

JANUARY
2024

LAKE FORK Area News

FREE



Happy New Year
2024



VOL 31 ~ 1

"The Little Paper With Big Bass Results"

www.lakeforknewsfishon.com

Also Available
Online

MAKING NEW MEMORIES



WITH WHISK'R FISH'N

FISHING HUNTING AND GREAT OUTDOORS CAMPFIRE EXPO

FISHING REPORTS

INSIDE
THIS
EDITION

JC OUTDOORS WCCC LAKE FORK
LAKE FORK ANGLERS FISH ON
EAGLE COUNT 2023
HIGH SCHOOL FISHING
AND MUCH MORE

JAMES CALDEMEYER
DOUG SHAMPINE
GREG HILL
ALSO FEATURING
OUTDOORS WRITER
LUKE CLAYTON

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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

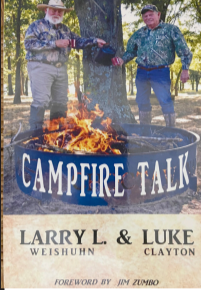
Junction of Hwy 515 CR 1970 YANTIS Tx

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



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

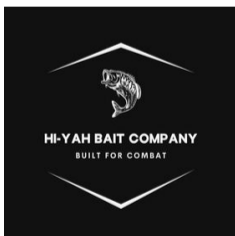
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A VENDOR AT THE LAKE FORK CAMPFIRE EXPO PLEASE CALL AND RESERVE A PRIME SPOT NOW!

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

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



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



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LAKE FORK AREA NEWS

THE YANTIS TYMES



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Owners DOUG & RITA SHAMPINE

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HUGE SELECTION



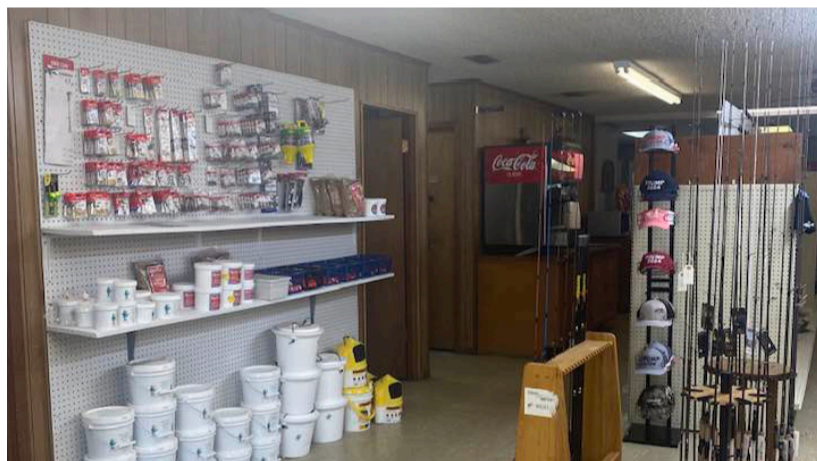
Bro's CLOSED Opening in February for CRAWFISH Season

Carrying On FOS Tradition

Everyone in the Lake Fork area knows about Fisherman's One Stop! It is the go-to place for fishing-food-friendly service and of course Bro's cajun delights!

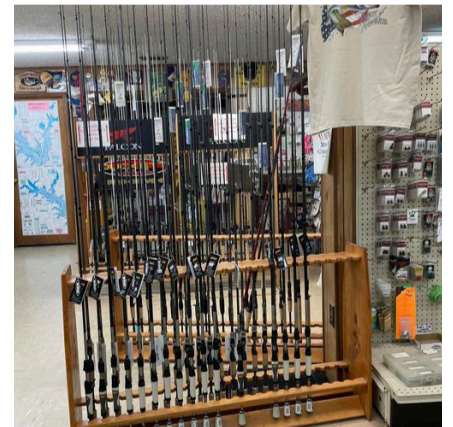
John & Joanne spent many years creating such a wonderful place for everyone to enjoy. The majority of those years Rita Shampine was his right hand helping make this ship sail on year after year. It was Johns wishes that Rita & Doug take the torch when he passed and boy have they done one heck of a job!

The work that they have put in to taking this a step further for the One Stop and Bro's experience is really



showing! From the huge variety of gear to the great crew that works there this is something for everyone to come check out! A Big Congratulations to Rita & Doug!

They will be hosting the 1st annual Lake Fork Campfire Expo February 10th brought to you by Lake Fork Area News - Come out and enjoy!



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OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON & FRIENDS

What's purple top turnips got to do with a deer hunt?
Read and discover! Photo by Luke Clayton

FOOD PLOTS -GOOD EATS FOR DEER AND HUNTER Luke Clayton

If you've been reading this column long, you have probably learned that eating fish and game is a very important element of the total outdoor experience for this old outdoor scribe. I definitely thrill at the adrenaline rush when a big buck steps out of the brush or when a big catfish or striper bows the tip of my fishing rod toward the lake's surface but if I were to be totally honest, way back in the back of mind, even during the excitement of the moment I'm thinking about venison steak or fried catfish. Blame it on my rural upbringing but through the years, I have learned to prepare the fruits of my outdoor adventures and absolutely love sharing the bounty with family and friends.

This past week, I had the opportunity to spend an afternoon and early evening with some great friends over in Kaufman County. For the past year, I have shared many outdoor adventures with Edgar and David Cotton on Edgar's piece of outdoor paradise. Our mutual friend Larry Weishuhn aka. "Mr. Whitetail" joins us frequently; we're all 'birds of a feather' and greatly enjoy each other's company. We were all hunting big food plots and everyone saw a lot of deer, just not the fully mature buck we were all targeting. I was using a very good pair of binoculars to study the deer which were stopping in these very green patches of leafy 'greens' to nibble. I studied some of these plants that were growing close to the blind through the binocular and noted a distinct purple top to the root above ground. Turnips! And several acres of them planted in with the other deer nourishing plants in the food plot.

My rural roots kicked in and I envisioned some fresh turnip greens with plenty of chunks of fresh turnip mixed in for supper. Larry had mentioned to me that he was going to show me how he debones chicken thighs and grills



them over a hardwood fire for supper. If I picked a 'mess' of greens and turnips and clean them up at camp I could have them ready by the time he had the chicken done over the oak embers! I continued glassing the food plot and watching deer munching on turnip greens. The more the deer ate the hungrier I became for that sweet flavor of tender turnips and greens! As the sun settled over the western horizon and legal shooting time came to a close I noticed a dark spot on the far side of the field. It was a wild hog slowing working his way toward me, munching of course on turnips.

The porker was steadily heading my way and I seldom pass up the chance to put some fresh pork backstrap in the cooler. I eased out of the elevated blind and leaned the Mossberg 6.5 Creedmoor Patriot on the top rail of the ladder and settled the crosshairs on the boar's neck. On he came until he was about 50 yards out, munching on a big turnip! When he held his head up after pulling the turnip from the ground, I could see it was a prize winner at any county fair, not the hog, the turnip. It was a good four inches across the top. Light was fading fast but I could make the hogs out in my scope just fine. But, contrary to my nature, I didn't shoot. I knew David and the crew would be coming to pick me up in a very few minutes. If I shot the boar, my turnip plans would be disrupted and for the past couple hours, I had become fixated on preparing a turnip green side dish to accompany the grilled chicken thighs.

I unloaded the rifle and backed my gear down out of the stand to the ground and switched on my flashlight. In the next few minutes, I harvested turnips as fast as a migrant worked on a southern California lettuce farm. I heard the motor of the ATV purring back in the woods and soon David, Edgar and Larry pulled into the edge of the big food plot. They obviously could see my flashlight as I feverishly loaded my pack with turnips and greens. As they pulled up to me, David inquired, "Looking for blood? You shoot a good one?" No, says I as I held up a big tasty turnip with greens attached. I saw plenty of deer and one good eating hogs a few minutes ago but I've been picking greens since dark. "Y'all like turnips with greens?" Larry and Edgar nodded approvingly but I noted a bit of hesitation on David's face. Maybe I needed to introduce him to some good country eating! Back at camp, I quickly peeled several turnips, washed the greens and put them on the stove with a bit of chopped bacon, salt and sugar. Yep, sugar adds a lot of flavor to a pot of greens! While the pot of greens was cooking, I watched Larry deftly remove the leg bone from the chicken thighs. "I

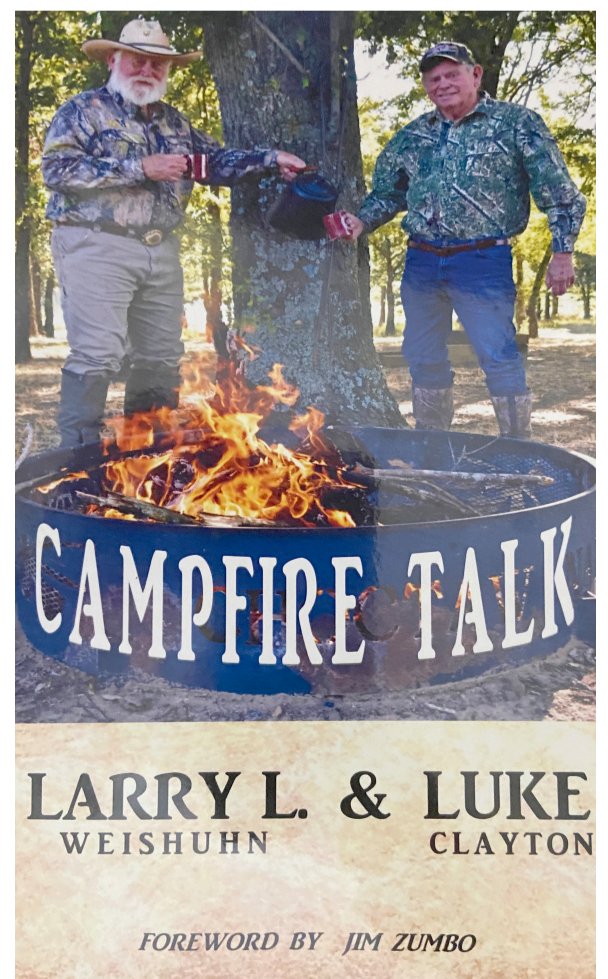
began removing the leg bone years ago, says Larry. I dearly love the flavor of grilled thigh meat but getting the meat well done with the bone in is a challenge. "I watched Larry season the meat with Cavenders, his favorite dry seasoning and place them directly over a very hot fire. The flames from the pieces of oak cook wood were licking the bottom of the chicken pieces. The trick is continually turning the chicken to avoid burning and insure the meat is done through and through. In a matter of a few minutes, the thigh meat was well done and Larry was removing it from the grill. Inside the cabin, my turnip greens were done to a turn.

My good friends and I settled down to a meal of the best grilled chicken I've ever eaten and some pretty darned tasty greens, especially after we sprinkled a little pepper sauce over them. The only thing lacking was cornbread but I just didn't know I would be cooking greens that evening when I headed out to hunt deer! No buck on the meat pole during this short hunt but some great memories that will last a lifetime!

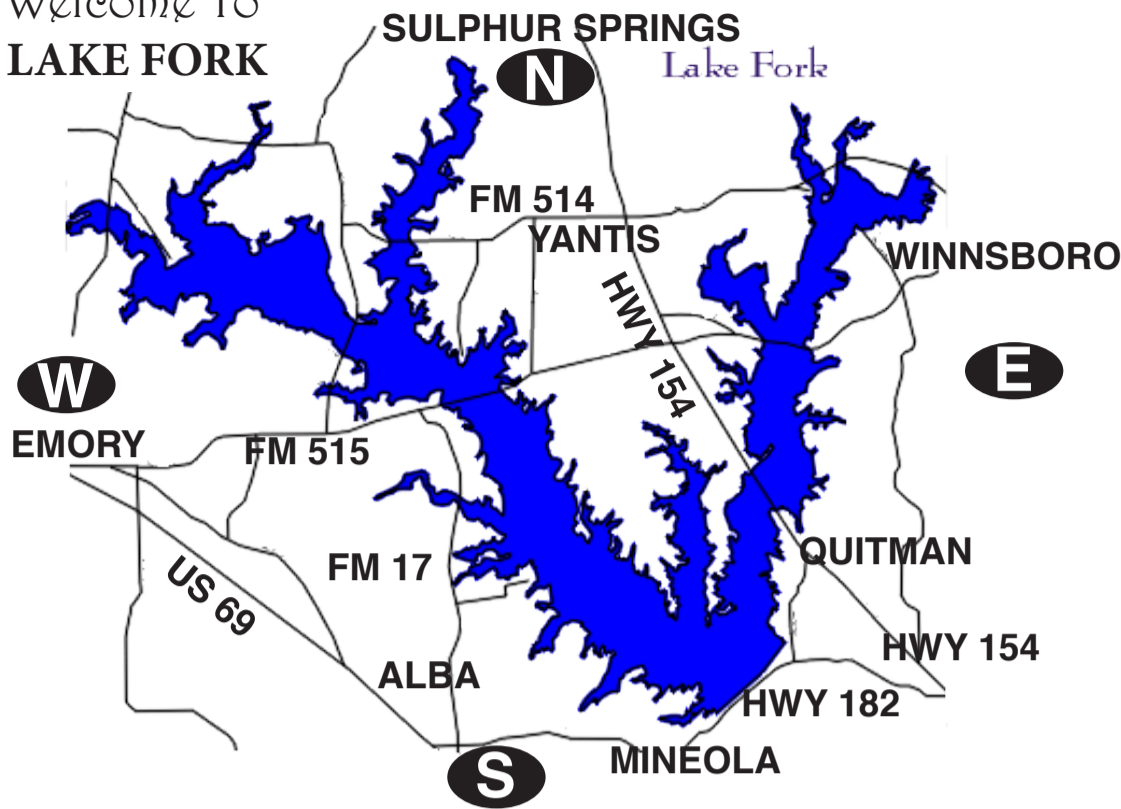
LAKE FORK CAMPFIRE EXPO Remember on February 10, at Fisherman's One Stop at Lake Fork, we host the first annual Campfire Expo. Mark your calendar and come by to visit Larry Weishuhn, myself and a host of other folks. For more information or to reserve a booth space, call 469-552-1824

Contact outdoors writer through his website

www.catfishradio.org



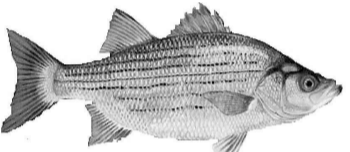
Welcome To
LAKE FORK



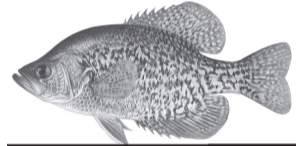
LAKE FORK FISHING REGULATIONS



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

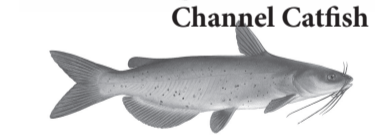


White Crappie

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



PRESENTED BY LAKE FORK AREA NEWS
HOSTED BY AND EVENT SITE FISHERMANS ONE STOP
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Restaurant Hours

Closed Mon. & Tues

Wednesday 11 - 9:00

Thursday 11 - 9:00

Friday 11 - 10:00

Saturday 11 - 10:00

Sunday 11 - 9:00

Daily Specials

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

Landing On The Moon

- January 6th Landry & Co
- January 13th ERIC GEORGE
- January 27th JAMIE RICHARDS
- Feb 3rd Acoustic Song Swap
- Caleb Boles Meredith Crawford
- Brandon Kruger
- 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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"The Little Paper With Big Bass Results"

We Cover it all

Big Bass, Crappie, Catfish Kayak, High School Fishing Tournaments

Boat owners & Benefit Tournaments

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



2024

LAKE FORK TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

LAKE FORK AREA NEWS
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469-552-1824
"The Little Paper with Big Bass Results"

FEBRUARY CAMPFIRE EXPO 2024 FEB. 10TH at FISHERMANS ONE STOP FISHING - HUNTING - & THE GREAT OUTDOORS 11-5
BASS CHAMPS TOURNAMENT TRAILS NORTH REGION FEB 17th Lake Fork Marina



MARCH C.A.T. CRAPPIE ANGLERS QUALIFIER MARCH 16TH
TEAM MEDIA BASS MARCH 17TH
CRAPPIEFEST MARCH 23rd



APRIL MEGA BASS APRIL 7TH LAKE FORK MARINA
JAKE WILSON MEMORIAL APRIL 20TH
LAKE FORK MINNOW BUCKET MARINA



MAY 15TH ANNUAL BASS ON THE FLY MAY 4TH
19TH ANNUAL LEGEND OF LAKE FORK MAY 17-18-19
SARTIN MARINE & FRIENDS OPEN MAY 25TH



JUNE PATRIOT SPORTING LAKE FORK CHALLENGE JUNE 1
SKEETER OWNERS TOURNAMENT JUNE 7-9
3RD ANNUAL BILLY DYSON BASS TOURNAMENT TBD



JULY C.A.T. CRAPPIE ANGLERS QUALIFIER JULY 20TH



SEPTEMBER SEALY BIG BASS SPLASH SEPTEMBER 20-21-22



OCTOBER 28TH ANNUAL MAD DOG MOORE OCTOBER 5
OAKRIDGE MARINA
BASS CHAMPS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP OCT 12-13 TBA
BERKLEY BIG BASS OCTOBER 19-20



Any additional Tournaments or changes will be in each edition of The Lake Fork Area News

J C Outdoors Lake Fork Team
1. March 16, 2024
2. April 6, 2024
3. May 11, 2024
4. June 1, 2024
5. June 29, 2024



JC Outdoors Lake Fork Solo
1. February 24, 2024
2. March 30, 2024
3. April 14, 2024
4. May 5, 2024
5. June 2, 2024
6. Solo Championship 6-23

INDIVIDUAL DIVISION
February 11, 2024
February 25, 2024
March 17, 2024
April 7, 2024
April 28, 2024
May 19, 2024



TEAMS
February 3, 2024
March 9, 2024
April 20, 2024
May 4, 2024

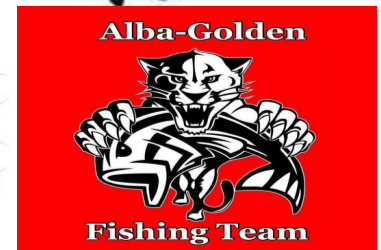
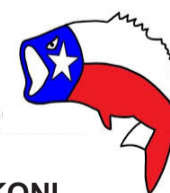


THSBA Northeast DIVISION 2023-2024 SCHEDULE

9/30/23 LAKE FORK 10/28/23 BOB SANDLIN - 12/2/23 TAWAKONI

** 2/17/24 BOB SANDLIN 3/16/24 LAKE OF THE PINES REGIONALS * 4/13/24 TAWAKONI

THSBA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP LAKE PALESTINE May 18-19, 2024



SUPPORT OUR HIGH SCHOOL FISHING TEAMS

James Caldemeyer Lake Fork Fishing Guide Report



Guide James Caldemeyer

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

Happy New Year from Lake Fork everyone! It's the start of a great year here at the big bass capital. I'm excited about all the great fishing ahead and the numerous great events scheduled for this year. It is going to be an excellent year so start getting your fishing gear ready now.

The lake is great condition to start the year off. We had a real nice rain a week ago after a long fall season without much rain. We are still currently sitting at about 2 feet low. As we continue to get more rain this spring it shouldn't take much to bring the lake up to pool level or close to. The rising lake levels will prove beneficial for the spawn. It will also be nice to start seeing some new vegetation growth and should as these water levels rise. Water temperatures have been typical for wintertime conditions at 50-54 degrees with sometimes dipping into the high 40's during the colder days. The lake is fairly clear to in most areas on the main lake with stained water in the back of some of the main feeder creeks from recent rains and wind.

My best patterns this month are mostly shallow to mid depths as the numbers of bites decrease and quality increases. You can catch some real big ones right now thru the pre-spawn period. These big female bass are feeding up in preparation for spawning and they are very vulnerable with fewer anglers on the water. I have a couple of "go to" baits for this time of year while fishing shallow. One is a lipless crankbait. I like to throw a 1/2-3/4 oz sizes in like a Berkley Warpig in crawfish colors, red, orange, and chrome or shad patterns. Targeting grass beds and stumps on secondary points and staging areas in 2-6 feet of water for these big pre-spawn bass is key. Another great bait is a square billed crankbait. These baits do best bumped and banged off of stumps that these bass are holding tight to. It's a reaction bite so look for either of these two baits to get bit as they deflect off of grass or stumps. The rod will just load up. Crankbaits catch giants this time of year on Lake Fork so

keep them tied on! Another great shallow bait is a suspending jerk bait. It's very effective after a cold front hits or on bright sunny days with calm wind. You can work them in the same areas as the crank baits with slow long pauses between jerks and the big bass will tackle them. I also like to target these bass that are staging in mid-depths this time of year too. If you find a warming trend of days where the water temperature is rising, be sure to try some big baits too. The 3:16 Lure Company Rising Son swimbait is deadly. Long casts with a slow retrieve over these staging areas can get your line stretched! I prefer the white color or the dirty shad color early in the season. There is both a line-thru and a weedless version available for fishing it in heavy cover.

I often like back out off the bank some this time of year to target fish in mid-depths. Backing out into 10-14 ft and targeting stumps on points or creek channel bends with a Santone Rattlin jig can be very productive. I use the 1/2 oz size mostly in black/blue or JC's Spicy Craw with a Berkley Chigger Craw as a trailer. Making accurate presentations to your targets is key so if this is something that's a weakness in your technique arsenal, now is the time to practice it and be able to gain some confidence in it! Pitching and flipping around heavy cover can pay off big this time of year.

The deep bite is not too productive for me in January as most of the active fish that are catchable are usually roaming the shallows but that doesn't deter me from looking around out there with my Garmin Echo Map Ultras. Occasionally you can find a group of fish roaming around on the deeper humps and points at the mouth of the major creeks. These fish, although sparse, are generally in 18-25 feet of water and I've even seen a few out to 30 ft. Generally the best baits for targeting these fish are a Santone football jig 3/4- 1 oz sizes. Best colors are Black/blue, JC's Spicy Craw, and PB&J. I will also throw a flutter spoon or tail kicker at them and jig it through the school. If those aren't getting them to respond I will keep a drop shot rig handy. I rig it on 10 lb test fluorocarbon and 1/0 hook with 1/4 - 5/16 oz weight. The best bait on it is just a small 4" finesse worm like a Berkley Bottom Hopper Jr. Anything red or purple like tomato, red bug, or June bug are great color choic-



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

es.

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 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/lakeforktrophybassguide>

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.

Matthew 1:21 - She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

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

January can be a good month to fish Lake Fork depending on the weather. You can expect to catch some very nice bass this time of the year if you

like to throw jigs! Look for the bigger creek channels in 15-20 ft of water and target the bigger stumps along the creek working your jig slowly around the root ball of the stump. This can be very effective especially if we have had a couple days of sunny weather. Black/blue is my favorite this time of year with a matching trailer. 3/4 oz red traps also start coming into play on the deeper flats in the areas the bass will be spawning on. As for the crappie this is the time of year they have moved to deeper water and look for them on the deeper flats towards the damn. Look for big schools of bait fish and the crappie will be close to them. Also check out the deeper main lake points 30-45 ft and again like the bass a couple sunny days will make the bite better. Minnows will always catch a good mess and I like a 1/8 oz jig head with electric chicken color (chartreuse/pink) or chartreuse pepper will

always catch a good mess of crappie. For more information on open dates text 940-902-3855. Doug Champine DSP Guide Service For a trip text me at 940-902-3855 for open dates.
Doug Champine
DSP Guide Service





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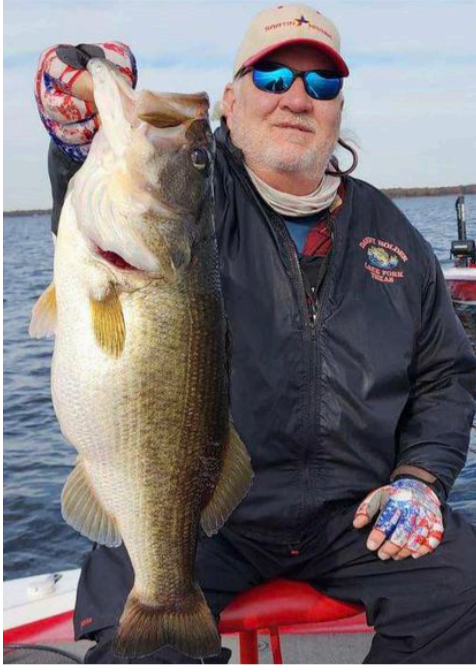
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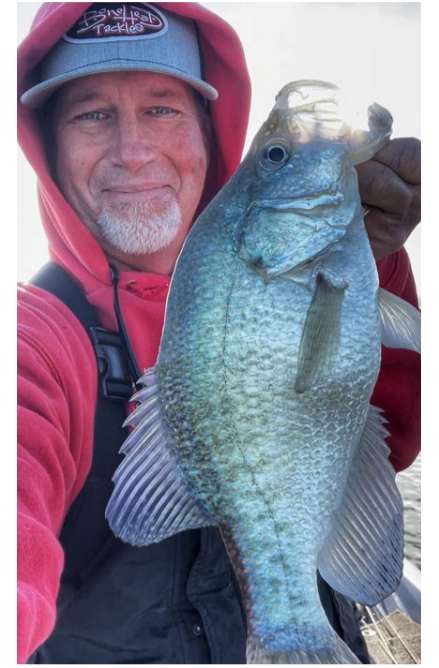
If you have a Lake Fork catch of the day photo you would like to share with us just email your photo and information to us!
lakeforknews@yahoo.com or call us at (469) 552-1824



GUIDE DANNY HOLDER WITH A NICE BEAUTY 11.3 lbs



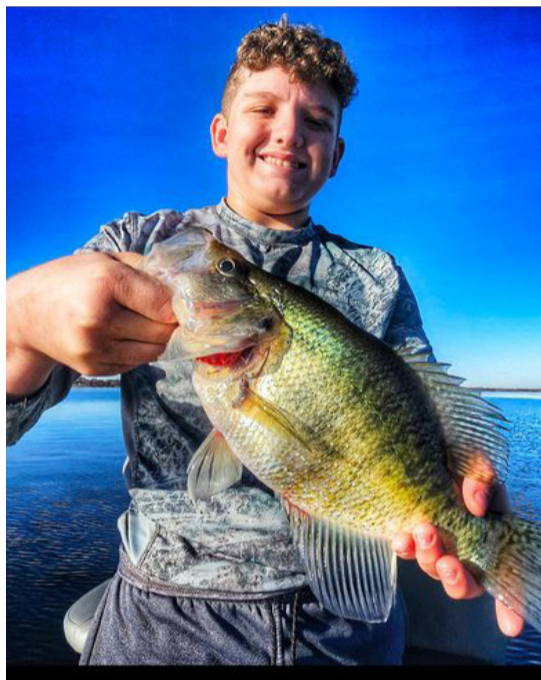
A GREAT DAY OF FISHING WITH GUIDE BYRON CHAVES



TOMMY EZELL WITH A GREAT 2.20 SLAB!



THIS YOUNG MEN CAUGHT SOME LAKE FORK SLABS WITH GREYBEARD FISHING!



THESE GUYS EARNED THE 2LB CLUB TAGS FISHING WITH GUIDE JORDAN SANDERS



JC OUTDOORS Fall Teams DECEMBER 9th



It was an exciting finish to our 17th Season Hosting Tournaments here on Lake Fork! Congrats to yesterday's Winners and our AOY Top 5 Bonus Winners. Thanks to all of our Faithful Sponsors and Anglers for your support! We are looking forward to our 18th Season which kicks off on Lake Tyler January 27th. Wishing You All a Blessed and Merry Christmas!



TOP TEN WINNERS DECEMBER 9TH

1 Paul Walls	David Laymance	5	2.65	8.75	\$830+\$460+\$1000AOY	200
2 Steve Wright	Andrew Wright	5	2.14	8.20	\$410+\$230	198
3 Harold Bredemier	Ozzie osborn	5	2.28	7.60	\$200+\$120+\$600AOY	196
4 Tim Weaver	Lesa Wagoner	5		6.97	2-Dobyn RodsAOY	194
5 Corey Maples	Brice Boseman	5		6.27	\$400AOY	192
6 Tommy Redmon	John Redmon	5		6.27		192
7 Tommy Sikes	Tanner Nabors	5		6.10	2-Abu Garcia ReelsAOY	188
8 Robert May	Shaun May	5		4.41		186
9 Brian Jackson	Brad Swearington	3		4.32		184
10 Haden Sickle	Don Overstreet	5		4.32		184



High School Fishing

2023-24 NORTHEAST DIVISION

12/02/23 LAKE TAWAKONI



GRAND SALINE WINS 1ST PLACE AT LAKE TAWAKONI

GSHSBA'S took it all home today!!!!

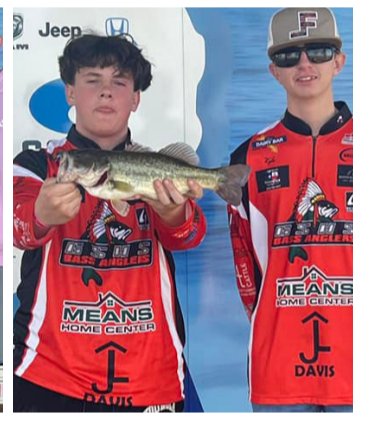
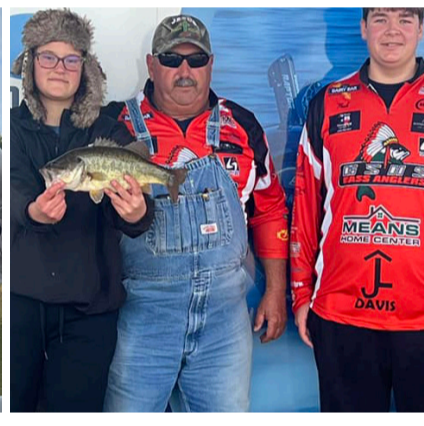
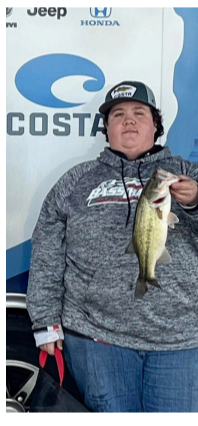
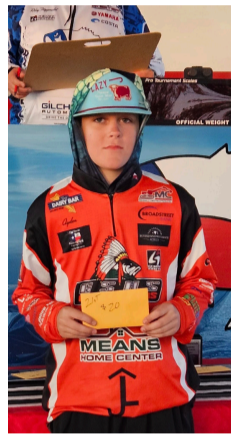
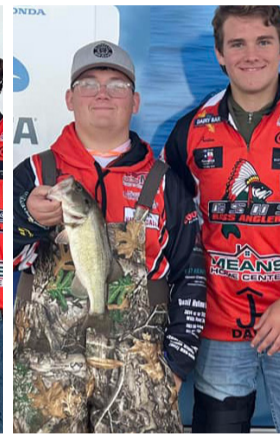
We took Home the "Team Trophy" with our Top 3 weights coming in at 49.73 lbs.

Bryce Henry and Jace Mercer with BC Ryan Henry took Home 1st Place with an impressive 5 fish weight of 21.83 lbs.

Jace Mercer took the Big Bass w/ a 7.16 lb beauty.



GSHSBA'S brought home the gold



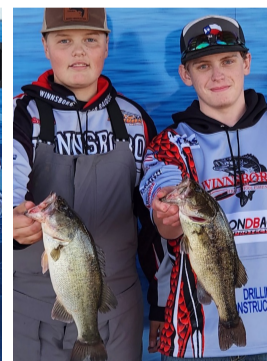
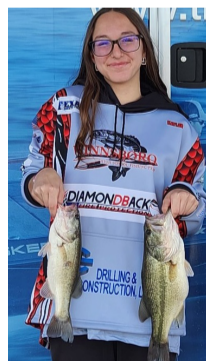
WINNSBORO WINS 2ND PLACE AT LAKE TAWAKONI

(four fish, 7.95 pounds)
Galen Birdsong, Ely Peckham

(three, 6.26)
Kaylee Spencer (two, 4.06)
Sam Cotton, Jarrett Baker (two fish, 4.01).

Skeet Brumley (two, 3.85)
Timothy Lopez (two, 3.21)
Harlee Smith, Slayton Hood and Xander Lopez were out Saturday, so their partners fished solo.

---Much thanks to Christian Robinson for providing the information for this report. and to Kenna Standridge for providing these images.

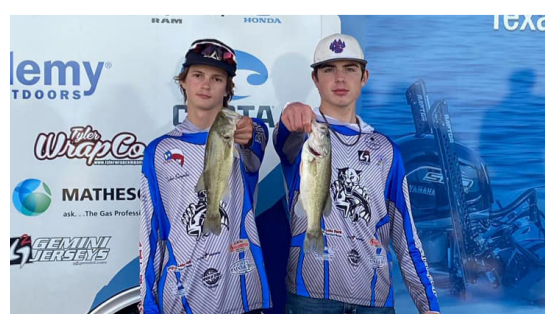
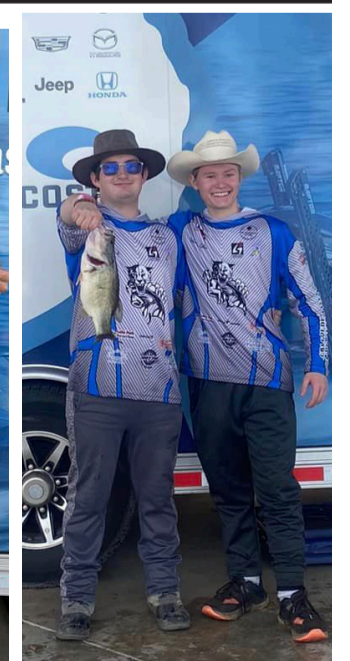
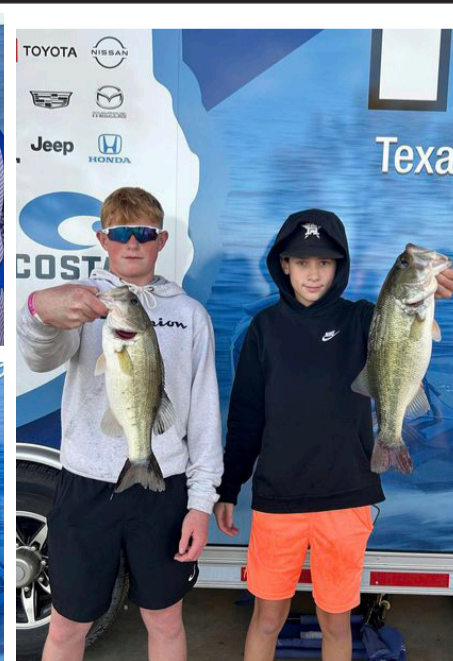


Winnsboro Anglers Second Place Team Finish on Lake Tawakoni With two fishing duos placing in the top three, Winnsboro grabbed silver for the second tournament in a row. Kanyon Russom, Kale Robinson Boat Captain Dreabon Joiner 2nd Place, five fish, 17.55 pounds 2nd Big Bass (5.30 pounds) Porter South, Leon Ackerman Boat Captain Brian South 3rd Place, five fish, 15.96 pounds 9th Big Bass (4.27 pounds) Gage Ivey, Cooper Standridge



Tucker & Michael with 2.71, boat captain Michael Samples Collin & Wesley 2.41, boat captain Bruce Folwer Drake & Jett, boat captain Brain Duplechain Emilee & Dylan, boat captain Danny Graves Hayden & Cody, boat captain Steve Wells Luke & Noah, boat captain Rich Stringer

It was a brisk day and even more so on the lake! Each team hung in there to battle to the last cast. We are proud of each angler as always!
Kason & Lawson with 6.06, boat captain Dustin Cooper Karson & Logan with 4.06, boat captain Dwayne Violet





High School Fishing

2023-24 NORTHEAST DIVISION

12/02/23 LAKE TAWAKONI

RAINS WINS 3RD PLACE AT LAKE TAWAKONI

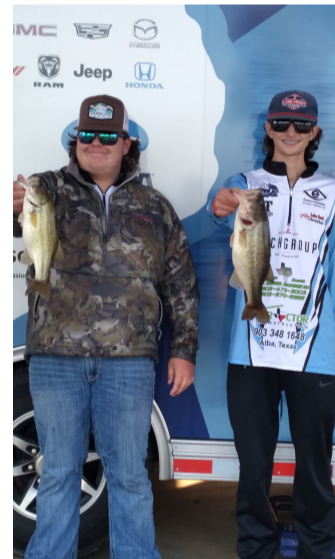


3rd Tournament of the season, on Lake Tawakoni. Location was the SRA facility. Rains brought home 3rd place.....we are mighty fine with that!!! So proud of our Anglers for hanging in there. Weather changes don't help catching. The day started out dangerously foggy. That eventually lifted. Cold day for fishing. The sun peeked out a few times, but not near enough. 145 teams entered. 12 were Rains teams. Rains had 4 teams place in the top 21. Congratulations to you all. Thank you to our Captains. Y'all guys are wonderful. Without you, these teams wouldn't be able to have these experiences and learn about this sport. You guys dedicate lots of time and \$\$\$. It doesn't go unnoticed. We love each and everyone of our fishing Family. Also, we were excited to see Jared Bagley back at it. We are so proud of you for getting out there and spending the whole day out there on the water. You guys did phenomenal. Continued prayers for you as you recover completely. Thank you to those who snapped a picture or two, and shared with me. We will have more pics to come and all results as soon as they are posted

- 5th Place 13.78lbs Angler Brayden Juarez, Angler Grant Guidry and Boat Captain Tim Thomas
- 6th Place 12.77lbs Angler Jason Wilson, Angler Karson Wallace and Boat Captain



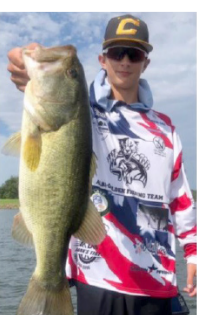
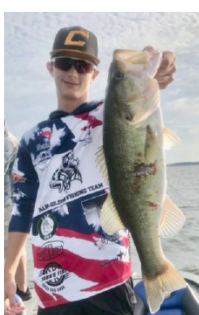
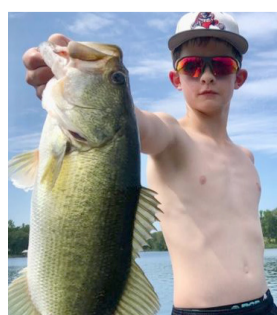
James Hervey
 •17th Place 9.87lbs Angler Gunner Cook, Angler Hagan Thacker, and Boat Captain Jeremy Cook
 •18th Place 9.60lbs Angler Daniel Alvarado, Angler Jared Bagley and Boat Captain Jason Bagley
 "Bass fishing is the pursuit of a lifetime."~Bill Dance



LAKE FORK GUIDE SERVICE Michael Samples

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



BEST OF THE UGLY FISH

Here at Lake Fork we have a wide variety of fish species that on any given day we pull in a 'Lake Fork Beauty'. We also have our share of some unusual or strange fish as well. Most anglers are not happy when they snag an alligator gar, a drum, and some label catfish and carp as bottom feeding uglies!

We all have our own personal opinion of the beauty in our fish and we all have our favorites and our not so favorites. I once caught a catfish and was pretty proud, it was a good fight and as I brought it onto the boat we could see it was a big one! I was so proud of myself but as we worked to get the hook out and get a good picture I began to notice something was very wrong with this catfish, his mouth had numerous deep scars where it was obvious this cat had been hooked and released many times, which we found odd because most people keep catfish for fillets. But after finally removing the hook, we rolled him over to get a good grip - everyone on the boat backed away from it quickly - it was covered with quarter size white and pink bumps all down the side of the fish and the smell of this fish was the worst thing I have ever smelled! It was clear that this cat had a serious disease or was defective in some way. We immediately got him off the boat, and back in the water without touching the strange bubbled spots on his body. That fish swam around the boat in a strong fashion as to say 'thanks for the release'.

So I can say I have seen some ugly/strange fish before, however when I searched out top ugly fish in the world I found some really unique and definitely very ugly fish!

Thank goodness none of these 'creatures' dwell in Lake Fork! In fact the majority of these odd fish are found in other countries and at the bottom of the ocean!

I have to say as strange as they look they are also fascinating not only to look at but to learn about as well. From the largest to the smallest they all have very unique assets and the ability to protect themselves in their individual bodies of armor!

The ability for some of these species to survive shows not just in their peculiar looks but the prehistoric nature of how they have conformed and evolved in their natural environment.

They kind of make even a catfish look quite like a beauty!



The wolf fish has the ability to live pretty much everywhere in the tropical climate in Suriname, the smallest independent country in South America, whether the waters are shallow or deep: small streams, river springs, sparse water puddles, lakes



The blobfish is a deep sea fish of the family Psychrolutidae. It inhabits the deep waters off the coasts of mainland Australia and Tasmania, as well as the waters of New Zealand. Blobfish are typically shorter than 30 cm.



Uranoscopidae This fish, with its flattened body and big head is really scary. Measuring 20 to 90 cm, the uranoscopidae burrows into the sand to surprise its prey. Some species even have a crescent-shaped bait located on the floor of the mouth, which they agitate to make believe that it is a worm. Be careful where you lay your hands as these fish are very venomous, with thorns behind the operculum and above the pectoral fins. Species such as Astroscopus also cause electrical shock to their victim.

Williams Creek Crappie Club of Lake Fork



Our first meeting of 2024 is on January 13th. We are excited about next year. There will be a meeting event posted soon discussing the meeting agenda.

On that same day January 13th Crappie Anglers of Texas is having their annual Extravaganza at Lands End Fire House. There will be some great speakers and a fish fry. You may recognize some of the speakers listed.

CAT has invited the Williams Creek Crappie Club members to attend in fellowship and a good ole fashion fish fry. The event starts at noon! Let's meet up early for this and go over to our meeting at 3pm.

- Tommy Ezell
President
- Raymond Montgomery
Treasurer
- Dennis Smith
Vice-President by 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
JANUARY 13TH
AT 3PM
Yantis Community Center
COME OUT AND ENJOY THE FELLOWSHIP - FUN AND ALL THINGS CRAPPIE!



Crappie Winter Regulations

IN EFFECT / DEC.1 - End of FEB.

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. Year-round daily bag limit is 25 crappie in any combination.

Crappie are school fish that spend a high percentage of their lives in deep water. During the dead of winter when surface temperatures dip below 50 degrees, crappie are frequently found in large groups in water depths beyond 25 feet. The fish gravitate to channels, points, brush, timberlines and other structure prone to attract clouds of shad.

Like other fish, the crappie's air bladder inflates and deflates slowly to help it achieve neutral buoyancy as it moves up or down in the water column. When a fish is snatched out of deep water, its air bladder is sometimes unable to adjust quickly enough to compensate for the sudden change in pressure as it is reeled to the surface. The air bladder over-inflates when this happens and "hyper-buoyancy" sets in, causing excessive pressure to be placed on other internal organs. This can hamper the crappie's ability to swim upright and re-submerge once released, ultimately causing many fish to die from stress or predator attacks as they fin helplessly on the surface for hours on end.

Before TPWD inland fisheries division implemented the rule, there were a lot of deep-caught crappie being released because they were under the 10-inch minimum, and a lot of those fish were dying. There is always a certain amount of that with any length limit, but it seemed to be real excessive on various lakes. The public perception was that there were a bunch being killed and wasted. That was the primary reason behind going to the no-release regulation. It was the humane way to protect our fish from undo slow death suffering.



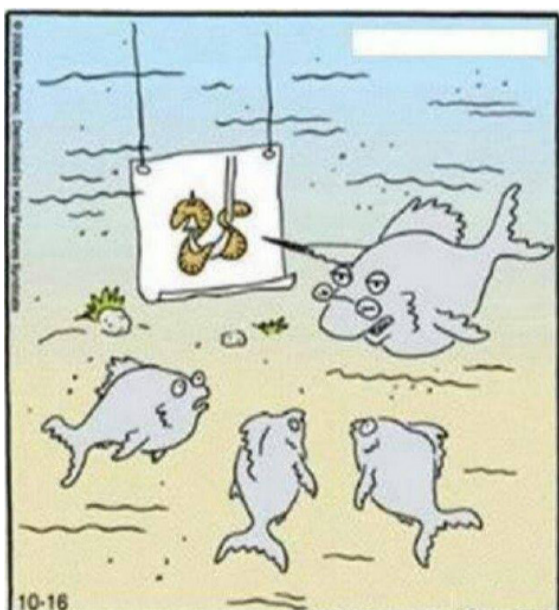
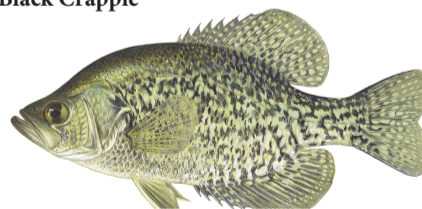
Keep in mind that if you are caught releasing them you will receive a huge fine!



From March through November, minimum length is 10 inches. Year-round daily bag limit is 25 crappie in any combination.

Black Crappie

White Crappie

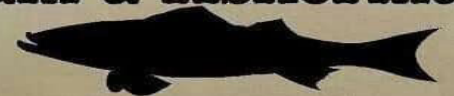


"Stop. Think. Ask yourself — exactly what would a garden worm be doing in a lake?"

WHY I FISH

The FISH DON'T CARE if I'M RICH OR POOR OR HOW BIG MY HOUSE IS. The FISH DON'T CRITICIZE OR ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS. THEY DON'T CARE IF MY JOKES AREN'T FUNNY, OR IF MY CLOTHES DON'T MATCH. The FISH CHALLENGE ME. RELAX ME. CAPTIVATE ME. COMFORT ME. The FISH HELP ME CONNECT WITH NATURE AND REMIND ME OF WHAT'S IMPORTANT. THEY HELP ME SLOW DOWN AND APPRECIATE TIME WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY. The FISH MAKE ME A BETTER PERSON. The FISH MAKE ME HAPPY. respectthefish.com

I AM A FISHERMAN
 And when my line hits the water I feel alive in my soul
FREEDOM
 Fresh air
 Adventure
 Memories
 I am a fisherman





LAKE FORK ANGLERS



Lake Fork Anglers (LFA) Bass Fishing Club

Tournament Results for DECEMBER 2023

Tournament Results:
12/07/2023

LFA Tournament – Largest 5 Bass 10 inches and over 32 Members fished today with a total 66 bass caught. The day that started out cold and the wind that got progressively stronger making for a tough day of catching. Only 5 members were able to catch 5 fish, and 10 members logged a 0 for the day. There was one fish caught over 5 lbs.

Winning Anglers

1. Tim Gold with 5 Bass @ 9.78 lbs.
 2. Dennis Bubinas with 3 Bass @ 7.25 lbs.
 - 3 Randy Bunch with 5 Bass @ 7.10 lbs.
- Big Bass: Tim Gold @ 4.49 lbs.

Winning Co-Anglers

1. C.J. Riffle with 1 Bass @ 8.52 lbs.
 2. Bill Pigg with 5 Bass @ 6.85 lbs.
 - 3 Chris Lawson with 2 Bass @ 5.85 lbs.
- Big Bass: C.J. Riffle @ 8.52 lbs.

Tournament Results:
12/14/2023

Hard Core Tournament – All Bass 10 inches and over count towards total weight scored. 26 Members fished with a total of 73 Bass caught, including one Bass over 5 lbs. A typical early winter day in Texas that started out cold and breezy and ended a little warmer and breezier, and mostly small fish being caught.

Winning Anglers

1. Billy Davis with 5 Bass @ 12.81 lbs.
 2. Jack White with 7 Bass @ 6.27 lbs.
 - 3 Don Overstreet with 5 @ 5.47 lbs.
- Big Bass: Billy David @ 7.02 lbs.

Winning Co-Anglers

1. Rick Wright with 2 Bass @ 5.59 lbs.
 2. Chris Lawson with 3 Bass @ 3.79 lbs.
 3. Jerry Gaither with 3 @ 3.32 lbs.
- Big Bass: Rick Wright @ 3.46 lbs.

Tournament Results:
12/21/2023

LFA Tournament – Largest 5 Bass 10 inches and over 28 Members fished today with a total 67 bass caught. Only four members caught 5 or more fish today. The fishing was ok today but the catching – not so good. Lack of sun? Lack of wind? Change in barometric pressure? Maybe all of the above as twelve members caught 1 or no bass, and no bass over five pounds was caught.

Winning Anglers

1. Dennis Bubinas his best 5 Bass @ 10.41 lbs.
 2. Jack White with his best 5 Bass @ 9.98 lbs.
 - 3 Dusty Newton with 2 Bass @ 7.95 lbs.
- Big Bass: Jack White @ 4.68 lbs.

Winning Co-Anglers

1. Ken Kielbas with his best 5 Bass @ 10.21 lbs.
 2. Jackie Price with 3 Bass @ 4.90 lbs.
 - 3 Gary Gilmore with 2 Bass @ 4.61 lbs.
- Big Bass: Ken Kielbas @ 3.62 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.



C.J. Riffle @ 8.52 lbs.



Billy David @ 7.02 lbs.



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FISH ON FRIENDS *Lake Fork Style*



Happy 2024

Let's face it after the holidays are all over and the resolutions are made ... it's time for the New Year to really begin. Everyone has high expectations and is filled with motivation.

But the reality of it all is we all tend to fall back into some of the same old patterns and paths that we know well and are comfortable with. The world we live in now makes it easy to do that. It is back to work, back to school, back to bills and our everyday rat race of life. It is after all part of living life, and most of us let our resolutions fade and move on not even realizing it.

But what if this year really was different, what if you could find a way to make this the best year yet? Sounds great but how do we really accomplish this without being distracted by the fast paced life that surrounds us?

So I thought and prayed hard about how we can structure more positivity not only for ourselves but also for those around us.

It all begins with our personal choices and how to bring simple joy back into your life. Live for the moment .. take a look at the good things in life. Beginning with the fact not just the New

Year, but each day that you wake is a chance to live life to the fullest. Don't stress over the bad but focus on the good.

Whether it is as simple as having a meal, or a warm place to live, family to reach out to, friends to laugh with, the love of your pet, or even the fact your heart is beating and you are alive and breathing!

So how do we live in the moment?

It is easy as viewing a new sunrise each day...it is there to remind us that God has given us all a new day.

Do not stress over what happened the day before, or become anxious of what tomorrow will bring. Take a deep breath, relax and thank God for the day. Keep an open mind and have faith that no matter what obstacles or set backs you will encounter that God has your back.

Let's face it life can throw us curves at any turn, but it is up to us how we face it and trust that we can overcome anything. I recall many times that something as simple as spilling a drink, or having a sore back would cause me to become soo grouchy. When this happens sometimes we just let negativity take over for the rest of the day.

When this happens now I just have to think about people all around us are going through something that is much worse than this, and I let it go. I even reflect back



on my own health obstacles including open heart surgery where I was helpless for so long depending on so many people in my life just to get out of bed or to walk.

Because of this it changed my look on life, I am much healthier now, God granted me the opportunity to enjoy life again. Yes I still face setbacks at times, and have been discouraged at times, but once again I witnessed my own sister fighting cancer for 2 1/2 YEARS for her life on a daily basis! I have seen friends battling as well, losing loved ones, children and tragedy in our community and across our nation...and yet I see people complain about the smallest of things in life that in reality are meaningless.

The best resolution should be done on a daily basis. Keeping the following things in mind:

- Give Thanks for what you have!
- Keep your mind open to positivity
- Keep life exciting and fun
- Be Kind and patient, with other's and with yourself!
- Take your goals one step at a time
- Look out for others in need
- Take pride in yourself and what you have to offer to inspire others we are all gifted individually
- Change conflict into Peace
- Don't try to change things you cannot control
- Embrace what you do best and share it with others

And once you find peace within, you will be fulfilled and each day will be filled with more joy! Be the person that you are meant to be and not what the world around you thinks you should be!

Just like the sunrise is there to remind you of hope and goodness so is the sunset at the end of each day...this is the time of day to give thanks for another beautiful day on earth and prayers for all of those in need!

There is always a way to show others that you care about what they are going through with a simple gesture of a smile or a hug!

So start the New Year and each day with a resolution of positivity and peace !

Happy 2024 !!!!



Fish On Friends

You Earned that BIG FISH ... now get it mounted!

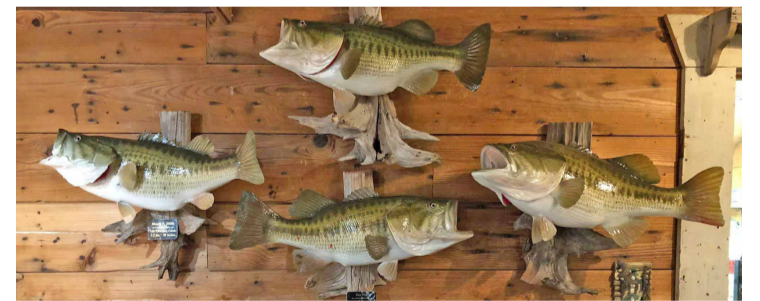
We always dream of catching that one BIG fish that is a memory for a lifetime! Whether it is a Lunker, personal best, tournament fish, lake record or just a priceless catch to show off in your living room or office it is awesome to have a replica from that great day on the water!

Lake Fork is known for our trophy bass and also for our catch and release! But that does not mean you cannot get an amazing replica made and also release your fish! This actually goes for any species you might catch!

The key to getting a great replica is getting good pictures - measurements and weight. Throughout the years mounting the actual fish and making a replica has changed dramatically. The reason being is most replicas tend to last much longer and it is also a matter of participating in the catch and release.

In my case I caught the Lake Fork

record for white crappie 3.34lbs 17.5 inches in December back in 2015. This was during the time period that all crappie caught must be kept. (Crappie catch and release is much different than bass) So I could have gone either way - actual fish mount or replica. I chose to do a replica at Bev's Fish Creations. I took the photos and measurements to her and she did an outstanding job on my record fish!



BEV'S FISH CREATIONS
www.fishandwaterfowltaxidermy.com
903-473 4529

(It is on display at Fisherman's One Stop on 515) I then began the fillet on this great fish and shared the huge slabs with my neighbors for a festive meal.

Bev is quite a legend herself here at Lake Fork for her detailed quality of work to each piece of work she does! She is always my recommended choice!

So when you catch that once in a lifetime fish treasure that fish with an amazing replica!

EAGLE EYE NEWS

Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey Newsletter

Eagles on the Horizon

Experience the beauty and thrill of watching eagles in their natural habitat

The Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey is in full flight for 2024

This year's survey will be held on the weekend of January 12-14, 2024.

Lake Tawakoni will be surveyed on the morning of the 12th from 7:30 a.m.— 11:30 a.m. Meeting location will be the State Park office on Lake Tawakoni. Please dress for the weather and bring your cameras and optics to get the best viewing of the eagles.

The Lake Fork survey will be held on the morning of the 13th and 14th from 7:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. Meeting location will be the Oak Ridge Marina on Lake Fork. As in past years, many volunteers will meet early for breakfast and enjoy sharing eagle stories and fellowship. Don't forget those cameras and binoculars!



**The eagles are waiting;
Don't miss the show!**

Lake Tawakoni Survey

When: January 12th

Check-in: 7:15 a.m.

Where: State Park Office/Gate

10822 FM 2475

Wills Point, TX 75169

Lake Fork Survey

When: January 13th & 14th

Check-in: 7:15 a.m.

Where: Oak Ridge Marina

2949 SH -154

Quitman, TX 75783

The Fledgling

By Evelyn Wings Pignataro

I hear a whispering in the wind
An ancient voice beckoning to me
Telling me I am a part of the air and sky
A yearning deep inside surfaces
I lean into the wind and feel its power
I stretch my weak wings and feel its caress
The longing grows as the days march
onward
I practice and practice anxiously waiting
The voice becomes stronger—urging me on
A primal memory pushes gently
I flap with all there is within me
Suddenly I am free of the nest
I am where I was destined to be
I have severed my earthly bonds
And became one with the wind



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LAKE FORK RECORDS ... WILL YOUR NAME MAKE THE LIST IN 2024?

We all go fishing at Lake Fork for different reasons, some just to enjoy the day, some for big tournaments, some for small tournaments, some to catch the limit for fillets. But we all have one thing in mind when we cast our lines....maybe this will be the BIG ONE! And whether it is the adrenaline of getting our own personal best or the thrill of a Lake Fork record and your name in the books it is something most anglers wish for!

The thing about that wish is sometimes people see it as maybe hitting the lottery, we all play but we all know the reality of the longshot of hitting it isn't as easy as it looks. Or is it?

Fishing is often compared to gambling, some people play (or fish) a little at a time slow & steady, dreaming of the big hit, and others go big - spending money on expensive equipment, boats, seminars and etc. And don't get me wrong these things often are an advantage and improves your skills. But believe me when I say from experience that on any given day either one of these 'gambling' anglers can catch the record when they least expect it! Because sometimes it just comes down to pure luck!

The secret is more about right place right time - BAM ! But once again being an avid angler can mean the difference in getting that record into the boat or on the pier without losing it! So yes skill is required.

But I hear so many times " I have caught a crappie bigger than that before" and my response is it will always be a fish story until you weigh it in and certify it. Not that I doubt it but

if you wanna claim the record take the time to take it to a TPWD and get it certified.

A few things to keep in mind. The Bass record was caught by an angler that was Crappie Fishing and there have been many other records caught while Bass fishing. Some while drinking beer from the pier, some from pros and fishing guides, rookies, kids and etc. So it goes back to luck and timing. But one other important thing is to know your species in the lake not just one specific kind. Lake Fork is famous for it's Bass so on any given day the chance of landing a big one or even the record is anybody's chance!

But on the other hand we have a variety of other large fish that makes Lake Fork unique. Crappie Masters holds its events here for a reason!

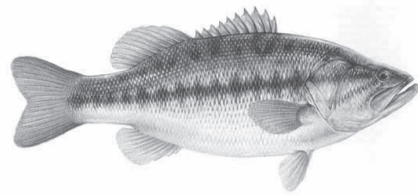
Then there are the records for the different species of Monster Catfish!

Although not fished by many but yet anglers come internationally for our record holding Common Carp and Buffalo Carp!

And don't forget the White Bass or Sand Bass. Then we still have Bowfin, Gar and the Bluegil, Sunfish and Warmouths!

So just because you are focused or using specific Rods, Reels & bait for your favorite type of fish species to catch does not mean that you might snag another one that is lurking.

So for the most part be aware of what the current records are or make a list and tape in your tackle box somewhere so that if there is a question of whether it is worth taking it in to certified station to be



checked you will be within range.

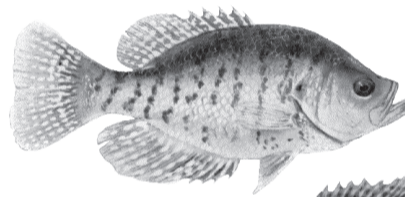
Always go by TPWD rules and regulations about keeping the catch alive for later release - and for any other guidelines you should follow while getting your fish certified.

And if you are not familiar with our slot limit for Largemouth Bass is 16"-24" length Limit

(no fish caught between 16-24") 5 fish daily bag limit.

And from December 1st until the last day of February ALL Crappie must be kept!

So brush up on all the rules and regulations - know your species - practice your technique and most of all enjoy your fishing at Lake Fork! When you least expect it you might just have the luck on your side for that record fish! Fish On !



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903-473-2236

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903-473-3200

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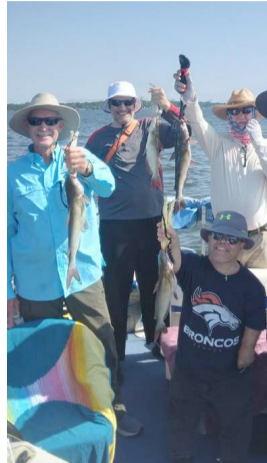
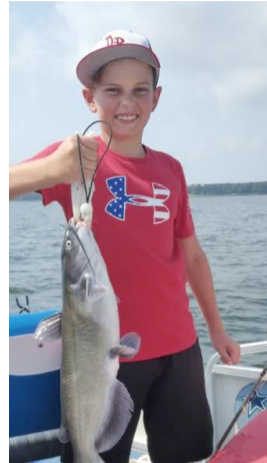
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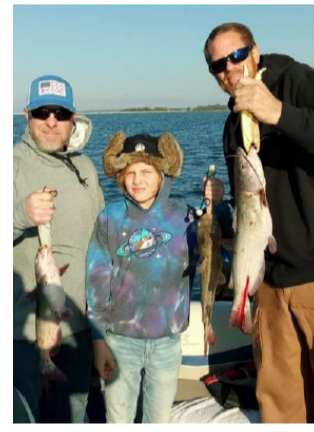
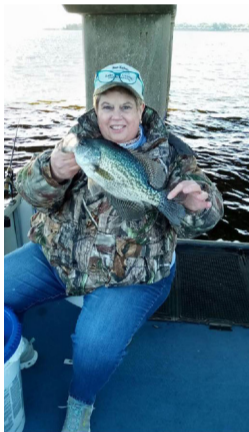
Catch more fish.. and you'll have more fun.



Jared & Elizabeth Cahalane and sons Barrett & Eli caught 52 catfish in December with guide Stan Kuhn

Happy New Year to All !! ... and a big

Thank You to all of my customer's for another Great Year of Fishing!



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Happy New Year, friends!

As we turn the page to 2024, all of us at the Jake Wilson Memorial Foundation extend our warmest wishes to you for health, happiness, and prosperity. We are also overwhelmed with gratitude for your incredible support this past year.

Thanks to the generosity of our fishing tournament sponsors and participants in 2023, we raised critical funds to provide scholarships for many promising young students as they pursue higher education. Being able to invest in these bright, motivated minds is how we honor Jake's spirit and continue his legacy.

In 2024, we are thrilled to host our 7th Annual Bass Team Tournament on April 20th, 2024. We hope you will join us again! As we cast our lines for another bountiful year, know that none of this would be possible without you.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. Here's to coming together once more as we turn dreams into realities for deserving students across our communities. Happy New Year, and tight lines in 2024!



~ SINCE 1984 ~

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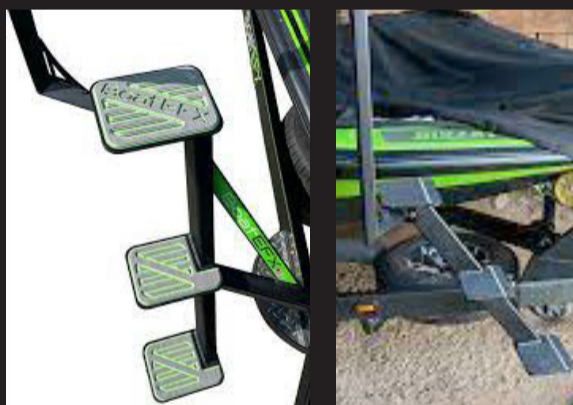
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