

# DOCK LINE

Tomball

## MAGAZINE



March 2020



### Wiggins Furniture

Breaking the Mold  
How Wiggins Furniture  
Became Conroe's Favorite  
Furniture Store

See page 8



Excerpt from:  
**WHITE BASS FISHING IN  
CENTRAL TEXAS**

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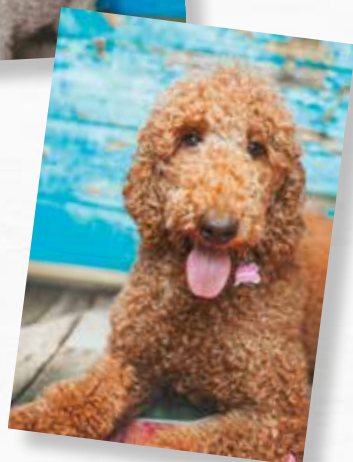
# DOCK LINE

Tomball

## MAGAZINE

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March has officially begun and with it brings a variety of community events, rodeo traditions, green holiday happenings and warmer weather. We are also up and running following the kick off of all our new products and services here at Dock Line Magazine. If you can imagine it, we can promote it. We would like to say a big thank you to all our friends, family, and business and community support we continue to receive as this new chapter unfolds. We hope you have an amazing March.

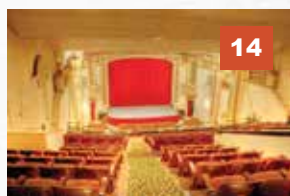
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*Bentley & Ellie* 

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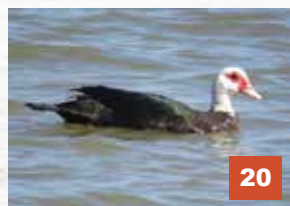
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Tomball

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### **International Friends of Tomball**

Date: March 7, 2020

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Where: Tomball Public Library (at Lone Star College Tomball) 1st Floor Meeting Room  
Share Culture - Grow Understanding and Build Community. For more information on this FREE event call Jena at 832-768-0590 or email Tomballfriends@gmail.com

### **Farmers Market Tomball**

When: March 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2020 – every Saturday

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Farmers Market Tomball at Main & S. Walnut - in the former TISD parking lot – Downtown Tomball. Tomball Farmers Market is a registered nonprofit and works as a cooperative effort of local families dedicated to providing the highest quality food and handmade products to our community. This market was created by farmers and is operated by farmers. We can only exist and attract more farmers through your continued support. Open rain or shine! For more information email tomballfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

### **2nd Saturday at The Depot**

Date: March 14, 2020

Time: Opens at 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. @ Rainout  
Location – (Community Center, 221 Market, Tomball, TX)

Where: The Train Depot, Downtown Tomball, 201 S. Elm St., Tomball, TX

Cost: FREE

Please bring your family to enjoy games, music, entertainment & a movie at dark! Contact Rosalie Dillon at 281-610-2595 for more information.

### **Honky Tonk Chili Challenge**

Date: March 21, 2020

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Where: The Train Depot, Downtown Tomball, 201 S. Elm St., Tomball, TX

Cost: Admission & Parking are FREE

The sound of two-steppin' tunes combined with the aroma of award winning Texas chili returns to Tomball for the 9th annual Honky Tonk Chili Challenge at the historic downtown railroad Depot Museum. The CASI sanctioned cook-off brings many of the State's top chili cooks to Tomball as they vie for the title of Best Chili in Tomball. Headlining the 2020 event is Lisa Layne, nationally known for her performances as Patsy Cline in Branson, Nashville and other cities across the country. In 2016 Lisa was awarded the Will Rogers Pure Country Female Vocalist of the year by the Academy of Western Artists. Most recently Lisa and her band have opened for Restless Heart, Bobby Flores as well as headlining at the Texas

State Fair. Vendors and kids zone too. Gates open at 11:00 a.m. with music beginning at noon.

### **19th Annual Tomball German Heritage Festival**

When: March 27 - 29, 2020

Time: March 27th – 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.;  
March 28th – 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.; March 29th – 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Where: Old Town Tomball, 201 S. Elm St., Tomball, TX 77375

FREE Admission, Parking & Shuttle - Shuttle parking is in the East lot of HCA Houston Healthcare Tomball with shuttle running continuously on Saturday & Sunday. HCA Houston Healthcare Tomball 605 Holderrieth Blvd., Tomball, TX  
The Tomball German Heritage Festival celebrates the culture and history of Germans in Texas. Filled with traditional games, foods, drinks and folk music, the festival is one of the most unique celebrations of German-American heritage. It features over 200 vendors of Germanic art, crafts, food, beer and wine. For children, the festival hosts pony rides, a petting zoo and special kid-friendly musical theater performances. Throughout each day of the festival, German, Czech and Scandinavian folk dancers and musicians perform for festivalgoers. Vendors come decked out in lederhosen and dirndls, and festivalgoers are encouraged to get in the spirit and wear traditional German attire as well. Visit [www.Tomball-GermanFest.org](http://www.Tomball-GermanFest.org). ♦

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# *Breaking the Mold*

## How Wiggins Furniture Became Conroe's Favorite Furniture Store



By: Brian Sherman





Walking into Wiggins Furniture, the view appears much like most large furniture stores. There are beautiful living room sets, dining room tables and bedroom sets throughout the store – every kind of style you could want in your Texas home. But thirty seconds into the expansive showroom any semblance of a typical furniture shopping experience disappears. You're greeted by a friendly welcome and a smile, and encouraged to take a look around and dream a little.

After all, furniture shopping, in general, captures the epitome of the "I'm just looking" approach by customers. Buying furniture is about visualizing and feeling. Most people wanting new furniture don't know exactly what they want until they see it, sit on it, feel it, and imagine what it looks like in a specific room in their home. They don't want to follow a sales person around. They want to feel at ease to look around and try things out.

Kim Wiggin's history in the furniture industry made her understand this better than anyone. In fact, 20 years ago Kim and James opened their furniture shop for that very reason. People aren't just customers. Their homes are their sanctuaries. The furniture reflects their family and lifestyle. So, it needs to last and be comfortable. It needs to be a soft place to land after a long day, a place to sit and be a family together, and a it's central part of what makes a house a home.

There are big name furniture stores that offer great selections of furniture, Kim says, but quality is often sacrificed for the sake

of volume and profit margins, and personal service is often lost in the process. Kim and James opened their store to be able to offer well-made, high-quality furniture that families could afford, enjoy, and have in their homes for years to come. They have built many great customer relationships over the last 20 years and look forward to the next generations to come.

#### More than a Couch

When asked what her favorite piece of furniture is in her own home, Kim Wiggins, without missing a beat, says one thing: "my sofa". She elaborates, "When you walk into a room, you want that wow piece...but you want it to be comfortable. My sofa, it's old.

I've had it for a long time, but I love it."

When asked why, she reminisces about growing up in a home with a single mom, along with her brother and sister. "Life was not always easy," she says. "My mother worked hard and money was often tight." Kim and her brother started working at 15 to help pay bills. When Kim later received her first big bonus at work, she bought her mom a new living room set. That experience left a lasting impression on both Kim and her mom. Many memories were made on that sofa, in that living room, in mom's house. Kim's mother has since passed, but

*Continued on page 10* ➞







the memories live on.

The furniture in our homes tells a story. They hold memories of love, laughter, growing up, good days and bad days. Wiggins Furniture seems to be built on that kind of foundation. The customers feel it in the ex-

perience at Wiggins. Perhaps it's the real reason that generations of families choose to buy their furniture from Wiggins, and only Wiggins.

Most stores have grown too big for the owner to hang out and help. Kimberly and

James Wiggins, however, are an exception to the rule. As the store has grown over the years, they are always there. In fact, they carry an intimate knowledge of the furniture they choose to sell. Walk in and point to any piece in the store and they will tell you who makes it, how it's made and what it's made of. Matt Johnson has worked in sales at Wiggins Furniture with Kim and James for 14 years now and too knows every piece of furniture and its history. Working at Wiggins is a family atmosphere, not only for the customers, but for the employees also.

### The Three Rules of Business *Wiggins Edition*

So, what's the real difference? Why has Wiggins flourished in Conroe for 20 years? Well, according to Kim, they have three rules they live by that all of their success can be attributed to:

**1. *Treat people the way you want to be treated.***

This is why Wiggins doesn't hound customers with sales people. They want people to love what they get, not just in the moment at the store, but when they get home and in the days, weeks, and months that follow. "I want them to be proud of what they







purchase, not feel like they got pushed into something" says Kim. So, they put themselves in their customers' shoes, listen to their needs and make sure they will be happy with the choices made.

**2. *Don't sell anything that you wouldn't buy (and love) yourself.***

"I won't buy anything and put it in my store that I wouldn't put in my own home," says Kim. "If the quality isn't good enough for my home, I'm not going to sell it to someone else." A good follow-up rule to treating others the way you want to be treated is this one. Treat others' homes the way you would your own. A great way to make your customers feel like family is to treat them like they already are.

**3. *Help the customer make the best decision for themselves.***

Good business is more about educating customers than just making a sale. Kimberly mentions a scenario in which a customer is asking why two recliners are priced so differently. "I'll flip it over and explain how one is constructed vs. the other one's construction. This one is about a five-year recliner and this one is about a 10-15 year recliner." Educating the customer on the quality and makeup is so important. Even more impor-

tant, however, is helping the customer understand how often the furniture will be used in their own home and by whom.

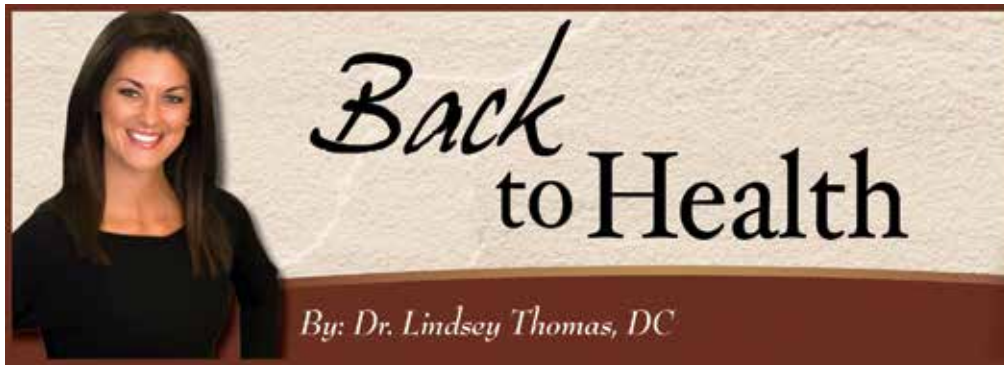
At Wiggins, no piece of furniture in the store is there for the sake of just making a profit. It's there to create memories in someone's life, to be a welcome place to land at the end of a long day, and to turn some-

one's house into a home they are proud to come home to.

Wiggins Furniture is open Monday – Friday 10:00AM – 6:30PM and on Saturdays, 10:00AM – 5:00PM. They are located at 5459 W Davis St in Conroe. Learn more about them online and view some of their furniture selection at [www.wigginsfurniture.net](http://www.wigginsfurniture.net). ♦







## Sniffling, Sneezing and Wheezing: Avoiding Those Springtime Allergies

Springtime is here and many of us are probably noticing that we are starting to sniffle and sneeze a little more often. We have pollen to thank for that. Tree pollination is in full swing during the springtime months. When pollen gets into the noses of certain people, it triggers the runny nose, itchy eyes, and other allergy symptoms.

Air pollution can make allergy symptoms worse. One of the most common pollutants is ozone, which is created in the atmosphere by a combination of sunlight,



nitrogen oxide, and hydrocarbons from burning fuel. Clouds of ozone are created around some cities as the sunlight becomes stronger.

Inside, molds love damp areas, including the basement and bathrooms. Their spores get into the air and can cause problems for allergy sufferers.

Dust mites, tiny insects, thrive in warm, humid temperatures and nest in beds, fabric, and carpets. Their residue can get into the air, triggering sneezes, wheezes, itchy skin and runny noses.

In a healthy person, when the immune system is stressed by being exposed to these environmental triggers, chemicals are released that produce inflammation. These chemicals are made by immune cells that migrate to the site where the body is compromised. By the end of the inflammatory process another group of immune cells begins to produce chemicals that have anti-inflammatory properties. These anti-inflammatory chemicals help in calming the area of inflammation. As a

result, the symptoms of inflammation begin to resolve. The body, in the ideal situation, is genetically programmed to heal itself.

These symptoms become a chronic occurrence when your immune system is not functioning at 100%. Here are some tips to keep you healthy throughout the springtime months.

### Chiropractic Care

Since chiropractic deals directly with allowing the nervous system to function at its highest ability, chiropractic care for an individual with allergies can be extremely beneficial. It is a safe, effective, and natural form of care.

It's most important to understand that chiropractic is not a treatment for allergies. Its purpose is to reduce stress on the body. Stress interferes with the proper functioning of the nervous system, can weaken the immune system, lower resistance and reduce the body's ability to heal effectively.

The chiropractic adjustment frees the ner-

vous system from spinal stress allowing the immune system to function properly. This allows you to respond to internal and external environmental stresses more efficiently.

The adjustment is very gently and customized to each patient's needs. At Sandstone Chiropractic, we offer a variety of adjustment techniques to best fit the patient.

### DIET

Clean up the diet by removing simple sugars. Sugar, like salt, is dehydrating to the body. Dehydration increases histamine levels. Histamine is another pro-inflammatory chemical that can worsen symptoms. Water helps reduce histamine levels. Approximately, seventy percent of our body is made up of water. Make sure you drink water as your main beverage and stay well hydrated.

Remove unhealthy fats. These include partially hydrogenated oils, margarine, vegetable shortening and cooking oils such as corn, vegetable, safflower and sunflower oils. Use olive oil, organic butter, grape seed oil, coconut oil and cold pressed oils for cooking. You can also supplement your diet with good quality fish oil.

Eliminate the dyes, preservatives, food colorings, artificial sweeteners and additives found in most foods. Even pay attention to the color of your toothpaste and deodorant.

Of course, we all have those urges to eat ice cream, chips, candy, etc. That's why I recommend the 80/20 rule. 80% of the time stick with a diet that is filled with whole foods (i.e. vegetables, legumes, meat, chicken, fish, fruit) and the other 20% of the time satisfy your craving!

If you find that you keep having the same allergic response or the response intensifies even after eliminating all inflammatory factors, further allergy testing may be necessary to identify the source.

Sandstone Chiropractic provides comprehensive allergy testing for all ages. Please contact our office for more information regarding these tests. ♦





# Taking Dominion of your Finances: Smart Money Moves



Cynthia Daly moved to Houston, TX from the Washington, DC area in 2011. She is originally from Charleston, SC (ranked the #1 tourist destination for 2019)! She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Carolina and her MBA in Finance from Argosy University. Cynthia is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Currently, she is the Director of Internal Audit at People'sTrust Federal Credit Union in downtown Houston.

She served our country for 28 years in the US Army in the field of communications and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Cynthia always had a keen interest about finances and wealth. She decided 35 years ago to educate herself through reading many financial books, magazines, blogs and newspapers. She also attended financial seminars and watched and listened to other successful financial experts such as Melody Hobson, Jean Chatzsky, Suze Orman, Michelle Singletary, David Bach, and Warren Buffet to name a few.

Cynthia was first certified as a financial counselor in 2009 and taught financial education for the University of Virginia Cooperative Education Department from 2009 - 2011. After relocating to Houston, she developed her own financial education program to primarily educate women and children about smart money decisions. She founded the C.A.N. Foundation in 2018 to promote financial literacy within our commu-

nities and she teaches a six-week course twice a year at the Tracy Gee Community Center.

Also, Cynthia is a licensed life, health and accident insurance agent. She is currently studying for her series 6 licenses in securities to further help those who are ready to take dominion over their finances. Her motto is "Bring Wall Street to Main Street."

In her free time, she volunteers with the Financial Ministry at Lakewood Church, enjoys traveling, mentoring and coaching others to be rich in mind, attitude and spirit.

## About Cy-Fair Express Network (CYFEN)

Now over 60 members strong, Cy-Fair Express Network's vision is to be a community and national leader for the support of professional women by providing a nurturing environment for business development, networking, education and mentoring. Our members have opportunities to pursue excellence and achieve both local and national

recognition. CYFEN is part of the national organization of American Business Women's Association (ABWA), for more information go to [www.CYFEN.org](http://www.CYFEN.org).

## About American Business Women's Association (ABWA)

Founded in 1949, ABWA provides business training and networking opportunities for women of diverse occupations and backgrounds. ABWA has dedicated 60 years to women's education, workplace skills and career development training. For more information, visit, [www.abwa.org](http://www.abwa.org). ♦

### Luncheon Details

Thursday, March 26th 2020

Networking 11:00 am; Luncheon begins at 11:30 am

\*NEW LOCATION: Longwood Golf Club,  
13300 Longwood Trace, Cypress, TX  
77429

Costs \$30 with advanced reservations;  
\$35 at the door

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# STAGE RIGHT OF TEXAS

## Abundant Entertainment on the Horizon!

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong

STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crichton Theatre has 2 more shows left in their current season and has recently announced their upcoming 2020-2021 season. Left in the 2019-2019 Season of Possibilities are *M\*A\*S\*H* in April and *Peter Pan* in July.



### M\*A\*S\*H

Adapted by Tim Kelly

From the book by Richard Hooker

Directed by Meredith Anne Gaines

Performance Dates: April 10 – 26, 2020

M\*A\*S\*H stands for Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, and joining it are two unpredictable madcaps, Hawkeye and Duke. They can't be dealt with casually, however, because they are also two of the best chest surgeons in South Korea. They decide to wage a campaign to get a young Korean to the United States and entered in a good school. Along the way, Hawkeye has an encounter with a woman psychiatrist who believes he's been trying to lobster-trap mermaids in a rice paddy! There's a jolly visit with the daffy Bonwit sisters, the worst tap-dancing act the U.S.O. ever sent overseas. A sergeant is selling dumb GIs fishing rights in the Bay of Phum. Radar O'Reilly, a soldier with incredible hearing, anticipates things before they happen. The proprietor of a painless dental clinic is cured of dark moods by the recreation of an old monster movie—and a monster! It's all here, including a little romance mixed in with dramatic moments and a genuine love of life. Oh, yes—the Korean boy does get his education in the United States.



### Peter Pan

Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh

Music by Morris "Moose" Charlap

Additional Lyrics by Betty Comden Adolph Green

Additional Music by Jule Styne

Based on the play by Sir J. M. Barrie

Directed by Sara Preisler

Performances: July 10-26, 2020

Auditions: Apr 19-20, 2020 (tentative)

Based on J.M. Barrie's classic tale and featuring an unforgettable score by Morris "Moose" Charlap and Jule Styne with lyrics by Carolyn Leigh and Betty Comden and Adolph Green, *Peter Pan* is one of the most beloved and frequently performed family favorites of all time. This high-flying Tony Award-winning musical has been performed around the world and delighted audiences for 60 years.

Peter and his mischievous fairy sidekick, Tinkerbell, visit the nursery of the Darling children late one night and, with a sprinkle of pixie dust, begin a magical journey across the stars that none of them will ever forget. In the adventure of a lifetime, the travelers come face to face with a ticking crocodile, a fierce Indian tribe, a band of bungling pirates and, of course, the villainous Captain Hook. Featuring the iconic songs, "I'm Flying," "I've Gotta Crow," "I Won't Grow Up" and "Never Never Land," and a rousing book full of magic, warmth and adventure, *Peter Pan* is the perfect show for the child in all of us... who dreamed of soaring high and never growing up.

And announcing our 2020-2021 Season of Screen to Stage....



Sept 11 – 27, 2020

The Odd Couple by Neil Simon

The story of two divorced men — neurotic neat-freak Felix Ungar and fun-loving slob Oscar Madison — who decide to live together. Can two divorced men live together without driving each other crazy?



Oct 23- Nov 8, 2020

Nunsense by Dan Goggin

The Little Sisters of Hoboken discover that their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, has accidentally poisoned 52 of the sisters, and they are in dire need of funds for the burials. The 5 remaining sisters decide that the best way to raise the money is to put on a variety show with riotous results.



Dec 4 – 20, 2020

Elf-The Musical

Based on the motion picture of the same name, with a score by Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin. The book is adapted by Bob Martin and Thomas Meehan from the 2003 film.



Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father, discover his true identity, and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

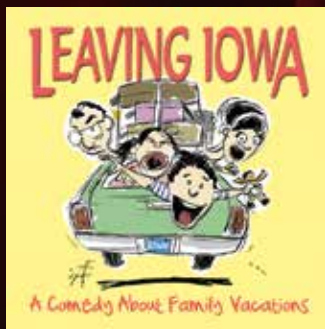


Feb 12-28, 2021

Funny Girl

Book by Isobel Lennart, music by Jule Styne, and lyrics by Bob Merrill.

A musical theatre classic which celebrates the exuberant and elegant flavor of Broadway in the 1910s and 20s and the comic genius of Fanny Brice. Featuring such beloved songs as "People", "Don't Rain on My Parade", and "Sadie, Sadie."

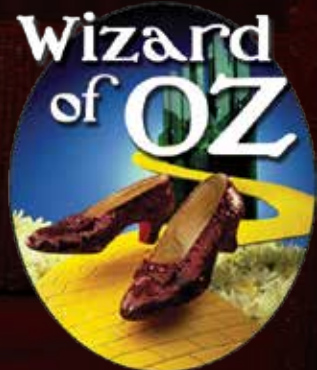


Apr 9-25, 2021

Leaving Iowa

A Comedy about Family Vacations by Tim Clue and Spike Manton

Hilarious and poignant. A show suitable for ages 10 to 110, "Leaving Iowa" is a postcard to anyone who has ever found themselves driving alone on a road, revisiting fond memories of their youth. A celebration of the dreaded and beloved 'family vacation.'



Jul 9-25, 2021

The Wizard of Oz

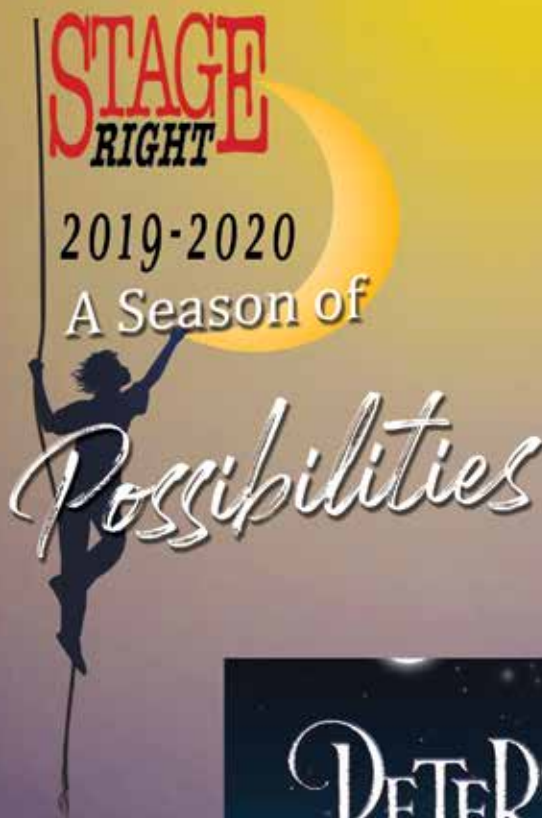
(RSC version 1987) by L. Frank Baum adapted by John Kane from the motion picture screenplay for the Royal Shakespeare

Company. With music and lyrics from the MGM motion picture score by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg, Background music by Herbert Stothart

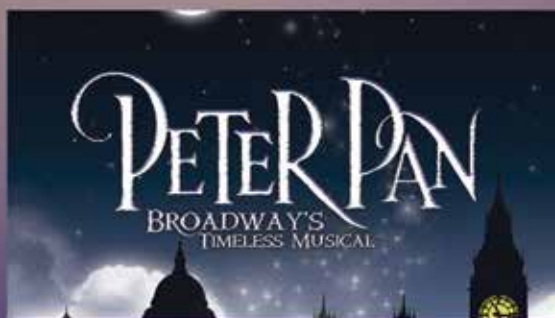
Dorothy lives on a farm in Kansas until a cyclone arrives, and picks her, her house, and her dog Toto up and deposits them in the land of Oz. There with the aid of the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion she travels to Oz so the Wizard may send her home again, because there's no place like home.

Single tickets to our remaining shows this season can be purchased online at [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org) or by calling the Crighton box office. Season Tickets for our up-

coming season can be purchased by calling the Crighton Theatre box office at 936-441-7469. All 6 shows are only \$125. Season tickets are your best investment if you intend to attend multiple shows in our fantastic line-up. In addition to your tickets for each show, we also provide one Friends Ticket for each season package purchased. That way you can invite a friend to join you to see one show during the season for free. Your seats will be reserved for the next season, your name will be in every playbill and you can always change the date of attendance for free! We hope you'll consider joining us for our lucky 13th Season at the historic Crighton Theatre! ♦



April 10 - 26, 2020



July 10-26, 2020

All performances at the historic Crighton Theatre

Fridays & Saturdays 8 pm, Sundays 2 pm and a Saturday matinee on the final weekend

Tickets at 936-441-7469 or online at [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org)

Funded in part by The City of Conroe [visitconroe.com](http://visitconroe.com)



Excerpt from:

# WHITE BASS FISHING IN CENTRAL TEXAS

TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE

Written by Michael Tennant, Steve Magnelia, Craig Bonds, and John Tibbs  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries Management

The white bass, commonly referred to as “sand bass” or “sandies”, is an abundant and popular sportfish in Texas reservoirs. This is due to its willingness to bite artificial lures, schooling behavior, and outstanding quality as table fare. White bass provide anglers with exciting action throughout the year, but most notably during their annual spring spawning migration up river and stream tributaries. From January through April, large schools of white bass concentrate in the far upper ends or riverine sections of reservoirs making them more susceptible to anglers. The complete white bass angler understands the biology, migrational behavior, preferred habitat, appropriate fishing techniques and local “hot spots” for this popular species.

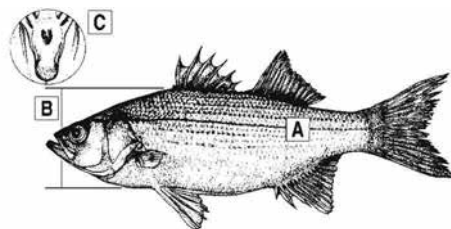
## IDENTIFICATION

The white bass is a silvery, spiny-rayed fish with several incomplete lines or stripes, which run horizontally on each side of the body. The head is fairly small and pointed, and the dorsal (back) fin is conspicuously double, separated into spiny and soft-rayed portions. The white bass can be easily confused with striped bass and hybrid striped bass (a cross between white and striped bass), which are other members of the temperate bass family. However, striped bass and hybrid striped bass grow much larger than white bass. Anglers must be adept at differentiating between them as they often coexist in the same reservoir. White bass can be distinguished from the others by the tooth patch on the tongue (one is present on white bass

whereas there are two on striped bass and hybrid striped bass). Striped bass and hybrid striped bass also have several distinct “stripes” that extend to the tail, while the white bass has only one stripe extending to the tail. Study the pictures below, including the detail of the tooth patches.

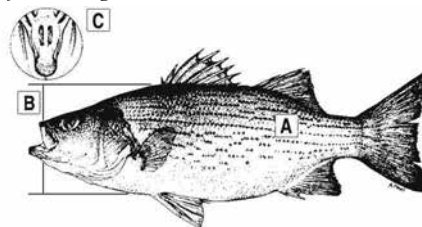
## WHITE BASS STRIPED and HYBRID STRIPED BASS

### White Bass



- A: Stripes faint, only one extends to tail.  
B: Body deep, more than 1/3 length.  
C: Has one tooth patch near the midline towards the back of the tongue.

### Hybrid Striped Bass



Also known as Palmetto or Sunshine bass.

A: Stripes distinct, usually broken, several extend to tail.

B: Body deep, more than 1/3 length.

C: Has two tooth patches near the midline towards the back of the tongue. Tooth patches may be distinct or close together.

*Note: For hybrids, all characteristics should be considered in combination, as characteristics in individual fish may vary.*

## LIFE HISTORY and BIOLOGY

White bass are migratory open-water fish. Most of their life is spent in the open-water portions of reservoirs chasing schools of small gizzard and threadfin shad. In late winter (December-January) schools of white bass migrate to the upper portion of reservoirs awaiting environmental cues signaling the start of the spawning migration up major tributaries. In February and March, they begin their spawning migration seeking clean gravel and rock substrate with good flow to spawn. Riffles and shoals are common spawning locations. How far white bass migrate is extremely variable, but it is not uncommon to find spawning white bass 25-50 miles above the reservoir. This may be related to river and stream flow, which varies among years. Fisheries biologists are unsure if adult white bass return to the same spawning spot each year, or if it is a random occurrence. After spawning, adult fish migrate back into the main body of the reservoir. The whole spawning migration is usually complete by sometime in May. Interestingly, “tributary”



spawning may not be inherent in all white bass. Some white bass may spend their entire lives in the main portion of reservoirs, spawning on wind-blown, rocky shoals instead of in major tributaries.

Of the three temperate basses found in Central Texas (white bass, striped bass and hybrid striped bass) only white bass successfully reproduce in significant numbers, although the other two species may also migrate up tributaries in the spring. Central Texas striped bass and hybrid



*Close-up of White Bass caught from the Sabine River*

striped bass populations are completely supported from stockings by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) fish hatcheries. White bass are not nest builders. Spawning takes place in mid-water. The female rises toward the surface enticing males to follow. Fertilized eggs drift to the bottom and adhere to gravel or rock. Eggs usually hatch within 2 to 3 days. The newly hatched fry migrate downstream in schools seeking food and protection. On many Central Texas reservoirs white bass grow rapidly, normally attaining a size of 9 to 10 inches in their first year of life and 12 inches by the end of the second. This is faster than the statewide average. The life expectancy of white bass is short and few reach 5 years old. Although no studies have specifically looked at sexual maturity of white bass in Central Texas, fisheries biologists think that males become sexually mature at age one (8-9 inches) and females at age two (12-13 inches). This would be similar to fast growing populations in Tennessee and Arkansas. No studies in the Southern United States found significant numbers of female white bass less than 10 inches that were reproductively mature. A white bass weighs approximately 0.5 pounds at 10 inches and 0.9 pounds at 12 inches.

## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT and FISHING REGULATIONS

White bass in Texas are currently managed with a statewide 10-inch minimum length and 25-fish daily bag limit. An experimental 12-inch minimum length limit was implemented on several Central Texas reservoirs between 1995 and 2003. The purpose of the experimental regulation was to test whether additional protection would delay harvest of immature female white bass and increase population abundance and average size of white bass. Evaluation of the 12-inch minimum length limit indicated this regulation failed to improve white bass populations in Central Texas Reservoirs. In addition to fast growth, a high level of angler harvest was required for this regulation to work. These requirements were based on computer generated models utilizing fisheries data

collected on these populations. Angler creel data collected by TPWD, suggest that harvest rates for white bass were likely below the threshold level needed for the greater length restriction to be effective. Other research conducted by TPWD, and supported by recent scientific literature, indicates white bass reproductive success is highly correlated with springtime reservoir inflows. In other words, higher than average spring inflows to reservoirs correspond with higher than average white bass spawning production and vice versa. Environmental conditions can play a large role in determining white bass densities.

TPWD will continue to monitor white bass populations and angler harvest rates to determine what length limit is best suited for these fisheries. If fishing pressure significantly increases in the future and harvest levels reach a critical point, TPWD will consider alternative regulations. Currently, alternative regulations are not warranted.

## SEASONAL FISHING PATTERNS

**Spring (March-May):** White bass will be in the rivers or major creek tributaries. A variety of artificial lures will work, but this is a good time for small jig fishing. Small, medium-running crank baits also work well. Trolling the river or creek channel with small crank baits is a good technique. Fishing early in the spring can be inconsistent, but if the bite is on you can have the day of a lifetime. Many old timers say, "when the redbuds (or dogwoods) are blooming the white bass are running". This old saying usually holds true. April and May can be the most consistent months as many white bass have finished spawning and are hungry as they migrate back to the reservoir. Spring is also a good time to try night fishing using lights. Floating or submersible crappie lights, which attract baitfish, work well for this. Flats at the mouths of major creeks, main-lake flats, and floating breakwaters near lighted marinas are consistent producers of white bass at this time.

**Summer (May-September):** May to early June is characterized by good schooling action for white bass. The mouths of major creeks and main-lake points are good areas to try. Look for birds chasing baitfish. The whites and stripers won't be far behind. Topwater lures, lipless crank baits, and small twister tail jigs cast into schools are good bets. Anglers might also try night fishing as described for spring, although this pattern often weakens as the water warms throughout May. As the water heats up, anglers should concentrate on main lake structure near deep water, or look for schooling fish at dawn or on cloudy days. In the heat of summer good marine electronics for finding the fish in deep water are vital to consistent success.

**Fall (September-November):** Early-fall fishing is much like summer. Keep looking for the schools with your electronics. As the water cools, white bass will begin feeding at the surface in earnest. Cloudy days with a little wind are the best. Concentrate on creek mouths and major points. October and November can be good for surface schooling. Look for stripers mixed in with whites.

**Winter (November-February):** The water is coldest this time of year. Two patterns are noteworthy. One is to locate schools in deep water on major structural elements such as river channel

ledges, humps, and tips of points. Vertically jigging spoons and tail spinners in these areas will produce some of the most consistent action of the year, if you can locate the fish. In January and February structure in the upper end of reservoirs near major tributaries is a good choice. A secondary pattern is night fishing around lighted boat docks and marinas in the main lake. Fishing from lighted dock to lighted dock casting a small twister tail jig into the light will produce consistent action, if you can stand the cold. Don't be surprised if you catch some nice stripers as well. January and February are two good months to try this pattern.

## PLACES TO GO

Some of the best white bass fishing in the spring can be done from the bank and while wading in the upper reaches of tributaries. County road maps available from the Texas Department of

Transportation, or "The Roads of Texas", Shearer Publishing, Fredericksburg, TX, (800-458-3808) are invaluable for locating some of the access points described. Always get permission from the landowner if you cross private land to enter a river or stream. Topographical reservoir maps are often available from controlling authorities or at retail fishing stores. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department maintains an internet web site which contains information on many fishing-related topics, including reservoir access, regulations, and fishing news, among many others. Check it out at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>.

For the full publication, visit: [https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd\\_br\\_t3200\\_0022e.pdf](https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_br_t3200_0022e.pdf).

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For more information on length and bag limits, check out the TPWD Outdoor Annual or download the app! <http://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/>

Information on where to fish in Texas public waters, including the Community Fishing Lakes, is available at <http://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/wheretofish/>. If you have any questions, please contact us at 979-272-1430 or by email at [niki.ragan@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:niki.ragan@tpwd.texas.gov) or [alice.best@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:alice.best@tpwd.texas.gov).

Follow TPWD's College Station-Houston Inland Fisheries office on Facebook and Instagram: [www.facebook.com/TPWInlandFisheriesCollegeStationHouston](https://www.facebook.com/TPWInlandFisheriesCollegeStationHouston) <https://www.instagram.com/fisherieshouston/> ♦



*Larry Hodge (retired TPWD) holding a Hybrid Striped Bass.*



# Online with Dock Line

## 6 Things Your Website Should Include

*If you want your website to convert more visitors to customers, it must have these features..*

If you own a business, your website should be working for you to consistently bring in new leads everyday. Most websites come with a hefty price tag and may look pretty, but they don't do much to grow a business. Very few people see the website, much less know what to do when they do see it. Worst of all, the message is unclear.

Can you relate? Are you consistently getting new customers through your website?

At Dock Line, we've built hundreds of websites for small businesses to help them grow their business online. No matter what industry you're in, there are six things that we've suggested most often when designing a highly profitable business website.

Incorporate these six components in your website and you'll get more visitors, more sales, and more fans of your business. You'll stop losing to your competition.

### 1. Your business website should include a 3-second headline.

When someone visits your website they should understand what you do in 3 seconds or less. People make instant subconscious decisions about you and your brand when they visit your website. If you confuse, you lose. Your website headline needs to clearly tell the reader what you do and how it helps them.

To help you clarify your main headline (the company's tagline), use this formula to get started.

\_\_\_\_\_ to help you \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_.

= (Main service you provide) to help you (Result of your service) your (Thing your service benefits).

Example: Landscaping services to help you manage your lawn.

Here are a couple of guidelines to follow when developing your main tagline.

Don't:

- Don't use insider lingo.
- Don't be too vague.
- Don't be long winded.

Do:

- Use language anybody will understand.
- Be specific.
- Be concise.

### 2. Your business website should include a clear call-to-action.

If possible, give visitors only one call to action on each page of your website. If your main objective is to get them on the phone, make that the only option. You may also offer a lead generator as a call-to-action. Make sure it points people to your main call-to-action. Make your call-to-action specific and straight to the point.

What is it you want the website visitor to do? Do you want them to book a call with you? Do you want them to buy your product? Be up front and direct. Also, make the call-to-action obvious – put it just under the header of your website, and in the top right of the main menu.

- Bad CTA's: "Learn More" "Get Started"
- Good CTA's: "Call Now" "Buy Now"

### 3. Your business website should include a "Success Header Image".

The header background at the top of your home page is prime real estate. It is where your 3-second headline goes and it is the first thing people see when they visit your website. Your header image gives people their first impression of your business, so it needs to imply success.

Use an image that shows the success of your product. It doesn't have to be an actual photo of your product or even a real customer of yours. You can use a stock image if you want, as long as it conveys a message of success, as if someone used your product or service and achieved their desired goal because of it. Images with people work best, especially if they are happy and smiling.

### 4. Your business website should include search engine optimization.

What's the use of having an amazing website if no one sees it? Search Engine Optimization (SEO) works to get your website higher in the rankings on search engines like Google.

Nearly everyone begins a search for a product or service online. With SEO you can use Google to your advantage and get more visitors to your website by showing up on the first page of search results. How to start implementing SEO:

- Use strategic keywords in your writing based on what people type into Google to find the services you offer.
- Optimize your website so that it loads quickly and looks good on any device (See "Mobile Optimization" below).



- Put engaging content like video on your website.
  - Invest in good technical SEO (Back-end website optimization).
- SEO stats you need to know:
- 93% of online experiences begin with a search engine.
  - 81% of people perform some type of online research before making a large purchase.
  - Google currently holds over 80% of total search engine market share.
  - 75% of people never scroll past the first page of search engines.
  - Leads from search engines have a 14.6% close rate, while out-bound leads (ex. cold-calling, direct mail, etc.) have a 1.7% close rate.

#### 5. Your business website should include responsive design.

52.2 percent of all website traffic worldwide is generated through mobile phones.

Simply put, more people are searching online using their mobile devices compared to desktop computers and the gap is widening each year. This means your website needs to be optimized to look good on any device, especially mobile phones.

If you have a website, pull it up on your phone now and see how it looks. You can also open your website on a desktop and click and drag the web browser to make it thinner. You can see how the appearance changes to match the screen size...or not.

If your website doesn't adjust to various screen sizes it becomes difficult to navigate and read. You can make it more mobile responsive by doing the following:

- Rebuild using a responsive website design template.
- Eliminate the use of popups.
- Make buttons and links large.
- Optimize for fast page load.

It's worth investing in an experienced web designer who can optimize your site to be mobile responsive.

#### 6. Your business website should include sales oriented copywriting.

Not only should your website look good, it also needs to compel people to buy your product or service. As Donald Miller, CEO of Storybrand, says,

"Pretty websites don't sell things. Words sell things."

When we talk about sales-oriented copywriting, we simply mean this: Don't talk about yourself. Talk about your customer.

As hard as it might be to hear, people don't care about how long you've been in business, what your mission statement is, or the whole backstory about how you started your business. What they do care about is how you can help them and if you understand their pain.

It's also important to remember that you only have a few seconds to grab someone's attention and persuade them to keep reading or not. Good sales copy will keep the reader's attention and carry them through your desired process toward a sale.

Answer these questions in your copywriting:

- Who is your ideal buyer?
- What problem do they face?
- What kind of life are they aspiring to that the problem is hindering?
- How can you solve their problem?
- What bad thing will happen if they don't solve their problem?
- What will their life be like when you solve their problem?
- What simple plan can people follow to solve their problem?
- How can they get started right now solving their problem?

So, how does your website fare in relation to these essential components? Can you see areas where you can improve right away by implementing some of these? Maybe, you have a website that is outdated, or just doesn't do anything to grow your business. Or worse, maybe you don't have a website at all. If you'd like some help getting a website that you are proud of and one that works every day to grow your business, we can help.

Dock Line now offers professional web design, along with digital marketing services like SEO and social media marketing. If you need a new website for your business, let us help you out. Give us a call today, or just send an email to [info@docklinemagazine.com](mailto:info@docklinemagazine.com). ♦

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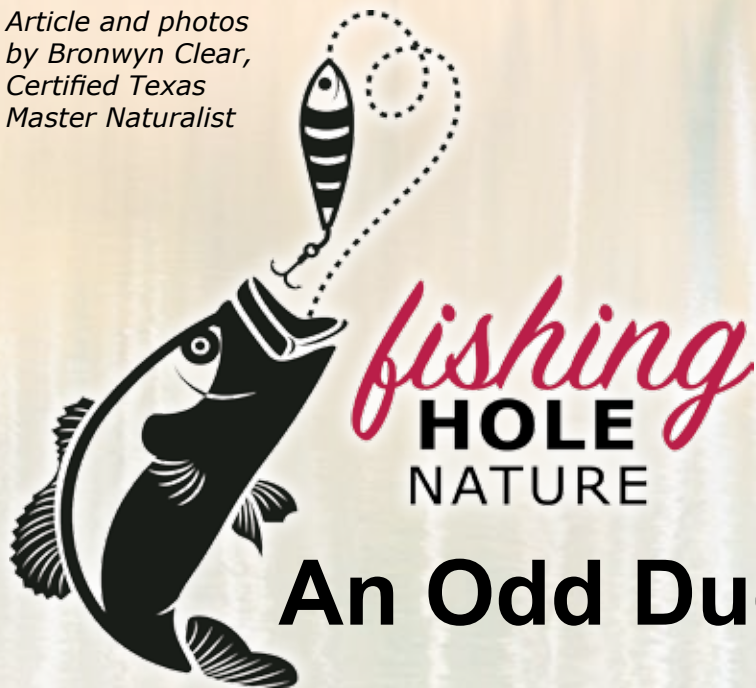


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*When alarmed, muscovies hiss and raise their head crests.*

## An Odd Duck – The Muscovy

What's not to love about ducks! They quack, they waddle, and oh those feet! From the domesticated "Donald" varieties to the wild varieties, they make people smile.

Have you heard someone shout "DUCK!" when a ball sails past your head? Have you ever



*A watchful family. The green tinted feathers are remnant colors from a native population.*

wondered about that command? It comes from way back in the past because of the duck-raptor predator-prey relationship. When a swimming duck realizes an eagle is about to drop out of the sky to make him a meal, a smart duck's maneuver is to plunge entirely under the water. The eagle keeps dive-bombing, and the duck keeps "ducking". Sooner or later the duck wins, or the eagle does, but don't count the duck out!

There are so many duck phrases - "Sitting duck", "Water off a duck's back", "Like a duck to water", "Lame duck", "Duck soup", "Ducks in a row", "Dead duck", "Ugly Duckling", "Duck, Duck, Goose!". And don't forget about Daffy and Donald. Yes, ducks are endearing, and ingrained in our American culture, history, food supply, and language.

Floating near the banks is the ever-present iridescent green headed Mallard, or the ornately detailed Wood Duck. But these days some odd ducks have also been paddling along our lakes and ponds, and they are Muscovy Ducks. A male drake can be as big as a goose at 15 pounds, and they have red facial ornamentations called caruncles, somewhat like those on a turkey! Muscovies also have a feather crest on their heads that they raise and lower at will. They are considered to be one

of the more intelligent ducks, and they don't scare easily. If you get near one, he might just stand his ground and hiss at you!

Muscovies originated in regions south of the border, and have been expanding to areas inside the States. They are dabbling ducks and eat plants, small fish, bugs, and frogs. Unlike other ducks they don't quack so much as trill or giggle, but like many ducks they hiss when something threatens their territory. Although they spend their days on the water, the Muscovy roosts on land in the safety of tree cavities or shrubs, or they use their webbed claws to dig out shallow nest holes in the ground. Domesticated Muscovies are raised by farmers and duck lovers for meat and eggs, poultry show contests, and for pets. Some are bred for their spectacular colors - pied white and black, pastel, blue, lavender, red and speckled! This makes for a very striking bird indeed. People who raise them really love their personalities and antics. They might jump into the air to eat bugs, or chase and catch mice on the farm! To other communities they are



*These large ducks have bright red ornamental facial wattles, also called caruncles.*



*With a weight up to 15 pounds the Muscovy drake is as big as a goose.*

major pests and allowed to be destroyed. Florida's feral populations have grown to enormous numbers, passing disease to other ducks, breeding with native ducks, taking over neighborhood ponds and leaving huge fecal messes for landowners.

The regulations regarding these migrating ducks are somewhat confusing, possibly because they are both loved and hated. A few years ago they were added to the US protected species list when indigenous populations were found in a few Texas counties along the Rio Grande. However, due to the explosion of feral populations in unexpected areas, the US Fish and Wildlife Service calls them a problematic invasive species. What is clear is that these ducks are flourishing, and we are seeing more and more of them on our waterways.

Learn more about the nature in your 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! ♦



*A pied black & white Muscovy.*



*Muscovies come in many colors – including dappled grays and pastels*





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# Songbird and Raptor Nesting; Does That Baby Bird Need Help?

By: Lisa Wolling, Executive Director

Spring is once again in the air, and baby animals and baby birds will soon be all around us. Understanding natural behavior is important as it can save wildlife lives. Sometimes well-meaning individuals think they are helping or saving baby animals from harm when, in fact, they are taking healthy babies away from their wild parents. Understanding the natural behavior about how baby birds grow and leave the nest can help to prevent them from being needlessly kidnapped.

Some of the large birds of prey in our area, such as eagles and great horned owls, begin nesting as early as December/January, so chicks may hatch out by January/February. The largest raptors nest earlier and then the smaller raptors nest later into the spring and early summer. Songbirds begin choosing nesting sites as early as February and may begin laying eggs in March. This means there are several times throughout the year when baby birds will be hatched and raised, with baby birds leaving their nests sporadically throughout the warmer months.

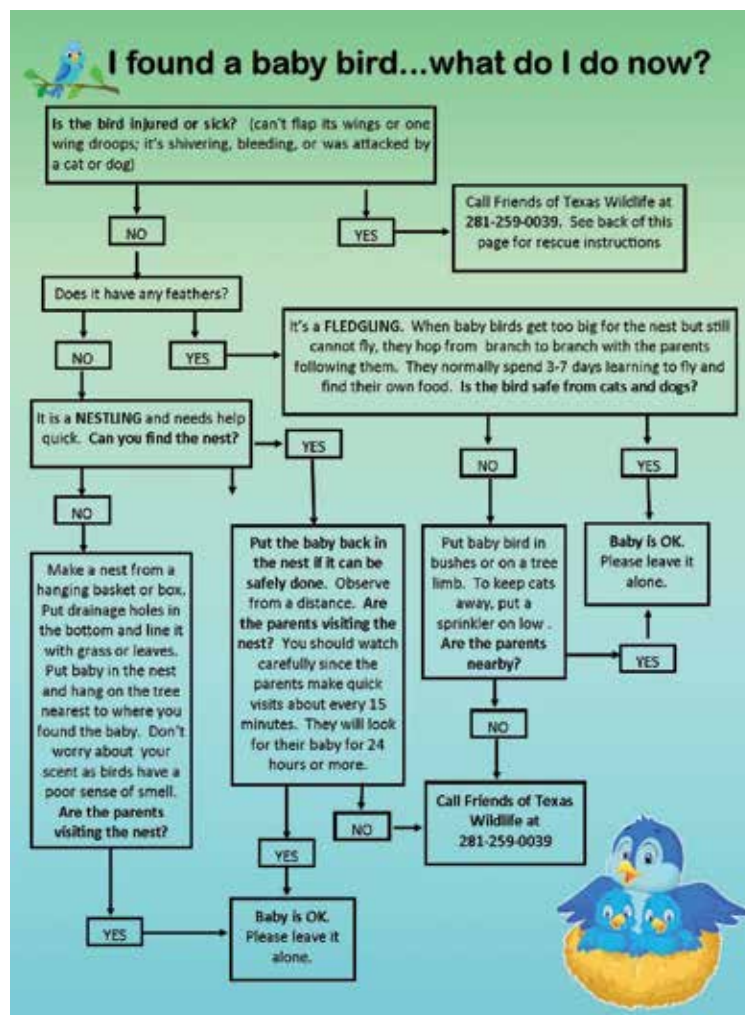
Raptors (hawks and owls) are typically born anywhere from January through May. Generally, the larger the bird the earlier in the year they are born. By May, many of the early arrivals are beginning to leave their nests. Similar to songbirds, when raptors first leave the nest, they cannot fly well yet. They are called "branchers" at this age and sometimes they wind up on the ground inadvertently. If they have feathers as opposed to down and they are in a safe location, they should be left alone. Their parents will still attend to them while they learn to fly. If you are not certain whether a baby owl or hawk may need help, please call us for assistance. Sometimes even younger birds that have fallen from nests can be "re-nested" in a large basket so their parents can continue to care for them.

Songbirds are busy nesting in spring and summer, and some birds will even raise two or three broods each season. Hatchling birds have no feathers. Nestling birds have fuzzy down feathers and/or are just beginning to have pin feathers emerge (it looks like they have toothpicks sticking out of them). If either a hatchling or nestling has fallen from a nest, it does need help. If you can place it back in the nest, that is the best thing to do (it is an old wives' tale that touching the baby will cause the parents to reject it). If the nest has been destroyed or cannot be located, take a small basket or bowl (like a margarine container), punch some holes in the bottom, and line it with pine needles, leaves, or straw. Tack the nest on the tree closest to where you found the baby and watch for at least a couple of hours to see if the parents come back to feed. Fledgling baby birds are fully feathered and have about one inch of tail feathers. They leave the nest TO learn how to fly, not WHEN they can fly. It is normal for them to hop from branch to branch or even wind up on the ground. The parents will still tend to them while they learn to fly. If they are in danger from domestic pets or not in a safe spot, it is ok to pick them up and place them in a nearby bush or low tree. This is the most dangerous time for baby birds, but they just need a day or two before they can fly quite well. If possible, keep cats indoors if you notice fledgling birds in your area.

Friends of Texas Wildlife will be having an Open House on Saturday, March 21 from 11 am to 3 pm. At this open house, we will have many interesting educational displays. All our educational animals will be there for you to visit with (opossum; box turtles; snake; owls; and hawks). Educational displays will also be presented by: The Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center; Texas Master Naturalists; Texas Wildlife Association; Caleb Paul (snake wrangler/reptile rescue and removal); Montgomery County Sheriff's Office; Lake Houston Nature Center; Texas A & M Forest Service. For the first time ever, we will

be offering "behind the scenes" tours of our flight enclosures and intake center. This is the only time this year our entire facility will be open to the public. \$5 per person, kids 3 and under free. More details available at [www.ftwl.org](http://www.ftwl.org).

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/SavingTexas-Wildlife](https://www.facebook.com/SavingTexas-Wildlife). 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, March 14. 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, spring break camps, summer 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.ftwl.org](http://www.ftwl.org), and then click on "How to Help". ♦







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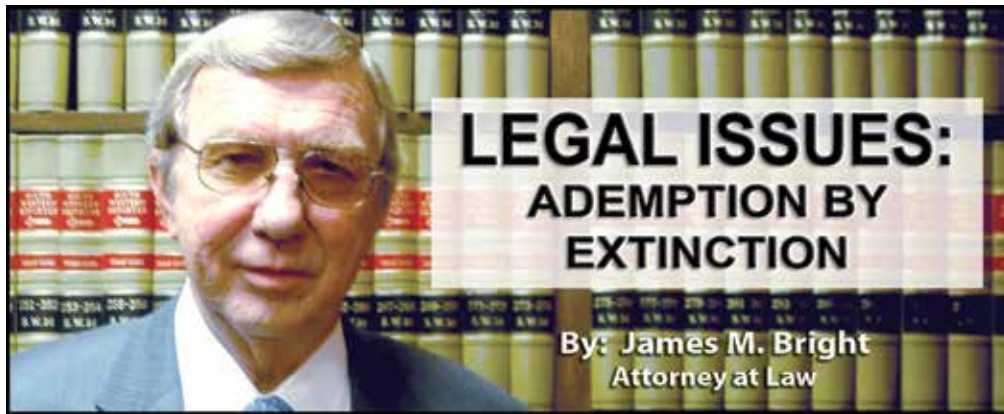
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The following is provided for informational purposes only and is not, nor should it be construed as legal advice.

The question is sometimes asked, "What happens when my will specifies a particular asset to go to a particular beneficiary, and that asset was sold or destroyed prior to my death?" The answer is typically "ademption by extinction."

"Ademption describes the extinction of a specific bequest or devise because of the disappearance of or disposition of the subject matter given from the estate of the testator in his lifetime. Unless the testatrix specifically provides otherwise in the will, the sale or removal of a specific bequest from the estate adeems the devise or bequest. A will speaks at the time of the testatrix's death, and only the estate the testatrix then possessed passes under the terms of the will. When a specific devise of realty is adeemed because the testatrix sold it before her death, absent

a contrary intent expressed in the will, the beneficiaries of the realty under the will are not entitled to the sale proceeds; instead, the proceeds pass under the residuary clause." San Antonio Area Found. V. Lang, 35 S.W.3d 636, 641-42 (Tex.2000).

An example of this type of specific bequest might be, "I bequeath my fully restored 1958 Corvette to Joe Doe."

If you continue to own the 1958 Corvette (don't we all wish) at the time of your death, then Joe Doe inherits it outright and your executor can pass title.

On the other hand, if you decided after the will was signed to sell your Corvette, the asset would no longer exist at the time of your death, and the gift would fail because of ademption by extinction. Joe would not receive the Corvette or the proceeds from the sale.

The same principle of ademption applies to

real property. If your will declares that you devise your interest in "Blackacre" to Sally Sue, and if you sell "Blackacre" prior to your death, then your gift to Sally Sue is ignored, and she will receive nothing unless she is included in another part of your Will or the residuary clause.

"The doctrine of ademption applies only to specific bequests and devises." In re Estate of Brown, 922 S.W.2d 605-607 (Tex. App. – Texarkana 1996, no writ).

#### EQUITABLE CONVERSION:

A twist to the above examples might yield a different result when a contract for sale of "Blackacre" is pending at the time of the testator's death. "When a specific devise is subject to a contract for sale executed by the testator before his death, the doctrine of equitable conversion applies." Mattlage v. Mattlage, 243 S.W.3d 763,768 – Tex. App. – Waco, pet. denied).

Assume the same facts recited in our above example of Sally Sue and "Blackacre" but with the sale not fully consummated at the time of testator's death. In this case, there exists the possibility of an equitable conversion. The devise of real property to Sally Sue may be considered a conversion to personal property rather than real property. If this occurs, Sally Sue would receive the proceeds of the sale instead of nothing as in ademption by extinction.

Courts have held that the question of whether or not to consider the gift as an equitable conversion will likely turn on whether or not the potential buyer could successfully sue to specifically enforce the agreement between the buyer and the testator.

#### SOLUTIONS:

It is very common for clients of this firm to request a provision in their will leaving a particular automobile to a grandchild and propose something like, "I bequeath my 2008 Toyota to my grandchild, Tad."

This type of bequest will likely fail through ademption by extraction, because when you die it is probable that you have traded that 2008 Toyota for a newer model something.

A better approach to this bequest suggested by your attorney might be, "I bequeath the automobile that I may own at the time of my death to my grandchild, Tad." If you own an automobile at the time of your death, it will be inherited by Tad without ademption.

The type of unintended results that are demonstrated by this article can easily be avoided by careful estate planning done by the attorney of your choice. Remember that your attorney is a "paid pessimist" being constantly on the lookout for what might or could go wrong.

James Bright has been admitted to practice before the Federal Courts for the Southern District of Texas and Eastern District of Texas as well as all of the Justice Courts, Probate Courts, County Courts at Law, District Courts, Courts of Appeal and Supreme Court for the State of Texas. He maintains an office in Houston and by appointment another at 208 McCown Street in the heart of historic Montgomery. Contact may be made by telephone (936) 449-4455 or (281) 586-8277. For more information about wills or probate in Texas, please see- [www.houstontxprobate.com](http://www.houstontxprobate.com). ♦



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2. Like the cook off giveaway post.
3. Comment what you think our theme will be this year.
4. Share the post on your page.



*Good luck!!! Cannot wait to see you all at the Montgomery County Cookoff!*

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# Fishing ADVENTURES

with Derek Pietsch



## January 2020 Pre-Fishing Toledo Bend

Trey and I arrived at Toledo Bend on Sunday to start pre-fishing. It was really windy and we just caught a few. We practiced again on Monday I caught a few and Trey did not catch any. Grant is fishing with Hayes this year. He fished on The Woodlands High School team. Grant caught a nice 4 ½ pounder while he was practicing, but his partner Hayes did not catch any either. It is really tough and the weather is not cooperating either. It's Wednesday and we have been trying hard to find fish but it's tough, I mean really tough. Today Trey and I started fishing at 9 a.m. because it was raining very hard. We wanted to wait till it slowed down a bit. I caught 1 keeper. Trey and I took turns fishing. It was so cold we warmed our hands with hand warmers and put them in our pockets when the other one was fishing. It was in the 30's and miserable with a constant rain. We fished for 3 hours and decided to go in. It was still raining at 12 and everything was soaked. Our gloves were wet. This was no fun at all. No fish. Wet and Cold. All we could think about was a warm place. Grant also told us he was freezing and his hands were numb.

## 1-23-20 BASSMASTER COLLEGE SERIES – Toledo Bend

Today is the day I have been waiting for and I just don't know what to think. I came into this saying we could win and qualify, but with the bad practice days and all the terrible weather it doesn't seem attainable. The line to get to the ramp was so long. It took about an hour just to get to the ramp. Colleges are here from all over the United States to compete. There are 250 teams fishing today. That is the limit. The top 25 teams will qualify for the National Championship in the summer. It is still sprinkling rain, but should stop soon. Wow we are finally getting a break. Hopefully we can concen-



trate on fishing instead of freezing and accomplish our goal to catch 5 BIG keepers.

You can definitely tell there are 250 boats in this tournament. The lines are at least an hour long just to get to the boat ramp to launch. Several lanes are closed due to the drought.

We found a group of fish on the main lake next to the standing timber and brush piles. There were a lot of fish on the graph. Some in the brush and some scattered in the area. I was up front looking at the graph and dropped down to the fish with a drop shot. I caught 1 keeper and lost one. It broke the line in the timber. Trey caught 3 at the first spot.

We left there and went to Housing, a creek arm. We fished shallow for 1 ½ to 2 hours with no luck. I caught 1 tiny fish, that was it.

I decided to go back to the first sport to get one more keeper, with no luck again. Making a long run to the last spot to see if we could catch something big. The ones we had were all small. Trey had one fish on, only for a second, then it pulled off the hook. I caught a little spotted bass which was the last keeper.

Grant and Hayes fished shallow the first day. They caught 3 keepers weighing in at 8.8 lbs. Trey and I had 5 fish also weighing 8.8 lbs. What are the chances of that? My brother and I are tied on the first day. Yes, I said, "Tied with a sack of little fish".

## 1-24-20 Day 2 Toledo Bend

The rain has finally stopped, but it is still extremely cold. There was ice on the boat this morning. It is going to be sunny, but still cold.

We started the day fishing the main lake points. We fished 2-3 with no luck close to the launch. We went back down south to try a few new places. Found a few fish that looked like a school and I caught 1 fish. We decided to go back to the place we fished the day before where we caught all our fish and we caught 2-3 small keepers. Knowing it was going to take a big sack to catch up, we decided to fish new water hoping to



catch some big fish.

We headed over to Indian Mounds. We saw Grant in a distance and idled up to him to chat. He had 1 keeper at that time. We found a group of fish and Trey caught 1 spotted bass. It was a hard day of fishing for us. We just couldn't get any good bites. There was a lot of spotted bass between 1 ¾ - 2 pounders. Just not enough to make the cut. Grant and Hayes fished deep using drop shot and caught 4 keepers.

Trey and I are planning on fishing the FLW College series the rest of the school year. Our next tournament is in March at Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. **THROW IT OUT, POP IT IN, FISH ON! ♦**







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# Around Town

Photos By D&K Photography

**Robert Bratchfield was named Citizen of the Year 2019 at Tomball Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Ball**





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