

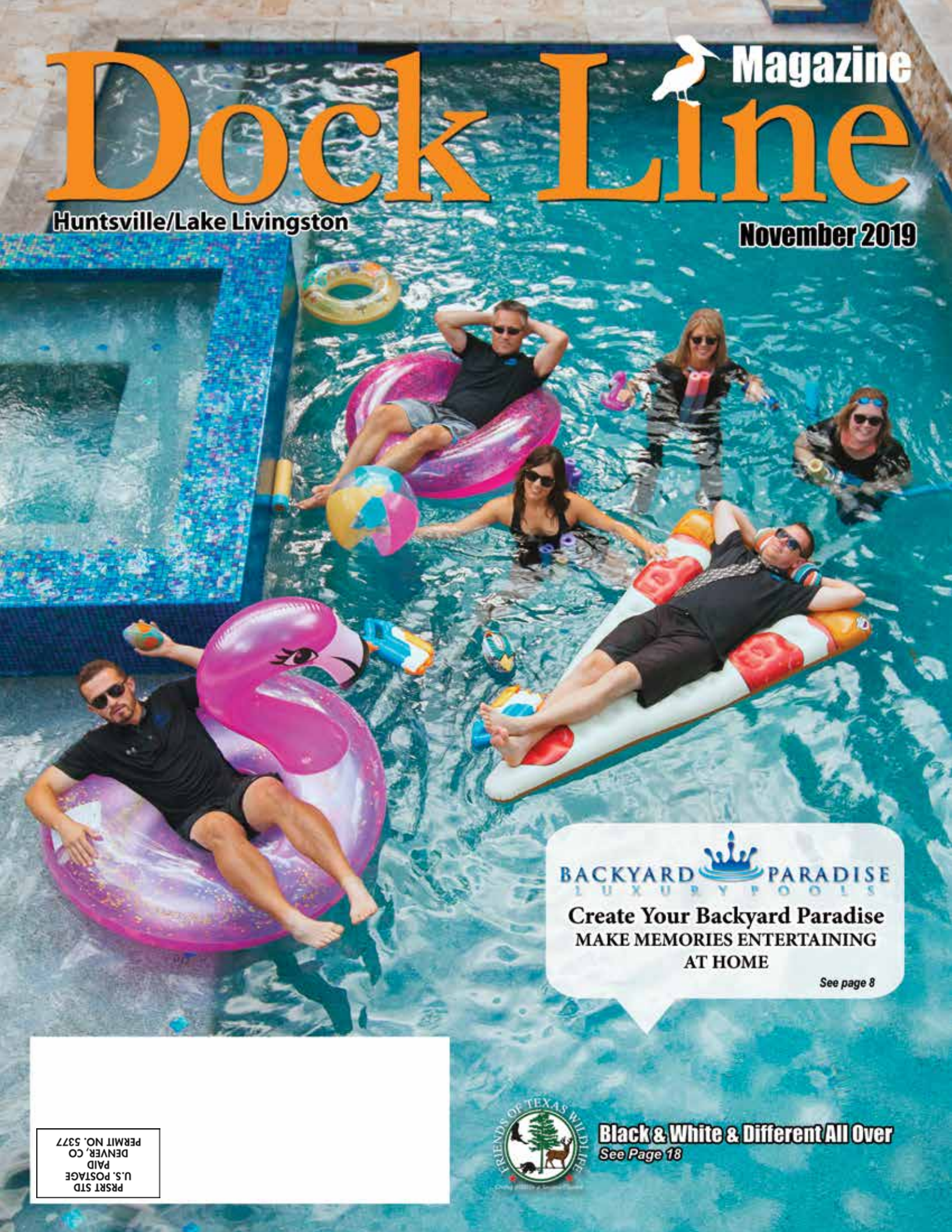
# Dock Line



Magazine

Huntsville/Lake Livingston

November 2019



BACKYARD  PARADISE  
LUXURY POOLS

Create Your Backyard Paradise  
MAKE MEMORIES ENTERTAINING  
AT HOME

See page 8



**Black & White & Different All Over**  
See Page 18

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Is it me or did someone forget to open the blinds this morning because it sure is dark enough to make me feel as though I should still be in bed! Texas is a funny state - one day the sun is shining and the next I can't feel my paws because they are so cold, but I guess variety is what makes us love this place called home so much.

We have a very exciting issue this month and as usual, we are very happy to present it to you for your reading pleasure. I also want you to keep your faces glued to Docklinemagazine.com and our social media pages as we have some very big news coming up. We have spent quite a lot of time and energy to get to this point and there will be many things happening over the next few months that should excite you and give you even more reason to read our publication. Each month from this point on you will see quite a lot of changes. Some big, some small, but changes are coming. You will be seeing more articles and more ways of reading Dock Line articles and meeting and shopping with our advertisers. That's all I can say at the moment but we are sure you will be pleased.

Well, that's my big announcement for now! I will be seeing you next month, or who knows, maybe next week!!!

Have a wonderful turkey day and Happy Thanksgiving!

*gt2* 🐾🐾

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# Dock Line Magazine

Huntsville/Lake Livingston

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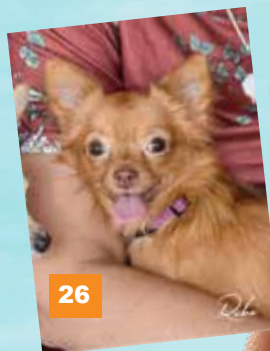
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*Backyard Paradise  
Luxury Pools has been a  
part of the Montgomery  
County community for  
over 10 years and has  
seen 100% growth every  
year!*



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# Dock Line Magazine

Huntsville/Lake Livingston

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### ***Diva Night Winter Wonderland***

When: November 14, 2019

Time: 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Where: Polk County Commerce Center,  
1017 Hwy. 59 Loop N.,  
Livingston, TX 77351

Admission: Advance Tickets \$10.00; At the  
Door Tickets \$15.00

This is a ladies night out hosted by the Livingston - Polk County Chamber of Commerce. We had over 300 tickets sold last year...you do not want to miss out! For more information call 936-327-4929.



### ***Livingston Trade Days***

When: November 16 - 17, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00  
a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Sunday

Where: Pedigo Park, 925 US Highway 59  
Bypass North, Livingston, TX

Admission: FREE admission and parking  
Open year-round on the weekend before the  
third Monday of each month. Livingston  
Trade Days is held in beautiful Pedigo Park  
surrounded by picturesque East Texas Pines.  
Two large covered pavilions and a multitude  
of open-air lots host a wide variety of local  
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something for everyone! For more information  
on this event, contact Lynn Riley or Juan  
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### ***Pride and Prejudice***

When: November 20-23, 2019

Time: November 20-23 at 7:30 p.m.;

November 23 matinee at 2:00 p.m.

Where: 815 17th St., Huntsville, TX 77340

For tickets visit the website at [www.shsutickets.com](http://www.shsutickets.com) or call 936-294-2339

Adapted by Kate Hamill, Directed by Dr. Victoria Lantz Events, dates and times are subject to change. Please contact the Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre to confirm events. For more information visit the Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre website: [www.shsu.edu/academics/theatre/ind](http://www.shsu.edu/academics/theatre/ind)

### ***Huntsville Audubon Society***

When: Thursday, November 21, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m. - Snacks and chat; 6:30  
p.m. - Guest Presentation

Where: St. Stephens Episcopal Church,  
5019 Sam Houston Ave (TX-75),  
Huntsville, TX

Join fellow birdwatchers and wildlife enthusiasts Thursday, November 21st for "Help the Pollinators and Ourselves" presented by Lisa Tuck of The Native Plant Society. Bottled water provided, but please bring a snack to share. For additional information email [huntsvilletxaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:huntsvilletxaudubon@gmail.com). All are welcome! ♦

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# Create Your Backyard Paradise

A large, modern backyard pool with a hot tub, surrounded by a wooden deck and pergola, overlooking a lake at sunset. The pool has blue mosaic tiles and a metal handrail. A wicker lounge chair is on the left, and a blue lounge chair is on the right. The sky is blue with some clouds, and the water is calm.

## MAKE MEMORIES ENTERTAINING AT HOME

*By: Margie Taylor*

Many homeowners are opting to make improvements on their home and protect their equity instead of selling. One of the appealing ways to expand your space is to increase the value of your outdoor living space by adding entertainment amenities.

Backyard Paradise Luxury Pools has been a part of the Montgomery County community for over 10 years and has seen 100% growth every year! That trend is expected to continue as homeowners have a desire to enhance their backyards with outdoor kitchens, custom pools, patio covers, pergolas, or gazebos.

"It is exciting to create a design that you know families will enjoy for their lifetime, making memories that last forever", said owner Mitchell Buckley. "I started building pools with my dad over 20

years ago and have always enjoyed not only building pools but creating something that is a permanent structure in someone's backyard".

It all starts with an idea of what you would like to add your backyard. The designers will come to your home to learn about your vision and if it includes a place for privacy, an outdoor kitchen, a luxurious pool (maybe a swim up bar), or specific lighting. Photo books are helpful for determining specific needs with added accessories like waterfalls, wireless remote-control devices, shady space, benches, or walkways that lead to a firepit. After some decisions are made, the designer will complete a 3-D rendering of the enhancements for your backyard. The drawing enables the customer to transform his dream into reality, make changes if not exactly the way it was visualized, and then

the work begins. Customers will be given a quote, a time for completion (dependent on weather), and then choices will be made for material used on the project.

Choosing the appropriate component for continued outdoor quality and durability is where the experience of Backyard Paradise is vital. Every detail of the renovation will include professional electricians, plumbers, and landscape artists to create a safe and enjoyable paradise for entertaining family and friends.

"We also renovate pools. If your pool is over 10 years old it may be time to replace tile, add LED lighting, take out the diving board to add a slide, or enhance the path to the pool by replacing the deck. At Backyard Paradise we care about our customers and want them to stay with us to add upgrades, any





***Our projects range from  
\$75k - over \$1 million.  
Helping you create your  
dream backyard!***



maintenance on their pool or service the products we built.”

“We serve all of Montgomery County whether it’s a homeowner, a subdivision, commercial business, or a hotel”, said Mitchell. “Backyard Paradise will not ever use inferior products; we vet our contractors and we care about the customer satisfaction. When deciding on a contractor choose experience over price. Honesty and integrity keep us as one of the top referrals in the industry”.

A customer recently boasted about Backyard Paradise:

*“After preparing the area for a pool a storm hit the area and damaged the retention wall with large amounts of dirt sliding back into the pool. The dirt had not had adequate time to stabilize before the storm hit. After hearing about the mess, Mitchell brought a team of workers to build barriers and*



*Continued on page 10* ➞





**Decision making made easy - visit our spacious showroom!**

*move the water around the pool. This was after 8 pm on a Friday evening!"*

The business continues to grow because every effort is made to make the customers dreams a reality. Even if a mistake was made, Backyard Paradise will own the issue and communicate the process details of making it be up to and beyond the customer's satisfaction.

**Reviews are a great way to learn about any business and Backyard Paradise has 59 Google Reviews with a 4.9 rating.**

*"The whole experience with Backyard Paradise was wonderful! In fact, I would give*

*them 6 stars if Google would allow it. Any kind of construction can be extremely stressful, but all the people within the company made the experience seamless, the communication was great, and they always exceeded expectations. We were lucky to deal with owner, Mitchell, for our design, and everyone that we dealt with daily, was great as well. The team all truly cared about our family getting the highest quality of pool as quickly as possible. And trust me with the recent heat, it was greatly appreciated. Highly recommend Backyard Paradise Luxury Pools!!"*

**(Rick Gaul)**



**We take pride and are well known for our excellent customer service that sets us apart from the rest.**





***We do not just build pools...Anything to make your backyard a paradise.***

*"A wonderful experience building our pool, pergola, and outdoor kitchen. Jan created an amazing design and Mitchell and his team built quickly including attention to detail with constant communication throughout project. It turned out amazing and we now live and enjoy our outdoor paradise. It's wonderful to make such great memories in your own backyard. Can't say enough great things!"*  
(Barbara Garner)

*"Our pool is beautiful. This company delivers custom quality work done in a professional and appropriate manner. The work completed is outstanding and the owner stands by his work. The contractors were always bragging about this company to us. He will create a beautiful backyard paradise for you. Coleman was our designer."*  
(Mona Windham)

Mitchell reminds customers, "Even though your project is finished, we won't disappear on you! Backyard Paradise will be there if you need us!"

Specializing in any outdoor projects, call the experts at Backyard Paradise Luxury Pools for custom pools, kitchens, cabanas, covered patios, firepits, additions to an existing pool or any other outdoor entertainment enhancement.

Learn more about Backyard Paradise Luxury Pools by visiting their website at [www.BPLuxuryPools.com](http://www.BPLuxuryPools.com). Submit a request for service on the website or call (936) 588-8806. Their office is located at 2114 McCaleb Road, Montgomery. The office hours are Monday through Friday 9:00am-6:00pm. ♦

# BACKYARD PARADISE

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# FISHING REPORT



**By: David Scott Cox**

**FISHING FORECAST** – Good fishing for most species now in many parts of the lake. The lake is a little over a foot low and continues to rise slowly. The wind has been a problem for fishing parts of the lake however the fishing has been good when the wind lays. The cooler days of fall are making getting out more pleasant and there should be some great fishing before cooler weather arrives. Lake Livingston consists of 90,000 surface acres of water and over 450 miles of shoreline.

## SPECIES REPORT:

**Black Bass {largemouth}** – Some nice fish are being caught now on "Charlie's Gecko" in June Bug Texas rigged fished around boat houses in Kicka-

poo and Sandy creeks.

**Catfish** – Good numbers of big Blue Cats being caught on fresh shad drift fished on lower lake flats. Blue cats are being caught on popping corks baited with fresh shad fished in the standing dead trees in Harmon Creek. Big Ops are taking live perch on trot lines in the upper river channel.

**Crappie** – Crappie fishing has been spotty with some good numbers of fishing being caught on

minnows in the boat houses and in the brush up Kickapoo Creek.

**White Bass** – Good in the lower lake areas jigging "Super D Slabs" and Tsunami 1 oz. Zombie Eyes off humps 11-17'. Also look for schooling fish and throw a ¼ oz. rattle trap.

**Striper** - Occasional Stripers are being caught fishing the humps for Whites. ♦



Normal Lake Level

131.0'

Current Lake Level

129.65'

Current Lake Level at  
Riverside

129.94'

Water Temperature

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lower lake clear, mid lake  
clear, upper river channel  
off color





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# Back to Health

By: Tony W. DeRamus, DC, CCSP



## STRESS: How much is too much?

Your boss has been hounding you because you missed a deadline, the kids won't stop screaming, and to top it off you just got a flat tire on your commute home. You're seriously stressed out! Does this scenario sound familiar?

Stress has become a constant presence in our minds and bodies. How deeply stress has infiltrated our lives is evident when you consider imagining yourself standing eyeball to eyeball with a giant tiger.

Psychology tells us that in life-and-death moments like these, the body prepares for a "fight or flight" response. In just about thirty seconds of panic, look what happens to your body. Your palms tingle. Your hair stands on end. You start to sweat. Your eyes dilate. Your heartbeat quickens. Your blood pressure rises. Your stomach turns, and digestion switches off. The blood drains from your face. Your body releases dozens of emergency chemicals to deal with the situation.

Now imagine something even more frightening. Imagine your mind trapped in this situation for a whole waking day. Hour after hour, day after day, year after year throughout your lifetime. The fight-or-flight reaction developed as a sudden response to a life-threatening situation, not a constant state of mind and body. But unfortunately, that is just what is happening in today's society.

When stress starts interfering with your ability to live a normal life for an extended period of time, it becomes dangerous to your health. The longer the stress lasts, the worse it becomes. You

might feel fatigued, unable to concentrate or irritable for no good reason.

Chronic stress causes wear and tear on your



body, too. This is evident in physical symptoms including headaches, upset stomach, elevated blood pressure, chest pain, and problems sleeping.

The overeating, smoking, drinking and oth-

er bad habits people use to cope with stress only makes the problem worse.

Can there be life without stress? The simple answer is "no." Being alive requires a balance of stressors in the body. This balance is called homeostasis. Our body is in a constant state of creation and destruction, with formation of new cells and removal of dead cells. How we interpret our life within our body and our environment is important. We need stress to live but not all day every day.

Everyone can and should carefully examine their lives and make an honest attempt to reduce the stress producing circumstances that make unnecessary demands upon them. Determine which things you can do something about and concentrate your time and energy on them rather than on things you cannot control.

We need to emphasize wellness, relaxation, and positive thinking, whatever the circumstance.

Don't Go Hungry. A hungry body leads to

all sorts of problems: disturbed digestion, restless sleep, mental fatigue. Start the day right with a good, hearty breakfast!

**Work Toward a Good Night's Sleep.** When one gets eight full hours of rest, the body's natural clock is set in harmony, regulating digestion and allowing the heart and the mind to function at full efficiency. One good indication that you and your family are getting the full quota of rest: you should feel hungry enough to want a good breakfast.

Make time for yourself each day, even if it's 10-20 minutes.

Chiropractic should also play an important role in stress management. When a stress-inducing event occurs, muscles contract, breathing becomes faster and deeper, heart rate increases, and digestion is halted. Continually contracted muscles cause a decrease in spinal motion and nervous system function, which lowers your ability to deal with stress. Chiropractic can work for everyone because it reduces the nervous system stress, allowing the body to adapt to our daily stress overloads more efficiently.

Chiropractic care, positive thinking, and other stress management techniques can create a sense of well-being and lead to a longer, more productive, happier, and healthier life. ♦







# Huntsville Pets Helping People

## Microchipping the Family Pet

By: Marilyn Meshell

The first time I heard about microchipping family pets was shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. I watched the wide-spread flooding on television. It was heart-breaking seeing so many animals who had been left behind. Volunteers entered flooded areas to rescue pets and they saved many of them. A great many of those rescued pets were separated from their families and never reunited with them because the owners could not be located.



At some point, a news commentator mentioned that animals who were microchipped had a greater chance of being returned to their families. That got my attention. My immediate area's location is at a high enough altitude that flooding is unlikely but tornados and fires and resulting evacuation are a real possibility. My pets could escape from their yard or dash out the door when I go outside to get the mail. I needed to do some research, but microchipping the family pets seemed like a good idea.

A microchip is a small cylinder that is about the size of a grain of rice. It is inserted under the skin between the shoulder blades for dogs and cats using a hypodermic needle. Horse, birds, and other animals have specific implant locations based on the species of the animal. A microchip is considered to be a permanent identification. While a microchip may be removed, to do so requires a veterinarian to administer anesthesia and perform general surgery. Each microchip has a unique 15-digit number and the name of the chip manufacturer which is read by a microchip scanner. A universal scanner, which can read the information of many chip manufacturers, is generally available in veterinary offices and animal shelters. Shelters will scan each animal that is brought into their facility to look for a microchip number so that they can make a sincere effort to reunite the pet with their family.

After implanting the microchip, the chip number must be registered with the microchip manufacturer's database. In many cases, the veterinary office will take care of that step for the pet owner. Registration includes the microchip identification number and the name and contact information of the owner. None of the owner's contact information is read by the scanner, only the microchip number. After a lost pet is found, the shelter or vet's office will contact the microchip registry to

obtain contact information for the person and facilitate return of the pet to the owner. It is up to the owner to keep their contact information updated. In almost every case where a microchipped pet

was not reunited with their family it was because the family moved and did not update their contact information so they could not be located.

Even with a microchip, it is still important for dogs and cats to wear a collar with their rabies tag and a contact information

tag. If the external tags are present, that may be the fastest way for your pet to be returned to you. But collar and tags may come off, become unread-



able, or may be removed from the animal. That is when the microchip steps in and identifies your pet.

By microchipping your pet, registering your contact information with the microchip registry, and keeping your contact information current, you greatly increase the likelihood of your pet being returned to you if they ever become lost. ♦

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# Black & White & Different All Over

By: Lisa Wolling, Executive Director

Over the years Friends of Texas Wildlife has been assisting animals, we have been very privileged to see some unusual coloration in our wild friends. This month's article will discuss some of color mutations that can show up in animals of many species.

Albinism is an inherited genetic condition that reduces the amount of melanin pigment formed in the skin, hair and/or eyes. Albinism can be found in mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates. True albinism is quite rare in nature, but there are reports and sightings of many different types of albino animals. Not all white animals are albinos, however; true albino animals lack any pigment in all body parts, and they have pink or very light blue eyes. Albino

However, in some cases coloration may not matter much. Predators such as hawks may rely more on shape and movement to identify prey, so the color of the prey may make little difference. Melanin normally protects the skin from UV damage, so animals with albinism are more sensitive to sun exposure. Animals that are normally nocturnal may be less negatively impacted by albinism than diurnal animals. Some animals, such as squirrels, have retinas that are different, so they are not as negatively impacted by albinism. Albino animals may also have more difficulty finding mates as they are often considered outcasts by their peers.

Leucism is a condition in which there is partial loss of pigmentation in an animal. This can result in a mostly white animal, or an animal which

oration. A white tiger is another example of a leucistic animal (it lacks the normal orange pigment but retains the black stripes). Animals which are referred to as "piebald" or spotted are leucistic; the patches are where there is lack of pigment in the skin, fur, or feathers. Leucism is much more common than albinism.

Melanism is when an animal develops more melanin than is normal for the species, leading to all black coloration of feathers, fur, or scales. Melanistic animals are somewhat common in nature, with some species even passing on the trait as a genetic adaptation. Black leopards and jaguars are two of the more commonly-recognized melanistic animals. In some species, it appears that melanistic coloration may be an adaptation to the environ-



*Two examples of albinism: at left, an albino raccoon. At right, an albino fawn next to its mother, who displays normal coloration. Note the total lack of pigment throughout the animal's fur and the pink eyes.*

animals face some definitive survival challenges. Albinism affects eyesight as the absence of melanin results in abnormal eye development, which often means that those with albinism struggle with depth perception or other vision issues. These vision issues may make it more difficult for albino animals to find food or avoid danger. Lacking protective coloration, albino animals may also be more likely to be seen by both predators and prey.

lacks one color pigment in particular, or patchy coloration occurring in skin, hair, feathers, or scales. However, the coloration of eyes and nails are not affected. For instance, a robin may have normal black coloration but lack the red coloration, which would result in a black bird with a white breast. Or an opossum might appear totally white with just black ears; this animal lacks black pigment to most of its fur, but the ears maintain their normal col-

ment. In other instances, it could be the result of the cross-breeding of similar species (examples could be the offspring of fox squirrel/gray squirrels breeding, or the hybrid mix of domestic dogs and wolves). Some research seems to indicate that melanistic wolves and large cats are more common in heavily-forested areas, where light levels are lower. Each year at our wildlife center, we get one or two melanistic baby squirrels. We have even gotten sib-





*Examples of leucistic animals. They lack some pigment, either overall, or in patches. Top left: fox squirrel, lacking gray pigment. Top right: raccoon, lacking black pigment. Bottom left: opossum lacking most black pigment. Bottom right: robin lacking patches of black pigment.*

lings where one or two are normal color, and one is melanistic. Other than their unique and beautiful coloration, they are alike in all other aspects.

Seeing an animal of any species with unique coloration is truly a special experience. Many animals with abnormal coloration seem to do just fine in the wild, so it doesn't necessarily mean they need assistance or rescuing. As with anything else, if the animal appears to be acting normal and doesn't seem sick or injured, it is best to enjoy its unique beauty and leave it alone.

To learn more about what we do and view pictures of many of the animals we assist, please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife](http://www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife). Our educational visitor's center is open the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., located at 29816 Dobbin Hufsmith Road, Magnolia, Texas, so the next open house date will be Saturday, November 9. Come on out and visit us, learn a little more about local wildlife, do some fun activities and a craft, and

meet some of our non-releasable wildlife educational animals. We also host birthday parties, camps, and educational presentations. For more information about events, birthday parties, camps, or educational presentations for scouts, schools, or other groups, please visit our website or email

[ftwl.education@gmail.com](mailto:ftwl.education@gmail.com). There are many other ways you can help support our efforts, too (such as Kroger Community Rewards, Amazon Smile, etc.). Details can be found at [www.ftlw.org](http://www.ftlw.org), and then click on "How to Help". ♦



*Examples of melanistic animals. Their coloration is predominantly black. Left: melanistic raccoon. Center: melanistic cardinal. Right: melanistic fox squirrel.*





# Resiliency of The Woodlands Division

*By: Chris Meeks, Woodlands Division Manager*

Resiliency...Webster's Dictionary defines resiliency as an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change. As a Utility Manager for a water and wastewater system, adjustment and change are daily occurrences. Utility Managers take many things into consideration when planning for changing operations including natural disasters, financial impacts of fluctuating usage, and balancing the desire for stable rates with increased maintenance needs. From weather patterns to fluctuating usage to community growth, the daily operations of a water and wastewater system have to be adaptive at all levels. Why? It's our job at the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) to ensure the end-users—all water and wastewater users—never have to think about it.

The area we live in is prone to natural disas-

ters such as hurricanes and flooding. Unfortunately, there is no sure fire way to protect utility assets against these disasters, but there are ways to mitigate negative effects. For example, SJRA Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) No. 1 is located next to Panther Branch on Sawdust Road. Parts of the facility are in the floodplain and without mitigation measures would flood when the creek rises. Many years ago, to mitigate this issue, an earthen levee was installed around the western side of the facility to keep the creek from flooding the plant. Since the levee was installed, the facility has not flooded. Other mitigation measures such as portable generators, spare parts, motors and pumps, in-house repair capabilities, and redundant equipment have assisted the division in maintaining water and wastewater services during these

events. These mitigation measures are put in place so when the need arises, staff can quickly restore or recover from natural disasters while avoiding a service disruption.

Weather patterns also have a great effect on water usage. Isolated storms that last a couple of days followed by warm, sunny days is the norm. Long periods of rain as seen between 2015 or more recently, September 2018 – February 2019, reduce water usage and in turn reduce the revenue into a water utility. Being a governmental entity, we have limited reserves to stabilize rates through multiple years of reduced demand caused by higher-than-normal rainfall. We utilize industry best practices and follow industry guidelines to maintain adequate reserves so rates do not fluctuate like a



Kevin Jones



Jacob Everett

rollercoaster from year to year, but these reserves are typically designed to maintain rates for a couple of years of wet weather. For SJRA Woodlands Division, this means we have a three-month operating reserve and an emergency reserve. The three-month operating reserve assists in maintaining cash flow during periods of wet weather and low water usage. This helps us maintain a steady maintenance and production cycle even when the demand is down. The emergency reserve acts in the opposite manner. This reserve is used only in major emergencies.

Fluctuating usage and community growth also affect service and resilience. When a community becomes built out and growth slows down, demands for water and wastewater services begin to level off and reach a point of more static demand. Over the last 40+ years, The Woodlands, Texas has been growing and expanding. This trend of growing is coming to a close as the available land in the Montgomery County portion of The Woodlands, Texas is developed. A static demand assists in planning efforts for long-term water supply and wastewater services, but it is not always good for financial reasons. The Woodlands area is, in utility terms, a "new" community. Generally, this means that the utility is less than 50 years old. This has pros and cons. The community has a healthy utility system, however the need



to replace its assets is increasing. In order to stay on top or slightly ahead of the replacement curve, the renewal of infrastructure such as water and wastewater lines, pumps, motors, concrete tanks, and basins needs to be a priority in order to keep the utility functional with no service disruptions. The renewal of assets takes time and money. Residents in a growing community oftentimes don't realize the costs of renewing assets as rates can sometimes hold steady since demand increases, however with a community that is not rapidly growing and demands have steadied, rate increases are needed to maintain the desired level of service and keep up with inflation rates. The balance between maintenance needs and rate increases is a delicate one that involves understanding priorities and the associated risk that sometimes comes with delaying projects.



**Bill Gibson**

What does this mean to you? This means that every day the employees of the SJRA Woodlands Division conduct tasks to ensure drinking water is clean and within regulations and that wastewater flows away without you having to think about it. This also means that during long-term planning efforts and budget cycles we evaluate needs, priorities, and community impacts balancing these items for the benefit of the entire community. Our goal is to keep rates as low as possible while maintaining the quality and consistency that our customers desire.

One of the major river authorities in Texas, SJRA's mission is to develop, conserve, and protect the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin. Covering all or part of seven counties, the organization's jurisdiction includes the entire San Jacinto River watershed, excluding Harris County. If you would like to know more about SJRA, what we do, and how we work for the community, check out our website at [www.sjra.net](http://www.sjra.net), like SJRA on Facebook @SanJacintoRiverAuthority, or follow us on Twitter @SJRA\_1937. ♦

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# Online with Dock Line

## Snooze, Unfollow, or Unfriend?

*Hands up if you feel you never have enough hours in the day to get everything done?*

By: Dock Line Social Media Team

Hands up if you feel you never have enough hours in the day to get everything done? We're too busy in our daily lives to be distracted with constant interruptions. But this is what social media can do if we aren't careful. All those pings and pop-ups are continually demanding attention, dragging you away from what you should be doing. So how can you cut it all back?

### Facebook

Facebook can be a complete time suck – One of your friends posts about what she just had for dinner, and you feel the urge to click the like button. Then you decide to comment because she's recently commented on one of your posts. Suddenly, you begin to get a stream of notifications as everyone else does the same.

But you don't have to! For starters, you can opt-out of notifications right after you left your comment. There are three small dots – click them and find all of the options Facebook offers. Choose "Turn off Notifications". You will also find an "Unfollow" option. Only choose it if you don't care to see anything that particular friend posts. You can still visit her personal Facebook page and see how she is doing, but her updates won't appear on your feed.

When you unfollow someone – this isn't as severe as unfriending them but helps to cut back on the notification noise. They won't know they have been unfollowed by you. If you have friends who rant about politics or things you disagree with too often for example, use the unfollow option, so you don't see them in your News Feed but are still friends with them.

### Twitter

Twitter is a high-speed content platform, and that means notifications can sound like you have a slot machine in your pocket with all the pings. But you can filter notifications on the platform in

three ways:

- Quality filter – this turns off lower-quality content such as duplicate or automated tweets but not from people you have interacted with

- Mute notifications – you can turn this on for words or phrases you want to avoid seeing (like those political rants if that's not your thing)

- Advanced filters – these give you even greater control about what types of content appear and lets you fine-tune your notifications

You can also turn off notifications on your mobile in the 'Settings and Privacy' section.

### Instagram

One of the biggest attention-grabbers on Instagram are push notifications when someone likes or comments on your post. But you don't have to have these turned on. You can decide to check these comments when the timing suits you. Go to your profile and tap the three-line hamburger menu then the Settings icon. Go to notifications and adjust the settings.

You can also turn notifications on or off for someone you follow by going to their profile then Following > Notifications. Turn it off, and you won't get notified when they post something new. But you will still follow them and can check their profile any time you like!

Update- Instagram recently began rolling out a test to hide likes on posts in 7 countries. It's unclear at this time whether it will also eliminate the "like" notification but it probably will. The owner

of the account will be able to see likes but the followers will not.

If you have any questions about this article or would like additional tips and tricks or information. Don't hesitate to contact us at [social@docklinemagazine.com](mailto:social@docklinemagazine.com)! ♦



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## Winter Flocks - The Boys are Back In Town!

This is the time of year when outdoor activities slow down for us people. Planting is over until spring, lawns quit growing and mowing stops. Nights are longer, days are shorter, and the cold winds hustle us humans inside. And a large number of our land birds head further south for winter. Yet this is the season when thousands of water birds from the north fly down to our region, join up in large flocks, and settle into the lakes and rivers of East Texas.

Although some of these same birds are here in small numbers during the summer, in winter cormorants, white pelicans, gulls, and terns all come to the local waterways in enormous numbers. Each flock is like a giant bird party with nonstop gabbing, socializing, squabbling, and feeding.

Cormorants come in by the thousands! Some people cringe because these big goofy duck-like birds foul their docks and coves, and turn the trees white with droppings! But they are amazing underwater acrobats, chasing and catching fish while diving and swimming 30' below the surface. Although silent during the summer, in large winter flocks they grunt like pigs! It is an amazing sound!

Majestic American White Pelicans arrive by the hundreds, each devouring several pounds of fish per day. They paddle and fish on the lakes and rivers during the winter days, and during the evenings they usually roost in coves or down behind the reservoir dams, protected from the harsh north winds.

Forster's Terns are pert little scissor-tailed birds that love the open water. Sitting far out in the lake they hunt for small fish. Terns hunt by plunge-diving into the water, stunning and eating small surface fish. They smack into the water so hard it seems as if their bones would break!



*Pert little scissor-tailed Forster's Terns prefer the open water. During the winter months they display black feather patches that run from their eyes to ears.*



*The Boys Are Back In Town! Double-Crested and Neotropic Cormorants*

Gulls of all kinds swarm into the area for winter. Laughing Gulls, Bonaparte's Gulls and Ring-Billed Gulls are the most common. They mass together on sand bars or along protected shorelines. Terns often roost with them. During daytime the gulls flit about over the open water, swooping down on surface fish using a grab-and-go technique, or stealing other birds' catches.

When spring comes around and the cold weather breaks, these water lov-



*In winter pelicans and cormorants often swim and hunt together in great numbers.*





*American White Pelicans gather by the hundreds below the Lake Livingston Dam.*

ing flocks pick up and migrate to their various northern breeding grounds, leaving us behind until the next winter. Be aware that these birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act which makes it illegal to harass, possess or harm them, or their nests and eggs.

Learn more about the incredible nature in our area by joining a chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist organization. To find a chapter close to you, or to read about the state program, go online to [www.txmn.org](http://www.txmn.org). Volunteer and get involved! ♦



*Ring-bills, Laughing Gulls, and terns all flock together in the shallows around Wolf Creek Park.*



# A Time to Give Thanks For a Thanksgiving Pet



By: Ruby Cross, Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas, 501c3 (ASVT)

Thanksgiving is a special holiday that brings family and friends together to give thanks and enjoy the tradition of our ancestors. Not sure if any dogs and cats came over on the Mayflower, but assured they are abundant in most households. Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas placed many of these pets in their forever homes. We can be there for you!

Sometimes we have to ask, who is really getting rescued, the animals or us? Animals' love is unconditional and they are so eager to constantly demonstrate how much they adore us. As with any love that we are fortunate enough to receive, we must not take it for granted.

ASVT has been dedicated to helping abandoned animals of our community for 9 years. Every year we make new goals, every year we help more animals in need and every year we save hundreds of lives. The animals need us and we need you to help us help them.

Puppies and kittens arrive by the box fulls – innocent and hungry. Because they are small and cute, if they stay healthy, they usually have a good chance of being adopted quickly. Others unfortunately don't survive and there are always one or two that are left behind and spend the first 3 or 4 months of their life in a cubicle at a shelter waiting for that special person.

## Foster!

Fostering is an emotional rollercoaster helping these helpless animals but we are committed to them. ASVT animals are housed in foster homes where they can be socialized and learn to trust humans again. Fostering gives an animal a second chance and can be a wonderful life experience for the entire family. Fosters are the unsung heroes of rescue.

## Adopt!

Other ways we help our community animals is by educating youth, transport to other states with high adoption needs and pay for surgeries so they can have the opportunity to be cured and find a home. These are just a few of our adoptable pets.

Can you make one or two of them your Thanksgiving Pet?

*Reba, Mylie, Foxy and Roo*



These four tiny Chihuahuas were part of a seizure case and brought to Montgomery County Animal Shelter. Sadly they had to spend 30 days in quarantine while court decisions were made. ASVT took these four girls in and other rescues took in the remaining from the group. They are now in loving foster homes learning to trust humans again. They are needing and receiving lots of socialization. They will be ready for their forever families soon.



## Sniffer and Blackie

Sniffer and Blackie are two beautiful cats whose senior mom went to heaven and were left alone. They came to live with ASVT and need a quiet home. Then, they will become your favorite lap cats. They would like to be kept together. Oh, and if you happen to buy stock in catnip, they will be forever grateful.

Through the years that Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas (ASVT) has been helping community animals in need it is evident that heartfelt thanks are felt from both the animals res-



cued and the rescuers.

The RESCUE RIDERS event held on September 28 was a perfect example of our community supporting ASVT. Bettyann and Reuben Harp organized the 4th Annual Rescue Riders Fundraiser to benefit ASVT. The parade started at Froggy's Bar and Grill with a ride throughout the beautiful country of Coldsprings. The parade, escorted by Constable Sam Houston included Bikes and Jeeps. It was an amazing sight to see them ride for homeless animals with flags flying high.

It was a gift of thanks and giving all day long. Special thanks to Bettyann and Reuben Harp and friends for the months of tireless work in preparation for this event.

Rescue Riders will see a 5th Annual event to support the organizers passion to continue ASVT's spay/.neuters program.

Many pet parents want to share their Thanksgiving with the family pet. The best way to en-







sure that your pet will stay safe while enjoying Thanksgiving festivities is to make them their own Thanksgiving treats.

**Turkey breast (shredded)** – Every balanced meal includes some protein. Select turkey from the middle of the breast because it is least likely to have absorbed the fatty, salty brine and leave the skin off.

**Sweet potatoes** – Sweet potatoes are high in beta-carotene and fiber. Mash up some of the boiled sweet potatoes before any butter or spices are added.

**Carrots** – Carrots are low calorie and high in fiber and vitamin A. They are also high in sugar

though so you may want to skip them if your dog is diabetic.

**Green Beans** – Green beans are filling and low calorie.

**Cranberries** – Cranberries are a great source of antioxidants.

**Apple slices** – Apples are a sweet treat for your pup. Just make sure you have removed the seeds and skin.

**Pumpkin** – Pumpkin can help regulate your dog's digestive tract. Whether the pumpkin is steamed, baked, or canned make sure that nothing has been added to it.

Remember to keep the portion sizes small if you are using several different foods so you don't stuff your pet with foods their tummy is not used to.

#### HOW CAN YOU HELP US HELP THEM?

**ADOPT, SPONSOR, VOLUNTEER, FOSTER, DONATE!**

You can visit our website to sign up to volunteer and/or foster and donate using our DONATE button. Donations help us pay for medical expenses, food, supplies and transporting animals to areas with high adoption needs.

ASVT also sponsors a Spay/Neuter Program for community animals whose owners cannot afford to have their pets altered. This helps decrease the rise of community puppies and kittens that will end up in the shelters.

The accomplishments of ASVT would not be possible without partners like Wiesner Automotive, Empire Electric, Dock Line Magazine and so many more. ♦

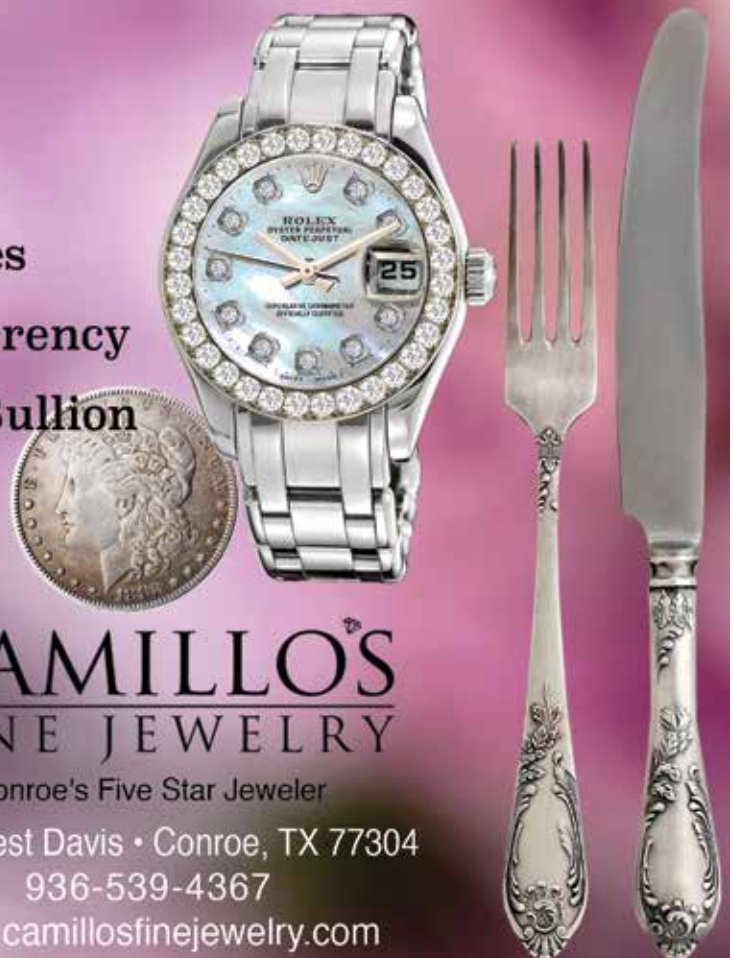
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# Fishing ADVENTURES

with Derek Pietsch



## 9-14-19 Practicing for FLW BFL Super Tournament

### Sam Rayburn – Prop Ear Shears Off

Trey and I went to Sam Rayburn to practice first for my FLW BFL Super Tournament coming up next week and second for the College Tournament to requalify for the Bassmaster National Championship again for next summer. We caught a few fish and were just getting started when we were running across the lake to find some more sports to fish when the boat sounded weird. It was making a funny noise and it did not sound good at all. We didn't know what it could be because we did not hit a thing. All we were doing was driving. I stopped the boat and pulled up the motor and we noticed the problem, a wing from the prop had sheared off. We'll guess what that means. No more fishing for us. I guess God sends us to where we are supposed to be and since I was practicing for the tournaments I was not going to get to go to my Papa's 90th Birthday lunch. I think he had other plans. Trey and I called to see if any of our friends were on the lake so we could be towed but we were far from the truck so instead I hitched a ride with another man that took me to my truck instead of towing the boat that distance. I drove the truck to the nearest ramp and Trey met me with the boat. We got home at midnight and borrowed a spare prop from Mr. Hooker because I was determined I needed to get the boat fixed and drive all the way back to Sam Rayburn to practice. It was another 2 ½ hours of driving one way. My dad and I could not get it to work on our boat. Like I said someone else thought I should be at Papa's NINETIETH BIRTHDAY.



I went to the party and was glad I was able to make it. My Papa was happy also. Both Grant and I were both there with him.

So, my new plan was to get my homework done and leave for the tournament Thursday night to go try to practice again after the prop comes in. The hurricane came up and they closed the school on Wednesday and Thursday so now I can get my work done before I go and have a head start and

can leave earlier and make up for the lost practice. Things always seem to work out how they are supposed to.

## 9-21-19 FLW BFL Cowboy Super Tournament Sam Rayburn

Today I fished the FLW BFL Cowboy Super Tournament at Sam Rayburn. This tournament you receive double points for the fish you catch to qualify for the Regionals. Doug is my co-angler that is fishing with me from Huntsville, Texas. We fished the lily pads with frogs. I lost a lot of big ones in the pads. Between 10-11 am I was flipping



bushes with a Texas Rig Rage Crawl and caught my limit of 5. I ended up in 54th place with 9 pounds. My partner zeroed. Was not a good day. I kept up my limit so I am standing in 24th in points out of 258 Pro Anglers. I will be going to the Regional Championship at Grand Lake in Oklahoma.

## 9-28-19 Outlaw Outdoors Qualifying Tournament for

### Bassmaster College National Championship

Today is a great day, partly sunny with clouds. The temperature is 75 degrees this morning but will warm up to a blazing 88 degrees.

This is the second year they are doing the



Qualifying Tournament for the Bassmaster National Championship. Last year Trey and I won it. They are doing two of these tournaments this year but only one winner from each tournament is qualified. Today there are 66 teams fishing. We are fishing on Sam Rayburn.

It was a nice calm morning and we were parked in the grass on the shoreline waiting for takeoff. The country music is playing and it's getting brighter as first light is approaching. Getting in my bag to get a little snack for breakfast. We really do not like to stop to eat when we are fishing. Yesterday we were on the fish. When we pre-fished we found a lot of fish up north deep and shallow. We sure hope all that works out for us today. Aaron and Drew are also representing Texas A&M Galveston in this tournament. My other friends Joe and Dillon are also here from their schools.

The tournament director says a prayer for all of the angler's safety fishing on the lake and then they play the national anthem. The tourna-



ment director calls out number 41 as we drive by Mr. Holloway is standing on the dock. He is the fishing coach from Schreiner University and said, "You boys need to come fish at Schreiner". I just smiled as we drove off to catch our fish.

Our first stop was at Five Fingers. We were fishing with a hollow body frog. I caught a 2 pounder in the first 10-15 minutes of fishing. Ten minutes later Trey has a 2-3 pounder blow up on a frog.

We left Five Fingers and went to our next spot, Veach. It was covered with thick lily pads. We frogged and nothing. NO BITES AT ALL.

No need in sticking around there so we headed to the Canyons. We saw about 40 teal and wood ducks. I am sure Trey was thinking about duck hunting since the fishing was not going so well at this point. We fished 2 brush piles in the first hour with NO LUCK, NO BITES AT ALL. We could not give up. We found fish at practice and they were big fish. We'll all of a sudden it picked up. Trey caught a 3 pounder on a Texas Rig ½ oz. with a Mister Twister 10" worm. Then I caught one. We caught our limit by 11 or 12. During that time we culled 3 times.

By 12 noon it got windy. The waves got huge, like 3 feet, by the time we got to the weigh in we were soaked. It took us 40 minutes to get in crawling over the waves.

Aaron and Drew came in before us and weighed in 5 fish weighing 16.32 pounds taking 6th place. Joe and Donzae came in 10th place with 14.64 pounds. We ended up coming in 17th place with 5 fish weighing 13.92 pounds. Not near as good as we had hoped. Still it is always great to be on the water fishing and enjoying the great outdoors with my great friend Trey. Thanks to our sponsors, Shipley Do-Nuts, Big D Marine, Strike King and Cast-A-Way that support us throughout the fishing season and make all this possible. **Throw It Out, Pop It In, Fish On! ♦**





# MISD Somerville Tournament

## "Opening Act"

Article by: Mark Hooker  
Photos Courtesy of: Debbie Pietsch

The MISD Fishing Team started their 2019-20 campaign out with an impressive victory at Lake Somerville. This was a

lara & Braydon Miller, weighing in limit of 5 bass for 9.73 pounds, claiming 13 place out of 144 Individual teams, from 23

Wedgeman shared that they caught their winning string in 5 foot or less, on medium sized crankbaits.



milestone for the program, as this was the first time in Six Seasons that the Team has been victorious at Lake Somerville, besting 22 other High School Programs.

Leading the way for the MISD Fishing Team were Braden Wales & Clay Wedgeman, with an impressive 5 fish limit of 15.68, securing this tandem with the Individual 1st Place. Following Wedgman & Wales, were Luke Overstreet & Parker Vela, who brought 5 of their own for 11.80, claiming 6th Place. Rounding out the Team's top 3, was the team of Will Col-

High Schools. Overall, the MISD FISHING TEAM finished as the 1st Place team, with an impressive combined weight of 37.21 pounds for our top 3 teams, easily outdistancing our closest competition by over 4 pounds.

Students for the Squad reported catching fish on a variety of different baits, patterns, and depths. Anything from moving baits to soft plastics were working, with the key of finding baitfish being paramount. If you found baitfish, you found bass. Our number one team of Wales &

All in all, the Team did an outstanding job of representing both Lake Creek and Montgomery High Schools, themselves, their Parents, and the Community as a whole. Members of the Team, plus Mrs. Toni Luedke and I, wanted to take this opportunity to Thank ALL of the Captains, Parents, and Sponsors, for making this venture possible.

The next tournament for the Team will be November 16th at Lake Sam Rayburn, where the MISD Fishing Team will look to continue their winning ways. ♦



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