

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

April 9, 2010

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 6, Issue 16



## Rio review

Biologists and enthusiasts came together to learn about the birds. **Page 4**

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LSONews.com

# Reds heating up on coast

## Anglers catching them shallow, deep, north, south

By Antonio Vindell  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

For Bayview resident Remberto Arteaga, nothing matches catching a redfish, whether it is a keeper or a monster-sized bull red.

"It's exciting whenever you get a big one that puts up a good fight," he said. "They are powerful fish, and when they start pulling, you get almost get a sense of the size of the fish you are about to reel in. You get an adrenaline rush."

Arteaga said his fishing technique is rather simple: be there when the fish are there and have a sharp hook, preferably a circle hook.

Also, he said to look for water movement and to take advantage of a high tide.

On a recent trip just south of Gas Well Flats, a popular fishing spot south of the mouth of the Arroyo

Colorado, Arteaga caught three redfish — a 32-inch bull red and ones measuring 24 and 25 inches each.

"It was a horrible condition for fishing," he said. "The water was real murky and the wind was picking up."

After a couple of hours, moving by boat from one place to another, Arteaga said he caught the bull red in about 2 feet of water using cut mullet for bait.

He fished with two friends, and together they caught seven reds.

"It was a little bit better than expected, but we fished right before it got a little too dark," Arteaga said.

Farther up the coast, Jay Gardner has been fishing a couple of favorite spots — Dead Man Hole and Nine-Mile Hole, two areas north of the Port Mansfield jetty. At one, he caught a 25-inch red.

"I took a student from Texas A&M University who was interested in tagging some fish," the Corpus Christi resident said. "We were walking in the flats at about 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 27, when I saw a red standing in about 6 to 8 inches of water."

Gardner used a jig with a green

See **REDFISH**, Page 24



**BIG AND BITING:** It doesn't much matter if you're fishing shallow or deep, the action for redfish along the Texas coast is heating up as temperatures rise. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

### INSIDE

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Redfish Bay still protected...**Page 23**

# So you've got a snapping turtle

## They're not a threat to stock tanks, experts say

By Kyle Carter  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The snapping turtle has a bad reputation — some of which is warranted, some of which is not.

Perhaps because it looks like it ate its way out of a 6,000-year-old rock, the snapping turtle tends to worry people like snakes worry people. They don't know why exactly they're scared, and they're not looking to find out.

Dr. Jim Koukl, who runs the Turtle Research Laboratory at the University of Texas-Tyler, said most of the fear about snapping turtles is healthy. They are calm in the water, but on land, they are aggressive.

"It will take your finger right off," he said of the larger turtles. "Clean. No bone. It will bite right through it."

The snapping turtle is almost 100 percent carnivore. To eat, it buries itself in slow-moving bayous and creeks, or at the bottom of a pond, and waits for its meal to come swimming by. That meal can include anything from frogs to snakes, lizards and fish.

It's the fish that concerns some



**OVERRATED THREAT:** Snapping turtles might be a danger to your fingers, but they do little damage to largemouth bass populations, experts said. Photo by Lili A. Sams, LSON.

anglers and pond managers and often leads to what Koukl said is the unfair side of the snapping turtle's reputation.

"It's not going to destroy your fish population," he said. "Yes they do eat fish — like largemouth bass — but they are going to be eating other things in there as well. You're not going to know the difference."

Koukl said the largemouth is not the meal of choice for a snapping turtle because it is typically too big and moving too fast. The frequency that a snapping turtle will take a bass depends on how often they cross paths, but it won't

be often enough to effect a well-managed pond.

Malcolm Johnson, who has a master's degree in fisheries management and has run Johnson Lake Management Service in San Marcos since 1983, said he's never seen snapping turtles have a notable negative effect on the fish population.

"We treat them like the blue heron or an eagle," Johnson said. "They're a part of nature, but they're not numerous enough to do any real damage."

According to Koukl, turtles, and

See **SNAPPERS**, Page 21

# Feeding quail is a mixed bag

## Supplemented diet can have variety of effects

By Kyle Carter  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

With quail hunting closed for the next six months, owners who manage their land for quail are now focused on making sure they're ready for next season.

The best way of doing that, especially in terms of supplemental feeding, can be a complicated issue.

"There has been a lot of scientific research on that — a lot of articles published," said Dr. Dean Ransom, research scientist at the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch. "There's a lot of opinion on either side."

Most of the conflicting research, Ransom said, comes from conflicting situations. Studies done in areas with different conditions come back with different results.

Those who feed supplementally

See **QUAIL**, Page 26

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Jose Wejbe,  
The Spanish Fly



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## HUNTING

# Symposium: Turkeys on the rise

Hunters' harvest has little impact on population

By Ralph Winingham  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The impact of hunters during the spring and fall seasons on Texas turkeys is not considered a significant factor in population control, with only about 4 percent of the birds harvested each season.

"Texas has the highest density of Rio Grande turkeys in the world

with a current population of about 450,000," said Jason Hardin, an upland game bird specialist with Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Hardin was speaking at a comprehensive two-day Rio Grande Wild Turkey Symposium at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area.

"We are expecting hunters to be seeing more 3-year-old birds this spring, but in the fall there should be

a lot (of young birds) that will be big enough to hunt.

"If good nesting conditions continue, the population may jump to 600,000."

About 75 landowners, biologists and turkey-hunting enthusiasts covered a wide range of management and habitat issues — including popula-

See **TURKEYS**, Page 27

### TALKING

**TURKEY:** Justin Dreubekbus, left, of the Texas Wildlife Association, left, and Dr. Bob Ditmar, conduct a necropsy of a hen turkey to explain the internal system of the bird. Photo by Ralph Winingham, for LSON.



# Welcome to ...

Dawson County joins its famous neighbors for mule deer next season

By Thomas Phillips  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Two Texas counties will have their first open season on buck mule deer next season, and one of them is in prime trophy country.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission voted April 1 to allow the hunts in Dawson County, in West Texas, and Wheeler County, in the Panhandle.

Dawson County, where Lamesa is the county seat, is next door to Gaines County, which, for the last two seasons — since mule deer hunting opened there — has produced the biggest bucks in the state.

"We've got the potential to be as good a hunting area as there is in Texas as far as mule deer is concerned," said Lonny Sherrill, who owns The Country Store in Lamesa, which sells firearms, ammunition, deer corn and other supplies.

The list of similarities between Dawson and Gaines counties is long.

Both are rich in farmland, which is interspersed with brushy draws and unplowed Conservation Reserve Program land.

In Gaines County, the deer feed on crops such as peanuts, alfalfa, wheat, cotton, often bedding down in the fields where they feed. They will also hang out in the draws and CRP land, where salt cedar and shinnery oak



**OPEN SEASON:** Hunting will be legal for mule deer in Dawson County, pictured, and Wheeler County for the first time next season. Dawson County is in rich farmland and near counties where other large deer have been taken. Photo by Thomas Phillips, Lone Star Outdoor News.

# Deer Country

provide a place to hide.

In Gaines County, the mule deer grow massive in body and antlers. The top deer taken there had a score well over 200, and body weights commonly exceed 350 pounds.

Big-bodied deer have been scouted in Dawson County, too, Sherrill said.

"There's some really good bucks in Dawson County," he said, adding that they are on par with their neigh-

bors to the west.

Although the habitat is similar, Sherrill said, Dawson has less uncultivated land.

The deer tend to stick close to the more natural habitat, said TPW biol-

ogist Jim Lionberger.

"Like in Gaines and Andrews (counties), there's limited areas where there are mule deer," Lionberger said.

See **DAWSON**, Page 27

# Down at the Beer and Deer: big trophies, cold beverages

West Texans combine businesses in the heart of mule deer hunting

By Thomas Phillips  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Although they live in a remote piece of West Texas (which is itself remote), the world has come to Mike Moore and Shay Floyd.

Or maybe they were just ready to hitch their wagon to it when it came rushing by.

Moore and Floyd own and operate two businesses that share the same building and have come to be known by a common name outside of Seagraves: the Beer and Deer.

Moore operates a taxidermy shop out of one end of the building, and Floyd, a full-time farmer, operates a beer and wine store out of the other.

Seagraves is on the northern end of Gaines County, epicenter of tro-

phy mule deer hunting in Texas since hunting the animals was opened there in 2008, making the taxidermy shop a hub for the hunting community.

But the Beer and Deer is technically not in Seagraves or Gaines County. It is a few feet over the county line in Terry County.

Terry County has been wet — sales of alcohol are legal there — for a couple of years, but it's against the law to have a beer store in dry Gaines County.

So Moore and Floyd have been doing a brisk business, serving hunters and beer and wine customers in the area.

"Beer and deer," Moore said.

See **BEER AND DEER**, Page 30



**TEXAS TWO-STEP:** Mike Moore keeps his trophy mule deer on display in the beverage side of the Beer and Deer. Photo by Thomas Phillips, Lone Star Outdoor News.

# ON THE MOVE



**MOVE OVER:** Dodge's Ram 3500 Laramie Crew Cab 4X4 will draw stares even from Hummer owners, and it can haul gear, too. Photo by Dodge.

## Big truck, big capabilities

Dodge pickup has a go anywhere, tow anything attitude

By Jim Shepherd  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

When a Hummer owner looks up at you admiringly at a traffic light, rolls down his window and goes "nice truck," it brings home to you how big the vehicle you're driving really is.

Did I mention the Ram 3500 Laramie Crew Cab 4X4 was big? It is.

For a week, I drove around in the largest vehicle I've tested that didn't have a bathroom, kitchen and sleeping facilities. It's a 2010 Dodge Ram 3500 Laramie Crew Cab 4X4, and it really is big. As in dual rear wheels, 6.7-liter Cummins

Turbo Diesel, 6-speed 4-wheel drive big. OK, it's not a vehicle I'd normally drive, but since I'd been avoiding taking some fixtures from a remodeling job over to Habitat for Humanity, the Laramie provided a good testing opportunity.

Granted, instead of the normal two or three trips required by my small pickup, I made one trip in the Laramie. And I didn't have to worry about having too much stuff loaded into my small-bed pickup. In fact, the truck had enough room that my neighbor asked if I'd take a couple of cabinets for him.

But this truck never noticed the fact that there was something between 800 and 1,000 pounds of stuff in the bed.

When I pulled in to the donation center, it didn't take long to realize that for guys who use trucks to make a living, I was driving a hot

See PICKUP, Page 22

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## FISHING

# Corralling reds still drawing anglers' ire

Fish become hard to catch after boat drives them from shore

By Thomas Phillips

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

A boat powered into a lake in the Lighthouse Lakes area near Aransas Pass where guide Billy Trimble was poling two clients over the flats. It circled the lake's perimeter, driving fish toward the center of the lake.

After circling, the boat's anglers would cut its motor and fish for about 10 minutes. Then, they would do it again: herding redfish.

"From my perspective, from my clients' perspective, it just makes it impossible to fish," said Trimble, who told the story above. "The fish become nervous; the redfish stop tailing."

Burning the flats to find redfish has rocketed to the top of many coastal anglers' list of pet peeves, and another practice might be experiencing a renaissance.

A Texas fishing guide drew criticism last month when a magazine article reported that he circled a coastal lake in an airboat, closely following the shoreline. Redfish hanging out in the grass would scurry for deeper water, where they became an easier target for anglers on the boat.

Herding redfish is not a new fad or the latest technique for improving the bite. It has been around for decades, but it has never been widely accepted, or legal.

"If it's all about harvesting fish, go to the fish market," said Eric Kraimer, of Georgetown, who fishes the Texas coast from Goose Island south.

From Kraimer's perspective, the problem is becoming worse. He said he sees more boats harassing fish, whether by herding them or burning the flats.

Over time, he said, the practices can make fish harder to catch because they learn not to hang out on flats where boats are constantly running them over.

Adding to the situation are more anglers



**DRIVEN DEEPER:** Redfish become nervous when too much boating takes place near them, some anglers said. A controversial practice known as herding redfish drives the fish away from shorelines and shallow water and concentrates them. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

fishing on the coast and boats with shallower draft, making fishing the flats easier.

Finding a school of reds and fishing them is one thing, Kraimer said, and pressuring

them is acceptable. But herding them is the wrong way to go, he said.

"I think it's a very unethical way of fishing," he said. "Fish aren't designed to be run

over and corralled like cattle."

Brandon Smith or Pearland similarly said

See *HERDING*, Page 24

## Big blues now, something else in summer

Trophy-sized catfish spread out — and so do pleasure boats — after spring

By Thomas Phillips

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Guides expect the bite for blue catfish to hang on through the spring on Lake Lewisville, but the spring is a time of change.

While fishing the last morning of March, Bobby Kubin Jr. cast 10 rods baited with cut shad into the lake. At three locations, his boat was anchored from about 5 feet to about 8 feet, with rods radiating out from the boat like spokes on a bicycle wheel.

On that day, the shad were in relatively shallow water, and the blues were working. The bite was a little slow by Kubin's standards, but he boated about 10 in three hours of fishing. A couple were inside the lake's slot limit of 30 to 45 inches, including one that weighed 23 pounds, 3 ounces.

"These fish, they follow the shad," Kubin said. "It's the main thing."

Kubin was fishing just before the shad spawn, he said, so the catfish were in shallow water, which was off-color and warming to about 70 degrees.

In the next few weeks, Kubin will begin targeting channel catfish in creeks and shallower areas in the morning. Being off the main lake — and off the lake entirely by about noon, generally — helps him avoid another creature that inhabits the water: pleasure boaters.

Partiers descend on the lake from Memorial Day through the summer. Like fish, they have patterns, too. They keep to open water and do not usually crawl out of bed and hit the lake until

about noon, he said.

Perhaps because he avoids them or maybe because they are friendly, the boaters do not often cause problems for Kubin.

"For the most part, they keep to themselves," he said.

Guide Chad Ferguson goes through changes too during spring.

Instead of going for size (Lewisville produces lots of trophy-sized fish), he goes for numbers.

"I'm talking days where it's not uncommon to catch 125 blue catfish in a couple of hours," he said.

Nowadays, he expects to catch 30 to 35 fish in five to six hours of fishing. Those fish will weigh 2 to 8 pounds, he said.

"We've had a few bigger fish here in the last week or so," he said. "Weekend before last, we caught one that went 17 and one that went 30, but those have been the exceptions."

Ferguson targets trophies when the water is cold. When it warms up, he said, they spread out and become more difficult to isolate.

"Most people aren't willing to take that bet of spending that extended amount of time trying to target big fish when they can go catch a lot of fish in a morning," he said.

For the spring, Ferguson will use a technique similar to Kubin's: using fresh shad at shallow depths.

"Some days, you can get out and just wear them out in 12, 14, 15 feet of water, and some days you have to move up into 2 or 3 feet of water," he said. "It takes some moving around."



**BITING BLUES:** Bobby Kubin holds a blue catfish that weighs 23 pounds, 3 ounces caught on a recent trip. Photo by Thomas Phillips, LSON.

## Somewhere to turn to when boating

Waco boat wreck could have been avoided if one had properly yielded

By Mark England

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Texas has no official right-of-way on the water, but there is a right way to react when an approaching boat gets too close for comfort.

Hint: It's not both boats turning in the same direction.

That can lead to a collision like the one March 14 on the Bosque River that sent a 23-year-old man to the hospital complaining of back pain.

"One (boater) turned right," said Waco Game Warden Capt. Jim Ranft. "If both had, all this would have been a moot point."

The collision between a fiberglass boat and an aluminum jon boat was almost head-on, capsizing one of the boats. The injured man was pulled onto a pontoon boat and treated by a registered nurse and off-duty firefighter, both of whom were fishing nearby.

Authorities said the wreck illus-

See *BOATS*, Page 20



**SNAPPER SCHOOL:** State wildlife officials will help anglers understand federal fisheries management, which heavily affects fishing for red snapper in the Gulf. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

# TPW workshops to inform about federal fish rules

## More changes in Gulf fisheries might be on the way

By Brandon D. Shuler  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Galveston will host the National Marine Fisheries Service's Gulf Council meeting April 12-15, and the meeting is expected to raise a number of controversial issues that could affect Texas anglers.

To help thwart some of the confusion inherent in federal fisheries management, Texas Parks and Wildlife will host four workshops after the meeting.

"The aim of the TPWD federal management workshops is to get our fishermen involved in the management process and to educate them

how management decisions are made," said Robin Riechers, TPW's director of the Coastal Fisheries Division. "We want to ensure our fishermen understand they have a voice in this process and can be effective participants."

The workshops will allow the public to help steer and improve the management process. The aim of the workshop is to "provide an overview of why fisheries are managed, how state and federal fisheries management works, which agencies are involved and what each of their roles are and information on upcoming fisheries issues. The goal of the workshops is to provide attendees with the knowledge and understanding needed to become successful participants in the fisheries management process."

One of the most controversial topics expected at this council meeting will be the 2010 red snapper season. Last year the federal

See WORKSHOPS, Page 22

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# TEXAS FISHING REPORT

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## HOT BITES

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**BUCHANAN:** Good on white/chartreuse 1/4 oz. spinnerbaits, pumpkin/chartreuse tail soft plastics and albino/blue soft jerkbaits along drop-offs of points and pockets of creeks in 4-8 feet.

### WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



**CEDAR CREEK:** White bass are good on slabs.  
**GREENBELT:** White bass are good on live bait.  
**WALTER E. LONG:** White bass are good on 2 1/2" soft plastic curtail minnows.  
**HUBBARD CREEK:** White bass are good on live bait and crankbaits.  
**BELTON:** Hybrid striper are good on live shad. White bass are good on light blue jigs.  
**POSSUM KINGDOM:** White bass are good on silver jiggging spoons and live bait. Stripers are good on silver spoons and shad-colored crankbaits along southern lake points.

### CATFISH



**BRAUNIG:** Channel catfish are excellent on shrimp, liver and stinkbait.  
**CALAVERAS:** Excellent on nightcrawlers, shad and liver in 10-20 feet.  
**CONROE:** Very good on stinkbait, cut bait and frozen shrimp.  
**NAVARRO MILLS:** Channel catfish are very good on stinkbait. Blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with minnows and shrimp. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait.  
**STILLHOUSE:** Channel and blue catfish are very good on minnows.  
**ATHENS:** Good on prepared baits and nightcrawlers.

### CRAPPIE



**SOMERVILLE:** Very good on minnows and jigs.  
**SWEETWATER:** Good on minnows and jigs.

**ALAN HENRY:** Water lightly stained; 52 degrees; 1.18' low. Black bass are fair on live bait, white/chartreuse spinnerbaits and black/brown jigs suspended in trees. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on live bait.

**AMISTAD:** Water clear; 60 degrees; 2.73' low. Striped bass are good on slabs, deep-running crankbaits and jiggging spoons. White bass are good on slabs, deep-running crankbaits and jiggging spoons. Crappie are fair on live minnows up Devil's River in the trees. Catfish are fair. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines.

**ARROWHEAD:** Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 5.40' low. Crappie are good on minnows off the derricks and under the east side bridges. White bass are good in the upper part of the reservoir and moving into the river. Blue catfish are good on cheese bait or shad.

**ATHENS:** Water fairly clear, 59-65 degrees; 0.44' high. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows.

**BASTROP:** Water stained. Black bass are good on chartreuse/white soft plastics and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on minnows and green tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp and chicken livers.

**BELTON:** Water clear; 58 degrees; 1.84' low. Black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows in 20-30 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs, shrimp and stinkbait at night. Yellow catfish are fair.

**BOB SANDLIN:** Water stained; 60-66 degrees; 0.06' high. Black bass are fair on soft plastic frogs, spinnerbaits, Texas rigs and Senkos. Crappie are fair on live minnows and jigs. White bass are fair. Catfish are fair.

**BRAUNIG:** Water clear; 58 degrees. Black bass are good along shorelines and structure. Striped bass are fair to good on chicken livers and Tony Accetta spoons. Redfish are good on live perch and tilapia. Blue catfish are fair on chicken livers, shrimp, stinkbait and nightcrawlers.

**BRIDGEPORT:** Water fairly clear; 59-64 degrees; 1.5' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, Texas rigs and weightless flukes. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. White bass are fair. Hybrid striper are fair. Channel catfish are good on cut and prepared bait.

**BROWNWOOD:** Water stained; 61 degrees; 6.65' low. Black bass are fair on black/blue spinnerbaits and jigs and sunrise crawl-colored crankbaits. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on L'il Fishies and minnows over brush piles. Channel catfish are slow.

**BUCHANAN:** Water murky; 59 degrees; 12.48' low. Striped bass are fair to good tight-lining live bait and vertically jiggging silver 1/2 oz. artificial minnows and pearl 1/4 oz. blade baits from Flag Island to the Willows in 28-35 feet. White bass are fair. Crappie are fair. Channel catfish are good on live bait. Yellow and blue catfish are good on juglines.

**CADDO:** Water murky; 59-66 degrees; 1.41' high. Black bass are fair on flukes, Texas rigs and Senkos. White bass are fair on Rooster Tails and minnows. Yellow bass are fair. Catfish are fair.

**CALAVERAS:** Water clear; 58 degrees. Black bass are good on soft plastic worms and grubs around reed beds along shorelines. Striped bass are good on chicken livers, shad and spoons. Redfish are good on perch and shrimp on the bottom.

**CANYON LAKE:** Water murky; 57 degrees; 0.37' high. Black bass are good on jerkbaits, 1/4 oz. white spinnerbaits, pumpkin and albino soft plastic jerkbaits along stickups in 3-8 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Smallmouth bass are good on smoke/red tubes, root beer/green flake 3" curl tail grubs and white 4" soft plastics over rock piles and on ledges in 12-25 feet. Crappie are fair on live minnows upriver in 5-12 feet. Channel catfish are fair upriver. Yellow and blue catfish are good on juglines.

**CEDAR CREEK:** Water stained; 59-65 degrees; 0.01' high. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, white spinnerbaits, Texas rigs and weightless 6.5" Tornados. Hybrid striper are fair. Crappie are fair. Catfish are fair.

**CHOKO CANYON:** Water stained; 60 degrees; 8.99' low. Black bass are good on swimbaits and Texas-rigged soft plastic lizards. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows and fair on jigs at night under lights. Drum are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on punchbait. Yellow catfish are good on punchbait.

**COLEMAN:** Water murky; 58 degrees; 7.81' low. Black bass are good on dark soft plastic worms and lizards and fair on spinnerbaits. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad. Crappie are slow. Channel catfish are slow.

**COLETO CREEK:** Water stained; 60

degrees; 5.63' low. Black bass are fair on black/chartreuse jigs, shad-colored crankbaits and live bait along points in the Long Hollow and Caddo areas. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on live bait.

**GREENBELT:** Water lightly stained; 43 degrees; 32.66' low. Black bass are good on live bait, white spinnerbaits and pumpkin soft plastics. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Smallmouth bass are fair. Walleye are fair. Catfish are good on live and prepared bait. Low water conditions exists; launching boats is difficult.

**HUBBARD CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 55 degrees; 7.35' low. Black bass are fair on live bait and black/blue jigs worked along grass lines and timber. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. Catfish are fair on live and prepared bait.

**JOE POOL:** Water off-color; 59-66 degrees; 0.19' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, flukes, weightless swimbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair to good

fair on minnows and jigs, with more being caught in the marinas. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Catfish are fair.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water stained; 57 degrees; 5.63' low. Black bass are fair on black/chartreuse jigs, shad-colored crankbaits and live bait along points in the Long Hollow and Caddo areas. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on live bait.

**PROCTOR:** Water murky; 57 degrees; 1.34' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastic worms and lizards. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair. Channel and blue catfish are fair.

**RAY HUBBARD:** Water fairly clear; 62-65 degrees; 0.05' low. Black bass are fair to good on white/chartreuse spinnerbaits, Rat-L-Traps and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair. Hybrid striper are fair on slabs and live shad. Catfish are fair.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water stained and clearing; 57-64 degrees; 0.11' high. Black bass are fair and improving on watermelon/red lizards. White bass are moving out of the creeks and are good in the creek mouths.

**RICHLAND CHAMBERS:** Water off-color; 59-66 degrees; 0.1' high. Black bass are fair on soft plastic frogs, Texas rigs, Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits. White bass are fair on slabs and live shad. Hybrid striper are fair on slabs and live shad. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on prepared bait and nightcrawlers.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Water stained; 59 degrees; 0.35' high. Black bass are fair on Carolina-rigged watermelon red soft plastics and spinnerbaits. White bass are fair on live minnows and silver spoons. Crappie are fair on minnows. Bream are fair on worms. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, live minnows and stinkbait.

**SOMERVILLE:** Water murky; 57 degrees; 0.12' high. Black bass are fair on minnows. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are fair on minnows and slabs. Channel and blue catfish are fair on shrimp and chicken livers in the evenings.

**STILLHOUSE:** Water clear; 57 degrees; 0.36' high. Black bass are fair on minnows, shrimp and spoons. White bass are good on minnows near Long Bridge. Crappie are good on minnows.

**SWEETWATER:** Water lightly stained; 56 degrees; 7.41' low. Black bass are fair on live bait. Catfish are good on live bait.

**TAWAKONI:** Water fairly clear; 60-67 degrees; 0.69' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, short Carolina-rigged soft plastics and shad pattern spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on slabs. Striped bass and hybrid striper are fair on live shad and slabs. Catfish are fair on stink bait.

**TEXOMA:** Water off-color; 59-66 degrees; 0.41' high. Black bass are fair on drop-shot rigs, split-shot-rigged flukes and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Striped bass are fair on live shad and large Road Runners. Catfish are fair on cut and live shad.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water stained; 59 degrees; 1.14' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse green and chartreuse blue soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair. Bream are fair. Channel and blue catfish are good on frozen shrimp, cut bait and stinkbait.

**TRAVIS:** Water murky; 60 degrees; 0.14' high. Black bass are good on Senkos, smoke grubs and Baby Brush Hogs in 5-15 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair. Crappie are good on minnows and blue/white tube jigs in 10-20 feet. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

**WALTER E. LONG:** Water stained; 58 degrees. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striper are good on minnows. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are fair.

**WHITNEY:** Water murky; 0.33' low. Black bass are good on pumpkinseed spinnerbaits, crankbaits and soft plastics. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair. Crappie are good on minnows.

## HOT SPOT



### Houston County

Water clear; 62 degrees; 0.72' high. Black bass are very good on June bug, watermelon red, red/red flake and black/blue soft plastics. Crappie are good on live minnows near subdivision piers. Bream are slow. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

degrees (74 degrees at discharge); 0.16' high. Black bass are fair on soft plastics and spinnerbaits in 5-10 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and shrimp in 7-15 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on perch, liver and shrimp in 8-15 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with perch and liver in 8-15 feet.

**CONROE:** Water fairly clear. Black bass are fair on dark soft plastics, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows.

**FAIRFIELD:** Water fairly clear; 68-89 degrees. Black bass are fair on flukes, Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps. Redfish are fair to good on live bait and flukes.

**FALCON:** Water clear; 68 degrees. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and shallow running crankbaits. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on frozen shrimp, stinkbait and cut bait under cormorants.

**FORK:** Water stained to murky; 59-66 degrees; 0.05' high. Black bass are fair to good on LFT Frogs, Senkos, red Rat-L-Traps and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows with a few moving in to the creeks. Catfish are fair on cut and prepared baits.

**GIBBONS CREEK:** Water clear. Black bass are fair on watermelon red and June bug red soft plastics and crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, nightcrawlers and stinkbait.

**GRANGER:** Water murky; 59 degrees; 2.02' low. Black bass are slow. White bass are fair near Dickerson's bottom and upriver from Circleville. Crappie are fair on minnows upriver at night. Blue catfish are good on stinkbait. Yellow catfish are fair.

**GRAPEVINE:** Water stained; 60-67 degrees; 2.7' high. Black bass are fair on shaky head jigs with a finesse worm, crankbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are

fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on minnows and slabs. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and shad.

**LAKE O' THE PINES:** Water stained; 59-65 degrees; 0.78' high. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, frogs, Texas rigs and chatterbaits. Crappie are fair. Catfish are fair.

**LAVON:** Water stained; 60-67 degrees; 0.27' high. Black bass are fair on flukes, Texas rigs, spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair. Catfish are fair.

**LBJ:** Water stained; 61 degrees; 0.22' low. Black bass are good on 1/4 oz. blue/white spinnerbaits, green pumpkin soft plastics and soft plastic jerkbaits in 3-6 feet. Striped bass to 24" are fair. White bass are fair. Crappie are good on 1/32 oz. crappie jigs and live minnows in 2-4 feet. Channel catfish are good on live bait. Yellow and blue catfish are good on trotlines.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water stained; 60-66 degrees; 0.37' high. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, weightless paddle tail soft plastics, Rat-L-Traps and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs-moving shallow. White bass are fair. Hybrid striper are fair. Catfish are good on prepared bait and stinkbait.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water fairly clear; 59 degrees; 0.34' high. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows. Blue catfish are good on shad.

**NAVARRO MILLS:** Water murky; 62 degrees; 0.02' high. Black bass are good on crankbaits and spinnerbaits along banks and near the dam. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair.

**O.H. IVIE:** Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 21.58' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits or crankbaits, Carolina-rigged watermelon red soft plastics and live bait worked along channels and drop-offs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on live

## SALTWATER SCENE

**NORTH SABINE:** Trout are fair to good on the Louisiana shoreline on topwaters and Corkies. Flounder are fair on jigs tipped with shrimp around marsh drains.

**SOUTH SABINE:** Sheepshead, redfish and black drum are good at the jetty on live shrimp. Trout are fair to good around Garrison Ridge on topwaters and Corkies.

**BOLIVAR:** Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline on soft plastics and plugs. Black drum and redfish are good at Rollover Pass.

**TRINITY BAY:** Trout are good for drifters working pods of shad and mullet on Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels. Catfish are good in the marsh on shrimp. Redfish are fair to good for waders around Rabbit Bayou.

**EAST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are good on the south shoreline on Catch 5s, MirrOlures and Catch 2000s. Whiting and sand trout are good on the edge of the Intracoastal on fresh shrimp. Black drum are fair to good in the Ship Channel on crabs.

**WEST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are fair to good for drifters working shell on live shrimp. Sheepshead, redfish and black drum are good at the jetty on shrimp and crabs. Redfish are good in the back lakes on shrimp and Gulpes.

**TEXAS CITY:** Black drum are good in are channel on crabs. Trout are fair on the reefs on live shrimp on the incoming tide.

**FREEPORT:** Sand trout and sheepshead are good on live shrimp on the reefs in Christmas Bay. Black drum are good at the jetties on cracked blue crabs.

**EAST MATAGORDA BAY:** Trout are fair for drifters in the back lakes on live shrimp. Redfish are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on crabs and mullet.

**WEST MATAGORDA BAY:** Redfish are fair to good on the edge of Oyster Lake on shrimp and crabs. Black drum and redfish are fair to good at the jetty on crabs.

**PORT O'CONNOR:** Trout and redfish are fair on soft plastics over soft mud. Trout and redfish are fair for drifters working the back lakes with live shrimp.

**ROCKPORT:** Trout are fair to good in Morris-Cummings Cut on free-lined shrimp. Black drum are good in the Lydia Ann Channel on crabs. Redfish are good in the back of Allyn's Bight on Gulpes.

**PORT ARANSAS:** Black drum are good in the Shrimptown Channel on crabs and finger mullet. Redfish and sheepshead are fair to good at the jetty on shrimp.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Trout are fair to good on the edge of the spoils on Gulpes and live shrimp. Black drum and redfish are fair to good in the Packery Channel on crabs.

**BAFFIN BAY:** Black drum are good in the Land Cut on crabs. Trout are fair to good in the Land Cut on live shrimp.

**PORT MANSFIELD:** Trout are fair to good on topwaters around sand and grass. Redfish are fair to good while drifting pot holes. Black drum and redfish are good on crabs at East Cut.

**SOUTH PADRE:** Trout are good around the spoil islands, channel edges and color changes on DOA Shrimp in 3-4 feet of water. Black drum, redfish and sheepshead have taken at the jetty. Flounder are fair to good on the spoils along the ICW.

**PORT ISABEL:** Trout and redfish are fair to good at Gas Well Flats on live shrimp. Redfish are fair at Mexiquita Flats and South Bay on DOA Shrimp and live shrimp.

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# GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

## TAXIDERMYPY ONLY ALLOWED FOR LEGAL GAME

While waiting for their ATVs to be serviced, Presidio County Game Warden Derek Rogers and Hudspeth County Game Warden Ricky May visited a local business in El Paso. They noticed the shop had a golden eagle mount and a falcon mount on display. Case pending.

## GROUP OF WARDENS HELPS SERVE WARRANTS

Wichita County Game Warden Pat Canan, Clay County Game Warden Eddie Hood, Jack County Game Warden Gary Hobbs, Young County Game Warden Brent Isom, Montague County Game Warden Jason Jones and Grayson County Game Wardens Jim Ballard and Randolph McGee served two evidentiary search warrants on two residences simultaneously in Clay County. The search stemmed from a snowstorm in December, when Canan tracked footprints to a residence where he found an illegally killed deer. Items seized from the residence were several firearms, ammunition, photos and boots.

## TROT LINES NOT LEGAL FOR KEEPING REDFISH

Galveston County Game Warden Ray Canales filed on a commercial finfish fisherman for possessing red drum, which were caught on his trotlines. Cases pending.

## NEIGHBOR REPORTS SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ON NEARBY PROPERTY

A caller told Comal County Game Warden Brent Satsky that he saw three males hunting deer the night before in the pasture adjacent to his property. Upon entering the property, Satsky found three white-tailed deer that had been shot and killed. After a lengthy investigation, Satsky tracked down the three people, who eventually confessed to shooting the deer. Each gave a written state-

## Too many largemouths kept from Falcon

Four Louisiana men had cleaned their daily bag limit of largemouth bass at Falcon Lake State Park, bragged about it, and then relaunched their boat in search of more fish, a caller reported. Local wardens had heard a similar report the previous weekend. Starr County Game Warden Drew Spencer and Brooks County Game Warden Royce

Ilse drove the short distance to the state park, but found no one at the boat ramp. Spencer then suggested they try the parking lot of a nearby motel. The wardens found a boat with a Louisiana registration number parked in front of one of the rooms. A knock on the door was answered by a Louisiana man with a bowlful of filleted bass on

the table behind him. A knock on a door across the lot produced two coolers of bass and three more men. The men said they had two days each of their limits at the motel, but the wardens counted 49 total largemouth. Each received a citation for a possession limit violation, and each was charged civil restitution.

ment about his involvement in the offenses and was charged with hunting in a closed season and hunting by illegal means and methods. Their .17-caliber rifle and spotlight were seized as evidence.

## DEER WAS EATING GARDEN-VARIETY VEGETATION

A call of shots fired came in, and Wharton County Game Warden Chris Bird responded. With help from sheriff's deputies, Bird found a freshly killed white-tailed deer beneath a tarp. Bird then located the suspected poacher and began questioning. The man later confessed to shooting the deer four or five times because it was eating his flowers. Cases and restitution are pending.

## HOMEOWNER PROBABLY WISHES WARDEN HADN'T TRACKED HIM DOWN

Dimmit County Game Warden Gene Fernandez received information in January that hunters had left a buck white-tailed deer partially butchered with the head on at a ranch. After a quick look around the ranch, Fernandez discovered a freshly killed white-tailed buck deer missing only the back straps and hindquarters. The violators had also failed to remove the head for proof of sex and had most likely not tagged the meat that they had cut out. Not knowing exactly who owned the property,

Fernandez left a card in the door and hoped that the owners would be back soon because the season was coming to an end. A couple of weeks later, Fernandez once again visited the camp and discovered that the house had been broken into. He secured it as best as he could and began trying to locate the owners. After a couple of weeks, he obtained contact information through the appraisal district and sent the owner a letter saying the house had been broken into and that he and other area agencies were patrolling the area more to help deter further entry. The owner contacted the warden and informed him that he had received the letter and wanted to thank him in person. After meeting the landowner, Fernandez was finally able to complete the case that he had been working on for just over three months. After some conflicting stories between the owner and his daughter, the owner confessed to taking the buck, and it was discovered that he did not have a valid hunting license. Multiple cases and civil restitution were filed on the subject.

## BOAT STOPS WORKING, DRIFTS UPRIVER

A boat with five occupants became stranded on Lake Diversion in eastern Baylor County. Game Warden Joshua McCrary responded. Two children and three adults were aboard when the

boat broke down and drifted up the river, lodging on a sandbar. McCrary met Game Warden Dyke McMahan at Lake Diversion for a rescue operation. Weather conditions were cold with winds blowing about 25 mph. After about one hour of searching, the boat was located on a major bend of the river and found to be inoperable. The occupants were cold but healthy. McCrary picked up the female adult and two children and ferried them back down the river and across the lake to safety. He then returned for McMahan and the two men. All five occupants were returned to the marina on Lake Diversion in healthy condition.

## POSSIBLE DROWNING VICTIM DOING OK

Mason County Game Warden Cody Hatfield and Llano County Game Warden Sean Reneau responded to a call involving a possible drowning victim on the Llano River near the area known as "Slab Road." The wardens, with the help of volunteer firefighters and local deputies, located the 40-year-old female subject quickly. She was alive and well.

## BEEN THERE, DONE THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT LEGAL

A neighbor of a Kimble County rancher climbed the high fence to the Llano River. When confronted by

the landowner, the neighbor said it wasn't a big deal, and he had lived there all his life and had climbed the fence many times to access the water. The man continued to insist he had been doing it forever and had a right to be there. The landowner contacted Kimble County Game Warden Lee Morrison, who contacted the neighbor. The man again insisted on his right to access the property. He also admitted to being told on a prior occasion that he was not allowed on the property but continued to cross anyway. The landowner signed a non-consent affidavit, and charges were filed on the neighbor.

## OFF-DUTY GAME WARDEN TURNS IN BUSTED BAIT DEALER

Dallas County Game Warden Sergio Bazaldua recently filed on a Cedar Hill convenience store that sold minnows near Joe Pool Lake. The store owner had failed to renew his bait dealer license for several years. Smith County Game Warden Norman Terry provided the information after purchasing minnows at the store during his recent visit to Joe Pool Lake.

## BOYS REPORT DEAD BODY IN GUADALUPE RIVER

Two boys from a local camp had been canoeing and reported seeing the head, hair, feet and hands of a body on the river. Responding with kayaks and canoes, Kendall County Game Warden Mark Nobles and Capt. Alan Teague and Kerr County sheriff's deputies began searching the river in the general area the boys had reported. Eventually, in about 7 feet of water, they found what could appear to be a body with hair and limbs, especially to boys with an overactive imagination. The submerged life jacket with moss and limbs surrounding the area were removed, and much to the relief of all searching, a body was not recovered.

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- 100/200 kHz transducer
- 1,000 watts 700 power
- Depth to 800 ft
- #1012501



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- 12-inch display
- 200V x 2 1/2 in. transducer
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- Depth to 800 ft
- #1013001



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- 2000+ points of interest including detailed topographic
- Thermal memory capacity: 1MB
- PC software included
- #101001000



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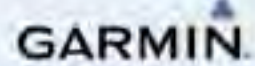
**49<sup>99</sup>**

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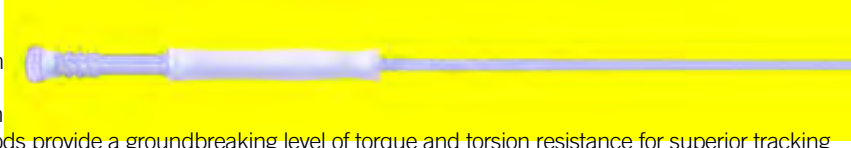


## PRODUCTS

### XI3 FLY ROD

**Sage's** newest series of saltwater fly rods use SaltH2O Technology, which combines a layer interface and resin for maximum strength, even in hot temperatures. The lightweight rods provide a groundbreaking level of torque and torsion resistance for superior tracking and less wasted energy at all distances. The Xi four-piece models are available in various lengths and weights. The 12 models range in cost from about \$695 to \$775.

(800) 533-3004  
www.sageflyfish.com



The long-awaited ICAST-winning lure by **Mystic Tackleworks** is available. The BioPulse system uses an internal, mechanical scent-dispersal system that releases scent at optimal times for up to 45 minutes. It also has a sophisticated sound system that produces realistic sounds and vibrations. The lures, each with its own tiny electronic circuit, also feature a "self-aware" ambient light-sensing system that activates an array of LEDs. This high-tech lure is being sold in kits that feature a 5.5-inch lure with split rings and size 2 Eagle Claw hooks, one canister of Sci-X Freshwater Neurological Feeding Stimulant and one bottle of BioFlush Anti-Microbial Cleaning Solution. Three freshwater kits (Gold Shiner, Rainbow and Silver Shad) and three saltwater kits (Gold Shiner, Sea Trout and Silver Shad) are available. Each kit sells for about \$34.

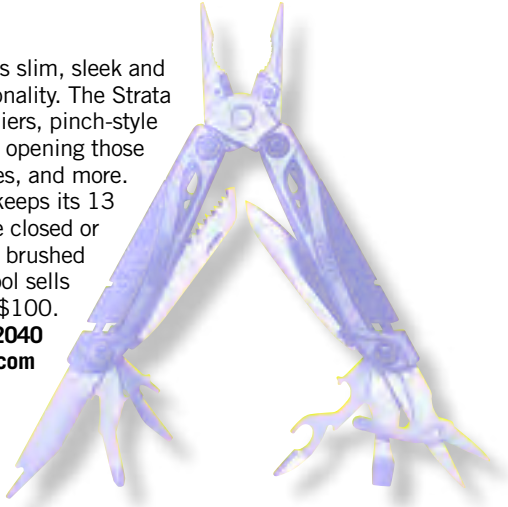
info@bio-pulse.com  
www.mystictackleworks.com

### STRATA MULTI-TOOL

**Gerber's** newest tool is slim, sleek and packed with functionality. The Strata delivers spring-loaded pliers, pinch-style carbide cutters, a tool for opening those hard plastic packages, and more.

A locking system keeps its 13 components in the closed or open position. The brushed stainless steel multi-tool sells for about \$100.

(800) 705-2040  
www.gerbertools.com



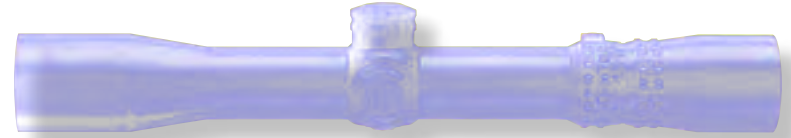
### AMPLI-FIRE

#### Cass Creek Calls'

newest electronic call allows hunters to pump up the volume. The one-piece handheld unit comes with recorded animal sounds that are grouped to attract different prey.

The call comes in a Predator, Goose and Moose/Deer combo model. Each sells for about \$45.

(800) 891-3660  
www.casscreek.com



### NXS SCOPE

**Nightforce Optics'** compact 2.5-10x32 riflescope is a lightweight, streamlined instrument that doesn't overwhelm a rifle. The 24mm objective lenses provide superior clarity, resolution and image quality, even in low-light situations. The 12-inch-long scope, which weighs in at 19 ounces, is available with the company's Velocity ballistic laser-etched reticles. It sells for about \$1,300.

(208) 476.9814  
www.nightforceoptics.com

### LOCK-N-LOAD SONIC CLEANER

**Hornady Manufacturing** offers an effective way of removing carbon residue from a cartridge case. The cleaner uses ultrasonic action, paired with its One Shot Sonic Clean solution, to create microjets that blast carbon buildup off cases, small gun parts and equipment. It will hold a couple hundred .223 Rem cases or 100 .308 Win cases. It sells for about \$130; the solution costs \$25.

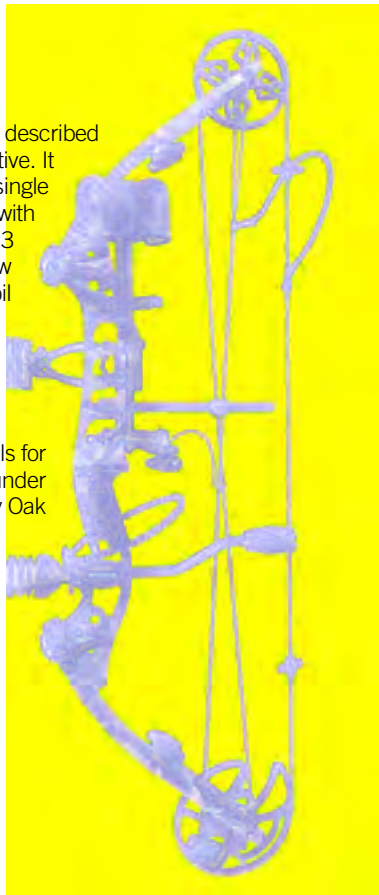
(800-338-3220)  
www.hornady.com



### PREDATOR

**Ben Pearson's** newest bow is described as affordable and innovative. It comes with a smooth Z-7 single cam and can be outfitted with a Copper John Battle Axe 3 Pin sight, a drop-away arrow rest, a peep sight, an S-coil stabilizer, wrist sling and a Bohning Lynx four-arrow quiver. Reaching speeds of about 300 fps, the bow has a draw weight of 50, 60 and 70 pounds. The package sells for about \$570; bow-only is just under \$500. It is available in Mossy Oak Obsession.

(800) 441-6734  
www.benpearson.com



### JENNY LAKE ELK IVORY RING

This men's ring, crafted by Wyoming jeweler **Greg Koschtial**, is fashioned from 14-karat sterling silver and elk ivory. Elk tracks grace the perimeter of the ring. This Jewelry by Koschtial design sells for \$950. However, Koschtial will also customize rings for hunters who want to use elk ivory from one of their trophies.

(88) 711-2700  
v.yellowstonetracks.com



### CHARGE 'N GLOW

**Rapala's** handy little glow lure charger is a sunglass case-sized device with eight LED bulbs powered by three AAA batteries. Night fishermen, or any angler who uses a glow lure, can place hard baits, soft baits, spoons and jigs in the spring-loaded case, hit the power button and wait for their lures to regain their glow. The Charge 'N Glow sells for about \$16.

www.rapala.com



### 870 EXPRESS SUPER MAGNUM SHOTGUN

This **Remington** pump shotgun is designed for turkey and waterfowl. It is a dual-purpose bird gun that cycles 2 3/4-, 3-, and 3 1/2-inch 12-gauge rounds interchangeably. The firearm features the versatile Mossy Oak Bottomland camo. It has a 26-inch barrel with a replaceable fiber-optics sight and extended waterfowl and turkey chokes. It also is equipped with a SuperCell recoil pad. The shotgun sells for about \$600.

(800) 243-9700  
www.remington.com



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## CONSERVATION

# State raises volume on salvinia outcry

### Public awareness key to fighting plant, TPW says

Texas Parks and Wildlife increased its public awareness campaign against the invasive aquatic plant giant salvinia this month by asking people for their help.

The campaign seeks to teach the public how to identify, report and stop giant salvinia, which is usually spread unknowingly by people moving their boats from lake to lake.

"We need everyone to keep their eyes open," said Howard Elder, an aquatic vegetation control expert in TPW's Inland Fisheries Division. "Learn to identify giant salvinia and other invasive species and report infestations to Texas Parks and

Wildlife. Clean your boat, trailer and gear thoroughly when you leave the water."

He added, "It only takes one little tiny section of a plant to start a new infestation."

Because it grows so fast, mechanical methods to remove the plant are impractical and the use of herbicides amounts to a costly, after-the-fact control measure.

"No one has enough money to fix the problem once this plant gets established," Elder said.

The key to stop its spread is an informed public that cares about healthy Texas lakes.

Gov. Rick Perry also entered the fray against the floating, rootless fern.

"Texans need to be aware of the threat from giant salvinia and active in its management," Perry said. "If we don't get a handle on it and the other invasive species that are working their

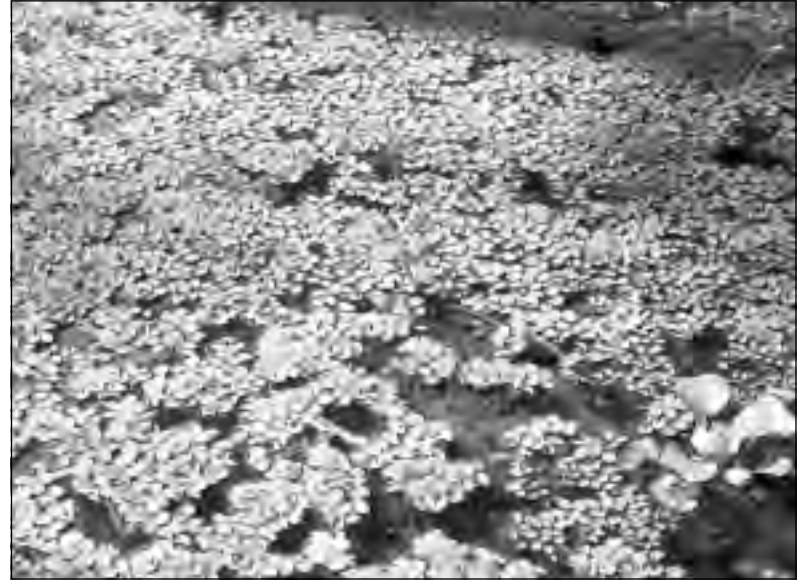
way into our ecosystem, the Texas we know and love will be changed forever and not for the better."

Giant salvinia can double its coverage area in less than a week. The invasive plant, first discovered in a small pond near Houston in 1998, has been reported in 17 Texas lakes, including some of the state's most popular recreational water bodies: Toledo Bend, Sam Rayburn, Caddo Lake, Sheldon Lake, Lake Texana and Lake Conroe.

Left unchecked, giant salvinia can choke off boating and fishing access to a lake, clog water intakes, and displace native plants needed by fish.

"Not only is giant salvinia endangering the ecology of our Texas lakes, it's threatening the economies of lakeside communities that depend on fishing, boating and tourism," said Carter Smith, TPW executive director.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report



**CREeping MENACE:** Texas Parks and Wildlife recently ratcheted up its public awareness campaign against giant salvinia, an invasive aquatic plant. Photo by TPW.

## Outdoor News in Brief

### DU to repair Ike damage on public land in Texas

Ducks Unlimited recently received funding for 14 projects aimed at repairing damage from 2008's Hurricane Ike.

The projects will restore areas on public land that are habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species and improve flood and storm surge protection.

Projects are located on McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge and on state wildlife management areas, including Justin Hurst, Lower Neches and J.D. Murphree. The projects will restore and enhance thousands of acres along

the Texas coast, all of which have areas open to public waterfowl hunting.

DU will design and install water control structures, natural beach protection features, terraces and shoreline protection elements to restore hydrology to existing marshes and prevent further losses from erosion and saltwater intrusion.

— Ducks Unlimited report

### Mason warden named Officer of the Year

Mason County Game Warden Cody Hatfield was recently named the Texas Wildlife Officer of the Year by the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Carter Smith presented the award to Hatfield at the April 1 meeting of the TPW Commission.

"Cody has enjoyed tremendous success in fish and wildlife investigations and prosecutions," Smith said. "Additionally, he is seen as a pillar of each of the communities he has served."

One of Hatfield's investigations early last spring led to multiple charges filed against two persons for hunting turkeys during the closed season. The hunters, discovered on the San Saba River in nearby Menard County, had illegally taken three Rio Grande turkeys.

Not all of Hatfield's conservation efforts involve law enforcement. Last year, he played a role in introducing 49 area youngsters to hunting and fishing. He regularly presents wildlife, hunting, fishing and safety programs to schools, churches and civic groups in Mason and sur-

rounding communities.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

### Game wardens' DSC life insurance to continue

The Dallas Safari Club will continue its program of providing a \$10,000 life insurance policy for each of the about 570 game wardens in Texas, the club said recently in a press release. DSC has provided the benefits for five years.

"We are especially grateful for the club's continued pledge of financial support for the families of our colleagues who make the ultimate sacrifice while carrying out the department's mission," said Carter Smith, executive director of Texas Parks and Wildlife.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's**  
**Operation Game Thief**  
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**CLAY**  
**Stoppers**  
 Shootout

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## NATIONAL

### N.M. relocates 277 pronghorn antelope

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish captured 277 pronghorn antelope last month on private land in northeastern New Mexico and relocated them to property throughout the state and in Mexico.

The trapping operation allowed the department to augment existing herds while removing animals that had been damaging alfalfa fields on the Smith Ranch between Springer and Clayton. The pronghorns sent to Mexico were part of an exchange in which New Mexico will receive desert bighorn sheep rams to expand the gene pool in the captive herd at Red Rock Wildlife Area.

— *New Mexico Department of Game and Fish*



#### ON THE MOVE:

New Mexico wildlife workers transport a pronghorn antelope during a relocation project. Photo by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

and 18 misdemeanors for allegedly poaching seven deer, two antelope, one black bear and one wild turkey, according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Craig Henry Metcalf Jr., 24, faces fines up to \$50,000 and jail time up to five years. He could also lose his hunting, fishing and trapping privileges from three years to a lifetime ban.

On Oct. 27-28, Metcalf was observed shooting animals illegally, wasting game and hunting without a license around the Lewistown area.

— *Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks report*

### Fishing banned at Sea of Galilee

Officials in Israel recently put a two-year moratorium on fish in the Sea of Galilee, a large inland lake that was the site of biblical events, according to UPI.

The officials said the lake has been overfished by commercial anglers, and the fishing ban will begin at the end of the month.

"We need to stop fishing to give the small fish a chance to grow, causing fish stocks to increase and the lake to recover," fisheries director Chaim Anjioni told the news service. "We are just before a catastrophe, and that is why we have decided to stop fishing."

— *Staff report*

### Man charged with 20 poaching counts

A Lewistown, Mont., man was recently charged with two felonies

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in deciding whether to open seasons in subsequent years.

Last September, Commissioners with the AGFC voted 4-3 to close the 2009 fall season after voicing concerns about successive years of declining turkey populations across the state, including low poult-to-hen ratios, which is indicative of poor reproduction.

— *Arkansas Game and Fish Commission report*

### Oregon kokanee might be tops in U.S.

A kokanee salmon weighing 8.23 pounds caught March 24 at Wallowa Lake broke the Oregon state record and maybe the national record, too.

"From what we currently know, this kokanee is the largest ever caught in the United States," said Bill Knox, assistant district fish biologist in Enterprise. "Only the current world record kokanee from Lake Okanogan in British Columbia is bigger."

That fish weighed 9 pounds, 6 ounces. The record kokanee was caught by Wan Teece of Enterprise while she was out fishing with her

husband, Jack. They were trolling near the middle of the lake with a blade set-up dragging a lure with 2 ounces of lead to keep it down deep.

— *Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*

### Anglers providing tarpon DNA in Fla.

Biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and Mote Marine Laboratory are gathering valuable tarpon information with the help of Florida anglers. By analyzing DNA samples collected by anglers, biologists gain insight into tarpon movement and distribution as well as their ability to withstand fishing pressures.

Biologists use samples submitted to the Tarpon Genetic Recapture Program to identify the tarpon's genetic "fingerprint." The fingerprints provide a unique and natural tag for each individual fish, and they help track the fish's movements.

— *Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission report*

### Hunting harvest up for top 3 in Virginia

Wildlife biologists with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries have compiled preliminary figures for deer, turkey and bear harvests for the 2009-10 fall and winter hunting seasons. The white-tailed deer and wild turkey harvests were largely consistent with last year's harvest. As anticipated, the black bear harvest was up, but only slightly.

During the 2009-10 bear season, 2,304 black bears were harvested using archery, muzzleloader and firearms, 4.5 percent more than last year's harvest of 2,204 bears.

More than 256,000 white-tailed deer were harvested, an increase of less than 1 percent over last year.

Fall turkey hunters harvested 3,538 birds in the 2009-10 season. This harvest was 1 percent above last year's reported kill of 3,505.

— *Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries report*

### S.C. has new state brookie record

A new record for brook trout was recently set on Lake Jocassee, just weeks after a 9-year-old angler tied the 30-year-old record on the South Saluda River in South Carolina.

Bryan Lee of Mauldin caught a 2-pound, 12-ounce brook trout while practicing Feb. 12 for the Lake Jocassee Trout Tournament.

"Lake Jocassee is like no other fishery I have been on, but is one of the best, most beautiful, most humbling, and most rewarding," Lee said.

— *South Carolina Department of Natural Resources report*

### Pneumonia still killing Nev. bighorns

Nevada wildlife biologists continue to find bighorn sheep that have died from complications brought on by pneumonia in the East Humboldt Range and in the Ruby Mountains.

"We have found 74 dead bighorn sheep in the East Humboldts and 28 in the Ruby Mountains for a total of 102 sheep over the last four months," said Caleb McAdoo, NDOW big game biologist. "Unfortunately, this disease event isn't showing any signs of abating."

Wildlife managers are concerned that 80 percent of each herd might die before winter conditions subside.

— *Nevada Department of Wildlife report*




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# HEROES



**BUD BERRY** of San Antonio caught this 9.5-pound largemouth bass at Choke Canyon Reservoir. The fish was 24.5 inches long.



**KAITLYN KNIGHT**, 15, of Olla, La., harvested this gobbler during the youth weekend near Archer City. The 2-year-old bird had an 8-inch beard and 3/4-inch spurs.



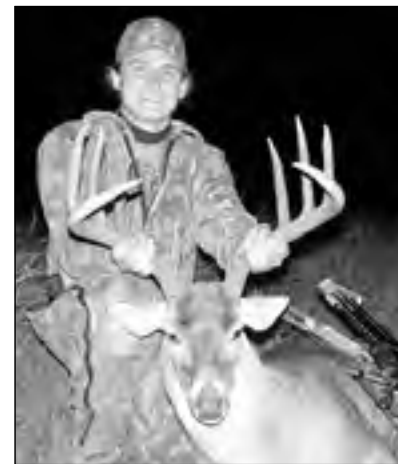
**WARREN MARKS, DONOVAN WILLIAMSON, TAYLOR MARKS, CHRIS MARKS, DONOVAN WILLIAMSON JR. and ANDREW MARKS** limited on pheasant all three days and harvested a few geese during a hunt in Downs, Kan.



**CASE DICKEY**, 9, of Lubbock harvested his first deer this season in Callahan County.



**PATRICK INOCENCIO**, 10, of Grand Prairie shot this aoudad sheep near Leakey.



**DREW FREEMAN** of Alleyton harvested this 10-point buck in Coryell County. The deer scored 255 2/8.

**Share an adventure**  
 Want to share hunting and fishing photos with other **Lone Star Outdoor News** readers? Send them to us with contact and caption information.  
[editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com](mailto:editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com)  
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# This Month's Youth Snapshot Winner

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 Lubbock, Texas 79414  
 (806) 791-1231



**TY PUGH**, 13, of Abernathy shot this buck with his bow east of Roaring Springs. This was his first buck taken with a bow. He took a doe in October with his bow and hunted hard for the buck. The first day of Christmas vacation he stepped out at 20 yards, and Ty made a great shot.

A contest sponsored by



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10x42 Trailblazer ATB



## DATEBOOK

**April 9-10**  
**Federation of Fly Fishers**  
 Gulf Coast Council Expo  
 New Braunfels Civic Center  
 Guest speaker Chico Fernandez  
[www.gulfcoastfff.org](http://www.gulfcoastfff.org)

**April 9**  
**Purina Wildlife Series**  
 Wildlife management  
 show and seminars  
 Monte Lindo Ranch,  
 McCook  
 (956) 481-3346  
 (956) 383-4949



**April 10**  
**Texas Parks and Wildlife**  
 Outdoor Fools Day  
 Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center,  
 Athens  
 (903) 676-2277  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc)

**Coastal Bend Chapter**  
**National Wild Turkey**  
**Federation**  
 Fundraiser  
 Victoria Community  
 Center Annex  
 (903) 456-0323  
[themoose23@hotmail.com](mailto:themoose23@hotmail.com)



**Northwest Prairie Chapter**  
**Ducks Unlimited**  
 Bowling for the Ducks  
 Ten Pins Bowling, Katy  
 (713) 594-5359  
[mkittle000@aol.com](mailto:mkittle000@aol.com)

**April 15**  
**San Antonio Chapter**  
**Coastal Conservation Association**  
 Fundraiser  
 Freeman Coliseum  
 (210) 837-5500

**Greater Sugarland Chapter**  
**Coastal Conservation Association**  
 Fundraiser  
 Missouri City Civic Center  
 (281) 431-2629

**Dallas Safari Club**  
 Monthly meeting,  
 with TV producer  
 Steve Scott  
 (972) 980-9800  
[www.biggame.org](http://www.biggame.org)



**April 16**  
**Ducks Unlimited**  
 Texas State Banquet  
 Hill Country Event  
 Center, San Marcos  
 (832) 654-9246  
[croberts@ducks.org](mailto:croberts@ducks.org)



**Texoma Ducks Unlimited**  
 Texas Hold'em Tournament  
 Kelly Square, Sherman  
 (903) 814-2448  
[juston.dobbs@wellsfargoadvisors.com](mailto:juston.dobbs@wellsfargoadvisors.com)

**Tri-County Chapter**  
**Coastal Conservation**  
**Association**  
 Fundraiser  
 Atascosa Show Barn,  
 Pleasonton  
 (713) 626-4222



**April 17-18**  
**Bowhunter education**  
 Pottsboro  
 Pre-registration required  
 (214) 358-0174

**April 17-19**  
**Women in the Wild**  
 Rockport  
 (361) 790-2611  
[www.townrockport.org](http://www.townrockport.org)

**April 17**  
**Redfish Bay Chapter**  
**Coastal Conservation Association**  
 Fundraiser  
 Port Aransas Civic Center  
 (210) 856-5276

**Pittsburg-Camp County Chapter**  
**Ducks Unlimited**  
 Fundraiser  
 Princedale Country Club, Pittsburg  
 (903) 855-7504  
[ythomas@ducks.org](mailto:ythomas@ducks.org)

**April 21**  
**Wimberley Chapter Ducks Unlimited**  
 Texas Hold'em Tournament  
 904 Flite Acres Road, Wimberley  
 (512) 656-0535  
[croberts@ducks.org](mailto:croberts@ducks.org)

**April 22-23**  
**Operation Game Thief**  
 Clay Stoppers Shootout  
 Texas Disposal  
 Systems Wildlife  
 Ranch, Austin  
 (512) 332-9880  
[gnevents@austin.rr.com](mailto:gnevents@austin.rr.com)



**April 22**  
**Fort Bend Chapter**  
**Coastal Conservation Association**  
 Fundraiser  
 Fort Bend County Fairgrounds,  
 Building C, Rosenberg  
 (281) 342-6828

**Rio Grande Valley Chapter**  
**Coastal Conservation Association**  
 Fundraiser  
 Pharr Convention Center  
 (956) 605-2221

**April 23-24**  
**Ninth Annual Stephen McDaniel**  
**Memorial Shoot**  
 Johnson Ranch, Fort Worth  
[www.mcdanielshoot.com](http://www.mcdanielshoot.com)

**Aggield Chapter Ducks Unlimited**  
 Duck Jam  
 Fundraiser concert with Willie Nelson  
[www.duckjam.org](http://www.duckjam.org)

**April 24-25**  
**Bowhunter education**  
 Arlington  
 Pre-registration required  
 (214) 358-0174

**April 24**  
**Dallas Safari Club**  
 Big Bore Shoot  
 (972) 980-9800  
[bkimmel@biggame.org](mailto:bkimmel@biggame.org)

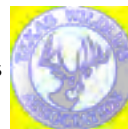
**Del Rio National Wild Turkey Federation**  
 Fundraiser  
 Del Rio Civic Center  
 (830) 765-9092  
[stacy.reichert@yahoo.com](mailto:stacy.reichert@yahoo.com)

**April 29**  
**Dallas Chapter**  
**Coastal Conservation Association**  
 Fundraiser  
 Frontiers of Flight Museum  
 (800) 657-6100

**Fort Worth Chapter**  
**Coastal Conservation Association**  
 Fundraiser  
 Joe T. Garcia's Mexican Restaurant  
 (817) 291-1302

**April 30-May 2**  
**Port Lavaca Chamber of Commerce**  
**and Ducks Unlimited**  
 Big Boy Toy Show  
 Dinner, raffle and outdoor show  
 Bauer Community Center, Port Lavaca  
[tina@portlavacatx.org](mailto:tina@portlavacatx.org)  
 (361) 552-2959

**May 1**  
**Texas Wildlife Association**  
 Dallas Fun Shoot  
 Elm Fork Shooting Sports  
 (210) 826-2904  
[www.texas-wildlife.org](http://www.texas-wildlife.org)



**May 7**  
**Houston Safari Club**  
 Sporting Clays Tournament  
 (713) 623-8844  
[www.houstonsafariclub.org](http://www.houstonsafariclub.org)

**Cooke County National**  
**Wild Turkey Federation**  
 Fundraiser  
 VFW Hall, Gainesville  
 (940) 902-3144  
[redrivertaxidermy@yahoo.com](mailto:redrivertaxidermy@yahoo.com)

**May 13**  
**Dallas Woods and Waters Club**  
 Monthly meeting  
 Joe Reikers speaks about hunting  
 exotic game  
 Sheraton North Dallas Hotel  
 (214) 570-8700

**May 14-16**  
**Great Outdoors Expo**  
 Horseshoe Center, Midland  
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April 17th. from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Cuz Strickland with Mossy Oak will be at Clear Fork Country for a book signing and photo session. He will also be conducting a seminar on turkey hunting at the American Legion Bldg on the square in Graham from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

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## Outdoor News in Brief

### Texan tops Nikon sales list for third year in a row

David Deveny, a sales representative with Boerne-based Owens Outdoor Sales, recently won his third consecutive Salesman of the Year award from Nikon Sport Optics.

The winners are chosen by taking into consideration sales number increases, factoring in unique aspects of a rep's given territory and the efforts they put forth. Salesman of the Year is based on the best percentage of dollar increase among all the reps individually.

— Nikon report

### Couple wins Bad Boy Buggies from Purina

A McAllen couple recently won a pair of Bad Boy Buggies in a contest sponsored by Purina.

Ramon and Chris Puente received the keys to their his and hers camouflage and pink Bad Boy Buggies at Martin Farm & Ranch in McAllen

— Purina report


— the grand prize winner of the 2009 Purina Wildlife Series Sweepstakes.


"We are excited to share the news of our 2009 Purina Wildlife Series grand prize winner and thank Bad Boy Buggies for their sponsorship," says Scott Hohensee, wildlife specialist with Purina. "We appreciate the sponsors and speakers that supported our 2009 Purina Wildlife Series bringing wildlife management education to rural communities throughout Texas."

The Purina Wildlife Series is a community event providing educational seminars for wildlife enthusiasts and novices in rural parts of the country. The 2009 Purina Wildlife Series attracted some of the top wildlife-related brands in the country.


The events were free and included a meal and wildlife management orientated presentations by top leading wildlife industry experts. Wildlife customers were able to view these products at the 2009 Purina Wildlife Series and shop for these brands in store at their Purina dealer year round.

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**Boats**

Continued from Page 6

trates the unpredictability of boating.

Although about 10,000 Texans annually take boater education, the course is not mandatory, except for boaters between the ages of 13-17. That number is a drop in the ocean given there are 579,168 registered boats in Texas (as of March 1) and an untold number of boat operators.

"If a boat driver is over 18 and has been operating on the water for several years, how are you going to get him to take the course when he doesn't have to?" asked Tami Moore, boater education technician for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Since a boater never knows if an approaching driver is knowledgeable on boating safety, Moore recommends boaters "be alert and prepared to take evasive action."

In the scenario that led to the Waco accident, boaters approaching from opposite directions should turn right to avoid each other, said Selverio Pacleb, TPW's regional boater education specialist in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

"Both boats should turn to the right, passing left side to left side," Pacleb said. "If you're not sure what to do, slow down at least and give the other person time to see what's going on."

You should alert approaching boaters of a pending turn by using the boat's horn.

One blast on the boat's horn signals you're steering to your right, putting the other boat on your port side (left), Pacleb said. Two blasts on the horn signals you're steering to your left and putting the other boat on your starboard side (right).

The uncertainty on boating etiquette was evident in a confused discussion concerning the Waco accident on Texas Fishing Forum.

That doesn't surprise Capt. Steve Barnes, who

guides on Lake Texoma.

"I'm just surprised this sort of thing doesn't happen more often," said Barnes, who joined the forum discussion to correct misinformed participants. "There needs to be a boating license just like the license you get to drive a car. Many people on lakes and rivers don't have a clue as to the rules of the road."

Pacleb said he tries to equate boating to driving a car in his teaching.

"If you're on a narrow, country road, which direction do you turn?" he asked. "Of course, you turn to the right — unless there's not enough room to move to the right. But you don't cross into the path of the oncoming car."

Ranft likens boating to defensive driving in a car.

"You have to think about the other guy and his level of experience," he said.

The problem with equating driving on water with driving on land, however, is that you can reasonably assume that drivers on land have taken driver's education.

"Since recreational boating operators are not required to be licensed, you just have to hope they've had boater education or had a friend talk to them, something," Pacleb said.

Barnes said he believes the burgeoning traffic on Texas lakes will eventually

force legislators to make boater education mandatory like hunter education.

"In the past, there weren't that many people on the lakes," Barnes said. "Now, they're getting more and more crowded. You've got people buying boats who have no business buying one. They don't know how to load or unload them, so what makes them think they know how to drive them?"

"The problem is the wheels of government turn pretty slow, and they're going to have to put a system in place, which is expensive, with money we don't have anymore."

**Boater ed**

- Anyone under the age of 18 must complete a TPW-approved course and be certified with TPW to operate any vessel over 10 horsepower, wind-blown vessel over 14 feet and all personal watercraft.
- Fees start at \$13 for a basic course.
- A person may take a home-study course by completing an online certification course or by purchasing a home study video and workbook from Boat Texas, 2906 Ladybird Lane, Dallas, TX 75220, phone 1-800-460-9698.
- The Texas Boater Education Program stresses boating safety and responsibility, including:
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## Snook

Continued from Page 9

ingful information about what are, after all, their fisheries.”

The Snook Foundation designed the online logbook program with input from Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.

A paper published in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management in 2009 compared the results of a voluntary angler survey with concurrent creel surveys conducted by TPW at Fayette County Reservoir between 2004 and 2006 and found that the data did not differ significantly from information collected by biologists. The authors also reported that the monetary costs of the 20-month volunteer survey were only 16 percent of the 12-month staffed survey.

That volunteer program, like a longstanding and ongoing program at Lake Fork, specifically looks at fishing effort and length distribution of catches in the lakes' trophy largemouth bass fisheries, data that are hard to come by in random creel surveys.

“We're in much the same situation here in Texas when it comes to snook,” said Danno Wise, Snook

Foundation regional director for the Lower Laguna Madre. “We have an excellent snook fishery here in South Texas, but it's long been something of a secret, even from casual anglers in the area.

“Not a lot of people catch snook unless they're targeting them, and the gill nets the state uses to determine relative abundance are not, for a variety of reasons, very effective in capturing snook.”

The Angler Action Program is not a substitute for directed snook research, and the resulting data will only be as accurate as the information anglers provide, Fitzgerald and Wise said.

“This is going to give us some information about catch per unit of effort, about length distribution and — hopefully — about the habitat post-juvenile fish are utilizing,” Wise said. “If folks answer the questions about cost, we can probably make some estimates about the economic impact of the fishery, too.”

Fitzgerald acknowledged that some anglers may be hesitant to enter specific latitudes and longitudes for their fish, out of fear of returning to find their honey holes crowded.

But he reiterated that location is optional, and leaving it out of the survey will not invalidate the angler's report.

— Snook Foundation report

## Snappers

Continued from Page 1

the snapping turtle in particular, do more to help the pond than to hurt it. Snapping turtles are scavengers, which means they eat all kinds of meat, dead or alive. They'll take anything from a small dead calf to a floating fish and clean it out of the pond.

Biologists estimate that it takes a snapping turtle from seven to 10 years to fully develop its reproductive organs, which helps them avoid overpopulation. So you don't have to worry about a gang of snapping turtles taking over a body of water, no matter how small.

“You're not going to see 20 snapping turtles on a small pond in a stocking tank because there's not enough food for them,” he said. “When there aren't enough resources, the turtles aren't dumb; they go to another area where there are more resources.”

Johnson agreed. In 30 years of managing water in Texas, he said he's never had a snapping turtle problem because they don't pile into small areas.

“We know snapping turtles eat fish, but there are never enough of them in a single pond to make a difference,” Johnson said. “Don't get me wrong, if I

walked up to a pond that had 100 of them, I'd get out my .22. But I've never seen a situation like that in my experience.”

There are laws in Texas and Louisiana against public-water harvesting of the alligator snapping turtle (which acts exactly like the common but looks a little different), but there's nothing that says you can't shoot or move one off your property. Koukl said if you do decide to take action, enlist someone who knows what they are doing. There's a reason the snapping turtle's only real natural predator is the alligator.

“They're immune to shocking; they're too prehistoric,” Koukl said. “And they have nails that are 2 inches and are very sharp. I have scars to prove it. You need somebody who knows how to handle it, even to take it out of a trap because they will lunge at you.”

But Johnson said that when he sees a snapping turtle on a pond or lake he's managing, he just leaves it alone — the work is not worth the reward.

“You hear about people trapping or shooting turtles, and we just don't think it does any good,” he said. “I'm not a reptile expert, but I know a lot about fish, and I don't think snapping turtles, or any turtles, do any damage.”

## Texas bass tip

### Variety of lures work well on seawalls

Whenever you see pro angler Jay Yelas with 10 or 12 rods on his boat deck this time of year, chances are he's planning to fish seawalls. These man-made retaining walls, designed to prevent wave erosion, rank as some of his favorite bass fishing hotspots, and for good reason: largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass all use seawalls, and the fish will hit everything from topwaters to tube jigs.

“They're great ambush points for bass

because they can trap baitfish against the walls,” said Yelas, “which is probably why they'll hit so many different lures.”

Here are a few of Yelas' tips for fishing seawalls:

■ The best seawalls are those on the main lake, rather than in quiet coves.

■ If the water at the base of the wall is 3 to 4 feet deep, Yelas often uses a small swimbait. In current, he prefers a jig or a tube; and if it's early morning and calm, his choice is usually a topwater popper.

■ Make long casts parallel to the seawall, and retrieve it within a foot of the wall.

■ Seawalls on lakes with heavy urban development often offer excellent fishing because other forms of cover may be rare.

— Yamaha report

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# Should Redfish Bay stay protected?

## TPW seeking public comment on proposal

By Mark England  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Texas Parks and Wildlife will solicit public comment on a proposal to keep Redfish Bay as a state scientific area — removing a self-imposed expiration date of June 30, 2010.

“Making it permanent, in effect,” said Ed Hegen, regional director of Coastal Fisheries.

TPW Commissioners last week set two public hearings on the request: April 20 at the Aransas County Courthouse in Rockport and April 27 at the Lion’s Field Adult and Senior Community Center in San Antonio. Both meetings begin at 7 p.m. Comments can also be e-mailed to ed.hegen@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Commissioners have not set a date to vote on the proposal.

The 32,000-acre Redfish Bay State Scientific Area between Rockport and Aransas Pass was created in 2000 and reauthorized in 2005. Commissioners adopted a no-uprooting policy to keep propellers from plucking seagrass in May 2006.

TPW’s proposal to keep the status quo at Redfish Bay comes after biologists discovered that seagrass damaged by propellers was healing faster than expected. About 80 percent of prop scars were repaired by nature within a year. The fastest recovery rate was four months.

However, the unexpected recovery rates don’t mean the problem of prop scarring in seagrass was overblown, said Perry Trial, ecosystem leader for Corpus Christi Bay.

“Another way of looking at it is the seagrass is responsive to protective measures, which is a positive,” he said. “It shouldn’t change our attitude toward protecting such a valuable resource.”

Trial said biologists don’t yet have enough information to pinpoint the average recovery time for seagrass. They did learn recovery times are subject to change. After heavy rains in 2007, and a subsequent drop in the salinity, biologists found the recovery rates for seagrass had declined significantly.

Given the rebirth of seagrass at Redfish Bay, as well as how much is still unknown about what drives recovery rates, Trial expects the public to endorse TPW’s request that it remain a state scientific area.

“The reaction we’ve gotten from groups such as the CCA (Coastal Conservation Association) and various guide associations, basically any group that would listen to us, was universally positive,” Trial said. “We’ve got good data showing our efforts have been successful in reducing scarring. I can’t imagine a lot of opposition to our proposal, but that’s why we’re going to the public — to find out.”

Although boat motors are not barred in the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area, boaters are responsible for ensuring their propellers don’t damage the seagrass. Violators are subject to fines, but only 13 tickets have been written in the last three years.

“Our goal was not to write tickets but to change behavior,” Hegen said. “I think we’ve done that.”

See SEAGRASS, Page 32

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## Herding

Continued from Page 6

herding redfish is not sporting. And it makes the fishing tougher.

"The more people run those fish over, the more educated they become, the more difficult they become to catch, the more spooky they are," said Smith, who primarily fishes around Seadrift and Port O'Connor.

Smith compared herding redfish to duck hunters who drive a boat through a bay to scare up ducks and make them easier to hunt.

The problem is worse on weekends, Smith said, when more anglers are on the water.

Seeing someone burn the flats — driving at high speed to cover lots of water while looking for fish — is more common, Smith said.

He has witnessed someone circle a pond to herd redfish 10 to 15 times in the last four or five years, but it is happening more often, he said.

Anglers used to be ashamed to do it or tell people about doing it, but not anymore, Smith said.

"Now it's like people are getting more brazen and doing it with people around," he said.

Smith said he never hears about criminal enforcement of herding redfish, which from a legal standpoint is considered harassing fish with a boat.

That might be because enforcement is rare.

Game Warden Capt. Rex Mayes said he could not remember a case of herding fish being filed in his district during his career.

Proving someone did it is difficult, Mayes said. The angler must have had a culpable mental state — intent — to do it. It happens in back lakes, where game wardens do not like to disturb anglers. And distinguishing harassing from acceptable practices is debatable, Mayes said.

"It kind of depends on what you call herding," he said.

Mayes might make his first case this year. He is investigating the incident reported in the magazine.

"We are looking into it," he said.

Lt. Fred Ruiz, a game warden now based in Austin who worked in Galveston for more than six years, said the few cases he made were usually based on another angler turning someone in.

## Redfish

Continued from Page 1

tail and white head.

"I always use artificial lures when fishing on ... in the bay," he said. "I use spoon flies when I go fly-fishing."

Gardner said he was casting to deeper waters while standing in shallow waters at the edge of a drop when he hooked the 25-inch red.

"The reds have not quite moved into the skinny flats," he said. "They are in three to four feet of water right now but are starting to come in closer."

On the mid-coast, Robert Ledesma of Austin caught his first bull red ever on St. Patrick's Day.

"I went out fishing on Jamaica Beach (south of Galveston) at about 6 a.m.," Ledesma said. "I put on my chest waders and started fishing using dead shrimp. And lo and behold, I got a bull red even though I honestly thought I got a sand shark."

Ledesma is only 5-feet-2 and described himself as a little guy. But he rolled in a 42.5-inch red that weighed 27.7 pounds.

"It took me about 29 minutes to bring it in," he said. "At first it took off like a freight train, and I thought it was going to take my line away but I finally got it."

After tagging his prized catch as an oversized redfish, Ledesma took it to the closest tackle shop so someone could take his photo with it.

"I generally fish about once a month as my family has a beach house on Galveston Island," he said. "I was the only one fishing that cool morning, using a bait casting reel with a 14-pound line. I fished every morning and caught some croakers, catfish and small speckled trout."

"But my day was on St. Patrick's Day."

Although anglers are reporting some good catches of redfish, they hope to do better now that the weather is getting a little warmer and that is also making bay and Gulf waters warmer as well.

Mike Henry, president of the Corpus Christi Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association, said the redfish are just starting to move into the sand flats.

"My brother-in-law and I fished



**MAN-SIZED FISH:** Robert Ledesma thought he had hooked a freight train on Jamaica Beach, but he ended up catching a 42.5-inch redfish weighing 27.7 pounds.

during spring break when the water got into the 70s," he said. "We were fishing in shallow water and caught two reds."

More action is also being reported in the Lower Laguna Madre.

"We started seeing a little move-

ment," said Austin Camacho, a fishing guide from Laguna Vista. "The brown, not the red, tide we had in February and early March did not help at all."

"Fishing has not been bad," he said, "but it has not been good overall — up to now."

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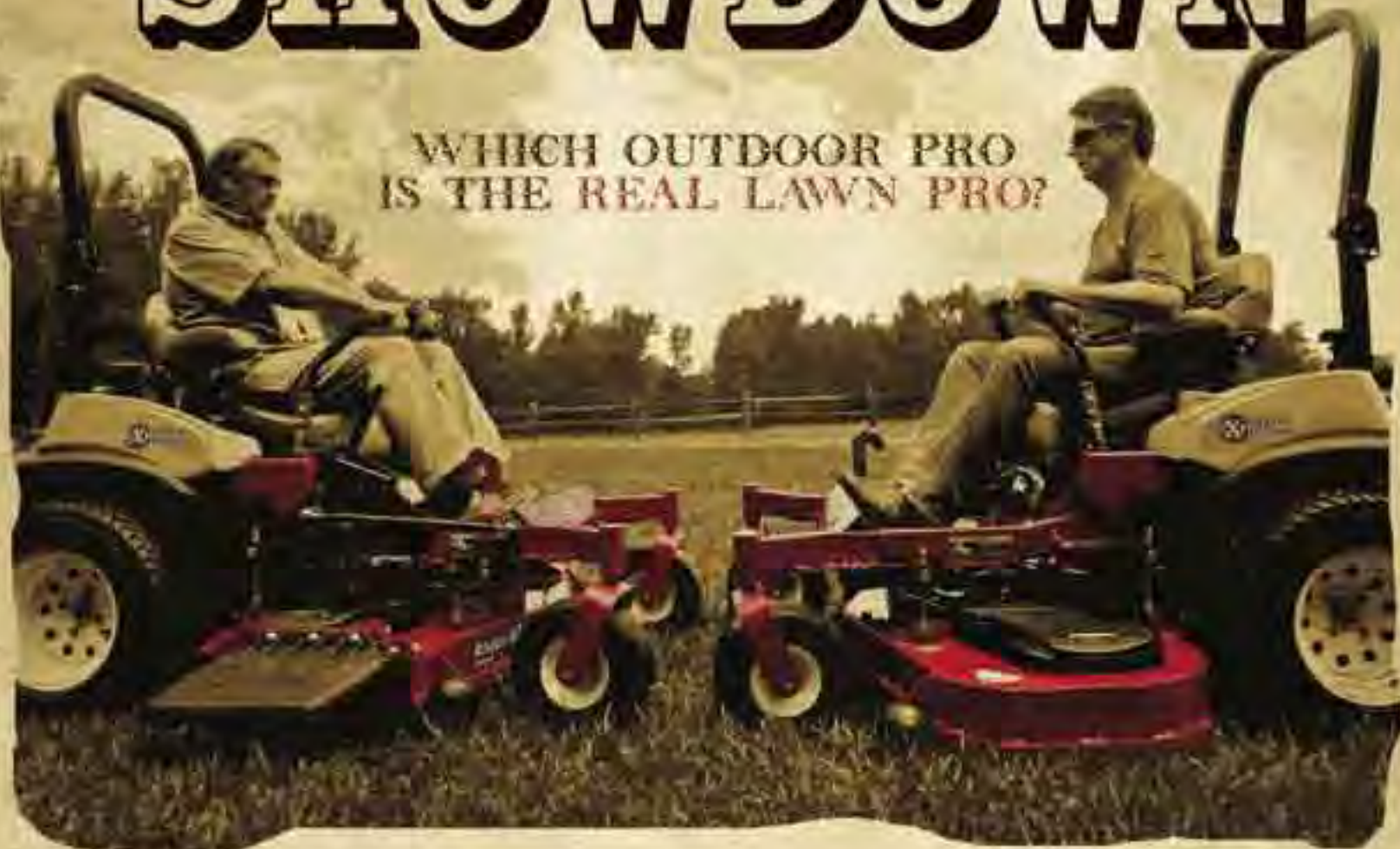
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# New artificial reef to be built near Matagorda

## Site will be about 9 miles off coast for easier angler access

By Mark England  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Coastal anglers are excited about the announcement that an artificial reef will be built 9 miles offshore near Matagorda.

"It's a great idea: its own little ecosystem. Any kind of structure is going to hold bait, so it could end up being a kingfish haven," said Capt. Brandon Tumis.

However, the man who heads Texas Parks and Wildlife's artificial reef program said anglers shouldn't expect it to be open season on fish.

"Our main goal isn't to create a fish attractant for anglers," Dale Shively said. "It's to create a habitat where the fish are self-sustaining. Fishing at artificial reefs is kind of like bass fishing. On lakes, you know where the prime fishing

spots are, but there will be times you get hung up in the brush. It's the same idea with artificial reefs. You will catch fish, but they do have the opportunity to go inside and hide."

The Matagorda site was chosen after the state looked at several areas to determine whether they were out of shipping lanes, free of pipelines and, finally, whether the ocean floor was stable enough to hold an artificial reef.

"The problem with a soft floor is that your site starts to disappear over time," Shively said. "The majority of the floor on this site, though, is pretty hard."

Shively said TPW also wanted a site as close to shore as possible.

"We wanted it where recreational fishermen could go to the site and be fishing fairly quickly without having to go 30 to 40 miles offshore," he said.

Tumis expects the reef to appeal more to recreational anglers than guides.

"It will probably open up fishing for recreational anglers in smaller boats, who won't have to venture as far to find structure," Tumis said. "But almost all offshore captains I know

are rarely seen within 9 miles of the coast. They leave it be. They think they can catch more and bigger fish farther from shore."

Artificial reefs date back to Roman times, although the Romans used them to snare enemy ships not fish. Texas first took the plunge in 1958, dropping heaps of old cars off the coast.

"Over time, they disintegrated and disappeared," Shively said. "Needless to say, we don't use car bodies anymore."

A \$1.5 million federal grant will aid construction of the Matagorda artificial reef, along with the creation or enhancement of six others. The Matagorda site is awaiting permit approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Also helping is the Coastal Conservation Association of Texas, which will provide materials to build the reef and secure a storage facility.

"Texas Parks and Wildlife has federal dollars, but if we can help cut the cost of each project, supplement what they're doing, it allows them to do more projects for the entire state," said John Blaha, director of CCA Texas' Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow program.

Blaha said CCA Texas is working with two

industrial companies to obtain materials — such as stem pipe and concrete castings — to build the faux reef.

Shively said the group's assistance "will speed up the process."

CCA Texas designated \$35,000 for the Matagorda artificial reef project, which Blaha compares to "dropping a box of spaghetti on the floor." The materials falling on the ocean floor intertwine and create lanes for fish to circulate and offers them protection. It will take about a year for the artificial reef to mature and create a food chain: from corals and sponges to red snapper and crevalle jack — on up to anglers.

Even with CCA's help, it would "take a lifetime" for TPW to fill the 160-acre site.

"Instead, we're going to try to place material strategically," Shively said. "In one area, we may have a cluster of concrete culverts. A hundred yards away, there may be beams from a bridge structure. That way fish can move from structure to structure. It leaves them fairly well protected but also makes them available to fishermen. If you just have one structure where they all congregate, it's possible to fish them out."

## Quail

Continued from Page 1

in the off-season typically use feeders built especially for quail and fill them with corn, milo or a mixture of different grains and greens, depending on their situation.

A study by Ted B. Doerr and Nova J. Silvy at Texas A&M University suggested supplemental feeding is useful in the winter months for assistance in winter survival, reproduction and harvest of birds. But it added that it's only needed "if native food quality or quantity is limiting."

Ransom said that given the variety of food quail eat, that situation is going to be rare.

"All things being equal, food for quail is not a real issue," he said. "There are always exceptions to the rule, but it's extremely rare to find a situation where food is unavailable, and if a quail has a choice, it's going to eat the natural stuff because it has more of what it needs."

Even in a drought Ransom said the quail's biggest survival issues are with cover, both from predators and the elements, and less with finding food. Ransom also said that RPQRR's research shows that quail typically weren't the animals enjoying the feeders. Raccoons and other game birds were eating more than quail.

But a study by the University in Auburn and a game bird management research station called Tall Timbers said that the actual consuming of the product may not offer the greatest benefit.

Researchers spread about six bushels of grain per mile of feed trail every two to three weeks. The idea was to provide a group of bobwhites quick access to high-energy foods at many locations within their home range.

After comparing supplemented and non-supplemented populations for nearly a decade, the groups concluded that feeding helps increase the population, but much of it had to do with the fact that the quail moved around less when supplemental feed was provided to them. Less moving meant spreading less scent, making them harder for predators to locate.

Purina manufactures two feeds for wild quail. One is a pellet high in protein, calcium and phosphorous.

"It's designed specifically to supplement the laying hen," said Larry Varner, a Purina nutritionist based in New Braunfels.

It is most often used in a feeder, where it is protected from rain, which can cause it to break down.

The other feed is a blend of the pellets with soybeans, cracked corn and sunflower seeds. It is designed for use in a broadcast spreader, and it is spread on the ground. It better resists disintegrating in the rain.

Feeding can help quail, specifically hens, during the critical spring nesting time, Varner said.

It is not a substitute for good habitat, he said, but it can help birds make it through a drought or cold winter.

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## Turkeys

Continued from Page 4

tion dynamics — at the seminar March 25-26 that was sponsored by the Texas Wildlife Association, Texas A&M AgriLIFE and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Hardin discussed the state's turkey situation before presenting a historical overview on the state's effort to repopulate the birds in areas where their numbers had declined. Trapping and releasing the wild turkeys in Texas has been one of the country's most successful wildlife restoration efforts.

In addition to Hardin's review of the state's trapping efforts, other subjects covered during the symposium included habitat necessary for nesting, brood rearing and roosting; brush management techniques; mixing livestock with turkey management; riparian requirements for healthy bird populations; turkey counting methods; and marketing turkey hunts.

"When you are managing for deer, you are managing for turkey, and you are managing for little songbirds," said Dale Prochaska, a TPW biologist who discussed "Mixing Livestock and Turkey Management." "Increasing plant diversity is the key. If you can grow plants, you can

grow animals. The primary goal is to have lots of options."

The symposium attendees were also treated to a necropsy of a hen turkey by local veterinarian Dr. Bob Ditmar, who discussed "Knowing Turkeys Inside and Out" and explained the internal workings of the popular game bird.

To complement the seminars, the second day of the symposium featured hands-on sessions where attendees were shown prescribed burning techniques; rainwater collection and containment; plant identification and predator management.

The symposium was the inaugural event at a recently completed \$1 million conference center, which is the largest facility of its kind to be maintained at a Texas wildlife management area.

The facility was funded by a private donation and has been under construction for the past 18 months. Official dedication ceremonies at which the donor will be identified will be held later this summer.

"It is just great to see this many people come together to learn more about turkeys," said Robert Warren of San Antonio, an avid turkey hunter who attended the symposium. "This is just the kind of effort we need to get more people involved."

## Turkey tidbits

■ The typical range of a Rio Grande turkey is about 2,400 to 6,600 acres.

■ Both male and female turkeys are covered with about 5,000 to 6,000 feathers.

■ A turkey hen will lay from 8 to 16 eggs at a rate of one per day, with an incubation period of 28 days. Turkey chicks will develop flight feathers 10 days after they hatch.

■ The success rate of a hen producing a hatch from a nest is about 39 percent. While nesting normally takes place during March, if weather conditions are favorable, hens can make nesting attempts as late as July.

■ Turkeys only drink one time a day and will attempt to roost and nest within one-quarter mile of a water source. If undisturbed, turkeys will return to the same roost year after year.

■ Contrary to popular opinion, researchers do not believe that fire ants pose a significant problem for nesting birds, their eggs or young poults. However, eggs and poults do fall victim to a wide variety of walking, crawling and aerial predators. In the Edwards Plateau region, the turkey survival rate is about 66 percent.

## Dawson

Continued from Page 4

Dawson will have a nine-day season, the same as Gaines. Deer numbers in both counties have increased to the point where wildlife managers are allowing hunting. Having the short season, Lionberger said, will keep those numbers at huntable levels.

"We're not going to affect expansion of the herd from merely harvesting bucks," he said. "What you could get into with a heavy buck harvest is lowering the age structure of the bucks."

But that — taking out too many mature bucks — is unlikely to happen, Lionberger said, because the season is so short. However, landowners play a leading role in that, he said.

"If they go in conservatively and practice conservative harvest, they can maintain the age structure," he said.

The level of interest in mule deer in Dawson County is hard to pinpoint. Sherrill said it is low.

"The folks in Dawson County really aren't that interested in hunting it," he said. "A lot of people didn't want to (allow it)."

Lionberger said a public hearing on whether to open the season was attended by 13 people.

"Which is pretty good for a public meeting," he said.

Wheeler County will have a 16-day, buck-only fire-arm season and a 35-day archery-only season.

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# Sun | Moon | Tides

## Texas Coast Tides

### Sabine Pass, jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Apr 9	6:44 a.m.	0.7 L	1:45 p.m.	2.1 H	7:39 p.m.	1.6 L
Apr 10	12:43 a.m.	2.1 H	7:28 a.m.	1.1 L	1:50 p.m.	2.1 H
Apr 11	1:50 a.m.	2.3 H	8:07 a.m.	1.3 L	1:57 p.m.	2.1 H
Apr 12	2:49 a.m.	2.5 H	8:43 a.m.	1.4 L	2:05 p.m.	2.1 H
Apr 13	3:42 a.m.	2.5 H	9:19 a.m.	1.8 L	2:11 p.m.	2.1 H
Apr 14	4:32 a.m.	2.9 H	9:56 a.m.	2.0 L	2:15 p.m.	2.1 H
Apr 15	5:22 a.m.	2.7 H	10:33 a.m.	2.1 L	2:11 p.m.	2.3 H
Apr 16	6:14 a.m.	2.9 H	11:09 a.m.	2.3 L	2:04 p.m.	2.5 H
Apr 17	7:11 a.m.	2.9 H	11:41 a.m.	2.3 L	2:04 p.m.	2.5 H
Apr 18	8:15 a.m.	2.9 H	12:11 p.m.	2.5 L	2:19 p.m.	2.7 H
Apr 19	12:08 a.m.	-0.2 L	09:28 a.m.	2.9 H		
Apr 20	1:07 a.m.	-0.2 L	10:39 a.m.	2.9 H		
Apr 21	2:15 a.m.	0.2 L	11:30 a.m.	2.7 H		
Apr 22	3:31 a.m.	0.4 L	12:00 p.m.	2.5 H	5:58 p.m.	2.0 L
Apr 23	4:52 a.m.	0.7 L	12:22 p.m.	2.5 H	6:13 p.m.	1.6 L

### Galveston Bay entrance, south jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Apr 9	12:08 a.m.	1.7 H	7:10 a.m.	0.6 L	2:32 p.m.	1.7 H
Apr 10	1:30 a.m.	1.7 H	7:54 a.m.	0.9 L	2:37 p.m.	1.7 H
Apr 11	2:37 a.m.	1.9 H	8:33 a.m.	1.0 L	2:44 p.m.	1.7 H
Apr 12	3:36 a.m.	2.0 H	9:09 a.m.	1.1 L	2:52 p.m.	1.7 H
Apr 13	4:29 a.m.	2.0 H	9:45 a.m.	1.4 L	2:58 p.m.	1.7 H
Apr 14	5:19 a.m.	2.1 H	10:22 a.m.	1.6 L	3:02 p.m.	1.7 H
Apr 15	6:09 a.m.	2.3 H	10:59 a.m.	1.7 L	2:58 p.m.	1.9 H
Apr 16	7:01 a.m.	2.3 H	11:35 a.m.	1.9 L	2:51 p.m.	2.0 H
Apr 17	7:58 a.m.	2.3 H	12:07 p.m.	1.9 L	2:51 p.m.	2.0 H
Apr 18	09:02 a.m.	2.3 H	12:37 p.m.	2.0 L	3:06 p.m.	2.1 H
Apr 19	12:34 a.m.	-0.1 L	10:15 a.m.	2.3 H		
Apr 20	1:33 a.m.	-0.1 L	11:26 a.m.	2.3 H		
Apr 21	2:41 a.m.	0.1 L	12:17 p.m.	2.1 H		
Apr 22	3:57 a.m.	0.3 L	12:47 p.m.	2.0 H	6:24 p.m.	1.6 L
Apr 23	5:18 a.m.	0.6 L	1:09 p.m.	2.0 H	6:39 p.m.	1.3 L

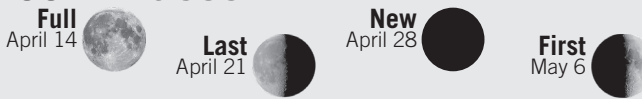
### San Luis Pass

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Apr 9	12:38 a.m.	1.0 H	8:06 a.m.	0.3 L	3:02 p.m.	1.0 H
Apr 10	2:00 a.m.	1.0 H	8:50 a.m.	0.5 L	3:07 p.m.	1.0 H
Apr 11	3:07 a.m.	1.1 H	9:29 a.m.	0.6 L	3:14 p.m.	1.0 H
Apr 12	4:06 a.m.	1.2 H	10:05 a.m.	0.7 L	3:22 p.m.	1.0 H
Apr 13	4:59 a.m.	1.2 H	10:41 a.m.	0.9 L	3:28 p.m.	1.0 H
Apr 14	5:49 a.m.	1.3 H	11:18 a.m.	0.9 L	3:32 p.m.	1.0 H
Apr 15	6:39 a.m.	1.4 H	11:55 a.m.	1.0 L	3:28 p.m.	1.1 H
Apr 16	7:31 a.m.	1.4 H	12:31 p.m.	1.1 L	3:21 p.m.	1.2 H
Apr 17	08:28 a.m.	1.4 H	1:03 p.m.	1.1 L	3:21 p.m.	1.2 H
Apr 18	12:39 a.m.	-0.2 L	09:32 a.m.	1.4 H	1:33 p.m.	1.2 L
Apr 19	1:30 a.m.	-0.1 L	10:45 a.m.	1.4 H		
Apr 20	2:29 a.m.	-0.1 L	11:56 a.m.	1.4 H		
Apr 21	3:37 a.m.	0.1 L	12:47 p.m.	1.3 H		
Apr 22	4:53 a.m.	0.2 L	1:17 p.m.	1.2 H	7:20 p.m.	0.9 L
Apr 23	6:14 a.m.	0.3 L	1:39 p.m.	1.2 H	7:35 p.m.	0.8 L

### Freeport Harbor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Apr 9	7:07 a.m.	0.4 L	1:54 p.m.	1.5 H	8:02 p.m.	0.8 L
Apr 10	12:52 a.m.	1.5 H	7:51 a.m.	0.5 L	1:59 p.m.	1.5 H
Apr 11	1:59 a.m.	1.6 H	8:30 a.m.	0.6 L	2:06 p.m.	1.5 H
Apr 12	2:58 a.m.	1.7 H	9:06 a.m.	0.7 L	2:14 p.m.	1.5 H
Apr 13	3:51 a.m.	1.7 H	9:42 a.m.	0.9 L	2:20 p.m.	1.5 H
Apr 14	4:41 a.m.	1.8 H	10:19 a.m.	1.0 L	2:24 p.m.	1.5 H
Apr 15	5:31 a.m.	2.0 H	10:56 a.m.	1.1 L	2:20 p.m.	1.6 H
Apr 16	6:23 a.m.	2.0 H	11:32 a.m.	1.2 L	2:13 p.m.	1.7 H
Apr 17	7:20 a.m.	2.0 H	12:04 p.m.	1.2 L	2:13 p.m.	1.7 H
Apr 18	08:24 a.m.	2.0 H	12:34 p.m.	1.3 L	2:28 p.m.	1.8 H
Apr 19	12:31 a.m.	-0.1 L	09:37 a.m.	2.0 H		
Apr 20	1:30 a.m.	-0.1 L	10:48 a.m.	2.0 H		
Apr 21	2:38 a.m.	0.1 L	11:39 a.m.	1.8 H		
Apr 22	3:54 a.m.	0.2 L	12:09 p.m.	1.7 H	6:21 p.m.	1.0 L
Apr 23	5:15 a.m.	0.4 L	12:31 p.m.	1.7 H	6:36 p.m.	0.8 L

## Moon Phases



### Port O'Connor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Apr 9	10:33 a.m.	0.3 L	7:36 p.m.	0.7 H		
Apr 10	12:01 a.m.	0.6 L	3:03 a.m.	0.7 H	11:37 a.m.	0.4 L
	11:12 p.m.	0.5 L			7:01 p.m.	0.6 H
Apr 11	5:20 a.m.	0.7 H	12:42 p.m.	0.4 L	6:04 p.m.	0.6 H
Apr 12	6:50 a.m.	0.8 H	2:13 p.m.	0.5 L	4:29 p.m.	0.6 H
Apr 13	08:09 a.m.	0.8 H			11:36 p.m.	0.3 L
Apr 14	12:02 a.m.	0.2 L	9:27 a.m.	0.9 H		
Apr 15	12:33 a.m.	0.1 L	10:58 a.m.	1.0 H		
Apr 16	1:09 a.m.	0.0 L	12:56 p.m.	1.0 H		
Apr 17	1:50 a.m.	0.0 L	2:43 p.m.	1.1 H		
Apr 18	2:38 a.m.	-0.1 L	3:59 p.m.	1.2 H		
Apr 19	3:31 a.m.	-0.1 L	5:00 p.m.	1.2 H		
Apr 20	4:29 a.m.	0.0 L	5:55 p.m.	1.2 H		
Apr 21	5:32 a.m.	0.0 L	6:44 p.m.	1.1 H		
Apr 22	6:40 a.m.	0.1 L	7:20 p.m.	0.9 H		

### Rockport

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Apr 9	1:03 a.m.	0.36 H	9:58 a.m.	0.19 L		
Apr 10	2:22 a.m.	0.34 H	10:19 a.m.	0.23 L	3:59 p.m.	0.27 H
Apr 11	4:10 a.m.	0.32 H	10:28 a.m.	0.27 L	3:21 p.m.	0.30 H
Apr 12	6:49 a.m.	0.32 H	10:12 a.m.	0.31 L	3:00 p.m.	0.33 H
Apr 13	2:41 p.m.	0.37 H			11:37 p.m.	0.19 L
Apr 14	12:29 a.m.	0.17 L	2:27 p.m.	0.40 H		
Apr 15	1:16 a.m.	0.14 L	2:32 p.m.	0.43 H		
Apr 16	2:03 a.m.	0.13 L	3:08 p.m.	0.45 H		
Apr 17	2:55 a.m.	0.12 L	4:11 p.m.	0.47 H		
Apr 18	3:54 a.m.	0.12 L	5:30 p.m.	0.48 H		
Apr 19	4:57 a.m.	0.12 L	6:51 p.m.	0.49 H		
Apr 20	6:00 a.m.	0.13 L	8:08 p.m.	0.49 H		
Apr 21	6:59 a.m.	0.15 L	9:25 p.m.	0.48 H		
Apr 22	7:50 a.m.	0.19 L	10:51 p.m.	0.45 H		
Apr 23	8:29 a.m.	0.24 L				

### Port Aransas, H. Caldwell Pier

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Apr 9	12:01 a.m.	1.4 H	6:49 a.m.	0.3 L	2:25 p.m.	1.4 H
Apr 10	1:23 a.m.	1.4 H	7:33 a.m.	0.5 L	2:30 p.m.	1.4 H
Apr 11	2:30 a.m.	1.5 H	8:12 a.m.	0.5 L	2:37 p.m.	1.4 H
Apr 12	3:29 a.m.	1.6 H	8:48 a.m.	0.6 L	2:45 p.m.	1.4 H
Apr 13	4:22 a.m.	1.6 H	9:24 a.m.	0.8 L	2:51 p.m.	1.4 H
Apr 14	5:12 a.m.	1.7 H	10:01 a.m.	0.8 L	2:55 p.m.	1.4 H
Apr 15	6:02 a.m.	1.8 H	10:38 a.m.	0.9 L	2:51 p.m.	1.5 H
Apr 16	6:54 a.m.	1.8 H	11:14 a.m.	1.0 L	2:44 p.m.	1.6 H
Apr 17	7:51 a.m.	1.8 H	11:46 a.m.	1.0 L	2:44 p.m.	1.6 H
Apr 18	08:55 a.m.	1.8 H	12:16 p.m.	1.1 L	2:59 p.m.	1.7 H
Apr 19	12:13 a.m.	-0.1 L	10:08 a.m.	1.8 H		
Apr 20	1:12 a.m.	-0.1 L	11:19 a.m.	1.8 H		
Apr 21	2:20 a.m.	0.1 L	12:10 p.m.	1.7 H		
Apr 22	3:36 a.m.	0.2 L	12:40 p.m.	1.6 H	6:03 p.m.	0.8 L
Apr 23	4:57 a.m.	0.3 L	1:02 p.m.	1.6 H	6:18 p.m.	0.7 L

### South Padre Island

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Apr 9	6:38 a.m.	0.6 L	2:13 p.m.	1.3 H	7:42 p.m.	1.1 L
Apr 10	12:38 a.m.	1.3 H	7:33 a.m.	0.7 L	2:06 p.m.	1.3 H
Apr 11	2:00 a.m.	1.3 H	8:25 a.m.	0.8 L	1:53 p.m.	1.2 H
Apr 12	3:07 a.m.	1.4 H	9:19 a.m.	0.9 L	1:37 p.m.	1.1 H
Apr 13	4:06 a.m.	1.4 H	10:21 a.m.	0.9 L	1:14 p.m.	1.0 H
Apr 14	5:02 a.m.	1.5 H	9:21 p.m.	-0.1 L		
Apr 15	5:59 a.m.	1.5 H	9:55 p.m.	-0.3 L		
Apr 16	7:02 a.m.	1.6 H	10:35 p.m.	-0.4 L		
Apr 17	08:13 a.m.	1.6 H	11:22 p.m.	-0.5 L		
Apr 18	09:32 a.m.	1.7 H				
Apr 19	12:16 a.m.	-0.5 L	10:46 a.m.	1.8 H		
Apr 20	1:16 a.m.	-0.4 L	11:45 a.m.	1.8 H		
Apr 21	2:22 a.m.	-0.2 L	12:23 p.m.	1.7 H		
Apr 22	3:35 a.m.	0.0 L	12:43 p.m.	1.6 H		
Apr 23	4:51 a.m.	0.3 L	12:48 p.m.	1.4 H	6:47 p.m.	1.0 L

## Solunar | Sun times | Moon times

Legend: Major=2 hours, Minor=1 hour, Times centered on the major-minor window. F=Full Moon, N=New Moon, Q=Quarter => = Peak Activity. For other locations, subtract 1 minute per 12 miles east of a location, and add 1 minute per 12 miles west of a location.

### Houston

2010	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Apr	Minor Major	Minor Major	Rises Sets	Rises Sets
9 Fri	2:23 8:33	2:43 8:54	7:01 7:43	4:12a 3:42p
10 Sat	2:59 9:09	3:19 9:30	7:00 7:44	4:42a 4:35p
11 Sun	3:35 9:45	3:55 10:05	6:59 7:44	5:10a 5:28p
12 Mon >	4:11 10:21	4:32 10:42	6:58 7:45	5:38a 6:22p
13 Tue N	4:50 11:01	5:11 11:22	6:57 7:46	6:08a 7:19p
14 Wed >	5:33 11:44	5:56 12:07	6:55 7:46	6:41a 8:17p
15 Thu >	6:21 12:09	6:46 12:33	6:54 7:47	7:17a 9:18p
16 Fri >	7:15 1:02	7:41 1:28	6:53 7:47	7:59a 10:20p
17 Sat	8:14 2:00	8:42 2:28	6:52 7:48	8:46a 11:21p
18 Sun	9:16 3:02	9:45 3:31	6:51 7:49	9:41a NoMoon
19 Mon	10:20 4:05	10:49 4:34	6:50 7:49	10:41a 12:19a
20 Tue	11:22 5:08	11:51 5:37	6:49 7:50	11:46a 1:12a
21 Wed Q	-----	6:07 12:21	6:48 7:50	12:53p 2:00a
22 Thu	12:49 7:02	1:15 7:29	6:47 7:51	2:00p 2:44a
23 Fri	1:39 7:51	2:04 8:17	6:46 7:52	3:06p 3:23a
24 Sat	2:24 8:37	2:49 9:02	6:45 7:52	4:11p 3:59a
25 Sun	3:08 9:20	3:32 9:45	6:44 7:53	5:16p 4:33a
26 Mon	3:51 10:04	4:17 10:29	6:43 7:54	6:21p 5:09a
27 Tue >	4:38 10:51	5:05 11:18	6:42 7:54	7:27p 5:46a
28 Wed >	5:30 11:43	5:57 -----	6:41 7:55	8:34p 6:26a

### Dallas

2010	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Apr	Minor Major	Minor Major	Rises Sets	Rises Sets
9 Fri	2:28 8:39	2:49 8:59	7:04 7:51	4:22a 3:45p
10 Sat	3:05 9:15	3:25 9:35	7:03 7:52	4:49a 4:40p
11 Sun	3:40 9:50	4:00 10:10	7:02 7:52	5:16a 5:34p
12 Mon >	4:16 10:27	4:37 10:48	7:01 7:53	5:43a 6:30p
13 Tue N	4:55 11:06	5:17 11:28	6:59 7:54	6:11a 7:28p
14 Wed >	5:38 11:50	6:01 12:13	6:58 7:54	6:42a 8:29p
15 Thu >	6:27 12:14	6:51 12:39	6:57 7:55	7

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**Beer and Deer**

Continued from Page 4

"People come buy beer and look at the deer, or they bring the deer in and buy some beer."

The building started as the taxidermy shop. Moore went into business with his brother-in-law, Wade Smith. Moore built the building on property he owns where his house also sits.

When Terry County went wet, Floyd came along and rented half the building from Moore.

"This beer deal," Floyd said, "we just stumbled on it."

Gaines County has had its share of interest in allowing alcohol sales. Residents there tried, but failed, in early 2009 to petition for a vote on going wet, according to the *Seminole Sentinel* newspaper in the county seat. A year later, a new push is under way to call an election.

"If Gaines County goes wet, this thing goes away," Floyd said. "That's just the way it is. With the longevity of it, I just wasn't comfortable venturing out, building a building. And we were friends anyway. He had thought of the same thing. We had no need of being competitors."

Gaines County has had more than its share of trophy mule deer the last two seasons. Big bucks, some scoring well beyond 200, have been taken on the county's table-flat farmland.

Moore shot the third biggest nontypical mule deer buck in the state in 2008, according to the Texas Big Game Awards. The deer had a gross score of 221 3/8.

Now, it has become a full-body mount displayed, with many other mounts, in the beer-store side of the building.

Moore mounted his deer and 2008's No. 1 nontypical mule deer, which had a gross score of 230.

Two or three pegs in his studio hold racks of mule deer antlers, but mule deer are not all that he mounts. During a visit in March, a bull elk shoulder mount was still on a pedestal in the studio, and white-tailed deer mounts hung from pegboard walls. Freezers lining the walls held birds and other work waiting to be started.

Being in a remote area with a small population has not hurt business, Moore said. He has clients from around Texas and outside the state, he said.

Harvesting one of the biggest mule deer in the state helped get his name out there, and he won the big buck contest at a hunting show in Fort Worth.



**READY TO SERVE:** Shay Floyd runs the beer side of the Beer and Deer operation in Seagraves. Photo by Thomas Phillips, Lone Star Outdoor News.

"We're right on the verge of having to take somebody on, build another building," Moore said.

Another taxidermist works in Punkin Center, but Moore and Smith might be the only other ones around.

Moore, 51, started doing taxidermy work after a handful of other careers. Before his latest venture, he farmed for five years, worked in the oilfield and worked at a ski resort in Colorado. He moved back to Texas to help his parents run the crop dusting service in Seagraves, which sits across the highway from the Beer and Deer.

He is self-taught as a taxidermist. He and his brother learned the skill while growing up in Colorado City. They would practice on the animals they trapped.

The name "Beer and Deer" came about through an evolution, Floyd said.

"Well, some people around town started laughing about it (the beer store) when they heard it was going to be in here," he said. "It was going to be Dead Deer, Cold Beer. That wasn't quite public-friendly, I should say."

With the shortened moniker, the businesses thrived together. The beer side has been open for a few months.

"And it has worked well for both of us," Floyd said. "And he gets a lot of people coming in seeing work that would never see the quality of work that he really does. He is definitely an artist."

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For photographers who are missing a trip to foreign lands this year, a new destination has arrived in East Texas.

Prairie Rose Ranch, a stunning 1,250 acres of rolling timberland, recently opened for overnight and day visits after 20 years in private enjoyment.

"The ranch is special to me, and I would like to share it with other people who enjoy nature and photography and who appreciate the mystery and intrigue of the East Texas woods," said Ron Gard, the owner. "Photographers will find it especially exciting because of the wide diversity of wildlife and wildflowers at Prairie Rose."

The ranch has about 20 lakes that attract most species of wading birds and waterfowl. The largest covers about 70 acres, with the next biggest being 40 acres. It also has several smaller lakes scattered through ancient forests of elms and oaks.

The waterbodies hold waterfowl year-round, such as the visually stunning wood ducks. The easily photographed and graceful black-bellied whistling-ducks arrive in the spring, nest in some of the many wood duck houses, raise their young, then migrate back to Mexico in the fall.

Egrets, herons, wood storks, roseate spoonbills and ibis are frequent visitors. Barred owls and screech owls glide through the forested hills, where river otters, bobcats and coyotes reside. At least one mountain

lion has been spotted.

"We have everything native to Texas," said Gard, who was once named the Sportsman's Clubs of Texas, Wildlife Conservationist of the Year, for his efforts in conservation and in improving the habitat for wildlife.

A photographer himself, Gard rises early each day he visits the ranch. The predawn awakening ensures he captures the most animal movement in the best light.

"The light here is as good for photography as anywhere I have traveled in the world," he said.

Gard has assembled the ranch over the last two decades and built a refined cabin for guests. The cabin has two bedrooms and a loft for sleeping multiple visitors.

An outdoor shower reminiscent of ones he has enjoyed in Africa, allows for a closer visit with the natural world at the ranch.

For Gard, Prairie Rose Ranch is a place for pursuing his pastime of photography — and relaxing. He hopes guests will visit to also enjoy the flora and fauna, but also to take a break from the hustle and bustle.

The ranch is an hour and 15 minutes from Dallas in Hopkins County, making it a great place for a quick getaway, without the fuss of a big trip to Africa or the Gulf Coast.

For more information about Prairie Rose Ranch, call Gard at (214) 357-6159 or (214) 912-5805.



Many bird and mammal species call Prairie Rose Ranch home, making the East Texas property a destination for wildlife photographers. Photos by Ron Gard.

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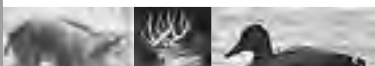


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## Seagrass

Continued from Page 23

Hegen hopes TPW's educational efforts will help people realize the importance of seagrass. It oxygenates the water and reduces erosion while also providing protection, food and habitat for game fish such as red drum and spotted sea trout.

"Seagrass is very unique," Hegen said. "Children in schools across this country give their nickels and dimes to save rain forests. They've been convinced of their importance. Well, seagrasses are just as important as rain forests, though maybe not as charismatic."

Besides launching a public awareness campaign on seagrass, TPW incorporated a section on seagrass and the need to protect it into state boater education courses.

Trial said it's all led to more people using trolling motors and push poles when going across seagrass at Redfish Bay State Scientific Area. He doesn't believe the lessons learned stop there, however.

"I certainly believe our efforts will have a larger effect," he said. "I don't believe people will forget what they've learned once they cross the border of Redfish Bay."

Redfish Bay, though important scientifically in that all five species of seagrass grow there, holds only a small portion of the seagrass along the Texas coast. There are more than 230,000 acres of coastal seagrass in Texas.

TPW hopes to apply the lessons it's learned to other seagrass areas, but, for now, there's still much to learn at Redfish Bay.

"There's public support for expanding our efforts, and we're interested," Trial said. "But we're just not there yet. We're kind of putting the bow on Redfish Bay. We're doing things that haven't been done before."



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# ABC airs claims of exploiting minors overseas

## Hidden camera records salesman

By Mark England  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Allegations of fishing tour operators providing underage girls for sex to anglers in Central and South America were aired April 5 on "World News with Diane Sawyer."

Using hidden cameras, ABC News attended a Dallas hunting show earlier this year. Talking to an unidentified tour operator, whose face and voice were blurred, a reporter asked whether underage girls would be available on a trip.

The operator refused to discuss the topic. Later, however, after further prompting by the reporter, the operator "changed his tune," telling him he knew a guy in Costa Rica who could "make it happen."

"But it's probably going to be, it's going to

have to be real stealthy ... I'm not saying anything, but something is going to happen," the unidentified person said.

The ABC report comes two months after the Dallas Safari Club announced in a press release a "zero tolerance" policy toward any tour operator caught offering child sex tourism as part of its hunting and fishing excursions.

"Our club has a well-established track record of banning outfitters for hunting ethics violations, but this deplorable activity goes beyond ethics and into criminal liability. Dallas Safari Club will not stand by while human decency is assaulted, either at home or abroad. I cannot overstate our condemnation of this appalling exploitation of minors," said a statement issued by Ben Carter, DSC executive director.

ABC news reported that FBI and customs officials are investigating allegations that hunting and fishing tour businesses are arranging sex with children for American men overseas and that Brazilian authorities are investigating allegations in the country.

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Hunting is available for many species of animal at Moody Escondido Ranch in South Texas, including white-tailed deer.

Puzzle solution from Page 28



# Every man's safari in South Texas

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"I don't do this on a big scale," Moody said. "It's not a big commercial deal."

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