

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

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ADVENTURE
Fish the Keys — Texas style
See page 12

INSIDE HUNTING NEWS



Lacy Haber of Denison has hunted big game for 40-plus years, but the 1,100-pound bull elk he bagged with a bow in New Mexico this month was one for the record books.

See page 7

With bowhunting season for deer opening in many counties on Oct. 1, hunters who want an edge this year can get one with a bird's-eye view from their favorite easy chair.

See page 6

FISHING NEWS

If you think all the snapper are gone with the summer, think again. With the right guide, snapper fishing can be a reality this fall off the Texas coast.

See page 8

Taking the guesswork out of fishing for bass is easy — just join the club nearest you.

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CONSERVATION NEWS

After a decade of drought, rain in the western part of the state has allowed fish and wildlife room to recover.

See page 5

NATIONAL NEWS

Ducks Unlimited has pledged to help restore Louisiana's wetlands that were ravaged after Hurricane Katrina with \$15 million in aid. Marshes are an important factor in softening the blow from hurricanes, according to experts.

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BIG SPLASH: A tarpon explodes out of the water in an attempt to throw the hook.

Terrific tarpon

BY DAVID SIKES

Whispers about Port O'Connor's tarpon fishing have turned into shouts recently.

Tarpon have been around the area for years, but now they've become the bay's stars.

El Pescador boat builder and Port O'Connor fishing lodge owner Dave Kveton recalled his first accidental encounter with a tarpon in Espiritu Santo Bay 12 years ago. He even remembers the time of day: 2 p.m. It was during a summer trout trip when someone on his boat spotted the shadow of a big fish some 10 feet away in a clear tide.

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Teal opener scores full bags

BY BINK GRIMES

Teal hunters are calling this season's opener the best they can remember after a weekend of fast shooting and easy limits.

What a difference a year makes. A year ago, waterfowlers across the state enjoyed more conversa-

tion in the field than fast-flying bluewings.

"Everyone I have talked to got their birds," said Mike Grigar, owner of Johnny's Sport Shop in Eagle Lake, a long-established hub for hunters. "It was foggy here, and many hunter said they had to wait until the fog lifted to get their ducks."

All of Texas, with the exception

of isolated regions in the Panhandle, saw little rainfall during the six weeks preceding teal season, leaving dry, cracked earth where shallow ponds normally existed. With the absence of precipitation, wildlife managers and outfitters were forced to dig deep into their pockets to pump water to flats and leveed ponds. Some

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FLYING HIGH: Teal season gets a great start.



MAKING DO: Guy Buras takes a shower in a destroyed fish camp on Highway 11 in Slidell, La., on Tuesday, Aug. 30, after riding out the storm in his apartment. Photo by Mari Darr-Welch/AP.

Hurricane help

Fisheries devastated; Texas sends wardens

BY MARK ENGLAND

Gary Taylor's house in Slidell, La., built on 10-foot stilts, escaped the wrath of Hurricane Katrina, but she took out her fury on everything else he owned.

Her monstrous storm surge trashed the veteran fishing

guide's welding machine stored under the house and stole his tools, rods and tackle. His boat almost bought it, too. Katrina found the 31-foot Lafitte Skiff stored on a bay a couple miles away — knocking out the windows and pummeling the cabin to the point it will likely have to be rebuilt.

Taylor would have called his

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Whitetail school opens

BY ROBERT CADWALLADER

Working in a San Antonio grocery store, Chris Cuny knew he was at the wrong end of the food production business.

"I love being outdoors, and I've always wanted to be in wildlife management," he said. "But I never got to go to school for it."

He's getting a second chance — close to home.

The Colorado Outdoor Adventure Guide School plans to open a South Texas "campus," actually it will use two ranches near Carrizo Springs, featuring what it calls a first-of-its-kind

curriculum in whitetail deer. The first of six courses starts in February, teaching students about management, nutrition, native brush, scouting and other basic skills needed to become a professional hunting guide.

Cuny knew he was serious about it when he barely flinched at the \$3,500 tuition for the 100-hour, two-week course.

"I said, 'This is a chance of a lifetime,' so I figured I'd better try it at least," he said.

Gary Jordan, president of the guide school, said he intends to capitalize on the popularity of whitetail hunting in Texas. The program is unique, he said, both in its focus and its location in

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by **LOWE**



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NATIONAL NEWS

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Hurricane

insurance agent, but he wasn't around — having lost his own house.

"It's a mess," Taylor said. "Most houses are gone. Debris is piled up 4 or 5 feet high. Most of my stuff is gone for evermore. I have insurance. They tell you to call an 800-number. You try that. You try calling FEMA, too."

Taylor rode out the storm in South Carolina at a relative's house. But he "snuck around a little bit" and got home as soon as possible.

What he found was shocking. "You'd see what you thought was a piece of junk still standing, and the newer houses, the more modern houses, are gone," Taylor said. "You see a lot of that kind of stuff."

Taylor's area of expertise is the Louisiana Marsh — a maze of lagoons, bays and bayous rich in trout and redfish. He estimates it will be a year before he's guiding anglers through it again.

"There's no place for people to live, much less to stay while they're down here fishing," he said.

The loss to the commercial and recreational fishing industries could top \$1 billion. Officials admit they have no immediate way to tally the losses to the state's roads, bridges, marinas, fishing camps and ice-making facilities — all of which made Louisiana a prime fishing spot. U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez formally declared a fishery failure in the Gulf of Mexico. The main affected area stretches from Pensacola, Fla., to the Texas border.

The declaration makes federal relief funds available to assess the impact, restore the fisheries, prevent future failure and assist fishing communities' recovery efforts. It also allows for direct assistance to fishermen.

Two of Louisiana's most famous fishing sites — the Chandeleur Islands and Venice — took a direct hit from Katrina.

The Chandeleurs are a narrow string of sandy barriers in the Gulf, about 70 miles east of New Orleans, that offer a unique blend of surf and grass-flats fishing. Half the islands were sub-



merged or washed away. A light-house on the northern end of the Chandeleurs vanished.

"There were a bunch of breaches," said Tommy Michot, a biologist for the National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette. "Only the big islands remain. A lot of the beach connecting them was completely overwashed."

Michot, a pilot, flew over the islands after Katrina pounded them. He also got a look at Venice, where the Mississippi River long ago carved out underwater canyons that provide an inland home to tuna, wahoo and marlin.

"Venice was hit really hard," Michot said. "The human structures there took a heck of a beating."

With levees on two sides, Venice has problems similar to those of New Orleans.

"Not nearly as great because it's not nearly as populated," Michot said. "But there's trapped water, which is stagnant; a lot of debris and material that's biodegrading, which will cause a biological problem; and there's a bunch of oil leaks."

New Orleans is the measuring stick for Katrina's damage, of course. A bunch of Texas wardens — 53 officers with 52 vehicles and 50 boats — answered its call for help in the first couple of weeks after the hurricane hit. It

ENFORCEMENT: (Top) Armed Texas game wardens surround a group of people who allegedly stole a mail truck to escape the flooded areas of New Orleans East after Katrina hit. The suspects were freed but forced to continue on foot. Photo by Rick Wilking, Reuters.

RESCUE: (Right) Texas game wardens rescue victims in aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Photo by Earl Nottingham, Texas Parks and Wildlife.

marked the first time Texas Parks and Wildlife deployed game wardens out of state. The wardens came face-to-face with the brutal aftermath of the hurricane — from rescuing to patrolling to protecting citizens, they did it all. While there, they rescued 1,500 patients from Charity Hospital. One woman there begged them to save her 82-year-old grandmother, an invalid trapped nearby. Maj. Butch Shoop, the Fort Worth regional director, dispatched a boat to bring her back.

The woman, after having wardens carry her grandmother over to Shoop so they could be introduced, thanked him.

"She said, 'Mr. Butch, can I hug your neck?' I said, 'I don't smell very good, but go ahead.' She said, 'I don't know you, but I love you and I love what you're doing,'" Shoop said.

Most people are now out of New Orleans, which came close to becoming a modern-day



Atlantis as water flooded the below-sea-level city. By late October, it could be pumped dry. In time, the tides and the Mississippi River will flush out areas like Venice and the Louisiana Marsh.

But it's doubtful things will ever get back to normal.

"Everything I knew about fish-

ing around here is going to be different," Taylor said. "Terrain-wise, I'll have to start from scratch. I'll have the jump on a complete stranger, but it's going to be different."

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

DU pledges \$15 million for Louisiana marshes

Ducks Unlimited pledged \$15 million to help restore coastal wetlands in Louisiana damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

DU President Jim Hulbert called the damage wreaked by Hurricane Katrina a "national tragedy."

"The human loss and suffering is staggering," Hulbert said. "To get people's lives back to normal as quickly as possible requires not only that services and homes be restored and rebuilt but also that the critical coastal wetlands that help protect those homes and people be restored too. Wetlands restoration is what Ducks Unlimited does best."

In concert with partner conservation organizations, federal conservation agencies and the state of

Louisiana, Ducks Unlimited plans to restore 52,000 acres along the Louisiana coast by 2008, said Executive Vice President Don Young.

Young says the pledge is the center point of DU's new Louisiana Coastal Restoration Initiative.

"We'll leverage that money with other sources to increase funds as much as possible to work with our partners and the State of Louisiana to restore America's Wetland," Young said.

One mile of coastal marsh can reduce a storm surge by one foot. The 29-foot storm surge recorded during Katrina was the highest ever recorded during a Gulf Coast hurricane.

—A Ducks Unlimited report

TO THE EDITOR

What a coincidence. The day after snorkeling at the South Jetty in Port Aransas, I read your (Aug. 26) article about the resurgence of snook in the Texas Gulf Coast. On Aug. 28, we spotted a school of snook — 20 to 25 of them. A friend who was snorkeling with me is a very experienced diver/snorkeler, and that's what he said they were. (The fish) ranged from 12 inches to 18 inches or so and were a silvery/white color with a narrow dark stripe down each side. At first we saw a single one that was large, maybe 24 inches, and we swam in circles with it. Then we swam farther out along the jetty and that's when we saw the school of them.

*Nancy Hamilton
Corpus Christi, Texas*

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EDITORIAL OFFICES:

9304 Forest Lane, Suite 114 South, Dallas, TX 75243

Phone: (214) 361-2276

Fax: (214) 368-0344

Editor: DARLENE MCCORMICK SANCHEZ

Art Director: TODD DUNCAN

Associate Editor: MARK ENGLAND

Associate Editor: DAVID RENFROW

Subscription Services: DEBORAH COMER

Founder & CEO: DAVID J. SAMS

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:

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CONSERVATION NEWS

Rains out west aid habitat

Every time there are widespread rains of half an inch or more across West Texas, the San Angelo Standard-Times puts a drawing of a crowing red rooster, General Rainz, on the front page.

Following flooding rains in mid-August, General Rainz is probably hoarse and looking for high ground.

"The rains were good news for fish and wildlife," says Bobby Farquhar of San Angelo, regional director for Texas Parks and Wildlife's Inland Fisheries Division. "We got about 10 inches above our average rainfall last year, and so far this year we are running about 4 inches ahead. This puts us in really good shape for rains we may get this fall, which is normally our rainy season."

After nearly a decade of drought, rain began returning to the western part of the state last year. In the fall of 2004, E.V. Spence Reservoir caught about 6 feet of water, and O.C. Fisher Lake rose 12 feet. This August's rains augmented the levels of those lakes and caused catastrophic flooding around Lake Stamford, which rose 14 feet in less than three days. Up to 10 inches of rain fell from Big Spring to Temple, causing several deaths from highway flooding.

Many lakes within a 100-mile radius of San Angelo caught at least a foot or two of water. Others saw much bigger rises: Champion Creek, 3.5 feet; J.B. Thomas, 6 feet; E.V. Spence, 8 feet; Oak Creek, 7 feet; and O.C. Fisher, 12 feet.

"We will put the lakes that caught water on the priority list for stocking," Farquhar says. "Some that caught water last November were stocked this past spring. If a lake has new flooded habitat, we will put it on the list to be stocked again next spring. While those fish won't be catchable size for a year or two, people are already seeing improved fishing in the lakes that caught water last November. We're hearing that anglers on E.V. Spence are catching limits of white bass and lots of small stripers for the first time in four or five years. That's really good news for them."

Farquhar tempers his optimism with a bit of West Texas humor — "Like the old-timers say, the next drought starts the day it stops raining" — but the effect the rains have had on the region is apparent even to the casual observer. Normally brown in August, roadsides and pastures are verdant and stock ponds are brimming.

Timing of the rains may be

particularly important, says Mandy Scott, assistant fisheries biologist. "When we have heavy rains in the winter, we sometimes have an outbreak of golden alga," she says. "The fact these rains came in the summer may mean that won't happen."

Fisheries biologist Craig Bonds says monitoring of fish populations and golden alga status will be stepped up to enable TPW to make the most of the situation. "We will be doing more than routine monitoring to determine where the greatest need is and use that information to prioritize our stocking requests and to keep anglers informed on where the best fishing is," he says.

Scott added that anglers can help in the rebuilding of the fishery on O.C. Fisher by practicing catch-and-release. "We have stocked 9-inch channel catfish and adult largemouth bass, and we encourage anglers to release them so they can spawn," she says.

Rising water levels have also improved access at O.C. Fisher, where the three-lane boat ramp is now usable, and Oak Creek, where the ramp near the dam again reaches the lake.

—A Texas Parks and Wildlife report

Prohibited species publicized

Texas Parks and Wildlife has introduced a new brochure that details prohibited species and describes the harm to humans and the ecosystem that could result if each of the exotic (non-native) species makes it out into the environment.

For example, in the case of prohibited tilapia: They may compete with native fish for resources and inhibit reproduction in some native species, and also may destroy vegetation and habitat by digging holes for spawning.

The brochure and companion poster is being distributed to TPW law enforcement and fisheries offices statewide. Printing was funded through the settlement of a large case involving exotic/prohibited species. TPW worked closely with the Harris County District Attorney's Office on the project.

A total of 5,000 brochures and 500 posters were printed.

"Posters will be distributed to groceries and markets where there have been problems in the past with these prohibited species. Texas Game Wardens will also distribute them on patrols and in outreach meetings," said Lance Robinson in Coastal Fisheries, who deals with exotic species and works near Houston.

The idea for the project happened when Houston-area game wardens found Asian swamp eels and some prohibited tilapia, and discovered a huge distribution of water spinach, which is also prohibited but is a staple in the Asian diet. More than a ton was confiscated recently and had been growing for more than a decade, according to investigators. Now water spinach will only be allowed through a permitting process.

"The goal is to try and educate the public about these prohibited items and try to explain why they

are prohibited," Robinson said.

The species listed in the new brochure are: pacific oysters (unshucked), all species of cynoscion in the drum family except spotted seatrout, snakesheads, anguillidae in the freshwater eel family, grapsidae in the mitten crab family, tilapia not from a TPW facility, synbranchidae in the swamp eel family, penaeidae in the penaeid shrimp family, all species of giant rams-horn snails, convolvulaceae in the water spinach family and a number of species of several Asian or Chinese carp, including piranhas.

For a complete list of prohibited exotic species in Texas, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/exotic. For a brochure, visit a TPW Law Enforcement office or call (512) 389-4864.

—A Texas Parks and Wildlife report

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DUCKS UNLIMITED

HUNTING

Scouting for deer in your easy chair can pay off big

BY LYNN BURKHEAD

On the ground, it may not have looked like much. But from the air — or more appropriately, from an aerial photo — it looked like white-tail gold.

That's an appropriate way to describe the primo stand location that Texas bowhunter Gary Kinard located on a Coleman County hunting property several years ago.

"That place had about a 40-acre wheat field and it had a big mesquite thicket next to it," Kinard said. "The deer would bed up in that thicket and then travel to that wheat field."

Specifically, they would travel along a creek drainage that contained scattered oak trees raining down acorns.

As the creek neared the grain field food source, a brushy draw jutted its way up to the wheat. And that's where Kinard, of All Star Archery in East Dallas, recognized a honey hole of a stand location if he had ever seen one.

After putting a stand up at that strategic travel corridor, the results spoke for themselves.

"It was something that we spotted with our aerial photos, since it is easy to distinguish mesquite trees from hardwoods on such a map," Kinard said. "We eventually killed four or five bucks out of that stand."

Tom Miranda, host of the ESPN Outdoors' TV show "Advantage Adventures," is a whitetail hunting expert who routinely uses topographical maps and aerial photos to his big buck hunting advantage.

"I try to draw myself a little picture in my mind on how the deer are moving through (an area)," Miranda said.

Half a continent away, Indiana deer hunting expert Brad Herndon remembers vividly the night when the light bulb came on in his head concerning maps, aerial photos and deer hunting hotspots.

That occurred as he sat in his easy chair looking at a topo map of a favored hunting locale.

Suddenly, he noticed a saddle that stood out like a sore thumb on the map. While Herndon had indeed walked the area before, limited signs had never encouraged him enough to hang a stand there.

Knowing that deer often take the path of easiest and least resistance, further map study in his easy chair convinced Herndon to hang a stand in the location.

It turned out to be a good choice, signs or no signs.

"It was December when I first hunted it," Herndon said. "I saw 11 deer on that first hunt."

In fact, Herndon actually ended up shooting at, and missing, the biggest buck of his career. The 12-point buck was run over the next year on the highway and netted 182 inches.

That experience made it clear for Herndon that hunters can learn much about their hunting

Continued on page 11



DEAD AIM: Hunters who want an edge this season should map their terrain beforehand.

Hunters applaud decoy movement in industry

BY BOB HOOD

Waterfowl decoy manufacturers are taking the old saying that "birds of a feather flock together" to heart, and their new non-motorized motion decoys are winning the affection of many hunters.

From a hunter's point of view, these new stand-alone motion decoys are much easier on the wallet than the expensive battery-powered fakesters that bring decoys to life.

What's so important about adding a motion decoy to your bag?

Ducks and geese, like most game birds, are flock-oriented. Nothing says safety louder than the sight of a number of their cohorts moving about comfortably at the water's edge or coming in for a landing.

Now put yourself where the ducks and geese are — high in the air and looking down at your decoys. Even with a slight breeze, your decoys look more like a group of country western linedancers in ultra-slow motion than a bunch of ducks or geese moving about naturally.

And don't forget — those ducks and geese you are trying to lure into your spread may not have completely forgotten being shot at over a similar scene a day or two earlier.

Decoy manufacturers began helping hunters solve that problem a few years ago with their offerings of motorized decoys. There is no denying that battery-powered decoys have worked well, but the trend being noticed today is a surge in the production of non-motorized motion decoys that do the same thing only with the help of Mother Nature and at a more affordable price.

Here are a few: Greenhead Universal's Motion

Stakes can be used on full-body duck decoys and goose shells. The fiberglass stakes are 1/4 inch in diameter and 18 1/2 inches long. When mounted on the stakes, a decoy will provide excellent life-like movement in even the slight breeze or strong gust of wind. A package of 12 sells for \$49.95.

Also available from Greenhead is the Decoy Dancers, an effective and simple motion decoy stand made for the Greenhead Gear full-body goose decoys. The stand causes the decoy to move vertically and horizontally in the wind, even adjusting to changing wind conditions. The suggested retail price is \$24.49 for a package of two.

The Glide'n Duck is just that — a decoy that simulates a duck gliding in for a landing 1 to 2 feet above the water. It is completely wind-operated. The wings move up and down when they catch a pocket of wind. The cost is about \$40 for a package of two decoys (mallard hen and drake).

From Carry-Lite comes a Flying Mallard with a 23-inch wingspan or a flying Canada goose with a 48-inch wingspan. The decoys come with springs that fit into pieces of conduit to give them added movement with the slightest breeze. The duck decoy sells for about \$90 and the goose decoy sells for about \$80.

The Air Lucky decoy is a full-body duck decoy on a three-piece stake whose wings rotate in winds as low as 3 mph. It sells for about \$40. The decoy self-rights into the wind and provides the same features of a spinning-type motorized decoy, only it's powered by the wind. It operates even in extreme conditions of up to 50 mph. The suggested retail price is \$39.95.

Bob Hood is an outdoor writer for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and frequent contributor to Lone Star Outdoor News.



MIGRATORY BIRD REPORT

PANHANDLE: Hunters enjoyed a solid teal opener on playa lakes. Recent rain there has some lakes north of Abilene brim full. Outfitters reported easy limits on mostly bluewings over the weekend, though some greenwings were harvested, too. Dove hunting has slowed, partly due to hunter participation, and partly due to scattered dove numbers since the opener. The region needs a cool front to push Midwest birds to the High Plains. Prospects are fair to good.

CENTRAL ZONE DOVE: Shooting near San Antonio has been fair to good over corn and milo. Better shoots have been had near watering holes with the absence of rainfall. Uvalde and Hondo have scored limits of mourners and whitewings for hunters willing to hunt morning and afternoon. South Zone fields in the area are building strong numbers of birds as pressured doves are finding solitude in fields just across the highway. Brownwood, Waco, San Saba and fields north of Austin are fair for mourners and a few whitewings. Prospects are fair to good.

SOUTH ZONE DOVE: Fields near George West, Fashing, Three Rivers, Laredo, Raymondville, Tilden, Freer and other towns with solid crops look promising for the Sept. 23 opener. The only uncertainty is where Hurricane Rita could hit land on the Texas coast. Depending on landfall, hunters should expect steady rainfall, which could hurt bird flight. The bag limit is 12 birds. Prospects are good.

TEAL SEASON: Reports from coastal hunters indicate, maybe, the best teal opener since the special season reopened in 1991. Waterfowlers on the coastal prairie counties of Wharton, Jackson, Lavaca, Colorado, Brazoria, Matagorda and Chambers saw the greatest influx of birds. Early morning fog hurt decoying action over the weekend; however, once the fog lifted, hunters in Garwood, El Campo, Eagle Lake, Sealy, Katy and Midfield enjoyed limit hunts. Marsh hunters near Anahuac, High Island, Freeport, Matagorda, Seadrift and Rockport saw steady action. Biologist Todd Merendino reported good shoots on Peach Point WMA near Freeport and Mad Island WMA near Bay City. Merendino said Guadalupe Delta WMA near Port Lavaca was somewhat slower. Fair hunts were posted on shallow flats on Lake O' the Pines, Caddo Lake, Lake Fork and Toledo Bend. Conditions in East Texas have been dry throughout the summer and most counties are under a burn ban. Lack of water in backwater sloughs and timber ponds hurt hunting there. Teal season ends at sunset Sept. 25.

—Bink Grimes



SECOND THE MOTION: Motion decoys are gaining popularity over motorized decoys. A Greenhead Gear Real Motion pro-grade full-body decoy.

A whole lotta New Mexico bull!

Texas bowhunter bags a trophy elk

BY LYNN BURKHEAD

Denison's Lacy Harber is a world-class big-game hunter who is no stranger to taking big game animals around North America and the rest of the world with a bow.

But even he was a bit speechless after his Sept. 7 hunt that produced what could end up being the largest non-typical bull elk ever taken with archery gear in the state of New Mexico.

That bull, taken on the 550,000-acre Acoma Indian Reservation near Grants, N.M., is a staggering wapiti with a massive 7 x 6 main frame complete with five abnormal kicker points.

Taped by Safari Club International scorer James Torivio Jr., the 7 1/2-year-old bull weighed about 1,100 pounds and boasts a current SCI score of 411 4/8 inches as a typical and 425 2/8 inches as a non-typical.

The Harber bull could potentially climb atop the New Mexico SCI record books for a bow-killed elk when all is said and done.

"This was my most exciting hunt ever," Harber said. "Hunting elk when they're bugling with a bow is a challenging and exciting hunt and I love

that above all other hunts."

Even with a number of bow-killed elk under his belt, including some big bulls scoring well into the upper 300s, little could have prepared Harber for the wapiti he did battle with a week ago in the Land of Enchantment.

Despite a slow start, that is. "I was hunting the third day, (but) I hadn't heard many bugles," Harber admitted.

That's when Harber's elk hunting fortunes began to change.

"I heard some cows mewing, talking among themselves," Harber said.

"I had a Hoochie Mama call and I started calling and after about three sets of calls, I got a bugle that answered me."

While most bowhunters would have tried to out duel the elk in a bugling contest, Harber is a big believer in doing just the opposite.

"I've found out over the years that you only use your bugle when you're trying to locate the bull," Harber said.

"I just cow call once I locate the bull."

Doing just that, Harber and his guide Sam Diswood tried to lure the lovesick elk in for about 45 minutes.

With sunlight waning, the



GIANT AMONG US: Texas bowhunter Lacy Harber downed a trophy elk in New Mexico that could go down in the history books. Photo courtesy of Lacy Harber.

Texas bowhunter finally got a glimpse of the unseen bull, a wapiti carrying headbones that could take the breath away from a hunter, even a seasoned one like Harber.

"I took my binoculars and I looked at him and I could see in just an instant looking at him that it was a monster bull," Harber said.

As the quartering giant closed to within 38 yards, Harber drew and held for nearly a minute waiting for a shot opportunity.

When that opportunity finally came, Harber was able to thread

his arrow through one lung and liver.

After watching the bull stop at 75 yards with the arrow buried up to its fletching, the giant wapiti slowly disappeared into the dark timber.

Instead of giving chase, Harber and his guide decided to give the elk time to expire.

While that decision undoubtedly led to a nervous night of sleep for Harber, he found his trophy without much trouble the next morning.

"My wife (Dorothy) found him about 75 yards into the trees,"

Harber said. "When the guides saw him, they just got on their knees. They couldn't believe it."

While nothing is official yet, the bull appears to be true as advertised. It could ascend to the top of the Pope & Young Club's archery listings for a non-typical bull elk taken in New Mexico. Harber's bull appears to be 409 6/8 inches on the P&Y scale. The record is listed at 402 5/8 inches for the category, according to the newest P&Y record book.

Also, the elk could rank in the Pope & Young Club's all-time "Top 10" list, as high as eighth.



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FISHING

Surprising snapper: catch them this fall

BY BRIAN HOLDEN



SNAPPIN' SNAPPERS: Scott Isbell, Andy Millovietsch hold up fish they caught 40 miles offshore from Port Aransas. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Six bewildered anglers stood at the transom of the big Mickelson, rods in hand, awaiting orders from the bridge. Their pin perch dangled in the water like lambs being led to the slaughter.

"Hold on, just a second. Let me move a little left. OK, I'm gonna turn the bow into the wind a little," the captain shouted.

The anglers were told that they were making a stop for some red snapper, but the only platform in sight was a few miles away. But there was little time to wonder.

"Hang on ... wait ... wait ... OK, drop 'em!" shouted the voice from the bridge.

All six anglers free-spoiled their reels as instructed and let their baits drop to a depth of 175 feet. A bright pink Dacron mark in the line made the chore error-proof. During the 25-second free-fall into the depths, each angler silently wondered if the captain had finally found that fabled spot: the middle of nowhere. Six reels were clicked into gear, and five of them instantly bowed to the unmistakable weight of a formidable red snapper. The lone fishless angler watched the others do battle, waiting for a strike of his own.

"Reel that one up; you lost your bait on the drop," came the voice from the bridge. Five snapper appeared near the surface, all in the 5- to 7-pound range. It became obvious that the only viable explanation for the missing sixth fish was a bare hook hanging 175 feet below the boat.

Six more baits, four more snapper. Six more, five more. In less than 20 minutes, every angler on the boat had his limit of snapper ranging from 5 pounds to pushing 10. They all stood staring at one another in disbelief. "I can't believe that happened so fast," commented fisherman Dan Holden. "Besides a lot of snapper, what the heck is down there?" The only answer he got was a silent smirk from the captain. How, in a time

Continued on page 10

Dallas man captures world record on fly rod



RECORD CATCH: Josh Hill with record fish.

A Dallas man's catch from earlier this year was certified as a world record by the International Game Fish Association.

Josh Hill, 22, of Dallas caught the smallmouth buffalo on March 29 on a self-tied fly and

fly rod at the Pedernales River. It was certified at 20.89 pounds and 33 inches with a girth of 24 inches.

Hill won the water body record and state record, receiving certificates for those awards from Texas Parks and Wildlife.

"It's an interesting story how I caught the fish," Hill said. "I had just graduated from UT-Austin and had to do a thesis and did it on fly fishing and the white bass run. I found a professor there who had the record smallmouth buffalo (before this catch), Gibbs Milliken. But we actually went out fishing for the white bass for my thesis project. All of the sudden I hit something pretty big and was like, 'This is not a white bass.' I fought the fish for 45 minutes. I eventually landed it by working it into a shallow groove. After that, the professor and I went out and celebrated."

—A Texas Parks and Wildlife report



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Private club lakes are worth a try

BY WES SMALLING

Fishing a leased lake for a day through one of Texas' fishing membership clubs can take the guesswork out of finding where the big bass are biting this fall.

Members of The American Game and Fish Club, formerly the Great American Bass Club, have fishing access to 100 privately owned lakes across Texas.

"The advantage of being a member is we catalog a hundred lakes, and if they are doing well you're going to know about it," said American Fish and Game Club president Derek Stratton. For nonmembers who aren't sure about plunking down \$250 to start a membership, any of the club's lakes can be fished for a day for a trial-fishing fee of \$12.50.

"You can call the office and we'll put you on the spot (where they're biting)," Stratton said. "With us you're going to have a lot more spots to go to all over the state. No matter where you are, we're going to have spots you can go to and fish."

Flag Springs, near Dallas and Bonham, and Waco Creek Lake, near Austin and San Saba, are the hot spots right now, he said. Waco Creek Lake produces bass in the 10- to 14-pound class on a

regular basis.

"The fishing really picks up in late February and March, but it can be good in the fall," Stratton said, adding that most of the time you can have an entire lake to yourself.

Of course, public waters tend to be less crowded in the fall, too — just as the weather cools and the fishing starts getting good, said Greg McFadin, president of the Bass-N-More Bass Club, a statewide bass fishing tournament circuit. "It's finally starting to pick up," he said. "But now everybody's getting ready for deer hunting."

After deer season, The Lakes of Danbury with its five private lakes would be the perfect place to go. Jim Thompson, owner of the secluded, private bass fishery that's about 40 miles south of Houston, said the fishing is a little slow right now, but should get hot in a couple of months.

"It'll probably be late November before we get our fall bite," Thompson said. "Then it's actually as good as or better than the spring. Most people say spring is the best, but that's probably because they've never fished in the fall. This is the prime time to get in a club and get ready for fall fishing."

An individual membership to The Lakes of Danbury costs an initial \$795, plus monthly dues



PRIVATE FISHING: Cary Garner unhooks a largemouth bass that was caught at a fishing club lease in East Texas.

of \$169. Nonmembers can try it out for a day for \$200 and a boat is provided.

"If you pay the \$200 and you like the fishing, we'll put that money straight toward your membership," Thompson said. The sister company of The Lakes of Danbury is a commercial

hatchery, so the club's lakes are well-stocked, and 6- to 12-pound bass are common. "We try to keep 'em fat," Thompson said.

To learn more about the Lakes of Danbury, go to www.lakesof-danbury.com or call (979) 922-8610. For more about The American Fish and Game Club,

which also offers hunting, visit www.gtbc.com or call (888) 303-4822.

Wes Smalling is the former outdoors editor for the Santa Fe New Mexican and has more than a decade of experience as a writer and reporter.



FISH MANAGEMENT: Ron Gard and Allen Forshage examine a bass that was electroshocked during a survey of his fishing pond.

Pond management yields fabulous fish

BY BOB LUSK

Cast a chartreuse spinnerbait next to an underwater brush pile, your heart seems to stop for an instant at the lunging strike of a strong, hungry largemouth bass. Rod bent double, the drag sings as 4-pound test line peels off while the fish heads for safety in the brush. The fight is on. Finally, she turns and yields. At the boat, just as you are ready to lip the monster, it turns and makes one more plunge. Line snaps, and you are left with a splash, two empty hands and the vision of a grand fish.

You know, in your heart, you and that fish will cross paths again.

It has to. The creature lives in your pond.

Pond management isn't an accident. It's a thoughtful plan, an art bolstered by solid science. Thoughtful pond management

revolves around four fundamental principles: habitat, food chain, genetics and harvest — in that order. Start with objectives. If you know your goals, you are more likely to hit them. Then create a management strategy around the "big four."

As you plan to manage a pond, think about the best habitat for your fish. Want a balanced fishery, with bass, bluegill and maybe a few catfish? Learn about those fish, and the habitat they need to thrive. Then supply it. Habitat is basically areas where that species of fish can live, eat, reproduce and be safe. That's it. But, without proper habitat for the fish you want, don't expect them to thrive.

Up next is food chain. Some fish eat fish, other fish are eaten by aforementioned fish. Know which fish you plan to stock, and make sure their forage fish have the best habitat.

When stocking a pond, think three, four, five years ahead. What

Continued on page 10

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Tarpon



MONSTER FISH: Cole Clarkson and Scott Graham hold a tarpon weighing an estimated 152 pounds. Clarkson caught and released the fish near Port O'Connor this July. Photo by John Cyrier.

Kveton remembers thinking it could have been a shark. He assumed sharks and tarpon accessed this mid-bay oyster reef from nearby Pass Cavallo, Port O'Connor's doorway to the Gulf of Mexico. Instinctively, Kveton tossed a soft plastic toward the fish's nose and twitched. The fish engulfed his lure and he set the hook, still unaware of its kind.

The mighty fish leaped 6 feet into the air, darkening its would-be captors with a broad shadow. And then it was over.

Kveton's party hooked four tarpon that day, catching none with 12-pound test line.

"They might have stayed hooked for 10 seconds each maybe, if that," Kveton said. "There's no way we were going to catch those fish on that kind of tackle. But it was fun trying."

Many times since then Kveton has returned better prepared to this shell pad that measures about an acre in area. He's enjoyed about

15 hook-ups annually, the most memorable of which involved a 120-pound fish and a 3 1/2-hour fight.

Nobody knows why tarpon are attracted to this patch of bay. But a growing number of anglers and guides are noticing.

The fishery has become viable enough to support several fishing guides who offer tarpon trips for a specialized clientele seeking thrills. It's been this way for three years, according to Port O'Connor guide Tom Hornby, who provides tarpon opportunities to fly anglers and light-tackle enthusiasts from May into October.

Could Port O'Connor be an emerging Homosassa, where anglers from around the world come to stalk 150-pound fish in clear shallow water? At its peak, about 40 professional guides offered tarpon trips in Homosassa. Today, about 20 remain, according to Florida fly guide Ted Johnston.

In Port O'Connor, about a half-

dozen guides offer tarpon trips. Publicity surrounding the Port O'Connor fishery has escalated, most recently in the form of two heralded big-tarpon catches in as many years. Stories and photos of these fly-caught fish spread by e-mail and Internet message boards throughout Texas and beyond.

Fishing guide Scott Graham, who provided this summer's big-tarpon thrill, is among the professionals promoting tarpon fishing in Espiritu Santo Bay with television and regional magazine reports. Texas Parks and Wildlife lead tarpon researcher, Britt Bumguardner, a biologist based in nearby Palacios, said much of the anecdotal information comes from Graham.

Bumguardner estimates that about 100 tarpon are caught and released annually from Espiritu Santo Bay each summer. He believes that anglers hook and lose as many as 500-700 more annually.

Bumguardner has issued about 1,000 tarpon tags to anglers and guides. About 100 have been implanted to learn more about the fish's migration. So far, Bumguardner has received no reports of anglers re-catching these Port O'Connor fish. Still, Bumguardner believes Texas tarpon come from Mexico and are only passing through.

Tarpon fishing contacts: Capt. Tom Hornby, (361) 983-2263 or www.captaintomhorbey.com; Capt. Scott Graham (512) 947-7145, www.flyfishingtexas.com.

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

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Snapper

wrought with controversy about declining snapper populations and shortened seasons, could a spot like this still exist? Especially late in August when most of the keeper-size snapper have been caught?

Capt. Paul Eccleston believes one key to catching quality red snapper out of Port Aransas is to get away from wells and surface structure.

"Anyone can find the stuff that sticks up out of the water," he explains.

"The fish get pressured by every boat that goes by, and they either leave or get caught. I like the wrecks and rock piles because they don't get as much traffic. Also, try live perch on a fluorocarbon leader," Eccleston suggested. "They will sometimes trick the bigger fish that have seen more than their share of cut bait."

Texas regulations for red snapper are four per angler per day with a minimum of 15 inches. There is no closed season, and the guide cannot retain his limit of fish. If fishing beyond 9 miles, federal jurisdiction applies. The

limit is still four red snapper per angler per day, but they must be a minimum of 16 inches and the guide may retain his limit of fish. Also, the federal season begins April 21 and ends Oct. 21. There are more rules, of course, waiting to be read at Texas Parks and Wildlife's Web site.

Lee Weidner of the Smooth Finish out of Freeport agrees with Eccleston on the live bait issue: "For big snapper, live piggy perch are the ticket. Here recently, the rocks at 250 feet have been producing great snapper catches because the fishing pressure is backing off and the water is cooling."

While Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist Barbara Dorf points out that the bigger snapper are caught earlier in the summer, the red snapper fishery in the Western Gulf is healthy enough to provide snapper pay dirt.

"We have the best 'casual' snapper fishery in the Gulf here in Texas," she said.

Brian Holden is a fishing guide and general manager of Redfish Lodge.

Continued from page 9

Pond management

you do in the beginning has a direct effect on results years down your pond's road. Do your best to decide the best stocking rates and select species of fish thoughtfully. Work with a consultant or hatchery. Resist the temptation to speed things up. Just because you can buy a hamburger in 60 seconds, don't think you can "fast food" your way into a great pond. A pond is an environment, a habitat that must develop properly. Look at your short-term decisions with long-term implications. Sportfish tend to eat other fish. Food chains are important. Develop food chains. You will be ahead in time and

money if you develop the best food chain for target species of game fish.

If large fish are your target, genetics play a significant role. Giant largemouth bass have Florida strain genetics. Want huge sunfish? Look at coppernose bluegill. They have the genetic propensity, if managed properly, to grow big as a dinner plate. Also, plan to harvest a few fish to keep a natural balance.

Bob Lusk is a 26-year veteran private fisheries biologist and consultant. He is also editor of Pond Boss magazine. Contact him at www.pondboss.com or pondboss@texoma.net.

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Teal

chose not to, citing rising fuel costs and a nine-day season; however, those who did ante up the water saw the dividends, at least with teal numbers.

"We had six groups out and six groups went home with full limits," said Glenn Ging of Bay Prairie Outfitters in Midfield.

"It was a great opener."

Reports across the state indicate rice-producing counties such as Colorado, Jackson, Lavaca, Wharton, Brazoria, Matagorda and Chambers enjoyed fast shoots. Though the days prior to the opener saw scattered sightings of teal, hunters said the skies were full of whistling wings when the shooting began.

"If you have been in the business long enough, you know it is difficult to gauge teal numbers by scouting fields," said Wesley Morton, owner of South Texas Waterfowl in El Campo. "Sometimes you see them, sometimes you don't. You may not see any on ponds throughout the day, then they magically appear at sunrise the next morning."

"New flights of teal arrived daily this week as the moon got brighter," he said. "As bright as the moon was, I believe a lot of birds showed up overnight."

Marsh ponds along the coast saw large flocks of bluewings, too. Hunters reported limit hunts in the marsh near High Island, Anahuac, Freeport, Matagorda, Seadrift and Rockport. Though those areas were also devoid of rain for the past month, above-normal tides associated with the autumn equinox filled backwater sloughs and ponds, giving teal ample habitat to light.

Biologist Todd Merendino reported steady shooting on Texas Parks and Wildlife's public wildlife management areas. Peach Point WMA near Freeport averaged close to three birds per man while Mad Island WMA near Bay City averaged two birds per man. Guadalupe Delta WMA near Port Lavaca was somewhat slower at one bird per man.

East Texas was a different story. Condition were so dry, most counties in the region instituted a burn ban. As a result, timber ponds, sloughs and bayous were parched dirt and most landowners did not have irrigation systems in place to pump water. The bright spots were shallow flats and coves on lakes and reservoirs. Lake O' the Pines, Caddo Lake, Lake Fork and Toledo Bend reported fair hunting at best.

Bink Grimes is a freelance outdoors writer. He can be contacted at www.binkgrimesoutdoors.com.

Continued from page 6

Scouting

properties through desk top scouting with a collection of topo maps and aerial photos. Even on properties they think they know.

"I still study maps of my hunting areas to see if there's something I've missed," Herndon said.

Herndon, a nationally recognized deer-hunting expert, will speak on the topic Sept. 24 at the "Wild Beast Feast & Outdoor Extravaganza," scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Denison.

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

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Whitetail

Texas — far from the western states where almost all of the nation's dozen or fewer hunting guide schools are located.

Why Texas?

"I grew up in Texas," Jordan said. "I grew up hunting whitetail deer in South Texas and Central Texas. Also, South Texas has a reasonably mild winter climate that is conducive to teaching school."

And it seems to make business sense. Texas has the largest population of white-tailed deer in the country: 4 million.

"There is a huge demand for guides throughout the country," said Jordan, whose current school site is on the southwest slope of Pikes Peak. "There's no place for a whitetail outfit to go for hiring someone specialized in whitetail."

Al Brothers, a wildlife biologist and an author on wildlife management, said guide schools are feeding off a growing enthusiasm for bettering management skills. He said that 30 years ago state agricultural services had virtually no wildlife biologists on staff. Now they have them at every regional office.

"There has been an explosion in the last 15 to 20 years in demand from land owners and managers wanting to be more efficient in every aspect of what we do, whether at the producing end of management or the harvesting end of management," he said.

Brothers will be a featured speaker of the whitetail guide course.

Jordan said too many guides are unskilled, offering what he

calls "basically a taxicab service" to hunters.

Joe Arceneaux, a guide at Southern Comfort Ranch in Newcastle, Texas, agrees.

"You'd be surprised at the number of people who come up and say, 'I'm a guide,' and they couldn't tell age from nothing," said Arceneaux, 42, who has hunted since he was 8.

But he doesn't believe that a school can teach all someone needs to become a professional.

"I learned all of it from my hunting," he said. "But there are a lot of young guys out there that don't have the experience."

Jordan said his course doesn't promise anything but a thorough study of the basics.

"Two weeks isn't enough to make an expert out of anybody," he said. "But it's

enough time that you'll be able to get a job, working with a top-end whitetail hunting ranch."

The average guide can count on earning about \$150 daily during hunting season, plus lodging, meals and tips. A good guide can make \$1,000 to \$2,000 a month in tips, Jordan said.

"A lot of time it takes two or three years to get really good," he said. "The really good deal is they get paid while they're learning."

For more information, visit the Colorado Outdoor Adventure Guide School Web site at www.guideschool.com.

Robert Cadwallader is a Fort Worth area freelancer with more than two decades of experience as a journalist and writer.

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Open Terrain

New Advantage MAX-1 HD[™] camouflage sets a higher standard for versatility and effectiveness in open terrain. It's perfect for mesquite, rock, cactus — truly every habitat Texas has to offer. Put simply, this pattern meets the demands of the most challenging seasons and conditions. Advantage MAX-1 HD... Hunt Wide Open![™]

ADVANTAGE MAX-1 HD
OPEN TERRAIN

www.advantagecamo.com

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ADVENTURE



Fish the Keys — Texas style

BY BINK GRIMES

Waist-deep in a translucent floor of sea grass and sugar sand, I turned toward the west and peered over my left shoulder at the flags flying on the point.

“Are you sure we are in Texas?” I asked my wading partner, Capt. Bruce Shuler.

“Did you know we are on the same latitude line as West Palm Beach, Florida?” he asked. “We like to call it the Texas Keys.”

Texas is a massive state. You don’t jump in the car and decide to ride from the northern border to the southern border in one day; the same holds true going from east to west. Most North Texans have never ventured farther south than Houston, and most Houstonians have never traveled past

Corpus Christi.

When tires point east on Highway 186 in Raymondville, one thing is on most everyone’s mind — fishing. If strangers roll into town without a rod and reel in the cab, locals think you are lost.

“I tell all my fishing clients: ‘If you have something on your mind other than fishing, you better bring it with you,’” said Port Mansfield icon, Capt. Bob Fuston.

Fuston began running charters in Port Mansfield in 1981, after doctors told him he needed to eliminate the stress of his nuclear power plant job. Known by most as “The Red Bandana,” some say Fuston put Port Mansfield on the map.

His creation, the Mansfield Mauler rattling cork, gained national attention in fishing communities and prompted many anglers to ask, “Where is Mansfield?”

Want to tangle with a burly, copper-plated redfish? Wade the acres of firm, sandy, knee-deep flats. An afternoon at the Saucer and Target Markers were all my Shimano’s drag could stand. If blue-water fishing is your thing, you don’t have to go far. Texas waters are identified as being inside nine nautical miles from the beach. With strict red snapper regulations enforced, many Texans on the northern coast are forced to abide by the short season from April to October. The majority of the upper coast of the Gulf of Mexico does not drop to 30-40 feet until past the federal nine-mile mark. Once your boat clears the Port Mansfield jetty, 30-40 feet of water is only a half a mile from the rocks; and 100 feet of water is only three miles out.

“Our red snapper season is never closed,” said Shuler. “You only have to go a few miles to find the crappie (snapper). On a calm day, you can hear the car radios on the beach from surfers driving in from South Padre Island.”

Amberjack, king mackerel, dorado and ling are also consistent rod-benders.

“The offshore potential here is incredible,” Shuler said. “Some days in the summer, especially when we have light winds, it is a hard choice deciding to fish inshore or head offshore. Both are fabulous in the summer.”

Several major airlines offer service to Harlingen International Airport, less than an hour from Port Mansfield.



PRO MAX
PillarLock™ Construction

Incredible Worry-Free Protection Is Built Right In.

Patented Interlocking Crush-Resistant Pillars

Our patented PillarLock™ construction assures virtual crush-proof and worry-free protection for valuable equipment under the most extreme conditions. That’s maximum protection and peace of mind when transporting your archery gear and firearms.

New for 2005!

1532 PRO-Max™ Double Scoped Rifle Case

1243 PRO-Max™ Double Bow Case

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Strength under the most extreme conditions.



IF YOU GO:

Lodging:

Capt. Bruce Shuler and his wife, Shirley, run the Getaway Adventures Lodge in Port Mansfield; Basin Drive dead-ends in front of the lodge. To make a reservation, or for more information, call (956) 944-4000 or visit their Web site (getawayadventureslodge.com). Additional lodging can be found by visiting the Port Mansfield Chamber of Commerce Web site (www.portmansfield.us) and clicking on members.

Guides:

Capt. Bruce Shuler (see above); Capt. Mike McBride of skinnywateradventures.com, who can be contacted at (832) 563-3870. Many other guides can be found through the Port Mansfield Chamber’s Web site.

Restaurants:

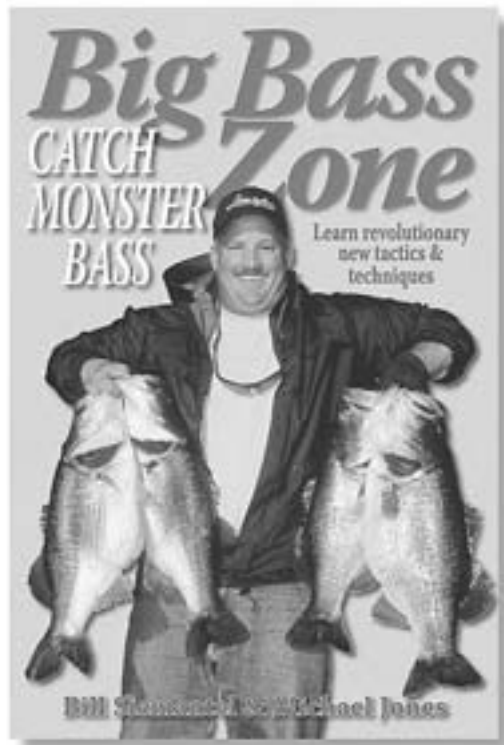
Getaway Adventures Lodge offers private dining for up to six. El Jefe’s Marina y Cantina, 109 A Harbor, offers a full restaurant and cantina. Other restaurants can be found on the Port Mansfield Chamber’s Web site.

PRODUCT PICKS



KILLER VIEW: Shasta Ridge Compact Binoculars by Alpen Optics allow outdoorsmen to travel light. The 13.6-ounce waterproof binoculars come in 8x26 and 10x26 configurations and are nitrogen-filled for fog-proof performance. According to the company, the compact binoculars deliver a bright and sharp image through the 26-mm objective lenses and feature a fully multi-coated lens coating and pull-up eyecups. The porro-prism compacts sell for about \$180 (model 470) and \$190 (model 472). For retailers, visit www.alpenoutdoor.com or call (877) 987-8370.

CATCH OF THE DAY: The **Big Bass Zone Book** offers anglers fresh ideas to shift their focus from just catching fish to hooking monster bass. Authors Michael Jones and Bill Siemantel drew on years of practical experience to write the 288-page book, which includes chapters such as Finding Fish, The Mechanics of Casting, and Sight Fishing with Sonar. The softbound book can be ordered from www.stoegerpublishing.com for \$24.95.



HOMEMADE JERKY: Hi Mountain Seasonings has introduced a new **pepperoni blend** to its lineup of jerky cure and seasoning kits. Each kit costs about \$7 and will season up to 15 pounds of meat. The pepperoni version includes a package of cure, a package of Italian seasoning and a shaker bottle. Visit the Wyoming-based company's Web site at www.himtnjerky.com to order.



GO DEEP: Terminator's new **Football Jig** is designed to help fishermen search the deep-water haunts favored by black bass species. Available in two sizes (1/2 and 3/4 ounces), the jig takes its name from the lure's relatively

heavy and oblong-shaped head. The shape of the head causes the jig's hook to stand at about a 30-degree angle when pulled across the bottom. This decreases snags and allows the jig to swim more freely, according to the company. Made from black nickel, the jig has realistic red eyes and a fiber weed guard. Its silicone skirt is available in six colors. The football jig will be available Oct. 1 and will sell for about \$3. For retailers, call (800) 944-4766. Visit www.terminatorlures.com for more information.

DRY UP: **DriDuds waterproof gear by Kappler** is lightweight and breathable. It is the DuraVent technology that gives the gear its edge, according to the company. The outer layer is designed to repel wind and water while the inner barrier layer allows body heat and moisture to escape. The gear includes such features as stow-away hood and elastic cuff openings. The bib/jacket set in the camo pattern costs about \$80. For retailers, call (800) 600-4019.



SAY CHEESE: The **Rack Tracker Digital Trail Camera by Hunter's Specialties** features state-of-the-art technology in a rugged, dependable unit. The Rack Tracker easily switches from 1.3 to 3 megapixels. It features removable flash cards, a video port and computer software for editing and storing images. The Rack Tracker uses three-beam technology to trigger the camera. As the animal walks into one of two arming beams, the camera is turned on. Then, when it crosses the trigger beam, the photo is taken. The camera comes with a 6-volt battery and charger. It costs about \$500. For retailers, visit www.hunterspec.com or call (319) 395-0321.



HOG HUNTER: **Crimson Trace** has introduced its "**HogHunter Series**" **Lasergrips** for hunters who prefer large-caliber handguns.

The Lasergrips feature a rubber overmold to ease the kick of the higher calibers. According to the company, the easy-to-operate laser sights show the shooter exactly where the shot should go. The HogHunter Series Lasergrips fit many of the K, L and N frame Smith and Wesson revolvers. They cost about \$300. For retailers, visit www.crimsontrace.com or call (800) 442-2406.

THE SOUND OF SUCCESS: It was the **BSX Fish Activator by Biosonix** that Kevin VanDam credited for helping him win the 2005 Bassmasters Classic. The device uses digitally recorded sound signatures of baitfish that are played back via a patented underwater speaker system. The sounds of these fish attract game fish into casting range, according to the company, and also stimulate a feeding response in some species. The BSX unit, which can be mounted on the trolling motor, is loaded with six sound signature files. Sound files can be added. The unit comes with AC and DC chargers, a remote foot switch and an underwater speaker with adjustable float. It costs about \$700. For retailer information or to order, call (800) 633-4861 or visit www.biosonix.com.



MADE IN TEXAS

Hunters invent deer-aging tool

BY MARY HELEN AGUIRRE

Scott Garrick and brother-in-law Scott Roberts are avid bow hunters.

For years, whenever they pursued their favorite game animal, the white-tailed deer, Roberts would bring along a cigar box filled with deer jaws. The various jaws were from deer of different ages.

Once they harvested a deer, the duo would estimate its age by comparing the wear patterns on the teeth to those on the deer jaws.

Garrick said it wasn't long until he was aging deer for others. Roberts, who has a master's degree in wildlife biology, thought about taking it a step further.

"One day I was out on the field and I thought, 'Why can't I commercialize this?'" said Garrick.

In a two-year process that would lead to Mansfield-based G&R Products, Garrick and Roberts set about converting an idea into a viable product.

They began by seeking out the best representations of lower jaws from deer of different ages. Then,

they found someone with a background in biology to mold the jaws. The next step was to find a manufacturer to build the tool with which the deer jaws would be replicated.

"It was a struggle," said Garrick. Along the way, they filed for a patent and picked up some backers.

By 2004, G&R Products was ready to go into production with the Deer Aging Tool. The three-dimensional tool consists of eight replicated lower jaws that emulate the tooth-wear patterns of white-tailed deer ranging from 1 1/2 to 8 1/2 years of age. The kit includes an instructional DVD on the tooth wear-and-replacement method of dating deer. Plus, it has a laminated quick tip sheet that can be used as a reference when out hunting.

G&R Products has since added the "Field Guide to Aging and Scoring White-tailed Deer" to its product line. The guide features 22 color photographs by Mike Biggs that highlight key characteristics used to estimate age before harvesting a deer.

Garrick says the family-owned business is flourishing. Garrick handles sales and marketing;



FAMILY BUSINESS: Scott and Amy Roberts with Scott and Laurie Garrick sell a product that determines a deer's age. The Deer Aging Tool costs \$29.99, plus shipping, and can be ordered online from the company's Web site.

Roberts is the technical adviser responsible for logistics and production; and Amy Roberts manages the office.

So far, the tool is available from about 100 dealers in the United States, and is also selling in Canada and Mexico.

John Shelley, owner of Brazos Archery Outfitters along with Johnny Johnson, often uses the

Deer Aging Tool to help manage their ranch for trophy hunts. He says he discovered the tool at the Texas Trophy Hunters show.

"We've brought several of those," he said. "It's a great little tool. It helps educate your hunters."

Also useful, says Shelley, is the field guide. "(Hunters) know what to kill and what to

leave alone."

For more information, visit the company's Web site at www.deeragingtool.com or call (866) 653-3337 (OLD DEER).

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

BORDERING TEXAS



ARKANSAS

Huge alligator gar is headed to the classroom

Two battered cousins donated a 7-foot alligator gar to the University of Central Arkansas, where it will be used to teach students in biology and vertebrate biology classes.

Jonathan Atkinson of Houston (Perry County) and Johnny Thomas of Conway brought in the 175-pound fish, which they caught bowfishing. The cousins work at the University of Central Arkansas — Atkinson in the physical plant and Thomas in housing.

Landing an alligator gar has long been the pair's goal. They bowfished for three straight weekends on the Arkansas River, and had shot and missed another alligator gar.

Thomas said the fish came to the surface, and they missed.

"We shot it a second time, and it pulled all the slack out of the reel on my bow," he said.

At that point, the fish "took off" and it was Thomas who ran out of slack. The fish's power kicked the bow back into Thomas, giving him a black eye.

After the battered and bruised men sat for a minute to gain their composure, they went up the river looking for the float attached to the line, Thomas said. He said they were ready to give up when "the float popped up right in front of the boat."

Reid Adams, an assistant biology professor, said the alligator gar is declining throughout its range, although it seems to be holding on in Arkansas. Alligator gars grow to huge sizes there. The state record is 215 pounds, a fish caught in 1964 by Alvin Bonds of Clarksville. It came from the Arkansas River, like the alligator gar bagged by the cousins near Toad Suck. The world record is a Texas fish, weighing 279 pounds, from the Trinity River.



LOUISIANA

Preliminary estimates indicate Katrina may cost state fisheries' industries \$1.3 billion

There could be a potential \$1.1 billion loss in retail fisheries revenue in Louisiana over the next year, plus an additional \$150 million loss in oyster revenue in the second year, due to Hurricane Katrina, according to the Louisiana Department and Wildlife and Fisheries' preliminary estimates.

That number would represent a 40-percent loss to the total value of the state's commercial and recreational retail harvest values based on 2003 sales levels of \$2.85 billion.

Estimates assume that the hurricane's impact is limited to the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St.

Tammany and lower Lafourche. The estimates are based on available historical data using previous losses sustained after hurricanes and recent retail sales totals for prior years.

"These projections are subject to adjustment as air and water surveys are made over the next several months," said John Roussel, assistant secretary for LDWF's Office of Fisheries.

For oysters, the department used studies of resource mortality caused by Hurricanes Ivan and Andrew to estimate the mortality of existing resources. The initial estimate is a 99-percent loss of oyster resources in the area from Bayou Lafourche east to the Mississippi state line. The retail sales losses for the oyster industry, based on recent departmental surveys of public oyster grounds, reflect a two-year projected shortfall of \$296 million.

Potential retail sales losses for the state's other primary commercial fishing industries (over the next 12 months) include: shrimp, \$539 million; crab, \$81 million; saltwater fish, \$79 million; menhaden, \$93 million; and freshwater fish, \$1.2 million.

Additionally, recreational fisheries losses over the next year could total almost \$200 million at the retail level. Approximately 63 percent of the 515 licensed charter and guide vessels were registered in the severely affected parishes.

No estimates are currently available for the percentage of infrastructure lost in the storm or the long-term changes to important coastal fisheries habitat.



NEW MEXICO

Feds propose making Gila Chub minnow endangered

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has re-opened the comment period on its 2002 proposal to add the Gila chub (Gila intermedia), a minnow native to southwestern streams, to the list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act.

The proposal would involve designating 212 miles of spring-fed and perennial streams and headwaters in New Mexico and Arizona as critical habitat.

The Gila chub is a small-finned, deep-bodied, chunky, darkly-colored minnow adapted to low-flowing streams subject to seasonal droughts. Males reach 6 inches and females can exceed 8 inches in length. Gila chub are highly elusive, preferring quiet, deeper waters, especially pools.

The Gila chub today is found in less than 15 percent of its historical range; only 34 isolated and vulnerable populations remain.

The fish faces additional threats from increased groundwater pumping, growing development pressures and competition from non-native fish.

The proposal is available on the Internet at <http://arizon.aes.fws.gov>.

Written comments can be mailed to the Field Office Supervisor, U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, 2321 W. Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, AZ 85021-4951 or e-mailed to gilachubcomments@fws.gov. Written comments on the proposed rule must be received by Sept. 30. The Service is under a court settlement to complete its determination by Oct. 21.



OKLAHOMA

Record deer measured at Oklahoma Wildlife Expo

A massive, non-typical white-tail deer rack was officially given a score of 24 points at the Oklahoma Wildlife Expo, held at the Lazy E Arena. At 248 6/8 inches, the deer taken by Michael Crossland of Grandfield is the new No. 1 Cy Curtis entry.

Crossland took the huge buck in Tillman County.

The former non-typical Cy Curtis record whitetail, taken in 2003 in Hughes County, was 240 3/8 inches and had a total of 29 points. Crossland's buck also surpasses the current Oklahoma Boone and Crockett record non-typical whitetail taken in Johnston County in 1970, which was 247 2/8 inches.

More than 45,000 people attended the Wildlife Expo hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Participants were able to stroll through more than 100 different booths and hands-on activities during the free, two-day event.

WEATHER

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MOON PHASES

Last  **Sept 25** New  **Oct 3** First  **Oct 10** Full  **Oct 17**

SOLAR TABLE Major/Minor periods:

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
9/21	2:34a/8:47a	10:55p/4:45p	2:40a/8:53a	11:01p/4:51p
9/22	3:00p/9:13p	11:12a/5:02a	3:06p/9:19p	11:18a/5:08a
9/23	3:32a/9:45a	11:33p/5:23p	3:38a/9:51a	11:39p/5:29p
9/24	3:59p/10:12p	11:52a/5:42a	4:05p/10:18p	11:58a/5:48a
9/25	4:30a/10:43a	—/6:03p	4:36a/10:49a	—/6:09p
9/26	4:57p/11:10p	12:13a/6:25a	5:03p/11:16p	12:19a/6:31a
9/27	5:26a/11:39a	12:36p/6:47p	5:32a/11:45a	12:42p/6:53p
9/28	5:53p/—	1:01a/7:13a	5:59p/—	1:07a/7:19a
9/29	6:20a/12:06a	1:24p/7:36p	6:26a/12:12a	1:30p/7:42p
9/30	6:46p/12:33p	1:53a/8:06a	6:52p/12:39p	—/8:12a
10/1	7:10a/12:57a	2:18p/8:31p	7:16a/1:03a	7:10a/8:37p
10/2	7:35p/1:23p	2:50a/9:03a	7:41p/1:29p	7:35p/9:09a
10/3	7:57a/1:45a	3:17p/9:30p	8:03a/1:51a	7:57a/9:36p
10/4	8:21p/2:09p	3:50a/10:05a	8:27p/2:15p	8:21p/10:11a
10/5	8:40a/2:28a	4:19p/10:34p	8:46a/2:34a	8:40a/10:40p
10/6	9:03p/2:51p	4:53a/11:08a	9:09p/2:57p	9:03p/11:14a
10/7	9:20a/3:09a	5:23p/11:38p	9:26a/3:15a	9:20a/11:44p
10/8	9:42p/3:31p	5:55a/12:10p	9:48p/3:37p	9:42p/12:16p
10/9	9:58a/3:47a	6:26p/—	10:04a/3:53a	9:58a/—
10/10	10:19p/4:08p	6:55a/12:40a	10:25p/4:14p	10:19p/12:46a
10/11	10:35a/4:25a	7:25p/1:10p	10:41a/4:31a	10:35a/1:16p

TIDES

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

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

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

GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

HOUSEGUEST WAS A BITER

• A woman reported that her ex-husband had caught a 3-foot alligator in Houston and had it on his houseboat on Lake Texoma. The woman told Grayson County Game Warden Dale Moses that the gator had bitten her 6-year-old son the night before. Moses found the boat and contacted the man, citing him for illegal possession of an alligator. The man was also cited for two water-safety violations on the houseboat.

illegal knives. Both men had just been released from prison and thought they would go fishing and stay out of trouble. The cases are pending.

WHAT TIPPED YOU OFF?

• Tarrant County Game Wardens Clint Borchardt and John Padgett filed charges on two subjects for possession of drug paraphernalia. They were found jumping from a 20-foot cliff into shallow water. The cases are pending.

SAME TIME NEXT YEAR?

• A visit to the Texas Trophy Hunters Extravaganza was all business for Tarrant County Game Wardens Clint Borchardt and Michael McCall. One citation was issued to a man for offering pronghorn antelope parts for sale. He was also issued warnings for trying to sell game birds, including wild turkey, pheasant and prairie chicken. The subject was warned about the pronghorn skull last year. The case is pending.

EARLY START TO SEASON

• Angelina County Game Wardens Tim Walker and

James Barge charged two men with taking deer in closed season. The men allegedly took two fawns in the Angelina National Forest with a .22 rifle.

DAMAGE MINIMAL FROM SPILL

• Nacogdoches County Game Warden Doug Spivey responded to a call regarding an 18-wheeler that overturned and spilled approximately 100 gallons of diesel in the Attoyac River. Cleanup crews arrived shortly, and it appears the impact was minimal. The investigation is continuing.

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

• A cell phone led to the rescue of seven teen-agers. Anderson County Game Warden Dave Raybin located the teens, ages 15 to 18, who had been reported as overdue boaters on the Neches River. One teen-ager had a cell phone and was able to give her mother a description of her surroundings, which aided in the teen-agers' rescue.

DROWNING VICTIM RECOVERED

• Alcohol may have been a factor in the death of a 39-year-old Vidor man. San Augustine County Game Wardens Melissa

Brown and Johnny Jones and Sabine County Warden Chad Gartman responded to a missing person call on Sam Rayburn Lake at Powell Park Marina. A little before midnight, the wardens recovered the body of the Vidor man from the swimming area of the marina. The victim had been swimming alone.

NOT BY THE BOOK

• Harris County Game Wardens Derek Spitzer and Kevin Mitchell caught a shrimp boat captain with an illegal by-catch reduction device in his net. One thousand seven hundred and eighty-one pounds of shrimp were confiscated and sold. The case is pending.

SILENT RUNNER CAN'T ELUDE LAW

• A boat running without navigation lights was spotted by Lubbock County Wardens Don Taylor and Quentin Terrel while patrolling Buffalo Springs Lake. He was arrested for BWI and transported to the Lubbock County Jail, where his blood alcohol level was tested at .125.

OPEN AND SHUT CASE

• Aransas County Game Wardens Scott McLeod and

Charles Mayer helped the U.S. Coast Guard and agents with the National Marine Fisheries Service stop a commercial Gulf shrimp boat operating in federal waters with turtle extruder devices that were sewn shut. McLeod and Mayer helped count and unload approximately 16,000 pounds of shrimp and 150 pounds of red snapper fillets. The boat's captain was arrested and a deck hand was charged with assaulting a federal officer.

STEALTHY WARDEN GETS HIS MAN

• A man fleeing a traffic stop couldn't elude Aransas County Game Warden Richard "Marty" Martin. DPS troopers and Aransas County Sheriff's deputies were looking for a man who fled the scene of a vehicle stop. The man left his vehicle in the roadway and took off on foot. Martin heard the traffic on his radio and proceeded to the area where the suspect was last seen. Spotting the man, Martin was able to sneak up and capture him. A search of the man's vehicle turned up a sizable amount of cocaine. The man was on probation for drug trafficking.

BORN TO LOSE

• A missing canoe landed two men in hot water. Jefferson County Game Warden Steve Satchfield was called by Sea Rim State Park concerning a canoe missing from the park rental pool. Satchfield found the canoe with two men fishing in it. They stated that since they were in a canoe and in a state park, they did not need a fishing license. The license was the least of their worries. They had several undersized game fish caught with a cast net, no personal flotation devices and

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FISHING REPORT

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water stained. Black bass are fair on watermelon soft plastics, spinnerbaits, and crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and blue tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on live bait and liver. Yellow catfish are slow.

BELTON: Water clear; 78 degrees; 0.08' high. Black bass are fair on soft plastic worms and Rat-L-Traps. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are good on slabs and minnows. Crappie are good on minnows and white tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on doughbait. Yellow catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained in the rivers, main lake clear; 81 degrees; 0.65' low. Black bass to 3 pounds are excellent on 6" June bug and green pumpkin soft plastics, 3/8oz. camo and black/blue Strike Works jigs, and Persuader Stealth shad crankbaits off docks with brush-piles in 15 - 20 feet and in weedy areas. Pop-R's and buzzbaits are excellent in weeds. Hybrid striper are fair trolling and under lights at night. White bass are excellent on crankbaits, Li'l Fishies, and small tube jigs under lights at night, and fair trolling crankbaits. Crappie to 14" are good on small tube jigs and minnows near Kirkland docks 10 - 20 feet. Catfish are fair on live bait and cutbait in the rivers.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 78-82 degrees; 4.80' low. Black bass are good on chrome/chartreuse Bleeding Shad Rat-L-Traps, white 7/16oz. Terminator tungsten spinnerbaits, and wacky rigged Whacky Sticks along 3 - 6 foot creek channel break lines at first light. Striped bass are fair on Rattlin' Rogues, Joz. silver Perk Minnows, and weighted Albino soft jerkbaits around Crystal Cove at daylight. White bass are slow. Crappie are good over brushpiles along bluffs and off points in 10 - 15 feet. Channel catfish are good on rod and reel in baited holes. Yellow and blue catfish are fair on jugs along the river channel in 25 - 40 feet.

CANYON LAKE: Water gin clear; 78 - 81 degrees; 0.45' low. Black bass are good on natural 4" Whacky Sticks, watermelon JDC Skip-N-Pop topwaters, and white 1/8oz. Joz. T-buzzbaits at daylight in 3 - 6 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair but small on Spoiler Shads and vertically jigging 1oz. Perk Minnows along main lake points over 40 feet at daylight. Smallmouth bass are fair to good on pumpkin Devil's Tongues on Drop Shot rigs, 3" watermelon/chartreuse JDC Jr. Craws, and smoke/red Snap Back tubes on jigheads just before and at daylight in 8 - 15 feet. Crappie are good on minnows in brushpiles and brushtops in 8 - 15 feet. Channel catfish are fair to good in 20 - 30 feet in the upper end of the lake. Yellow and blue catfish are fair on jugs.

COLEMAN: Water clear; 83 degrees; 0.44' low. Black bass are fair on black/blue soft plastic worms and Rat-L-Traps. Hybrid striper are slow. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on nightcrawlers, shrimp, and stinkbait. Yellow catfish are slow.

COLORADO RIVER: (At Colorado Bend State Park) Water murky. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on stinkbait. Yellow catfish are slow.

DUNLAP/MCQUEENY: Water lightly stained; 82 degrees. Black bass to 3 pounds are good on 1/2oz. and 1oz. firetiger and chartreuse Rat-L-Traps near break lines and drop offs in 5 - 8 feet early, and later on Texas rigged June bug and blue flock soft plastic worms over structure and under docks in 8 - 15 feet. White bass are slow. Crappie are excellent on live minnows and 1/8oz. Curb's jigs in 8 feet. Channel and blue catfish to 5 pounds are fair on live minnows, cut shad, dead shad, and shrimp in 10 - 15 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

GRANBURY: Water stained; 0.52' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and blue flock soft plastic worms and lizards. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on minnows. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are good on stinkbait, liver, and live bait.

GRANGER: Water clear; 83 degrees; 0.08' high. Black bass are slow. White bass are good on slab spoons along the flats near the dam. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows in 5 - 15 feet. Blue catfish to 25 pounds are good on shad. Yellow catfish are slow.

LBJ: Water stained; 77 - 81 degrees; 0.20' low. Black bass are good on black/red Terminator rattlin' jigs, watermelon/red Whacky Sticks, and chartreuse/blue back crankbaits along creek points and seawalls with riprap 2 - 6 feet deep. Striped bass are fair on Spoiler Shads and white bucktails with white grub trailers at night in 8 - 12 feet. White bass are fair to good on Li'l Fishies and chrome Tiny Traps at night under lights. Crappie are fair to good on minnows at night. Channel catfish to 4 pounds are good on live bait. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water clear; 2.14' low. Black bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are slow. Yellow catfish are slow.

PROCTOR: Water clear; 87 degrees; 2.77' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and crankbaits over submerged brush. Striped bass are good on white and yellow deep diving crankbaits and jigs. White bass are slow. Crappie are excellent on minnows in 7 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on shad and shrimp. Yellow catfish are slow.

SOMERVILLE: Water murky; 1.35' low. Black bass are fair on silver spoons. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Channel and blue catfish are fair on minnows and stinkbait. Yellow catfish are slow.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear; 84 degrees; 0.08' low. Black bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on chicken livers, shrimp, and minnows. Yellow catfish are slow.

TRAVIS: Water clear; 85 degrees; 8.90' low. Black bass to 3 pounds are good on green pumpkin worms and topwaters early in 3 - 15 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie to 1 pound are fair on minnows and blue tube jigs in 15 - 25 feet. Channel and blue catfish to 7 pounds are good on bloodbait and nightcrawlers in 22 - 35 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

WALTER E. LONG: Water clear; 84 degrees. Black bass are fair on topwaters and minnows early. Hybrid striper are good on minnows near the spillway. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are fair on stinkbait, nightcrawlers, frozen shad, and minnows. Yellow catfish are slow.

WHITNEY: Water lightly stained; 0.28' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse/white Rat-L-Traps and deep diving crankbaits, and on topwaters early. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows and green/white. Catfish are good on stinkbait, nightcrawlers, and shrimp.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water stained; 82-84 degrees; 2.3' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastics in 8-12 feet around heavy brush. Crappie are fair at night on live minnows off docks with brush. Catfish are good on punchbait and fresh cut bait in 15 feet. Bream are good on bits of nightcrawlers in 4-6 feet.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear; 82-84 degrees; 3.45' low. Black bass are fair early on soft plastics fished around shallow shoreline grass beds close to deep water, switching to Carolina rigged centipedes around humps in 20-24 feet later in the day. Crappie are fair on live minnows at night under the bridges. White bass are fair trolling Hellbender/Pet spoon rigs in 18-20 feet. Catfish are good on Bill's Catfish Bait in 20 feet.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear; 82-84. Black bass are fair early on Texas rigged worms around brush in 10-12 feet. Crappie are slow. White bass are fair on slabs and live shad in 15-20 feet. Hybrid striper are slow. Channel catfish are good in 15-20 feet on punchbait.

CADDO: Water clear; 82-84 degrees; 0.30' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigged worms in 6-8 feet around lily pads close to the river channel. White bass are fair in the Big Lake area on shad pattern crankbaits. Channel catfish are good on punchbait in 6 feet around the edges of lily pads. Warmouth (google eye) are good on worms under a floater fished along the edges of lily pads in 6 feet.

CEDAR CREEK: Water stained; 82-84 degrees; 2.26' low. Black bass are fair at first light on topwaters, later switching to Texas rigged worms around shoreline vegetation. White bass are good on TNT Lures (slabs) in 18-24 feet, later switching to trolling Hellbenders/Pet Spoon rigs. Hybrid striper are fair trolling Hellbender/Pet Spoon rigs over the flat between the dam and Crappie Island. Crappie are slow. Catfish are good on Danny King's punchbait in 18-22 feet.

COOPER: Water stained; 83-85 degrees. Black bass are fair during the first couple hours of daylight on Texas rigged worms around shoreline cover in 4-8 feet. Crappie are slow. Catfish are good on jugs along with live bait set over baited holes and on punchbait in shallow water around heavy cover. White bass are fair on jigging spoons in 20 feet along submerged channels in the lower lake.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear; 82-100 degrees. Black bass are fair on Carolina rigged centipedes around main lake points in 16-22 feet. Redfish are fair on live perch and shad around main lake points in 20-24 feet - better catches at night. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad and perch fished under balloons in 18-22 feet around mid-lake points. Catfish are excellent on fresh shad in 18-20 feet.

FORK: Water clear 82-84 degrees; 2.45' low. Black bass are fair early on Pop R's and Baby Bush Hogs around shallow grass beds close to creek channels. Night fishing is fair on 10" plastic worms rigged Texas style and dark jigs pitched to openings in hydrilla beds. Channel catfish are excellent on punchbait in 20-22 feet around holes baited with soured grain - better catches coming from holes close to creek channels.

GRAPEVINE: Water stained; 82-84 degrees; 3.69' low. Black bass are fair early on soft plastics fished slowly around the outside edge of hydrilla. Crappie are fair on live minnows in 20 feet at night around docks. White bass are good around humps and points in 15-25 feet. Catfish are fair on punchbait in 15-20 feet in baited holes.

JOE POOL: Water stained; 83-84 degrees; 1.65' low. Black bass are fair early on shad pattern crankbaits and plastic worms in 4-8 feet. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows around the barges and Corps of Engineers brushpiles in 22-24 feet. White bass are fair early in 20 feet around main lake humps and ridges, with occasional topwater schooling action. Channel catfish are good on punchbait around baited holes in 20 feet.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 83-84 degrees; 2.60' low. Black bass are fair on 4" worms rigged with light weights around boat docks with heavy brush. Crappie are slow. White bass are fair on slabs and jigging spoons in 18-20 feet. Channel catfish are good in 20 feet on prepared baits in baited holes.

LAVON: Water stained; 82-84 degrees; 5.32' low. Black bass are slow early around lay down logs and brush on soft plastics. Crappie are fair on live minnows in 22-28 feet around lower lake points with brush. White bass are fair on slabs in 20-24 feet around mid to lower lake points. Catfish are good on punchbait and fresh shad in 15-20 feet around baited holes on the edge of tree lines.

LEWISVILLE: Water stained; 82-84 degrees; 3.70' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastics early and late in 6-8 feet on Rat-L-Traps and Texas rigged trick worms. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs in 15 feet around brush and bridge columns. White bass are fair on slabs in 20-24 feet around submerged humps and ridges. Catfish are good on fresh shad under schooling white bass and on punchbait in baited holes in 20-24 feet.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear; 84 degrees mid-lake, 100 at hot water discharge; normal pool. Black bass are fair to slow during the day and fair at night on dark worms fished around main lake grass. Crappie are slow. Catfish are fair on trotlines with small live perch.

MONTICELLO: Water clear; 83 degrees upper end, 101 degrees at hot water discharge; normal pool. Black bass are fair at night on large dark color worms fished along flats adjacent creek channels. Crappie are slow. Channel catfish are good on punchbait in 10-20 feet.

PALESTINE: Water clear; 82-84 degrees; 1.79 low. Black bass are good early on soft plastics pitched around boathouses with brush. Crappie are fair on minnows in 18-22 feet under bridges at night. Catfish are good on prepared catfish baits in 18-22 feet around baited holes. White bass are good on slabs and Rat-L-Traps around main lake points - limited schooling action early. Hybrid striper are slow. Channel catfish are good on punchbait around baited holes in 15 feet.

PAT MAYSE: Water clear; 82-84 degrees; 2.5' low. Black bass are fair early on topwaters and soft plastic on the outside edge of grass beds in 8-12 feet. Crappie are slow. Catfish are good on

punchbait around baited holes in 20-24 feet. White bass are fair on slabs in 20 feet around steep submerged ledges. Hybrid striper are slow.

RAY HUBBARD: Water stained; 82-84 degrees; 1.75' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigged worms in 10-12 feet in pockets with grass off the main lake (lily pads on the northeast side of the lake are a good spot to target). Crappie are slow. White bass are fair on slabs around mid to lower lake points and humps. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad and topwaters around the submerged gravel pits out from the spillway and in the open water out from the dam. Catfish are good on punchbait in holes baited with soured grain - better catches coming north of the I-30 bridges.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear; 82-84 degrees; 1.50' low. Black bass are fair in 12-20 feet on Carolina rigged centipedes around mid to lower lake points and humps. Crappie are fair on tube jigs in 24-28 feet around man made brushpiles. White bass are fair on spoons and slabs in 18-20 feet, with limited topwater schooling action around the mouth of major creeks. Catfish are good on punchbait and fresh shad in 12-20 feet.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water stained; 81-84 degrees; 2.23' low. Black bass are fair on Carolina rigged centipedes in 18-22 around abrupt submerged ledges. White bass are fair early on slabs and topwaters on the 309 Flats and out from Pelican Island. Hybrid striper are fair on large slabs on the 309 Flats. Crappie are slow. Catfish are good on prepared baits and fresh shad in 12-18 feet.

TAWAKONI: Water stained; 82-84 degrees; 4.75' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair at night on live minnows in 15-20 feet. Catfish are excellent on punchbait off the fishing barge at Duck Cove Marina and around baited holes in 18-20 feet all over the lake. White bass are good on 1oz. white or chartreuse Holiday Slabs. Striped bass and hybrid striper are fair under the birds on 2oz. chartreuse or white Holiday Slabs, Sassy Shad and large pearl color Chug Bugs.

TEXOMA: Water clear; 82-84 degrees; 1.45' low. Largemouth bass are fair on soft plastics around docks with heavy brush. Smallmouth bass are fair in 15-20 feet on crawfish pattern crankbaits around steep, rocky points. Crappie are slow. Striped bass are good on topwaters and live shad - most fish landed during the first three hours of daylight. Blue catfish are good on punchbait in 20 feet.

WEATHERFORD: Water stained; 87 degrees; 3.5' low. Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair in the relocated crappie barge and on deep brushpiles. Catfish are excellent on worms, live bait, frozen shad and prepared baits. White bass are fair. Bream are excellent on worms in the marina cove and along the wall.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water clear; 82-84 degrees. Black bass are fair around shallow grass on Texas rigged worms during the first couple hours of daylight. Crappie are fair on tube jigs and live minnows in 15 feet around heavy cover. Catfish are good on trotlines with small perch and on rod and reel in 10-15 feet on live minnows and punchbait.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear; 85 degrees. Black bass are good on drop shot rigs and heavy jigs in grass. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on cheesebait over baited holes in 30 - 40 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; 95 degrees. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. Redfish to 21 pounds are good on crawfish, perch, and tilapia. Catfish to 26 pounds are fair on cutbait, stinkbait, liver, and shrimp in 10 - 25 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 93 degrees. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. Redfish to 15 pounds are fair on spoons and tilapia in 10 - 20 feet, and on perch on the bottom. Channel and blue catfish to 22 pounds are fair on shad, shrimp, and liver. Yellow catfish are slow.

CHOKE CANYON: Water clear; 86 degrees; 1.53' low. Black bass to 7 pounds are good walking the dog with chartreuse shiner 3/8oz. Berkley Blade Dancers and yellow YUM Buzz Frogs at sunrise, and later on drop shot rigged black neon smoke 5" YUM Dingers and Texas smoke YUM Zellamander lizards along the edges of grass lines in 15 - 25 feet. White bass are good on live minnows and vertically jigging chartreuse shad 1/16oz. Berkley Blade Dancers around main lake points in 15 - 20 feet. Crappie to 2 pounds are fair on live minnows, chrome KT Lures, and white Curb's crappie jigs tipped with live minnows over brushpiles and standing timber at night under lights in 6 - 15 feet. Channel and blue catfish to 15 pounds are good on cut perch, Lewis King punchbait, cut shad, and shad gizzards in 8 - 15 feet. Yellow catfish to 20 pounds are good on trotlines and jugs along with perch.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear; 88 degrees (99 degrees at hot water discharge); 1.23' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and watermelon seed spinnerbaits and soft plastic worms and lizards over shallow grass beds. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows and blue tube jigs in 10 - 15 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with liver, live perch, and shad in 10 - 20 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

FALCON: Water stained north, clear south; 91 degrees. Black bass are good on deep running crankbaits and soft plastic worms in 10 - 12 feet. Striped bass are excellent near the dam. Crappie are slow. Catfish are excellent on frozen shrimp and cutbait. Yellow catfish are slow. Mexican fishing licenses and boat permits are required to fish in Mexican waters. Everyone in the boat must have a Mexico Fishing License whether fishing or not.

MEDINA: Water clear; 85 degrees; 4.00' low. Black bass to 5 pounds are good on black spinnerbaits before sunrise in 3 - 6 feet, and later on pumpkin pepper green 4" YUM Ring worms along main lake points in 20 - 25 feet. Upriver use white 1/16oz. spinnerbaits and white crankbaits along ledges and vegetation. Striped bass are fair drifting jumbo minnows around the dam and vertically jigging fire tiger 3/8oz. Berkley Blade Dancers over main lake points at night under lights. White bass are good on live minnows and vertically jigging firetiger 1/16oz. Berkley Blade Dancers around main lake points in 10 - 20 feet. Smallmouth bass to 4 pounds are good on drop shot rigged bumble bee swirl 3" YUM Dingers and alewife 3.5" YUM Vibra King Tubes along ledges and rock piles in 10 - 25 feet. Crappie are good on live minnows and

white Curb's crappie jigs tipped with live minnows around brushpiles and standing timber at night under lights in 10 - 25 feet. Channel and blue catfish to 15 pounds are fair on punchbait, cut shad, and live minnows. Yellow catfish to 25 pounds are good on jugs along with perch.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water stained. Black bass are fair on white/red/green flake spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and green tube jigs. Catfish are fair on shrimp, shad, and nightcrawlers.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water stained. Black bass are fair on live bait and chartreuse green spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and white/gold tube jigs. Catfish are fair on shrimp, liver, and shad.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water stained with clear shallows; 79 degrees; 0.21' low. Black bass to 5 pounds are good on 7" Red Bug Dead Ringers near Golden Acres subdivision in 7 - 12 feet, and on topwaters near the marina around lily pads early. Crappie are good on live minnows in creek channels in 15 feet early and late. Bream are good on live worms around grass. Catfish to 3 pounds are good on bloodbait near the marina in 14 feet.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; 87 degrees; 0.77' low. Black bass to 3.5 pounds are fair on crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are good on Old Reliables, pet spoons, hellbenders, and Charlie slabs. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on cutbait and prepared bait. Yellow catfish are slow.

SAM RAYBURN: Water clear; 87 degrees; 4.18' low. Black bass are fair on Carolina rigged Super Flukes and French Fries, and on chartreuse/blue back and root beer deep diving crankbaits, over brushpiles and ledges in 15 - 20 feet. Crappie are good on live shiners and green tube jigs over brushtops in 25 - 30 feet. Catfish are fair on prepared bait and shiners near creek channels and around brushtops.

TOLEDO BEND: Water stained north, clear south; 88 degrees; 8.63' low. Black bass are fair on topwaters around shallow vegetation early and late, red Texas rigged soft plastic worms and jigs around hydrilla in 4 - 6 feet, and on watermelon and chartreuse pepper jigging spoons and drop shot rigs on deep ridges in 18 - 25 feet. Crappie are fair on blue/white tube jigs and minnows over planted brushtops in 18 - 25 feet.

PANHANDLE

BAYLOR: Water lightly stained; 80 degrees. Black 4bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Catfish are slow.

GREENBELT: Water lightly stained; 76 degrees; 21.75' low. Black bass are good on shad-colored soft jerkbaits and white spinnerbaits along grasslines, and buzzbaits around grass and stickups. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait and small shad-colored crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are fair on live bait. Walleye are good on live bait and crankbaits. Catfish are good on stinkbait and chicken liver.

MACKENZIE: Water lightly stained; 76 degrees; 65' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits and watermelon red soft plastics. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass and striped bass are fair on live bait. Smallmouth bass are fair. Walleye are fair. Catfish are fair on minnows and stinkbait.

MEREDITH: Water lightly stained; 75 degrees; 20.55' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits or Carolina-rigged watermelon soft plastics along humps and points. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live bait and jigs near rocky points. Smallmouth bass are fair on minnows and small crankbaits. Walleye are fair. Channel Catfish are good on cut shad.

PALO DURO: Water lightly stained; 75 degrees; 38.35' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored spinnerbaits and live bait. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Smallmouth bass are fair on minnows. Walleye are fair. Catfish are fair on prepared baits.

WEST

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 80 degrees. Black bass are good on shad-colored soft plastics and black/blue jigs in the brush. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

ARROWHEAD: Water stained in upper end; 83 degrees; 2.5' low. Black bass are slow on spinnerbaits and Carolina rings around rocky areas and flooded brush. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs suspended about 18' around derricks. White bass are very good on shad-imitation baits and silver spoons with some topwater bites early and late in day. Blue catfish are good on cut shad and prepared baits.

BUFFALO SPRINGS: Water lightly stained; 72 degrees. Black bass are fair on minnows along NE shores. Crappie are fair on silver minnows in Crappie House. Hybrid strippers are good on silver shad near dam. Channel catfish are good on stinkbait off docks on SW shores and chicken liver near Crappie House.

COLORADO CITY: Water clear; 82 degrees. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. Redfish are slow. Catfish are slow.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water clear; 83 degrees; 3' low. Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on live bait. Catfish are fair on cut shad.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 82 degrees; 8.45' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits and red Rat-L-Traps along rocky points and grasslines. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass and hybrid striper are fair on live baits. Catfish are good on minnows.

NASWORTHY: Water lightly stained; 82 degrees. Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Redfish are fair. White bass and striped bass are fair on white spinnerbaits and chrome/black back crankbaits. Catfish are good on minnows.

OAK CREEK: Water lightly stained; 81 degrees; 18.25' low. Black bass are fair on live bait and jigs. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Catfish are fair on cut shad and chicken liver. No boat ramps open. 4x4 vehicles can unload on the dirt road near the dam.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 83 degrees; 15.2' low. Black bass are fair on white/chartreuse spinnerbaits and shad-colored soft plastics along brush lines. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair. Smallmouth bass are good on small crankbaits. Channel catfish are good on prepared baits.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear; 85 degrees; 2' low. Black bass are fair in Rock Creek and Caddo Creek areas. Crappie are fair on live bait. White bass are good and Striped bass are fair near lighted piers at night. Blue and channel catfish are fair in the upper part of reservoir.

SPENCE: Water lightly stained; 82 degrees; 44.65' low. Black bass are fair on live bait and white spinnerbaits using chartreuse or orange trailers. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on silver minnows. Striped bass and hybrid striper are fair on live baits. Catfish are fair on minnows.

STAMFORD: Water lightly stained; 80.75 degrees; Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits and topwater lures. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White and striped bass are fair on live bait and small crankbaits. Catfish are fair on minnows and cut shad.

SWEETWATER: Water lightly stained; 82 degrees; 30.45' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits with some topwater action. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair. Catfish are fair on minnows.

WHITE RIVER: Water lightly stained; 83 degrees; 21.5' low. Black bass are fair on black neon or watermelon red soft plastics along tree lines and white spinnerbaits worked through stickups. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Walleye are fair on live bait. Channel catfish are good on chicken liver.

WICHITA: Water clearing; 86 degrees; Full at spillway. Crappie are slow. White bass and hybrid striped bass are fair on large minnows, white twister-tails and silver spoons along dam, near Lake Wichita Park, and near spillway. Channel catfish are fair on bait shrimp or punchbait. North side public ramp is closed for maintenance.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE: Trout are good in the Sabine and Neches Rivers on live shad and pepper/chartreuse Bass Assassins and Norton Sand Eels. Trout and redfish are good in the marsh with the high tides.

SOUTH SABINE: Bull redfish are good at the jetty on live bait and cut mullet. Trout are good along the rocks on bone Top Dogs. Croaker and sand trout are good from the causeway pier on fresh dead shrimp

BOLIVAR: Trout are good along the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge shoreline on chartreuse/red head and black Top Dogs and glow/chartreuse Corkies. Redfish are good in the surf and at Rollover Pass on finger mullet. Croaker are good on fresh dead shrimp at Rollover Pass.

TRINITY BAY: Trout are good on the East Ridge on soft plastics and gold spoons. Redfish, trout and sand trout are good at the Spillway on live bait and red/white and pearl/chartreuse Hogies, Trout Killers, Sand Eels and Bass Assassins.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are fair to good on Top Dogs and Super Spooks for waders along the south shoreline. Trout are good over shell on live shrimp and pumpkinseed/chartreuse and pepper/chartreuse Bass Assassins, Trout Killers, Stanley Wedgetails and Sand Eels.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Trout, redfish, sand trout and croaker are good at the causeway and railroad bridge on live bait and fresh dead. Bull redfish are good at the jetty on finger mullet and cut bait. Trout and redfish are fair to good on the shell while drifting with shrimptails and live shrimp.

TEXAS CITY: Trout are good at Dollar Reef on live bait and glow soft plastics. Redfish are good in Moses Lake on live shrimp under a popping cork. Trout, redfish, sand trout and croaker are good at night under the lights off the dike.

FREEPORT: Trout, Spanish mackerel and redfish are good on live bait at the Surfside and Quintana jetty. Trout, redfish, croaker and flounder are good at night from the piers near San Luis Pass on live shrimp, mullet and glow plastics. Tarpon are showing on the beach.

EAST MATAGORDA: Trout and redfish are good on the shorelines on Top Dogs, She Dogs, Super Spooks and red shad Bass Assassins and Norton Sand Eels. Redfish are fair to good in Lake Austin on live shrimp and cracked crabs.

MATAGORDA: Redfish are good on topwaters and live shrimp in Oyster Lake and the north shoreline of West Bay around Shell Island. Trout and redfish are fair to good on black Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels around Green's and Cotton's.

PORT O'CONNOR: Trout and redfish are good on the reefs in San Antonio Bay on live shrimp and gold and silver spoons. Bull redfish are good on mullet and shrimp at Pass Cavallo. Trout and redfish are good in the back lakes on live shrimp and topwaters.

ROCKPORT: Trout are fair to good on Long Reef on Bass Assassins, Sand Eels and live shrimp. Redfish are good on the Estes Flats on mullet and live shrimp. Redfish are good on topwaters in Copano Bay and on the backside of Mud Island.

PORT ARANSAS: Trout are fair to good around Shamrock Cove on Super Spooks, She Dogs and red shad Bass Assassins, Sand Eels and Trout Killers. Redfish are good on the East Flats on live shrimp under a

OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

HAVE AN EVENT TO PUBLICIZE? E-mail it to editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com Events must be open to the public

SEPT. 23-25, 30-OCT. 2: Scheduled hunts, Matagorda Island SP&WMA. Access restricted. Call (361) 983-2215 for details.

SEPT. 23-25, 30-OCT. 2: Chaparral WMA Dove Hunts. Daily fee of \$15 waived with annual public hunt permit; call (830) 676-3413.

SEPT. 30: Third Annual Dallas Business Journal Charity Bass Tournament, Lake Lewisville. The event will be headquartered at Sneaky Pete's Resort; \$150 per angler or \$300 for a team. To RSVP, call (972) 980-9800, e-mail info@biggame.org.

SEPT. 30: Expo Conservation Banquet, Texas Parks & Wildlife headquarters, Austin. TPW Expo kicks off with a banquet, featuring a Texas feast and auctions. Presented by the TPW Foundation. Proceeds benefit the San

Jacinto Monument and Visitors' Center; 5:30-10 p.m. Call (800) 221-0981 or (800) 792-1112.

SEPT. 29-OCT. 1: Oh Boy! Oberto Redfish Cup, South Padre Island. The tournament will be the last competition in the qualifying series. The event will be held at the Fishbones Pier and Grill. The key areas are Three Islands, South Bay and Gaswell Flats. To learn more, visit www.redfishnation.com.

SEPT. 30: Game Ranching Seminar, YO Ranch in Mt. Home, Texas. Top experts in the game ranching industry will speak on topics such as feed and nutrition, marketing, breed selection and more. From noon-6 p.m.; the \$25 donation includes tour, dinner and drinks. For reservations, call Misty Taylor at (830) 640-3222 or e-mail her at misty@yoranch.com.

OCT. 7: Kerr WMA Range and Wildlife Seminar. A free seminar on white-tailed deer management. Subjects include deer nutrition, genetics, population control, prescribed burning and

rotational grazing. The seminar stresses an ecological approach to deer management. From 1:30-5:30 p.m. Reservations available but not required. For more information, call (830) 238-4483.

OCT. 8: Second Annual Lone Star Flyway Shoot, American Shooting Center, west of Houston. This is a NSCA registered event in a team format. All shooters are welcome. Individuals wishing to participate will be assigned to a team. Last year's event broke a Texas Ducks Unlimited fundraising record for a first-time shoot. For more information, e-mail Regional Director Tim Soderquist at tsoderquist@ducks.org.

OCT. 10: DU's Houston Chapter presents the 2005 Wetland Sponsor of the Year Award to Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison at the chapter's annual banquet. This year's event will be held at the Hornberger Conference Center, Texas Medical Center, Houston. In addition to a steak dinner, the evening will include live and silent auctions.

Reception prior to the program. Presentation of the award will begin at 7 p.m., followed by remarks from Sen. Hutchison. Contact Matthew Patterson at (713) 843-4934 or via e-mail, mgp@weinsteinspira.com.

Oct. 12: DU Northeast Tarrant County banquet, Oct. 12, Colleyville Community Center. This banquet is family friendly with many prizes for kids only; auctions for adults. Contact David Hornsby, (817) 267-3484 or dbhtx@yahoo.com.

OCT. 14: The Fort Worth Outdoor Sports Club Wild Game Dinner, Fort Worth. For more information, call (817) 336-2711.

OCT. 14: Whitetail and Mule Deer Management Conference, Bairfield Activity Center, Clarendon Jr. College, Clarendon. The program will include wildlife nutrition information and talks by professionals. Admission is \$20 before Oct. 12 and \$25 at the door. Call (210) 767-8300.

OCT. 15: Women in the Outdoors, Northeast Texas Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Roger and Carol Horn's Ranch, County Road 1467 between Mount Pleasant and Bogata, off Highway 271, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Events feature hands-on activities for women wanting to learn about and enjoy the great outdoors. Fees are \$45 before Oct. 1. The mother and daughter special is \$70; Contact Dorothy McCarver at dmac@bluebonnet.net or call (903) 572-7179.

OCT. 15-16: Early Season Youth Quail Hunt, Black Gap WMA. License, hunter orange clothing and hat needed. Dates are subject to change. Call (432) 376-2216 or (432) 837-3251.

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Crossword puzzle solution from page 15.



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KATIE UHLER, 9, of San Antonio, established the state's first Junior Angler Division Fly-Fishing record for spotted sea trout on Aug. 28 while fishing at the Lower Laguna Madre. The trout was 15.75 inches long and weighed 1.4 pounds.



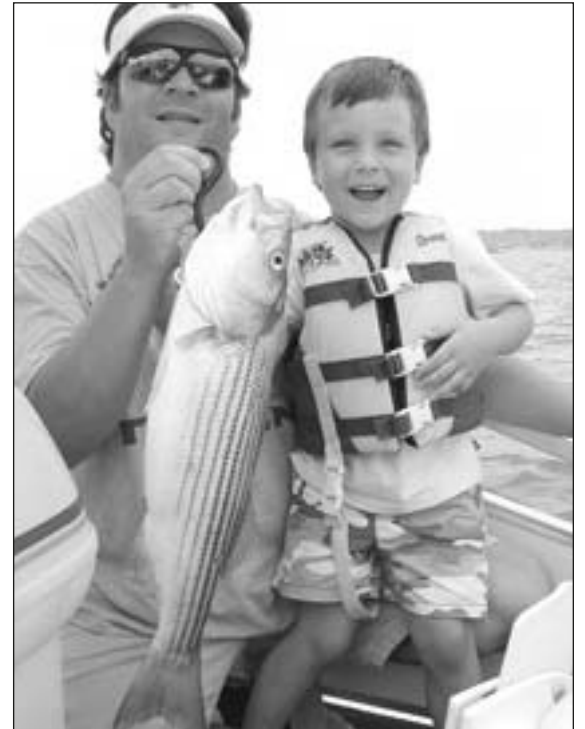
HAROLD MICA of Flatonia caught this 13-pound redfish at Calaveras Lake in San Antonio using a tilapia for bait.



RICHARD GARZA of Dallas with a giant redfish caught off Breton Island.



CHARLIE LEVANDOWSKI of Canyon Lake caught a personal best striper at 31 inches and 12 pounds.



CONNOR LEVANDOWSKI of Katy caught his first striper on Canyon Lake. Dad helped hold the fish that weighed 5 pounds and measured 24 inches.

•Nacogdoches - 936 569 9539 •Beaumont - 409 212 1005 •Cleveland - 281 659 3874 •Victoria - 361 578 9985 •Tyler - 903 839 0987



LEAD

Don't Follow

Be The 1st to Go Silent!

•No Noise •No Scent •No Gas

- All Electric
- 4 Wheel Drive
- 31 HP
- 170 Lbs Torque
- 4 Passenger Seating



The Silent Utility Vehicle

www.badboybuggiesoftexas.com

•DFW - 817-723-1463 •Hill Country - 830-214-0144 •Bryan College Station - 713-899-9255 •Austin - 512 420 9738

Load up for Deer Season



183⁴³

.223 RIFLE & SCOPE COMBO
 • 4X power scope • Base and rings • Hard case
 • #R223SMB



183⁴³

YOUTH .243 COMBO
 • Composite stock • 4X scope • Base and rings
 • #R-243PYM

Remington.



299⁹³ - 319⁹³

MODEL 710 RIFLE SCOPE COMBO
 • 60° bolt throw • Box magazine • Textured synthetic composite stock
 • Bushnell® sharpshooter 3x9 scope • Unique bolt design
 • .270, 30-06 cal. or 7 mm mag • #7408, 7410, 7412



176⁸⁷

DELUXE 14-FT. TRIPOD STAND
 • Deluxe swivel seat
 • Large, sturdy floor
 • Eye height: 16 ft.
 • Adjustable shooting bar
 • Cross braces for extra reinforcement
 • #DTS14



4⁴⁶ - 6⁴⁶

ADULTS' CAMO T-SHIRTS
 • Tall Timber camo pattern
 • Sizes: S-3XL
 • #131TT



14⁸⁶ - 17⁸⁶
ADULTS' SIX-POCKET CAMO PANTS
 • #110TT



29⁸⁶ - 34⁸⁶
ADULTS' SIX-POCKET CAMO PANTS
 • #0004S-M21

17⁸⁶ - 18⁸⁶

ADULTS' MESH SHORT-SLEEVE CAMO T-SHIRTS
 • Mossy Oak® New Break-Up camo pattern
 • Sizes: M-2XL
 • #0221-M21



98⁸⁷

Remington.

40-GAL. FEEDER
 • Polyethylene barrel with 6-volt power control unit
 • 1-4 feeding times from 1-20 seconds
 • Will hold up to 270-lbs. of feed
 • #PB-270D



78⁸⁷

Hunter's View

WIG WAM HUNTING BLIND
 • 5-ft. 6-in. height with 5-ft. x 5-ft. floor
 • Accommodates 1-2 people
 • Zippered windows allow for bow or gun hunting
 • Sniper camo pattern
 • #HB-004



28⁸³

EASY TIMER KIT
 • Automatically programs to your exact location
 • Adjustable feed amount with test feature
 • Rugged cast-aluminum housing
 • #MFH-ETK



54⁸³

STEALTH CAM

MC2-GV CAMERA
 • Crystal clear images using 35 mm film
 • Multiple programming options
 • Operates up to 21 continuous days on eight AA batteries, sold separately
 • #MC2-GV



18⁸⁶

GAME WINNER HUNTING GEAR

GAME PROCESSING KIT
 • Complete butcher knife set with game saw and shears
 • #Q02-047