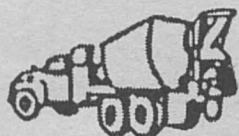


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**Attwater Prairie Chicken refuge  
to feature free guided tours**

Personnel at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service volunteers have teamed up to offer free guided tours of the refuge during the Seventh Annual Eagle Lake Prairie Chicken Festival to be held April 6-8.

The celebration was con-

ceived in 1995 through cooperative efforts from Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, Houston Audubon Society, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to provide a mechanism to enhance the awareness of the endangered Attwater's prairie chicken's plight.

Guided tours of the refuge will begin in downtown Eagle Lake at 7 a.m. and leave every hour through 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8.

Although there is no guarantee that visitors will be able to see the endangered Attwater's prairie chicken in the wild, the best tours to take to possibly see the birds would be in the early morning.

The tours will take visitors into an area that is normally closed to the public and will touch on such topics as refuge management techniques, prairie chicken recovery efforts, and coastal prairie ecosystem issues. Tours are expected to last less than two hours and admission is free.

Those interested in learning more about these tours should call the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge at (979) 234-3021, Ext. 12.

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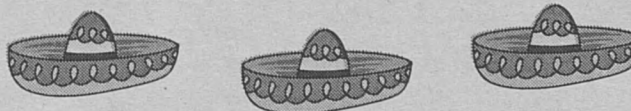
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**BASSMASTER  
to 'lure' kids**

The Eagle Lake Prairie Chicken Festival will host a new event, the BASSMASTER CastingKids' competition, sponsored by Chevrolet, Bass and Lake Motors Inc.

It is a national fishing competition designed to teach young people in two age groups (7-10 and 11-14) the basics of fishing and environmental awareness. It also introduces them to a recreational activity that they will enjoy for a lifetime.

The competition is to cast a hookless lure from 30 feet, pitch from 20 feet and flip from 10 feet toward a 42-inch wide bull's-eye target. The participants are given instruction and practice rounds before the actual competition.

Prizes will be awarded to the local winners with winners of the local competition advancing to the state finals and winners of the state competition advancing to the national level where winners receive cash and/or scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

The CastingKids' competition will be Saturday, April 7 from 10 a.m. to noon in the downtown festival area. All children ages 7-14 are invited to participate as long as they are accompanied to the event by an adult.

Registration will be from 9:30 to 10 a.m. at the event location, and rods and reels for the contest will be provided. Admission is free!