



# TECH BULLETIN

## TEXAS

# FAYETTE COUNTY LAKE

Compiled from the Diaries and Logs of the Luhr Jensen Fishing Research Team.

*Fayette County Lake is located between LaGrange and Fayetteville off Highway 159. Its 2,420 surface acres were impounded to provide cooling for the coal-fired Sam K. Seymour, Jr. generating station. It is managed by the Lower Colorado River Authority and H & J Enterprises which maintains the two public boat ramps: Park Prairie and Oak Thicket.*

Fayette's slot limit (14 to 21 inches) and three fish limit for largemouth bass provide plenty of year-round quantity and quality fishing. The lake also has good crappie and catfishing, but its trophy-class largemouth provide the main attraction to anglers. With catch-and-release, the lake will produce 10-pound-plus fish again in the future.

Fayette is loaded with threadfin shad. This abundance of food, coupled with warm water temperatures, produces bass which are in excellent physical shape -- healthy and fat. The lake's water temperature runs in the high 50s to 60s in the winter, except in the hot water discharge where it is in the 70s

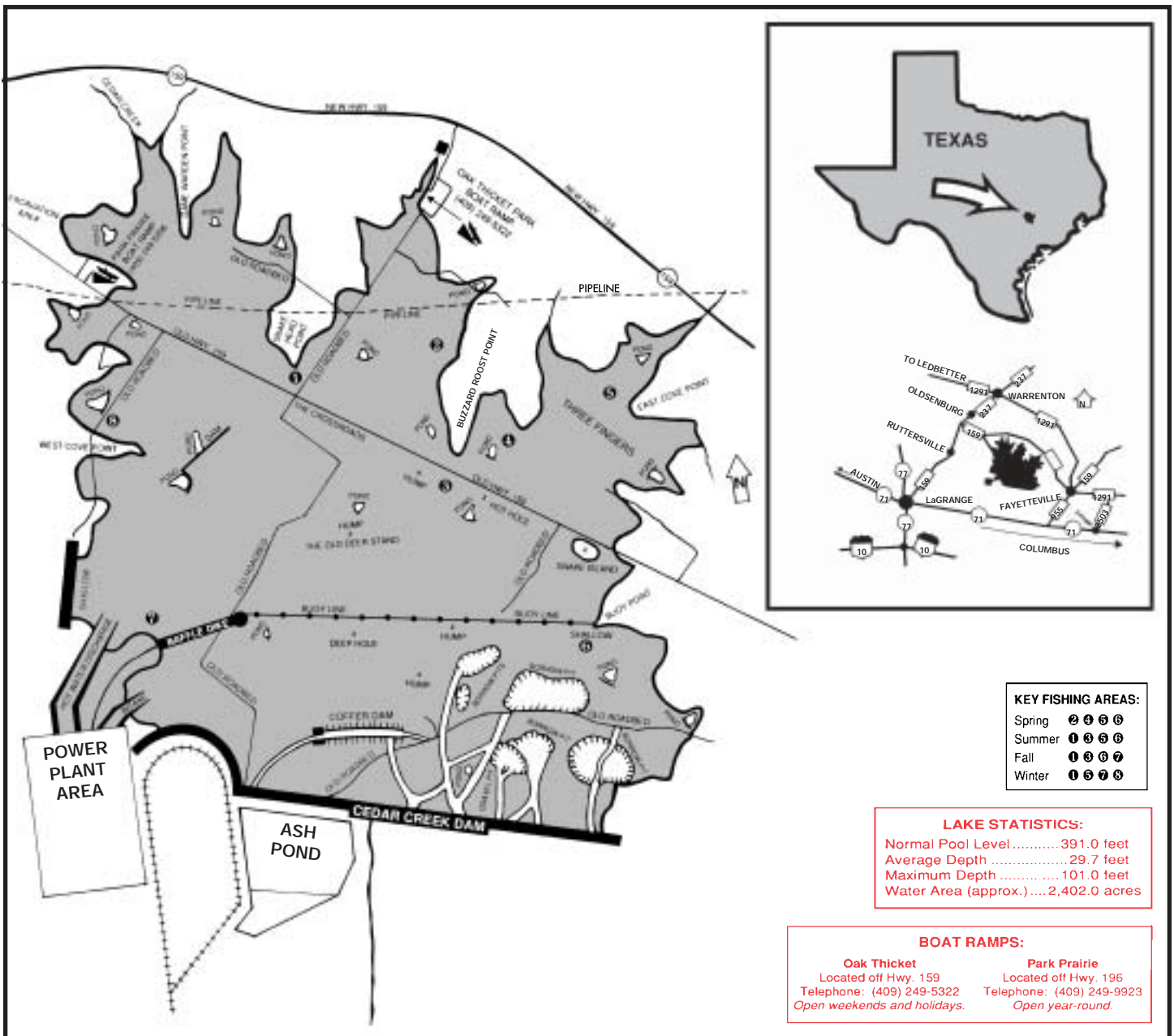
and 80s. Spring and fall yield 70 and 80 degree main lake temperatures and 80 to 90 degree marks in the discharge. Summer heats up into the 90s and 100s in the discharge when they are generating hard.

The lake has a good crop of hydrilla and peppergrass which provide the needed cover for both baitfish and gamefish.

### SPRING

In spring, as fish move into prespawn and spawn positions, plug selection varies between jerk baits such as the *Power Minnow™*, rattlin' baits like the *Speed Trap™* and other small crankbaits. Top color patterns are *Fire Tiger*, *Metallic Perch* and *Silver/Blue Top*.

All of these baits are best worked in areas where there is grass, especially points and creek channels. The prespawn areas normally are in the 6- to 8-ft. range with spawning taking place in one to two feet of water. Work your plugs in a crisscross pattern parallel, then perpendicular to grass



## TOPWATER WOOD PLUGS



patches to locate fish. Fish all areas thoroughly and alternate baits to produce more strikes. Be alert - the fish this time of year don't exactly kill a bait . . . they are "just there". Make sure your drag is set light as these fish are really strong and will easily break off if you're not careful

In the summer, the fishing pattern in Fayette will include some excellent topwater action. The Luhr Jensen classic woods including the **P.J. Pop™**, **Jerk 'n Sam™**, **Nip-I-Diddee®** and **Dalton Special®** will provide exciting early and late action. Hot colors to try include **Blue Back/Silver Shad**, **Tennessee Shad**, **Gold/Black/Orange Belly** and **Fire Tiger**.

These topwater baits need to be worked along the surface

## SPINNER/BUZZ BAIT



grass and over the near-surface grass, fishing the areas in a fan cast pattern and varying the retrieve to establish what really turns them on. A **Herb's Dilly™** or **Buzzer'd™** buzzbait, worked through the surface grass into holes and pockets also should produce some exciting strikes. A **Frog** or **Crawfish** color would be a good choice.

## SUMMER

For midday action during the summer, move out to water, 10 to 15 and maybe even 20 feet deep, but yet over the grass as it tapers off, or over a hump. Work crank baits like the 1/4- and 1/2-oz. **Hot Lips Express®** or one of the **Brush Baby®** models in either **Tennessee Shad** or **Silver/Blue Top** color around the grass areas. Try to keep your bait in contact with the grass as most strikes come as baits rip free.

A good line weight for this lake and suggested baits is 12-lb. test Trilene® Big Game®. A cross-snap is recommended for both more action and quick change of baits.

In late summer, action can get heavy on Fayette as fish school near the surface over the deeper portions of the main

lake. This topwater action can provide quantities of fish up to six pounds. The Dalton Special and Jerk 'n Sam worked into the schoolies will provide excellent catches. Fishing for schoolies is sort of a waiting game. From about noon to late afternoon they start moving in on the shad and the surface can explode just about any time. Remember, schooling fish can be easily spooked so care should be taken not to approach too close to where the surface action is taking place.

## FALL

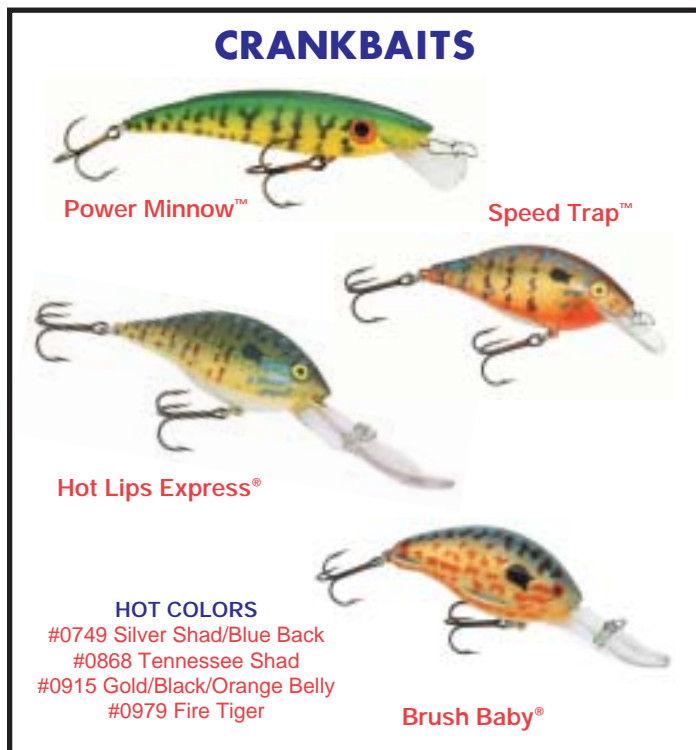
This season also provides excellent action with some days producing it from sunrise to sunset! When surface action slows, rattlin' baits such as the Speed Trap and 1/4-oz. Hot Lips Express in **Crystal Crawdad**, **Bluegill Perch** and **Fire Tiger** patterns can pick up the action again. If it's really slow, try working a Power Minnow from shallow to deeper water with a highly varied retrieve complete with jerks, pauses and twitches.

Fayette County Lake produces both quantity and quality year-round largemouth bass action. If you haven't fished it before, there's no better time than right now.

## PROPER CATCH AND RELEASE METHODS

1. Play the fish in quickly so it is not too tired.
2. Handle the fish as little as possible and never let it flop on a hard or dirty surface.
3. Use hemostats or needle-nose pliers to back the hook out the way it went in. Barbless hooks make the process easier.
4. Never release a fish until it is fully revived and acts strong. A tired fish can tumble and get lodged in rocks or moss and suffocate. Carefully work the fish back and forth to pump water through its gills. You will know when it's ready to leave.
5. When taking a picture of your catch, leave it in the water until the camera is ready and then gently cradle the fish in both hands as you lift it out of the water. Never put your fingers in its gills or squeeze it too hard. Keep the fish out of the water only long enough to take the picture.
6. Be gentle and release the fish carefully. **NEVER THROW A FISH BACK IN THE WATER!**

## CRANKBAITS



## TACKLE/CAMPING/EATING/ROOM FACILITIES

### BAIT & TACKLE:

**Emmett & Velma's Lakeside Restaurant**  
 Groceries and Trailers for Rent  
 Hwy. 159, Fayetteville 409-249-9925  
**Old Park Lodge:** 409-249-5828  
**Wal-Mart Discount Center:**  
 Hwy. 72, LaGrange 409-968-8465

### OVERNIGHT CAMPING:

**Emmett & Velma's Lakeside Restaurant**  
**Park Prairie & Oak Thicket Ramps**  
 (No water or electricity)

### HOTELS & RESTAURANTS:

**Cottonwood Inn Motel**  
 Hwy. 71 West, LaGrange 409-968-3175  
**River Valley Motor Inn**  
 Hwy. 71 West, LaGrange 409-968-8314  
**Emmett & Velma's Lakeside Restaurant**  
 Hwy. 159, Fayetteville 409-249-9925  
**Bon Ton Restaurant**  
 Hwy. 71 East, LaGrange 409-968-5863