

**FREE**

**February 2012**

# Lake Fork Area News



“The Little Paper With Big Bass Results”

## Lake Fork Carp & Buffalo Challenge, March 1-3



Lake Fork resident Jason Johonnesson with a smallmouth buffalo. See story on page 3



Lisa Williams of Bryan College Station was fishing with husband Greg when she caught this nice Lake Fork Bass.

Tournament Director David Smith with a beautiful mirror carp.



**James Caldemeyer  
Trophy Bass  
Report  
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**Stan Kuhn's  
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**Outdoorsman's  
Man Cave  
By Luke Clayton  
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**Lake Fork  
Sportsman's  
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		LBS.	INCHES		
1	Fork	18.18	25.50	01/24/92	Barry StClair
2	Fork	17.67	27.50	11/26/86	Mark Stevenson
3	Fork	17.64	28.00	04/01/89	Stan Moss
4	Fork	17.63	26.25	08/29/90	Jerry New
5	Fork	17.29		02/14/88	Larry Barnes
6	Fork	17.02	25.50	02/26/91	Troy Coates
7	Pinkston Lake	16.90	27.66	02/16/86	Earl Crawford
8	Fork	16.86	25.50	02/08/93	Bryan Turner
9	Sam Rayburn Reservoir	16.80	28.75	05/31/97	Tommy Shelton
10	Mill Creek	16.77		03/01/90	Herchel Brickey
11	Fork	16.75	25.50	03/08/90	Stephen Trepkus
12	Fork	16.63	27.25	02/28/99	Flo O'Brain
13	Fork	16.59	26.00	05/15/87	Guy Witherspoon
14	Fork	16.54	25.00	02/27/91	Bill Reed
15	Fork	16.44	26.50	03/10/96	Chris Adams
16	Caddo	16.17	26.5	03/20/10	Keith Burns
17	Gibbons Creek Reservoir	16.17	26.00	01/15/88	Troy Johnson
18	Fork	16.12	27.25	03/22/02	Jim Harrell
19	O.H. Ivie	16.08	28.00	04/30/10	Jerry Bales
20	Caddo	16.07	27.00	03/18/11	Sean Swank
21	Fork	16.06	25.50	03/09/88	Tom Hallum
22	Fork	16.04	25.75	02/29/92	Gasper Cardinale
23	Lake Austin	16.03	28.25	01/27/11	T.J. Nissen
24	Possum Kingdom Lake	16.02	26.75	10/13/89	Scott Tongat
25	Caddo Lake	16.01	25.50	04/13/92	Bobby Shaver

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## Lake Fork not just home to champion bass

By Jason Bernhardt

In early March, Lake Fork will prove to the international angling community that it is home not only to world-renowned bass, but champion carp and smallmouth buffalo as well.

The public is invited to witness 44 consecutive hours of intense coarse species angling during the Lake Fork Carp & Buffalo Challenge, March 1-3, 2012.

The tournament—which, at the time of publication has 15 teams registered—came to-

gether thanks to the creative thinking and efforts of Lake Fork Sportsman's Association (LFSA) board member Sandra Livingston.

"Sandra's phone call created quite a chain reaction in leading us here to host an event," said Tournament Director and Wild Carp Companies (WCC) Co-founder Sean Sauda.

"Sandra got the idea for a carp tournament and inquired with local carp angler Jason Johonnesson about hosting an event on Lake Fork in order to increase tourism to the area.

Jason spoke with his sponsor (David Smith) at US Carp Pro Magazine (USCP) who in turn contacted Wild Carp Companies."

What would result is a partnership between LFSA, WCC and USCP to host a world-class carp and smallmouth buffalo tournament on Lake Fork.

Lake Fork is home to carp that have been known to grow in excess of 35 lbs and smallmouth buffalo that are known to grow in excess of 55 lbs. This venue will prove to be an exciting challenge to all competitors as they strive to capture the top prizes.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three teams in each

category of biggest 4 carp and biggest 4 smallmouth buffalo. In addition, there will be one tagged carp and smallmouth buffalo valued at \$5,000 each for the team(s) that lands the fish unharmed. Tournament

organizers are currently soliciting sponsors to provide additional cash and tackle prizes.

Tournament headquarters will open to the public on Thursday, March 1 at

10:00 AM at Oak Ridge Marina in Quitman. Spectators will enjoy learning about the sport with demonstrations by carp angling professionals and hands-on exhibits.

The tournament begins with

the peg draw at 1:00 PM, where teams draw the shoreline location (peg) where they will remain for the duration of the event. Teams will then report to their peg and may pre-bait their swim from 2:00 PM until the official start at 4:00 PM.

The competitors will then test

Continued on page 4



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**Carp and Buffalo Challenge**

Continued from page 3

their wit and energy conservation techniques as they compete for 44 consecutive hours until the final horn sounds at noon on Saturday, March 3. An awards ceremony will take place at Oak Ridge Marina at 2:00 PM and is open to the public.

The fee to enter the Lake Fork Carp & Buffalo Challenge is \$400 per two-person team. Each team is allowed an assistant—or “Runner”—to help with such things as bait preparation, netting and weighing catches. The registration deadline is February 15, but late registrants may be accepted at the time of check-in if space permits.

For more information about volunteering, registering or attending the Lake Fork Carp & Buffalo Challenge, visit [www.wildcarcompanies.com](http://www.wildcarcompanies.com).

**About Lake Fork Sportsman's Association**

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association, through its membership, strives to protect and promote Lake Fork's natural resources for future generations by working with State and local agencies. We were established in 1999 as an organization comprised of area residents, merchants and professional guides. Included in our membership are sportsmen from Texas and across the United States. Our primary goal is to preserve, promote and protect one of this country's greatest fisheries both now and for generations to come. It's with your help and support that we can achieve this goal. For more information, please visit our website or find us on Facebook.

**About Wild Carp Companies**

Wild Carp Companies, of Baldwinsville, NY, promotes catch and release Carp angling via educational demonstrations, angling lessons, tourism promotion, hosting fish-ins, tournaments and Wild Carp Clubs. Wild Carp Companies operates Wild Carp Clubs and tournaments in New York, Massachusetts and Texas, and is continually expanding. For more information about Wild Carp Companies and its tournaments, sponsorship opportunities, educational and social events and outreach programs, email [Jason@wildcarcompanies.com](mailto:Jason@wildcarcompanies.com) or visit the company website or Facebook page.

**About US Carp Pro Magazine**

USCARPPROmagazine is a free to read, free to subscribe online publication dedicated to the promotion of ethical catch and release carp and rough fish angling. With a circulation of more than 10,000, USCARPPRO is growing its readership both in the US, Canada and around the world. We are North America's only carp angling e-zine and feature catch reports, basic and advanced angling techniques, bait and tackle from the best North American carp and rough fish anglers and European ex-pats. For more information on the magazine and our education and outreach programs, or to schedule an interview, please contact David Smith at [themag@uscarppromagazine.com](mailto:themag@uscarppromagazine.com) or visit us [www.uscarppromagazine.com](http://www.uscarppromagazine.com), our Facebook page or our Twitter feed.

**Time to begin work on Texas State-Fish Art Contest entries**

*Contest expands to include grades K—3, essays and invasive species*

ATHENS—Student artists across Texas in grades K — 12 take notice: It's time to start preparing your entries for the 2012 Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest.

The contest is open to all students in public, private or home schools. Entry deadline is March 31 each year.

Major changes in the contest for 2012 include: change in the permissible size of artwork to include works 8.5 inches by 11 inches or 9 inches by 12 inches; creation

Continued on page 5

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## State-Fish Art Contest

Continued from page 4

of a K—3 grade level division for artwork only; addition of a national prize for best essays in grade level divisions 4—6, 7—9 and 10—12; and a new category with one national winner for best artwork and essay about an invasive species.

Contest rules, guidelines, entry information and details about the contest changes can be found at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishart>.

Support for the Texas division of the contest is provided by the Toyota Texas Bass Classic, which makes it possible for the top three Texas entries in each grade level to win cash prizes. First place in grades 10—12 wins \$1,000; second place \$750; third place \$500. Prizes in the 4—6 and 7—9 grade levels are \$100 for first; \$75 for second; \$50 for third.

Additional support for the contest is provided by Strike King Lures, the William E. Armentrout Foundation and Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

One outstanding piece of artwork each year is selected for the Art of Conservation Award, and a commemorative stamp featuring the artwork is produced for sale. Proceeds from sales of the stamp are

used to fund conservation projects.

Educators who wish to have their students enter the contest can download the free “State-Fish Art Contest Lesson Plan” at <http://www.statefish-art.com>. The interdisciplinary curriculum includes lessons and activities, a species identification section profiling each state fish, a glossary and student worksheets.

Located in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, Wildlife

Forever is a non-profit multi-species conservation organization dedicated to conserving America’s wildlife heritage. Working at the grassroots level, Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to “on-the-ground” efforts. Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and enhancement, land acquisition, research and management of fish and wildlife populations.

### Ladies Day Out “Derby Hats” set for February 18

*Play, listen, shop, visit or just relax in historic downtown Mineola, Texas*

Join the merchants of downtown Mineola February 18, for Ladies Day Out. Participating merchants will provide refreshments, have sales and drawings for door prizes. Merchants will be wearing hats that day and customers will have a chance to vote for their favorite hat!

Mineola is hosting a “Music on the Street” event every 3rd weekend. Acoustical musicians are encouraged to meet in downtown Mineola where there are several locations perfect to form circles and make music. Listeners are always welcome. Bring your own chair. Musicians gather around 10:00 a.m. and play all day. No amplifications or Drums.



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Welcome to Lake Fork everyone! February is here. Everyone that has had cabin fever over the winter is heading out to the lake to take advantage of the early spring opportunities to catch a giant Lake Fork bass. This time of year is an exciting time of year because you can catch a giant on any given cast as the big females prepare themselves for their annual spawning activities. Here are a few tips and techniques that will help you in pursuit of a Lake Fork trophy bass...



**James Caldemeyer's Lake Fork Trophy Bass Report**

February is more of a time to target the fish that are in pre-spawn staging patterns though. Look for fish to be holding on main lake points, secondary points (at the mouth of major creeks), or along the creek channel edges adjacent to spawning flats.

Water temperature is probably the single most important factor to locating active fish this month. You will want to concentrate on areas where the water is warmer or on a warming trend. Having an accurate temperature gauge is important. I rely on my "New" Lowrance HDS Gen2 units to deliver and they do. This new generation of HDS technology is also amazing as you can view "Structure Map" as an overlay feature not to men-

cent rains which have brought the lake up a good bit but we need a lot more to get it full. That's okay though because I can assure you the fishing this spring will be amazing even if we do not get a lot of rain. With the low water the fish will be concentrated specific areas and grouped up tighter trying to share the same spawning areas.

We have had some re-

tion its updated processor that is super fast! Most water temps are going to range in the low to upper 50's this month but fishing in 57 degree water is more productive than 54 so keep an eye on your electronics for changes.

My go to baits this month are just a few basic ones that are legendary for catching big bass on Lake Fork for years. My first and most productive bait this time of year is a lipless crank bait. I like to use the 1/2-3/4 oz sizes on a 7' Med Hvy Abu Garcia Veritas or the "New" Villain rod. These new rods are awesome! Super light and sensitive with plenty of backbone still. I am also using my new Revo MGX HS reel spooled with 17 lb Trilene 100 % Fluorocarbon. This reel has a 7.9:1 gear ratio which is great for burning a lipless bait and fishing it all day long. Best depth is the 2-8 feet range. Concentrate on main lake and secondary points at the mouth of the creeks or channel swings that come up flat and make a point off the channel bend. Fish will be congregated at times feeding and preparing for the spawn.

My second bait and best suggestion for a big bass is a jig.

I like to use a Talon 3/8-1/2 oz black/blue or black/blue/purple flipping jig tipped with a Berkley Powerbait Chigger Craw. Once you have located some fish with a search bait like the lipless crank bait, slow down and back off to the 8-14 foot depths. Flip every tree on the edge of the channel and fish slow. A lot of times the bite will be very faint so watch your line and be prepared to set the hook. Some of the biggest fish in the lake this year will be caught using this method especially with the lack of grass and the fish holding

Continued on page 7



Lonnie from Tennessee with a nice Lake Fork bass caught with guide James Caldemeyer.

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## Trophy bass report

Continued from page 6  
tight to the standing timber.

Lastly, when the bit is slow or a cold front has hit, I reach for a suspending jerk bait. You can catch a lot of big fish on these this time of year when they will not bite much else. I like to use the old Smithwick gold/black/orange or clown colored models as well as Talon's new Shibui 110 jerk baits. I like the Champagne Black, Budas Clown, and Gulf Killifish colors in this bait. They have an amazing paint job that appeals to big bass. Work these baits slowly over shallow water with a twitch & pause technique. If you do more pausing than you do twitching, you get more bites. I hope these tips help you in your

If you are interested in coming out for some big bass action this spring or would like to just take an instructional trip to learn about electronics, seasonal patterns, or some new techniques on Lake Fork, contact me anytime. The fishing last spring was great and I know it will be even better this year. I still have a few dates available and want to remind anyone that is considering spring reservations with

me to do it ASAP. I book up extremely fast so get your 2012 date now before my schedule is full. You can reach me by phone at (903)736-9888 or drop me an email at lakeforktrophybass@yahoo.com You can also visit my website for more information about trophy bass fishing on Lake Fork www.officiallakeforktrophybass.com

My new 2012 Ranger Z521 Comanche powered with a Mercury 250 Prop XS just arrived and man I'm excited. These boats are awesome! I am currently rigging it up with all the latest and greatest equipment like the new Lowrance HDS Gen2 electronics as well as the Power Pole Blades. If you get a chance while you are here, stop by Diamond Sports Marine on highway 154 and check out the new 2012 Ranger Boats already in stock. Talk to Ben Hogan or Robert Gilliland and they will be glad to help you find the right boat for your needs. Let them show you why they are the #1 Ranger Boat dealership in the country. Or just give them a call at (903)383-7829 for information. If you would like a demo ride in my new boat, feel free to

contact me also to schedule your test ride.

Again, a big thanks to all my sponsors: Ranger Boats, Mercury Outboards, I AM SECOND, Berkley, Abu Garcia, Interstate Batteries, Lowrance, Power Pole, Hamby's, Talon Lures, Line & Lure Condition-

er, BTS Protectant, Navionics, Oakley, and Sure Life.

Isaiah 41:10 – So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Tight Lines and God Bless



Ross Hartley from Missouri with a nice bass caught with guide James Caldemeyer.



Jason Clark from Wichita Fall, TX, with a nice Lake Fork bass caught with guide James Caldemeyer.



Gayle Rutherford from Dallas, TX with a nice bass caught with guide James Caldemeyer.



Richie Cupp with a nice Lake Fork bass caught with guide James Caldemeyer.

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## Stan Kuhn's Catfish and Crappie Report

February is probably my most disappointing time of the year. Duck season has ended, deer season is over, and football season is finished.

The Cowboys have let us down again for 18 years in a row now. I wish Troy had never retired.

As you can see by my pictures, all of them are of duck hunting. It's been a good year for ducks, but not great. The lake being low has not helped the duck hunting at all.

We have been hunting in the north end and middle of the lake, and down on the south end. We have yet to find any grass which will hold ducks. I think most of the ducks on Lake Fork are passing thru and

heading south. The only ducks that are hanging around are the bluebills.

Hopefully next month I'll have some fishing pictures, as I'll start my fishing up now that hunting season is over.

There has been a lot of boats down by the dam fishing in deep water and off the Little Caney Point. Be sure and have an anchor on board, as there is nothing to tie off on.

A good depth finder will help you locate the fish but it will not catch them for you. Some days you will mark a ton of fish on your depth finder but for some reason they will not bite.

I was looking over my records from last year and it was mid April and May when I really started catching numbers of catfish. They were up in 5ft of water or less and in grass.

This has been a mild winter so far but we still have February to go. I'm sure ready for spring as most people are this time of year. Until next month, good fishing and remember to fish friendly.



Guide Stan Kuhn and Mike Joiner from Yantis with 10 ducks shot in the north end of Lake Fork.



Mike Joiner and Austin Yawn on another good duck hunt with guide Stan Kuhn.



Mike Joiner, Stan Kuhn and James Van-Winkle with a nice mess of mallards, seven drakes and two hens.



Guide Stan Kuhn, Austin Yawn and Mike Joiner (not pictured) shot these 17 ducks on a private lake near Athens, Tx.



Jermey Keller from Lewisville, Tx shot this nice gadwall on his first ever duck hunt with guide Stan Kuhn.



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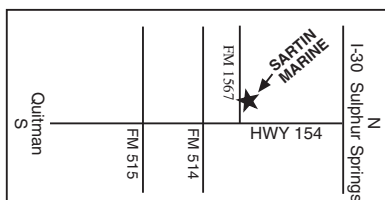


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**Outdoorsman's man cave**

By Luke Clayton

The term 'Man Cave' became popular about a decade ago. Outdoorsmen have long had their versions of Man Caves in the form of outbuildings with wood burning stove and a few old outdated chairs, possibly a worn out table or two. These were places to congregate, brew up a little coffee and get mud on the floor if they so choose without offending their fairer sex.

Man Caves take on many forms, depending upon the size of one's checking ac-

count and interests. I've some buddies with caves they call trophy rooms that are down right plush. The cost of the taxidermy work alone on the mounts totals more dollars than I will generate in a year but, these plush 'caves' serve the same purpose as the Spartan ones, they are a place to get away to and talk hunting and fishing and reminisce over old outings and plan new ones with good friends that share like interests.

I've been working on my cave for the past few

months and although it's still a work in progress, my buddies and I have already had some big times in the little eight by ten foot building situated in the trees behind our house. My cave was born out of need. I desperately needed a spot to cook without disrupting my wife's kitchen. I needed a place where a little grease could be spilled on the floor while frying fish or venison steaks, a place where I could cure and smoke pork from wild hogs I harvest or marinate duck breasts, in general a place totally detached from the house that was designed for cooking, processing my fish and game and, visiting. My cave is definitely taking shape and I'm pretty sure there is not another one quite like it! It's a custom job from the get go. I've designed its tight quarters to use every square inch to the max! I think the word 'rustic' would best describe my outdoor headquarters.

When one walks through the one and only door, on the left they will spot my Smokin Tex electric smoker. There's a side window and I can open the window and door to

Continued on page 13



Here's the inside of Luke's 'Man Cave' with a distinct outdoor theme! It's certainly not plush but some great meals and a lot of good hunting and fishing talk takes place here. Photo by Luke Clayton

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### Outdoorsman's man cave

Continued from page 12  
 create a draft and use the smoker inside the cave, VERY handy indeed! The smell of wild plum and pecan wood smoke has already permeated the inside of my cave, giving it the aroma of a smoke house, very pleasing indeed to my guests and I while we sit talking about a

past adventure or the next trip for stripers or upcoming hog hunt. This 'smoked effect' is one perk that my buddies with their expensive 'trophy room' caves dare not attempt to duplicate!

Adjacent the smoker, against the left wall is a small defunct refrigerator that I use to

store the spices for my sausage making or meat curing, it's a sealed dry areas that is also good for keeping staples such as flour, rice, dried beans, etc. On top of this converted refrigerator sits a gift from my wife. A very serviceable little refrigerator she purchased at a garage sale for a whopping five dollars. I keep my ice box stocked with fresh brown hen eggs, frozen hash browns, Head Country Salsa, grated cheese, onions, jalapenos, butter, homemade cured and smoked ham and flour tortillas. I can crank out enough breakfast tortillas to feed three hungry guys and myself in about twelve minutes!

Adjacent the ice box, I built a

very sturdy table from two by sixes and placed a heavy duty 2 burner propane stove on top. On the shelf under the stove, I keep my cast iron skillet with lid, a couple of Dutch Ovens and a big slow cooker, another gift from my wife. For some reason, she's showered me with gifts for my outdoor cooking headquarters!

On the back wall is an assortment of mounted deer heads and antlers from many years hunting. I still have the floor against the back wall cluttered with boots, boxes containing shotgun shells, old magazines with articles I penned as far back as a quarter century ago, bags of lead shot from my

muzzleloading shotgun days, and other items I probably have not laid eyes on in a decade or two! I recently found the remains of a coon skin cap a lady made for me when I was about 14 years old! I do hate to phase that old token of my youth out but the time has come! It's taken on the appearance of some fur bearing critter of unknown species that had a bad run in with an eighteen wheeler!

Just in front of this cluttered floor are 4 metal chairs, this is where my guests sit and dine while I am preparing tacos, fried fish, quail or smothered venison. Not a lot of room for moving around, everyone is instructed to remain in place to avoid tripping over each other. Once I clear the floor in the back of the cave, I will build us a small dining table!

Continued on page 15

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## Outdoorsman's man cave

Continued from page 13

On the left wall sets a small upright freezer which is currently filled with an assortment of wild game and fish, which will become the centerpiece of upcoming meals. Adjacent the freezer is my latest addition to the cave, a sink and countertop with cutting board. I'd given much thought to the installation of this sink and prep table. I'd toyed with the idea of running water out to the building and rigging up a drain. The more I thought about it, the more I wished to keep things 'rustic'. The steel sink has no drain and holds about 5 gallons of water, plenty for washing dishes or marinating or defrosting meats on a cold winter's night. In front of the sink, I covered the heavy two by six countertop with a heavy hard plastic material, perfect for cutting meat and keeping clean with a little water and bleach. Below the sink, I've conveniently placed a couple of plastic 5 gallon buckets which I've filled with water. MUCH easier and simpler than worrying with freezing plastic pipes during the winter months.

If you've been considering the idea of creating your own 'man cave' maybe the outline of my cave will help you get started, unless of course your budget warrants a full blown 'trophy room'. I'm not sure a fancy Man Cave would serve my purposes. I might just find myself worrying about tracking mud in on the floor!

Listen to Outdoors with Luke Clayton radio at [www.cat-fishradio.com](http://www.cat-fishradio.com). Luke's also doing an outdoor show for public radio, listen online at [www.ketr.org](http://www.ketr.org). Contact Luke with hunting and fishing news from your area via email at [lukeclayton@prodigy.net](mailto:lukeclayton@prodigy.net).





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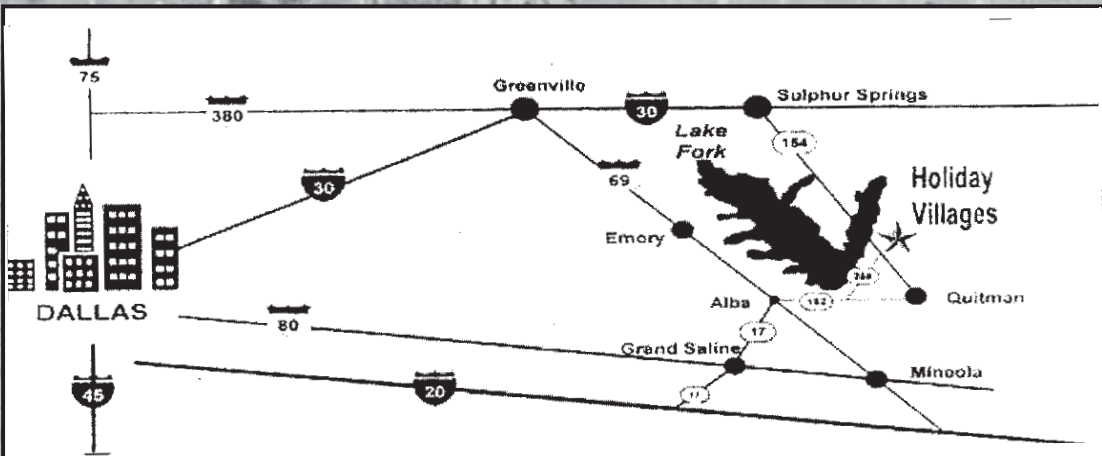
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Mike Joiner and grandson Austin Yawn with a nice mess of ducks shot with guide Stan Kuhn.

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## Season's Second Toyota ShareLunker comes from Falcon

ATHENS—When Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine publisher Randy Brudnicki planned a fishing trip to Falcon International Reservoir with his sons Jason and Dustin for the week after Christmas, he knew the time was right to catch a Toyota ShareLunker.

But the trio struggled for two days, catching only small bass mid-lake and near the dam. On Wednesday, December 28, the north wind shifted to the south, and that made all the difference. "I knew to look for places where the south wind would blow in to points," Brudnicki said.

It was their last day to fish, and they wanted to get on the road early, so they put in at the county ramp in Zapata and began fishing around the city's water intake structure. "After spending some time on the main point but only catching small fish, we moved upwind to a ledge," Brudnicki said. "My son Jason, who lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, started throwing a Strike King 6XD crankbait, a Christmas present from his older brother, Dustin. The big girl hit right under the boat as he ended his retrieve. He set the hook and she pulled a little line. Dustin grabbed the net and in seconds the fish was in the boat."

A few casts later Jason caught another big fish, and they decided to weigh them. The smaller fish went eight pounds, but the

big fish bottomed out their scale. After borrowing a scale from another boat, they realized they had a ShareLunker and took it to Falcon Lake Tackle to be weighed on a certified scale. The official weight is 13.36 pounds. Length and girth were not available at the time of writing.

Keeping the big fish alive for the five hours it would take for a truck to arrive from the A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery in San Marcos now became their top priority. "We ran both recirculating and aeration pumps non-stop," Brudnicki said. "The mid-50 degree water temperature helped a lot." They finally turned the fish over to TPWD about 7 p.m.

The Toyota ShareLunker program will be profiled in the Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine's Spring Fishing Guide due out in February. That guide will also feature a fishing forecast for 2012 and other relevant topics for Texas anglers. The guide will be available free at [www.tpwmagazine.com](http://www.tpwmagazine.com).

Anyone legally catching a 13-pound or bigger largemouth bass from Texas waters, public or private, between October 1 and April 30 may submit the fish to the Toyota ShareLunker program by calling program manager David Campbell at (903) 681-0550 or paging him at (888) 784-0600 and leaving a phone number including area code. Fish will be picked up by TPWD personnel

within 12 hours.

Anglers entering fish into the Toyota ShareLunker program receive a free replica of their fish, a certificate and ShareLunker clothing and are recognized at a banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens.

For complete information and rules of the ShareLunker program, tips on caring for big bass, a list of official Toyota ShareLunker weigh and holding stations and a recap of last year's season, see [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/sharelunker](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/sharelunker). The site also includes a searchable database of all fish entered into the program along with pictures where avail-



Jason Brudnicki caught this 13.36-pound largemouth, Toyota ShareLunker No. 525, from Falcon International Reservoir on December 28. Photo Courtesy Randy Brudnicki

## Angler Lands Toyota ShareLunker 526 from Lake Austin

ATHENS—Lake Austin gave up the third Toyota ShareLunker of the season to Austin angler Brett Ketchum January 29.

The 13.0-pound bass is the thirteenth ShareLunker to come from the urban lake. Ketchum caught the fish on a jerkbait in 10 feet of 56-degree water while fishing in an Austin Bass Club of the Deaf tournament. He won big bass and placed second overall.

"She was a very good fighter," Ketchum said. "Once she jumped, I noticed she was big, but I kept fighting her, and when she got close and I saw her I thought, 'Oh, it's big!' I was nervous because I saw only one treble hook in her, and I knew I could lose her in a second. But I stayed calm, let her fight until she was tired, then reeled her close to the boat. My partner Sammy Oates, Jr., netted her beautifully. He and my son Braden were shaking when I bought her in."

Ketchum said he had always dreamed of catching a ShareLunker. "My time has come," he said. "It was an amazing day."



Brett Ketchum of Austin landed Toyota ShareLunker 526 from Lake Austin January 20. TPWD Photo © 2012, Larry D. Hodge

able.

Information on current catches, including short videos of interviews with anglers when available, is posted on [www.facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram](http://www.facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram).

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible by a grant

to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation from Gulf States Toyota. Toyota is a long-time supporter of the Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of education, fish, parks and wildlife projects.

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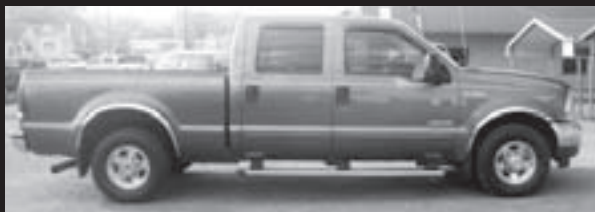
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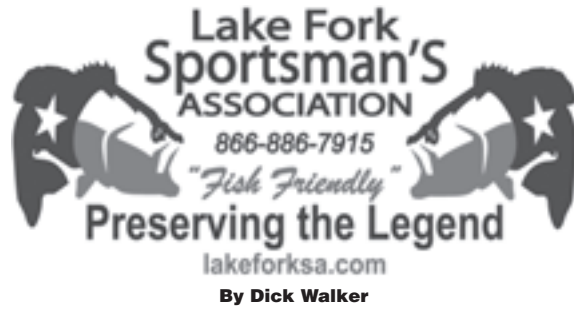
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## Mission of the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association

- Promote sportsmanship and the protection of natural resources
- Promote the quality of Lake Fork fishery and other outdoor recreational activities
- Promote the future of angling through youth programs
- Promote a spirit of cooperation with local, county, state, and federal governmental agencies and other civic organizations for the purpose of improving Lake Fork and its surrounding communities
- Promote items of interest of the membership at large



## Lake Fork Sportsman's Association Recognizes Shirley Moreland

During its January meeting, the LFSA recognized a special friend of the Association. Shirley Moreland, Editor and Publisher of the Lake Fork Area News, was recognized for her ongoing support of the LFSA. Shirley has supported the many events and activities of the LFSA. She



**President Arlan Jaeger presenting Shirley with a plaque of appreciation.**

can be counted on to show up at our annual Catfish Tournament to photograph our winners for publication in the Lake Fork Area News. Through her publication she has given the LFSA a voice to communicate with the anglers who fish our great lake. The Association appreciates Shirley's support and also is proud to have her as an LFSA member. Thanks Shirley.

## 4th Annual Catfish Classic Tournament Dates Set



The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association sponsored Catfish Classic will be moving its date and location this year. In response to many anglers' requests, we are trying to beat some of the heat this year. The Catfish Classic will be held June 23rd and 24th at OAK RIDGE MARINA. The change in location is due to a scheduling conflict with another tournament. More details on the Catfish Classic will be posted on our website in the near future. We look forward to another successful tournament.

## Lake Fork Carp and Buffalo Challenge

While our great fishery is best known for its record size bass, there are some monster carp and buffalo to be found swimming in the lake. Recently, while fishing from his dock, a homeowner hooked and landed a 48 pound Carp. USCARPPRO MAGAZINE and Wild Carp Companies and Lake Fork Sportsman's Association will host a \$10,000 carp and rough fish catch and release tournament and social event. The Lake Fork event is scheduled to begin February 29 with registration and a social gathering, with education, outreach and community programs. A Pro-Am showcase is slated for March 1. The prize tournament will start in the afternoon of March 1 and last until March 3. Entry fee is \$450 per team of two. More information can be found at [www.wildcarppro.com](http://www.wildcarppro.com).

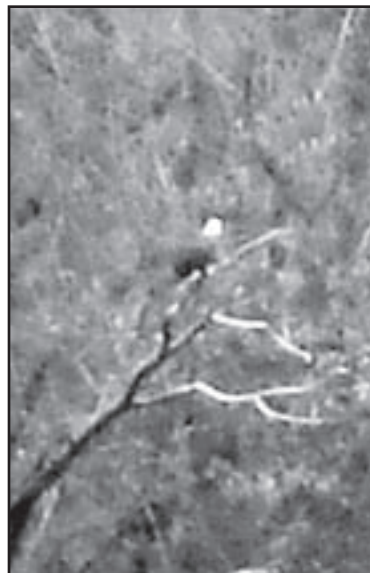


## Lake Fork Eagle Count

The Mid-Winter Eagle Count was held January 14th and 15th. A large group of volunteers showed up early Saturday and Sunday morning and by car and boat spread out around the lake in search of our Nation's symbol. The weather was extremely cooperative this year with light winds and a very mild temperature. LFSA volunteers, Bruce and Cheryl Allen, Bettye Moore, Stan Kuhn, Arlan Jaeger, Ed and Judy Swenson Ron Cook and Dick Walker all took part. This year the population of eagles counted totaled over 30. It is always great to see these numbers increase from previous years.



Ed Swenson, Ron Cook and Judy Swenson check the location of Eagles spotted during their outing.



Perched in a tree near the water, this mature Eagle made a nice pose.

## Remember to Fish Friendly

**Place Your Ad In The Lake Fork Area News Today Call Shirley 903-885-7223**

# J.R. SIMPSON

## 903-850-3324

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### LAKE FORK WATER FRONT & WATER VIEW HOMES



Yantis, TX \$615,000

**HOME** w/brick & stone 3/3.5/4 office, sunroom & summer kitchen. 2car gar. & wkshp w/4 gar. doors, HVAC & greenhouse w/seperate entry. Below Appraised Value! Virtual Tour: <http://tours.realestatedisplayed.com/public/vtour/display/37159>



**REDUCED**

Yantis, TX \$465,000

**4/3 LAKE FORK WATERFRONT** Home on 4+ heavily wooded acres +leaseback w/pier. Wood flooring, ceramic tile, in-ground pool with waterfall, and fountain, hot tub, pool hous, gazebo & screen porch. Detached garage with half bath.



Emory, TX \$269,900

4 Bdrm on Lake Fork, remodeled 11/2011 & move in ready! 100ft of lake frontage w/room for boat house & fishing pier. Room for parking vehicles, RV, boats, build a shop and a storage building. Motivated seller, bring offers!



Emory, TX \$169,900

Well maintained, exc. cond, on Lake Fork. Perfect for those who want to downsize or have a weekend home. Custom cabinets, irrigation system & plenty of boat parking. Pier on Lake Fork with plenty of room for a boat house.



**REDUCED**

Yantis, TX \$139,900

**PRICED TO SELL!** Lake Fork warefront home w/vinyl siding, fenced yard, concrete driveway w/carports & room for RV + boat house w/boat lift. All carpet removed, owners considering flooring allowance w/good offer.



Quitman, TX \$62,500

**WEEKEND GETAWAY** in gated community on Lake Fork in like new condition! Fire pit in back w/view of the lake, storage bldg, dble concrete driveway, covered porches. Low maint.-hardy board siding & laminate wood floors.

### RURAL LOTS

**ALEXA ESTATES** - unrestricted level lots ready for your new home, mobile home or your RV is welcome. Lake Fork boat ramp just 2 miles away. Utilities at road. **\$14,900 each**

**LAKE FORK GOLF COURSE** - Level lot on golf course & ready for your new home to built. Upscale neighborhood with HOA & community boat ramp access. **\$27,500**

**LAKE FORK RANCHES** - Wooded off-water 2.9 ac lot has unbelievable view of lake. Elevated bldg site will give your custom home views of the lake in all directions. **\$49,900**

**BRUSH HOGGING OR PASTURE SHREDDING**  
BRANDON 903-335-4685



**SOLD**

Winnsboro, TX \$89,900

Home on private 100 acre lake has gorgeous views of the water, well maintained & brick construction with hardwood floors. Tons of wildlife in this area. Sit back & watch deer & geese eat in your backyard & enjoy peace & quiet.

### FARM AND RANCH



**SOLD**

Yantis, TX \$344,000

**3/2.5/2 BRICK AND STONE** custom home on 16+ acres. Two living areas and two dining areas w/brkfst bar. 12' ceilings with arched doorways, stone fireplace w/gas and built-ins throughout. Pond, covered porch & new fence. Super Nice!



**REDUCED**

Quitman, TX

**SELLER WILLING TO DIVIDE!** 3/2/3 and carport on one acre for \$79,000 OR take the whole 67+ acre horse ranch for \$275,000 w/several hay/tack barns & horse training arena. Property is fenced & cross fenced has a nice deep pond.

### COMMERCIAL PROPERTY



**REDUCED**

Mineola, TX \$100,000

**2.5 ACRES - 300FT ON HWY 69** South Mineola on US Hwy 69. Elevated building site allows high visibility & serious exposure from either direction of highway. Hotel, Retail, B&B, anything is possible here! **BRING WRITTEN OFFERS!**



Yantis, TX \$199,000

**11 ACRES IN PRIME LOCATION** Cleaned & leveled but all mature trees were left untouched. over 1000ft of frontage on SH 154. No zoning or restrictions. Utilities are at the road and Lake Fork boat ramp is just minutes away.



**REDUCED**

Yantis, TX \$125,000

**3 LOG CABINS AND 3 PADS** Located in a heavily wooded area with a great pond. These cabins are great rentals for fisherman and room for more cabins and RV sites. Plus a single wide mobile home. **Bring written offers!**

**I SHOW AND SELL ALL LISTINGS BY ANY BROKER**

### COUNTRY HOMES



Sulphur Springs, TX \$595,000

**HUGE 5 BCRM HOME** is perfect for bus. owner or large family. Huge mstr bdrm w/20x16 walk-in closet. Pool w/waterfall, playground, 30x30 barn, game rm & tanning rm. Virtual Tour: <http://tours.realestatedisplayed.com/public/vtour/display/37160>



Mineola, TX \$135,000

**REDUCED**

Yantis, TX \$119,900

**PRICED TO SELL!** 2.4 Acre 3 bdrm home, full bath & walk in closet in all bedrooms, hardwood floors, garage/workshop, fenced yard & 30x30 bldg that is an acoustically tuned music studio. Sits back off the road & is private & peaceful.



Yantis, TX \$119,900

Home on 4.75 acres has new textured walls, updated windows, storage building & garage. Appliances & furniture included. Lake Fork boat ramp less than 1 mile & view from property plus excellent deer hunting at back.

### LAKE FORK WATERFRONT LOTS

**ROYAL OAK ESTATES**-A Lake Fork subdivision is a gated community with a waterfall entry, community pond and a private boat ramp for property owners. **\$19,500-\$79,000**

**LOST CREEK ESTATES**-Beautiful area of Lake Fork is heavily wooded & secluded. No HOA, sqft restrictions only. Many lots to choose from starting at **\$36,000-\$109,000**

**FIDDLERS GREEN**- A restricted, gated community. Water front lot with gorgeous view of Lake Fork, approx 500+ feet of lake frontage. No minimum square footage. **\$59,900**

**OWNER HAS 2 LAKE FORK WATERFRONT PROPERTIES** Sulphur Springs-9.6 acres w/500ft water frontage. **\$79,000** Alba-28.6 acres w/water, septic, electric in place. **\$135,000**

**DOUGHERTYS LANDING**-2.6 waterfront acres. Restricted to site built homes only, minimum living area 1500 sqft. Dead end county rd, no traffic & lots of deer in this area. **\$95,000**

### RURAL ACREAGE

**23.9 ACRES IN ALBA** -Lots of frontage on Highway 69 for commercial or residential development. All utilities are available to develop this great piece of land. **\$164,930**

**11.5 ACRES JUST NORTH OF QUITMAN CITY LIMITS** Lots of wildlife, good hunting area. Property is unrestricted & no zoning. Electric & water available at road. **\$49,000**

**18 ACRE IN ALBA-PRODUCES GOOD HAY EVERY YEAR** Mostly fenced with gates, 700ft of road frontage on hwy 17 and Lake Fork boat ramp is less than 2 miles away. **\$59,900**

**CALL FOR FREE MARKET ANALYSIS OF YOUR HOME OR PROPERTY**