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[May 29, 2011]

Outdoors notebook: Anglers add apps to tacklebox [Tulsa World, Okla.]

(Tulsa World (OK) Via Acquire Media NewsEdge) May 29--HANDY -- that's what mobile phone applications are supposed to be.

"It is handy," Wagoner fishing pro Tommy Biffle said of FishMate, a program he uses on his iPhone. "It tells you sunrise/sunset, the barometric pressure. When you're fishing on the coast, it has the tides and it includes the moon phases and the prime times with the major and minor every day, so it's a pretty neat deal," Biffle said.

Programmers of FishMate and FishMate Pro announced last week that their popular iPhone hunting and fishing apps will be available this summer for Androids as well.

FishMate creator Sammy Lee comes from a background with 30 years of experience as a pro tournament angler, a marine industry rep and a professional broadcaster. He designed what he calls "killer iPhone and Android apps for fishermen everywhere." Biffle and other tour pros are picking up on the apps, as well as amateur anglers and hunters. Moon phase and position information is handy to check on the water, Biffle said. "The major is when they're biting the best," he said.

The programs also offer current weather condition readings, extended forecasts, tournament news, fishing tips and tackle information as well as reports on competition fishing.

HuntMate and HuntMate Pro will be available July 1, the company reports. Information about the programs can be found at tulsaworld.com/fishmate Record-book striper found below Eufaula Lake: The wildlife department has reported that it turned up a massive striped bass below Lake Eufaula.

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation conducts electrofishing surveys each spring. The department reported several big largemouth bass from lakes like Arcadia, Lawtonka and Watonga, but the newest big fish on the list is a 41.5-inch striped bass estimated at 51.5 pounds based on measurements taken during the survey.

The department reports that if an angler were to catch the fish, it would beat the current state record by about four pounds. The current rod-and-line state record striper is a 47-pound, 8-ounce fish caught at the Lower Illinois River in 1996.

New director: Fishin' Pals, the nonprofit organization that has been getting kids out fishing for 20 years, is being passed from longtime directors Stan and Laura Honeycutt to new tournament director Brian Carrico.

The youth/adult tournament is set for Martin Landing on Grand Lake June 11 with two age-group divisions, Wiggly Warts, who are up to 4 years old, and Fire Tigers, who are under 18.

The Wiggly Warts entry fee is \$85 and Fire Tigers is \$110. The youngest anglers fish from 6 a.m. to noon and trophies are given for the top 20 places. Fire Tigers fish 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and trophies along with cash awards

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