

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

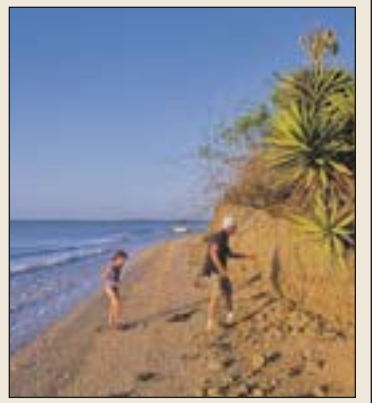
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Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

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**ADVENTURE**  
Port Aransas family fun  
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## INSIDE

### FISHING NEWS



Ravenous jack crevalle invade Texas bays in late summer. They won't grace the dinner table, but these 20-pounders offer sport fishermen reel-smoking action.

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Kansas trumped Japan when Brent Chapman edged out Toshinari Namiki in the Cabela's Top Gun Championship.

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Owners of some Baffin Bay fishing cabins are the losers in a longtime property dispute between the state and the owners of a Texas ranch.

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**DANCING DOVE:** A mourning dove attempts to reverse course in midair. This year's dove season is expected to be better than last, but hunters still need to prepare by scouting out the best areas before the hunting begins Sept. 1.

## Dove busters

Tips for red-hot September wingshooting

BY LYNN BURKHEAD

**W**ith the opening of the Texas dove season at hand, who wouldn't want a little advice on how to make this your best season ever? Experts from around the state say the key to success is to prepare for the season. A little footwork now could mean a full bag Sept. 1.

### SHOOTING

Put simply, being a deadeye wingshot in September actually starts in late August by grabbing your shotgun, a box or two of

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**BUCK FEVER:** Hunters search for deer in South Texas, where deer leases are costly.

## Costly deer leases push hunters west

South Texas may be too expensive for many middle-class sportsmen

BY MARK ENGLAND

**D**eer leasing in Texas may have become a seller's market, but the middle class hasn't been kicked out of the game yet, according to experts contacted by Lone Star Outdoor News.

"If you're like a lot of working stiffs, you'll have to look around, see where you can go, where you can fit in," said Kirby Brown, executive vice president of the Texas Wildlife Association. "For those who are willing to go and start over with new landowners, there are some

real deals out there."

Out there, though, won't be in the whitetail meccas of South Texas and the Hill Country, where deer leases routinely go for more than \$3,000 per gun.

Brown's advice? Go west, man. "If you go west, toward Paducah, toward Matador, somewhere out of the way, you can still find reasonable rates and put yourself in a place to be successful," Brown said. "That's not what people are doing. They're not thinking outside the box."

Bill Pennington of Burnet, however, isn't so sure.

"I used to go to Marfa on a

Continued on page 10

## Snook make appearance north of stronghold

BY MARK ENGLAND

**F**or years, sightings of snook north of the Lower Laguna Madre, home to the only viable concentration of snook outside of Florida, have been rare.

Even there, snook haven't returned to their heyday, when in 1937 a 57.2-pound snook was caught off Padre Island. It remains the oldest Texas saltwater record.

But something unexpected is happening with the snook population: They're showing up more frequently in the northern reaches of their coastal territory. Anglers have spotted them as far north as Galveston.

Jim Dailey caught a snook recently at Fish Pond, near Matagorda Bay.



**FIGHTING FISH:** Common snook

"He was about a foot long," said Dailey, a retired fisheries biologist. "I was more surprised than anything. It's pretty unusual. I've seen six in my 40 years on the bay."

Reports of snook being caught or seen near Port O'Connor-Matagorda Bay have been cropping up, though. About 50 years ago, the fighting fish was plentiful along the Texas coast. Whether because of overfishing, pesticides, disease or reduced freshwater inflows — which juvenile snook are dependent on to maintain food availability

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# NATIONAL NEWS

## DVD explores America's most uncivilized places

A new DVD explores the wonders of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the two-hour DVD, "America's Wildest Places," commemorates the centennial celebration of President Theodore Roosevelt's designation of Florida's Pelican Island as the nation's first refuge.

It offers a look at eight of the most stunning refuges, complemented by narration and musical scores, in a handy DVD format.

From your armchair, you'll fly among the stately white whooping cranes of the Aransas and Matagorda Island national wildlife refuges in Texas. You'll track the stealthy endangered red wolf in the gloomy backwaters of

North Carolina's Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. And you'll tumble alongside rollicking Alaska brown bears at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

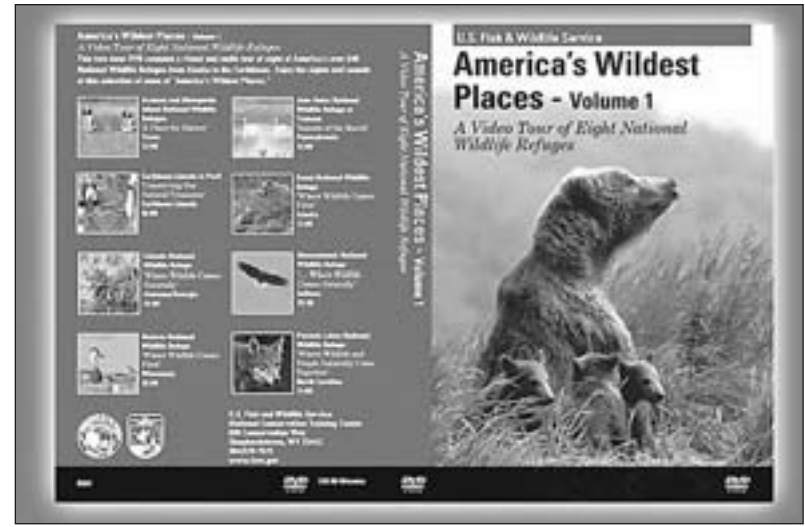
The video tour continues at five other of America's finest windows on wildlife — the Caribbean Islands refuge; the Eufaula refuge in the marsh country of Alabama and Georgia; the Horicon's duck and goose haven in Wisconsin; the bottomland woods of Muscatatuck refuge in Indiana; and the John Heinz/Tinicum urban oasis with the Philadelphia skyline as a backdrop.

"Here, in this first volume, in what we hope will become an occasional series of video tours of the National Wildlife Refuge System, we've packed more color,

action and scenic beauty than you'll find in any other commercially-available wildlife video for the money," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Steve Williams.

"America's Wildest Places" incorporates the work of the FWS's professional team of videographers, who travel the refuge system from Alaska to Puerto Rico in search of the nation's most spectacular outdoor scenery and unusual wildlife projects, such as the restoration of the Atlantic puffin sea bird on the fog-shrouded Maine islands.

"The majesty of America's refuges is the palette from which our photographers paint, and we want to showcase their outstanding work, at the lowest possible cost, before the American public,



**MAJESTIC WILDERNESS:** A new video focuses on the National Wildlife Refuge System.

who make our efforts possible," said Steve Hillebrand, production director for the video unit.

The DVD sells for \$6, plus \$2.50 shipping and handling, regardless of quantity ordered. With each order, a copy of the National Wildlife Refuge System Visitor Guide is enclosed. The guide provides a map of all 540 refuges in

the system and a listing of public-use activities available at each station.

To order "America's Wildest Places," visit <http://training.fws.gov/refugedvd/> or call (304) 876-7692.

—A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report

## Firearm industry maneuvers into U.N. territory

The firearm and ammunition industry now has a seat at the world table of the United Nations. The international-relations body, made up of 191 countries, granted official consultative status to the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute (SAAMI).

SAAMI, founded in 1926, publishes voluntary industry quality and safety standards,

coordinates technical manufacturing data, and promotes safe and responsible firearms use. With its new U.N. designation, SAAMI is now a global resource for scientific facts on guns and ammunition.

In securing the official designation, SAAMI Managing Director Rick Patterson delivered a presentation to the U.N. Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. Afterward, he answered ques-

tions and responded to concerns regarding firearm industry involvement in U.N. issues.

SAAMI becomes only the fourth firearms-related, non-government organization to be officially recognized by the United Nations. Patterson said SAAMI sought the status given the United Nations' role in creating treaties and model regulations.

"International treaties are critical because a treaty actual-

ly supersedes the U.S. Constitution, so SAAMI can now speak up during deliberations over any treaties that could ultimately render America's Second Amendment null and void," Patterson said.

SAAMI's new designation allows it a seat at the table during the development of model regulations, Patterson said.

"There are thousands upon thousands of model regulations for countries to adopt,

and SAAMI now has an official opportunity to provide input in the creation of these models," he said. "We can't prevent politicians from deliberately making bad decisions, but we can make sure they don't unintentionally make bad decisions from a lack of knowledge."

—A Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute report

## Senate bill shields firearm makers, distributors from junk lawsuits

The U.S. Senate's passage of a bill blocking most civil liability lawsuits against firearms manufacturers was hailed by the firearms industry and gun owners.

The bill, called the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, is expected to be signed by President Bush.

"I want to thank the many individuals and publications in the outdoor media for the tremendous job they did in

making their readers aware of the seriousness of the threat to the firearms industry from these predatory lawsuits," said Doug Painter, president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation. "Your call to action helped remind millions of hunters, shooters and gun owners across the nation of the importance of protecting their passion and beliefs."

Painter said the bill is needed to protect the nation's wildlife management programs. Since 1937, the firearms and ammu-

munition industry has provided billions of dollars in support of conservation programs through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act.

"The conservation community clearly understood that an attack on the firearms industry was also an attack on the future of hunting and wildlife conservation," Painter said.

More than 30 lawsuits have been filed against the makers and sellers of firearms since 1998. The Senate's landmark bill provides protection for

manufacturers, distributors, retailers and importers of all legally sold firearms and ammunition. Even though 30 states have passed similar legislation, the federal measure would provide the full protection sought by the firearms industry, nullify pending suits and prevent future illegitimate lawsuits from being filed.

The bill does allow lawsuits to be filed against companies that sell defective products or against firearms dealers who break the law.

Approved amendments included one introduced by Sen. Herbert Kohl (D-Wisconsin) that requires firearms dealers provide a "secure gun storage or safety device" with every handgun transferred to a customer. As nearly all firearms are shipped from the factory with a safety device, the new measure would apply mainly to used handguns.

—A National Shooting Sports Foundation report

### EDITOR'S NOTE

#### Lone Star Outdoor News celebrates one-year anniversary

This month marked the birthday of our publication. Over the past year, Lone Star Outdoor News staffers have worked to give readers the best outdoor publication in Texas. From the Internet hunting controversy to the freshwater fishing stamp debate to current trends in deer leases, we've covered important news affecting anglers and hunters. But we've also made it a point to offer features on topics such as redfish fly fishing and the best urban fishing spots in the state. Every month, our goal has been to bring our subscribers something unique: a newspaper packed full of timely, informative articles that can't be found in any other single publication.

And you, our readers, have responded by subscribing. There's really no higher compliment, and we thank you. So this month, be sure to renew your subscription and tell your friends to sign up. Heck, our publisher is even giving away free caps to those who buy a subscription. So don't miss your chance for a freebie and a great newspaper you'll receive twice a month.

—Darlene McCormick Sanchez

### WRITE US!

Lone Star Outdoor News welcomes comments and suggestions on our newspaper and your views on the Texas outdoors. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Send letters to: [editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com](mailto:editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com), or mail them to: Lone Star Outdoor News, 9304 Forest Lane, Suite 114 South, Dallas, TX 75243.



### CORRECTION

In a story on deer leases that ran in the Aug. 12 issue of Lone Star Outdoor News, a Web site belonging to Scott Thrash was incorrectly identified. The correct site address is [deertexas.com](http://deertexas.com).

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# CONSERVATION UPDATE

## Conservation vets plan gathering at state park

Dozens of surviving members of a unique American fraternity that planted billions of trees, stocked almost a billion fish and developed 800 state parks will kick up their heels and reminisce about their days in the Civilian Conservation Corps during a two-day reunion at Garner State Park.

Billed as "A Dance to Remember," the CCC reunion will take place Sept. 16-17 on the banks of the Frio River at Texas' most popular camping park. Garner State Park is renowned for its beautiful Texas Hill Country scenery and its nightly dances each summer at the rock concession building construct-

ed by the young men of CCC Company 879 in the late 1930s.

"We're the only state park with a CCC pavilion that still uses it for dancing," park manager Craig VanBaarle said.

Reunion festivities will begin at 1 p.m., Friday, Sept. 16 with registration and the recording of oral histories of the "CCC boys" whose average age is 86, followed by a bus tour of the 1,484-acre park. The day's activities will conclude with a 6 p.m. program honoring the CCC veterans and a dance at the pavilion, which is built of native limestone and cypress. Highlighting Saturday's schedule will be hayride tours of the park and a 5 p.m. spaghetti sup-

per with cowboy music and poetry.

"All CCC veterans, including those who've worked in any CCC camp in the nation, as well as their families and the general public, are invited to attend," said TPW's Janelle Taylor, who is coordinating the event. "We who enjoy our parks today owe a debt of gratitude to these hard-working, talented men who built the backbone of our Texas state park system."

For more information, Taylor can be reached at (512) 389-4665 or email her at janelle.taylor@tpwd.state.tx.us.

—A Texas Parks and Wildlife report

## Biologists trump hydrilla

State officials say they're winning the battle

Years of trying to control hydrilla in Lake Austin on the Colorado River have reduced the infestation to its lowest level since the nuisance exotic plant was discovered here in 1999, a result that bodes well for dozens of other Texas lakes facing similar threats.

Hydrilla is currently present in only about nine acres of Lake Austin, according to a July survey by Texas Parks and Wildlife. This is a decrease from 26 acres in May and 201 acres in July 2004. At the highest point in 2002, hydrilla covered more than 300 acres of the lake.

"An important lesson from Lake Austin that applies statewide is that we did not rush the solution," said Phil Durocher, TPW inland fisheries director. "Our goal from the beginning has been to address the problems caused by hydrilla for landowners, boaters, swimmers and others while protecting the interests of anglers who enjoy the enhanced fishing opportunity provided by vegetation cover."

TPW, the City of Austin, the Lower Colorado River Authority and the Friends of Lake Austin, a lakeside homeowner group, agreed in 2002 on a plan to battle hydrilla. The battle plan included lake draw-downs, the stocking of sterile

grass carp and the release of hydrilla flies to eat the hydrilla, approved pesticides, mechanical harvesting and bottom barriers.

"The temptation in situations like this is to over-react," said Earl Chilton, TPW's leading expert on exotic aquatic plants. "It might have been tempting to stock thousands of grass carp immediately. But, the partners created a plan incorporating several strategies, including research to make sure the carp would work as intended. The result is we still have adequate vegetation of other kinds and a healthier fishery and ecosystem. The steady, deliberate approach is better in the long run."

First discovered in Texas 30 years ago, hydrilla has since been found in nearly half of the 200 public water bodies managed by TPW fisheries biologists, particularly those in the eastern part of the state.

Hydrilla was originally introduced in the United States as an aquarium plant, and has since spread throughout the South. Because it grows rapidly from fragments, hydrilla can be unintentionally transported from lake to lake attached to boat trailers or boat motor propellers. Capable of growing a phenomenal 4 inches a day in clear water, it can establish itself quickly and spread rapidly.

A certain amount of vegetation, especially native plants that evolved in Texas waters, is healthy. However, sprawling exotic plants like hydrilla can limit boating and swimming and other recreational access, restrict flows in canals and rivers, interfere with power plant intakes and harm fish and wildlife.

After flooding in 2001, huge mats of uprooted hydrilla made their way downstream and clogged hydroelectric power generators operated by the Lower Colorado River Authority, resulting in an estimated loss of \$300,000 due to plant shut-downs.

Lake managers or communities with exotic aquatic plant problems have several control options available. A law passed by the Texas Legislature requires individuals or organizations to submit an Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Proposal to TPW for approval. The department recommends a comprehensive approach known as Integrated Pest Management, which advocates choosing the best tools for the situation. Complete information is on the TPW Web site ([http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/lakeandwater/water/environmentconcerns/nuisance\\_plants/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/lakeandwater/water/environmentconcerns/nuisance_plants/)).

—A Texas Parks and Wildlife report

## Game violators' number is up

Coast Watchers program expands with new enforcement effort

A single toll-free number will allow citizens to immediately report game violations to the appropriate state agency.

The new number, (866) WE ENFORCE or (866) 933-6367, is an expansion of the existing Coast Watchers program, which focuses on the enforcement of game laws.

"This is a cross between a fisheries 911 number and a neighborhood-watch program," said Pat Murray, executive director of the Coastal Conservation Association of Texas. "Anglers

and all citizens who observe a game violation anywhere along the Gulf Coast can call this Gulf-wide number and be connected with the closest state fisheries enforcement agency."

The (866) WE ENFORCE program was developed as a joint project of the CCA, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Law Enforcement Committee and corresponding state agencies in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

Citizens who observe a game-law violation can call the toll-free number directly from their boats

or onshore. The hotline is set up so calls are immediately forwarded to the respective state agency closest to where the call originates.

"This is another link in ensuring the proper conservation of our coastal marine resources," said Will Ohmstede, Chairman of CCA of Texas. "Our angling public has a far-reaching set of eyes to help recognize game-law violations and get the proper authorities involved."

—A Coastal Conservation Association of Texas report

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# HUNTING

## Deer hunters toil now for autumn's rewards

BY LYNN BURKHEAD

Deer hunters all over the state of Texas should be on a mission right now: Get your property shipshape before hunting season rolls around.

Scott Unclebach, who operates a search engine specialist firm in Frisco, has been on five Texas deer leases over a two-decade span.

He advises hunters to see beyond simply signing on the dotted line of a lease agreement. To get a big buck come autumn, you've got to plan on sweating.

"In every case we have had to improve the roads, create access to hunting areas and set up feeders and blinds," Unclebach said. "This can cost in the thousands of dollars. If you have a long-term lease, you can take your time and do some each year."

Doug Rodgers, a Whitesboro businessman and deer-hunting enthusiast, has also learned the value of hard work on a Texas

deer lease.

And he, too, believes that August is the time for serious hunters to get out and take stock of a deer lease and the work it needs well in advance of this fall's hunting season.

"Yes, the earlier the better," Rodgers said. "You want to get it all done now so that you're not worrying about it come bow season in October. Go ahead and get it knocked out now."

What do hunters need to do?

First, make sure exactly what your lease agreement and/or your hunting property's landowner or manager will allow you to do in terms of heavy-equipment work.

Next, see what heavy work actually needs to be done. That can range from road repairs following spring rains, new road construction needs, new tower stands or box blinds that need to be set up, fence construction or mending needs, brush that needs clearing or the establishment of new senders on your lease.

Also pay close attention to any tractor work that needs to be done on your property.

"You may need to do some mowing, some plowing, the actual seeding of food plots with a cone-shaped spreader, the spreading of fertilizer and the harrowing in the seed and fertilizer," Rodgers said.

Rodgers also reminds hunters that the time to plant cool-season food plots is approaching in much of Texas, ideally from early to mid-September in North Texas.

"There's a fine line there, of course, because you don't want to plant too early so that the food plots burn up in the August heat and not so late that they run the risk of frost issues later on," Rodgers said.

After such heavy work is done, it's probably a good time to then turn attention to smaller chores like the filling and maintaining of feeders — an ongoing project on most Texas deer leases.

"You've got to give these

*Continued on page 11*



**CLEAN-UP TIME:** A west Texas hunter cleans corn out of his feeder.

## Bugs out for blood

BY ROBERT CADWALLADER

Thanks to some recent Texas rainfall, the hunters will become the hunted just in time for dove season Sept. 1. Weather patterns don't foretell a bumper crop of bugs this hunting season, but experts think recent rain across the state — some quite heavy — will bring out the mosquitoes in a few weeks.

Even a few biting insects — whether mosquitoes, ticks, chiggers, flies or other pests — drawing a bead on unprotected skin can make hunting uncomfortable.

Karl Kinsel, executive director of the Texas Deer Association in San Antonio, tells his members to be prepared with insect-resistant clothing and repellents.

"Otherwise, they're going to

have to swat bugs — and hope the deer aren't looking when they do it," he said.

Helping unprepared hunters find their inner Boy Scout is big business. Stores and Web sites offer a wide range of products, not all of which have been scientifically proven.

There are sprays and lotions for the skin, repellents that are sprayed on clothing, clothing manufactured with bug-resistant chemicals in the fabric, bug lanterns and mesh clothing.

Protection from bug bites is becoming more important. Concerns grow about the spread of the mosquito-transmitted West Nile virus, and in August scientists announced that a common type of dog tick has been found to spread the often-fatal Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Although the infected ticks have been found so far only

*Continued on page 11*



**R&R:** A wounded vet enjoys the festivities provided by grateful outdoorsmen.

## Outdoorsmen serve barbecue to soldiers injured in line of duty

Anglers and hunters gave wounded U.S. troops stationed at Ft. Sam Houston's Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio a Texas-sized barbecue and catfish dinner this month as a way of honoring them for their service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The "Sportsmen Saying Thanks" event was hosted by Keith Warren; his wife, Deb; children Meridith, Kolton and Mattisyn; staff and over 70 of his forum volunteers. Keith Warren is the host of two nationally syndicated programs that air on The Outdoor Channel.

Forum members from all across Texas and Oklahoma came to serve over 300 meals to wounded

soldiers and their families.

The evening's festivities were highlighted by a performance from well-known Texas entertainer Robert Earl Keen. Keen donated hundreds of CDs and visited with the soldiers and autographed memorabilia, in addition to playing several of his well-known songs. The internationally recognized Heart of Texas Choral Group also entertained.

Supporters of the event included Granzin's Meat Market in New Braunfels, which provided hamburgers and hot dogs, while companies across Texas provided donations of food and drinks.

— A staff report

## TPW coaxes families to get outdoors

Texas Parks and Wildlife is testing a new program called "Becoming An Outdoors-Family," offering a weekend workshop Sept. 16-18 at its Parrie Haynes Ranch near Killeen. The program is geared to first-timers who want to learn camping, fishing, backpacking, shooting, mountain biking and more.

It's based on TPW's popular "Becoming An Outdoors-Woman" workshop series, which began 13 years ago and has graduated 2,567 women and compiled a database of more than 13,000 women interested in outdoor experiences.

"Everyone in today's mostly urban world, not just women, is getting further from the outdoors," said Ashley Mathews, who coordinates Becoming An Outdoors-Woman for TPW. "Those traditional skills that were fundamental for Texans 100 years ago are being lost. It's harder to imagine doing these

things when you don't have that tradition in your family, and you don't have the basic skills."

Mathews said TPW has long considered ways to offer a family-based outdoor learning program.

The final spark came in part from the "Becoming An Outdoors Family" weekend offered each summer in Vermont, now in its eighth year.

The Texas weekend starts 6 p.m., Friday, Sept. 16 and continues through lunch on Sunday, Sept. 18. Course topics include Camping 101 (for adults), Texas Explorers (for kids), Fishing Basics, Hit the Trail (day hikes), Mountain Biking, Air Rifle, Family Nature Walks, Water Wonders, Wildlife Detectives, Insect Investigation, Fly Fishing, Backpacking, Outdoor First Aid, Kayaking Basics, Dutch Oven Cooking and Archery.

The cost is \$175 for a family of four, plus \$15 for each additional person. That covers all meals, lodging, demonstration equipment and

instruction.

"We realize this is a real bargain, and prices may change later, but we want to make this attractive and easy for families to get involved," Mathews said.

The workshop is for the family that has never tried outdoor activities, but would like an opportunity to learn. It is designed for families with children ages 5 to 12. There should be one adult over 18 for every two children. Children under 12 may not attend an outdoor activity without a parent or guardian.

As Mathews explained: "It can be any combination: grandmother and grandchildren, uncle and nephew, as long as there's an adult and a child with a family connection."

Workshop enrollment is limited to 18 families on a first-come, first-served basis. To sign up e-mail ashley.mathews@tpwd.state.tx.us

—A Texas Parks and Wildlife report

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IN THE BAG: Teal hunters with a fast limit of birds near Lake Jackson.

## Teal season holds promise this year

BY BINK GRIMES

Wishing and hoping is a good way to describe waterfowlers' attitude toward the upcoming Sept. 17-25 teal season.

Hunters hope there is enough water to hold birds once they arrive; hope there is at least a weak cool front to prompt birds to migrate; and, hope this season is much better than last year's lackluster affair.

"Teal season is a fickle creature," said Dave Morrison, Texas Parks and Wildlife's waterfowl program leader. "There are many factors involved that make for successful hunting."

The most important factor in any duck hunting success is the first five letters of the word "waterfowl." Water determines whether you have a quick morning shoot or a long morning of conversation.

"Right now, if you have water or the ability to pump water, you are looking good for teal season," Morrison said.

Conditions along the coast, where most teal are hunted, are dry. It's been a mixed summer, though. The coast received little rain in June, then saw buckets of rain in July.

Prairie hunters near Eagle Lake, Garwood, El Campo, Brookshire, Katy and Winnie hope the skies open so pumps will not have to be fired off for several days to fill ponds.

"The price of fuel has a lot of us concerned in this business," said Wesley Morton, owner of South Texas Waterfowl in El Campo. "Pumping water for three or four days so we can hunt a nine-day teal season is not real cost-effective; not when farm diesel is \$1.95 a gallon."

Morton said he blocked up his fields, hoping rainwater will fill his ponds and save him thousands of dollars in fuel costs.

"A good early September rain sure would help things," said Morton.

Marsh hunters along the coast

are also hoping for rain, though ponds there are not as dependent on freshwater. Most marsh ponds, short of freshwater impoundments, rely on tidal flow to fill ponds. Since late September normally coincides with swollen autumn equinox tides, water should not be a problem.

East Texas hunters face the same dilemma as the prairies. During dry years, most teal keep heading south when they cross the Red River. The ones that stay flock to the shallow coves of lakes and reservoirs. East Texas teal hunting is best when sloughs and river bottoms have just enough water to float a duck. Unfortunately, the region is extremely dry and in dire need of rain.

This year's breeding surveys tab blue-winged teal numbers at 4.6 million birds, about 100,000 birds short of the 4.7 million birds needed to warrant a liberal 16-day season. Morrison, however, said there could be more birds.

"Southern Canada and the Dakotas got wetter in late May and early June, which should help teal numbers," he said.

Though all teal species, including bluewings, greenwings and cinnamon teal, are legal to harvest during the nine-day season, the brunt of the bag will be comprised of bluewings. These Columbia blue flashes are the first duck species to head south, and the last to return to spring breeding grounds. As teal arrive in Texas, they are just passing through on their way to Mexico and Central America.

Blue-winged teal migrate in three groups: First, in early September, mostly drakes move through Texas; then, about the third weekend in September, hens that did not raise a brood make the trek; finally beginning around late September, hens along with their brood of first-year flyers take the tour.

*Bink Grimes is a freelance writer and hunting and fishing guide from Bay City.*

## Eurasian dove is fair game

BY STEVE BYRNS

Camouflage will be the rage starting next month in rural Texas. It signals the annual exodus from air-conditioned comfort to the blistering late-summer heat of the dove hunting fields.

Mourning doves have traditionally ruled the roost over much of Texas, making them the dominant species in most hunters' bags, said Jim Cathey, a Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist. However, another native, the white-winged dove, is expanding its number and range.

"Hunters once traveled to South Texas to take whitewings," Cathey said. "Now it is fairly common to find these birds traveling back and forth from roosting sites within the city limits to foraging areas just outside many Texas towns. Most Texas hunters now can expect to take a whitewing from time to time, particularly if they hunt from Waco on south. Limits of whitewings can be had in deeper South Texas, which still serves as their stronghold."

The big news, though, is that there's an entirely new dove in town — one that may not be welcome. It's the Eurasian collared dove, an exotic species now being seen frequently.

"Originally this bird lived in India and spread to Europe sever-

al hundred years ago," Cathey said. "Reports indicated that their numbers held steady until the 1930s and then dramatically increased. Some people noted big jumps in geographical distance from known dove colonies to previously uninhabited areas."

The Eurasian collared dove was brought to the Bahama Islands in the 1970s, Cathey said, as a substitute for the ringed-turtle dove sold in the pet industry. Eurasian collared dove escapees in the 1980s made the short flight from the islands to Florida.

Exotic species such as the Eurasian collared dove can cause problems. They compete with native animals for food, water, shelter and space, and expose them to foreign diseases.

"There is concern within the wildlife community that the Eurasian collared dove is expanding its range at the expense of other dove species," Cathey said. "Its true impact on the native dove is poorly understood as this interaction is only in its early stages. Since its discovery in the 1980s, the Eurasian collared dove has expanded its range from Florida to Texas and now there are reports of it in California." The bird has also moved north.

Hunters may wonder if it is legal to harvest Eurasian collared doves. As with any game species, it's best to consult the regulations found in Texas Parks and Wildlife's Outdoor Annual for

any changes. For now, Eurasian collared dove are legal to harvest and there is no closed season or bag limit, Cathey said.

"This rule allows hunters to play a more active role in the conservation of native species," he said. "By removing more Eurasian collared doves, native species may gain a competitive advantage."

How will hunters know if they've taken an Eurasian collared dove?

Eurasian collared doves lack white marks on their wings, making them easily distinguishable from white-winged dove, Cathey said. Hunters may confuse a Eurasian collared dove and a mourning dove at first glance, but the Eurasian dove is much larger in body size.

This difference in size can also be noted for birds in flight.

The Eurasian collared dove's feathers are tan, merging with pale grey and seem to be lighter in color than mourning doves. Its common name, Eurasian collared dove, was given because of its origin and the prominent black band on the back of its neck. This mark is not found on mourning doves.

Cathey said, "Hunters have the opportunity to aid the conservation of the native dove. Being well-informed about this invading species will help them accomplish this task."

—A Texas A&M report

## Dove hunt benefits higher education

BY LYNN BURKHEAD

For many Texas hunters, Sept. 1 is a date that's as cherished as just about any other on the year's calendar.

The reason, of course, is the flighty mourning dove, a diminutive gray ghost of a game bird that weighs mere ounces, but still has enough zip to be an ammunition maker's dream.

That — plus the thought of a feast of dove breasts surrounded by bacon and a jalapeño slice, skewered with a toothpick, smothered with barbecue sauce, and grilled over an open mesquite flame — is more than enough to draw thousands of hunters for another dove season opener.

Last year, a group of about 60 dove hunters gathered at North Central Texas College in Gainesville for the fourth annual "NCTC Foundation Carl Zimmerer Memorial Dove Hunt."

Zimmerer, who died suddenly at age 31 in 1998, was the brother of Debbie Pounds, the vice-president for institutional development at NCTC.

Pounds established a scholarship in her brother's memory. But it was two of her close friends, Phil and Lisa Bellows of Gainesville, who hit upon the idea of hosting an annual fundraising dove hunt to endow the scholarship.

With the help of other enthusiasts like Jack Cable, the dream



PHIL BELLOW, Cooke County businessman, hunting enthusiast and co-organizer of the annual "NCTC Foundation Carl Zimmerer Memorial Dove Hunt" enjoys a barbecue lunch after another successful gathering near Gainesville. Photo by Lynn Burkhead

quickly became a reality.

Lisa Bellows, who chairs the NCTC science department, believes that Zimmerer would be especially proud of the unique connection made in his name between higher education and the outdoors.

"Carl would have been elated," Lisa said. "He hunted, he fished, and he was a cowboy. He was very much an outdoorsman. I think it would have delighted him that his memory is living on through hunting and education."

The 60 hunters who gathered last year had plenty to be delighted about themselves, ranging from the pre-dawn coffee and doughnuts to the warm handshakes and backslaps as old friendships were renewed and another autumn of hunting action began.

Many hunters have participated in the memorial dove hunt since its inception, eager to pay the \$100 fee to enjoy a day of

dove hunting, camaraderie and some good old-fashioned Texas barbecue — all for a very worthy cause.

Having grown from an initial 30 hunters, last year's gathering of twice that many hunters helped push the scholarship fund far beyond everyone's dreams.

"Our initial goal was to raise enough funds to endow a scholarship at \$10,000," said Lisa. "We thought perhaps in five years we could exceed \$10,000."

With last year's event, however, the scholarship fund broke the \$20,000 barrier, ensuring that even more scholarships would be granted beyond the six already given out.

For information on participating in this year's memorial dove hunt — which will feature fewer hunting positions than in previous years — contact Phil Bellows at (940) 665-0581 or call NCTC at (940) 668-7731.

# FISHING

## Kansas' Chapman grabs Top Gun Championship

**K**ansas' Brent Chapman narrowly won his first major title in bass fishing by winning the inaugural Cabela's Top Gun Championship in Fort Worth. Held on Eagle Mountain Lake, the tournament fielded the top 25 professional bass fishermen in the world, according to the State Farm World Rankings.

Chapman's 11.09-pound final day tally gave him 34.96 pounds, good enough for his first major win and a \$100,000 check from Cabela's and Skeeter Boats.

Japan's Toshinari Namiki actually had the heaviest five-fish limit of the final day (12.31 pounds), but his three-day weight total of 34.29 pounds fell just short.

Chapman won by fishing docks with a Terminator Pro's Top Secret Jig with a sapphire blue Zoom chunk. He tied a custom skirt on the jig to match the bright sapphire blue color.

"This is awesome," said Chapman, who was ranked 9th in the world coming into the tournament. "I'm just relieved. I finally won a big tournament."

Chapman admitted Namiki had him sweating.

"I was nervous when I saw what Toshi (Namiki) weighed," he said. "When he weighed in, and I saw his total weight, I thought it would be within ounces. I didn't know if I had it or not."

Namiki said, "I'm a little disappointed because of the money, but I'm not disappointed for how I did in this tournament. I had a really great time. These were great people — Texas people, BassFan people, Cabela's and also the other contenders."

The rest of the Top 5 included George Cochran, third with 32.57 pounds; Dean Rojas, fourth with 32.52 pounds; and Alabama's Matt Herren took fifth with 30.80

pounds.

All were disappointed they didn't win, especially Rojas, who thought he had a great shot.

"I feel terrible," he said. "I just lost \$100,000 and I know it. But I did the best I could today. I have no regrets. I went for it."

The tournament marked the final event of the 2005 professional bass fishing season. Greg Hackney, the Louisiana phenom, ended up ranked No. 1 in the State Farm World Rankings. He was awarded a trophy and a \$7,500 bonus.

The Cabela's Top Gun Championship telecast will air Sept. 24 at 10 a.m. EST on the Outdoor Life Network. Additional coverage of the event will appear on FOX Sports and OLN (Americana Outdoors and Fishing and Hunting Texas).

—A Bassfan.com report



**BRENT CHAPMAN** said his first major win feels "awesome" and he's "relieved." Photo by BassFan.com.



**JIM RASKA**, son-in-law of N. R. Johnston, is shown rebuilding a family cabin piece by piece on the Landcut.



## Lawsuit forces tough decision on families

Cabin renters had to pick up and leave — one way or the other

BY DAVID SIKES

**A** 20-year property dispute between Texas and the Kenedy Foundation left a handful of folks who lease cabins along the Landcut south of Baffin Bay with a difficult choice: Move them or lose them.

Owners of fishing cabins along the Landcut's western shore has a special interest in the outcome of a property-line dispute between the state and the ranch foundation involving thousands of acres and a fortune in mineral royalties.

The 1986 lawsuit reached a tentative settlement last year. The Texas General Land Office faced a payment to the John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation involving millions in oil and gas royalties, which the state had collected over the previous decade. The money already had been spent to help finance public schools. In addition, about 35,000 acres of resource-rich mudflats, mostly along the Landcut south of Baffin Bay, was returned to the Kenedy Foundation.

Kenedy Foundation attorneys said the legal ruling rights a longtime wrong, adding that the disputed property line

never should have been drawn so deeply into the Kenedy Ranch in the first place.

But for the families that built the weekend getaways, the ruling was bad news. Six cabins, which had been on state land and assumed protected by perpetual leases with the GLO, are now considered to be on Kenedy Foundation land. One of these cabins is derelict. Kenedy Foundation lawyers told builders of the remaining five they had two choices: They could physically remove their cabin, but only after paying the foundation an amount that equaled the value of the structure as determined by the foundation; or they simply could abandon their cabin and make a legal promise not to damage them.

Cabin users had 30 days to decide, according to longtime cabin lessee Wayne Campbell of Corpus Christi.

"Basically the foundation told us we were all squatters," Campbell said. "And they were very rude about it. We got a raw deal."

Campbell chose to rebuild at a spoil island site on the opposite side of the Landcut, thanks to a GLO offer that provided alternative sites to each lessee affected by the court's decision. The state allowed Campbell to

maintain the same lease agreement, which involves a permit fee paid every five years and an annual fee of 60 cents per square foot. The GLO designated general boundaries for the five relocation sites.

Corpus Christi businessman N.R. Johnston decided to disassemble his cabin and move it to the new GLO-approved spot. The foundation assessed the value of his 20-year-old cabin at \$7,900. He negotiated the price down to \$6,600, plus a \$1,000 deposit, which has been returned, to guarantee the property would be left clean. Then his family began the daunting task of taking the structure apart and floating the pieces to a new site and putting it back together on the eastern bank of the Landcut. The last stage of this process is under way, thanks to members of the Johnston family who enjoyed the cabin as children.

The elder Johnston harbors no ill will over the outcome.

"We're not mad at anyone," he said. "That's just life."

One cabin builder is disputing the Kenedy Foundation offer. The remaining four have taken the GLO offer.

David Sikes writes about the outdoors for the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

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## Jacks are wild for anglers seeking excitement

BY SCOTT SOMMERLATTE

Every year the story's the same: It's late summer and Texas anglers are fussing about losing their favorite topwater plug or getting spooled by the huge jack crevalle that invade the bays this time of year.

Schools of 15-30 large jacks, most in the 20-pound class, go wild, ravaging the shorelines, annihilating any and all baitfish that happen to be in their path. It is a wade-fisherman's nightmare. But for anglers in it just for the sport and willing to make a small upgrade in tackle — the jack crevalle proves to be an exciting challenge.

The reason most anglers turn up their noses at the beautiful and powerful jack crevalle is because it has little to no food value. But for what they lack as

food fish, they make up for in sport.

For anglers up to the challenge of landing a jack, now is the time. While the large schools of jacks are always present during the warmer months, they are easiest to find during late summer and early fall when the winds are light and the bays slick off. Anglers in poling skiffs and bay boats rigged with trolling motors can pursue large schools of jacks as they crash baitfish along shorelines and in the open bays. The key to success is get out in front of the school and present a large, noisy bait and move it as quickly as possible. This will produce a violent strike almost every time.

As for the proper tackle, many jacks have been landed on traditional trout and redfish outfits. However, when released, the fish is usually over stressed and seldom survives. Should an angler fishing this type tackle hook a

jack, it is best to just crank down the drag and bust the fish off, otherwise the angler is looking at a burned-up reel with no line, a dead fish or even worse, all of the above.

When fishing lures, a medium/heavy action 6-foot spinning rod with a reel spooled up with 10- to 12-inch diameter (about 25- to 30-pound test) braided line with a 40-pound fluorocarbon leader is a good choice for making long casts to schools. For those who prefer level-wind gear, it is best to use an outfit that can handle casting large topwaters on 17- to 20-pound test line. It should be light enough to cast easily, but still have the backbone to whip a 25-pound fish quickly. The reel should be able to hold at least 200 yards of line.

For the fly-caster, 10- to 12-weight rigs with a floating fly-line and a 5- to 7-foot long, 20-pound leader with a 40-pound bite tip-



SPORT FISH: Mark Nichols (above) shows off a nice jack crevalle.

pet will get the job done. Again, most of the action is near the surface so a fly box loaded with large poppers and bulky streamers will do.

Whether it is with a fly or lure, a fast retrieve is the key in duping jacks on artificials or fly. Once a fish takes the lure, be prepared for powerful runs, with the first being long and fast.

To land the fish quickly for a safe release, anglers should fight the fish hard utilizing the powerful butt section of the rod.

When the fish comes boat-side, it should be handled with care.

The easiest way to land a jack is by tailing it. But the sharp ridges that run along the fish's lateral lines can cut an angler's hands, so gloves are recommended.

Bringing a jack into the boat is only part of the fun. With these fish, again because of their poor table-fare, catch-photograph-release is the game. By releasing these challenging adversaries quickly, anglers ensure the future of a spectacular sportfish.

—Scott Sommerlatte is a freelance writer/photographer based in Lake Jackson.

## It's official: Texas blue catfish record goes down

The International Game Fish Association, the organization that maintains world records for both freshwater and saltwater game fishes, has certified a 124-pound blue catfish caught in May by Tim Pruitt of Alton, Ill.

Pruitt and the catfish, which was caught in the Mississippi River, received international media attention.

Using cut herring for bait, Pruitt took 40 minutes to land the catfish. Efforts were made to keep it alive for public display, but it died several days later. Two weeks after the catch, Pruitt sent in the required IGFA application, which included certified weight documentation, witness statements, photographs and line sample.

The IGFA certified Pruitt's catfish for two new records: an all-tackle world record for the heaviest species caught and a freshwater 50-pound line class. Pruitt's fish broke the all-tackle record by three pounds over a 121-pound blue catfish caught



RECORD BREAKER: Tim Pruitt with new IGFA world record blue catfish. The monster fish caught in Alton, Ill. bested the Texas record caught on Lake Texoma by 3 pounds.

in Lake Texoma by Cody Mullennix in January 2004. His 50-pound line class record bested a blue catfish caught in 1999 by Bruce Midkiff at the Cannelton Dam on the Ohio River in Kentucky.

If Pruitt's catch stands through 2005, it will be further recognized in the IGFA's World Record Game Fishes annual that will be released worldwide this January.

—An International Game Fish Association report



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Continued from page 1

## Deer leasing

lease and hunt mule deer for \$300-\$400," said Pennington, a retired state employee. "An outfitter came in and sucked that up."

This summer, Pennington had to tell his grandson, Hunter, that he couldn't afford to take him deer hunting.

"It was tough," Pennington said. "The future looks really bleak."

Disdainful of deer breeders who turn out whitetails like "Detroit turns out automobiles," Pennington believes the state should do more to reduce "trophy fever" and its effect on deer-lease prices. He favors charging out-of-state outfitters more for hunting licenses as well as limiting their numbers.

"I firmly believe Texas Parks and Wildlife could do a lot more than they do," he said.

Scott Huggins, owner of huntingpages.com, which matches landowners and hunters, said the middle class must adapt to a changing marketplace.

"We got spoiled, having our own place to lease," Huggins said. "It was almost like land ownership at nothing close to the cost. Giving that up is hard to do, but it's going away. The business of hunting became a business."

Huggins believes hunting clubs will eventually become the gateway into deer hunting for the Texas middle class.

"You're going to see happening here what's already happened in the East," Huggins said.

"It's a natural progression. The big pieces of land will fragment. Hunting clubs will form, and you'll have to buy a membership. The blue-collar guys and gals are going to have to conform to the model coming down the road."

For now, though, there are ways for the middle class to enjoy hunting without going broke or shedding some of their independence.

Like Brown, Scott Thrash — owner of deertexas.com, another matchmaker for landowners and hunters — argues there are still deals to be found. However, most hunters don't look for them at the right time, he said.

"One misconception people have is that the best time to find a deer lease is right after the hunting season," Thrash said. "The problem with that is there are not a lot of leases available then. Most hunters haven't said whether they're going to renew their leases, and landowners are not thinking of advertising. The best time to look is now through October. Owners are finding out who's not renewing. The closer we get to October, the better the prices will be. Some owners will find they have to drop prices."

Although more than 90 percent of deer hunting is done on private land in Texas, Brown recommends hunters consider hunting on public land.

"We're getting big game award winners off those public lands," Brown said. "And after the opening weekend, most hunters will

have the land to themselves."

Another option for the middle class is to go out of state to hunt.

Or so says Steve Meng, the owner of basecampleasing.com, which tries to lure Texans to the Midwest and Northeast to hunt.

"The Texas hunter may step down in numbers of deer, but not in quality," Meng said.

Meng's Web site argues, "hunting leases in Texas cost more and yield lower quality deer."

"For big bucks, the Midwest is the place to be," Meng said. "You talk to anyone outside of Texas, and they'll tell you that. The absolute best hunting is in Kansas. Hunting is limited and the deer get some age on them. There are a lot of 180s coming out of Kansas."

Meng also pitches Oklahoma as a good place to hunt.

"The deer have heavy racks and good mass," he said. "It's probably a three-hour drive to get to the leases in northern Oklahoma from Dallas-Fort Worth. That's not a bad drive at all."

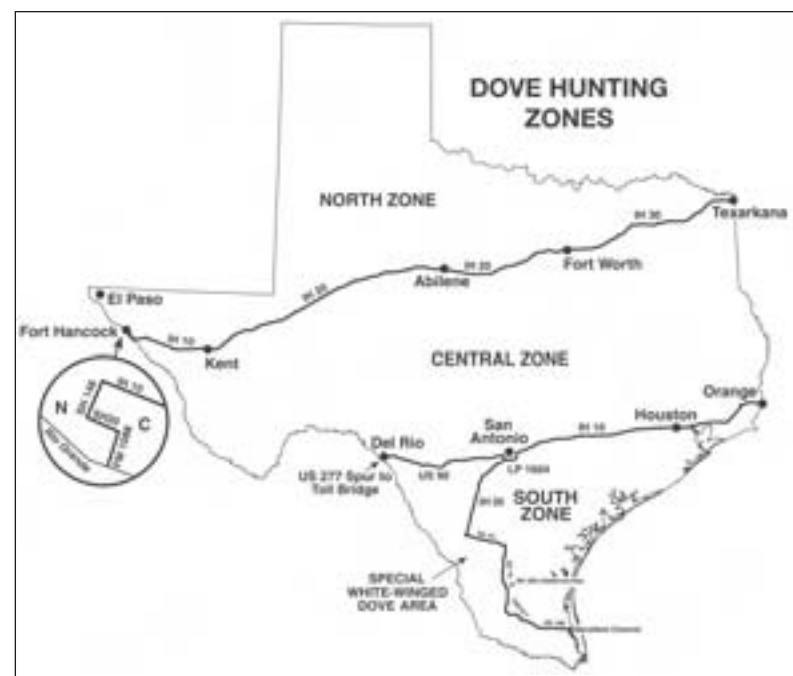
One recent 486-acre lease there listed for \$3,500 — with up to six hunters allowed.

"That figures out to about \$584 a man," Meng said. "If you can't afford that kind of money to hunt, you need to get your priorities straight. Let's face it, you can do without cable TV."

*Mark England, a Dallas-area writer, has more than two decades of experience as a journalist.*

Continued from page 1

## Dove Busters



Map by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

upland loads, and a supply of clay pigeons for a late summer practice session... or two... or three.

That's the advice of Steve Hollensed, a Tom Bean gentleman farmer and high school science teacher, who has more than three decades of wingshooting experience behind him with his trusty Remington 1100 autoloader.

"(A dove hunter's) first shot is (often) at a live dove," Hollensed said. "That's probably a mistake. That shot needs to be at a clay target or two to get the muscles and eyes conditioned to shooting effectively again after a long layoff over the summer."

### SCOUTING

If shooting practice is the first key to a good September hunt, then the second key is probably a late August scouting trip to find solid concentrations of doves, according to Jay Roberson, the wildlife program leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"You have got to have birds to have a good, successful hunt," Roberson said. "That's the first thing that has got to happen."

Near the Oklahoma-Texas border, wingshooting outfitter Mike Bardwell of the Red River Hunt Club in Ravenna agreed wholeheartedly.

"You've got to find them to shoot them — you can't just show up," Bardwell said. "You've got to know where and when they're watering, eating and roosting."

### SETUP

Keep in mind that shooting

practice and ample scouting time simply isn't enough, however.

Brownwood dove hunting outfitter David Davis says once scouting chores are completed, a successful dove hunter must then set up properly for a good hunt to ensue.

How? Simple. Think back to your spring bass fishing trips.

"They'll (doves) follow terrain just like a fish does," Davis said. "Doves will use bridges, valleys and other types of structure just like a fish."

Because of that, objects like power poles, tall trees off by themselves, dead snag trees, H-braces in a fence line, a drainage ditch or even an old rusty combine can all be good places for a red-hot shoot.

Bardwell says to keep in mind, however, that sometimes the best setup location can change from day to day.

After enjoying some success along a treeline on a hunt a few years back, it quickly became apparent to Bardwell and his pals that a small island of brush in the middle of an old grain field would hold the best bet the following afternoon.

By the time the sun had set that evening, Bardwell and his buddies were plucking limits of doves and searching for their favorite recipes after enjoying the shoot of a lifetime.

To find dove hunting spots, contact your local Chamber of Commerce.

*Lynn Burkhead is a frequent contributor to Lone Star Outdoor News and an associate editor for ESPNOutdoors.com.*

## Upcoming Texas Hunting Seasons

### DOVE

**North Zone:** Sept. 1-Oct. 30, with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning, white-winged, and white-tipped doves, with no more than two whitetips. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

**Central Zone:** Sept. 1-Oct. 30 and Dec. 26-Jan. 4, with a daily bag limit of 12 mourning, white-winged, and white-tipped doves, with no more than two whitetips. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

**South Zone:** Sept. 23-Nov. 10 and Dec. 26-Jan. 15, with a daily bag limit of 12 mourning, white-winged and white-tipped doves, with no more than two

whitetips. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

**Special White-Winged Dove Area:** Sept. 3, 4, 10 and 11, then Sept. 23-Nov. 10, and Dec. 26-Jan. 11. The bag limit is 12 birds in the aggregate, with no more than 4 mourning doves and 2 whitetips. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.


### EARLY TEAL

Statewide: Sept. 17-25, with a daily bag limit of four in the aggregate; possession limit of eight.

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Continued from page 6

## Insect forecast

in Arizona, that type of tick is far more common than the two ticks previously thought to be the only culprits.

Lyme disease, which can cause chronic arthritis and heart damage, is caused by the deer tick, though mostly in the Northeast.

"But there are a fair number of cases in Texas," said John Jackman, a professor and extension entomologist at Texas A&M University. "Most are in the Dallas area."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends checking yourself and your clothing for ticks both during and at the end of the day. Spray clothing with repellents that contain permethrin, and tuck pants into socks and cover with boots.

DEET, invented by the U.S. government in 1946, still reigns king of the insect repellents applied to skin. Authorities recommend it because of its safety record and effectiveness, Jackman said.

Other new products, also cited by the CDC as safe and effective,

Continued from page 6

## Deer lease prep

things constant maintenance," Rodgers agreed. "There are electrical issues to deal with and dirt and dust and insects that collect in your timers. You also need to check to make sure they're free of debris and that the spinner plates are still working properly."

Not to mention making sure that feeders are filled. In terms of

include Picaridin, oil of citronella and oil of lemon grass.

Bug Band Inc. of Georgia touts geraniol, a natural repellent made from the oil of plants of the geranium family. "We've got troops in Iraq wearing the bands around their ankles for sand fleas," said Dan Ritter, Bug Band's president.

Here are some other ideas: Drop "mosquito dunks" into ponds and puddles to kill mosquito larvae.

Off! and ThermaCELL have heat-activated lanterns that disperse repellent. Also, hunters can wear head nets and mesh jackets and pants.

For sting and bite treatment, Kinsel recommends an extraction pump designed to draw out venom. To clear bugs from a hunting stand, try filling a metal lid, like from a mason jar, with sulphur and lighting it. The fumes permeate wood and carpet, creating an odorless residue that wards off pests.

*Robert Cadwallader is a Fort Worth area freelancer.*

Continued from page 1

## Snook

and to provide the vegetation they need for cover — their numbers drastically declined.

Dailey, for one, isn't ready to say they're back all along the Texas coast.

"I wouldn't try targeting them around here," he said.

Still, snook seem to be having a revival. Lance Robinson, director of Region 1 biologists for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, confirmed snook sightings at Galveston.

"Usually, it's not the species we see in South Texas and Florida, the common snook," Robinson said. "It's the fat snook."

Fat snook have a wider profile than common snook and seldom top two pounds. Common snook can top 40 pounds.

There have been reports of common snook around Port O'Connor. Capt. Jimbo Barnes of Rusted Hook Guide Service said he heard someone caught an 8-pounder along the Port O'Connor jetties.

TPW biologist Bill Balboa said both species of snook have turned up around the Port O'Connor area, though not in great numbers.

"It's so infrequent that we catch them in our gill nets that it's not something we can use as an indicator of their location or numbers," Balboa said.

A TPW technician, though, reported seeing a school of snook in mid-August while diving off Port O'Connor's jetties. As to why more snook are showing up



**NABBED:** Snook were caught at Port O'Connor this summer. Photo by Jimbo Barnes.

in the area, the weather is the best bet.

"With the milder winters we've been having, it's not inconceivable they're expanding their range," Robinson said. "But I don't anticipate them becoming established this far north. They're not cold-tolerant."

Snook don't like taking a dip in water south of 60 degrees. When the weather cools, look for the snook to move south.

"If they get caught up here in a freeze, they get whacked," Dailey said. "This is a very marginal habitat for them."

Texas allows a single bag limit for snook, in the 24-28 inch range. Given the uncertainty about their numbers, however, most anglers release them. Grab the lower lip, as with a black bass, and it can be unhooked and

released with little stress.

That makes sense given the fish's unusual nature.

Let them grow bigger and there's a possibility the payoff will be more snook. That's because snook change sex, male to female, usually when they reach 30-34 inches in size.

Although it's something of a mystery what's going on with snook along the Texas coast, biologists aren't predicting they'll become established in the Port O'Connor-Matagorda Bay area.

"For us to say they're becoming re-established, we'd have to have knowledge of their population before there were impediments to freshwater flow," Balboa said. "It appears that with the warm weather, they're expanding their range."



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# ADVENTURE



## Port Aransas provides perfect family getaway

BY DARLENE MCCORMICK  
SANCHEZ

**D**uring a summer day in Port Aransas, the sun seems to have beaten the clock.

Hours pass, yet the sun only inches across the azure sky. Existence, for the moment is simple: sun, sky, water. Tanned children search for crabs along the edge of salt-water pools that make up Wilson's Cut while adults wade into the lapis blue water to cast for redfish.

In the distance, yellow cucumber-leaved sunflowers blaze in stark contrast against a khaki-colored landscape. Seagulls screech and children laugh. I wait for a tug on my line, hoping for a monster redfish. But here, waiting is part of the experience, something to savor. There are no deadlines, no lines of any kind — except for those you fish with. And it's okay when only the small reds take my bait because they are perfect for

my kids to reel in.

But fishing is only part of a great family escape to Port Aransas. There's kayaking, swimming, beachcombing, sunbathing, bird watching, shopping, kite flying, biking and more. Restaurants are scattered liberally around town, but many of the motels and condos have outside grills for cooking. It's more expensive, but for your money, renting a room that's beachside is probably worth it if you have pre-schoolers or school-age kids who can walk on their own. That way, you don't have to load up the SUV every time you want to hang out on the beach. But for families with babies, those long beach-access trails can be grueling.

Fishing, of course, is a great experience for the whole family. Besides the shallow salt flats known for redfish in the area, there's the city fishing pier at Roberts Point Park near the Corpus Christi Ship Channel. It's free and there's playground equipment in case your kids want

a change of pace. If an adventure with the kids is on the itinerary, try renting a kayak and paddling the Lighthouse Lakes Trails, which weave among islands, cuts and inlets. This pristine network of water trails is marked with GPS coordinates and trail signs. Pick a day with calm winds so the paddling isn't hard. Buy a map, too. Getting lost is the last thing you need on a family trip. Stop on one of the narrow island beaches on the trails to offer your kids a sense of discovery. Shells, plants and wildlife are plentiful.

Jennifer Thomas at Slowride, which offers guide services and kayak rentals, advises kayakers not to get into the water. Some areas have oyster beds that are sharp enough to shred your feet. Another place for caution is the shipping channel, she told us. Be prepared to paddle quickly to avoid big boats. But when boats make waves, point the kayak into them and go for it. My kids loved it — just like the rest of our family's Port Aransas adventure.



### IF YOU GO:

#### Guides:

Slowride Guide Services and Kayak Rentals — [www.slowrideguide.com](http://www.slowrideguide.com) or (866) 856-9477; half day kayak rental runs \$40 (includes tandems); half day kayak fishing trip, \$300; a half-a-day motor boat fishing trip for four people, \$300.

To locate other guides, visit [www.portaransas.org](http://www.portaransas.org) and click on the fishing and boating link.

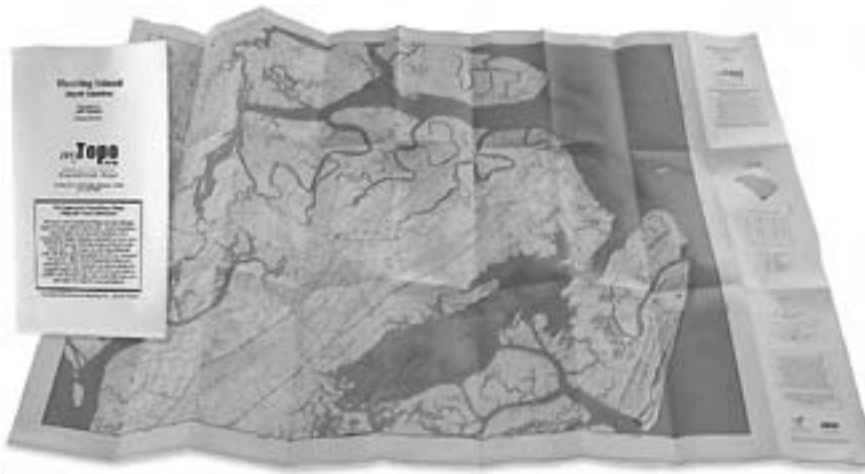
#### Lodging:

Port Aransas offers a variety of hotels and condos for rent. A good bet for families on the beach is Beachhead Condominiums at [www.beachheadcondos.com](http://www.beachheadcondos.com), or (800) 688-1217; others can be found at [www.portaransas.org/condo.asp](http://www.portaransas.org/condo.asp). In town, Days Inn & Suites is new and offers free breakfast and high-speed Internet access.

#### Restaurants:

If you don't want to cook there's plenty of restaurants, from pizza to seafood. A longtime favorite is the Seafood & Spaghetti Works at 710 S. Alister, (361) 749-5666; visit [www.portaransas.org/restaurants.asp](http://www.portaransas.org/restaurants.asp) for a list of other eateries.

# PRODUCT PICKS



**MAP QUEST:** Custom order **topographical maps** or **aerial photos** of favorite hunting grounds at [www.mytopo.com](http://www.mytopo.com). The Web site will guide customers through the process of building their maps. They can center the map any place in the United States, choose the scale and grid lines and select the size. The maps can be printed on waterproof, glossy or laminated paper. The topo maps range from about \$10 to \$52; the aerial maps from about \$15 to \$62. To order, visit the Web site or call (877) 587-9004.

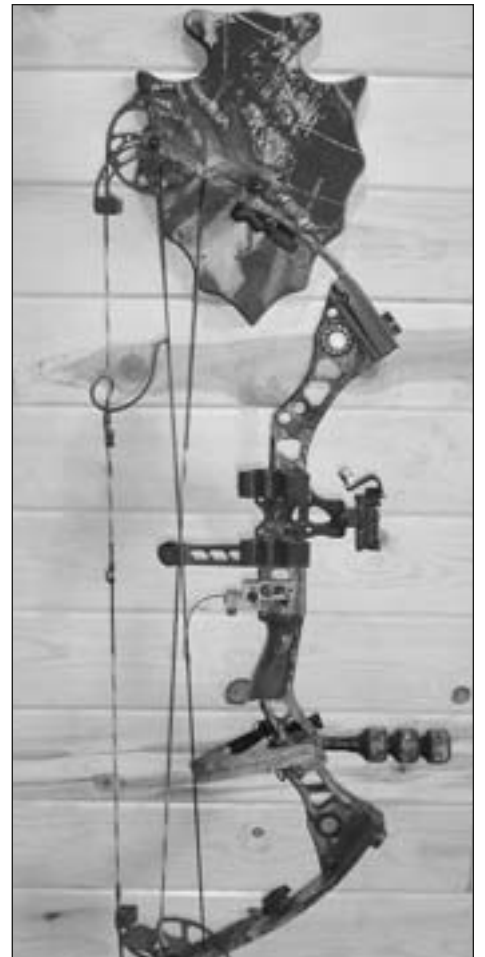
**MARSH BUSTER:** Hunter's **Specialties** new **push pole** helps hunters maneuver in marshy environments. The aluminum pole comes in a non-glare, olive drab finish and can adjust from 58 inches to 10 feet. It costs about \$36 and includes a wrist strap and rubber grip. Accessories, which attach to the pole, include a paddle (\$16) and a foot (\$10). The paddle is made of ABS plastic and has slots cut on each side to help grab decoy lines. The foot, which is constructed of rustproof aluminum, allows users to more easily move around in shallow water. Visit [www.hunterspec.com](http://www.hunterspec.com) for retailers or call (319) 395-0321.



**GAME WITHOUT THE PAIN:** The **Caldwell Tack Driver Bag** is for shooters who prefer a large single bag. It cradles a firearm along a longer portion of its length to give shooters greater accuracy and less felt recoil, according to Caldwell. The 18-pound bag comes with a carrying strap and features a rubberized coating to grip the bench and rifle. It costs about \$40 unfilled or \$80 filled. For retailers, visit [www.battenfeldtechnologies.com](http://www.battenfeldtechnologies.com) or call (877) 509-9160.



**SHOW BOWS:** Bow hunters can display their weapons on the wall of a hunting lodge or trophy room with the **Bow Holder** by **Elite Camo Products**. Formed in the shape of an arrowhead, the bow holder measures 13 inches tall by 10 inches wide. It is made from high-pressure laminate and can be ordered in several camouflage patterns. The holder costs about \$38 and comes with a device that adjusts to hold any compound bow. To order, visit [www.elitecamo.com](http://www.elitecamo.com) or call (801) 293-9300.



**WATERFOWL WONDER:** **Floating Blind Bags** by **Hunter's Specialties** are designed for serious waterfowl hunters. The bags help keep gear organized, and feature a zippered dry pocket to keep valuables safe. The large bag costs about \$47; the extra large one (pictured) is about \$70. For retailer information, visit [www.hunterspec.com](http://www.hunterspec.com).



**COOL READERS:** **Ono's Trading Company** has introduced **polarized sunglasses with built-in readers** for the farsighted. Now, outdoorsmen who have to peruse a map or bait a hook won't have to fumble for their reading glasses.

Patent-pending lens technology enhances color and sharpness and provides 100-percent protection, according to the company. The combination sunglasses and readers come in five frame styles, various lens hues and reader magnifications from 1.25 to 2.50. They cost about \$150. For more information or to order online, visit [www.onostradingcompany.com](http://www.onostradingcompany.com) or call (866) 865-4695.



**MAKEOVER MAGIC:** Give an old gun a new look with **Cerama-Coat**. Made by **Wheeler Engineering**, the spray-on metal finish is available in matte black. Cerama-Coat's formula contains a ceramic matrix that gives the finish toughness, durability and resistance to rust and solvents, promises its manufacturer. To use: spray on cleaned metal item, then bake to cure the finish. One 4-ounce can will refinish two long guns. It costs about \$25. For retailers or to order, visit [www.battenfeldtechnologies.com](http://www.battenfeldtechnologies.com) or call (877) 509-9160.

**REEL HANDY:** As ICAST's overall best-of-show award winner, **Shimano** promises high power and high speed with its new **Torsa lever drag reel**. The reel, which is extremely castable, features an ergonomic power handle, a cold-forged machined aluminum frame and a 5.8:1 gear ratio. It ranges in size from the 28.6-ounce TS16N to the 31.1-ounce TS30 (pictured) and can handle from 300 yards of 14-pound test to 350 yards of 30-pound test.

But what makes it a standout is its Rapid Fire Quick Change Drag Cam System, which allows this versatile reel to cater to specific fishing techniques. The reels cost from about \$670 to \$700. Go to the fishing North America category at [www.shimano.com](http://www.shimano.com) for retailer information or call (877) 577-0600.



# MADE IN TEXAS

MARY HELEN AGUIRRE

**I**t all began with a little jig. Now, more than 25 years later, Huntington-based Stanley Jigs' numerous products are widely distributed across the United States. Stanley's lures are gaining popularity as far away as South Africa and Sweden. And, many a Stanley lure has been sitting pretty at the end of a tournament-winning angler's line.

"What makes the business successful is that we're fishermen first," said company president Lonnie Stanley. "We build baits to catch fish."

Stanley, a five-time Bassmaster Classic veteran and renowned lure manufacturer, said that in the 1970s, he and his wife, Patsy, were living in College Station. There, he regularly entered bass fishing tournaments. In 1979 and 1980, Stanley said he won seven out of the nine tournaments he entered.

One bait he used successfully was a 3/16-ounce lead casting jig with a rubber skirt that he designed.

"It had a little sharp nose on the head that would fish through the grass real easily," he said.

In 1979, to make a little extra money, he had started making that jig and selling it here and there. A couple of years later, he took a leap of faith and decided to jump into the jig business full time.

"In 1982, I won my first Bassmaster Classic with that 3/16-ounce jig and that really helped my business," Stanley said.

The family decided to move home to East Texas a year later — he's from Zavalla and his wife's from Huntington, where they relocated the growing business.

Over the next two decades, Stanley steadily built the business. He added a spinnerbait with a patented wedge blade in 1984. He expanded his product lines. He courted buyers. He became a familiar face on ESPN's "Sportsman's Challenge with Ron Franklin," a show on which he appeared for 17 years until 2002.

And, always, Stanley fished, picking up more Bassmaster Classic titles along the way.

Last year, he took on Ken Chaumont as a new partner. This allows Stanley to focus on designing and doing promotional work.

"I'm always designing. Right now I'm working on a new hook that I really can't talk about until I get the patent," he said.

Stanley especially enjoys educating people about fishing through seminars, TV appearances and writing. He fields questions on the company Web site's "Ask Lonnie" column.

He also promotes his lures by the most effective method he knows. He takes buyers out fishing.

"If you get someone to fish it, they'll put it in their stores," he

said, explaining his company's philosophy: "Reel It. Feel It."

One person who is sold on Stanley lures is Bill Fondren. The Lake Sam Rayburn fishing guide and professional angler's favorite is the wedgetail minnow.

"It's been awfully good to me," said Fondren, a crappie guide who regularly reels in two-pounders with the bait. "I'd say it's the best jig on the market right now."

Stanley said that in the tackle business, you have to stay on top of everything new.

The company recently acquired the rights to the Ribbit, a popular bait that's made to resemble a frog in the water.

"My wife and I just took out the Ribbit to test it," he said. "I had it in the water 45 minutes and caught a 7-, 4-, and 3-pounder and a couple more."

His company's most successful bait this year, he said, is the ICON Bloodspot series spinnerbait, a lure that mimics a dying fish. "We sell tons of those. Also, the Ribbit has been phenomenal."

But the cornerstone of his tackle business remains the little lead jig with the rubber skirt.

For more information about the company, visit [www.fish-stanley.com](http://www.fish-stanley.com).

*Mary Helen Aguirre is a native Texan with almost 15 years of experience editing and writing for newspapers, including the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. She is a freelancer in Connecticut.*



LONNIE STANLEY, Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

## BORDERING TEXAS



### ARKANSAS

#### Duck blinds get the boot

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission personnel are busy removing duck blinds and other structures, both legal and illegal, left in place within the Dave Donaldson Black River WMA waterfowl hunting areas. Removal began the week of Aug. 8.

Permanent structures — including duck blinds, other than portable blinds — that are removed from the area daily are illegal on the WMA. Any item nailed to a tree is also illegal.

The use of small hunting stands, such as lean-up hunting stands and retrieving dog platforms, by waterfowlers have long been common on Dave Donaldson-Black River, according to WMA Manager Paul Provence.

"In recent years, some hunters have begun to construct much larger, non-portable devices, including free-standing platforms made of wood or welded metal frames," Provence said. "These structures are illegal and fall under the definition of permanent blinds."

Before hunting from such a structure, hunters should check the 2005-2006 regulations guide book for specific regulations per-

taining to duck blinds and hunting stands on wildlife management areas, Provence added.

Any structure deemed by AGFC personnel to not be portable will be removed to a designated location near the area headquarters.

"Owners may claim and remove these items from the area until Oct. 31, 2005," Provence said. "Excessively large items that cannot be readily removed from the hunting area will be dismantled to enable loading and hauling. They may also be destroyed on-site if removal is not practical or possible."

Because of the large number of items that are located in the woods, AGFC personnel may leave certain smaller items such as small dog platforms and small hunting stands rather than haul everything out at this time. Owners, however, should be aware of regulations pertaining to the use of hunting stands.



### LOUISIANA

#### Tentative migratory waterfowl seasons set

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission tentatively set the proposed season dates, bag limits and shooting hours for the 2005-06 migratory

waterfowl season at their Aug. 4 meeting.

After the commission listened to public comments and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel on the proposed duck season dates and bag limits, it decided that a 60-day season will be adopted for ducks and coots, except canvasbacks.

In the West Zone, the first segment will open on Nov. 12 and close on Dec. 4. The second segment will open on Dec. 17 and run until Jan. 22. In the East Zone, the first segment will go from Nov. 19 to Dec. 4. The second segment will last from Dec. 17 until Jan. 29.

This year's waterfowl season structure is similar to last year's with a few exceptions. There's a full 60-day season for pintails; the scaup bag limit has been reduced to two; and the white-fronted goose season has been shortened by two weeks.



### NEW MEXICO

#### Keep cool when encountering wild animals

What would you do if you encountered a mountain lion in the wild? How about five mountain lions?

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish recommends you do what John Montoya, a

U.S. Forest Service employee, did in early August while working in southeastern New Mexico.

Montoya was hiking on top of Patos Mountain in southeastern New Mexico when he noticed a mountain lion watching him from a rock bluff a few hundred yards away. While looking for a safe escape route back down the mountain, Montoya noticed four more lions coming up the drainage toward him.

As he backed off the mountain, one of the lions suddenly appeared about 30 feet behind him. Montoya began yelling and waving his hard hat and shovel in an effort to scare the lion off. Too cautious to attack, but undaunted by Montoya's display, the lion followed him down the mountain, stopping when Montoya stopped. Montoya made it back to his truck with the lion stopping at the edge of the tree line in thick oak brush.

Montoya's actions were excellent examples of what people should do if they encounter a mountain lion.

He looked for a safe escape route when he first noticed the lions, making sure to stay out of any thick brush or trees. When one of the lions closed the distance and walked toward him, he made noise and made himself appear larger by waving his arms. He then proceeded to back slowly away from the lion, maintaining indirect eye contact until he was in a safe place.



### OKLAHOMA

#### Possible record deer to be measured at Oklahoma Wildlife Expo

A massive, 31-point, non-typical, whitetail deer rack will be officially scored at the Oklahoma Wildlife Expo at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 27, at the main stage inside the Lazy E Arena.

Officials believe the rack could be a new state record.

"This is the biggest news in Oklahoma deer hunting in a very long time," said Alan Peoples, wildlife chief for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. "From the initial look at the antlers this deer could surpass both the number one Cy Curtis record and the top Oklahoma Boone and Crockett entry, which are currently two different deer."

Mike Crossland killed the buck in Tillman County in November 2004.

The current non-typical Cy Curtis record whitetail, taken in 2003 in Hughes County, scored 240 3/8 and had a total of 29 points. The current Boone and Crockett record non-typical whitetail was taken in Johnston County in 1970 with a score of 247 2/8.

# WEATHER

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### MOON PHASES

Last  Aug 26    New  Sep 3    First  Sep 11    Full  Sep 17

### SOLAR TABLE Major/Minor periods:

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
8/24	4:06a/10:18a	—/6:03p	4:12a/10:24a	—/6:09p
8/25	4:30p/10:43p	12:13a/6:24a	4:36p/10:49p	12:19a/6:30a
8/26	4:59a/11:12a	12:34p/6:44p	5:05a/11:18a	12:40p/6:50p
8/27	5:24p/11:37p	12:56a/7:06a	5:30p/11:43p	1:02a/7:12a
8/28	5:51a/12:04p	1:16p/7:26p	5:57a/12:10p	1:22p/7:32p
8/29	6:17p/—	1:41a/7:51a	6:23p/—	1:47a/7:57a
8/30	6:42a/12:29a	2:01p/8:11p	6:48a/12:35a	2:07p/8:17p
8/31	7:08p/12:55p	2:27a/8:38a	7:14p/1:01p	2:33a/8:44a
9/1	7:31a/1:18a	2:49p/9:00p	7:37a/1:24a	2:55p/9:06p
9/2	7:57p/1:44p	3:16a/9:28a	8:03p/1:50p	—/9:34a
9/3	8:19a/2:06a	3:40p/9:52p	8:25a/2:12a	8:19a/9:58p
9/4	8:44p/2:32p	4:09a/10:22a	8:50p/2:38p	8:44p/10:28a
9/5	9:04a/2:52a	4:34p/10:47p	9:10a/2:58a	9:04a/10:53p
9/6	9:29p/3:17p	5:04a/11:18a	9:35p/3:23p	9:29p/11:24a
9/7	9:54a/3:36a	5:32p/11:46p	9:54a/3:42a	9:48a/11:52p
9/8	10:12p/4:00p	6:02a/12:17p	10:18p/4:06p	10:12p/12:23p
9/9	10:31a/4:19a	6:31p/—	10:37a/4:25a	10:31a/—
9/10	10:53p/4:42p	7:00a/12:45a	10:59p/4:48p	10:53p/12:51a
9/11	11:12a/5:01a	7:31p/1:16p	11:18a/5:07a	11:12a/1:22p
9/12	11:33p/5:23p	7:58a/1:43a	11:39p/5:29p	11:33p/1:49a
9/13	11:53a/5:42a	8:29p/2:14p	11:59a/5:48a	11:53a/2:20p

### TIDES

	High	Low	High	Low		High	Low	High	Low		High	Low	High	Low
<b>Sabine Pass</b>					<b>Freeport</b>					<b>Corpus Christi</b>				
8/24	6:09 a.m.	1:22 a.m.	9:31 p.m.	2:07 p.m.	8/24	6:10 a.m.	12:52 a.m.	9:32 p.m.	1:37 p.m.	8/24	6:18 a.m.	12:30 a.m.	9:40 p.m.	1:15 p.m.
8/25	5:58 a.m.	2:15 a.m.	—	3:08 p.m.	8/25	5:59 a.m.	1:45 a.m.	—	2:38 p.m.	8/25	6:07 a.m.	1:23 a.m.	—	2:16 p.m.
8/26	12:18 a.m.	4:15 p.m.	—	—	8/26	12:19 a.m.	3:45 p.m.	—	—	8/26	12:27 a.m.	3:23 p.m.	—	—
8/27	2:19 a.m.	5:25 p.m.	—	—	8/27	2:20 a.m.	4:55 p.m.	—	—	8/27	2:28 a.m.	4:33 p.m.	—	—
8/28	3:04 a.m.	6:31 p.m.	—	—	8/28	3:05 a.m.	6:01 p.m.	—	—	8/28	3:13 a.m.	5:39 p.m.	—	—
8/29	3:41 a.m.	7:28 p.m.	—	—	8/29	3:42 a.m.	6:58 p.m.	—	—	8/29	3:50 a.m.	6:36 p.m.	—	—
8/30	4:07 a.m.	8:15 p.m.	—	—	8/30	4:08 a.m.	7:45 p.m.	—	—	8/30	4:16 a.m.	7:23 p.m.	—	—
8/31	4:19 a.m.	8:53 p.m.	—	—	8/31	4:20 a.m.	8:23 p.m.	—	—	8/31	4:28 a.m.	8:01 p.m.	—	—
9/1	4:23 a.m.	9:57 a.m.	12:50 p.m.	9:25 p.m.	9/1	4:24 a.m.	9:27 a.m.	12:51 p.m.	8:55 p.m.	9/1	4:32 a.m.	9:05 a.m.	12:59 p.m.	8:33 p.m.
9/2	4:28 a.m.	9:54 a.m.	1:48 p.m.	9:53 p.m.	9/2	4:29 a.m.	9:24 a.m.	1:49 p.m.	9:23 p.m.	9/2	4:37 a.m.	9:02 a.m.	1:57 p.m.	9:01 p.m.
9/3	4:35 a.m.	10:10 a.m.	2:43 p.m.	10:19 p.m.	9/3	4:36 a.m.	9:40 a.m.	2:44 p.m.	9:49 p.m.	9/3	4:44 a.m.	9:39 a.m.	2:31 p.m.	9:27 p.m.
9/4	4:45 a.m.	10:36 a.m.	3:38 p.m.	10:45 p.m.	9/4	4:46 a.m.	10:06 a.m.	3:39 p.m.	10:15 p.m.	9/4	4:54 a.m.	9:44 a.m.	3:47 p.m.	9:53 p.m.
9/5	4:55 a.m.	11:05 a.m.	4:37 p.m.	11:12 p.m.	9/5	4:56 a.m.	10:35 a.m.	4:38 p.m.	10:42 p.m.	9/5	5:04 a.m.	10:13 a.m.	4:46 p.m.	10:20 p.m.
9/6	5:02 a.m.	11:37 a.m.	5:43 p.m.	11:41 p.m.	9/6	5:03 a.m.	11:07 a.m.	5:44 p.m.	11:11 p.m.	9/6	5:11 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	5:52 p.m.	10:49 p.m.
9/7	5:00 a.m.	12:13 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	—	9/7	5:01 a.m.	11:43 a.m.	7:01 p.m.	11:41 p.m.	9/7	5:09 a.m.	11:21 a.m.	7:09 p.m.	11:19 p.m.
9/8	4:43 a.m.	12:11 a.m.	8:36 p.m.	12:54 p.m.	9/8	4:44 a.m.	12:24 p.m.	8:37 p.m.	—	9/8	4:52 a.m.	12:02 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	11:47 p.m.
9/9	4:11 a.m.	12:39 a.m.	—	1:44 p.m.	9/9	4:12 a.m.	12:09 a.m.	—	1:14 p.m.	9/9	4:20 a.m.	12:52 p.m.	—	—
9/10	3:47 a.m.	2:44 p.m.	—	—	9/10	3:48 a.m.	2:14 p.m.	—	—	9/10	3:56 a.m.	1:52 p.m.	—	—
9/11	3:32 a.m.	3:55 p.m.	—	—	9/11	3:33 a.m.	3:25 p.m.	—	—	9/11	3:41 a.m.	3:03 p.m.	—	—
9/12	2:59 a.m.	5:11 p.m.	—	—	9/12	3:00 a.m.	4:41 p.m.	—	—	9/12	3:08 a.m.	4:19 p.m.	—	—
9/13	2:49 a.m.	6:22 p.m.	—	—	9/13	2:50 a.m.	5:52 p.m.	—	—	9/13	2:58 a.m.	5:30 p.m.	—	—
<b>Port Bolivar</b>					<b>Pass Cavallo</b>					<b>South Padre Island</b>				
8/24	8:24 a.m.	2:09 a.m.	11:46 p.m.	2:54 p.m.	8/24	7:27 a.m.	12:40 a.m.	10:49 p.m.	1:25 p.m.	8/24	5:12 a.m.	1:24 a.m.	9:56 p.m.	1:06 p.m.
8/25	8:13 a.m.	3:02 a.m.	—	3:55 p.m.	8/25	7:16 a.m.	1:33 a.m.	—	2:26 p.m.	8/25	—	2:03 p.m.	—	—
8/26	2:33 a.m.	5:02 p.m.	—	—	8/26	1:36 a.m.	3:33 p.m.	—	—	8/26	12:20 a.m.	3:05 p.m.	—	—
8/27	4:34 a.m.	6:12 p.m.	—	—	8/27	3:37 a.m.	4:43 p.m.	—	—	8/27	2:00 a.m.	4:12 p.m.	—	—
8/28	5:19 a.m.	7:18 p.m.	—	—	8/28	4:22 a.m.	5:49 p.m.	—	—	8/28	3:05 a.m.	5:22 p.m.	—	—
8/29	5:56 a.m.	8:15 p.m.	—	—	8/29	4:59 a.m.	6:46 p.m.	—	—	8/29	3:56 a.m.	6:27 p.m.	—	—
8/30	6:22 a.m.	9:02 p.m.	—	—	8/30	5:25 a.m.	7:33 p.m.	—	—	8/30	4:40 a.m.	7:24 p.m.	—	—
8/31	6:34 a.m.	9:40 p.m.	—	—	8/31	5:37 a.m.	8:11 p.m.	—	—	8/31	5:14 a.m.	8:11 p.m.	—	—
9/1	6:38 a.m.	10:44 a.m.	3:05 p.m.	10:12 p.m.	9/1	5:41 a.m.	9:15 a.m.	2:08 p.m.	8:43 p.m.	9/1	5:36 a.m.	8:51 p.m.	—	—
9/2	6:43 a.m.	10:41 a.m.	4:03 p.m.	10:40 p.m.	9/2	5:46 a.m.	9:12 a.m.	3:06 p.m.	9:11 p.m.	9/2	5:45 a.m.	10:11 a.m.	12:32 p.m.	9:26 p.m.
9/3	6:50 a.m.	10:57 a.m.	4:58 p.m.	11:06 p.m.	9/3	5:53 a.m.	9:28 a.m.	4:01 p.m.	9:37 p.m.	9/3	5:42 a.m.	10:05 a.m.	1:57 p.m.	9:57 p.m.
9/4	7:00 a.m.	11:23 a.m.	5:53 p.m.	11:32 p.m.	9/4	6:03 a.m.	9:54 a.m.	4:56 p.m.	10:03 p.m.	9/4	5:31 a.m.	10:16 a.m.	3:11 p.m.	10:30 p.m.
9/5	7:10 a.m.	11:52 a.m.	6:52 p.m.	11:59 p.m.	9/5	6:13 a.m.	10:23 a.m.	5:55 p.m.	10:30 p.m.	9/5	5:16 a.m.	10:34 a.m.	4:25 p.m.	11:07 p.m.
9/6	7:17 a.m.	12:24 p.m.	7:58 p.m.	—	9/6	6:20 a.m.	10:55 a.m.	7:01 p.m.	10:59 p.m.	9/6	4:57 a.m.	10:57 a.m.	5:42 p.m.	11:52 p.m.
9/7	7:15 a.m.	12:28 a.m.	9:15 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	9/7	6:18 a.m.	11:31 a.m.	8:18 p.m.	11:29 p.m.	9/7	4:34 a.m.	11:26 a.m.	7:10 p.m.	—
9/8	6:58 a.m.	12:58 a.m.	10:51 p.m.	1:41 p.m.	9/8	6:01 a.m.	12:12 p.m.	9:54 p.m.	11:57 p.m.	9/8	3:54 a.m.	12:57 a.m.	8:54 p.m.	12:03 p.m.
9/9	6:26 a.m.	1:26 a.m.	—	2:31 p.m.	9/9	5:29 a.m.	1:02 p.m.	—	—	9/9	10:59 p.m.	12:50 p.m.	—	—
9/10	6:02 a.m.	3:31 p.m.	—	—	9/10	5:05 a.m.	2:02 p.m.	—	—	9/10	—	1:49 p.m.	—	—
9/11	5:47 a.m.	4:42 p.m.	—	—	9/11	4:50 a.m.	3:13 p.m.	—	—	9/11	12:49 a.m.	2:58 p.m.	—	—
9/12	5:14 a.m.	5:58 p.m.	—	—	9/12	4:17 a.m.	4:29 p.m.	—	—	9/12	2:04 a.m.	4:14 p.m.	—	—
9/13	5:04 a.m.	7:09 p.m.	—	—	9/13	4:07 a.m.	5:40 p.m.	—	—	9/13	3:01 a.m.	5:28 p.m.	—	—
<b>San Luis Pass</b>					<b>Port O'Connor</b>					<b>Port Isabel</b>				
8/24	7:18 a.m.	1:51 a.m.	10:40 p.m.	2:36 p.m.	8/24	7:27 a.m.	2:40 a.m.	—	4:01 p.m.	8/24	7:17 a.m.	1:01 a.m.	10:39 p.m.	1:46 p.m.
8/25	7:07 a.m.	2:44 a.m.	—	3:37 p.m.	8/25	7:02 a.m.	5:05 p.m.	—	—	8/25	7:06 a.m.	1:54 a.m.	—	2:47 p.m.
8/26	1:27 a.m.	4:44 p.m.	—	—	8/26	6:58 a.m.	6:14 p.m.	—	—	8/26	1:26 a.m.	3:54 p.m.	—	—
8/27	3:28 a.m.	5:54 p.m.	—	—	8/27	7:17 a.m.	7:30 p.m.	—	—	8/27	3:27 a.m.	5:04 p.m.	—	—
8/28	4:13 a.m.	7:00 p.m.	—	—	8/28	7:48 a.m.	8:48 p.m.	—	—	8/28	4:12 a.m.	6:10 p.m.	—	—
8/29	4:50 a.m.	7:57 p.m.	—	—	8/29	8:28 a.m.	10:00 p.m.	—	—	8/29	4:49 a.m.	7:07 p.m.	—	—
8/30	5:16 a.m.	8:44 p.m.	—	—	8/30	9:12 a.m.	11:02 p.m.	—	—	8/30	5:15 a.m.	7:54 p.m.	—	—
8/31	5:28 a.m.	9:22 p.m.	—	—	8/31	10:00 a.m.	11:53 p.m.	—	—	8/31	5:27 a.m.	8:32 p.m.	—	—
9/1	5:32 a.m.	10:26 a.m.	1:59 p.m.	9:54 p.m.	9/1	10:52 a.m.	—	—	—	9/1	5:31 a.m.	9:36 a.m.	1:58 p.m.	9:04 p.m.
9/2	5:37 a.m.	10:23 a.m.	2:57 p.m.	10:22 p.m.	9/2	12:03 p.m.	12:37 a.m.	—	—	9/2	5:36 a.m.	9:33 a.m.	2:56 p.m.	9:32 p.m.
9/3	5:44 a.m.	10:39 a.m.	3:52 p.m.	10:48 p.m.	9/3	4:08 p.m.	1:14 a.m.	—	—	9/3	5:43 a.m.	9:49 a.m.	3:51 p.m.	9:58 p.m.
9/4	5:54 a.m.	11:05 a.m.	4:47 p.m.	11:14 p.m.	9/4	5:50 p.m.	1:48 a.m.	—	—	9/4	5:53 a.m.	10:15 a.m.	4:46 p.m.	10:24 p.m.
9/5	6:04 a.m.	11:34 a.m.	5:46 p.m.	11:41 p.m.	9/5	9:55 a.m.	2:21 a.m.	7:22 p.m.	12:33 p.m.	9/5	6:03 a.m.	10:44 a.m.	5:45 p.m.	10:51 p.m.
9/6	6:11 a.m.	12:06 p.m.	6:52 p.m.	—	9/6	8:08 a.m.	2:54 a.m.	9:06 p.m.	1:22 p.m.	9/6	6:10 a.m.	11:16 a.m.	6:51 p.m.	11:20 p.m.
9/7	6:09 a.m.	12:10 a.m.	8:09 p.m.	12:42 p.m.	9/7	6:05 a.m.	3:28 a.m.	—	2:05 p.m.	9/7	6:08 a.m.	11:52 a.m.	8:08 p.m.	11:50 p.m.
9/8	5:52 a.m.	12:40 a.m.	9:45 p.m.	1:23 p.m.	9/8	12:09 a.m.	2:26 a.m.	4:15 a.m.	2:52 p.m.	9/8	5:51 a.m.	12:33 p.m.	9:44 p.m.	—
9/9	5:20 a.m.	1:08 a.m.	—	2:13 p.m.	9/9	4:54 a.m.	3:47 p.m.	—	—	9/9	5:19 a.m.	12:18 a.m.	—	1:23 p.m.
9/10	4:56 a.m.	3:13 p.m.	—	—	9/10	5:41 a.m.	4:53 p.m.	—	—	9/10	4:55 a.m.	2:23 p.m.	—	—
9/11	4:41 a.m.	4:24 p.m.	—	—	9/11	6:32 a.m.	6:13 p.m.	—	—	9/11	4:40 a.m.	3:34 p.m.	—	—
9/12	4:08 a.m.	5:40 p.m.	—	—	9/12	7:27 a.m.	7:41 p.m.	—	—	9/12	4:07 a.m.	4:50 p.m.	—	—
9/13	3:58 a.m.	6:51 p.m.	—	—	9/13	8:24 a.m.	9:04 p.m.	—	—	9/13	3:57 a.m.	6:01 p.m.	—	—

### SUN AND MOON

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
8/24	6:54a/7:53p	6:57a/8:03p	7:07a/8:05p	7:13a/8:24p
8/25	6:55a/7:52p	6:58a/8:02p	7:07a/8:04p	7:14a/8:23p
8/26	6:55a/7:51p	6:59a/8:01p	7:08a/8:03p	7:15a/8:22p

# GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

**ONE MORE?**

• Tarrant County game wardens Clint Borchardt and John Padgett made contact with people attending a large party at Benbrook Lake. A total of 17 citations were written for underage drinking. Many unopened beers were picked up off of the ground where the minors had dropped them. The last citation was written at almost 5 a.m. when the last minor came out of the woods with the keg. The cases are pending.

**DEADLY STUNT**

• Grayson County Game Warden Dale Moses was checking Lake Texoma when he came to the aid of a downed pilot. Moses was patrolling the no-wake zone at Eisenhower Yacht Club Marina on Lake Texoma, one of the checkpoints for a speedboat race later that afternoon. As the 100-plus mph racers started arriving, an acrobatic stunt

plane began making illegal low-altitude passes over the marina and the arriving speedboats. On one pass, the plane's engine sputtered. Minutes later, Moses heard the plane again and looked up to see the plane headed toward the marina at a steep angle, smoke coming from the engine. The plane crashed into the water in the middle of one of the marina coves, narrowly missing the roof of one boathouse. After requesting emergency personnel, Moses arrived at the scene of the accident approximately 15 seconds after impact. With the help of numerous boaters, Moses tried to rescue the pilot. He tied the plane to his patrol boat to keep it from sinking in the 50-foot water, while the boaters frantically attempted to remove the pilot from the plane. Within a few minutes, a marine barge with a crane arrived and lifted the plane out of the water far enough to remove the deceased pilot. It was determined the pilot died upon impact. Moses assisted the Texas DPS and the FAA

with their investigation. After numerous interviews, it was concluded the pilot had performed a Hammerhead Stall maneuver over the marina and had engine problems that led to the crash.

**SALVAGE EFFORT FAILS**

• Angelina County Game Warden Tim Walker and San Augustine Game Warden Johnny Jones responded to a call involving the shooting of an eight-point buck at Jackson Hill, Lake Sam Rayburn. The wardens made contact with an individual in Zavalla. After 15 minutes of questioning — and Jones finding the antlers — the man confessed to shooting the deer while having an unsuccessful hog hunt. A charge of hunting deer during a closed season was filed.

**COLLISION WITH DEER INJURES MOTORCYCLIST**

• While investigating a report of a sick deer, Lamb County Game Warden Brent Satsky and Duane Lucia, a Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist,

received a call from the sheriff's office about a motorcycle colliding with a deer. An out-of-state motorcyclist hit the large mule deer buck just after sunup, resulting in the driver being airlifted to a Lubbock hospital and extensive damage to his motorcycle. The deer died instantly.

**CANCER PATIENT FOUND IN CREEK**

• The hunt for a missing cancer patient led Angelina County game wardens James Barge and Tim Walker — along with Tyler County Game Warden Bryan Baronet and Capt. Donnie Puckett — to search a remote area in Angelina County. Barge found the 62-year-old man unconscious in a creek with a four-wheeler on top of him. Game wardens transported paramedics to the scene in four-wheel-drive trucks. The victim was taken to a Lufkin hospital, where his condition was listed as serious.

**EARLY BIRDS REWARDED WITH CITATIONS**

• Hardin County Game Warden

Mike Boone and Jefferson County Game Warden Kirk Jenkins patrolled a section of Hardin County whose residents have a reputation for starting the deer season a little early. A vehicle was watched and stopped by the wardens. Inside the officers found two occupants and a 12-gauge loaded with buckshot. The individuals confessed to hunting deer in a closed season. Statements were taken and citations issued.

**ACCIDENT CLAIMS TEENAGER**

• Mitchell County Game Warden Randy Bullard responded to a swimming accident at Lake Colorado City. A 17-year-old member of a church group from Ira dove into the lake and struck the bottom, fracturing his neck. The man was airlifted to a Lubbock hospital where he died.

**AND I'LL HAVE A BAT TO GO**

• At a local mall, Denton County Game Warden Inga

*Continued on page 18*

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Continued from page 16

### Game warden blotter

From discovered a store selling a mounted bat in a shadowbox frame. From returned, in uniform, to the store the next day and seized the bat. The store's owner was warned that selling bats, even those from Thailand, is not allowed in Texas.

#### WORKING OVERTIME DOESN'T PAY

• A commercial shrimp boat working at night was nabbed by Galveston County game wardens Antone Jackson, Bobby Kana and Capt. Edward Tanuz. Seventy-five pounds of shrimp were seized. The case is pending.

Merida contacted the man who brought in the eagle. After a long interview, the man confessed to shooting it. Federal charges are being filed.

#### GOOD CATCH

• Uvalde County game wardens Rachel Kellner and Mark McQueary and Kinney County Game Warden Henry Lutz issued 11 citations recently on the Nueces River. Seven citations were for operating a motor vehicle in a state-owned riverbed, one was for fishing without a license, one was for

littering and two were for minor in possession.

#### INVESTIGATION TURNS UP ILLEGAL FISHING

• A six-month investigation into illegal fishing on the Sabine River, in Shelby County, wrapped up with the arrest of two Joaquin men and arrest warrants being issued for two other men. The four men are accused of illegally taking catfish, crappie and white bass (hoop nets) and selling them. Fines assessed ranged from \$3,400 to \$6,700 on 51 charges, such as posses-

sion of illegal fishing devices, taking game fish (crappie, catfish and white bass) by illegal means and selling fish without a license. Region 3, District 2 (Piney Woods) game wardens involved in the case were Mike Hanson, Derek Nalls, Johnny Jones, Justin Eddins, Ellis Powell, Chad Gartman, and Capt. Tom Jenkins and Region VIII warden Tom Gallenbach. While arresting the ringleader, wardens also seized eight alligator snapping turtle shells found in plain sight at one of the accused men's residence.

#### MISSING MAN FOUND DEAD

• In a hunt for a missing 35-year-old man, Shelby County game wardens Mike Hanson and Derek Nalls assisted Shelby County deputies by searching a rural portion of Shelby County. The man was found deceased from natural causes.

#### GOOD SAMARITAN CONFESSES

• Navarro County Game Warden Jimmy Woolley received a call from a Dallas rehabilitator treating a bald eagle from the Kerns area. Woolley and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent Mike

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## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Crossword puzzle solution from page 15.



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# OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

## HAVE AN EVENT TO PUBLICIZE?

E-mail it to  
[editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com](mailto:editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com).  
 Events must be open to the public.

**AUG. 26:** The Golden Spread Gobblers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation Banquet, Borger. Help raise funds for wild turkey conservation and programs that introduce the outdoors to women, children and the disabled at the Coors Building in Borger. For more information, call Rex Melton at (806) 681-9499.

**AUG. 27-28:** Hunter Education Safety Course, Amarillo Gander Mountain. Mike Hoover, a hunter education safety instructor, will present a safety course for persons born on or before Sept. 2, 1971, who want to hunt in Texas. The fee is \$10. Class limit is 30 and participants must attend classes both days. From 1-6 p.m. in the Gander

Lodge. For more information, call Amarillo Gander Mountain at (806) 354-9095.

**AUG. 27:** Ducks Unlimited's El Paso Annual Fun Shoot will feature fun and prizes. Get your team together or join others at the El Paso Gun Club. For more information, call W. Middagh at (915) 549-6994.

**AUG. 27:** The Pease River Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation Banquet, Cromwell. Help raise funds for wild turkey conservation and important programs at the Crowell Activity Center. For more information, call George Provence at (940) 552-5404.

**AUG. 27:** The Corpus Christi Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation Banquet at the Selina Auditorium in Corpus Christi. For more information, call Brian Preston at (361) 758-7878.

**AUG. 30:** The Wichita Falls Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation Banquet, Wichita Falls. Help raise funds for wild turkey conservation and

important programs that introduce the outdoors to women, children and the disabled. Held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Wichita Falls. For more information, call Bobby Hulett at (940) 761-3312.

**SEPT. 1-30:** Dove Hunts at the Black Gap Wildlife Management Area. Hunters 17 years and older need a current annual hunting permit, hunting license and the white-wing dove stamp, if applicable. Primitive camping is available on site. Dates are subject to change. Call to confirm and for more information during normal business hours: (432) 376-2216 or (432) 837-3251.

**SEPT. 6:** Introduction to archery, Gander Mountain, Spring. Instructor Frank Moore will present an archery class from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Archery Range, 19302 1-45 North. For more information, call Moore at (281) 682-0354.

**SEPT. 8:** Lake Lewisville Ducks Unlimited Banquet. Learn more about

the organization and its role in conservation at its annual banquet. Fund-raisers will include raffles and live and silent auctions; at Sneaky Pete's at Lake Lewisville. For more information, call Jeff Potter at (972) 539-2435.

**SEPT. 8:** San Angelo Ducks Unlimited Banquet, San Angelo. Learn more about the organization and its role in conservation at its annual banquet at the San Angelo Civic Center. For more information, call Tom Granger at (325) 632-2384.

**SEPT. 10:** Wise County Ducks Unlimited Banquet. Learn more about the organization and its role in conservation at its annual banquet, which will include drawings. For more information, call A.Z. Smith at (940) 683-3907.

**SEPT. 11-12:** Hunter Education Safety Course at Amarillo Gander Mountain. Gerald Chapman, a hunter education safety instructor, will present a safety

course for persons born on or before Sept. 2, 1971, who want to hunt in Texas. The fee is \$10. The class size is limited to 20 and participants must attend classes both days. From 1-6 p.m. in the Gander Lodge. For more information, call Amarillo Gander Mountain at (806) 354-9095.

**SEPT. 14-16:** A symposium on using fire as a tool for managing wildlife habitat will be held in Kerrville. Topics include history of fire use, fire ecology in various Texas regions and the experiences of agency practitioners and landowners. A field trip to the Kerr WMA will conclude the conference on Friday. The symposium will be held at the YO Ranch Hotel and Conference Center at 1 p.m. Sept. 14; and 11:30 a.m. Sept. 16; early registration fee before Sept. 1st is \$50 per person; after Sept. 1st, \$75 per person; for registration and more information visit <http://texnat.tamu.edu> or contact Dale Rollins at [d-rollins@tamu.edu](mailto:d-rollins@tamu.edu) or call (325) 653-4576.

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## HEROES' CORNER

Want to share your great hunting or fishing adventure with the *Lone Star Outdoor News* family? E-mail your photo, phone and caption information to [editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com](mailto:editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com), or mail to: Heroes' Corner, *Lone Star Outdoor News*, 9304 Forest Lane, Suite 114 South, Dallas, TX, 75243.



**DESIREE BARNETT**, 10, caught this nice largemouth Bass in a small private pond in Somerville. She was using a plastic worm.



**DONATO RAMOS** holds a 9-pound largemouth he caught on a Lake Fork Tackle Baby Fork Creature while fishing with Kelly Jordan at Lake Fork recently.



A 38-inch, 20-pound redfish caught on 1/2-ounce Gold Spoon June 29 near Lake Charles, La. **RONNY GERSON** of Houston was fishing in 2-foot water on a 3,500-acre private marsh. He was fishing with Atwell Guide Service of Bell City, La.



**KELLER BRANTLEY** of Plano caught this rainbow trout while on vacation in Colorado.



**LAURENS FISH** of Austin caught this 29-inch speckled trout June 20 on the East Flats of Port Aransas.



**HANNAH SMITH** poses with a nice sunfish that she caught at a private tank in West Texas.

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