



PHOTO COURTESY SALINA GIBSON

## Making accounting information user friendly

*TRWD receives recognition for financial reporting, accountability*

**MADelyn EDWARDS**  
madelyn@azlenews.net

Tarrant Regional Water District leaders want the public to know that they are good stewards of the money entrusted to them.

The recognitions TRWD has won for financial reporting and transparency

shows progress toward that objective.

TRWD announced last fall that the district had received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. This award was for the district's annual comprehensive

financial report for the fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30, 2021.

According to TRWD's website, this certificate is the highest form of recognition for governmental accounting and financial reporting.

TRWD Finance Director Jennifer Mitchell said the

PLEASE SEE **TRWD** | C9

## Spring Trash Bash April 22



TRWD COURTESY PHOTO

The Spring Trash Bash is a great activity for volunteers of all ages. These cleanups help keep trash from getting into the lakes and rivers that surround our communities.

*Bi-annual event is essential to keeping waterways clean*

**JESSICA MCKINNEY**  
jessica@azlenews.net

Tarrant Regional Water District has opened registration for the Spring Trash Bash, set to begin at 8 a.m. on April 22. This year, the spring cleanup — happening on Earth Day this year — will focus on the Trinity River and Marine Creek Lake in Fort Worth.

Last fall, TRWD was excited to bring back the after party for volunteers to celebrate the end of a morning spent cleaning up trash from around local waterways. There will be two separate parties from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for each cleanup location featuring food, entertainment, and activities for all ages.

Trinity River volunteers will join up at Coyote Drive-In,

PLEASE SEE **BASH** | C8

## Small but mighty

*TRWD Law Enforcement Division acquires handheld sonar*

**MADelyn EDWARDS**  
madelyn@azlenews.net

The Tarrant Regional Water District's Law Enforcement Division acquired a new tool that is allowing the public safety dive team to do its job more efficiently and safely.

TRWD Law Enforcement Division Sgt. Rick Odom described the handheld sonar AquaEye as looking like an "oversized price scanner."

But though it is small, the sonar can take on large jobs, like scanning one acre of water in less than two minutes, according to the website for VodaSafe, which developed

AquaEye. AquaEye uses artificial intelligence and ultrasound to specifically identify human bodies in the water during recovery and rescue missions.

"AquaEye sends a sonar pulse out to 50 meters or

PLEASE SEE **SONAR** | C9

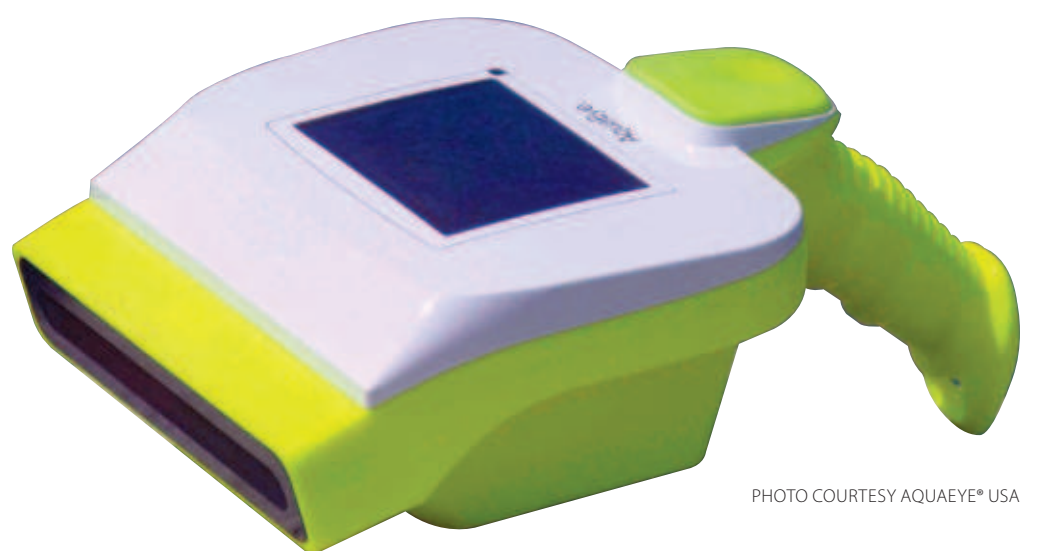


PHOTO COURTESY AQUAEYE® USA

### **AQUAEYE® - How it works**

AquaEye sends a sonar pulse to a depth of 50 meters or 165 feet and evaluates the returning echo. AquaEye then decides which echoes match the echoes of a human body and displays the position of the missing persons on the screen. AquaEye can search 8000 square meters of water in less than 5 minutes.



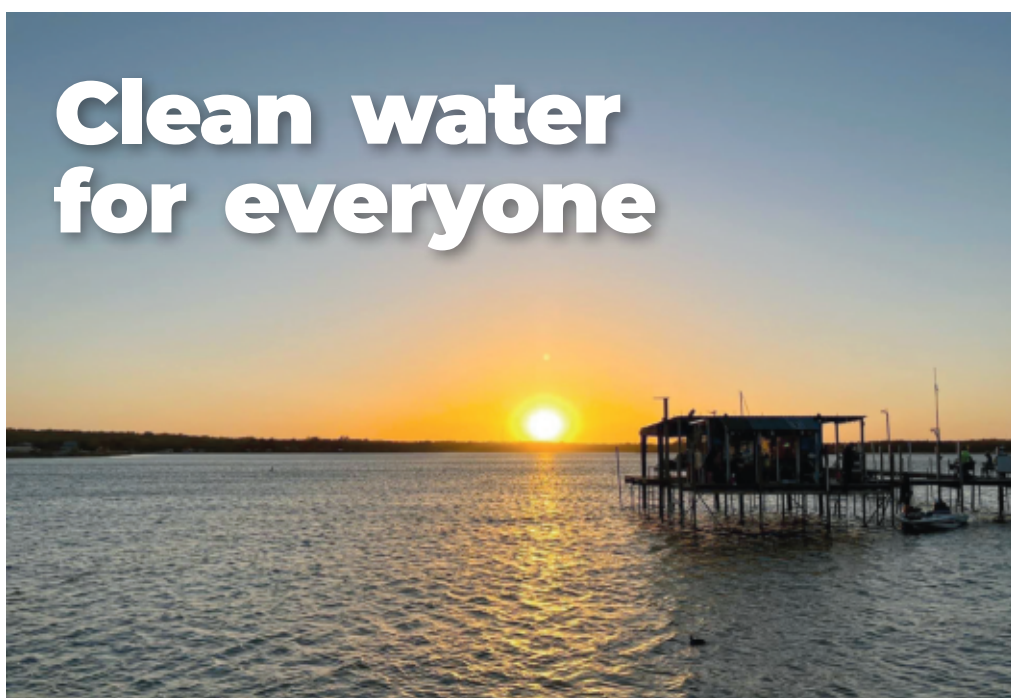


PHOTO COURTESY STACY WILBURN

# Clean water for everyone

**MARK MICHAELS**  
mark@azlenews.net

The Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) is seeking to ramp up their efforts to bring awareness to Azle citizens and other communities about what they can do to help keep the water clean for themselves and their neighbors.

One of the primary functions of TRWD is to manage the quality of the water in the flood control system in Tarrant County. This system includes 27 miles of floodway levies that were designed by the Army Corp of Engineers. This system also includes a support dam which was constructed in 1931 and the Eagle Mountain dam, constructed a year later in 1932. TRWD is one of the largest freshwater suppliers in

Texas. More than two million people benefit from that water. Aaron Hoff, the watershed programs coordinator, explained that it's his and his team's duty to make sure everything flows smoothly.

"It really behooves us as a water supply company organization to protect that investment and that's really where program kind of birth from was to kind of be proactive about protecting that volume that is available in those water supply reservoirs," Hoff said.

According to Hoff, the board decided to take a leadership role in facilitating watershed planning activities in concession with their major reservoirs and the watersheds that feed them, as well as provide public education for the average citizen.

TRWD has a simple mission: to facilitate responsible watershed planning in management by providing technical assistance and, in some cases, financial assistance to landowners and decision makers.

"We kind of do that through a very extensive education outreach program that my team and I manage," Hoff said. "That's really just a bunch of stuff that planning aspect by increasing public awareness and knowledge and to change those negative behaviors or sometimes lack of good behaviors to build that advocacy network and really promote that idea of responsible watershed stewardship that by being a good student of the land you can improve your water in the water of your neighbors."

## TRWD Board of Directors for 2023



**LEAH M. KING**

President  
Term 2021-2025  
Mrs. King joined the TRWD Board of Directors in 2017. She is currently the president and chief executive officer for United Way of Tarrant County. Mrs. King is very active in the community and serves on many boards and committees throughout Fort Worth and Tarrant County. She is also a member of the Leadership Fort Worth 2010 and Leadership North Texas 2011 classes. She and her husband, Barry, have one son.



**JAMES HILL**

Vice President  
Term 2021-2025  
Mr. Hill was elected to the TRWD Board in 2017. Born and raised in Fort Worth, he is a graduate of the Business Honors Program at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition, he received his MBA in the Accelerated Program at TCU. A banking executive with significant experience in finance and real estate, Mr. Hill is also very active in the community. He and his wife have two kids and live in Fort Worth.



**MARY KELLEHER**

Secretary  
Term 2021-2025  
Mrs. Kelleher lives in east Fort Worth along the Trinity River where she and her husband, Larry Langston, operate a cattle ranch. She became interested in TRWD after their farm flooded from the Trinity River. Mary served on TRWD's board from 2013 to 2017 and is passionate about water issues. Mary strives to provide citizens with information and insight into TRWD policies and business practices.



**MARTY LEONARD**

Director  
Term 2019-2023  
Ms. Leonard was elected to the TRWD Board in 2006. A graduate of Southern Methodist University, she owns Leonard Golf Links Practice/Teaching Facility and owns two buildings occupied by the Nike Golf Center in Fort Worth. Ms. Leonard also is president of Margolf Corporation. She is extremely active in the Fort Worth community, serving on numerous boards and committees.



**C.B. TEAM**

Director  
Term Jan 2023-May 2023  
C.B. is a fifth generation and lifelong Fort Worth resident. He joined Ellis & Tinsley, Inc. in 2006 as an associate and was named partner and principal in 2013. He holds both Texas and Colorado Real Estate Brokers Licenses. C.B. has volunteered as a Livestock Department Superintendent at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo every winter and was appointed to its Board of Directors in 2021. He is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, a Texas Exes Alumnae Association member, and a commercial-rated pilot. C.B. lives in Fort Worth with his wife and their two children.

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# Fishing on Eagle Mountain Lake

**TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE**

[tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/eagle\\_mountain/](http://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/eagle_mountain/)

Located on the West Fork Trinity River, just north of Fort Worth and Lake Worth in Tarrant County, Eagle Mountain Lake has several species of Texas' most popular sport fishes, including largemouth bass, spotted bass, channel catfish, flat-head catfish, white bass, and white crappie.

**FISHING COVER/STRUCTURE**

The upper portion of the lake has reed beds. The lower and mid-lake areas have numerous fishing piers and boat houses that act as cover and structure for fish. Rocky points and bluffs in the lower end of the lake can also hold fish.

**TIPS & TACTICS**

Largemouth bass can be found around private boat docks and reed beds. White crappie also utilize the boat houses a habitat and congregate in the lower end of the lake in the summer. Schooling white bass offer a popular summertime fishing opportunity.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS**

Largemouth bass grow 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 cm) during their first year, 8 to 12 inches (20 to 30 cm) in two years, 16 inches (40 cm) in three years. They are usually green with dark blotches that form a horizontal stripe along the middle of the fish on either side. The underside ranges in color from light green to almost white. They have a nearly divided dorsal fin with the anterior portion containing nine spines and the posterior portion containing 12 to 13 soft rays. Their upper jaw reaches far beyond the rear margin of the eye.

Adults feed almost exclusively on other fish and large invertebrates such as crayfish. Larger fish prey upon smaller bass. Immature largemouth bass may tend to congregate in schools, but adults are usually solitary. Sometimes several bass will gather in a very small area, but they do not interact. Largemouth bass hide among plants, roots or limbs to strike their prey. Largemouth bass seek protective cover



This is the largest blue catfish caught in Eagle Mountain Lake at 53.07 lbs and 45" long. It also holds the 'catch and release' record. It was caught on March 24, 2021 by Azle native Bob Matteson, left, while fishing with his friend Steve Andognini.

PHOTO COURTESY SHAWNA MATTESON

such as logs, rock ledges, vegetation, and man-made structures. They prefer clear quiet water, but will survive quite well in a variety of habitats.

**SPOTTED BASS**

Despite the fact that spotted bass are not nearly so large and numerous as largemouth bass (in Texas their maximum size is less than one-third that of largemouth bass), they are excellent fighters. Spotted bass are very popular in East Texas, particularly in the Sabine, Neches, and Cypress Rivers. Known maximum size in Texas exceeds 5.5 pounds. Spotted bass seem to be segregated by habitat type from closely related species. They tend to be found in areas with more current than largemouth bass, and they usually inhabit areas that are too warm, tur-

bid, and sluggish for small-mouth bass.

**CHANNEL CATFISH**

Channel catfish spawn in late spring or early summer when water temperatures reach 75°F. Channel catfish less than 4 inches in length feed primarily on small insects. Adults are largely omnivorous, feeding on insects, mollusks, crustaceans, fish, and even some plant material. Sexual maturity is reached in two or three years in captivity, whereas data from natural populations indicates channel catfish in Texas reach sexual maturity in 3-6 years. Most are mature by the time they reach 12 inches in length. Channel catfish are most abundant in large streams with low or moderate current. Today they range throughout Texas, however,

it is believed that the species was not native to the upper Rio Grande and Pecos basins. Channel catfish ranks behind only bass and crappie as the most preferred fish to catch in Texas. Popular with trotliners as well as rod-and-reel anglers, channel cats may be captured on a wide variety of baits including liver, worms, grasshoppers, shrimp, chicken, cheese and stinkbait, among others. Undoubtedly, part of the reason for their popularity is their delicious flavor when cooked. Channel catfish in excess of 36 pounds have been landed in Texas waters. The North American record stands at 58 pounds.

**WHITE BASS**

Adults are usually found in schools. Gizzard and threadfin shad are the preferred

food items. White bass more than four years of age are rare. In Texas, the species is native to the Red River drainage. They are the fifth most preferred species among licensed Texas anglers. Schools of white bass feeding on shad generate much excitement in the fishing community. Once a school has been located, successful anglers often fish the surface with spoons or spinners. Bottom fishing at night with live bait may also produce great success. White bass are excellent fighters and are considered superb table fare.

**WHITE CRAPPIE**

Typically, white crappie grow three to five inches in length the first year, and reach seven to eight inches during the second year. Maturity is usually reached

in two to three years. Adults feed on small fish and insects. They are native to the eastern two-thirds of Texas, but the species can now be found statewide except for the upper portions of the Rio Grande and Pecos drainages. Taken together, "crappie" (white and black combined) is the most popular panfish in Texas. The crappie group is the third most preferred group overall, ranking behind only "bass" and "catfish." Crappie are sought after by both bank and boat anglers. Typically, minnows are the preferred bait, often producing monumental results when an aggregation is located, usually around submerged trees, boat docks, or other submerged structures. White crappie in excess of 4.5 pounds have been landed in Texas waters.

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**The Springtown Epigraph**



# Small lake, huge fish

## The Eagle Mountain Tuesday Night Fishing Tournament better than ever

**JEFF PRINCE**  
jeff@azlenews.net

For more than 20 years, local fishermen have hauled their boats to Eagle Mountain Lake on Tuesday nights from March to August for a popular fishing tournament.

Lately, the fishing lines have been stretched tighter than ever, and this year could be the best yet. Fishing on the lake has been "phenomenal," said Jeremy Lambert, a Boyd resident who has fished the lake for two decades.

"It's the best lake in the state right now," he said.

Fish in Texas lakes run in cycles, he said. A lake will become thick with old, big fish over time, and then, as they die or get caught over the years, the numbers shrink awhile.

"There is a time where (the fish population) goes down because the new ones haven't grown to the biggest size," he said. "We're at the top right now. It's just my opinion."

Evidence appears to back his claim.

The Eagle Mountain Lake record for a largemouth bass - 16 pounds - was set last year, and 16 pounds is "unheard of," Lambert said.

Robert Bandy caught the

whopper in February, 2022, and it stretched 25 inches - too big to fit in his livewell.

The Eagle Mountain Tuesday Night Tournament is managed by another longtime local fisherman, Donnie Moore. In 2021, he caught a largemouth bass that weighed 13.08 pounds to shatter the lake record of 11.64 pounds, which had been set in 2003.

Moore loves to land a big fish, but it's not the main draw of the tournament.

"I like the camaraderie," he said. "It's not a real serious event. It's a bunch of friends getting out there and just getting to know everybody. It's a small short three-hour event, and the camaraderie out there is the best thing. Everybody trusts everybody."

Only bass are eligible to be counted in the Tuesday Night tourney, but the lake contains many types of fish.

"We caught a catfish out there yesterday," Lambert said.

He has a buddy who works as a fishing guide on the lake, and he's been hauling in big catfish recently. Another has been landing big crappie.

Eagle Mountain Lake "is as good as you're going to find,"

Lambert said. "That place is unreal, especially for the size of it. It's small."

The tournament season begins on the first Tuesday after Daylight Savings Time in March, and it runs through August. The entry fee is \$40 with an optional \$20 side pot. About 25 boats show up each week, and the payout is about \$1,000 for the winner, with smaller payouts going to the next several placers.

The tournament is also referred to as the Eagle Mountain Working Mens Tournament.

For more information, see the group's Facebook page, Eagle Mountain Tuesday Night Tournament, at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082847816655>

The rules include random livewell checks and no drinking alcohol during tournament hours. Entrants can go out on the water on the day of the tournament begins, but no fishing is allowed until the tourney begins.

"It's been going on for dang near 25 years or more," Lambert said.

Like Moore, his favorite part is the camaraderie.

"I'm not in those things for the money," he said. "There



COURTESY PHOTOS

In March 2021, Donnie Moore caught this 13-pound beast to set the lake record that had stood since 2003. A year later, his record was broken by Robert Brandy, who caught a 16-pounder.

is not a whole lot of money involved. We just go out there to have fun and make new friends or hang out with your friends."

Boats go out around 6 p.m., and the fish are weighed at 9 p.m.

The five biggest fish for each entrant are weighted,

and whomever hauled in the most weight wins the pot. A reward is also given for the biggest fish caught.



PHOTO COURTESY SHAWNA MATTESON

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Shady Grove Park

PHOTO COURTESY JOEY LIDDICK



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# Recreation on Eagle Mountain Lake



PHOTO COURTESY CLAYTON WAYNE SMITH



PHOTO COURTESY JIM STEVENS



PHOTO COURTESY LAUREN MILLER

*Wakeboarding, water-skiing, kayaking, tubing, swimming, and more!*

Boats towing water skiers and the water skiers themselves may not approach closer than 100 feet of docks, swimming areas, other watercraft, fishermen or shoreline. All persons riding personal watercraft, participating in wind surfing, skiing, aquaplaning or other similar activities, are required to wear a Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device.



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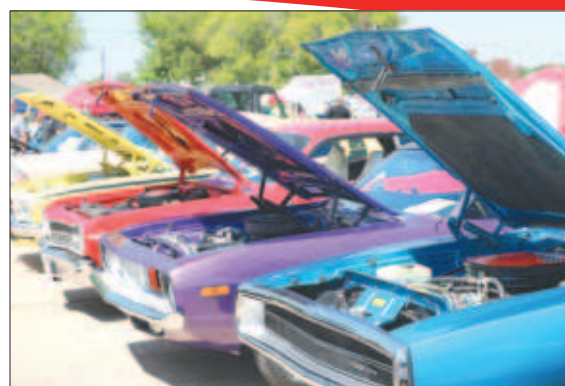
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**356**  
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*Promoting Business And Community*



# For those missing outdoor fun, Twin Points Park prepping for spring opening

**MARK MICHAELS**  
mark@azlenews.net

Twin Points Park is gearing up for another great year.

Days at the lake are a staple in the summer plans for many families across North Fort Worth. It's a place where everyone can enjoy the fun in the sun. After another unusually cold winter, many are counting the minutes until they can soak in the sun, swim in the warm water, and light up a barbecue.

The Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) has been readying the park for its anticipated opening in the spring. While boat ramps around Eagle Mountain Lake are open all year, the Twin Points Park is scheduled to open on Memorial Day.

There will be no significant changes to the park or its amenities this year. The

only notable change this year is that the tickets will only be available online at [twinpointspark.com](http://twinpointspark.com). David Geary, the director of reservoirs, said that COVID lockdown made streamlining the sales process easier and far more convenient.

"A lot of things were modernized and smoothed out to make 2020 work, and we found that selling the tickets online just makes everything much easier," Geary said.

Ticket prices will be \$10 for a single vehicle Monday through Thursday, and \$20 Friday through Sunday. The park will be open on May 27, and will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. until April 28. Tickets prices are per vehicle. While there are only 320 parking spaces at the park's entrance, the park will sell 425 tickets per day. Pavilion rentals are online also. Small



PHOTO COURTESY TWIN POINTS PARK

Twin Points Park has a public beach for swimming, picnic areas with tables, and freestanding grills.



pavilions will be \$25, while the large ones will go for \$50. Loaner child life vests will be available for free.

Like most public parks in North Texas, Twin Points has certain rules that TRWD expect the patrons to follow.

- No glass containers
- No pets
- No smoking
- No disruptive music
- No foul language
- No charcoal grills
- No open fires

• No public consumption of alcohol

While charcoal grills are banned, there are freestanding grills that can be used, and guests can bring their own gas grills. The park will have written surveys beachgoers can fill out to give their thoughts and write out ideas they may have to make the park's experience better for everyone.

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**TRASH**  
FROM PAGE C1

223 NE 4th St., Fort Worth, and Marine Creek volunteers will have their party at the public boat ramp area, 2700 Jim Wright Fwy., Fort Worth.

**TRINITY RIVER CLEANUP LOCATIONS**

- White Settlement Trailhead
- Panther Island
- Cold Springs Trailhead
- Fourth Street Trailhead
- Hope Church
- Quanah Parker Park
- Crystelle Waggoner
- Trinity Park
- River Park

Sign up to volunteer at TRWD.com/trashbash. Early registration is recommended to receive volunteer shirts and to reserve a spot for the after party.

PHOTO COURTESY TRWD

A lone volunteer helps pick up trash during the annual Trash Bash at Eagle Mountain Lake.

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**OUR MISSION**

Preserve and Protect the Ecological Environment and Quality of Eagle Mountain Lake and its Watershed by Promoting Community Awareness, Engagement and Advocacy

**Save Eagle Mountain Lake, Inc.** is dedicated to preserve and protect the quality of Eagle Mountain Lake for future generations.

**We love our lake!** ...we are an advocacy organization that partners with governmental agencies (i.e. TRWD, TCEQ, EPA & City Planners) to protect lake quality and engages the lake community with fun events (i.e. Holiday Parade of Lights & Annual Charity Golf Tournament.)

Join us in protecting Eagle Mountain Lake - we welcome new friends on Facebook, and always have opportunities for volunteers to help with projects and events!

You may also reach us via our website **SEML.org** or e-mail at **comments@seml.org**



# SONAR

FROM PAGE C1

165 feet and listens for the return echo,” according to VodaSafe’s website. “AquaEye then decides which echoes match the echoes from a human body and indicates the location of the missing persons on the screen.”

Before acquiring AquaEye in late November, Odom said the regional water district’s Law Enforcement Division didn’t have a sonar option for small bodies of water, like rivers and ponds. “We had to get in the water and do search patterns if we felt that there was something in the water that we needed to go try to find,” Odom said.

To use AquaEye, the operator submerges it in water and then pulls a trigger to scan the area, Odom said. Divers can also use the sonar underwater. Odom described

the tool as being simple to operate.

Not long after receiving the sonar, the public safety dive team was called to use the tool, Odom said.

“We’d already been called to use it. We only had it for a day,” he said.

The fact that the TRWD Law Enforcement Division is using AquaEye makes the department unique compared to others in the state. Odom said the division is one of seven agencies in Texas that have the sonar, and the next closest agency that has it is in Waco.

The division budgeted for the \$6,000 AquaEye sonar and has plans to purchase a second one in the future, Odom said.

Ultimately, Odom said having the AquaEye sonar makes the public safety rescue team’s job safer. Oftentimes, divers are navigating water that is impossible to see through.

“The visibility in any lake

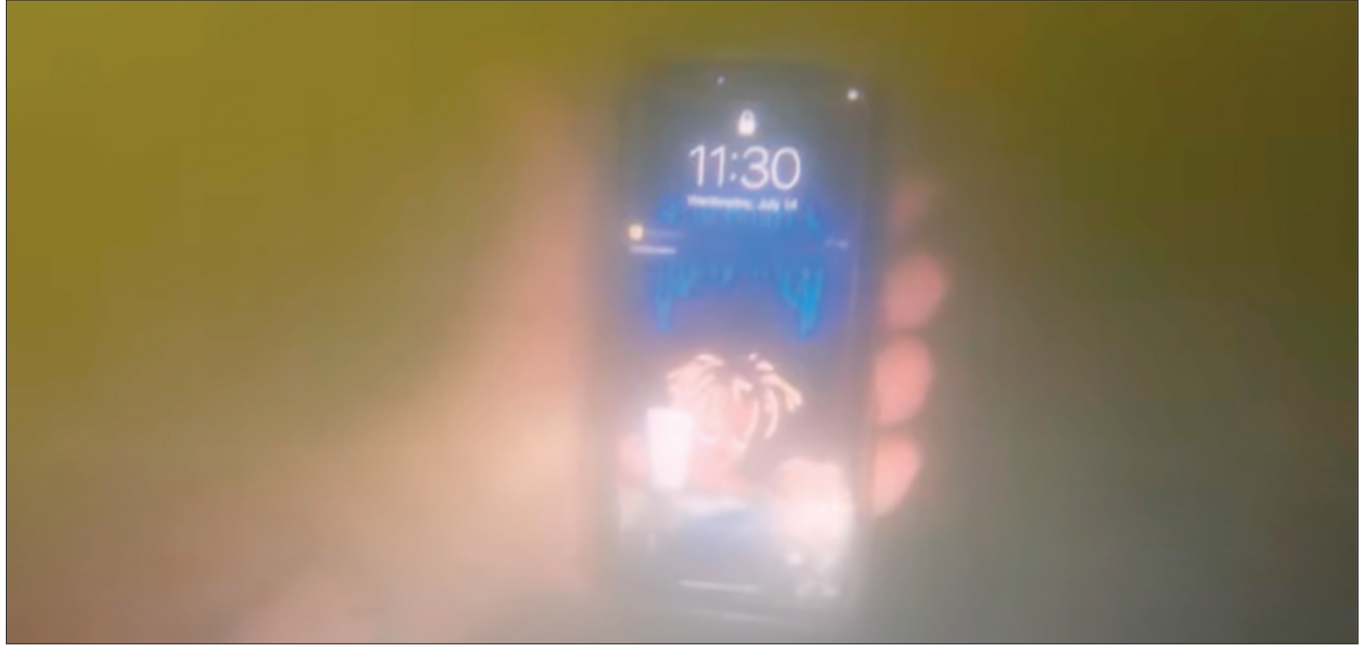


PHOTO COURTESY BLUE DIVER SEARCH AND RESCUE

**Eagle Mountain Lake is considered a ‘low visibility’ body of water. Murky water and silt make it very difficult to see more than a few inches in any direction. This underwater photo from blackwater diver Ryan Prigmore, of Blue Diver Search and Rescue, shows a cell phone that was recovered from the lake. Prigmore retrieves lost items at night after boaters have lost items overboard while on the lake.**

anywhere in Central Texas pretty much is you can’t see your hand in front of your

face. It’s what we call ‘black water diving.’ It’s zero visibility, so you cannot see

anything. It’s strictly by feel,” he said. “Anytime we can reduce the amount of time of a

diver is in the water actively searching for something, obviously it’s a lot more safe.”

# TRWD

FROM PAGE C1

district has earned this annual award multiple times during the past several years. The goal is to make accounting information user friendly so that the public can understand it and get an idea of how the district is doing financially.

TRWD was also recognized for financial transparency and governmental accountability in the form of receiving Transparency Stars from the Texas Comptroller’s office. The district was awarded its first star in October 2021, the second in December 2021, the third star in early 2022, the fourth star in June

2022 and the fifth star in December 2022.

“It’s a nice thing to be recognized for,” Mitchell said about the honors. “Obviously, the biggest win is that the information is out there, and people are using it. But it was really exciting to get recognized for the work that our team and the district put in.”

According to TRWD’s website, the Transparency Stars honored the district in the areas of:

- Traditional finances: outstanding efforts in making spending and revenue information available.
- Debt obligations: having websites that show visual and narrative detail on outstanding debt, tax-supported debt obligations and historical bond elections.

- Contracts and procurement: having websites that show efforts in creating financial transparency around public spending in this area.
- Economic development: providing information about efforts to support economic development in Tarrant County.
- Public Pensions: providing information about public pensions.

The district is one of 15 cities, counties, school districts and special districts in Texas to obtain all five Transparency Stars. More uniquely, TRWD is the only special utility district in the state to have all five stars, Mitchell said.

“Receiving all five Transparency Stars from the Texas Comptroller of Public

Accounts indicates that the Tarrant Regional Water District is among the most financially accountable and fiscally transparent governmental agencies in the state,” TRWD’s Board Vice President James Hill said in a district news release. “This award is the gold standard in the state of Texas and is a direct reflection of the hard work performed by staff and my colleagues on the board to ensure the public receives the accountability it expects and deserves.”

Financial reporting and transparency are important to TRWD and the board, Mitchell said.


“A lot of times, we would get open records requests for that kind of information, and now it’s out there for them,”


Mitchell said. “They don’t have to put a request in and go through the process. We already have the information there for them to see and download and sort in any way they want to use the information. So, I think that’s been very exciting for us to be able to show people that we do care. We want them to know that we understand we’re stewards of their resources, and we’re using it for the best.”

Mitchell attributed these honors to the hard work of the TRWD staff that strived for excellence. Specifically, she bragged on how the information technology team was able to present check run information for when the district pays its vendors each week.

“If you go to our site, our check run information is sortable, and it is uploaded directly after every check run. So, by the next week, it’s almost real time that you’re getting the information of what we’re paying instead of updating at the end of the year or even each month,” she said. “I think the way that they did it makes it just so much easier for the public to come in and know right now what did we spend our money on, who are we spending it with, and that seems to be a lot of the questions that we get.”

For more information about TRWD’s financial reporting and transparency, visit its website at [trwd.com](http://trwd.com) or call 817-335-2491.



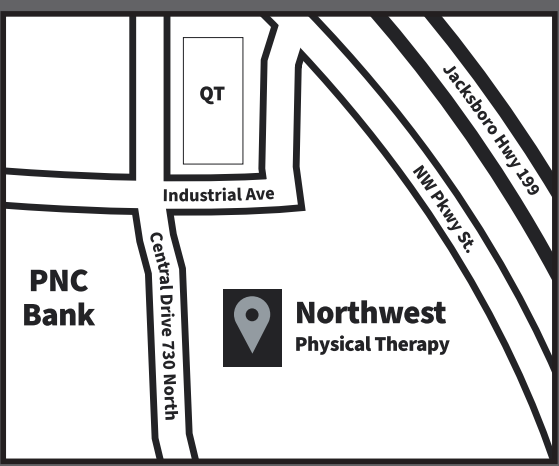
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# Protect the lakes you love

## Stop invasive mussels by cleaning, draining and drying

### WHAT ARE INVASIVE MUSSELS?

Zebra and Quagga mussels are a small, destructive invasive species that can spread across Texas by hitching a ride on boats and trailers. They grow to only about 1 ½ inches and develop a distinctive zebra-striped shell. One zebra or quagga mussel can produce up to one million microscopic larvae per year. Invasive mussels can cause tremendous environmental and economic damage – hurting aquatic life, damaging your boat, hindering water recreation and even threatening your water supply.

### WHERE ARE INVASIVE MUSSELS?

The following Texas lakes are classified as “infested” with zebra mussels: Austin, Belton, Bridgeport, Brownwood, Buchanan, Canyon, Dean Gilbert (a 45-acre Community Fishing Lake in Sherman), Diversion (private lake downstream of Medina Lake), Eagle Mountain, Georgetown, Granger, Grapevine, Inks, Lady Bird, Lewisville, Livingston, Lyndon B. Johnson, Marble Falls, Medina, O.H. Ivie, Pflugerville, Placid, Randell (local Denison access only), Ray Roberts, Richland Chambers, Stillhouse Hollow, Texoma, Travis, Walter E. Long, and Worth. Invasive mussels or their larvae have been detected on multiple occasions in several lakes, which are designated as “positive.” Lakes Dunlap, Fishing Hole, Lavon, and McQueeney, as well as river reaches downstream on the Colorado, Guadalupe, Lampasas, Leon, Little, Red, and Trinity rivers, are classified as “positive” for zebra mussels and Lake Amistad is classified as “positive” for quagga mussels. Lake Ray Hubbard is classified as “suspect” for zebra mussels.

### CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY

· Clean your boat, trailer and gear by removing all

plants, animals and foreign objects.

- Drain all water from the boat, including the motor, bilge, live wells and bait buckets, before leaving the lake.
- Dry the boat and trailer for a week or more before entering another water body. If unable to let it dry for at least a week, wash it with a high-pressure washer and hot (at least 140-degree), soapy water.

### TRANSPORTING INVASIVE MUSSELS IS ILLEGAL

Possession or transportation of zebra or quagga mussels in Texas is a Class C misdemeanor for the first offense, punishable by a fine of up to \$500. Repeat offenses can be elevated to a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000, jail time up to 180 days, or both.

Boaters are required to drain all water from their vessel, including live wells, bilges, motors, and any other receptacles, before approaching or leaving a water body. This applies to all types and sizes of boats used on fresh waters, effective July 1.

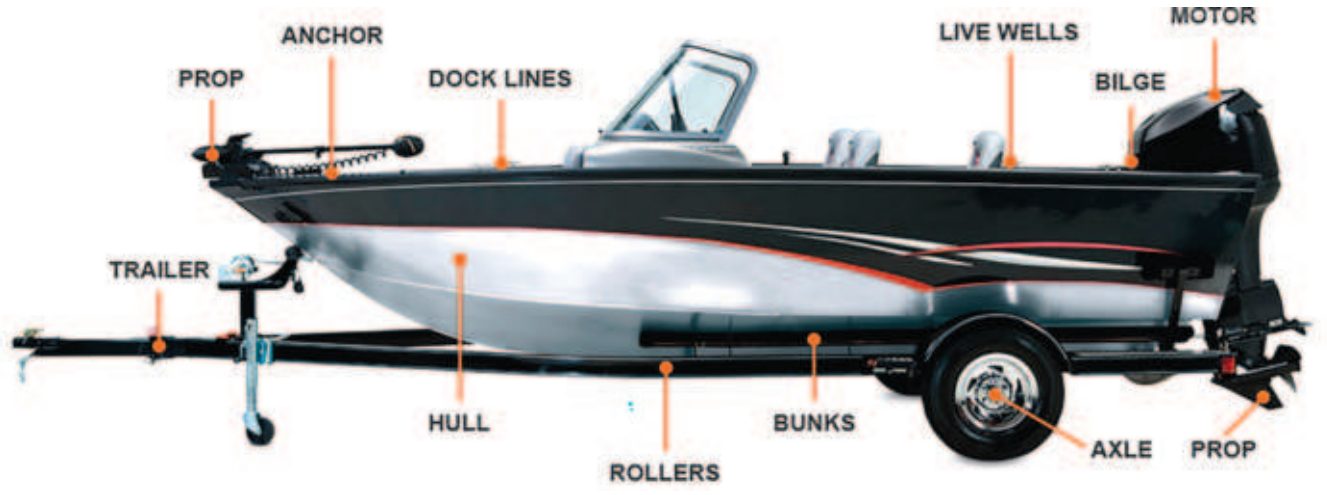
Learn more about regulations related to zebra and quagga mussels.

### REPORT A SIGHTING

We need your help to stop the spread of invasive mussels! Please report any new sightings, and if possible, take a picture of the zebra or quagga mussel and record its GPS location.

### FACTS ABOUT INVASIVE MUSSELS

Zebra mussels are known to have caused alarming declines in populations of fish, birds and native mussel species and can disrupt a city’s entire water supply system by colonizing the insides of pipelines and restricting the flow of water. Zebra mussels also damage boat hulls, plug water systems used in boat motors, air conditioners and heads and cause naviga-



### INVASIVE MUSSELS HIDE HERE

You can’t always see invasive mussels because their larvae are invisible to the naked eye. They can survive for days in water trapped in a boat. The only way to be sure you’re not carrying invasive mussels to another body of water is to always clean, drain and dry your boat, trailer, and gear.

tion buoys to sink. Millions of dollars are spent each year controlling, cleaning and monitoring zebra mussels in other states.

Zebra mussels have a high rate of filtration (especially at high populations) which has led to increased water clarity and sunlight penetration by decreasing the amount of beneficial phytoplankton like diatoms and green algae. Increased sunlight penetration leads to increased water temperature as well as an increased Secchi depths (the depth that light penetrates underwater). This may be deleterious, in that different organisms live within various strata of the water column. Once those strata disappear, so may the organisms. Zebra mussels also feed on zooplankton, and have been associated with their declines as well. Zebra mussels pose a real threat to native mussels by competing for food and attaching to their shells. A zebra mussel colony can eventually smother a native mussel colony.

In addition to their ecological effects, zebra mussels have a negative impact on the economy. Zebra mussels have the ability to adhere to just about any substrate. Due to their sessile nature, once



PHOTO COURTESY TEXAS INVASIVE PLANT AND PEST COUNCIL

Zebra mussels only grow to 1 ½ inches and develop a distinctive zebra-striped shell. One zebra or quagga mussel can produce up to one million microscopic larvae per year. Invasive mussels can cause tremendous environmental and economic damage – hurting aquatic life, damaging your boat, hindering water recreation and even threatening your water supply.

the veliger larvae has bound to its substrate of choice, mussels develop into adults and are permanently secured via anchors known as byssal threads. These byssal threads allow many zebra mussels to cluster together on various

types of substrates including pipes, boats, boat trailers, buoys and dinghys. High cost has been associated with removing zebra mussels from intake pipes to power plants, piping associated with air conditioning, fire hoses, and

many others as they constrict water flow. The mussels may also sink buoys, destroy fishing equipment, and take over objects left in the water for a long period of time.

Spread the word, not invasive mussels!

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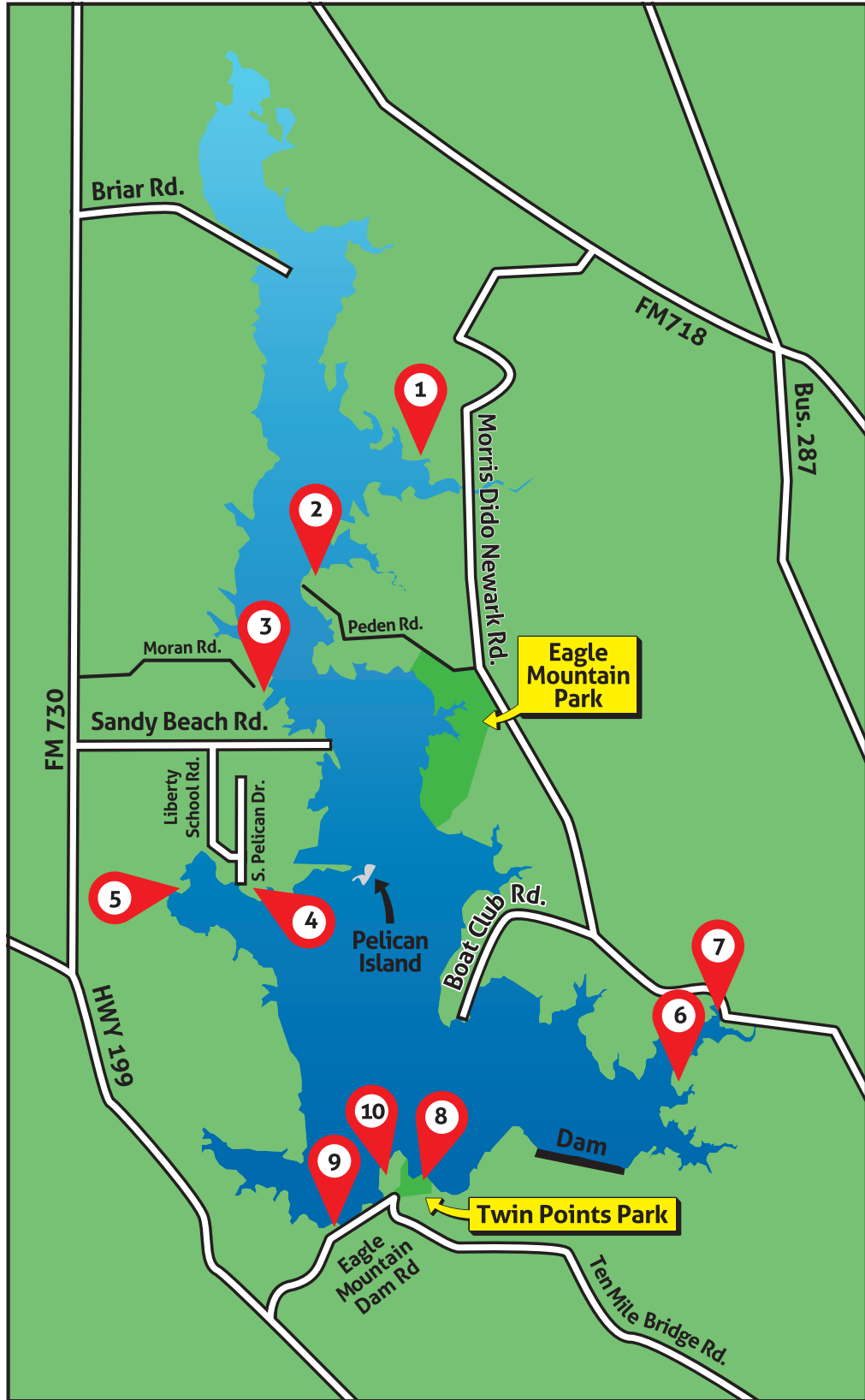
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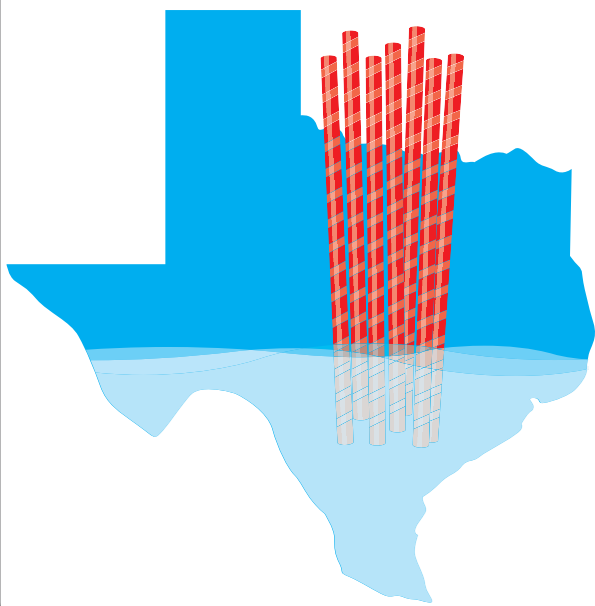
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