day, \$240 for Two Days and \$290 for Three Days: The Little Anglers Division entry fee is \$10 per Day. The Big Bass Splash

events are considered to be the world's largest grassroots amateur big bass fishing tournament of its kind. The Big Bass Splash attracts thousands of amateur anglers to these weekend events. It's what we call "Fishing, Family and Fun" for everyone. A portion of the proceeds from registration fees will go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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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!

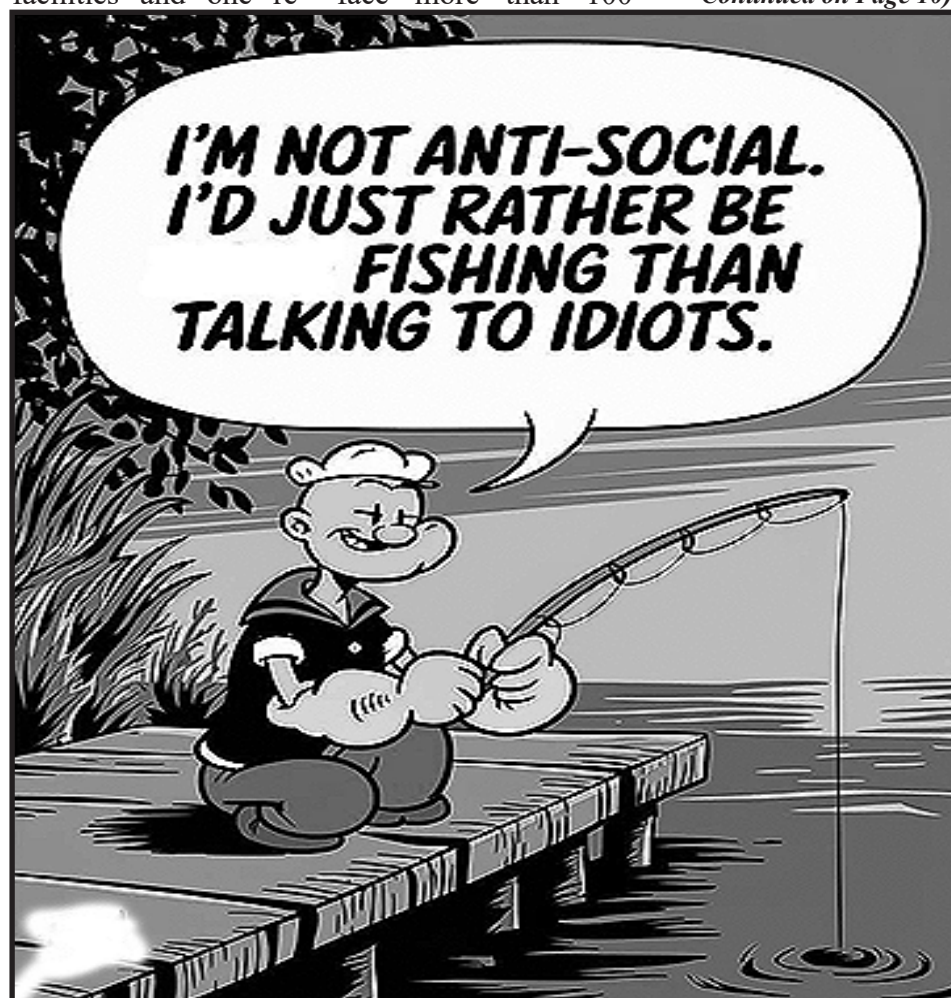
Sending thoughts, hugs & prayers to my family in Missouri!

To book a trip you can reach me at 903-335-0941. Also, you can follow our adventures on my Facebook page, Thanks to all-Terri Moon.



## Texas Game Wardens Near Conclusion of 'Ghost Deer' Case with 24 Suspects, 1,400 Charges Filed Statewide

The Texas Game Warden investigation known as "Ghost Deer" has reached a possible conclusion after two additional suspects turned themselves in on felony charges. This brings the total number of individuals implicated in the case to 24, with approximately 1,400 charges filed across 11 Texas counties. Ken Schlaudt, 64, of San Antonio, the owner of four deer breeding facilities and one re-lease site, along with facility manager Bill Bowers, 55, of San Angelo, surrendered to the Travis County District Attorney's Office on charges of felony tampering with a governmental record. Both men allegedly entered false information into the Texas Wildlife Information Management System (TWIMS) to facilitate illegal smuggling of white-tailed breeder deer. They also face more than 100 misdemeanor charges related to unlawful breeder deer activities in Tom Green County. The "Ghost Deer" investigation has uncovered widespread, coordinated deer breeding violations including, but not limited to: smuggling captive breeder deer and free-range whitetail deer between breeder facilities and ranches, Chronic Wasting Disease (See Texas Game Wardens. Continued on Page 10)



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**Texas Game Wardens Near Conclusion of 'Ghost Deer' Case** *(Continued from Page 9)*

(CWD) testing violations, license violations and misdemeanor and felony drug charges relating to the possession and mishandling of prescribed sedation drugs classified as controlled substances. The suspects charged in the case include:

\*Evan Bircher, 59, San Antonio  
 \*Vernon Carr, 55, Corpus Christi  
 \*Jarrod Croaker, 47, Corpus Christi

\*Terry Edwards, 54, Angleton  
 \*Joshua Jurecek, 41, Alice  
 \*Justin Leineweber, 36, Orange Grove  
 \*James Mann, 53, Odem  
 \*Gage McKinzie, 28, Normanna  
 \*Herbert "Tim" McKinzie, 47, Normanna  
 \*Eric Olivares, 47, Corpus Christi  
 \*Bruce Pipkin, 57, Beaumont

\*Dustin Reynolds, 38, Robstown  
 \*Kevin Soto, 55, Hockley  
 \*Jared Utter, 52, Pipe Creek  
 \*Reed Vollmering, 32, Orange Grove  
 \*Clint West, 56, Beaumont

\*James Whaley, 49, Sevierville, Tenn.  
 \*Ryder Whits-tine, 19, Rockport  
 \*Ryker Whits-tine, 21, Rockport  
 \*Claude Wilhelm, 52, Orange  
 Cases are pending adjudication in Bandera, Bee, Brazoria, Duval, Edwards, Jim Wells, Live Oak, Montgomery, Tom Green, Travis and Webb counties. The investigation began in March 2024 when game wardens

discovered the first violations during a traffic stop. That incident led wardens to the much larger network of violations, resulting in one of the largest deer smuggling operations in Texas history.

**About Texas Game Wardens**  
 Texas Game Wardens, within the Law Enforcement Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, *(See Texas Game Wardens. Continued on Page 21)*

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## Texas Hunting, Fishing Licenses on Sale Now (Continued from Page 5)

location-based functionality such as "Hunting Seasons and Regulations by Location," "Where to Fish," and more. A limited supply of printed booklets will be available at select TPWD offices. Hunters and anglers are encouraged to call their local offices to check availability. The Texas Hunt & Fish mobile app enables electronic submission of mandatory harvest reports, including alligator gar harvest reporting, and supports digital tagging of harvested deer, turkey, oversized red drum and spotted seatrout for digital license holders. The app also allows hunters to complete their on-site registration for many TPWD public hunting lands. Hunters can hunt on more than one million acres of public land with

the purchase of an annual public hunting permit.

When buying their license, resident hunters and anglers may wish to purchase an entry in the Lifetime License Drawing. Three lucky winners will each win a Lifetime Super Combo License and never need to buy a Texas hunting or fishing license again. Entries are \$5 each and can be purchased online, at any license retailer or by phone. The first entry deadline is Sept. 30.

When making their purchase, license buyers can also add a donation of \$1, \$5, \$10 or \$20 to help support the Hunters for the Hungry program, the Fund for Veterans Assistance or Operation Game Thief. Donations to the Hunters for the Hungry program provide hunters with

a way to donate legally harvested deer to participating processors. The processed meat goes to local food banks to feed Texas families in need. Donations to the Fund for Veterans Assistance program provide grants to veteran service organizations and nonprofit charitable institutions, assisting veterans and their families at the community level throughout Texas.

Operation Game Thief is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on protecting Texas' wildlife and natural habitats through community engagement, outreach and education. It serves as Texas' wildlife crime stoppers program. For frequently asked questions about Texas hunting and fishing licenses, visit the TPWD website.

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# Palo Duro Canyon State Park to Host Explore Bowhunting Event

On September 13, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Community Archery Program is partnering with Palo Duro Canyon State Park in Canyon to help the public "Explore Bowhunting."

The event gives participants an opportunity to learn more about hunting with a bow and properly prepare to use archery equipment during hunting season.

"Whether you are a seasoned archer, beginner or just starting to gain interest in the sport of archery and bowhunting, this is a great event to hone your

skills, further your knowledge and understand what it takes to be a successful bowhunter," said Adam Lewis, TPWD community archery specialist. "The event will focus on the necessary gear, proper concealment, anatomy and shot placement to improve accuracy and in turn reduce recovery time and the processing of your animal after a successful hunt. This is an all-ages event and is a great way to spend some time outdoors with your family and friends."

The free workshop (with park entrance fee), scheduled for 10 a.m.-2 p.m., is open to anyone interested in learning more about bowhunting. The necessary equipment is provided so participants do not need to bring their own archery gear. The event includes a state-of-the-art archery trailer with interactive archery games and a range for adaptive archers, an introductory range with 3D targets focusing on anatomy and shot placement, animal processing (skinning/quarterming/butchering) demonstration, cooking conversations, gear examples and activities for youth. Additionally, staff will be available to answer ques-

tions related to public hunting, regulations and more.

The workshop is facilitated by the TPWD Community Archery Program, which works on a "train the trainer" model — training teachers and leaders through a National Archery in the Schools Program curriculum in range set-up, safety, program design and coaching. The curriculum is built for community groups like schools, military bases, veterans' groups, scouts, camps, parks and recreation departments and more. It also provides resources and certification to host a mobile archery range with an audience.

Community archery specialists provide Explore Bowhunting and Explore Bow-fishing programming that introduces these skills to new audiences through activities and discussion. Some of the curriculum will be on display in the activities hosted at this event. The programs and the gear needed are provided by TPWD to interested instructors who have access to an existing audience.

Learn more about how to contact a community archery specialist in your region on the Community Archery Program webpage on the TPWD website.



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# Record Breaking Participation During 29th Great Birding Classic

The Great Texas Birding Classic (GTBC), the biggest, longest and wildest birdwatching tournament in the country, celebrated its 29th year and hosted a record number of 226 teams with 1,315 participants statewide. The Birding Classic tournament awarded \$60,000 in conservation grants through team registrations and sponsorships, totaling more than \$1.2 million over the last 29 years for on-the-ground conservation work to acquire, restore and enhance native Texas wildlife habitats. "It's wonderful seeing families and friends return each year – the Birding Classic has become an annual spring tradition for so many people," said Shelly Plante, Birding Classic Tournament coordinator. "I love that it gives people who love the outdoors an opportunity to support conservation projects all over the state while taking part in one of their favorite activities. It's a win-win! We have some fun things planned for next year's 30th annual event, and I can't wait to see what people think."

The tournament set several new participation records this year including 91 Big Sit teams, 49 adult regional Big Day teams and 40 Sunrise to Noon teams. "We are totally amateurs but just love the outdoors and the birds and love supporting the effort," said John Eaves, a

member of Statewide Big Day team, the Crotchety Crows.

Participants saw a total of 425 bird species during the tournament, including 37 species of shorebirds, 21 species of hawks, six species of hummingbirds, 41 species of warblers and 11 species of vireos, just to name a few. "The boys absolutely loved the whole experience and are already making plans for next year," said Misty Ferguson, mom of Roughwings youth team Bun Brothers Bird Lovers from the Heart of Texas East. "They have caught the birding bug in earnest."

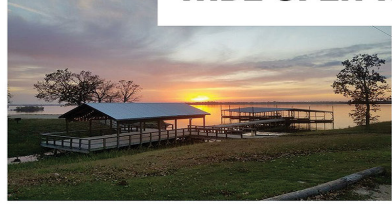
Each year the winning Birding Classic teams get to select which projects to fund, and as the tournament continues to grow, more funds are raised which are then donated to habitat conservation projects in Texas. "One of the great things about birding is the people you meet along the trail," said Bill Baker, member of Weeklong team Two Chicks & a Chat (sponsored by Dickinson Bayou Fleeting). "I am truly blessed to be part of the Great Texas Birding Classic. I continue to visit sites that have received GTBC funding and they only seem to get better and better. What an amazing influence the GTBC has had on small grant projects over the last 29 years. Quite a legacy indeed!"

This event is made possible by sponsorship and registration

fees, donations from event sponsors Toyota, Texas Ornithological Society, and awards ceremony sponsor, Audubon Texas. This year, conservation grants were awarded to: \$21,000 Combined Conservation Grants Weeklong Conservation Grant (\$20,000) – Selected by Two Chicks & A Chat, sponsored by Dickinson Bayou Fleeting Upper Texas Coast Big Sit! Roadrunner Plate Conservation Grant (\$1,000) – Selected by Center-Point Wirebirds, sponsored by CenterPoint Energy Project: Turtle Bayou Nature Preserve Birder Enhancement Project – submitted by the Galveston Bay Foundation Project Location: Wallisville, Chambers County \$10,000 Central Texas Coast Big Day Conservation Grant – Selected by HRLibises, sponsored by Harte Research Institute Project: The 10th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve through a fourth Acquisition at Middle Track, Galveston Island — submitted by The Artist Boat, Inc. Project Location: Galveston, Galveston County \$10,000 Heart of Texas East Big Day Conservation Grant – Selected by Cemetery Birders

See Record Breaking...Continued on Page 20)

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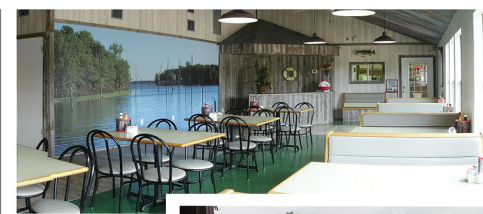
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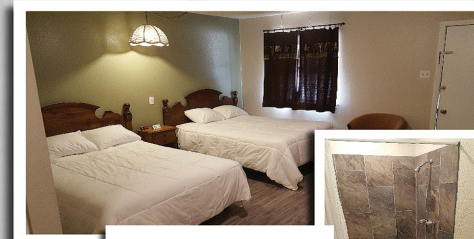
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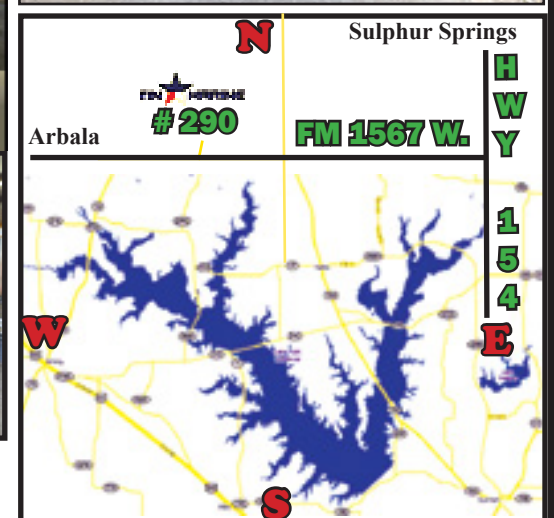
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Caliber	9mm	9mm	380acp	380acp	9mm
Capacity	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
Manual Thumb Safety	Amidextrous	NMS	NMS	Amidextrous	NMS
Fixed Sights	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style	3-Dot G43 style
Optic Ready Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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Barrel Length	3.10	3.10	2.96	2.96	3.10
Weight	15oz	15oz	15oz	15oz	15oz
Overall Length	6.10	6.10	5.70	5.70	6.10
Width	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
Height	5.26	5.26	5.26	5.26	5.26
Frame Material	7075 T6 Aluminum	7075 T6 Aluminum	7075 T6 Aluminum	7075 T6 Aluminum	7075 T6 Aluminum
Slide & Barrel Material	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel	Heat Treated 416 Stainless Steel
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Gary Apple from Rhome, TX., was fishing Lake Fork in August with guide Whitt Smith when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.



Robert Gayler was fishing Lake Fork with guide Randy Oldfield when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.



Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith knows how to catch those great bass as seen what he landed in this photo. C.P.R.

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

By Dianne Spradling, President

As summer comes to an end we are looking forward to the coming holiday season. We will be passing out the High School Tackle Donations at our general meeting on September 9th at 6:30 pm. Come and join us as we will have representatives from all of the schools that are receiving tackle.

We have all of our prizes ready for the upcoming raffles at the Sealy Big Bass Splash in September and the Berkley Tournament in October. Please come by our tables and see what we have to offer.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Don't forget to come out to our monthly general meetings at Jamie's Restaurant. The meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm. Quite a few of us show up about 5:30 and eat a great dinner.

If you have any questions or concerns please email us at Lakeforksportsmansassociation@gmail.com or feel free to email me at Di61462@icloud.com or call my cell number at 214-794-2340.

We hope to see you soon.



Rods, reels, tackle, and fishing-related equipment are needed to support the High School Fishing Tackle Program sponsored by Lake Fork Sportsman's Association. LFSA requests donations of new and used fishing articles that will be cleaned, assembled, and refurbished. Items will be further donated to area high school fishing teams.

Call Terry Long, 214-206-7504 or Pat Kostial, 619-379-6920 for more information or to arrange a donation.



For the past 27 years Lake Fork Sportsman's Association has been Preserving the Legend that is Lake Fork with their Live Release Boat at tournaments releasing catches back healthy in the lake, planting new grasses, and establishing fish habitat.



Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30 pm at Jamie's Restaurant off Hwy. 17N

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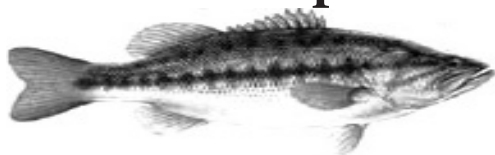
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## Lake Fork Tournament Schedule Sept. thru Nov. 2025



### September

Sept. 6 ~ JC Outdoors Teams  
Minnow Bucket

Sept. 13 ~ Billy Dyson Foundation Teams  
Lake Fork Marina

Sept. 19-21 ~ Sealy Big Bass Splash  
Lake Fork Marina

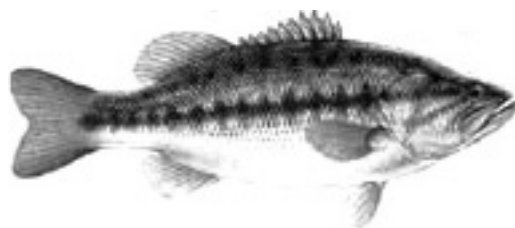


### October

Oct. 4 ~ JC Outdoors Teams  
Minnow Bucket

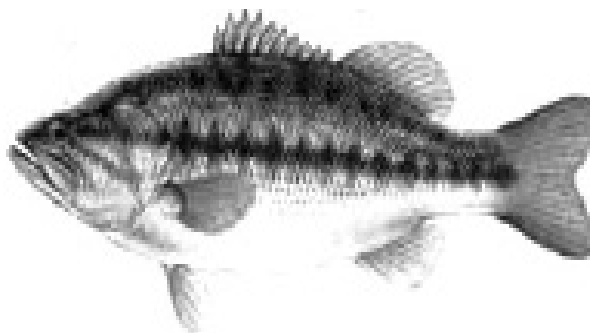
Oct. 11 ~ Tex. Trails Open  
Oak Ridge Marina

Oct. 18 & 19 ~ Berkley Big Bass Tourn.  
Lake Fork Marina



### November

Nov. 8 ~ JC Outdoors Teams  
Minnow Bucket



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903 E. Lennon St., Ste. 101  
Emory, TX 75440

(903) 474-9436  
fax (903) 473-3170



# Record Breaking Participation During 29th Great Birding Classic *(Continued from Page 13)*

Project: Circle Acres Nature Preserve Wetland Viewing Platform – submitted by Ecology Action of Texas  
Project Location: Austin, Travis County  
\$5,000 Lone Star Bird Award Conserva-

tion Grant – Selected by Groovy Goose Group  
Project: GCBO Board Walk Replacement – submitted by Gulf Coast Bird Observatory  
Project Location: Lake Jackson, Brazoria County  
\$5,000 Toyota State Park Conservation Grant – Selected by Laughable Gulls  
Project: Water Feature(s) at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park – submitted by Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
Project Location: Mission, Hidalgo County  
\$5,000 Upper Texas Coast Regional Big Day Conservation Grant – Selected by Free Falling Falcons  
Project: Native Tree Planting at Exploration Green – submitted by Exploration Green Conservancy  
Project Location: Houston, Harris County  
\$1,000 Heart of Texas East Big Sit! Roadrunner Plate Conservation Grant – Selected by Flying Squirrels  
Project: Invasive Wisteria Removal and Habitat Restoration at Blair Woods Nature Preserve in East Aus-

tin – submitted Travis Audubon Society, Inc.  
Project Location: Austin, Travis County  
\$1,000 Prairies and Pineywoods West Big Sit! Roadrunner Plate Conservation Grant – Selected by Lesser Mellowlegs  
Project: Enhancing Stopover Resources for Migrating Snow and Ross's Geese by Planting Winter Wheat at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge – submitted by Friends of Hagerman NWR  
Project Location: Sherman, Grayson County  
\$1,000 Central Texas Coast Sunrise to Noon Conservation Grant – Selected by KINGbirds, Sponsored by King Ranch Visitor Center  
Project: Packery Channel Oak Motte Sanctuary – submitted by Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi  
Project Location: Corpus Christi, Nueces County  
\$1,000 Prairies and Pineywoods West Sunrise to Noon Conservation Grant – Selected by Family Flock  
Project: Chimney Swift Tower for Exploration Green – submitted by Exploration Green Conservancy  
Project Location: Houston, Harris County



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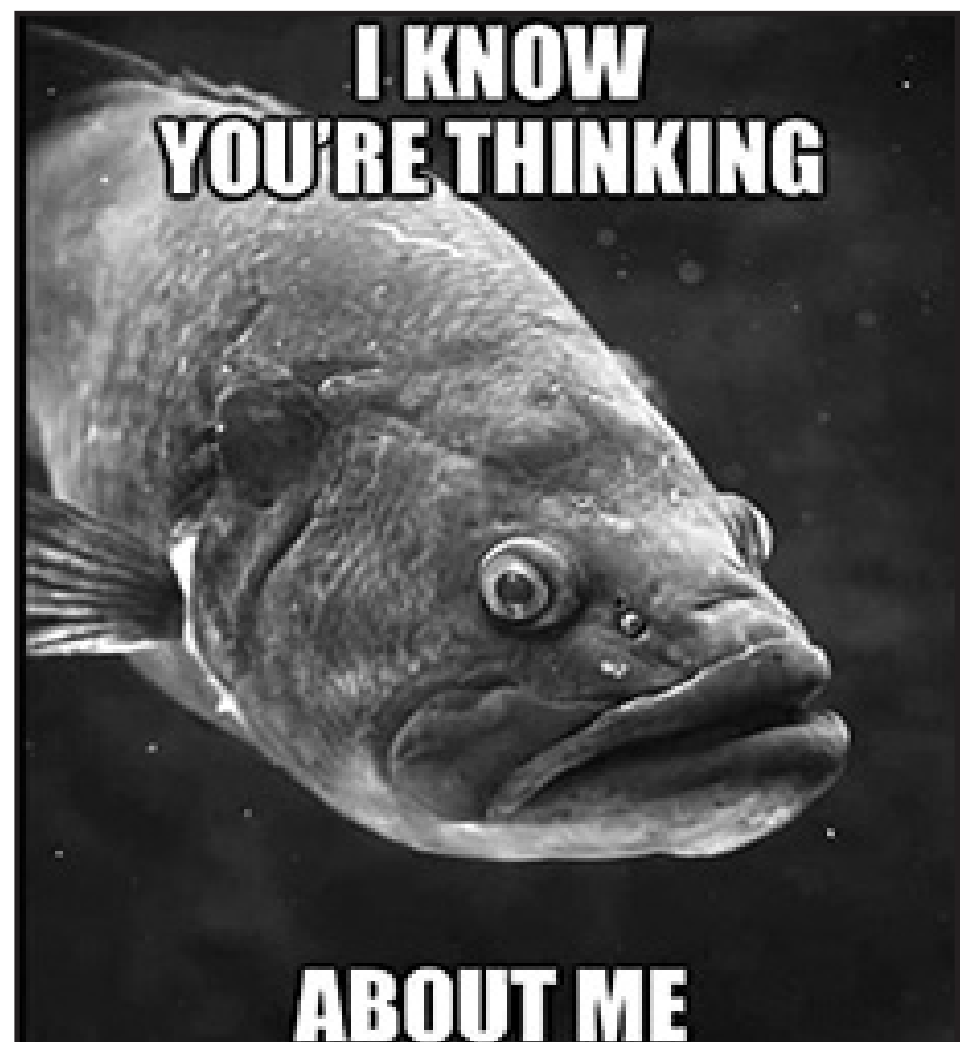
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Playground For The Children



# Texas Game Wardens *(Continued from Page 10)*

are responsible for enforcing laws related to the conservation and management of natural resources and public safety through community-based law enforcement. Their mission is to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Additionally, they play a crucial role in search and rescue operations during natural disasters, exemplifying their commitment to protecting both the environment and the people of Texas. If you witness a fishing, wildlife or boating

violation in progress, please call 1-800-792-GAME (4263) immediately and report it to Operation Game Thief (OGT), Texas' Wildlife Crime-Stoppers Program. You can also text your tip by sending the keyword TXOGT plus your tip to 847411 or through the Texas OGT App, available for iOS and Android devices. Dispatchers are available 24/7.

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O	R	E	L		E	W	E	R		A	L	O	N	E
F	U	L	A		R	O	P	E		S	U	R	A	T
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B	A	Y	O	U		S	A	N	E		A	D	D	S

## Sports Find

The names of 14 pieces of sports equipment are hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

BAT  
BIRDIE  
CLEATS  
CROSSE  
FOOTBALL  
GOLF CLUB  
HELMET

HOCKEY STICK  
ICE SKATE  
MITT  
NET  
PUCK  
RACKET  
TEE

I R P U K I T S Y E K C  
E M I T T O O F K C A R  
S C K A C K E R E L I O  
E L C B U L C F L O G S  
K C I A T E F O O A L S  
E E T S E T P O C T F E  
I T S C L E A T S R C R  
T O Y E M I T B A S L T  
T I E T E S R A T S U C  
Y E K E H O C L R T S R  
R A C K E T B L I L E S  
O G O F L C P U B R I S  
C R H E M E U T B A D E  
K E C L E B C R N L R O  
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# Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

## 49th Semi-Annual Open Tournament

### Oct. 11, 2025 \* Lake Fork, Texas

### Oak Ridge Marina \* Hwy 154 N.

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



1st Place	\$1,040.00
2nd Place	\$780.00
3rd Place	\$520.00
4th Place	\$260.00
5th ~ 10th	\$100.00



There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry  
Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)



1st Place	\$500
2nd Place	\$300
3rd Place	\$200

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Oct. 5, 2025.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Oct. 11, 2025.
4. Check-in times: Fri., Oct. 10, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Oct. 11, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at Oak Ridge Marina.
5. To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.
6. Fishing hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (official clock at sign-in station). NO FISHING from midnight till start time.
7. Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer fishing allowed).
8. Contestants must fish from a boat. NO-bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
9. Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
10. All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.
11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
12. Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (or state law limits at the time of the tournament).
13. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Fork trailer may be used.
14. Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at sign-in). You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.
15. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
16. No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
17. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).
18. Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of TTB and will be released (with the exception of trophy

- or dead fish).
19. In the event of a tie for any position, prize money for that position and the following positions will be combined and evenly divided between the tying contestants.
20. Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to the tournament.
21. Contestants may fish with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.
22. Use of alcoholic beverages or controlled drugs are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in.
23. Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish.
24. Any contestant who violates any rule may be disqualified. Any act of a competitor, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon TTB's effort to promote fishing, conservation, clean waters, courtesy or safety shall be reason for disqualification from this and all future TTB tournaments.
25. Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age.
26. All protests must be registered in writing with the tournament judges within 15 minutes after designated weigh-in time. All decisions of the tournament judges will be final in all matters. Anyone protesting the outcome of an open tournament will have to pay for any additional polygraph test given.
27. All boats are welcome to participate. An aerated livewell is recommended to aid in fish survival for live release. Anglers cannot leave boat to land a fish.
28. All contestants are responsible to have read these rules and must agree to abide by them (by signing the entry form) while competing in this TTB event.
29. Contestants will be subject to polygraph test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information or for information on joining Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork visit our website: [www.texastrailsbassmasters.com](http://www.texastrailsbassmasters.com)

#### Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Oct. 5, 2025 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (Optional). Print clearly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Having read and understood all the tournament rules, by my signature I agree to accept all decisions of the judges final, by my signature I waive, release and hold harmless all members, officials and sponsors of any and all alleged liabilities to me or my equipment.

Contestants Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Minor's Release: Signed by \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian

#### TTB USE ONLY

Entry # \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Big Bass \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Chk# \_\_\_\_\_

## Game Warden Field Notes

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

**—Dude, Where's My Car?—** A Bexar County game warden was patrolling Calaveras Creek by boat because the banks are closed to the public when they saw a person trespassing then hide in the mesquite brush. The warden called for back-up and two additional wardens and a K-9 officer arrived to assist. After an exhaustive search, they were still trying to locate the subject. One of the wardens contin-

ued navigating their vessel father north into the creek when they spotted someone walking on the other side. The subject was stopped and told he was trespassing. He said he didn't have any fish or fishing gear and was walking back to the roadway where his van was parked. The subject said his friend brought him to the property but had already left and was waiting at the van. The warden exited the vessel and walked along the subject's path where they found an ice chest with six tilapia, one black bass and a cast net. The man said he left

the ice chest on the trail because he got scared. The K-9 handler radioed the warden to let them know the other suspect and van were gone. The man said, "How am I supposed to get home?" He told the warden his phone, wallet and money were in the van and his friend was supposed to wait for him and take him home. The warden arrested the man for criminal trespass, had him board the vessel and transported him to the Bexar County Jail. Case pending with the District Attorney's office.

**—Gig 'Em—** A Uvalde  
(Continued on Page 24)





# Simple And Elegant Dish Livens Up The Season

By Sue Hampton Pesto has a spicy secret. Its emerald Salmon with basting mixture Parsley-Almond of parsley, garlic,



Salmon with Parsley-Almond Pesto has a spicy secret! A meal to enjoy at any occasion.

almonds, lemon juice and olive oil is complemented with a generous splash of mild green jalapeno sauce. This subtle addition of green jalapeno sauce brings the perfect amount of tanginess to the dish, while enhancing the salmon's wonderful flavor. Once basted, the salmon is broiled for only five to 10 minutes, making this light, delicious entree perfect for any day of the week or for

celebrating seasonal occasions.

## Salmon With Parsley-Almond Pesto

1 cup firmly packed parsley  
1 small clove garlic

2 tbsp natural sliced almonds  
2 tbsp Tabasco green jalapeno sauce

1 tbsp lemon juice  
2 tbsp olive oil  
1 pound fish fillets, such as salmon, red snapper or sole

Preheat broiler

Place parsley,

garlic, almonds, of fish fillets with Tabasco sauce parsley mixture. Place fillets on in food processor lightly greased or blender; puree broiler pan. Broil mixture. Gradually 5 to 10 minutes or add olive oil until until fish flakes mixture is smooth. easily with a fork.

Brush both sides Makes 4 servings.



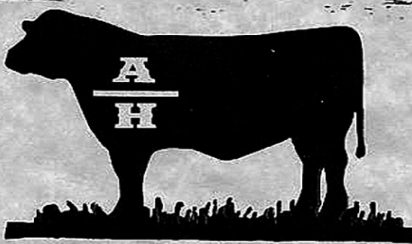

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# Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

County game warden found an unaccompanied vehicle at a Nueces River crossing. Believing the occupants got into another vehicle and drove down the river, the warden drove to a hill overlooking the river a couple of miles away. There they saw four individuals walking down the river, three with gigs and spears and one with a fishing pole. The warden saw two of the individuals with snorkeling gear dive into the river with the gigs. Another person in the group waved to the divers, who proceeded to dive and emerged with a catfish at the end of a gig. The warden drove down to the group and discovered a fishing pole but no other fishing, gigging or snorkeling equipment. After searching the area, the warden found the gigs and spears, which had been thrown in the water and concealed. The gigged catfish were nowhere to be seen. The warden interviewed the four individually and found none of them had a fishing license. After talking with each subject, one finally admitted to gigging a catfish and leaving it at

their last fishing spot some distance away. The catfish was retrieved and seized along with three gigs and spears. Multiple citations were issued with civil restitution.

**—Not so Happy Hour—** A Coryell County game warden and Falls County game warden were patrolling the Lake Waco area of McLennan County when they noticed a vehicle pulled over to the side of the road. When the wardens attempted to pass the vehicle, a truck cut them off, driving down the wrong side of the road. The vehicle pulled back over to the side of the road and waved the wardens to drive by. During the traffic stop, the wardens noticed the driver was unable to turn down the music on his radio. When asked what he was doing, the driver said, "I was just trying to..." The driver then picked up his beer and handed it to the wardens. The driver's speech was slurred, and he was unable to keep his balance as he exited the vehicle. After the Standard Field Sobriety Test was administered, the

driver was transported to the McLennan County Jail and was booked into jail for a DWI. A blood specimen was obtained. The case is pending.

**—His Name is Mudd (Bugs)—**A Jefferson County game warden followed up on information from a social media post where a subject was selling live crawfish. When the warden contacted the seller, he claimed to own a catering company that sold live crawfish to local restaurants and individuals. The sale of live crawfish for commercial and personal use would require a Texas Wholesale Fish Dealer License. The man claimed over the phone that he was properly licensed in Texas and Louisiana. After requesting an in-person meeting with the subject, the warden discovered that the subject did not possess any type of commercial license and his vehicle was not properly marked to transport aquatic products.

**—Don't be Shellfish—** Two Jefferson County game wardens were patrolling the ship channel near Port

*(Continued on Next Page)*



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Arthur when they saw a commercial truck about to be loaded with a pallet of shrimp at one of the local wholesale shrimp processing facilities. They stopped to inspect the vehicle and discovered it already had a cargo of 15 crates of fresh blue crab on board. The driver was acting very suspicious and claimed to have bought the crabs legally in Louisiana and transported them into Texas, which requires a Texas Wholesale Fish Dealer License. The driver could not produce a wholesale license or an aquatic product transportation invoice, or other documentation for where the crabs had originated. Wardens for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries were contacted to assist with the investigation. They interviewed the dealer in Louisiana where the driver claimed the crabs had originated and discovered that the driver was being deceptive. Texas game wardens seized all 15 crates of crabs and sold them to the highest bidder as required by law. The driver was issued citations and given warnings.

**—Oh-Fish-ially in Trouble—** Galveston County

game wardens received a call about two individuals who were catching sheepshead fish with a net and keeping over their bag limit. The wardens saw two over-flowing coolers with fish. When the wardens asked how they caught all the fish, they said, "with the net". When inspecting the coolers, the wardens found two hidden bags also containing fish. The two individuals were in possession of 47 sheepshead (27 undersized), three speckled sea trout and one 28" red drum. Multiple citations were issued to each individual. Cases are pending.

**—Kids Say the Darndest Things—**A Polk County game warden received a call from county dispatch regarding a father and his 9-year-old son who had gotten stuck in their buggy deep in a deer lease. They attempted to walk back to their camp and got lost in the process. County dispatch was able to ping their location within a three-mile radius. Once in the area, the warden was able to follow the tracks to the father and son. Dad commented to the son, "Yeah, might be bad luck being the second time we've been stuck

together," as the son responds, "but each time, dad, you were driving." The warden responded, "you're a smart kid," and presented him with a Texas Game Warden badge.

**—Seedy Situation—** Cargo was being inspected at a Dallas-Fort Worth Airport by Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialists and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Inspectors when they came across packages containing what they claimed to be steel nippers. The package didn't have the expected weight and was opened for inspection. Inside the box was numerous bags of vegetable seeds and dried shrimp. A package contained Ipomoea Aquatica seeds (water spinach), which is a harmful aquatic species in Texas. A second package claimed to be shirts. Wrapped inside the clothing was a bag that also contained Ipomoea Aquatica seeds. It is illegal to import or possess seeds in Texas. The cases were referred to a Tarrant County game warden and the packages were seized as evidence. The individuals who imported the products were issued citations. The cases are pending.

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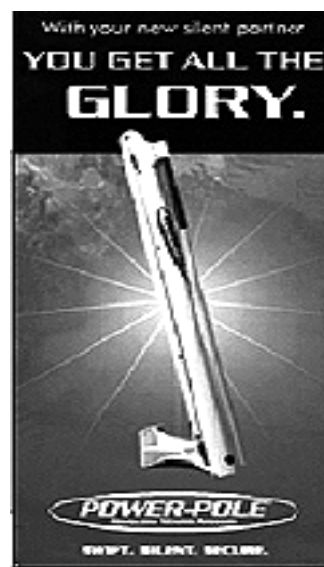
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**3rd Place.....\$350**  
**4th Place.....\$300**  
**5th Place.....\$250**  
**6th Place.....\$240**  
**7th Place.....\$230**  
**8th Place.....\$220**  
**9th Place.....\$210**  
**10th Place....\$200**  
**11th-15th Place**  
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