

FEBRUARY
2024

LAKE FORK Area News

FREE



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VOL 31 ~ 2

PRESENTS THE 1ST ANNUAL



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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10TH 2024 11-5PM

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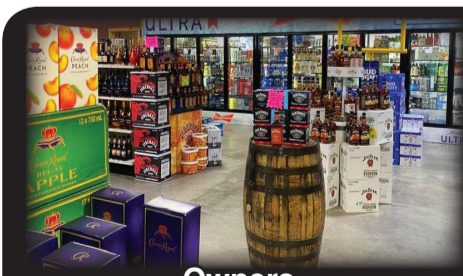
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from Quitman, TX
Saturday, March 2

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Bro's opens February 16th *4pm - 9pm*

Well BRO'S followers, we will be opening for our spring season February 16 with every thing we had this past fall and crawfish if available. Nevertheless that will be our opening! Follow us on facebook to keep up with news and specials for BRO'S. BYOB

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WHITE BASS 'RUN' COMING SOON TO A LAKE NEAR YOU
Luke Clayton

OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON & FRIENDS

A mixed stringer of good eating fish Luke and his friends caught from a creek above Lake Fork about this time last year during the white bass spawn. Photo by Luke Clayton



In about a month, white bass anglers will be flocking to streams to enjoy the annual white bass 'run'. Fishing is often fast paced during this period when spawning 'whites' move into creeks and rivers above lakes to deposit and fertilize eggs. Scheduling a successful fishing trip around this much heralded run can be 'iffy' but when conditions are right, the run actually occurs and white bass vacate the reservoirs in mass and head up creeks and rivers above the lakes.

These 'just right' conditions include rainfall on the watershed above the lake to create current, optimal air and water temperature, water clarity and a host of other factors we mere humans are not as of yet privy to. Many white bass never leave the confines of the lake to spawn but deposit their eggs around windblown points with current. But there is something very special about spending time on a remote stretch of a creek or river during the spawn.

I dearly love tossing small minnow imitation baits like a Beetle Spin or Roadrunner jig along slow moving streams in the spring for white bass but, looking back through the years on past fishing trips, I can remember several times when I simply could not find a concentration of fish. But there's something very special about those rare instances when one finds ten thousand hungry white bass packed into the very narrow confines of a creek bend. In truth, white bass can be caught right now on reservoirs such as Fork and Tawakoni relatively easily, assuming one chooses a mild winter day with light winds to venture forth on the lake. When the water temperature is in the fifties, consistently catching white bass is a far different proposition that when the fish are chasing shad to the surface and hitting just about anything small and shiny.

Now is prime time to boat some heavy stringers of white bass. The fish are in pre spawn and the females are packing a lot of weight. Fish in the 1.5 to 2 pound range

are very common this time of year and the really good thing about winter fishing is that when you find fish, there is likely to be a big concentration in a tight area.

Finding concentrations of fish is relatively easy this time of year assuming your boat is rigged with good sonar and you have the ability to interpret it's readings.

Points are prime areas to locate pre spawn whites this time of year, either points connected to the shoreline above water or those completely submerged. Expect the majority of white bass to be hugging bottom in water 28-40 feet deep. It's common to catch fish that still have a little mud on the top of their heads.

Don't expect winter white bass to strike the bait hard. Three quarter ounce lead slab in white or chartreuse with a quarter-ounce jig tied about a foot above works well during the winter. Using a sensitive rod, it's possible to feel the bottom with the slab which is very important this time of year.

Allow the baits to fall until it contacts the bottom then move the baits very slowly in a vertical jigging motion, maintaining contact with the bottom at all times. The fish hit the jig above the slab the majority of time. Sometimes, the only indication of a strike is a heavy feeling when the fish grabs the bait. When the line goes taught or the rod top jiggles the slightest bit, it's important to set the hook with a quick pop of the wrist.

When graphing the deeper points, it's best to position the boat off to one side and run parallel with the submerged structure. As a rule, the white bass schools will be stacked up on bottom on one side of the hump or the other. If the point is running east and west and there is a steady north wind, it's usually best to key south side of the hump because actively feeding fish are apt to be staged here, picking off baitfish that pass over the top of the structure.

Once a school of fish is located, toss out a marker buoy and, depending upon wind speed and direction; either allows the boat to drift over the structure or used the trolling motor to slowly drag the baits across bottom. Either way, the strikes, albeit they subtle usually come quickly and limits are often landed when a big school of actively feeding fish is located.

TIPS FROM FOR CATCHING WINTER WHITE BASS

KEEP BAITS ON BOTTOM-

If your lure is not bouncing off the bottom, you probably won't be catching fish. Use a sensitive rod to feel bottom and set the hook when you feel the slightest resistance.

FISH DEEP-

Most of the white bass I catch this year come from deep structure, water 28-40 feet. Graph deep humps, ridges and points until you find a concentration of baitfish with fish holding tightly to bottom below them, these will usually be white bass.

PLAN YOUR TRIP AROUND THE WEATHER-

Watch the weather closely this time of year. Fish the warming trend between fronts. There's no need to be on the water at first light. Begin fishing around 7:30 or 8 am. ; on a sunny day with little wind, the temperature often warms up quickly.

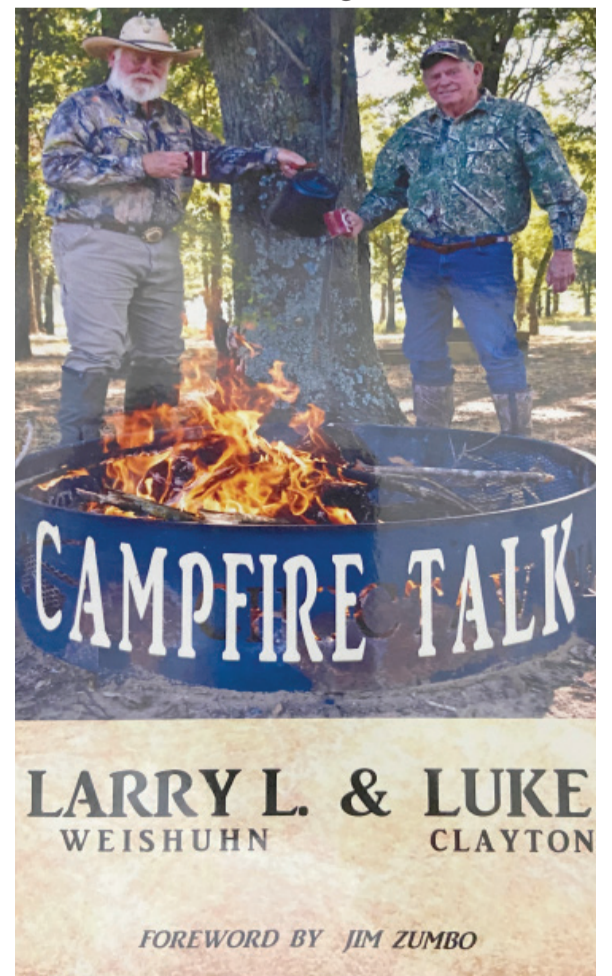
DRESS PROPERLY-

Dressing in layers this time of year is always a good idea. Make sure your outer jacket is warm and waterproof. Once it warms up around mid-morning, you can remove the heavy outer layers and fish in comfort. A good face mask and gloves will help keep you comfortable during the first couple hours of on the water.

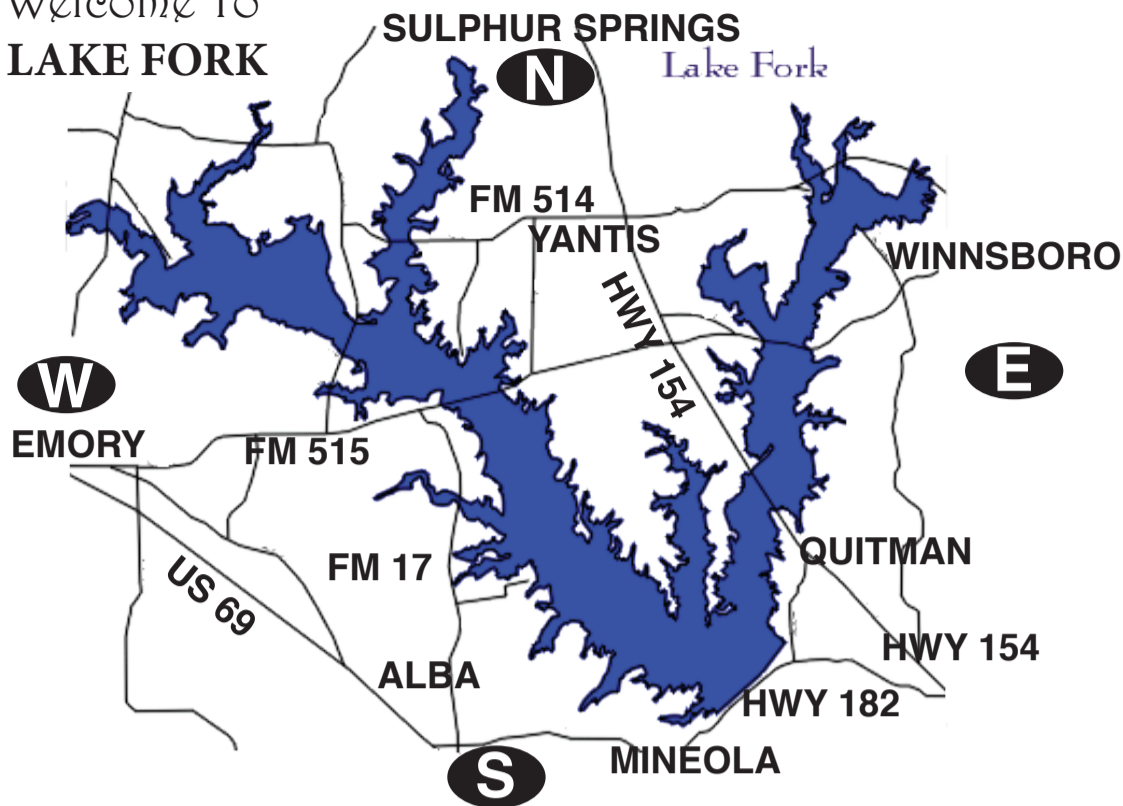
PREPARING YOUR CATCH-

White bass are excellent eating. When removing the fillets, don't bear down with the fillet knife when removing the skin. Leave about one-eighth inch of the red meat on the skin. Once this darker colored meat is removed, white bass are one of the tastiest of all fish. Allow the fillets to set in a mixture of buttermilk and Louisiana Hot Sauce for thirty minutes before dusting them with a mixture of cornmeal and flour and dropping them into the fish fryer.

Contact Outdoors writer Luke Clayton via email 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

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

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Minnow Bucket Marina - Hwy 154
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LAKE FORK EVENTS

Upcoming Tournaments and Events

February 10th

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Feb 10 The Wilder Blue

Feb 17th Casey Chestnutt

Feb 24 Wheelhouse Band

MARCH 16TH RAY WYLIE HUBBARD

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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Local Anglers & Jr Anglers

Toyota Sharelunker Updates

Fishing Guide Reports

Local Activities & Events

Highlights & Storys about our

Local Business's & Much More!

lakeforknews@yahoo.com

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

20

FREE TO THE PUBLIC



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

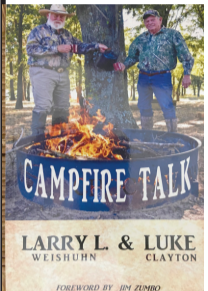
Junction of Hwy 515 CR 1970 YANTIS Tx

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



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For More Information on joining in on the Expo Contact

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



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THE YANTIS TYMES

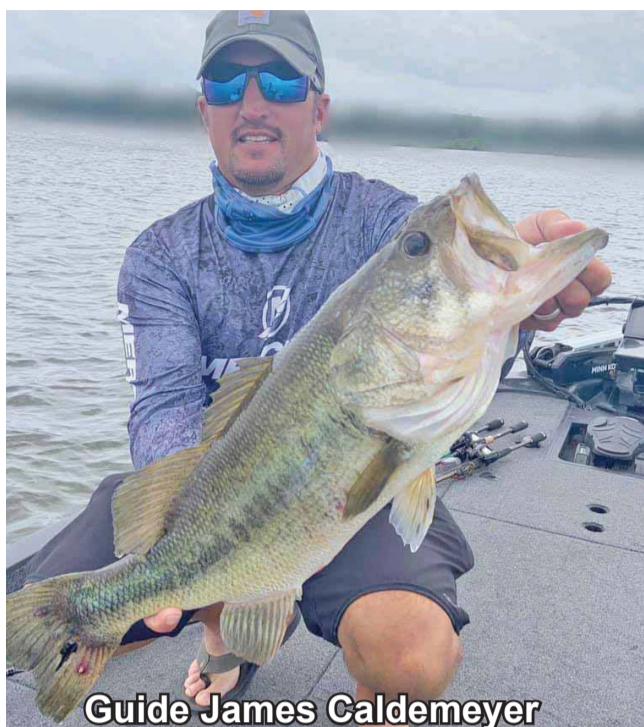


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James Caldemeyer Lake Fork Fishing Guide Report



Guide James Caldemeyer

James Caldemeyer's Lake Fork Trophy Bass Monthly Fishing Report February 2024

It's February and the early spring fishing season is ramping up here at Lake Fork! Lots of big bass are starting to show up as they prepare to spawn. The Bassmaster Elites will be here later this month to put on a show and remind everyone why Lake Fork is #1 for big bass! If you're coming out for the tournament or looking to get in on some of this trophy bass action, now is the time, before all the spring crowds start to hit the lake. Here are some tips that may help you in your search of that fish of a lifetime.

The lake is up with all the recent rains and nearly full pool. Water temperature is always key this time of year. You will want to concentrate on areas where the water is warmer or on a warming trend. I rely on my Garmin Echomap Ultra units, mounted at the console and bow, to deliver and they don't disappoint. Live Scope is amazing and unmatched as far as forward-facing sonars go! Most water temps are going to range in the low to mid 50's this month but fishing in 55-degree water is more productive than 51 so keep an eye on your electronics for changes throughout the lake. The best patterns for me in February are always in the shallow to mid-depth regions. I like to target main lake areas or secondary points at the mouth of any of the major creeks. A lot of fish stage out in these areas until the water temperatures rise in the spring and the backs of the creeks are conducive for spawning.

I start off shallow in the 2-8 ft range and fish reaction baits like a red/orange lipless crank bait like a Berkley Warpig in 1/2 – 3/4 ounce sizes. If you can reel it past, rip it off the grass, bang it off a tree, etc.... These fish will react to it and bite it. Berkley Slobberknocker vibrating jigs in 3/8- 1/2 ounce in green, white, or chart/white. Covering water and making lots of casts at cover along the bank will pay off. Big swimbaits and glide baits are big time players in the prespawn as

well. Baits like the 3:16 Rising Son and gizzard glide, Berkley Nessie, and Cull Shad are money for giants. Remember to hit everything at different casting angles to ensure that you are covering the areas thoroughly. If you catch a few fish in a certain stretch of bank, be sure and back track and make multiple passes through that area. There is always a key feature holding fish in these areas. Sometimes it's a depth change like a ditch or drain, bottom change from rock, to sand, or vegetation that is causing the fish to hold there. If the fishing gets tough up shallow I like to back off a little deeper and throw a little heavier lipless bait like a 3/4 oz model. I also like fishing a Santone Rattlin Jig on the stumps for some real giants! They'll smash a 1/2 – 3/4 ounce jig flipped around the stumps in pre-spawn staging areas. Best colors are black/blue, PB&J, and my custom JC's Spicy Craw color. On days that the bite gets tougher you can break out one of these and save the day. I love the Berkley Stunna 112 and 112+. Getting on the trolling motor and watching the LiveScope while working this bait around stumps and grass with slow twitches will draw some big fish out to get it! Be sure to grab some of the new Berkley Krej, Finisher, and Power Switches if you're Live Scoping right now. These new baits are awesome!

The deep fishing is slower for me this time of year and I concentrate most of my efforts in the shallows. I am generally catching smaller male bass deeper and big fish shallow in February. I always check deep spots though with my Garmin EchoMap Ultras while I'm running from spot to spot though. You never know when you might pull up on an active school of big ones feeding. Most of the fish are holding in 16-22 feet right now. My favorite technique to use on these deep schools is a drop shot rig or a jig head with a grub and a tube jig. Even though these fish seem to be a lot more lethargic than the shallower fish they will still take off with your bait. Another great choice is to drop a jigging spoon down on them. Carolina rigged baits can be good as well with warmer weather. If you find a school or group of fish that is suspended in an area, don't forget about the umbrella rig. This bait is deadly for big fish that are suspended. You can retrieve it at about any depth in the water column that the fish are holding. I use the 5 wire rigs with 1/8-3/16 oz jig heads. A 4" Berkley Power swimmer swim bait in about any shad color will work or you can play with some of your favorite swim bait.

Well, I hope this helps anyone that's coming out this month to chase some big bass. If you would like to fish with me this year, I still have just a few spring dates available. My 2024 schedule is filling fast though so contact me as soon as possible if you are just now beginning to plan your trip. I also have



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

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 lakefork-trophybass@yahoo.com You can also visit my website for more information about Lake Fork and my guide service at www.officiallakeforktrophybass.com You can find me on Facebook and follow my official Lake Fork Trophy Bass Guide page at <https://www.facebook.com/lakeforktrophybass-guide>

I have really enjoyed my Bass Cat boats the past few years and am about to rig my new 2024 boat for the 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 and Caracal 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 are continuing to support me in 2024. I am looking forward to representing them again this year on the major tournament trails. I appreciate all their support as I serve all my great guide clients 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, Elite Tungsten, Johnson Communications, EVOLV and Bass Boat Technologies.

Tight Lines & God Bless,
James Caldemeyer

Doug Champine Guide Fishing Report

www.lakeforktrophybass.com



903-902-3855

Doug Champine
DSP Guide Service
www.lakeforktrophybass.com

We are now getting to the time of year the crappie and bass start moving towards their spawning areas. The lake is in great shape and the water level

is close to normal. February will have some above normal warm days and still some cold ones. Check out the bass starting with the main lake-points and work back towards the back and focusing on the secondary points. As the water warms, the fish will slowly move towards their spawning areas. Moving baits like the spinner bait, chatter bait, squarebill and rattle trap will catch these fish as they move and feed. As for the crappie they will also be moving following the creeks towards the spawning flats. Jigs and minnows will be a good bet to catch a mess. A jig with chartreuse color mixed in is a good bet.

Don't forget the First Annual Camp Fire Expo to be held at Fisherman's One Stop Feb 10. There will be all kinds of things

to see so you will want to stop by. Luke Clayton radio host will be hosting the event.

If interested in a bass or crappie trip text me at 940-902-3855 for open dates Doug Champine DSP Guide Service





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CATCH of the DAY!

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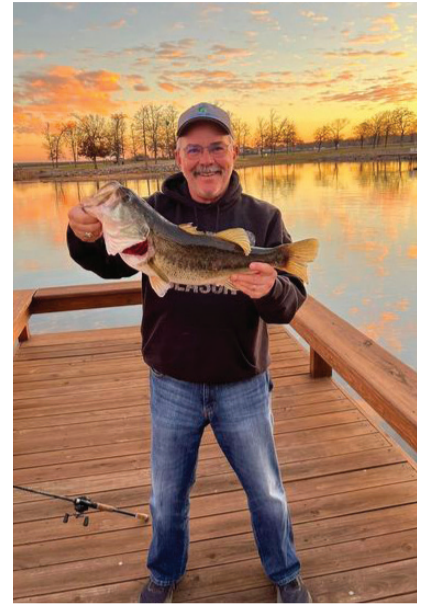
BOBBY KING WITH A 12.11LBER FISHING WITH ANDREW GRILLS



KUTTER WITH A NEW PB OF 9.3LBS FISHING WITH JACK YORK



JORDAN SANDERS WITH A HUGE CRAPPIE SLAB



MIKE MCWHORTER WITH A LAKE FORK BEAUTY!

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LAKE FORK ANGLERS END-OF-YEAR AWARDS CEREMONY

2023 Lake Fork Anglers (LFA) Bass Fishing Club End-of-Year Awards Ceremony

The Lake Fork Anglers (LFA) Bass Fishing Club, held their annual awards ceremony at the Red Dome Smokehouse in Quitman on the evening of January 10th. After club members and their wives enjoyed an excellent buffet dinner, numerous awards were presented by Galen Smith, Club President. Included below are award recipients for the major award categories, including awards for two different club tournament formats – LFA (best 5 bass) and Hard Core (all bass 10 inches and above).

Dennis Bubinas
(photo unavailable)
Hard Core Angler Championship Tournament

Jerry Gaither
(photo unavailable)
Hard Core Co -Angler Championship Tournament



Randy Bunch
Club Angler-of-the-Year



Gary Gilmore
Club Angler-of-the-Year



Randy Bunch
Club Hard Core Angler-of-the-Year



Scott Powell
Club Hard Core Co Angler -of-the-Year



Bill Ailes (tie 9.12lb)
LFA Angler Lunker of the Year



Tim Gold (tie 9.12lb)
LFA Angler Lunker of The Year



Gary Gilmore (8.67lb)
LFA Co-Angler of The Year



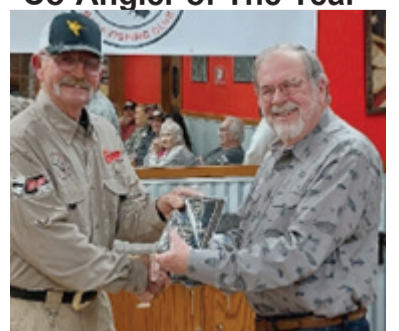
Bill Ailes (7.95lb)
Hard Core Angler Lunker of the Year



Ken Chapman (7.95lb)
Hard Core Co Angler Lunker of the Year



Don Overstreet
LFA Angler Championship Tournament



Bill Pigg
LFA Co Angler Championship Tournament



High School Fishing

2023-24
NORTHEAST DIVISION

UPCOMING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE
2/17/2024 BOB SANDLIN
3/16/2024 LAKE OF THE PINES
REGIONALS * 4/13/2024
LAKE TAWAKONI
THSBA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
LAKE PALASTINE MAY 18- 19



SHARE-LUNKER 2024 Update



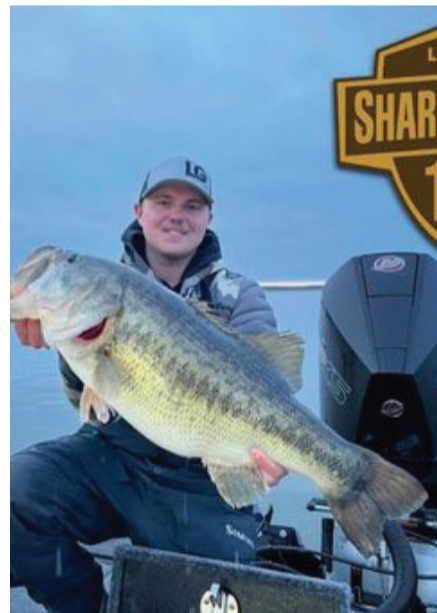
Got a 13 Pound Bass?
From January 1 through
March 31, donate your
Legacy Lunker to the
ShareLunker program.
IMMEDIATELY CALL OR
TEXT
(903) 681-0550

OFFICIAL WEIGH IN STATIONS LAKE FORK

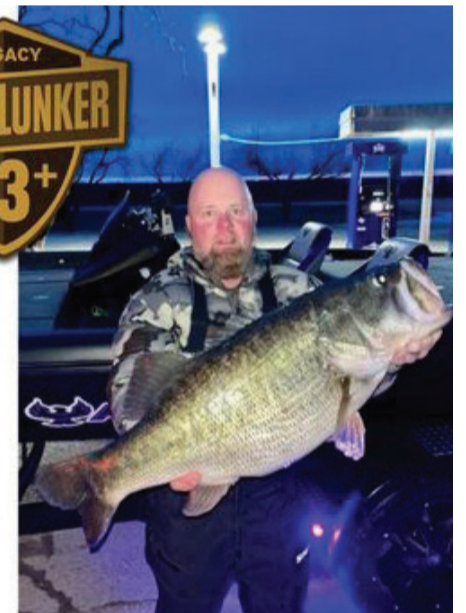
- Oak Ridge Marina
(903) 878-2529
- Lake Fork Marina
(903) 765-2764
- The Minnow Bucket
(903) 878-2500



The first Legacy Class Lunker of the 2024 season has been caught at J.B. Thomas by Lawrence Lee. ShareLunker 651 weighed in at 13.79 pounds and was the first Legacy Class ShareLunker caught at J.B. Thomas making this the 76th public reservoir in Texas to produce a Legacy Class ShareLunker. Congratulations Lawrence



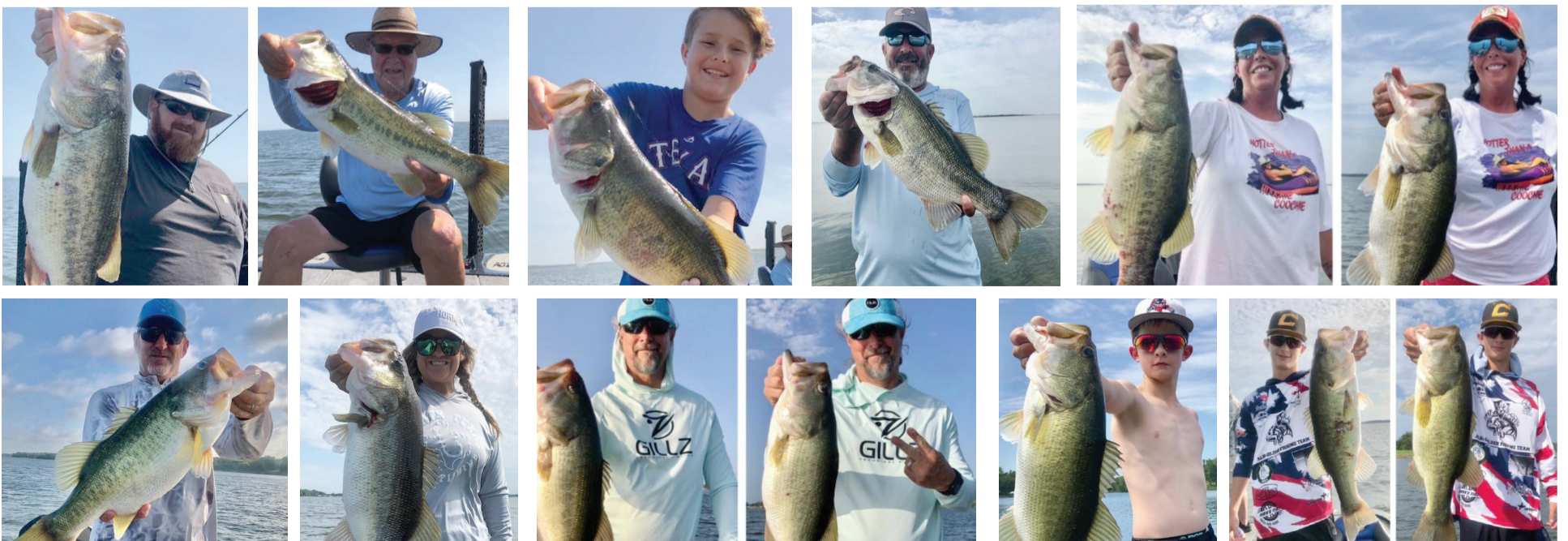
A Bigger Better Bass day with two ShareLunkers heading to the Lunker Bunker. Lane Olson (left) caught Legacy Class ShareLunker 652 weighting in at 13.26 pounds and Bobby Waldon's (right) Legacy Class lunker weighed 14.75 pounds. Both ShareLunkers were caught at O.H. Ivie.



LAKE FORK GUIDE SERVICE Michael Samples

(903)474-4983 www.lakeforkguidemichaelsamples.com

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



GET READY FOR SOME LAKE FORK....

MADNESS



It is that time of year again!!!! March Madness at Lake Fork! We are known for our Big Bass in March..but also it is our big Crappie as well! It is almost like our official kick off to great fishing at Lake Fork for the year!

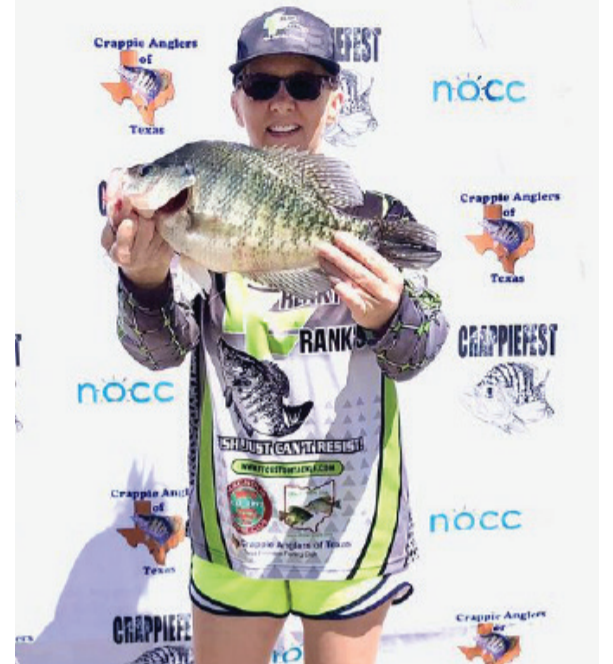
So we have a little bit of everything going on in March, whether it is Bass, Crappie, Boat, Kayak, pier, team, solo or just spectating there is something for everyone to enjoy! It is a fresh start for standings, a chance for the big money in tournaments and a welcome sight for everyone that has waited through the cold months to get out and enjoy some warming weather and fun on the water! Now it is time to really appreciate what is like to gather once again and enjoy life's simple pleasures!

The Crappiefest that is held by the Crappie Anglers of Texas is something Pros & Amateurs look forward to each year also!

So as the cold month of February makes it's way through we all can start preparing for some great fun in the Lake Fork March Madness!



Congratulations to Xavier Vault for the win at the 2023 Crappiefest with a 2.86lb Slab!



Congrats to Tournament Staff Mikie Renee Bryson on her 2nd place 2.66lb crappie

Lake Fork D1 March 18, 2023 Entry Fee							
Rank	Team		# fish	Weight	Big Fish	Payout	BF Payout
1	Dillon Gossett	Kayle Ward	7	16.81	2.64	\$1,890.00	
2	Jerry Hancock	Paul Obier	7	16.77	2.87	\$1,176.00	\$420.00
3	Jordan Sanders	Jason Holleman	7	16.70	2.79	\$714.00	
4	Clay Gann	Todd Froebe	7	16.45	2.78	\$420.00	
5	Jeff Sweiterman	James Rains	7	16.17	2.58	\$200.00	

Lake Fork D2 March 18, 2023							
Rank	Team		# fish	Weight	Big Fish	Payout	BF Payout
1	Jason Bair	Chawn Cooper	7	14.35	2.66	\$984.00	\$320.00
2	Tristan Jenkins	Charlie Jenkins	7	14.30	2.34	\$624.00	
3	Austin Taylor	Dallas Taylor	7	14.15	2.37	\$360.00	
4	Grant Guthrie	Kody Peacock	7	14.04	2.45	\$216.00	
5	Tyson	Thompson	7	13.62	2.62	\$120.00	
6	Kip Wright	Jason Ewton	7	13.37		\$96.00	
7	Russell gates	Jolletta Gates	7	13.35	2.46		



James Adams, Many, LA tops over 1500 anglers at the 2023 Techron Mega Bass on Fork with a 9.64 lbr. Takes home a new Skeeter ZX 200 - Yamaha SHO plus \$15,000 cash.



- 1 Steve Hodge* 4 \$560+\$300 100
- 2 Trevor Dykema* 5 \$280+\$150 99
- 3 Melton Miller 5 \$120 98
- 4 Darrell Campbell* 3 97
- 5 Brent Cantrell* 4 96



2024 MARCH TOURNAMENTS

- JC LAKE FORK TEAMS**
MARCH 16th Minnow Bucket
- CRAPPIE USA REGION 4**
MARCH 16th
- JC LAKE FORK SOLO**
MARCH 30th
- B.A.S.S. NATION KAYAK SERIES**
MARCH 13th
- MEDIA BASS TEAM / SOLO**
MARCH 9th MARCH 25th
- SUPERTEAM MEDIA BASS**
TBD
- CAT CRAPPIE ANGLERS QUALIFIER**
MARCH 16th
- CRAPPIEFEST**
MARCH 23rd
- MEGA BASS**
APRIL 7TH

Mid Winter Eagle Count 2024

The Mid-Winter Eagle Count was held January 12-14 2024

The first day of the Midwinter-survey was held on Lake Tawakoni and was quite a success with 11 volunteers and 12 eagle sightings along with 2 newly discovered nests! Then it on to Lake Fork with more eagle sightings and many more amazing observations and photos as well! Thank to Lisa Hilbers for sharing her amazing photography of this event to share with everyone! A Big thank you to Barry at Oakridge for letting this great group gather where the coordinator for the whole event goes over the map and fills in his forms regarding the number of eagles seen. And thank you Bruce Allen for providing detail information to include in this article!

BUT it is not over. At lunch many eagle siting stories are told. And then we do it all over again on Sunday. Supposedly confirming what was seen on Saturday.

Members of the Lake Fork

Sportsman's Association have been participating in this event for almost 20 years.

The Mid-Winter Eagle Count is a program put on by the US Fish & Wildlife Agency and administered by the US Audubon Society. Selected areas around the whole USA have volunteers counting eagles on the second weekend in January each year.

The volunteers count eagles on foot, from autos and busses, and by boats. At Lake Fork we use all three methods and at Lake Tawakoni they use primarily autos.

The main factor in deciding what methods of transportation we use is the weather. Foggy-no boats. Real windy-generally no boats. Temperature in the teens-once again no boats. But over the years for the most part, we have been able to get out in boats and count the eagles from the water. Which incidentally, is where we see the most eagles from.

The volunteers meet at Oak Ridge Marina at or before 7 AM and have breakfast prior to forming up in groups to go and count the birds. While we have to buy our own breakfast and lunch the



bird watching is FREE.

So before 8 AM and after having been assigned to a boat, bus or car the volunteers go out to the areas we have divided into seven sections of the lake. Each section has a map. Each group leader must be familiar with his/her section so when an eagle is seen you can mark the map where it was located. Each group should be in their area and ready to start counting by 8 AM.

Groups count eagles for three hours and stop at 11 AM. They make there way back to Oak Ridge Marina

(SH 154 at Lake Fork) Up to fifteen years it was not uncommon to see 50 eagles in the count. But in 2005 the law was changed so that the crap-pie anglers had to keep all the fish they caught in December, January and February. Why, because most of those fish were caught deep and those under 10" had to be thrown back which and would float on the surface with the bends which made for a wonderful winter time meal for the lazy eagles. Now that that forage base is gone and the eagles actually have to work to find food we see far less.

I have been noticing quite a few eagles hanging around Fork over the fall and also quite a large group of Mexican eagles, which we will not be counting.

Right now, we have three boats signed up to participate. We could use about 4 more including anyone that would want to bring their barge.

If you plan to stay overnight you can call Oak Ridge at 903-878-2529. And you'll like the food.

For more info contact the coordinator Sanford Valentine at 903-985-9825 or me at 903-440-2797.



Williams Creek Crappie Club of Lake Fork



The WCCC of Lake Fork held its meeting on the 13th of January at the Yantis Community Center in Yantis Texas.

The club started the new year with 33 members for 2024. If you are interested in joining the annual memberships are \$25.00 and includes your entire family.

There were several really good door prizes that included a new reel and a fish net!

Brian Sartin with Sartin Marine was the guest speaker for January.

There were many boat tips for winterizing your boat and also covered boat equipment and discussed all the new graphs that are available to help in various



anglers decide what would suit them best.

There were not many updated fishing reports due to some recent rough winter weather conditions, which is fairly normal for this time of year.

These meetings are a great way to get together share information and tips to prepare us all for when it's time to get back on the water and catch those slabs!

Come join the fun!

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

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



WCCC of Lake Fork Next Meeting
FEBRUARY 10TH
AT 3PM
 Yantis Community Center
COME OUT AND ENJOY THE FELLOWSHIP - FUN AND ALL THINGS CRAPPIE!

Taking Care of your Fishing Rods

At one time or another most anglers have experienced breaking the tip off the rod. This can be very frustrating and can ruin a good day on the water if this is your favorite rod. Most anglers carry multi rods especially during a tournament but there are a few tips and tricks that can help prevent this from happening. Most rods break because they get tiny fractures in them over time. You don't notice those small fractures but then when the rod breaks on a fish, most people falsely think that it was the fish that broke the rod, and with our big 'ol Lake Fork fish this is believable however how you handle the rod is the primary factor. Another reason rods break is because they're overloaded or not using the rod correctly.

With the fishing season fixing to be in full bloom start practicing a few methods that can help us catch bigger better fish and protecting our rods !

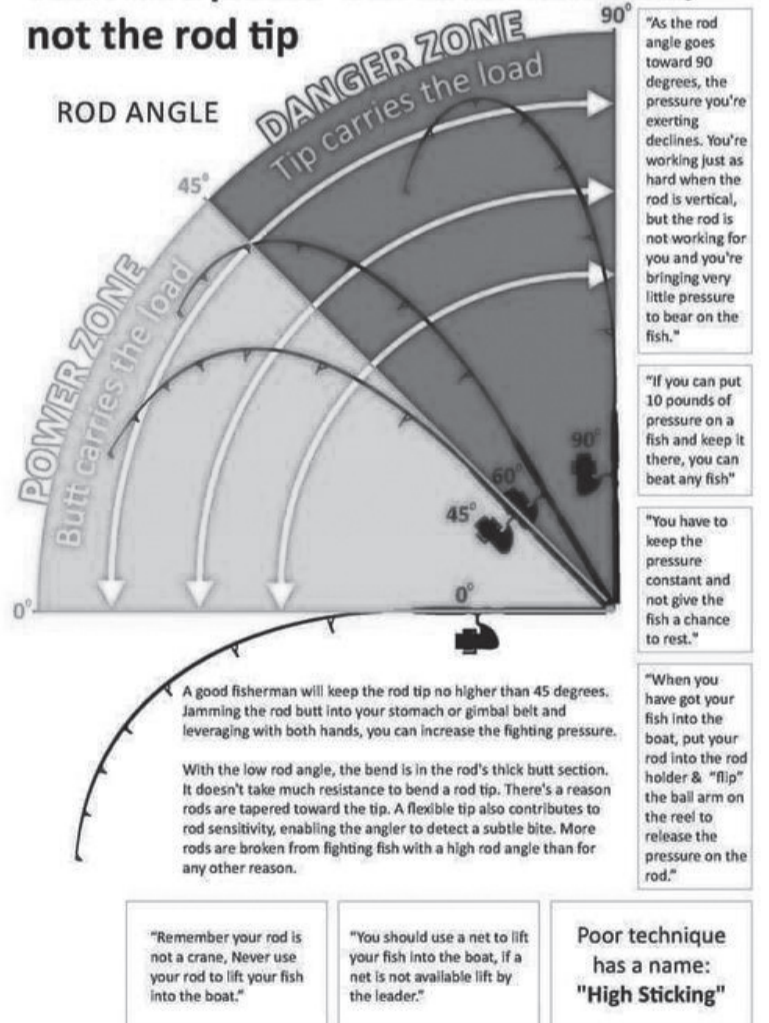


Bending the Rod Backward
 Fishing rods are designed to bend from the tip, and they're able to withstand an incredible amount of pressure, provided that the rod is bending in this fashion. What fishing rods cannot do is bend backward. If you bend a fishing rod upward instead of downward, it will shatter the rod, even if you aren't putting much pressure on it.



In most cases, a tip that is broken a few inches from the end can be repaired without much effect on the quality of the rods performance. You can expect a slight decrease in sensitivity. Except for the most finicky light biting fish, this will not be an issue.

The rod's power lies in the rod butt, not the rod tip



Which Rods are the strogest?

Graphite is considered by many to be the superior version of fiberglass, but while graphite can withstand more intense conditions than fiberglass and may be more appropriate for catching larger fish, one can't replace the other. Graphite is best for experienced anglers who don't mind the fast action of a graphite rod.



LAKE FORK ANGLERS

Lake Fork Anglers (LFA) Bass Fishing Club



Tournament Results for JANUARY 2024

Winter Bass fishing, especially in January, can be quite challenging based on what Mother Nature decides as well as how the Bass respond. This January turned out to be even more challenging than expected with very low catch numbers. Still, the comradery of club fishing makes every outing a fun and enjoyable day on the lake for everyone that ventures forth to brave the elements.

Results: 1/04/2024

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

26 Members fished with a total of 20 Bass caught, including two Bass over 5 lbs. Cold start to a sunny day with moderate winds, but an unusually tough start to the new year.

How tough was it? There were 2 members with 3 fish each, 2 members with 3 fish each, 10 members with 1 fish and 11 members with 0 fish caught.

Winning Anglers

1. Dusty Newton with 1 Bass @ 6.77 lbs.
 2. Terry Thompson with 2 Bass @ 6.42 lbs.
 3. Dennis Bubinas with 1 Bass @ 5.28 lbs.
- Big Bass: Dusty Newton @ 6.77 lbs.

Winning Co-Anglers

1. Chris Lawson with 3 Bass @ 9.73 lbs.
 2. Rick Wright with 3 Bass @ 4.09 lbs.
 3. Tom Whitrock with 1 @ 2.49 lbs.
- Big Bass: Chris Lawson @ 4.22 lbs.

Results: 1/11/2024

LFA Tournament – Largest 5 Bass 10 inches and over

24 Members fished today with a total 17 bass caught.

Zane Grey, noted author of Wester novels once said: “If I fish only to catch fish, my fishing trips would have ended long ago.” Let’s hope this sentiment is shared by the 14 members that did not catch a fish today.

Winning Anglers

1. Galen Smith with 4 Bass @ 6.44 lbs.
 2. Herb Powell with 1 Bass @ 4.49 lbs.
 - 3 Jack White with 2 Bass @ 4.18 lbs.
- Big Bass: Herb Powell @ 4.49 lbs.

Winning Co-Anglers

1. Ken Chapman with 3 Bass @ 5.75 lbs.
2. Gary Gilmore with 1 Bass @ 1.87 lbs.
- 3 Rick Write with 1 Bass @ 1.82 lbs.

Big Bass: Ken Chapman @ 3.09 lbs.

Results: 1/18/2024

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

16 Members braved the cold windy start of the day, but only 5 Bass were caught.

On the bright side, 40% of the fish caught were over 5 lbs.

Winning Anglers

1. Billy Davis with 1 Bass @ 5.94 lbs.
 2. Mike McWhorter with 1 Bass @ 2.55 lbs.
 3. Alf Tuggle with 1 Bass @ 2.25 lbs.
- Big Bass: Billy David @ 5.94 lbs.

Winning Co-Anglers

1. C.J. Riffle with 1 Bass @ 7.68 lbs.
2. Tom Whitrock with 1 @ 3.78 lbs.

Big Bass: C.J. Riffle @ 7.68 lbs.

Results: 1/25/2024

LFA Tournament – Largest 5 Bass 10 inches and over

26 Members fished today with a total 2 bass caught – 1 by a boater and 1 by a co-angler.

As one members was heard to comment, “I knew the Winter fishing in January was going to be tough, but I didn’t know it was going to be impossible.” The lake is up and the weather forecasted to improve, so lets hope the fishing improves as well.

On the bright side – 24 members came in 2nd Place.

Winning Anglers

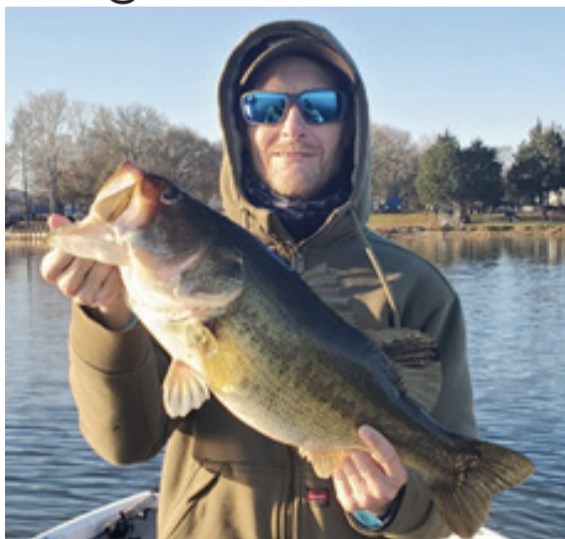
1. John Berech with 1 Bass @ 1.67 lbs.

Big Bass: John Berech @ 1.67 lbs.

Winning Co-Anglers

1. Matt Scotch with 1 Bass @ 0.76 lbs.

Big Bass: Matt Scotch @ 0.76 lbs.



DUSTY NEWTON
@ 6.77 lbs.



C.J. Riffle
@ 7.68 lbs.



Billy David
@ 5.94 lbs.

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

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.

LFA members are mostly retired anglers who can fish weekly tournaments each Thursday. 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.

Information about club membership can be obtained by sending an email to lfa_2019@yahoo.com.

FISH ON FRIENDS *Lake Fork Style*



Happy Valentines Day!

So once again it is February and the month that "Love is in the air". But beside the marketing of flowers, candy and gifts that are pushed for Valentines ... what is the definition of love? Well technically this is the basic definition:
noun

1. an intense feeling of deep affection. "babies fill parents with feelings of love"
 2. a great interest and pleasure in something. "his love for fishing"
- verb
feel a deep romantic or sexual attachment to (someone). "do you love me?"

Love can be defined on so many different levels because Love is more than a definition, it is a feeling, an emotion and as humans we all know that at one time or another that Love can be a double edge sword at different times in our lives.

As children we automatically felt Love from those who comforted us those who hugged us and never questioned or needed to define it. Then as we continue to grow physically so does our heart when it comes to Love.

The basic level of Love can be defined as *Things* that bring us joy. For example we all have our favorite foods that we Love, we Love fancy cars or boats, we love a good pair of boots that fit just right. So things in our life bring love on a basic level.

Then the next level of Love gets a little deeper, this is the level of *Feeling Love* ! It begins with

simple *feelings* of watching a beautiful sunset that warms our heart and calms us. It can be the *feeling* we get when we land a big fish, or when we watch a child catching their first fish! It can be the *feeling* of watching a good movie that makes us *feel* good, or even the rush of a roller-coaster ride! Because after all Love is exactly like a roller-coaster with slow climbing ups, and falling quickly while holding on for dear life.

Then there comes the *Emotional Love*! This level comes right along with *feeling* love. This is where the heart builds up strength, with emotional Love we begin to share our Love with others..we share emotional Love through Laughter, through tears, for good times and for bad times. We can share love by helping someone, hugging someone, listening to someone or just being kind to a stranger. It continues to grow strength to your heart the more you share love with all of those around you.

Then of course there is the scariest of all - *Falling in Love*! As Teenagers the first time we experience these overwhelming feelings for someone and it consumes our world, our thoughts, our emotions and for some it is the most magical feeling that we can experience



and for others it can be the first heartache we experience if it is not felt mutually with the one that has captured our heart!

This is only the beginning of the double edge sword! Because as fun as Valentines day can be Cupid isn't always a good shot! Throughout life everyone has been had the opportunity to date, fall in love, get married and experience an amazing Love of a lifetime! For others we can struggle with finding that one person, that soul mate, the one that reaches in and puts a string of lights around your heart! But it will all come in time! With struggles come wisdom, sometimes God is waiting for you to Love yourself before placing the right person in your life!

In my lifetime I have been lucky enough to fall in love several times, some ended great, some ended in heartache. I have been over the moon, and also cried in pain for days. But I will never regret the lessons learned. Scars are there to remind you that no matter how hard it seems Love can hurt but Love will always



heal! With every lesson or tear shed there are always fond memories of being in love!

Then there is the ultimate level of Love that many people either take for granted or never take the time to apply it to their own life. This my friends is called *Unconditional Love*! When we think of unconditional Love we often think of our pets. I truly believe that God placed my dog in my life so that I could completely understand the meaning. To love unconditionally requires us to go a little deeper into how it makes us feel. Why is it that a Dog could love you so much yet doesn't say a word? Because a dog puts complete trust in you, to get fed, to take care of them and to love them.

It is not a coincidence that dog spelled backwards is God because after all that is the strength of loving each one of us unconditionally! So if God gives us this Love why don't we not love ourselves unconditionally? If we have faith in God we don't have to think twice about this.

Once we learn to love ourselves then everyone we are around feels it, because of the many levels of Love it all goes back to when we were children - we had unconditional Love without thinking about it. Why is it as we go through life and love things, feel Love, fall in love, share love that it is so hard to remember the best Love of all?

So this Valentines whether you are with the love of your life, you are single, you are dating or just neutral remember to Love what God has made... YOU!!

When you Love you, you will Love life, you will Love those around you, you will Love waking up each morning and view the world in a brand new way!

Fish On Friends

A Perpetual Search For Love

"A Perpetual Search for Love"

Today, I am on the prowl for a female. The bigger her belly and the more she weighs drives me absolutely crazy! I have braved the elements: darkness, heat, rain, lightning, and freezing temperatures in search for her.

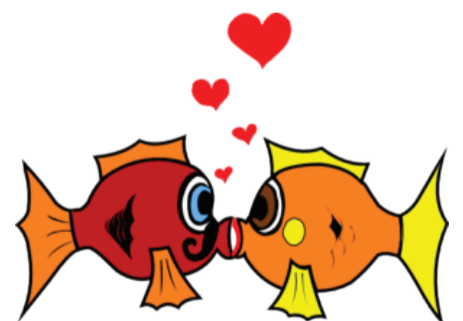
I have spent hours reading about her; I shop for things that might allure her and things that smell so good she might not be able to resist. I have spent thousands of dollars in my pursuit of her. My wife, at times, has been jealous of her; we've argued about her many times. I have left my wife alone for consecu-

tive days in search of her. I think about her more than any other female on earth. I have dreams about her; I have searched both high and low for her. Sometimes she plays hard to get; and I leave in disappointment because I did not get to meet her.

I know some day when we finally do get to meet, it will no doubt be love at first sight! When I get to look into her eyes and hold her in my hands, I will yell out a big ole "Woo Hoo"! I will get my picture taken with her and send it to all of my buddies. I will send our picture to the local newspaper with a story on how we finally met. I will take her

measurements and have a replica made of her and place it on my wall. From time to time, I will glance at it with a fond memory of her. Consequently because of my deep love for her, I will not be able to keep her long; I will have to tell her that I cannot keep her and that I must release her. With a tear in my eye and a lump in my throat it will be a sad day; yet somewhat of a gratifying day to think that someday we might meet again, where she will be bigger and heavier than ever before. Who is she you might ask? She is the "Elusive Large Mouth Bass"

Johnny Trammell

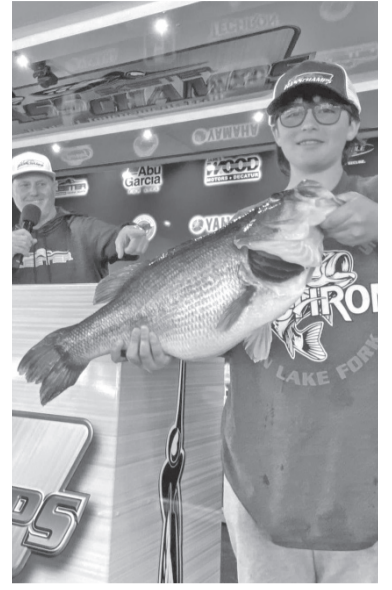


Tournament Tips & Information

This is a brand new year and there will so many anglers coming out to Lake Fork to compete in various tournaments. It doesn't matter which tournament is your preference there are various things to keep in mind while fishing tournaments on Fork.

Of course there are the basic fishing rules of Lake Fork being a slot lake if you are fishing Bass tournaments. (No fish kept between 16-24 “)

It is very important to have the suggested measuring stick for the tournament you are participating in as well. Bringing in a fish that does not pass measuring can mean not just losing a tournament but the Game Warden will be there to give you a big fat fine! Also always double check that bass before you walk it up to the weigh in. Bass can often be under stress in the live well and the boat ride in, which can often cause them to restrict and tighten up resulting in possibly losing slight measurement. Or if with other fish in the live well they can agitate one another and do some tail nibbling. So it is always best to take a minute and double check that fish! Which leads me to another very important step that is sometimes overlooked. When registering for your tournament take the time to read through all of the tournament rules and regulations. Not only will you be



aware of what rules to follow but you will learn more about incentives and possible bonus opportunity's as well. Spring for the T-shirt - it can earn you extra money! Also for the fish jackpot because at Lake Fork your chance is as good as anyone else so why not spend a little extra for that possibility!

The other thing to keep in mind while fishing the big tournaments at Lake Fork is safety. This lake is filled with stumps and that is why it is so good for fishing, but many anglers that are new to Lake Fork sometimes fail to take the time to learn the lake. They fly across the water and learn as they go. Sadly they put not just themselves in danger but other anglers as well. When the lake is full of tournament boaters be aware of others around you and report any unsafe activities to the tournament directors or the game warden as soon as possible. Life jackets are so important and a rule during tournaments.

And what falls in as most important during tournaments is sportsmanship. Tournaments and well fishing in general is a very competitive sport. For the most part anglers are courteous to one another but always make sure you follow the rules when it comes to spacing yourself from other boaters. This lake can fill up quick with anglers and hot spots can cause boaters to be tempted to creep a little closer so make sure your sportsmanship stays in check. Most of all enjoy those tournaments and good luck landing the fish that gets you that check!



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WELLNESS FOR THE SPIRIT

For so many of us we focus on our body - whether it is to stay fit and healthy or it is with aches, pain and illness.

Don't get me wrong we must all take care of our bodies physically but sometimes it all begins with the heart, mind and soul. Now I can say from experience that I have had a heart attack - it was immense pain that stopped me in my tracks, physically unbearable - I went to the hospital and was immediately scheduled for open heart surgery to relieve this pain and to repair my heart.

I have also had pain in my heart that was also immense and painful that was not physical but emotional. This is not a pain for a doctor to heal. It is for us to seek a deeper stronger sense within our soul to begin the repair and recovery process. But you are never alone in this journey. But God



is always with us, through physical pain as well as emotional heartbreak. When I was younger I believed in God but I didn't really understand his patience or love for me until I began to get older and knew that I needed to lean on him for every aspect of my life. This gives me peace in my heart and soul through the toughest of times as well as the best of times! Take time to slow down and listen to what God has to say to us!

The Lord is my Shepherd ----- that's a Relationship!
I shall not want ----- that's Supply!
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures ----that's Rest!
He leadeth me beside the still waters -----that's Refreshment!
He restoreth my soul ----- that's Healing!
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness --that's Guidance!
For His name sake ----- that's Purpose!
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death--that's Testing!
I will fear no evil ----- that's Protection!
For Thou art with me ----- that's Faithfulness!
Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me -----that's Discipline!
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies-----that's Hope!
Thou annointest my head with oil -----that's Consecration!
My cup runneth over ----- that's Abundance!
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life----that's Blessing!
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord -----that's Security!
Forever ----- that's Eternity!

Face it, God loves you!
What is most valuable is not what we have in our lives, but WHO we have in our lives!

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903-473-2236

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903-473-3200

Marshall's BBQ Pit

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903-953-5353

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903-473-3325

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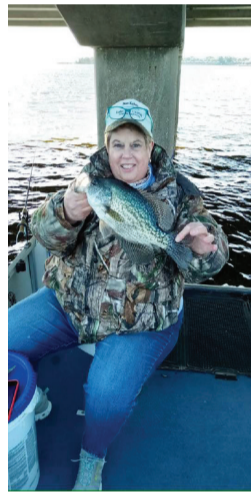
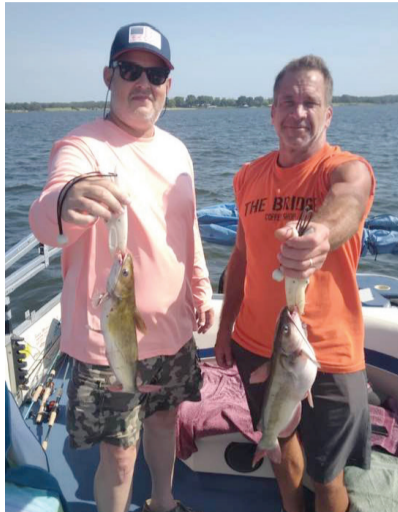
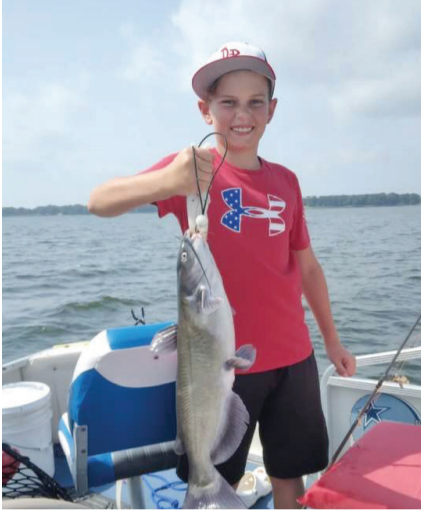
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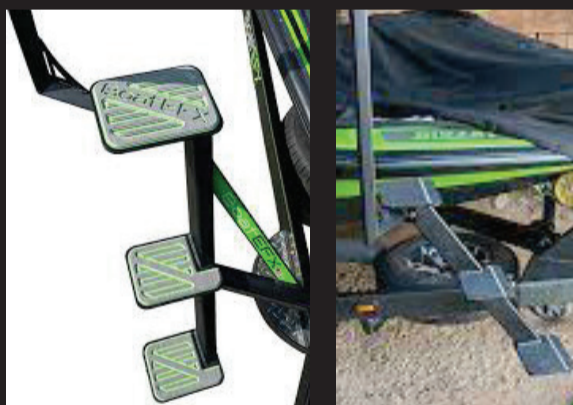
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