

Falcon: It's Only Getting Better
by Pete Robbins



“This lake is going to be incredible in two or three years,” said WBT Pro Debra Hengst.

Was she talking about Pickwick? Neely Henry? Some stock tank in south-central Texas that was recently loaded up with freak show Florida-strain bass left to feed on cattle that come down to the bank for a drink ?

Nope, she was talking about Falcon, on the Texas/Mexico border.

Um, Deb, hate to break the news to you. Secret’s out about the big pond. Remember Elias whacking 132 pounds to set the all-time BASS record last April? Then Hackney and Terry Bolton engaged in a shootout in the East/West Fishoff. If they’d had a fourth day of competition there’s a pretty good chance one or both of them would’ve beaten the mark that Paul had cranked up only seven months earlier.

She’s aware of all of this. “Yes, I know,” Hengst said. “The secret’s out. It used to be our little honey hole. Years ago Zapata was like a ghost town and now there are a whole lot more people down there than there have ever been.”

So what did she mean it’s going to be incredible? Isn’t Falcon already there?

Of course it is, but the lake is at full pool for the first time in years. “I don’t know if I’ve ever seen it this high,” said the veteran Texas pro. Referring to the places where pros like Elias, Scroggins, Martens and Velvick filled their livewells, she added that “the rock foundations are way, way deep. You can’t get to the bank.”

As a result, she expects the next couple of spawns to be the best in recent history. Think about it – unmolested bedding females, acres and acres of cactus, bushes, hardwoods and

other prickly flora keeping the fry and fingerlings from getting poached. It's going to be an 80,000 plus acre Petri dish for Frankenfish.

She thinks the Stren guys down there this week are gonna whack 'em. No predictions of it taking 40 pounds a day, but a solid 32 to 35 should get the job done.

"We already had one spawn when the FLW guys were down here (in November)," she said. "We had another this past Sunday when I was down there and there should be a third." Not all of those fish are going to survive, of course, but the odds are good that more than just a few of them will grow to over ten pounds, with a handful solidly in the teen class. Hengst is just about willing to bet her Skeeter that there already exists a 17 or 18 pound monster somewhere in Falcon.

So we asked her one final question: What will be the key piece of tackle this week? Will it be the big crank like Elias used, maybe a Strike King Anaconda that Hack used to put the hurt on them?

Nope.

"It'll be a chainsaw," Hengst said. "Guys are cutting paths to the bank to get back to where the fish are. Their boats look like brush piles. This is no place to take a pretty boat with a new wrap right now. When you go through there it sounds like nails on a chalkboard."

Full contact fishing at its best. Power tools optional.

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