

DECEMBER
2023

LAKE FORK

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Area News

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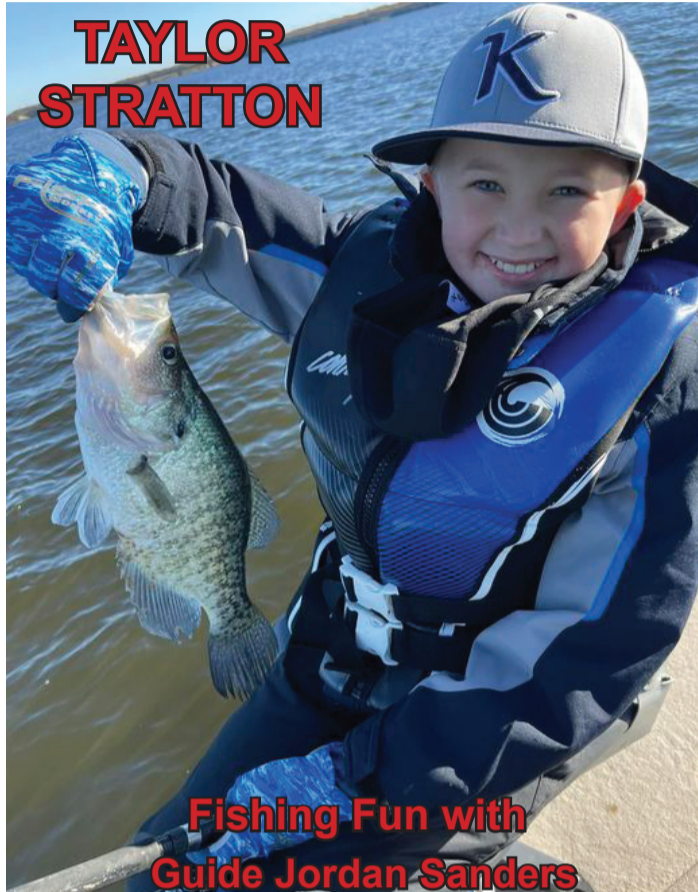
VOL 30 ~ 12

"The Little Paper With Big Bass Results"

**BIG EVENT COMING SOON
FISHING HUNTING &
THE GREAT OUTDOORS**



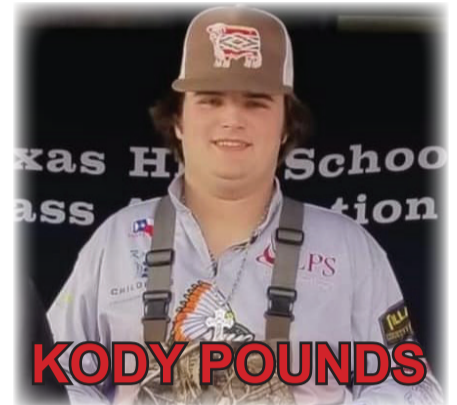
**FEBRUARY 10TH 2024
FULL DETAILS INSIDE
THIS ISSUE!**



**TAYLOR
STRATTON**

Fishing Fun with
Guide Jordan Sanders

LOVING TRIBUTES TO



KODY POUNDS



BRIAN SOWERS

FISHING HUNTING AND GREAT OUTDOORS CAMPFIRE EXPO

**INSIDE
THIS
EDITION**

**JC OUTDOORS WCCC LAKE FORK
LAKE FORK ANGLERS FISH ON
CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS
HIGH SCHOOL FISHING
AND MUCH MORE**

FISHING REPORTS

**JAMES CALDEMAYER
DOUG SHAMPINE
GREG HILL
ALSO FEATURING
OUTDOORS WRITER
LUKE CLAYTON**

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20

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LAKE FORK AREA NEWS

Presents The 1st annual

LAKE FORK CAMPFIRE EXPO



24

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Celebrating **Fishing Hunting and the Great Outdoor's**

Hosted by Fishermans One Stop

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10TH 2024 11-5PM

LOCATION: FISHERMANS ONE STOP

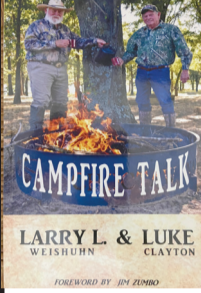
Junction of Hwy 515 CR 1970 YANTIS Tx

FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS

"Mr. Whitetail" Larry Weishuhn

Luke Clayton

Luke and friends Larry Weishuhn & Jeff Rice produce a weekly video series "A Sportsman's Life" for CarbonTV.com - Luke and Weishuhn jointly wrote a new book, CAMPFIRE TALK and they will be doing a book signing and filming a segment for a "Sportsman Life at this event also!



This will be a fun-filled day filled with Entertainment including Meet & Greet with Pro Anglers and Lake Fork Fishing guides and Outdoor Enthusiasts Bait & Tackle - Hunting info & products Various Vendors - Food - A Huge Raffle for great prizes - Book signing - A Sportsman's Life Filming Segment and of course a campfire!



Raffle Tickets will be sold for great prizes!!! \$1.00 Hot Dogs with proceeds going to Yantis Senior Juan Hernandez Leukemia Journey



We Will Also Be Honoring our Military & First Responders



SPONSORS WELCOME

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A SPONSOR FOR THIS GREAT EVENT CALL NOW TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MARKETING PROMOTING & ALL ADVERTISING!

* All Flyer's - Event Banners - T-Shirts

Lake Fork Area News & The Yantis Tymes Printed editions and online Editions as well as www.lakeforknewsfishon.com catfishradio.org -

Carbon Tv will be filming a segment for "A Sportsman's life"

SPONSOR FEE IS \$300 AND INCLUDES ALL PROMOTIONS LEADING UP TO AND THE DAY OF THE CAMPFIRE EXPO ON FEBRUARY 10TH

VENDORS WELCOME

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A VENDOR AT THE LAKE FORK CAMPFIRE EXPO PLEASE CALL AND RESERVE A PRIME SPOT NOW!

PRIZE DONATION SPONSORS WELCOME

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE A PRIZE FOR THE BENEFIT RAFFLE FOR JUAN YOU WILL BE INCLUDED IN SPONSOR APPRECIATION AS WELL

For More Information on joining in on the Expo Contact Donna Wooldridge at

lakeforknews@yahoo.com or call **469-552-1824**



GREG HILL OUTDOORS

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Sandy's Spice Creations KabBerry Creations Robin's Crafty Nest

MORE SPECIAL GUESTS & EVENTS To be announced soon....

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Owners DOUG & RITA SHAMPINE

Home Of

Bra's

THE ONE STOP TO GET IT ALL !!!

Fisherman's One Stop is now selling continental batteries for the fisherman and RVers. Also 1/2 price sales on some bass and crappie baits and supplies. While shopping enjoy a smoked brisket sandwich or smoked sausage on a stick. And fill up with non ethanol fuel!



Bra's
CLOSED
For The Season!

Twass the Night Before Fish~mas!

Twass the night before Fish-mas down by the pier
Not a creature was stirring
so I opened a beer.

My poles were all baited and placed in their spots
In hopes that big fish soon would be caught!

The worms were all nestled down in their box
while the minnows danced in the water trying to get off!

My bright orange bobber and me in my 'Fish-On' cap
had just settled down just waiting for a line to snap

When out of the water there rose such a clatter
I sprang to my feet to see what's the matter

Away to my pole I flew like a flash
that hook on my line was making a splash

The moon on the water gave it a glow
what was on the other end I did not know

When what to my wandering eyes should appear
A large mouth bass that had no fear!

Across the waves he rolled on the water

I whistled and shouted

and called them by name -
now largemouth, small mouth, striper & perch, catfish, crappies, and turtles that lurch!

Down in the water and close to the pier they all came to see me and began to cheer!

Then a burst from the water that big bass appeared
we both fought so hard I knocked over my beer

I began pulling him up his gills were so large
I gripped hard on my

reel, it was like lifting a barge!

I was shaking as I held him firmly with my thumb removing the hook with no harm done!

With a wink of his eye and a twist of his head
We both knew in our heart he had nothing to dread

No words were spoken as I measured and weighed
that bass knew I respected him, and he had made my day!

I took a quick photo of that fish and me
then I bent down to the water to set him free!

I heard him exclaim as he swam out of sight
Merry Fish-mas to all and all a good Fish On tonite!



Have a very Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year!

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YANTIS TX 75497

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HYBRID STRIPERS IN SMALL WATERS

Luke Clayton

What's the hardest fighting fish you've caught in fresh water? Big catfish pull hard and long, largemouth bass battle hard but for a relatively short time, striped bass are noted for fighting right up until they are netted but have you ever connected with a good size hybrid striper? Hybrid stripers, like the hybrid "cross" of any two species take on the attributes of both species. Hybrid stripers are the offspring of striped bass female and male white bass thus, they are usually relatively easy to catch- like a white bass but they also inherit the brute strength and fighting ability of the striped bass. Hybrids, often nicknamed "Wipers" in states to our north are stocked in lakes such as Tawakoni and Ray Hubbard as well as several others across Texas. They are referred to as an "open water schooling species" and they are known for running in big schools and for their voracious feeding habits. I understand catching hybrid stripers in the big lakes, I've fished for them for decades and they are one of my favorite fish to catch but until I spent some time with Brenton Kernes with Newalla Fish Company, I had little knowledge of how well these fish do in smaller ponds and lakes. Kernes raises thousands of hybrid stripers at his facility in Oklahoma and has developed a delivery system to ponds and

OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON & FRIENDS

lake owners in several states (Texas included) that is cost effective and designed to insure the fish arrive healthy and ready for ponds ranging from an eighth acre all the way to larger private lakes.

The fish are not delivered 'old school' in a big truck that requires a solid road and dry conditions but rather they come to your door in a box designed to insure the fish are in perfect condition. The box is simply carried down to the pond and the fingerlings released. The fish are 'conditioned' at the hatchery for the waters they are to be stocked in and survival rate is near 100 percent.

When I first began learning about hybrids stocked in ponds, my first question to Brenton was, "Won't they eat everything in the lake? I've caught them in the big lakes and when they are feeding, they appear to be very aggressive, often clearing the water's surface by a foot as they pursue shad". Brenton explained that because the hybrids run in huge schools in big reservoirs, they are in high competition for food and they are extremely aggressive feeders but in smaller impoundments, they tend to blend in with the other fish, including largemouth bass and crappie and feed a couple times each day.

Because even a big hybrid stripers has a relatively small mouth, they simply are not equipped to feed on large fish. Will they eat the fry of bass, crappie and catfish, yes but so will every other fish in the pond and studies have proven they don't eat any more than any other species.

Brenton pointed out that hybrid stripers are actually good for smaller fisheries because they help keep the fish populations in balance by removing excess smaller fish. Sunfish species have been known to spawn up to three times and more during the warm weather months and their populations can quickly get out of control.

I've fished smaller ponds stocked with hybrids in past years and always enjoyed the strong fight and later the tasty fillets when exposed to a hot skillet, butter and blackening seasoning. But I never actually learned much about stocking them. Honestly, I always thought they were pretty much a solo fish when stocked in private waters. I just assumed they would devour every other species in the pond/small lake.

I inquired about the best time of year to stock fingerlings and learned that in north or east Texas, fingerlings are usually stocked into December and later into winter in more southern counties. Many pond owners order their fish during the winter months and opt for stockings to take place in early spring. Either way, Brenton says the survival rate is very high.

Growth rate on any fish depends upon habitat and diet but hybrids are fast growers, three to five inch fingerlings grow to more than a foot in length during the first year and even more if fed a special high protein fish food the company also offers.

In this column about 25 years ago, I remember referring to hybrid stripers as genetically altered brutes of the fish world and to this day, I still have a couple of friends that are devout hybrid anglers who tease me about my definition of this hard fighting species. Hybrid stripers are definitely a "put and take" species. They are known for their hard fight on the end of a fishing line as well as their flavor in the skillet.

I was curious just how well the fish would fare in small waters during the heat of summer and Brenton assured me they do just fine. He has a small pond near his house that is stocked



photo Brenton Kernes with Newalla Fish Company with a nice hybrid stripers stocked as a fry and later caught in a small backyard pond. Photo courtesy Brenton Kernes

with some jumbo size hybrids and he says he didn't loose a single fish during this very dry and hot Oklahoma summer.

So if you have a private pond, large or small, you might wish to consider stocking with some hybrid stripers. A harder fighting fish in fresh water you won't find, they are very hardy and make excellent table fare. To learn more, you can visit www.nowallafishcompany.com or give Brenton a call at 580-919-5110.

ABOUT LUKE CLAYTON

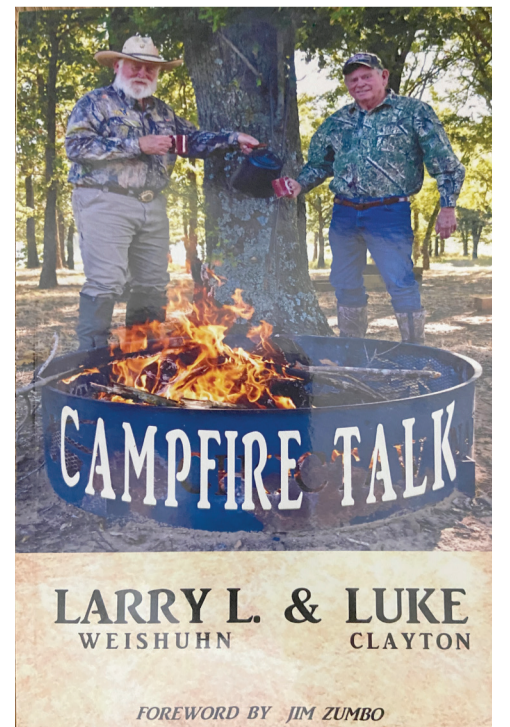
Luke was raised in very rural Red River County where he grew up hunting and fishing. He began amateurishly writing about his adventures at the age of 12, the accounts of his boyhood outings often filling several pages of his Big Chief tablets. Luke began writing professionally while in his twenties and currently writes an outdoor newspaper column that runs weekly in 40 Texas newspapers. Luke freelances for several outdoor publications and his work is featured for Fur Fish Game magazine, Luke is Hunting Editor for Airgun Hobbyist Magazine,

devoted to shooting and hunting with air powered rifles. Radio is a fun endeavor for Luke and his shows are known for his relaxed and down home style WWW. CATFISHRADIO.ORG Luke is on the pro staff of Pyramid Air (everything related to air guns), Smokin Tex Electric Smokers, Catfish Pro catfish baits and supplies and Gear-head Archery.

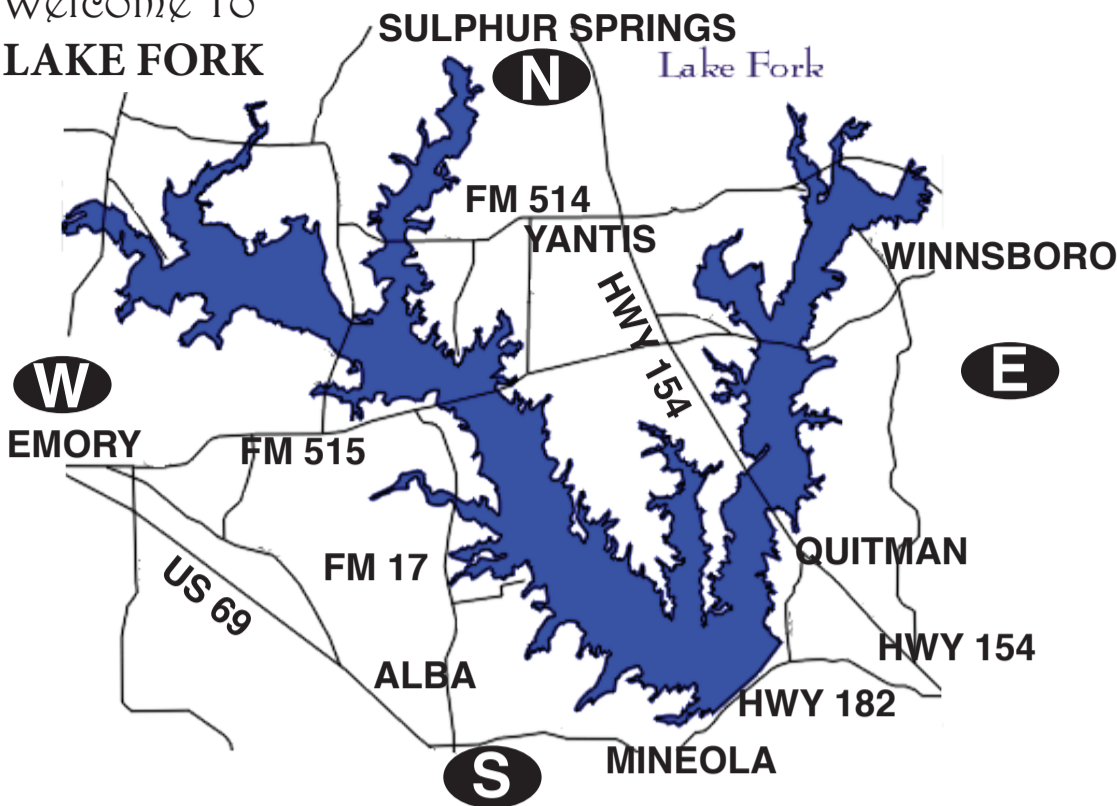
Luke and his long time friend Larry Weishuhn also produce a podcast featured on Sporting Classics Daily.com Luke covered hunting for

the Texas Almanac, one of the oldest and most revered publications in the state. With almost 40 years under his belt as an outdoors writer, Luke has no intention of slowing down anytime soon. He continues to love the lifestyle that has been so fulfilling throughout his life. Luke and friends Larry Weishuhn & Jeff Rice produce a weekly video series "A Sportsman's Life" for CarbonTV.com Luke and Weishuhn jointly wrote a new book, CAMPFIRE TALK that is available at www.catfishradio.org.

CAMPFIRE TALK is available at www.catfishradio.org.



Welcome To LAKE FORK



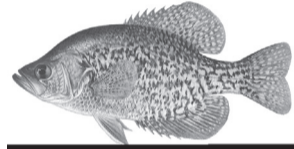
LAKE FORK FISHING REGULATIONS



Bass
16" - 24" length limit
(No fish kept between 16-24")
5 Fish Daily Bag Limit



White (Sand)Bass
10" Minimum length limit
25 Fish Daily Bag Limit



Black Crappie

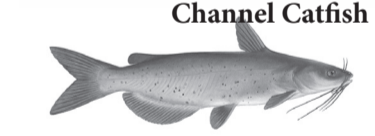


White Crappie

Crappie
For black and white crappie caught from DEC. 1 through the last day of FEB., there is no minimum length limit and all crappie caught must be retained. From March through November, minimum length is 10 inches. Year-round daily bag limit is 25 crappie in any combination.



Blue Catfish



Channel Catfish



Flathead Catfish

Catfish
Blue Catfish & Channel Catfish

12" Minimum length limit
25 Fish Daily Bag Limit

Flathead Catfish
18" Minimum length limit
5 Fish Daily Bag Limit

Texas Parks & Wild Life
Certified Scales
Lake Fork Marina - Hwy 17
Minnow Bucket Marina - Hwy 154
Oakridge Marina - Hwy 154

Wood County Game Warden
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LAKE FORK EVENTS

Upcoming Tournaments and Events

February 10th

FISHING ~ HUNTING AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS



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HOSTED BY AND EVENT SITE FISHERMANS ONE STOP
JUNCTION OF HWY 515 & CR 1970 YANTIS TX
FOR MORE INFO CALL 469-552-1824
WWW.LAKEFORKNEWSFISHON.COM

Have a Very ...



Crappie Christmas

Lake Fork Area News

469-552-1824



Lake Fork Record White Crappie 3.34 lbs 12/12/15

Donna Wooldridge
Owner / Editor

469-552-1824

our paper throughout the community! We are also available each month Online as well as our Facebook page that shares community news and information on a daily basis.

Our mission is to highlight the positive benefits of living and visiting the Lake Fork area and the wonderful local atmosphere of what it brings! We look forward to providing more stories, events, and special features for our readers!

This is a passion that I enjoy on a daily basis - along with

fishing and although we are a small paper we strive to make a big difference!

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We Cover it all

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Local Activities & Events

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Local Business's & Much More!

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Lake Fork Area News is a local Free monthly publication that is proud to cover different aspects of fishing and activities here in the Lake Fork area. We would like to thank the local business owners and residents that make it possible to distribute

Remembering Brian Sowers a True Legend

BRIAN KEITH SOWERS

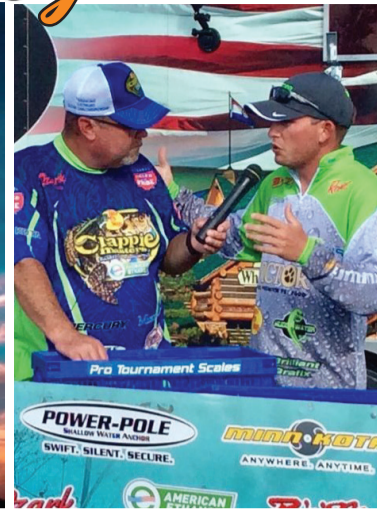
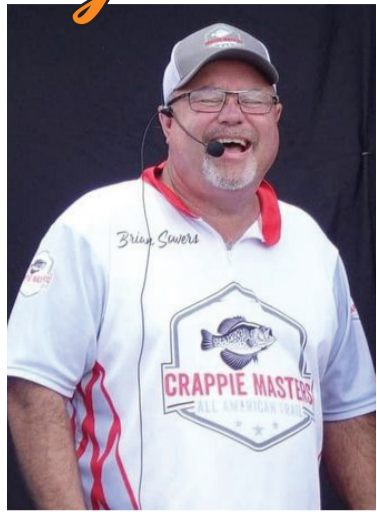
Brian Keith Sowers of Waverly, Missouri, completed his life journey at his lake home at 9:40 p.m., Tuesday, October 31, 2023.

Brian enjoyed fishing and was an advocate for agriculture and ethanol production, but he was most passionate about spending time with his family and friends. He graduated from Santa Fe High School with the class of 1981. He was active in football, basketball and was first chair saxophone in the school band. His friends will say "he was one of the smartest kids in school" and he was a member of the National Honor Society. Brian studied business at University of Missouri – Columbia.

Brian was introduced to the love of his life, Portia, through mutual friends. They began dating in 1986 and felt instantly connected; within eight months, they were head over heels in love, and became engaged. A few months later, in August 1987, they were united in marriage in Waverly, Missouri surrounded by family and friends. They spent their honeymoon at the Missouri State Fair and for the next thirty-six years, they made many lasting memories and an everlasting legacy.

Brian and Portia shared a son, Phillip Sowers, who carries on Brian's love of fishing. Phillip and his wife, Lacey, have two children, Blake and Emerly. Brian loved spending time with his grandkids and they loved their time with Papa. His grandbabies were the sunshine he required, and he loved them so dearly.

Brian had an amazing radio voice, which endeared him to the KMMO listening community for over 20 years. Along with hosting the morning show and bringing emergency weather information to the community, he also shared fishing and hunting information on his Sunday night program "In The Outdoors". He was recognized as Ag Broadcaster of the Year. Brian maintained his



connection with KMMO while also branching out to add his voice to the Crappie Masters fishing circuit and National Crappie League fishing circuit. He announced crappie fishing results across the United States, growing his relationship with the sport and the many fishing professionals. His phrase "give your kids a tackle box, not an X-box" is well known throughout the fishing community.

He was connected in the community and was a member of Waverly Jaycees as well as serving as President of the organization, the Waverly branch of the Masonic Lodge, Premier Anglers Bass Club and served as Mayor of Waverly. He served as the master of ceremonies for the Missouri State Fair and the Waverly Apple Jubilee for many years, as well as many charitable organizations, including

the H.O.P.E Project and Ovarian Cancer Coalition. Brian was recognized for his efforts with the Missouri Soybean Association, Missouri Corn Growers Association, Future Farmers of America and the 4-H programs.

Brian was a genuine guy who loved life and never met a stranger. He effortlessly made everyone he met feel special and the center of attention. Anyone who met Brian would soon know he was a die-hard Kansas City Chiefs fan. His three favorite things in life were the Kansas City Chiefs, fishing and anything chocolate. Brian especially loved the water, taking every opportunity to drop a line in the water.

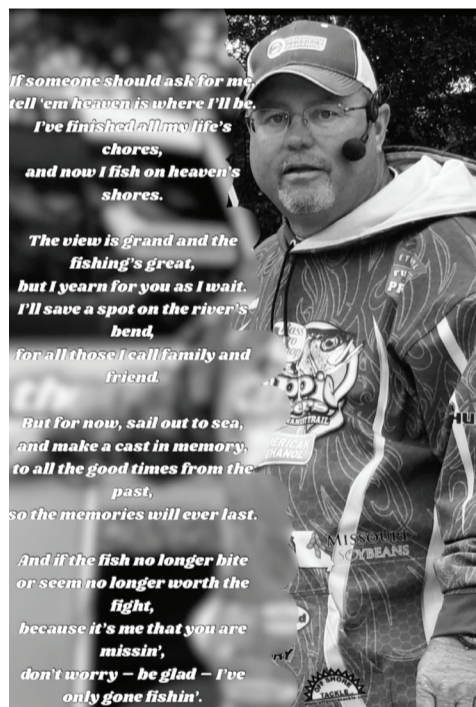
Brian is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Portia Sowers, of the home; son, Phillip Sowers of Lexington; brothers, Bradley Sowers of Carrollton and Corey Sowers of Raymore; a sister, Kelly Buck (Larry) of Waverly; two grandchildren, Blake Sowers and Emerly Sowers; mother-in law, Mary Spidle of Polo; and sister-in-law Tisha Hinchui (Mike) of Polo; as well as his nieces

and nephews; Danielle Beumer (Matt), Tristan Wilkinson (Tyler), Peyton Sowers, Bailey Balcer (James), Colton Sowers, Cade Sowers, and Ryan Fields. His great nieces and nephews; Addison Beumer, Chloe Beumer, Harper Beumer, Hudson Beumer, Rylee Wilkinson, Madison Balcer, Brooklyn Balcer, Kylie Fields, Cooper Fields and Lily Fields will all miss their uncle Brian.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Keith Sowers; mother, Joanna (Maddox) Sowers, father-in-law, Daniel Spidle; and uncle, Richard (Dick) Sowers.

"If you met him once you wouldn't forget him. Thanks for all you did in the crappie industry! A legend for sure. Prayers for family and friends."

"RIP Mr. Brian Sowers!! The voice of crappie fishing! I will never forget the passion he instilled in the weigh-ins!!!"



The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center is temporarily closed to the public for renovations with a tentative reopening in Spring 2025. We will be posting updates on our Facebook and Instagram pages on the first of every month so stay tuned! We might have some fun stuff in between too!

What's happening? We're getting new digs! What's the plan, Stan?

Outdoor exhibit ponds will get remodeled with an updated filtration system!

Cool! New aquariums on the outdoor walkway!

Wow! Casting pond refresh and improved interior exhibits!

TEXAS FRESHWATER FISHERIES CENTER
TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

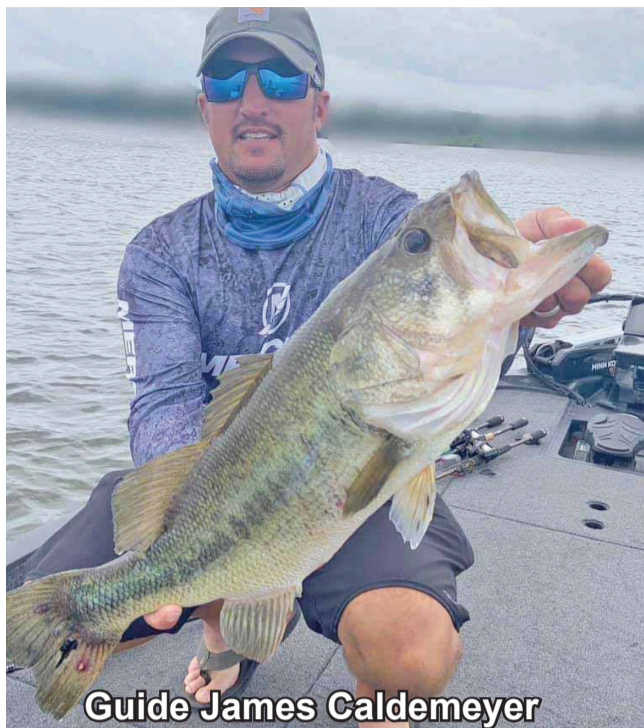
Shorty Powers was a trailblazer in organized adapted recreation who led efforts to involve physically challenged people in outdoor activities. With a belief in the great healing powers of nature, Powers founded Turning P.O.I.N.T. (Paraplegics on Independent Nature Trips), an organization dedicated to making it possible for physically challenged



people to enjoy outdoor activities. He also made a difference with his unique perspective serving on several fishing-related advisory boards. Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame seeks to recognize and honor those who have made a lasting contribution to freshwater fishing in Texas and to foster awareness and appreciation of and participation in the sport of fishing.

James Caldemeyer

Lake Fork Fishing Guide Report



Guide James Caldemeyer

James Caldemeyer's Lake Fork Trophy Bass Monthly Fishing Report December 2023

Winter has arrived and the year is winding down here at Lake Fork. December is still an exciting month on Lake Fork as the fish continue to feed up in the winter. This year that bite has been extended due to the somewhat mild temperatures that we have had so far this fall. So expect plenty of opportunities to catch big bass this month while you are at Lake Fork as the big bass continue their feeding habits into early winter.

The lake is currently 2 feet low so we could use a little winter rain. The water levels are still real good. Water temperatures are ranging from 56-62 degrees currently and will cool even further as the month progresses. Water clarity is fairly clear on the main lake to clear to slightly stained in some of the creeks. There is a lot of grass up in some of the creeks still so this has helped maintain the overall water clarity on the lake.

I am catching fish both shallow and out in deep water right now. It has kind of been a mixed bite for the most as fish in all ranges of the water column have been active. The shallow bite has been good from main lake points to the backs of the major creeks. I am finding most of the fish in 2-8 feet of water. Lipless crank baits like a Berkley Warpig and square bill crank baits like a Berkley Square Bull have been good in any shad pattern. I like red or chrome and sexy shad colors respectively. A Santone Lures spinnerbait, Berkley Slobberknocker vibrating jig, or a 3:16 Lure Company swimbait has also been a great producer especially on windy days. Frontal cloud cover days are usually better for the shallow fishing but I often find a lot of bass up shallow in the coldest part of the year on a sunny day. They like to sit up there in the sun as it warms the shallow water. As the waters cool and winter sets in don't forget to break out the jerk baits also. On days that the bite gets tougher you can break out one of these and

save the day. I like a Berkley Stunna in Hankie Pankie, Shad Fillet, or Black Gold colors. Jerking this bait around stumps and grass with slow twitches will draw some big fish out to get it!

The deep bite is still a blast this time of year also. I am using my new Garmin Echo-Map units right now to find schools of bass offshore. And with my Garmin Clear Vu and LiveScope, finding brush piles is a breeze and an added bonus for more productive fishing. I can find these deep-water bass havens relatively easy, and the fish love them. Most off the bass are located in 18-25 ft of water, but you can find some starting to move even deeper in 26-32 ft. Humps, points, road beds, channel swings, pond dams, and ridges are great places to focus your efforts on. These big fish will be schooling up in these areas following shad, yellow bass, white bass, and crappie around looking for an easy meal. The Carolina rig is deadly on these deep bass. I like to rig my new Abu Garcia Fantasia X rods and Revo reels spooled up with 20 lb Trilene 100% Fluorocarbon line and a 1oz weight, 4-5 foot leader, and a 3/0 wide gap hook. The Berkley Havoc Bottom Hopper, Jerk, or a 7" Power Worm on this rig. Best colors are green pumpkin, watermelon candy, blue fleck, or chartreuse pepper. The jig bite out deep can be good for the big ones too. A 5/8- 3/4 oz Santone football jig with a Berkley Pit Boss craw style trailer on the back will catch some of the biggest bass out of the school. Best colors on the jig are Black & blue, Bass Candy, and of course my custom "JC's Spicy Craw" color is always a good choice. The jigging spoon and tail kicker are also very good right now. A big Lake Fork flutter spoon or KT spoon in 1/2 oz size has been best. Getting over the top of these big schools of fish with one of these or even a Little George can yield some real trophies and are something even the kids or wife can enjoy. I am also catching several fish on the Hog Farmer umbrella rig tipped with Santone Rig Heads and Berkley swimbaits. It's not for the faint of heart casting it all day but it is a very rewarding technique for big bass this time of year for those that choose to fish it.

I hope this helps anyone



Another Lake Fork beauty while out
with Lake Fork Guide
James Caldemeyer

that's coming out this month to chase some big bass. If you would like to fish with me still this year, I still have just a few dates available. My 2024 schedule is filling fast already though so contact me as soon as possible if you are wanting to plan your spring or early summer trips. I also have gift certificates available for those of you that are interested in purchasing a friend or loved one a guided trip on Lake Fork. You can contact me to make your reservation at 903-736-9888 or send me an email at lakeforktrophybass@yahoo.com You can also visit my website for more information about Lake Fork and my guide service at www.official-lakeforktrophybass.com You can find me on Facebook and follow my official Lake Fork Trophy Bass Guide page at <https://www.facebook.com/lakeforktrophybassguide> I have really enjoyed my Bass Cat Puma STS for the 2023 season. I couldn't be happier to be serving my customers on Lake Fork as part of the Bass Cat Team and am looking forward to providing more great trips this year out of my new boat! If you're interested in checking out any of the Bass Cat models, be sure to reach out to R & R Marine in Pittsburg, Texas. They have the all-new Puma STS that everyone is raving about so go by and check it out! Steven Stroman and his crew have amazing sales and service as well as a complete tackle shop with just about anything you need. I would like to thank all my sponsors that have continued to support me in 2023. I am looking forward to representing them again next year and appreciate all their support as I serve all my great guide clients on throughout the year on Lake Fork as well! Sponsors: Toyota, AFTCO, Bass Cat Boats, Mercury, I Am Second, Omnia Fishing, Berkley, Abu Garcia, Garmin, Santone Lures, Costa Sunglasses, Power Pole, 3:16 Lure Company, Elite Tungsten, Johnson Communications, and Bass Boat Technologies.

Luke 11:28 – "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Tight Lines & God Bless,
James Caldemeyer

Doug Champine Guide Fishing Report

www.lakeforktrophymbass.com



903-902-3855

Doug Champine
DSP Guide Service
www.lakeforktrophymbass.com

December on Lake Fork is normally a slower month for bass fishing but a very good month for crappie fishing. If you are bass fishing look for the deeper main lake points that

have schools of bait fish and than look for the upside down v's around them. The bigger the v the bigger the fish. Spoon fishing this time of the year is always good and you never know what you will catch. The bass, sand bass and crappie and yellow bass all like them so that is why I say you never know what you will catch. Also a black/blue jig around the bigger stumps along the deeper creek channels will also catch some nice bass. As for the crappie, look deep for them also and the flats in the area of the damn will be a good place to check out. Again look for bait fish and the crappie will be close by. If you are a jig fisherman try a electric chicken colored jig with a 1/8 or 1/4 oz pink head. And of course the minnows will always work.

For a trip text me at 940-902-3855 for open dates. Doug Champine DSP Guide Service





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CATCH of the DAY!

If you have a Lake Fork catch of the day photo you would like to share with us just email your photo and information to us!
lakeforknews@yahoo.com or call us at (469) 552-1824



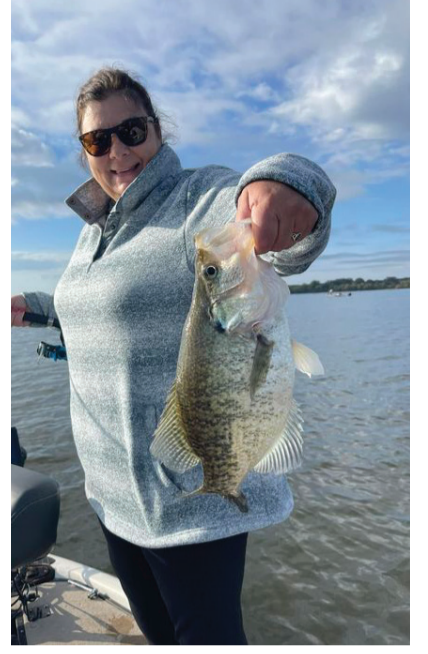
JOSH MANUEL & LANA WITH A GREAT CATCH!



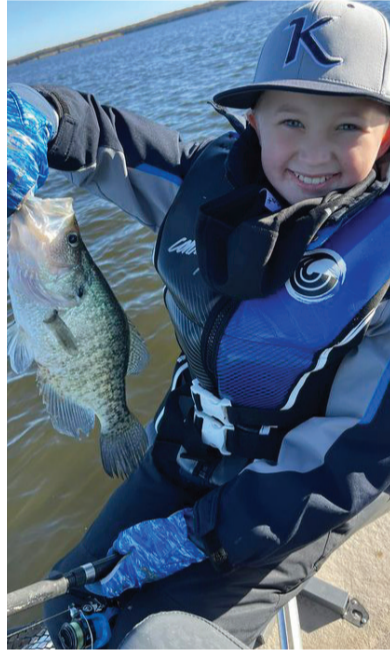
GREAT CATCH! ANDREW GRILLS



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THIS YOUNG MEN CAUGHT SOME LAKE FORK BEAUTYS WITH GUIDE ANDREW



THIS YOUNG ANGLER HAVING FUN FISHING WITH GUIDE JORDAN SANDERS



MIKE MCWHORTER WITH A LAKE FORK MONSTER!



RANDY OLDFIELD WITH ANOTHER GREAT CATCH

JC OUTDOORS Fall Teams NOVEMBER 18th



The JC FALL Teams Tournament was held November 18th out of the Minnow Bucket. Congratulations to Tim & Lesa for taking 1st place with a 5 fish total of 9.01lbs! Results and Points Race are listed below! Our last event of 2023 is December 9th where we will award our Top 5 in AOY with AOY Bonus Pay Outs and Prizes.



TOP TEN IN TOTAL POINTS 3 EVENTS

1 Corey Maples/Brice Boseman	391
2 Richard Osborn/Harold Breedemier	389
3 David Laymance/Paul Walls	387
4 Tim Weaver/Lesa	382
5 Tommy Sikes/ Don Potts	373
6 Ryan Lawson/Bryan Howell	373
7 Ricky Sipes/Mike Butler	370
8 Shannon Easley/Cody Easley	353
9 Brian Jackson/Brad Swearington	348
10. Steve Hodge/Shawn O'Malley	341

TOP TEN WINNERS NOVEMBER 18TH

1 Tim Weaver	Lesla	5	9.01	\$950+\$480	100	
2 Tommy Redmon	John Redmon	5	8.89	\$480+\$240	99	
3 Robert Terkla	Chance Woodard	5	2.40	8.40	\$240+\$180	98
4 Mike Buttler	Ricky Sipes	5	8.02	\$190=\$140	97	
5 Brian Jackson	Brad Swearington	5	7.75	\$140.00	96	
6 Paul Walls	David Laymance	5	7.25		95	
7 Ryan Lawson	Bryan Howell	5	7.13		94	
8 Jeff Hood	Ricky Wyatt	5	2.57	7.07	\$250.00	93
9 Harold Breedemier	Ozzie Osborn	5	1.99	6.48		92
10 Corey Maples	Brice Boseman	5	2.00	6.43		91



High School Fishing

2023-24 NORTHEAST DIVISION



NORTHEAST DIVISION REMAINING SCHEDULE

- DECEMBER 2ND ~ TAWAKONI
- ** FEBRUARY 17TH ~ BOIS D' ARC
- MARCH 16TH ~ LAKE OF THE PINES
- * APRIL 13TH ~ TAWAKONI
- THSBA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**
- LAKE PALASTINE**
- MAY 18-19 - 2024**

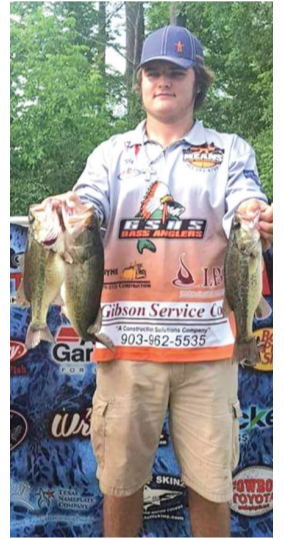
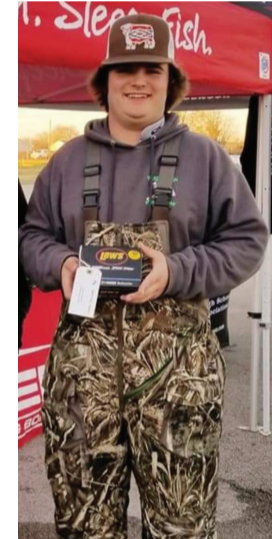
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~ Rest in Peace Kody Pounds ~ 2001-2023

Forever In Our Loving Memories



One of our Angler's (who fished with us several yrs back) lost his life in an accident Kody Pounds was an old soul full of laughter and pranks. He was a great young man and was such a joy to all of us throughout the years.

As I was searching back through our pictures, so many memories came rushing back in.

They come to us, nearly as babies and leave us young men and women. All of them leave their own mark to this Team. Please keep Kody's Family & Friends in your Prayers. RIP Kody Pounds You will be Greatly Missed.

Beyond his quick wit and unique ability to entertain others, Kody treasured the relationships he had with his family and friends. He loved spending time with them and was always up for a good time. Kody was the life of every party, spreading laughter and joy wherever he went. His genuine love for his family was evident in everything he did.

Kody's departure has left an undeniable void in our lives, but we take solace in knowing that he has left us with cherished memories that will forever warm our hearts. As we say our final good-byes to this extraordinary soul, let us remember his laughter, his spirit, and his zest for life.

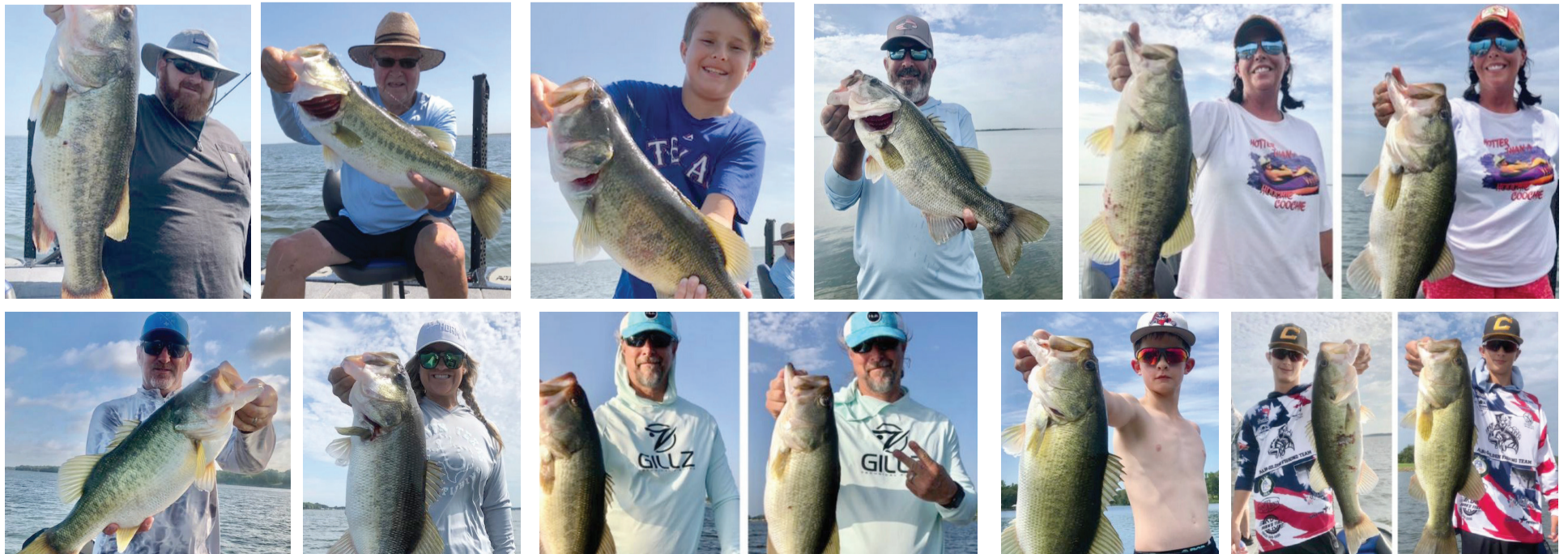
Though Kody's time with us was too brief, his impact on those around him was immeasurable. His legacy will continue to live on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to have known him. May he find eternal peace and happiness as he embarks on his next great adventure.



LAKE FORK GUIDE SERVICE Michael Samples

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Some more Happy Clients catching BIG ones with Lake Fork Guide Michael Samples!



FISH ON FRIENDS *Lake Fork Style*



It is that time of year when you have to be pretty die hard to get out on the water in the colder weather to fish!

For those that are and can manage to use tips, techniques, strategy and some good 'ol fishing instincts ...the fish are out there!

One benefit of fishing in December is the boat traffic is slim and when you find a good honey hole there isn't a crowd to invade your fishing space.

The other benefit is when you find that spot you will find slow moving, but hungry fish! They will take advantage of that free meal your offering and your likely to have a great day of fishing!

One factor to keep in mind is the water level. It is below full level so fish around those stumps that are now great markers where you will find BIG ones hanging out! Be safe and always wear a life jacket!

If your lucky enough to live here at Lake Fork you can always pull out your gear and go fish on the better days so take advantage of that, after all it is the last month of 2023 to catch a record or beat your personal best!

Fish On!

The Twelve Days of Christmas

On the First day of Christmas Lake Fork gave to me ~ A Honey Hole near a stump tree

On the Second day of Christmas Lake Fork gave to me ~ Two Dozen Minnows and a Honey Hole near a stump tree

On the Third day of Christmas Lake Fork gave to me ~ Three Monster Crappie!
~ Two Dozen Minnows and a Honey Hole near a stump tree

On the Fourth day of Christmas Lake Fork gave to me ~ Oil for a fish fry
~ Three Monster Crappie! ~ Two Dozen Minnows and a Honey Hole near a stump tree

On the Fifth day of Christmas Lake Fork gave to me ~ Five Golden Reels!

~ Oil for a fish fry ~ Three Monster Crappie! ~ Two Dozen Minnows and a Honey Hole near a stump tree

On the Sixth day of Christmas Lake Fork gave to me ~ 6lbs of Tight line

~ Five Golden Reels! Oil for a fish fry ~ Three Monster Crappie! ~ Two Dozen Minnows and a Honey Hole near a stump tree

On the Seventh day of Christmas Lake Fork gave to me ~ 7 Stinky Catfish

~ 6lb Tight line~ Five Golden Reels! Oil for a fish fry ~ Three Monster Crappie! ~ Two Dozen Minnows and a Honey Hole near a stump tree

On the Eighth day of Christmas Lake Fork gave to me ~ 8 Berkley Lures

~ 7 Stinky Catfish ~ 6lb Tight line~ Five Golden Reels! Oil for a fish fry ~ Three Monster Crappie! ~ Two Dozen Minnows and a Honey Hole near a stump tree

On the Ninth day of Christmas Lake Fork gave to me ~ 9 yummy Striper's

~ 8 Berkley Lures ~ 7 Stinky Catfish ~ 6lb Tight line~ Five Golden Reels! Oil for a fish fry ~ Three Monster Crappie! ~ Two Dozen Minnows and a Honey Hole near a stump tree

On the Tenth day of Christmas Lake Fork gave to me ~ a heavy Lake Fork slot fish!

~ 9 yummy Striper's ~ 8 Berkley Lures ~ 7 Stinky Catfish ~ 6lb Tight line~ Five Golden Reels! Oil for a fish fry ~ Three Monster Crappie! ~ Two Dozen Minnows and a Honey Hole near a stump tree

On the Eleventh day of Christmas Lake Fork gave to me ~ A guide trip to try and teach me!

~ a heavy Lake Fork slot fish! ~ 9 yummy Striper's ~ 8 Berkley Lures ~ 7 Stinky Catfish ~ 6lb Tight line~ Five Golden Reels! Oil for a fish fry ~ Three Monster Crappie! ~ Two Dozen Minnows and a Honey Hole near a stump tree

On the Twelfth day of Christmas Lake Fork gave to me ~ a Double digit Big Bass!

~ A guide trip to try and teach Me!~ A heavy Lake Fork slot fish! ~ 9 yummy Striper's ~ 8 Berkley Lures ~ 7 Stinky Catfish ~ 6lb Tight line~ Five Golden Reels! Oil for a fish fry ~ Three Monster Crappie! ~ Two Dozen Minnows and a Honey Hole near a stump tree

Merry Christmas to All!



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GREG HILL LAKE FORK GUIDE

LEAVE NO FISH BEHIND



As of the date I wrote this...the water level is at 400.70 Looking at the rate of the water loss though it seems they are letting more than usual out of the dam.

November was not as good as the one I had last year but the water clarity has now stabilized. I know a lot of guides were running over to some other lakes to get some better numbers but I was still out trying to find the bigger fish. Biggest last month though was 6.6 so I wouldn't say that was great but it wasn't terrible. Overall, the chance to get some quality fish where there. I had a number of days where I located some nice fish but they were sluggish and would follow baits without finishing it up as a solid strike. I had one day where the fish would nibble at a Lake Fork Trophy Lures Magic Shad 5.5 inches over and over as if they were just trying to crush it and spit it out. They would hit it as it slowly sank and swam but not long enough for me to get a hook set. We can get into some winter strategies, talk about some offseason preparation with your gear, and yes talk about next year's pre spawn!!

People ask me all the time if the fishing is good in the winter. I say YES but it isn't not just because of the fish I am catching. When you go fishing out in the winter you most likely have the lake to yourself really. Not many are as diehard as I am and willing to get out there with 4 layers of clothes on in sometimes freezing temperatures. My son and I have fished on those days when you have to dip your rods in the water to melt the ice in your fishing rod eyes so the line will go through it I have been out spending time throwing shad like moving baits shallow and also looking through trees in deeper water (12-20ft) in areas that were some of my summer locations. There are large schools of baitfish moving through these waters and some are even deeper. I have been finding some areas where the bait fish are forming their huge winter schools again. I think the biggest school I found last week was over 80ft long and about 10 ft thick. It was probably about 15-20 ft wide as well. That is what I call a super school. Unfortunately, there weren't any fish on that submerged point that I could see at that time but I would bet at some time in the day the bass schools would move in on them if they stayed in that one location. One good indicator you can use when finding these schools is the shape of the baitfish schools. If you look with your side imaging and forward looking sonar and see the schools kind of spread out and long like I described that supers school I found, if generally means there aren't any real predators in the area. When the shad start getting attacked they will break up into some balls



instead of these large strung out schools. I try to look for schools that look more like a number of large balls instead. Sometimes the balls of bait would come together and get larger again for a while before they would again get broken up again after being hit at pretty hard. Bottom line, look for schools of baitfish that seem to be broken up in to smaller balls and moving around more instead of the ones that are just swimming slowly along in those large stretched out schools.

Chatter Baits White, chatter baits with white shad trailer have been catching in the shallower areas 4-6 ft deep. Outside edges of some weed lines and on secondary points



have been good. Submerged Pond dams have been producing as well. It has been a pretty slow retrieve that has been working. **Square Bill Crank Baits.** Shallow running square bill crank baits in white/chartreuse with blue or black back have been catching smaller fish but in greater numbers. I have upsized to try to get a bigger fish and have had some success but it seems most of the fish I was catching this way were smaller. **Alabama Rigs.** I have been getting bites on the Alabama rig as usual for this time of year. The fish are chasing bait and the Alabama Rig is great for imitating this prey. Just pay attention to the size of your lures **Deep Cranking.** Slow cranking deep crank baits in the winter is a really good way to cover some water but also present a large bite for a fish that they might find hard to resist. Usually, I will head out o my deeper extended points that I find these baitfish schools on see what depth they are actually at. Then I am trying to get a crankbait down to the depth of a few feet under that school. I want my bait to be running a few feet under



the bottom of that school so it looks like a baitfish that has gotten scared out of the school and is now all by himself. That is what these bass are going to look for. Someone else has done the job of chasing him down and/or partially injuring him and now the bass moves in for the easy kill. That is what I want my crankbait to look like. Your gear is very important during this time. You will want to be running a low gear ratio reel. I use Quantum Smoke S3 reels in the 5.1 gear ratio on Temple Fork Outfitters Tactical Glass Bass crankbait rods. I have found this setup to be great at deep cranking on a rod made with 60% carbon fiber and 40% fiberglass. The lower gear speed of the reel and the strike absorption of this rod make it almost the perfect set up. I have been mostly throwing shad colored crank baits with some white or chartreuse on them. I am starting to throw some red colors as well. It is important to note that red loses its color the fastest as it moves lower into the water column and at those deep depths will look darker and darker until it will just look black. Red is on the bass color vision scale so if they are still showing red they will be visible. I know I have said this before, bass can only see red, green, and the colors that those colors make which is the oranges to chartreuses. I know, I know someone will ask" why does my black and blue jig do so well?" I can only give you the facts though. The blue probably looks like a lighter black...grayish probably

Swim baits. Either hollow body or solid body swim baits rigged weed less so you can get it down in those trees. You can either rig it with an under spin rig or just a weighted hook. Using a 5.5 inch Lake Fork Trophy Lures Magic shad, I put a ¼ ounce weighted hook on it. This is already a large heavy bate without the terminal tackle and I am trying to make this bate swim down as it sinks. If you throw it with that weight of hook set and cast it out and let it sink, it will swim as it descends slowly. You can play with it and see how it works for you but this bate will angle down while swimming. I throw it past my intended target and then let it swim down to the target. I can either slowly reel in to change the speed or merely rely on the baits action. Last year we caught a 12.85 doing this so it will catch some big fish. I am mostly throwing the larger baits trying to get a strike from the bigger fish but I am sure this would work on the smaller fish by downsizing the technique. This technique can work right in to the heart of a tree without getting snagged. It might as well be a Texas rig for how well it can come through branches.

Slow rolling Spinner baits. I had some bites last week on spinner baits down in the trees. I was throwing a ¾ ounce spinner bait with double willow blade down in these trees. I wanted something that was falling faster and a large single Colorado had a slower fall as you helicopter it down. I like the retrieve speed of the Colorado better when it was down there but

Continued On Page 17



Williams Creek Crappie Club of Lake Fork



**WCCC of Lake Fork Meeting
NOVEMBER 11TH
Yantis Community Center**

The WCCC of Lake Fork meeting was held November 11th at the Yantis Community Center with a special salute to the many veterans in attendance. The Guest speaker for the month of November was Travis Decker of Emory Tx. and shared his many tips on how he's so successful crappie fishing Lake Fork. Travis recently won the CUSA National in Tennessee and has many top 5 National finishes this year.

Travis was very informative and answered many questions to the large crowd in attendance. His many years



fishing Lake Fork as a guide as well as an outstanding crappie tournament competitor Travis shared many techniques and tips. He also discussed the goals for fishing such as is it for a freezer full of fish? Is it for fun? Is it for alone time? or is it for competition? This makes a difference in which techniques you use to improve whichever your fishing goal of the day is.

Travis also discussed the importance the presentation of jigs, minnows and other various baits to the crappie and how this is the key to getting the big ones to bite.

The WCCC meetings are a great way to share and learn various aspects of Crappie



- Tommy Ezell
President
- Raymond Montgomery
Treasurer
- Dennis Smith
Secretary
- Vice-President by Chip Exum
Cindy Smith
- Lisa Tapp
Marketing Director
- Chip Exum
Social Director
- Jeff Wix
Seargent at Arms



Fishing and fellowship with others that share the common interest. There have been some great guest speakers along with door prize and a 50/50 raffle!

Make plans to come join in on the fun!

Have a very Merry Christmas and we will see you in the New Year!



The annual dues are \$25 per family members in a household.



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LAKE FORK ANGLERS



Lake Fork Anglers (LFA) Bass Fishing Club

Tournament Results for NOVEMBER 2023

**Tournament Results:
11/02/2023**

Hard Core Tournament – All Bass 10 inches and over count towards total weight scored

24 Members fished with a total of 74 Bass caught and only 3 Bass that reached the 2 lb. range. There were a lot of club members today that caught no fish, or caught only one fish, so apparently the fish were as cold as the fishermen. That said, Dennis Bubinas and Mike McWhorter led the pack with 12 small ones each.

Winning Anglers

1. Dennis Bubinas with 12 Bass @ 10.07 lbs.
 2. Mike McWhorter with 12 Bass @ 8.85 lbs.
 3. Dusty Newton with 6 @ 5.36 lbs.
- Big Bass: Alf Tuggle @ 2.68

Winning Co-Anglers

1. Gary Gilmore with 8 Bass @ 7.38 lbs.
2. Scott Powell with 8 Bass @ 6.85 lbs.
3. Chris Lawson with 4 @ 5.15 lbs. Big Bass: Chris Lawson and Larry Kelly tied, each having a 2.49 lb. lunker

**Tournament Results:
11/09/2023**

2023 LFA Annual Championship Tournament – Largest 5 Bass 10 inches and over

30 Members braved a full day of very tough weather conditions. The rain was continuous with periods of very hard downpour and strong winds. All but the very best raingear failed to keep members dry, and water-proof shoes kept more feet inundated with water than kept water out.

Winning Anglers

1. Don Overstreet with his best 5 Bass @ 11.63 lbs. (2023 LFA Tournament Champion Angler-of-the-Year)
 2. Dennis Bubinas with his best 5 Bass @ 10.37 lbs.
 3. Randy Bunch with 5 Bass @ 9.93 lbs. (Randy also had a Bass weighing 5.08)
- Big Bass: Mike McWhorter @ 6.89 lbs.

Winning Co-Anglers

1. Bill Pigg with 4 Bass @ 9.32
 2. Jackie Price with his best 5 Bass @ 6.26 lbs.
 3. Ken Kielbas with his best 5 Bass @ 6.11 lbs.
- Big Bass: No 5 lb.+ Bass were caught by a Co-Angler, though Mat Scotch came close @4.49

**Tournament Results:
11/16/2023**

2023 Hard Core Annual Championship Tournament – All Bass 10 inches and over count towards total weight scored.

26 Members fished with a total of 143 Bass caught, but no Bass weighing 5 lbs. or more was caught today. A cool Fall day to be on the lake, but a little more sun may have helped to improve the bite.

Winning Anglers

1. Dennis Bubinas with 17 Bass @ 26.21 lbs.
 2. Steve Roll with 5 Bass @ 15.09 lbs.
 3. Jack White with 9 @11.82 lbs.
- Big Bass: Jack White @ 4.68 lbs

Winning Co-Anglers

1. Jerry Gaither with 11 Bass @ 24.10 lbs.
 2. Rick Wright with 12 Bass @ 12.71 lbs.
 3. Tom Whitrock with 11 @ 11.09 lbs.
- Big Bass: Scott Powell; @ 4.68

Lake Fork Anglers (LFA) Bass Fishing Club Tournament Results: 11/30/2023

LFA Tournament – Cancelled due to severe weather forecast with thunderstorms.

The LFA club fishes every Thursday with afternoon weigh-in at the SRA Park on Hwy 154 @ 12:45 pm (Summer Hours). Two club tournament formats are rotated weekly.

LFA – Best 5 fish format – 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month

Hard Core – MLF format – 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month Two club tournament formats are rotated weekly.

· LFA – Best 5 fish format – 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month

· Hard Core – MLF format – 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month

All club tournaments are two-person catch and release tournaments with an angler and a co-angler per boat.

Anglers compete against anglers and Co-Anglers compete against co-anglers.

Club membership is open to all persons who are physically able to fish and function independently in a boat, whether alone, or as a team member during scheduled Thursday fishing tournaments.

We are always looking for new members -

both Anglers (Boaters) and Co-Anglers (Back-Seaters).

Club tournament information and membership application can be found by sending an email to:

lfa_2019@yahoo.com

Merry Christmas To All!



MIKE MCWHORTER
6.89 lbs



RANDY BUMCH
5.08 lbs

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With Christmas right around the corner it is the perfect time to get unique gifts from the local Lake Fork Area small business owners. Whether you live here in the Lake Fork Area or you come out for fishing and fun throughout the year there is something for everyone! There is something about receiving a gift to enjoy while visiting Lake Fork that makes it so special! The great thing is you can shop here directly or search on facebook and most of our great shops can help you by getting a gift card for your loved one or you can order online and have it delivered by Christmas!
We have a few ideas listed on this page that might give you some different choices for everyone on your list!



One Stop For it All Fisherman's One Stop is a great place for angler presents, they have Rods, Reels, huge selection on baits & lures not to mention clothing and more!
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LARRY L. & LUKE WEISHUHN CLAYTON
FOREWORD BY JIM ZUMBO

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CAMPFIRE TALK
by Larry Weishuhn and Luke Clayton is now available through www.catfishradio.org. This just might be the perfect Christmas gift for the hunters/fishers on your shopping list!

GREAT Gift Idea! GIFT CERTIFICATES For a Lake Fork Fishing Guide Here a few Names of The Best Guides	James Caldemeyer 903-736-9888 www.officiallakeforktrophybass.com	Doug Shampine 903-902-3855 www.lakeforktrophybass.com	Greg Hill 972-824-4774 www.foblakefork.com
	Michael Samples 903-474-4983 www.lakeforkguidemichaelsamples.com	Andrew Grills 903-638-1170 www.lakeforkguideandrewgrills.com	Stan Kuhn 903-383-2921 www.thecatfishguide.com

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Sophie and Rose has so many specialty items to choose from- handmade soaps, gifts and everyones favorite fishermen's soap!

Speakeasy is a great place to get a gift card for everyone on the list- what a special treat! Great stocking stuffers also!



Christmas shopping for the outdoors person

It's time to think ahead and shop for the outdoor person on your list. Do they need a new cast iron skillet or possibly an electric smoker? How about a kit for starting a campfire anywhere?

By Luke Clayton

For the past 38 years, sometime around the end of November, I've listed some gift ideas for the sportsperson on your list. Some items, such as the Smokin Tex electric smoker (www.smokintex.com) is at the top of the list every year because the majority of my friends are outdoors people and they all like cooking the fruits of their hunts/fishing trips and I consider a good smoker as essential gear. But there are other items that you might not find on the shelves of box stores that are equally useful.

I'll give some ideas that might help make your shopping easier. Many of you will need to order so that's the reason I write this column several weeks before the big day.

One big mistake I have seen in the past is folks buying a gun or bow or fishing rod for that matter, that they think their sportsperson will like. If your hunter wants a 'gun', just any gun won't work. He or she has a particular make, model and rifle caliber or gauge shotgun in mind. The same holds true for the bow hunter. A bow needs to be set up by a professional, one doesn't simply pull one off the shelf and begin shooting. If you have a gun or bow in mind as a gift, I'd advise you to give a gift certificate to a particular store and let your sportsman go in and choose the exact model that he has in mind. Make sure and spend a bit of time at the bow/gun shop talking with a knowledgeable person that can help you with costs, etc. Ammo for the shooter or arrows for the bow hunter is a bit easier to choose. Do a bit of snooping into your outdoor person's gear and simply purchase the ammo he shoots or the make and length of arrows in his quiver. You might just sneak one of the arrows out and take it to an archery shop and give him a dozen of the same style cut to the proper length.

BLACKBEARD FIRE STARTERS

www.blackbeardfire.com Every hunter, fisherman or camper needs to be able to start a fire quickly in any weather. In some situations, one's life depends on starting a fire. This company offers several products that make fire starting easy in any situation.

BROW TINE INNOVATIONS

www.browtimeinnovations.com offers several unique items for the hunter that include a quick attach bow hanger that straps to a limb or trunk of a tree and a self contained system for raising and lowering items up to a tree stand. Check the website out for a look at several useful items that were invented out of necessity by a mechanical engineer/hunter.

THERMAL SCOPES FOR NIGHT HUNTING

Night hunting for hogs has become extremely popular and thermal scopes are the ultimate tool for night hunting. AGM Global Vision www.agmglobalvision.com offers an entry level thermal scope for around one thousand dollars that is more than adequate for shooting hogs out to a bit over 1,000 yards. The company also offers higher resolution scopes for shooting longer distances. Check out the website and see the various models and videos showing their application.

GOOD READING Most outdoors folks love reading a good book. My favorites include anything written by Robert Ruark, especially "Use Enough Gun" and "The Old Man and the Boy." Corey Ford is another favorite, if you've never read "The Corey Ford Sporting Treasury" I highly recommend it. In this book is the short story "The Road to Tinkhamtown" which is my all time favorite piece of outdoor literature. You can Google the title and read the story for free. I'm betting you will enjoy it as much as I.

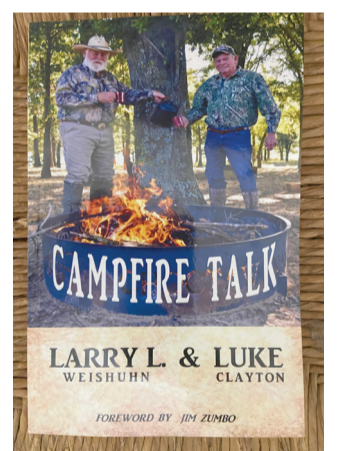
On a more current note, Jeffrey Miller's new book "Forever Towards the Sunrise" makes for some great reading as does Larry Weishuhn's "Deer Addictions" which is a great read detailing hunting a number of deer species in a great number of places. Larry Weishuhn aka "Mr. Whitetail" presents some great insights into deer hunting and in typical Larry Weishuhn writing style, you will feel as though you were right there with him on every hunt. Another book that I am very proud to have co-written with Weishuhn is "Campfire Talk" which has been out only a month or so. Larry and I write about a smorgasbord of outdoor topics from catching big catfish and trophy stripers in Texas to Larry's hunts across the globe. All books mentioned can be purchased through Amazon with a title search.

GUIDED TRIP Most sportsmen enjoy an occasional guided fishing or hunting trip and most guides/outfitters offer gift certificates. You might have a good idea of a trip your sportsman or woman might enjoy but if not, a bit of 'detective' work might give you a clue. A question such as, Have you ever fished at Lake Texoma for stripers? Or, I read where Lake Tawakoni produces some huge blue catfish during the winter months will give you a clue. As most of you know, I am pretty well connected in the outdoor world, feel free to drop me an email lukeclayton1950@gmail.com if I can help you.

BIG BORE AIR RIFLE Most package stores do not carry big bore air rifles, designed for hunting game such as deer and hogs. Pyramid Air www.pyramidair.com is a one stop shop for anything airgun related and they offer a wide variety of air rifles, portable compressors, tanks, etc. Through the years, I've had many people that I hunt with inquire as to where I get my airguns and accessories and I point them to Pyramid Air.

SPICES AND CURES FOR GAME/FISH

Many hunters butcher their own game animals such as deer and wild hogs. Butcher Packer Supply www.butcher-packer.com offers everything for the home butcher. Ready to use sausage seasoning kits are available as well as kits with everything needed to transform a wild hog ham into a cured, smoked delicacy. Ever tried brining and smoking fish? They have what you need!



A BIG THANK YOU to the folks at the Bow Barn Archery shop on Interstate 30 in Greenville. Larry Weishuhn and I were present for their annual Customer Appreciation day and the barbeque and fellowship was top notch. I'm already looking forward to next year. Next on the outdoor agenda is The First Annual Lake Fork Campfire Expo scheduled for Feb 10 at Fisherman's One Stop on Hwy 115. Presented by Lake Fork Area News and Fisherman's One Stop. For booth information, call Donna Wooldridge 469-552-1824.



www.lakeforknewsfishon.com

GREG HILL LAKE FORK GUIDE

Continued from Page 12

it was just taking a longer time to get down as I was fishing in over 20ft of water. I am going to be experimenting more with it because the double willow retrieve speed was faster but I will try to slow it down with some larger blades. I was throwing a white/chartreuse bait with Lake Fork Trophy Lures Magic Shad trailers. I had spotted some larger fish suspending in trees and was using the spinner baits to target them with a lure that does pretty well coming through timber. It would have been pretty hard to bring any other type of lure through there.

When to fish and what to do to help you stay warm. I don't usually rush out first thing in the morning during the winter. It is a time when you can sleep in a little later and get out there while giving the sun time to warm things up a bit. The days are short and nights are long and the fish will mostly be active during the times when the baitfish will be active. It is not a time when I run out to get out on a top water bite first thing in the morning. I am going to have an extra cup of coffee and heat up a few eggs before heading out. Dress warm in layers so you can peel some off as it warms up during the day hopefully as well. Because I fish over 250 days a year, I have spent some money on quality Gortex fishing bib/coat combination and it makes a difference. It keeps the wind out and will keep you dry if you get in some rain. I learned one thing for sure in 26 years in the military. Getting cold can be tough but getting cold and wet is tougher. If it is really cold out you need to do your best to keep yourself from getting wet. That means waterproof clothes and shoes. I even have gloves that keep the water out that I will wear this time of year. Also, if you are going to be fishing in all of this weather protection clothing, you need to make sure you wear your life preserver at all times. That is why I wear an inflatable one that stays on me during this time of year. I took many years of water survival training as a Marine Corps Harrier pilot and it was put to the test a few years back when I ended up in the water headfirst with 4 layers of clothing on. Long story that I can share in the boat sometime if we fish but bottom line was if I hadn't had the training I had been through I would most assuredly have drowned. All of the danger could have been avoided if I had simply been wearing that inflatable life preserver. The added clothing can fill with water and make getting back to the surface almost impossible. Additionally, in water 40-50 degrees, you will most likely be exhausted or unconscious in 30-60 minutes. Death can occur at those temperatures between 1-3 hours. I am not joking when I say wet and cold are not a good combination. Now I want you to imagine some of the older fisherman



I see out on the water by their self and consider how likely they would be able to pull themselves out of the water without help. A life jacket, either inflatable or the old type is a real safety must have if you are going to be out on the water this time of year. I hope I made myself clear how I feel about that.

Night Fishing So this goes against the temperature rational for fishing for bass but I like night fishing in winter. Again, the night is long and I don't go out as long as I will when it is a little warmer but the fish will still consolidate around these night lights on docks. Generally, I throw mostly shad baits but will throw jigs and senkos as well. A Carolina Rig with a fluke can work well also. It allows you to make a presentation like a dying shad and can keep it in the strike zone of the light very easily. I caught a few bass on some smaller dock lights just a few nights ago before we had all that rain. It was probably only 4 ft deep but the bass were there. They came in a wave and stayed for about 30 minutes before heading off to some other light I am sure.

Winter is the time to get ready for the spring. I know it is a long way off still but I am already going through my gear for the spring. I will organize my lures in to the sight fishing baits and take stock of what I need to order for the next year already. If I get them ordered and set up now I won't be rushing as the year gets closer. I end up with stuff in the boat not exactly where it is supposed to be so I am going through emptying out lockers and making sure I am taking out any old trash and putting lures back where they are supposed to go.

Take the time to get your reels into shape. Getting your reels cleaned, oiled, and greased is easier to do now in the off season than when the rush will be on later so take the time to get it done now. Check your rods eyes to see if any need replacing. They can get loose during the year and will show signs of starting to come out. You might find the wait times shorter now if you are going to get them fixed by your local rod repair guy.

Check the water level in your batteries on your boat. Make sure they are topped off before winter. I fish my boat through the winter so I don't winterize it. If you are putting your boat away for a while make sure you use some fuel stabilizer to protect the engine. I don't know a lot of guys that fog their motors down here in the south really but considering the freeze we had last year maybe that will change.

Folds of Honor and Lake Fork Trophy Lures: Please remember Lake Fork Trophy Lures is donating 10% of your purchase to the Folds of Honor charity when you use the "FOH" code. This veteran non-profit helps provide assis-



tance to Gold Star families. I use their swim baits both alone and as trailers on my chatter baits and spinner baits. Using their Magic Shad in the 5.5 size is one of my favorite big fish baits both at night and during the day. You can throw these baits right into the heart of a thick tree and work it through like a fleeing shad. Book your trip now for next year! Next spring is booking fast.: If you would like to book a guide trip this year or next year just go to my website www.foblakefork.com and send me an email. Be sure to follow me on Facebook, Instagram, and my YouTube Channel for the latest updates. There are links from my website or you can find all of them by searching for FOB Lake Fork. You can call as well at 972-824-4774. Dates for the pre-spawn and spawn are starting to book up so don't wait too long. Consider taking a night fishing trip here on Lake Fork if you haven't done it before. Don't forget to check out my AirBnB as well that is located on the main lake on 4.5 acres with a 270deg view by clicking on the link at my website in the Guide Service section. See my social media from my website.

Plan early for next year. I am already booking up for next year's dates. Do not wait too long. A few weeks ago someone booked two days for March of 2024! I am looking for a buyer for my 2022 Skeeter FXR21 with 250 SHO. Call me for details. I am ordering my 2024 and this boat should be available in the spring of next year. Give me a call. I think you would appreciate getting a boat with the electronics pre loaded with a bunch of good fishing spots!!

Good luck and I hope everyone gets the trophy of a life time. I want to say thank you to my sponsors, Quantum Fishing Reels, Temple Fork Outfitters rods, and Diamond Sports Marine. I really appreciate them and their products get me through each fishing day chasing down these Lake Fork TANKS. Remember, here at Forward Operating Base Lake Fork our motto is LEAVE NO FISH BEHIND.....



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Emory, Texas 75440
903-473-2236

Leo's Chicken

407 E. Lennon Dr.
Emory, Texas 75440
903-473-3200

Marshall's BBQ Pit

745 E. Lennon Dr.
Emory, Texas 75440
903-953-5353

Pizza Hut

122 S. Texas St.
Emory, Texas 75440
903-473-5550

Sidekick's Restaurant

903 N. Texas St.
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903-473-3325

Sonic

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Emory, Texas 75440
903-474-9600

Wild West BBQ

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903-953-0333

Ya'll Come Back Cafe

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903-473-2224

Asian

CK Kitchen

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903-953-3663

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903-473-3200

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*Sidekicks Bar & Grill

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903-953-0090

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903-473-2015

Greek

Stefanos Greek Kouzina

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903-953-0111

Mexican

*Dos Charros

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903-473-0007

El Manna Tex-Mex

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903-473-8721

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903-474-2310

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Bro. Perry & Dorinda Crisp having some fun catching some crappie with guide Stan Kuhn



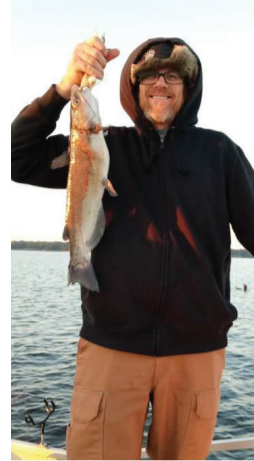
Amy Stanley from Weathorford with 1 of 46 crappie we caught with guide Stan Kuhn



Lucas Ulanowski having fun catfishing with guide Stan Kuhn



Jared Weaver from Haslett. Tx catching some good eating catfish with guide Stan Kuhn



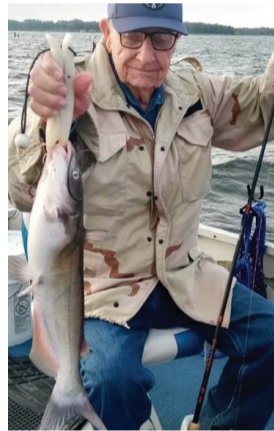
Brad Ulanowski caught this nice cat on Tony P's catfish bait with guide Stan Kuhn



Willie & Ray Williams catching their limit of great catfish with guide Stan Kuhn



Tammy Rudock from California caught this nice 8lber on Tony P's catfish bait



John Rudock Sr from Shreveport La. caught this nice cat with guide Stan Kuhn



John Rudock Jr caught this nice highfin blue with guide Stan Kuhn



Frank Potter & Richard Morrison from Sweet Fellowship church caught their limit with guide Stan Kuhn



Brad Ulanowski, son Lucas & Jared Weaver caught 76 catfish with guide Stan Kuhn



Suzanne Simpson and Amy Stanley with some nice crappie caught with guide Stan Kuhn

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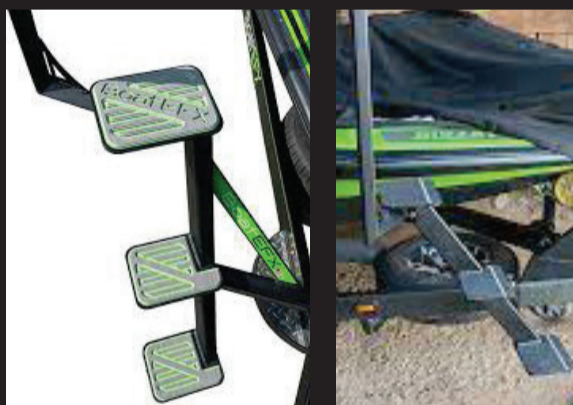
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