

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS



April 11, 2008

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 4, Issue 16



www.lonestaroutdoornews.com

## Falcon frenzy



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## FISHING



Last year, Terry Scroggins and his team caught 225 pounds of fish out of one hole to win the Toyota Texas Bass Championship. He hopes the spot will produce again this year.

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# South Texas bonanza



**THREE AMIGOS:** Terry Scroggins, Gerald Swindle and Dave Wolak took time off to fish in a private lake in South Texas, but low water kept them from using their bass boats. They made the best of the situation and had one of their best fishing days ever. Photo by David J. Sams.

## Private waters produce big fun for pros

By DAVID J. SAMS

It is on the mind of every fisherman. How good is the fishing behind that fence?

Getting invitations to cast behind these fences doesn't come to everyone, but when you drive around the

country in a pimped-out, wrapped Tundra full of logos, sometimes the gates just open.

Three members of the Toyota Tundra Fishing Team found out you take the good with the bad.

Terry Scroggins, Gerald Swindle and Dave Wolak met at the Los

Carrolitos Ranch in late March after driving a combined 3,588 miles, running more than 300 gallons of fuel through their truck engines.

As they tried to launch their boats, they discovered the mud was too deep. The private lake's water level was too low. No one men-

tioned that there had not been a drop of rain for months. "I backed up until the trailer was doing nothing but skidding on the mud," Wolak said. "This is not going to work."

At sunrise there were three

See **BONANZA**, Page 17



**MATING CALLS:** A turkey hunter blows a crow call in search of a reaction from early-morning gobbling toms. Photo by David J. Sams.

## Younger turkeys abundant

Older toms harder to find, tough to trick

By BILL MILLER

The jakes, being adolescent Rio Grande turkeys, surely don't dwell on finding their identities like their counterparts of the human species.

These youngsters, however, seem to understand that they have strength in numbers, and that's a problem for turkey hunters trying to bag mature, trophy toms.

South zone turkey guides are reporting that the pastures and thickets are teeming with 1-year-old jakes, a clear benefit from the abundant rains that fueled the 2007 hatch.

But while counting that blessing, hunters are dealing with too many jakes crowding around hens. Mature gobblers seem uninterested in being around the younger birds, and some jakes are actually chasing off the toms.

Take for example the Stowers Ranch at the headwaters of the Guadalupe River near Hunt.

"Right here at the house, you slam the back door real hard early in the morning, and the gobbling goes off all up and down the water," said Jim Harrell, ranch manager. "They're disturbed by that."

"But you know it's all jakes."

See **TURKEYS**, Page 12

## Wal-Mart to cut, reduce fishing departments

Changes coming to at least 2,000 stores

By CRAIG NYHUS

Wal-Mart will cut bait this fall at 200 of its stores, eliminating the sale of fishing tackle, fishing industry representatives tell the *Lone Star Outdoor News*.

In addition, the retail giant will

reduce the space allotted to fishing tackle by half at 1,700 stores. Wal-Mart's new head of sporting goods, Scott Biddulph, disclosed the changes in recent meetings with representatives of the fishing industry. According to its Web

See **WAL-MART**, Page 14

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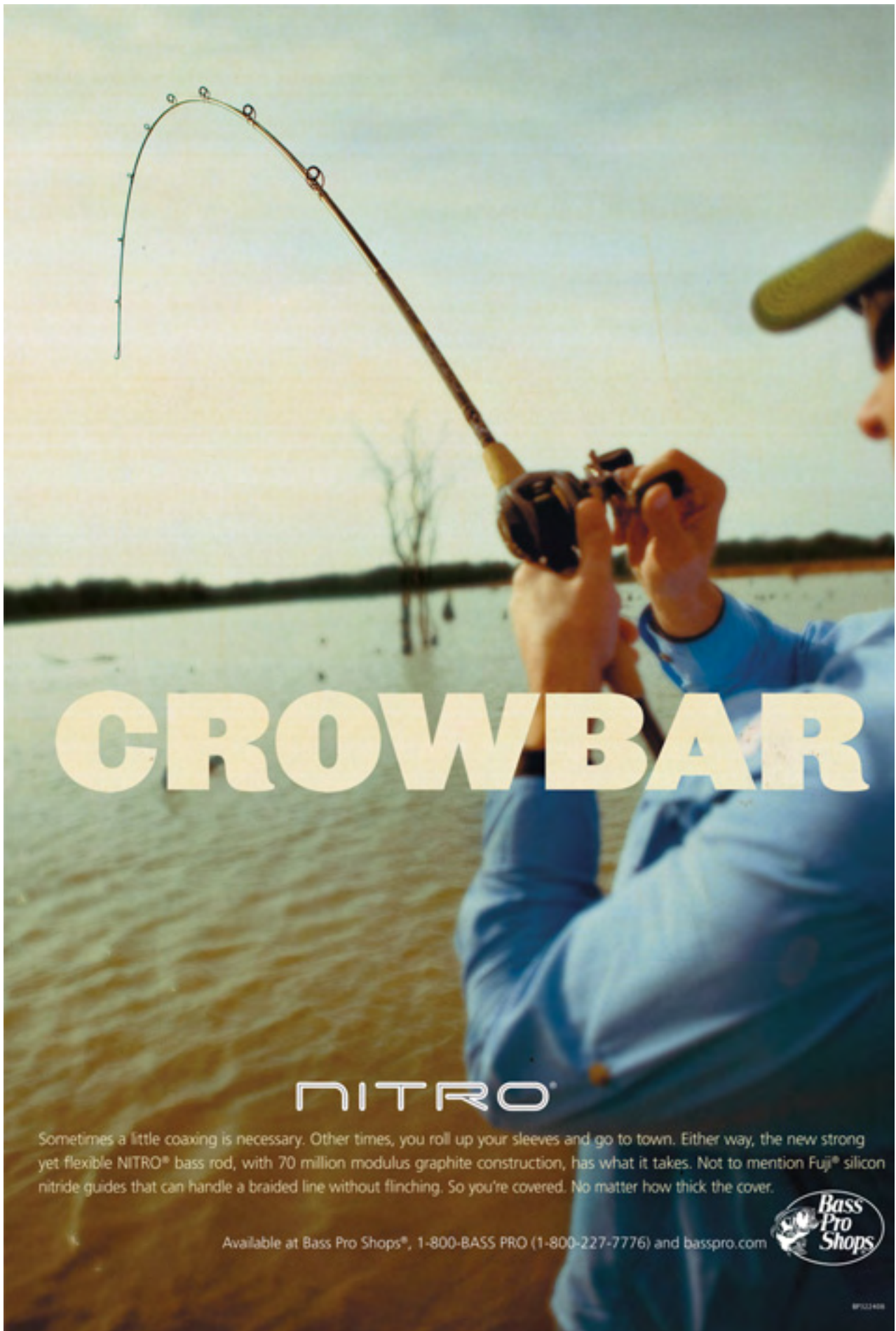
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## CONSERVATION

# NWTF's Keck steps down after 30 years



Rob Keck

After 27 years as the chief executive officer of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Rob Keck has decided for personal and family reasons to step aside from his duties with the Federation as of June 1, 2008.

Under Keck's leadership, the NWTF has grown into one of the nation's premier conservation organizations with more than 550,000 members in 50 states, Canada,

Mexico and 14 other foreign countries.

It supports scientific wildlife management on public, private and corporate lands as well as wild turkey hunting as a traditional North American sport.

Thanks to the work of federal, state and provincial wildlife agencies and the NWTF's many volunteers and partners, there are now more than 7

million wild turkeys and nearly 3 million turkey hunters.

Turkey hunting has become the fastest growing form of hunting and has the second-highest number of participants of any type of hunting.

Keck's resignation followed the dismissal of the organization's chief operating officer and senior vice president. To deal with speculation of improper activities, Peggy Anne

Vallery, NWTF president, said in a release that the independent audit of the organization's activities received the highest level of opinion on their accuracy.

The NWTF's National Board of Directors will immediately begin a nationwide search for Mr. Keck's successor.

—NWTF report.

## NOAA trains African team to be fishing observers

A team of NOAA scientists traveled to Ghana to teach 40 government officials and university students to become trained marine resource observers, able to provide the scientific data needed to manage their fish stocks. This information will provide scientific information about fish stocks and bycatch to Ghana and to international organizations.

The U.S. Navy provides training space on board the HSV Swift (high speed transportation vessel). The vessel will be used as a teaching platform where the students will learn how to spend time as observers on fishing boats, identifying and counting species of fish,



TEACHING AND TRAINING: Observers sort fish on board a groundfish vessel. Photo by NOAA.

recording marine mammal sightings, and learning how to unhook and free sea turtles and sea birds that may get caught in fishing gear.

"More and more we find that our marine ecosystems are linked together," said Jim Balsiger, acting director of NOAA's Fisheries Service. "So the better quality data

we can collect and share, the better we can manage our fisheries together."

"We'll expand training programs into other nations in West Africa later this year," he said. "We are hoping to use this program as a model around the world."

—NOAA report.

## Four Texans join coastal hall of fame

Rockport's Texas Maritime Museum inducted four Texans into the Perry R. Bass Memorial Sports Fishing Hall of Fame.

Karol Scardino took over the Babes on the Bay fishing tournament in 2003. The event has expanded to become the premier women's fundraising contest on the coast, attracting nearly 700 lady anglers in 2007.

Tami Wise Noling won the World Billfish Series Championship in 2005, the first woman to win the event, and is an advocate of catch-and-release tournaments.

Bill Noble surpassed angling's 1,000-pound mark in a single fish

when he caught a great white shark while stationed in the Pacific with the U.S. Army Air Corps, and is a member of the 1,000 Pound Black Marlin Club.

The late Barney Farley was a longtime fishing guide, bait shop owner, commercial fisherman and former mayor of Port Aransas.

Farley, who guided a tarpon fishing trip for President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1937, also began the Tarpon Rodeo, which later became the Deep Sea Roundup, the longest running Texas coastal competition.

—Texas Maritime Museum report.

### LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Publisher/Editor: CRAIG NYRUS

Design Editor: DUDLEY GREEN

Operations Mgr: MIKE HUGHES

Associate Editor: MARK ENGLAND

Business/Products Editor: MARY HELEN AGUIRRE

Advertising Sales: BOB COLE

LEE GRESHAM

Accounting: NANCY HALPHEN

Web site: BRUCE SOLEAU

Founder & CEO: DAVID J. SAMS

#### CONTRIBUTORS

HAL BROWN

KYLE CARTER

BINK GRIMES

BOB HOOD

DIANA KUNDE

WILBUR LUNDEEN

PETER MATHESEN

BILL MILLER

DAVID SIKES

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## HUNTING

# Chaparral blaze aftermath shows little loss of wildlife

By MARK ENGLAND

Aerial surveys and a rough census by biologists show the raging fire last month at the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area in South Texas claimed less than 10 percent of the whitetails at the state's premier public hunting site.

"We saw less than 40 deer carcasses and 30 of those were in one place where the deer were trapped by a head fire," said David Synatzske, Chaparral's manager. "We also saw 595 live deer on our 15,200 acres, 95 percent of which burned. It was just

an amazing lack of wildlife loss. And it wasn't just whitetail that survived. We've seen quail, feral hogs, tortoises, horned lizards, rattlesnakes and coyotes. As a matter of fact, we haven't found one coyote carcass."

Biologist Marina Riveccio, forced to evacuate Chaparral on March 14, said staff were not optimistic when leaving the WMA.

"When I left, it was very scary," she said. "There were very tall, hot flames. We heard reports that everything burned. That's what I was expecting to see."

So how did wildlife escape such a massive fire?

One Texas Parks and Wildlife official ventured that Chaparral's routine of setting prescribed fires — burning up to 4,000 acres annually — might be the reason.

"He said, 'Your critters are so accustomed to prescribed burns, they don't think it's anything out of the ordinary,'" Synatzske said. "There may be something to that. Fire is something they've been introduced to."

Synatzske, however, points more

See **CHAPARRAL**, Page 18



**ESCAPED FROM THE BLAZE:** The fire that consumed 95 percent of the Chaparral WMA last month claimed surprisingly few wild animals, but food to sustain the animals through the land's recovery is a concern to biologists. Photo by TPW.

# Jakes in the way



**JUVENILE DELINQUENTS:** Hunters have struggled so far this year to find mature toms. The overabundance of jakes has kept the hen population busy. Photo by David J. Sams.

How to handle too many young birds

By BILL MILLER

It's a jake fest out there, but hunters don't have to abandon hopes for a trophy tom.

They will, however, have to figure out how to find that bearded wonder as long as the juvenile birds keep crowding around hens with their adolescent rowdiness.

That's been the case for the first couple of weeks of the south zone spring turkey season that opened March 15. Guides and hunters have lamented an overabundance of jakes, no doubt the result of excellent hatches fueled by heavy rains last spring and summer.

But like other species, these youngsters are filled with foolishness and their overwhelming presence in large flocks seems to have made mature toms uninterested in socializing. In some cases they've even banded together to chase older birds away.

Some experts advise hunters not to change their calling techniques or decoy placements.

But do adjust your timing, said outfitter Dale Storch of S&D Whitetails in Brown County.

See **JAKES**, Page 14

# Houston Safari Club Youth Hunter of the Year

Hunting, conservation, education achievements of League City 17-year-old recognized

By CRAIG NYHUS

Nicholas Hopmann of League City received the Houston Safari Club Youth Hunter of the Year award at the organization's 2008 convention.

Nick, 17, is a junior at Clear Creek High School, but started hunting at age five. "I went duck hunting with my dad," he said. "I remember getting up real early and going to the duck blind. I had a single-shot .410. I think I got real lucky but I got a teal. It's mounted. Ever since then, I've been hooked on it."

Nick hunts with his father, grandpa Hofmann and Uncle Don at least every other weekend. "And we do something else at the ranch if all the seasons are closed," he said.

"We've always hunted as a family," said Mark Hopmann, Nick's father. "And growing up, I hunted with my father and grandfather out in West Texas."

Hopmann owns the Rafter H Ranch in Zavala County. "It's a 1,000-acre, low-fence, open-range ranch. It's big enough for our family," he said.

Maintaining the ranch requires work, and Nick does his part. "In the off-season, we fill feeders, fix tractors, seed food plots and dig wells," Nick said. "There's always something broken out there."

The pair is always looking for an unusual hunting activity. When the family was in Hawaii one summer, they booked an axis hunt while Nick's sister and mother went shopping and to the beach.

The youth award recognizes more than just hunting accomplishments. Applicants submit essays detailing their conservation efforts, the reasons for their love of hunting and its importance to wildlife.

"I tried to explain what hunters do," Nick

See **AWARD**, Page 13



**YOUNG GUN:** Nick Hopmann of League City took this SCI Gold Metal Southern Impala in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa in June, 2007. Photo by Mark Hopmann.

# Texas best

## Female archer shoots for titles

By CRAIG NYHUS

Texas's top female bow shooter, Sherry Hott, managed a fourth-place finish in the Pro Female Class at the International Bowhunting Organization's Southern Triple Crown in Calhoun, Ga.

Hott's hope is to increase women's involvement in the sport.

Hott, a Nikon pro staffer from Haslet, began shooting 16 years ago and has been competing as a pro for 8 years. "My kids grew up with bows in their hands," she said. "We all hunted and still hunt mostly deer, turkey and hogs in Texas. Last year, I shot a bearded hen. Everyone said that was a big deal so I had it mounted."

Hott's 25-year-old daughter, Brandy, also took bow shooting to the next level. "She went to A&M on an archery scholarship," Hott said. "She got away from it for awhile but is starting to shoot again."

Hott's top finishes include an IBO win last year and an ASA win in Virginia, and she was the 2000 Rookie of the Year. "But the most exciting was at last year's ASA Championship in Augusta, Georgia," she said. "We tied and went to a shoot-off. Three shots later, I finished second and lost by two points, but it's most fun when you get to keep shooting."

Hott has made a career out of competitive shooting, and will shoot competitively in 17 events this year. Her numerous sponsors include Nikon, Matthews and Easton. She spends most of her practice time in her back yard and garage, and some at the Fort Worth Cowtown Bowman practice facility.

But it's the people that have driven her to the sport. "It's a great



**STRAIGHT SHOOTER:** Sherry Hott of Haslet tops the list of female professional archery competitors. Photo by Matthews.

group of people," she said. "Just yesterday at a competition in Paris, my daughter decided to shoot after five years away from it. One of the pros gave Brandy her backup bow to shoot. We watch each other's kids and help each other. There aren't a lot of places like that anymore."

# Conservation group honors game warden

Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Warden Eddie Hines of Bonham was honored for his work with the National Wild Turkey Federation in a ceremony before the TPW Commission.

Hines was named the NWTFF Enforcement Officer of the Year for Texas. Paul Ferrell, East Texas regional director for the NWTFF, cited Hines' ongoing community involvement, his work in youth education and his work with other law enforcement agencies in northeast Texas.

Hines also was instrumental in forming a Fannin County chapter of the NWTFF.

"I guess turkeys have kind of been my favorite game animal," Hines said. "Turkeys have always been my passion."



**JOB WELL DONE:** From left are TPW Commission Chairman Peter Holt, NWTFF East Texas Regional Director Paul Ferrell, Game Warden Eddie Hines and TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith.

—Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

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## FISHING

# Scroggins out to defend TTBC title



Hopes favorite spot is hot again

By DAVID J. SAMS

A small underwater point on Lake Fork has become famous in the bass fishing world. Although many anglers drive their trucks within 200 yards of it, the locals can't believe it and others don't know where to look. But it's there, the spot in Mustang creek that helped win the Toyota Texas Bass Classic for the team captained by Terry Scroggins last April. The team caught 225 pounds of fish in the hole over the three-day event.

Scroggins is excited to get back to the spot this year. His team will be heading out in the number four position at the start of the second Toyota Texas Bass Classic on April 18 — and he hopes no other anglers get there before he does.

In practice, Scroggins plans to check the area with his fish finder, cut off the hooks on his lures and cast to the spot and feel for bites. If it looks good, he will leave it and hopes no one else sees him there.

"This is a highway for fish; they will replenish themselves," Scroggins said. "I think we might have even caught some of the same fish twice last year."

**HOPING TO REPEAT:** Terry Scroggins sets his sights on a repeat performance at the Toyota Texas Bass Classic April 18-20 at Lake Fork. Photo by David J. Sams.

See SCROGGINS, Page 13



**FINE FRIENDS:** A benefit for longtime saltwater fly-fishing guide Capt. Chris Phillips brought more than 500 people to Blanco's Bar and Grill in Houston. Photo by Scott Sommerlatte.

## Reaching out

Friends hold benefit to aid fly-fishing pioneer

By DIANA KUNDE

Fly-fishers opened their hearts and wallets at a special benefit March 30 in Houston to help a beloved saltwater guide who has fallen on tough times.

Capt. Chris Phillips, one of the pioneers in saltwater fly-fishing along the Texas Gulf Coast, was operated on last February for a brain tumor and now faces chemotherapy and radiation. His friends decided to help him out.

The result was a packed benefit event at

Blanco's Bar and Grill in Houston. The attendance — an estimated 500 people — was double what he expected, said Andy Packmore, who works with Phillips at Fishing Tackle Unlimited in Houston.

"The event went tremendously well," Packmore said.

Phillips put it this way: "In 38 years of being in Houston, I've never seen anything like that in my life. I saw people I hadn't seen in 10, 15, 25 years. It was pretty cool."

See PHILLIPS, Page 17

## Clean Boating Act important to recreational boaters

Legislation seeks to continue exemption from ballast regs

By BRANDON D. SHULER

Coastal boaters may have to go on a virtual scavenger hunt to track down necessary permits to operate their boats beginning in September, unless the 2008 Clean Boating Act continues a 35-year-old exemption for recreational boats.

A September 2006 District Court ruling in the case of Northwest Environmental Advocates v. the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency dealt with the protection of harbors from exotic invasive species carried in the ballast tanks of transoceanic freighters. But the side effect of the decision overturned an exemption in the 1973 Clean Water Act that excluded recreational boaters from the same permit requirements as commercial vessels.

The court case arose from the practice of ballast purging. To regulate the pitch and roll of their vessels during rough seas with vari-

ous load weights, freighters frequently fill their holds in foreign ports and once their port of destination is reached they empty their ballast tanks and any invasive stowaways that may have hitched a free ride into American waters. According to the National Marine Manufacturers Association, more than ten thousand exotic species are transported around the world daily, the most notable being the invasion of zebra mussels into the Great Lakes that began in 1986.

"While minimizing the exchange of ballast water from one international port to another is very important in reducing the spread of aquatic invasive species, said NMMA president Thom Dammrich. "It is equally important not to sweep small recreational boats into the same regulatory scheme."

The NMMA noted that 99 percent of recreational boats do not have ballast tanks. But,

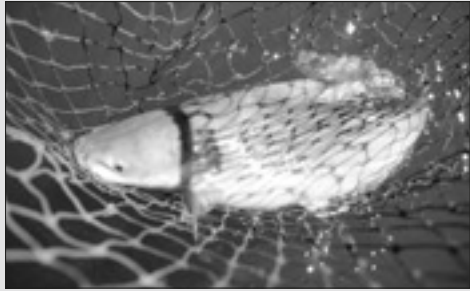
See ACT, Page 18



**PERMIT REQUIRED?** A 35-year-old exemption has been overturned that excluded recreational boats from the same permit requirement as commercial freighters. Legislation is pending to reinstate the exemption.



## HOT SPOT



### Granger

Water murky; 64 degrees; 0.36' high. Blue catfish are good on jugs/lures baited with shad in 2-8 feet. Guide Tommy Tidwell (512) 365-7761 said the blue cats are good and the crappie fishing couldn't be better. Cedar Park angler Dave Beister said crappie from 1 1/2 to 2 pounds are biting on pink jigs with black and chartreuse bodies tipped with crappie nibbles. Black bass are very good on black soft plastic worms and jigs in 2-6 feet. White bass are good on minnows and white jigs on windy points upriver near Circleville. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with goldfish and live perch. See full fishing report on Page 21.

# Records fall at Falcon Lake

## Elias stages comeback to take Lone Star Shootout

Before the Lone Star Shootout on Falcon Lake, there were only 20 entries in the BASS "century club," a four-day, five-bass daily limit of 100 pounds or better.

That list grew by 12 at the event, as all 12 finalists this week totaled more than 100 pounds, and six of those 12 topped Steve Kennedy's previous record in this four-day, five-bass format of 122 pounds, 14 ounces, set last year at California's Clear Lake.

But the record many thought would fall still stands. Dean Rojas was one-day total of 45 pounds, 2 ounces in 2001 on Florida's Lake Toho and throned as Aaron Martens and Byron Velvick each caught more than 40 pounds, and Terry Scroggins brought in 44

pounds, 4 ounces on the final day.

Paul Elias of Laurel, Miss. staged a massive comeback, rising from fifth to first after bringing in 37 pounds, 11 ounces on the final day for a four-day total of 132 pounds, 8 ounces, while three-day leader Aaron Martens struggled with 19 pounds, 15 ounces. Scroggins' final day was the second-best one-day total ever on the tour, but fell 4 ounces short. It was Falcon, though, that brought the rave reviews.

"I've never seen a lake where you can catch 'em in, catch 'em out, catch 'em however you want to catch 'em. It's stupid," Scroggins said.

"I'm from New Jersey," Mike Iaconelli said. "And a 10-pound fish is the fish of a lifetime back home. Here, they're common. Ten-

pounders are little."

"I'm absolutely worn out," Mark Davis said after catching an estimated 100 bass on the first day. "My back hurts, my arms are sore. My shoulders are sore."

"This is far and away the most bizarre, strange, freaky fishery any of us have ever been to or will ever go to again," Velvick said. "It's a freak show out there."

Co-anglers joined in on the record setting too, with Randall Jackson of Broken Arrow, Okla. notching the biggest tournament total at 83 pounds, 3 ounces, and David Doty topping the single-day best with 39 pounds, 3 ounces on the final day of co-angler competition.

—Bass Communications reports.

# Lake Fork youth catch-and-release bass record

## Wills Point 16-year-old catches 11.68 pounder

By CRAIG NYHUS

When Cody Clark of Wills Point was still in diapers, he played on the floor of the boat while his father, Greg Clark, fished, and they have fished together ever since. And on March 21, at age 16, he landed a Lake Fork youth record catch-and-release largemouth.

"We had been on a short trip for spring break and got back on Thursday," Cody said. "Our neighbor Tim Woodriddle and his son were going fishing in the morning and asked me to go."

Things happened quickly after daybreak. "We launched the boat and Tim drove it around a corner

under the bridge and we tied on our lures," he said. "Then we came back under the bridge and fished the banks toward some docks where there were some grass beds."

"Tim was looking at his lake map when I felt a big thump," he said. "I pulled up and jerked and she was on."

Cody said he remained pretty calm. "I told Tim this was a big one and I kept my rod down so she wouldn't jump."

A few minutes later, the big fish came to the net. "We hadn't been fishing more than 15 or 20 minutes," Cody said.

After the fish was landed, Woodriddle said they needed to

get to Lake Fork Marina to weigh the fish. "We headed straight there — we were pretty excited," Cody said.

On the certified scale, the fish weighed 11.68 pounds and measured 25 1/8-inches long, a youth lake record for a catch-and-release bass, and the applications have already been sent to Texas Parks and Wildlife.

His father may be the person most excited about the catch. "It was one of the few times I hadn't been with him on the water," Greg Clark said. "He called the house and I heard my wife screaming. I thought something bad had hap-

See RECORD, Page 12



IN THE RECORD BOOKS: Cody Clark shows his youth lake record for a catch-and-release bass for Lake Fork, an 11.68-pounder. Photo by Greg Clark.



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## GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

### THREE CITED FOR HUNTING IN CLOSED SEASON

•Tom Green County Game Warden Cynde Aguilar received a call about shooting on the public lands at Twin Buttes Reservoir. Aguilar located a vehicle with three men shooting at cans, bottles, songbirds, rabbits and ducks with a .22-cal. rifle. All three were issued citations for hunting in closed season.

### OPERATION BORDER STAR V LEADS TO TWO ARRESTS

•During Operation Border Star V in Zapata County, using three patrol boats upriver and several spotters along the river, game wardens apprehended a Mexican vessel in Texas waters. The vessel was blocked in Texas waters by the patrol boats. At dark, while in the process of removing the boats, Capt. David Murray and Deputy Game Warden J.D. Beeson advised that they were observing what appeared to be a Mexican boat in Texas waters placing gill net in a well-known cove. Two men were arrested for fishing in Texas waters and transported to the Zapata County Jail. The other boats stayed behind and removed all the gill net from the water.

### POACHING COMPLAINT TURNS INTO SEVERAL CHARGES

•Live Oak County Game Warden Clay Pipkin was approached at a gas station by a landowner complaining about some poaching in his area. As the landowner was giving a description of a vehicle he had seen spotlighting, the vehicle entered the station and was identified by the landowner. Fresh blood and deer hair were still in the bed of the truck. Pipkin received statements from two of the men on how they had

## FOR GOODNESS SNAKES, NO ALCOHOL PERMIT

•Palo Pinto County Game Warden Cliff Swofford assisted the TABC on a search warrant at a non-game dealer business. The business owners were suspected of selling bottles of vodka con-

taining a small dead rattlesnake as a novelty item, without a permit to sell alcohol. Four hundred twenty-nine bottles of vodka, each containing a small dead rattlesnake and one large

bottle of tequila, also containing snakes, were seized. Charges of selling alcoholic beverage without a permit and possession of alcohol with intent to sell are pending.

shot two deer that night off a county road and dumped them because they knew someone had seen them. Pipkin is also pursuing charges on a juvenile who was the shooter that night. Charges of hunting at night, hunting from a public road, waste of game and weapon seizure are pending.

### HUNTERS ADMIT TO SHOOTING OFF THE ROAD AT NIGHT

•Ellis County Game Warden Jeff Powell was watching a field where a few weeks earlier a doe was shot and left. Around midnight a truck slowed down on the road and started spotlighting the same field. Three men had four loaded rifles and shotguns, a spent shell on the floorboard and a small bag of marijuana. The men admitted to hunting on the road that night and shooting off the road. A passenger had a Class A warrant for assault with bodily injury, and the other passenger confessed to killing the deer a few weeks earlier. Warrants for felony charges are being attained. Multiple Class C misdemeanor charges pending.

### CITATIONS FILED FOR ILLEGAL TAKING OF TURKEY VULTURES

•Parker County Game Warden Randall Hayes investigated an incident regarding possible shots being fired, and possible illegal deer hunting from a Jeep during closed season. Upon locating the

individuals, they initially denied shooting at anything; however, they later admitted to shooting turkey vultures from a ranch Jeep. The occupants of the Jeep said the vultures had been eating their horse feed and were a nuisance. They were cited for illegal taking of a migratory bird. Case pending.

### FOUR ARRESTED IN MANHUNT

•Sutton County Game Warden Will Allison and Schleicher County Game Warden Marco Alvizo were called upon to assist in a manhunt after a DPS unit and sheriff's units were rammed by a fleeing vehicle. The vehicle busted through two fences and the four occupants ran into the brush. The area was sealed off and roadblocks were set up. Two volunteer firemen assisting in the search drove up to a man and attempted to talk to him, but he pulled a pistol and pointed it at them and ran into the brush. No shots were fired. All four men were caught and arrested. The driver ran because he had outstanding warrants.

### TWO CATFISH, 117 SANDIES SEIZED FROM CAST NETTERS

•Tarrant County Game Warden Ronald Mathis seized two catfish and 117 white bass from a group of fishermen who were cast-netting in the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. Cases pending.

### JUVENILE CAUGHT HUNTING ON RANCH WITHOUT PERMISSION

•Brazos/Robertson County Game Warden Jason Bussey received a call from a Robertson County sheriff's deputy concerning someone hunting on a ranch without permission. One of the leaseholders had caught the individual on the property. The individual was found with two weapons while hog hunting on the ranch. The young man admitted to having a pellet gun that was stolen from the camp house on the property. The second weapon was retained for evidence, and it was learned it also had been reported stolen. Cases pending.

### DRUNK ASKS WRONG PERSON FOR DIRECTIONS

•After working at Lake Livingston, San Jacinto County Game Warden Brian Scott was at home about 10 p.m. when a drunken man drove up to his house asking for directions. Scott contacted DPS and a trooper arrived, and it was discovered that not only was the man intoxicated, but had in his possession marijuana and Xanax. The man was arrested by DPS.

### 23 CITATIONS ISSUED IN SPRING BREAK PATROLS

•Game Wardens Don Jackson and Jarret Barker assisted the Port Aransas Police Department with Spring Break patrols on the beach. The two wardens issued 23 citations for DWI, PI, MIP, prohibited weapons and possession of marijuana. At one time, the two wardens were impounding a vehicle from a DWI arrest and a second DWI drove up to them.

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### NEW SPORTS TECHNOLOGY

## New lure fishes top and bottom at same time; wins two tournaments.

Prototype caught a fish every 180 seconds in secret test.

One cast – two fish

YALESVILLE, CT. It's called the Kissin' Cousin™ and a member of the Fishing Hall of Fame says it revolutionizes fishing. He may be right. He won two Bass Champions' Senior Tournaments and out-fished 120 other competitors in a Florida State Tournament, using a prototype of the lure.



By Mike Butler

The inventor, a retired high school principal, let me watch as a friend and he fished the lure in a remote area in Florida, but insisted on my secrecy until he filed for a patent. They caught a fish every three minutes in a spell-binding display of catch and release fishing. I saw fish swim away from the top lure, then take the lower one. They had two choices instead of one, and would have been lost with a regular lure. Sometimes fish would strike the top and the bottom lure. I imagined my young grandson catching two fish at once. Wouldn't that make his day!

### Doubles catch rate

The Kissin' Cousin™ is two lures on one line; one for top water, another for bottom. The top-water lure, a specially designed floater, has a fine hole through its center for the line to pass through. Because the line moves freely through the hole, the fisherman can control the depth of the second lure, even fix it at a certain depth. The lure literally doubles his chance to catch fish.

A company spokesman told me this.

"The Kissin' Cousin™ is going to make a huge difference in fishing, but for tournament fishermen it's a pot of gold. It could double their catch and their winnings! For the first time they can cover top and bottom

water at the same time, even bring in two fish with one throw. They can also work the bottom lure up and down beneath the floater. No other lure can do that! The floater also serves as a strike indicator for the lower lure. Here's another reason it can double a fisherman's catch, and earnings.

### Error-proof sets

"It automatically protects a fisherman from a common error -- setting the hook too soon on a top-water strike. There is a three-or-four-turn delay while the lower bait is reeled up to the floater, just enough time for the fish to get the top-water lure's hook in its mouth. When the fisherman feels the lower lure connect with the upper, he sets.

### "Changes everything"

"John Fox, a fishing show host on ESPN for nearly ten years and ten-time bass champion, told me he has never seen a lure as effective as the Kissin' Cousin™. In his own words: 'It changes everything. Who's going to fish for one when he can fish for two? All you do is cast it, chug the floater to noise it up, drop the lower bait to the depth you want -- and stand by! If you don't get a fish with the top lure, you'll get him with the lower one. I caught two at once several times in the two tournaments I won with it. Fifty years on the water and I've never seen a lure pull in so many fish so fast.'

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One Kit costs \$32.95; two cost \$55.00; three cost \$79.95, about a \$20.00 savings. Each kit has three different colored lures. \$h is only \$7.00 no matter how many kits you order. The Kissin' Cousin™ is not in stores. To try it, call the



Picture is a dramatization of the new Kissin' Cousin™ lure in action. The lower lure can be moved to any depth, or up and down to enlarge strike zone.

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## Turkeys

Continued from Page 1

Harrell explained that toms and hens tend to drift off to the nesting areas on the west side of the ranch.

"When you go to calling, and the jakes get close, it sure messes things up," Harrell said.

There are ways to get around that. (See related story on Page 6.)

Meanwhile, most hunters and guides expect the best hunting will be near the season's end, when mating should be fully under way. The South Zone season closes April 27.

But while jakes are a bother this season, they could be money in the bank starting next year. Harrell explained that Stowers Ranch turkeys are making a comeback after years of decline from drought and predators.

"This is where our future is — these younger birds," he said. "You hate to kill all these jakes and then have a bad hatch."

Unlike their South Zone counterparts, some

turkey guides in the North Zone reported that the jakes seem to be respecting their elders.

"We got a lot of jakes," said Johnny Hudman, wildlife manager for Stasney's Cook Ranch near Albany. "They usually drive you insane when you're trying to call, but I'm not seeing that."

"Our problem is we got almost no 2-year-olds, so we're hunting older birds, 4-year-old birds, and it's tough. They're smarter."

"The birds we've killed have been huge — probably 20 pounds — but it hasn't been easy."

Gary Cooper of San Antonio owns 90 acres adjoining Lake Calaveras. Cooper's friend, Bryan Real, arrowed a tom while his son, Bradley, operated the range finder. "The birds were on the way back to the roost," Cooper said. "The tom didn't come to the call, but he stopped just long enough." Cooper said he is seeing more than 100 birds on his property. "Last year we saw 30 toms," he said. "This year we've only seen 10, but we have at least 30 jakes."

Hudman expects the last part of the season will see mating and better opportunities for hunters.

### RIO GRANDE TURKEY

North Zone March 29 - May 11  
\* Special Youth Season May 17-18  
South Zone Mar. 15 - April 27  
(54 counties)  
\* Special Youth Season May 3-4  
1 - Turkey Bag Limit (8 counties) April 1 - 30

### EASTERN TURKEY

Spring Season  
East Texas (43 counties) April 1 - 30

For bag limits in your county and additional information, call TPW at 1-800-792-1112.

## Record

Continued from Page 9

opened at first. Then she started yelling about the weight. I told her to give me the phone."

Cody used a 5-inch Texas-rigged black and blue fleck Tiki Stick to catch the fish. But it was the rod and reel used that was most special. "I used to go to Smitty's Sporting Goods in Oak Cliff a lot," Greg Clark said. "After it closed, the owner, Franklin Smith, moved nearby with his son, Jimmy, and we became close friends."

"After Franklin died about five years ago, Jimmy gave Cody his dad's rod and reel," he said. "It was a Shimano Calcutta reel on a G.

Loomis rod. Jimmy told Cody to promise to take care of it."

After Cody caught the fish, his father asked him what rod and reel he used. "Cody just smiled and said, 'I used Smitty's rod.'"

A replica of the fish is being made. "I had promised if he ever caught one over 8 pounds, I would get a replica made for him," Greg Clark said. "He caught the fish on Good Friday, and Saturday morning I was at Lake Fork Taxidermy."

The father-son pair plans to keep fishing together. "My dad and I may fish Bass Champs next year," Cody said.

But young Cody is taking the big news in stride. "The guys at school tell me it's been something I've been waiting for a long time," he said. "The girls don't seem to care — I still tell them though."

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## Scroggins

Continued from Page 8

Scroggins said the fish are going to and from the spawning beds and staging on the point. "I know both the local and tournament guys will be hammering it," he said. "Whoever gets the spot could win there again."

In the bass fishing world, most of the anglers respect others' fishing holes, but some will hang off and keep an eye on the lucky spots. If the team leaves the spot, the other will swoop in and start casting.

Ironically, this isn't the only time the Palatka, Fla., angler has won major events on one fishing hole. Scroggins also has a favorite spot on Santee Cooper Lake in South Carolina and has finished in the top ten the last six times he fished there.

Scroggins is very pleased with this year's team. "Russ Lane is on my team and he came in second last year — he is a good guy to have."

Shaw Grigsby and Craig Dowling, both great anglers, will be helping out too.

He also believes the event will be won on fish found in deeper water.

"Because of the four-hour time slot, you can't win on bed fishing," he said. "So I have to find more off-shore schools."

On the entire 27,264-acre lake, no one seems to know where there is another spot like Mustang, but Scroggins is determined to find one during practice. "I don't think weather will be a problem this year and I like the event format a lot," he said. "It's fun, you learn from your teammates and they learn from you."

The 38-year-old known as "Big Show" likes to duck hunt and restore automobiles in his time off.

Scroggins casts with power and can catch fish on anything — but he likes crankbaits the best. "Look at that bush," he said on a recent outing. "Want me to catch a fish on a jig in there?" He flips and produces.

"Watch this," he said. "I'll catch a fish off that brush pile with this spinnerbait." He casts and produces. When he gets to Fork, he will say to his partner:

"Look here, that's where we caught 225 pounds of bass last year — watch this."

He hopes the spot will produce again.

### Terry Scroggins

Times in the Bass Master Classic – 5  
Times in the money – 57  
BASS Career Earnings – \$935,121  
Top 10 finishes – 19

### Toyota Texas Bass Classic

April 18-20

- 104 4-angler teams, 2 anglers fish Flight 1, other 2 anglers fish Flight 2
- Flight 1 fishes from 7-11 a.m. each day
- Weigh-in for Flight 1 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Flight 2 fishes from 12-4 p.m. each day
- Weigh-in for Flight 2 from 4-5:30 p.m.



HEADING OUT: Terry Scroggins believes this year's Toyota Texas Bass Classic will be won by anglers finding fish in deeper water. Photo by David J. Sams.

## Award

Continued from Page 6

said. "It's not just about going out to kill animals. It's also conserving them."

Nick is a member of several other conservation organizations, including the Dallas Safari Club, SCI and Texas Trophy Hunters. His best whitetail won the 2007 Los Cazadores Best Youth Whitetail Buck and Texas Whitetail Classic Best Buck, and TTHA Best 17 and Under Buck for the second year in a row.

But his favorite hunting accomplishment isn't personal. "I've taken several guys from school to

'I tried to explain what hunters do. It's not just about going out to kill animals. It's also conserving them.'

— Nicholas Hopmann

the ranch who had never hunted before," he said. "They loved it. I taught them gun safety and guided them. We had a nice management buck and one of my friends got to hunt it. After three days, we finally saw him and my friend nailed it — a perfect shot."

And what do the other schoolmates think? "Most think I'm pretty lucky to get off from school and go around the world," he said. "Even the girls think it's pretty cool, although some will say they think it's wrong. Usually when I explain what we are doing and the purpose for it they understand."

The father-son hunting team has made two trips to Africa, and Nick has taken more than 30 species, including three of the Big Five, a lion, a leopard, and a rhino. And the pair left Wednesday for another trip, this time to Zimbabwe, South Africa and New Zealand.

"I'm hoping to finish the Big Five and the Big Seven before I turn 18," Nick said. "I lack the elephant and buffalo for the Big Five, and the crocodile and hippo for the Big Seven. And in December, we're going to Utah to hunt cougar — that would finish the Dangerous Cats of the World for me."

Nick knows the expense involved and that he is a lucky young man. "I need to get them before I get out on my own," he said.

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## ShareLunker No. 451



Cesar Gomez of Laredo caught this 13.33-pound largemouth from Lake Casa Blanca April 1, using a Senko in four feet of water. The fish was 28.25 inches long and 21.5 inches in girth and had been caught and entered into the ShareLunker program on Feb. 14, 2006 by Jay Stevens of Abilene. Lake Casa Blanca, a 1,680-acre lake on the outskirts of Laredo, has produced five ShareLunkers. Photo by Cesar Gomez.

## Jakes

Continued from Page 6

"The gobbling — they're going after it," Storch said of toms he has seen on the ranches where he operates. "But right now, for every hen, I got 16 jakes chasing her."

Storch explained that jakes will goof around most of the morning and wear themselves out, along with the hens. The flock will generally find a quiet place to rest, Storch said, but not the toms.

Storch said he lets his hunters sleep in and then feeds them a big breakfast. Late morning is when they get after it.

"Between the hours of 10 and 2 is when you kill your biggest bird," he said. "I promise you, it will work."

James Prince of Port O'Connor, a member of the Bass Pro Shop pro staff, said there is no substitute for old-fashioned shoe-leather scouting to find where the toms go to get a break from the jakes.

"Watch a bird at a distance, then follow him to his roost," he said.

Scouting with stealth, he added, is no understatement; avoid riding in a motorized vehicle because even a quarter four-wheeler will scare a bird.

'The gobbling —  
they're going after it.  
But right now, for  
every hen, I got 16  
jakes chasing her.'

— Dale Storch

And, Prince advised, have patience.

He and Storch both said that the earlier season start this year didn't help hunters because the mating hadn't gotten underway. But two weeks later, the mating still seemed to be off, according to some hunters.

Prince, who has hunted this year from George West to Goliad, expects the best hunting will be near the season's end, when mating should be in full swing.

"As far as my strategy goes, I'm not going to change anything," Prince said on April 3. "I think, honestly, that not this weekend but next weekend, a lot of more birds will be responding to calls."

## Wal-Mart

Continued from Page 1

site, Wal-Mart has 3,420 retail locations in the U.S. Five industry representatives confirmed the announcements to LSON.

"It looks like they are going to more of a seasonal thing," said one industry representative, who asked not to be named since Wal-Mart has yet to publicly confirm the changes. "They sell most of their tackle from March through Labor Day. Our information is that the changes will be mostly in urban and suburban areas and the rural stores — the most important to us — will continue throughout the year.

"But in the short-term, it may present some inventory issues."

An out-of-state Wal-Mart store manager was not yet aware of the cuts. "But it's probably a good decision for the company," he said. "From an angler's standpoint, I wish it was there always. But from a business standpoint, it's seasonal."

The superstore manager said he currently has 30 feet of space devoted to fishing tackle.

The manager expected sales of fishing and hunting equipment to continue. "Wal-Mart wouldn't get rid of anything that's making money," he said.

Fishermen who shop at Wal-Mart regularly said they would adjust to the change. "They don't have a huge selection," said Darren Ash of McKinney. "But it's the convenience of them being so close, and the price. I have noticed they don't have as many plastics as before, though."

Ash said he wouldn't check different Wal-Marts if the store closest to him cuts the department. "I would probably go to Sports Authority or Academy, and if they don't have what I want, to Bass Pro (Shops)."

Wal-Mart did not return several phone calls from LSON seeking a response to the reports.

But should the cuts be as dramatic as expected, other retailers are ready to pick up the slack.

One big box retailer announced plans to expand its product line.

"Academy Sports and Outdoors is committed to our field and stream side of the stores," said Scott Frnka, vice president of field and stream. "We have just brought out a line of our popular Magellan clothing in women's cuts and styles. We are the title sponsor for the Women's Bassmaster tour and 12 of the top women anglers in the world.

"We will continue growing our product lines in field and stream so our customers will always find what they need and in season."

Independent retailers don't foresee much change. Rocky Guerra, owner of Roy's Bait and Tackle in Corpus Christi said he doesn't expect a big run of people. "Our focus has to be service, knowledge, and assortment. But when it comes to competing with them on price, we can't do it."

Guerra said Wal-Mart's cutbacks could cause manufacturers and distributors to suffer. "They are scrambling," he said. "The manufacturer reps have told me their orders already have been affected."

A manufacturer's representative confirmed his company already has made budget cuts. "It really hurt our sales forecast for the year," the representative said.

But industry reps were not all gloom and doom. "Wal-Mart is going to stay in fishing, and we think that's great," a representative said. "With the huge numbers of people that go in there, it's a great place to raise awareness about fishing.

"I'm glad they are in the industry, it's the reason I still shop there. I won't go into a Target since it dropped fishing sales."

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# HEROES



**SAMMY STARR**, 6, shows off his first hunting trophy ever, a Corsican ram taken at The Triple S Ranch in Calvin, Okla.



**GORDY OATES** of Lanoke, Ark., harvested this 10-point buck hunting in Saskatchewan, Canada. The buck was green scored at 174 B&C and weighed in excess of 300 pounds.



**JEFF** and **ADAM HOLDEN**, 8, of Granby, Conn. shot these two hogs at the Welder-McCann Ranch in Woodsboro. The bigger hog is the first animal Adam has taken.



**JAMES** and **SHIRLEY SLAUGHTER**'s grandsons **TUCKER**, **KYLE** and **DEVLIN** caught these fish at their grandparents' catfish pond near Woodville.

## SHARE AN ADVENTURE

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



**KYLER MCCLEENDON**, 6, of Miami shot his first mule deer with a .223 in Roberts County.



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## Bonanza

Continued from Page 1

\$50,000 bass boats sitting on the shore of a private ranch lake.

They all looked at each other and said "let's fish anyway." So they fished from the bank and caught more than 100 bass.

With their options drying up, that night the group revised its plans. The only water they could find was in Lake Casa Blanca near Laredo, 70-plus miles away. The famed Falcon Lake could be seen from their hotel room but was off limits because of an upcoming tournament.

The next morning, Gerald Swindle filled up his rig and claimed he is a bass-a-holic. "I have a week off and here I am looking for somewhere to catch a bass in South Texas," he said. He slipped inside the Valero store to fill himself up.

"I want one of them wraps," he yelled in his southern Alabama voice.

"You mean a taco," the counter clerk answered.

The six oil field workers in line snickered at the conversation. They

were dressed in Nomex (fire retardant) jumpsuits, while Swindle was dressed in his sandals and his fishing jersey. He said "hello" to everyone as he passed.

At sunrise, there was a concrete boat ramp and lots of water. By noon, the catching was not good at Casa Blanca.

At the ramp, some local boys told the team exactly where and what to fish. "Use a Senko, in four foot, near the reeds," one local said. The team has heard this before. They decided to go eat. A few days later they learned that same local caught a 13.33-pound bass on a Senko, in four feet of water, near the reeds.

At lunch, they received a call about a possible "really nice" lake nearby.

"Let's go check it out," they agreed.

They bolted off down another dusty road with their wrapped rigs.

Behind this gate, there was water. The ranch manager has received permission to let the team fish for the next day. The place looked way too good and Scroggins just kept talking. A few minutes later, the guys were backing their boats down a gravel ramp.

"At least introduce yourselves," the ranch manager said just before Scroggins had him roaring across the 200-acre lake. "We are going to do some catching here, boys," Swindle said. The members sped off like they were in a major tournament.

Scroggins boated about 34 pounds in the first hour. Swindle had almost 20 pounds on big 10-inch worms.

No one had heard from Wolak. "He must be pounding them," Swindle said.

The phone rang. It was Wolak. "What you got, Hammer?" Swindle said.

"I only have three on topwater," Wolak replied.

"What do you mean, Hammer?" (Swindle calls everyone Hammer.)

"I have caught so many, I lost count, but I know I have three on top," Wolak answered.

The catching continued until sundown. The team agreed this might be one of the best fishing afternoons they have had. On the ride back to Zapata, they passed 18 rattlesnakes stretched out on the highway.

"I hate snakes," Swindle said. "But I love the fishing here."



**TRIPLE-HEADER:** Terry Scroggins, Gerald Swindle and Dave Wolak show bass they caught from a South Texas private lake. The afternoon produced more than 150 fish for the anglers. Photo by David J. Sams.

## Phillips

Continued from Page 8

At age 60, Phillips said he feels so good, "it's hard to believe I have brain cancer." His aim, he said, is to "just deal with it, get it over with and get back to fishing."

That would suit his fly-fishing friends just fine.

"We're hoping to get him back on the poling platform soon, guiding on West Galveston Bay," said Dave Hayward of Orvis, regional business manager for the south-central states and an organizer, with Packmore, of the benefit.

For the past 30 years or so, Phillips has been passing along his enthusiasm and knowledge of saltwater fly-fishing to his guide trip customers in Galveston Bay and offshore, as well as those who just wander into the shop, friends said.

"He pretty much got me involved in saltwater fly-fishing," Hayward said. "I was a bass freshwater fisherman. The big open water here was known as a big tackle fishery. He brought instant credibility to the (fly-fishing) sport over here," Hayward said.

Back in the '80s, Phillips was also known for competing in the prestigious Gold Cup tarpon tournament in Florida, Hayward said.

The benefit's organizers declined to say how much money they raised, saying they hoped to surprise Phillips, and also will hold some funds back to help through an expected long recovery, with future expenses.

Phillips made friends not only on fishing trips, but every time a customer walked in the store, where he worked when he wasn't guiding, Packmore said.

This post on TexasKayak-Fisherman.com from a customer with the handle "Big Muddy" is typical: "Wow! I'm a horrible saltwater fly-fisherman, but Capt. Phillips was there at FTU to help me pick out an 8 wt. rod and flies for targeting reds in the Port Lavaca area last fall. He is certainly a friendly, passionate, and informative advocate of Texas fly-fishing. Best wishes to him and his family."

Donated items for raffles and contests at the benefit came from makers like Shimano, Scott, Sage, Orvis, Diamond Blade Knives, and kayaks from Emotion and Legacy Paddle Sports, among others. Grand prize in the raffle was a Beavertail BTX Skiff with trailer and accessories.

Fellow fly-fishing guide Scott Sommerlatte agreed to have his head and beard shaved to raise more funds. "I can't remember when I didn't have a beard," Sommerlatte said. Phillips' friends responded by taking turns at the clippers and with generous contributions.

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## Chaparral

Continued from Page 6

to the path the wildfire traveled as well as the survival instincts of wildlife.

"The fire went through in a spearhead then spread out," he said. "That allowed wildlife to go back through the low-flame areas. Also, their sense of smell is extremely good. They can smell smoke way out in front of the fire. They're not standing there letting it get close. They use the opportunity to find an avenue of escape, whether it's running in front of the fire or seeking areas not burning or going back through the low-flame areas."

One former Chaparral official said avoiding fires is part of how wildlife adapts.

"In a grassland system, the wildlife has spent millions of years there," said Jim Gallagher, a former assistant area manager. "They've dealt with fire before. It takes unusual circumstances for them to be trapped by it. Wildlife either outruns it, outflanks it or digs in and waits for it to go by. They're good at avoiding it. A lot better than us."

Gallagher, now a Texas AgriLife Extension Service wildlife specialist, said the hard part for animals may be surviving the fire's aftermath.

At Chaparral, the middle of the WMA largely burned costing animals not only food but cover, said Gallagher, who visited in late March as part of a youth sporting event. The

unburned areas are mostly on the periphery.

"Everything that lived in the middle is looking at a long walk to find something that didn't burn," he said. "When I was there, the only thing sprouting was buffalo grass. It was all chopped up, about two inches high. A lot of deer and who knows how many rabbits are competing for those shoots. It's not going to go that far. My concern is they've had eight dry months already. There's not a lot of soil moisture, not a lot of fresh green growth."

Chaparral WMA officials have not made a decision whether to supplement the feeding of its whitetails, Rivieccio said.

"We're going to be monitoring the health of the herd to see if anything needs to be done," she said.

Management officials are cautious in such matters because of the repercussions of supplemental feeding, said Gallagher, who's studied the aftermath of wildfires in California as well as Texas.

"Keeping deer alive that would have otherwise died puts additional stress on the overall system," he said. "You're not doing anything else in any favors. You lose additional plants, the nests of other critters, there's a whole cascade of effects. If you're trying to manage the whole system, it's probably not a good idea. Give nature a chance to fix it, keep it in balance like it always has. In a couple of years, it will be back the way it should be."

Despite the fire, no changes have been proposed for 2008-2009 hunting dates, pending before the TPW Commission, Synatzske said.

## Act

Continued from Page 8

with the EPA exemption overturned, "the court's decision means that, if left unfixed by Congress, the EPA and the 50 states have to figure out how to issue a special National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems permit for each and every recreational boat in the country that discharges everything from engine cooling water to deck run-off," NMMMA's vice president and senior counsel said.

Coastal guides are concerned. "The average boater in Texas gets his boat out on the water what, three, four times a year," said long-time Lower Laguna Madre guide Mitch

Richmond. "With the cost of fuel, insurance, and a boat slip, what reason should he own a boat for — for that matter, what would the permit cost me? I am on the water a hundred plus days a year — that's just another business expense I don't need."

The court decision has raised the ire of a few Congressional leaders as well. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Cal) and Senator Bill Nelson (D-Fl) introduced the Clean Boating Act of 2008 to reinstate the 35-year-old EPA exemption. The legislation will reinstate the exemption and pursue the need to recognize best practices for some recreational boat discharges.

If the legislation fails or stalls, beginning in September, boaters will have to sport a NPDES permit alongside their boater registration number.

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# OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

**Apr. 16:** The Dallas Safari Club Annual Trophy Awards will be held at Royal Oaks Country Club. For information, call (972) 980-9800 or e-mail [debi@biggame.org](mailto:debi@biggame.org).



**Apr. 17:** The San Antonio CCA banquet will be held at the Freeman Coliseum. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.

**Apr. 17:** The McKinney DU dinner will be held at the Collin County Youth Barn. Call David Rogers at (972) 727-5892 for information.

**Apr. 17:** The Seguin DU dinner and dance with The Keith Davis Band will be held at Rio Cibolo Ranch. Call Keith Majors at (830) 556-6273 for information.



**Apr. 18:** The Texoma DU chapter will hold a Texas Hold'em Tournament at the Linex of Texoma. Contact Justin Dobbs at (903) 814-2448 for information.

**Apr. 18-20:** The Toyota Texas Bass Classic will be held at Lake Fork. Call (866) 907-0143 or visit [toyotatexasbassclassic.com](http://toyotatexasbassclassic.com) for information.

**Apr. 19-20:** Cabela's in Fort Worth will host the Cowtown Hunting Retriever

Club for seminars on basic dog training at Lone Star Lake in front of the store. Call Stephanie Perry at (817) 337-2400 for information.



**Apr. 19:** The Wheeler County NWTFF dinner will be held at Mel's Diner in Wheeler. Call Ed Brooks at (806) 664-3583.

**Apr. 19:** A NWTFF Women in the Outdoors event will be held at South Llano River State Park in Junction. Call Nanette at (830) 796-0087 for information.



**Apr. 19:** The Redfish Bay CCA banquet will be held at the Port Aransas Civic Center. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.

**Apr. 22-27:** The Spring Nature Quest Festival will be held in Uvalde County. Includes fly-fishing, field trips, workshops, seminars, activities, and more. For information, call (800) 210-0380 or visit [therr.com](http://therr.com).

**Apr. 25-26:** The 7th Annual Stephen McDaniel Memorial Shoot will be held, with a BBQ dinner at Rahr Brewery in Fort Worth on the 25th and a Sporting Clays Shoot at Johnson Ranch on the 26th. Contact Lon Loveless at (817)

371-3544 or [lovelel@hotmail.com](mailto:lovelel@hotmail.com) for information.

**Apr. 26-27:** Bowhunter education courses will be offered in Canton and Garland. For information, call (214) 358-0174.

**Apr. 26-27:** A bowhunter education course will be held in Canton and in Garland. Call (214) 358-0174 for information.

**Apr. 26:** DUCK JAM 2008 will be held at Wolf Pen Creek in College Station featuring Rob Creager and other artists. Contact Cody Roberts at (512) 944-3828 or [croberts@ducks.org](mailto:croberts@ducks.org), or visit [budweiserduckjam.com](http://budweiserduckjam.com).

**Apr. 26:** The NE Houston CCA dinner will be held at the Humble Expo Arena. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.

**Apr. 26:** The Tyler Delta Waterfowl dinner will be held at the Lone Star Event Center. Call Shane Weems at (903) 576-4095 for information.

**Apr. 26:** The Permian Basin RMEF Big Game banquet will be held. Call Lynn Talley at (432) 687-1819 for information.



**Apr. 28:** The Houston DU Golf Tournament will be held at Wildcat Golf

Club. Contact George Koenig at (713) 444-5012 or [geo\\_koe@yahoo.com](mailto:geo_koe@yahoo.com) for information.

**May 1:** The Fort Worth CCA dinner will be held at Joe T. Garcia's. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.



**May 1:** The Metrocrest DU dinner will be held at the Addison Convention Center. Contact Rob Gokey at (972) 234-3933 or [rob@triplefoods.com](mailto:rob@triplefoods.com) for information.

**May 3:** The North Bexar County Cinco de Mayo DU dinner will be held at Pedrotti's Northwind Ranch. Call Roxanne at (210) 241-5199 for information.

**May 3:** The 1st Annual DU Chili Cook-Off will be held at San Jacinto and MLK in Austin, with live music from No Fences. Call Josh Chambers at (281) 705-4241 for information.

**May 3:** The Houston Safari Club Annual Clay Shoot will be held at American Shooting Center. Contact Jennifer at (713) 623-8844 or [jennifer@houston-safariclub.org](mailto:jennifer@houston-safariclub.org) for information.



**May 4:** The UT University Bass Anglers will hold a Bassjam Open Tournament at Lake Travis. For information, contact Ty Brockhoeft at (512) 576-4292 or

[universitybassanglers@hotmail.com](mailto:universitybassanglers@hotmail.com), or visit [texasbasssteam.com](http://texasbasssteam.com).

**May 8-26:** Go Outdoors! events will be held at Bass Pro Shops in Katy and Pearland. Learn about camping, kayaking, canoeing and more. For information, call (281) 644-2200 or (713) 770-5100 or visit [basspro.com](http://basspro.com).



**May 8-10:** The Texas State Championship Pitts & Spits Stampede of Pits BBQ Cook-Off will be held at the Lone Star Expo Center in Conroe. Contact Henry Daniels at (936) 520-3244 or [stampedeofpits@gmail.com](mailto:stampedeofpits@gmail.com) for information.

**May 8:** The Dallas Safari Club East Texas Regional Spring Meeting will be held at Bumpass Acres. Contact Haskell Stricklen at (469) 484-6774 or [Haskell@biggame.org](mailto:Haskell@biggame.org) for information.

**May 8:** The Guadalupe County Longbeards NWTFF dinner will be held at the Seguin Guadalupe County Coliseum. Contact Mark Ballard at (830) 549-5149 or [ballard6449@mac.com](mailto:ballard6449@mac.com) for information.

**HAVE AN EVENT?**  
E-mail it to  
[editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com](mailto:editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com)

## TPW Commission adopts new hunting/fishing regulations

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted changes to hunting and fishing regulations.

A proposal that would have extended regulations allowing the take of catfish by means of bow and arrow was withdrawn. As of Sept. 1, 2008, taking of catfish by means of bow and arrow will no longer be legal.

Changes approved by the Commission:

### Carp Bag Limit

Anglers fishing Lady Bird Lake (formerly Town Lake) in Austin will be allowed to retain only one common carp 33 inches or larger

per day.

### Community Fishing Lake Pole Limit

Anglers will be limited to using two fishing poles on designated community fishing lakes.

### Lake Nacogdoches Bass Limit

A 16-inch maximum size limit on largemouth bass was imposed on Lake Nacogdoches. One bass 24 inches or larger may be retained temporarily in a livewell and then weighed using handheld scales.

### Purtis Creek/Lake Raven Bass Limit

This rule changes the largemouth bass temporary retention length

limit to 24 inches on catch-and-release only Purtis Creek State Park Lake and Lake Raven.

### Lake Texoma Spotted Bass

The 14-inch minimum length limit for spotted bass on Lake Texoma has been removed.

### Lake Nasworthy/Colorado City Red Drum Limit

This removes the harvest exceptions for red drum on Lake Nasworthy and the 20-inch minimum length limit for red drum on Colorado City Reservoir. Both water bodies revert to the statewide limits of three fish per day and a 20-28-inch reverse slot limit.

### Expand Panhandle Mule Deer Season

Sherman and Hansford counties have been added to the northern Panhandle mule deer season and in Gaines, Martin, and the eastern portion of Andrews counties were added to the southwest Panhandle season.

### Deer Proof of Sex Requirement Change

This allows special deer permit tags, including Managed Land Deer Permits, Landowner Assisted Management Permitting System, special public hunting and Antlerless and Spike Control, to sat-

isfy proof of sex tagging requirements.

### Eliminate Bowhunting Minimum Draw Weight

The requirement of a 40-pound minimum peak draw weight on bowhunting equipment has been removed.

### Lower Minimum Age for Hunter Education Certification

The minimum age a student may receive hunter education certification has been lowered from 12 years to 9 years.

—Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

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Moon Phases



Solar Table

Table with 4 columns: Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Amarillo. Rows show sunrise and sunset times for various dates.

Sun and Moon

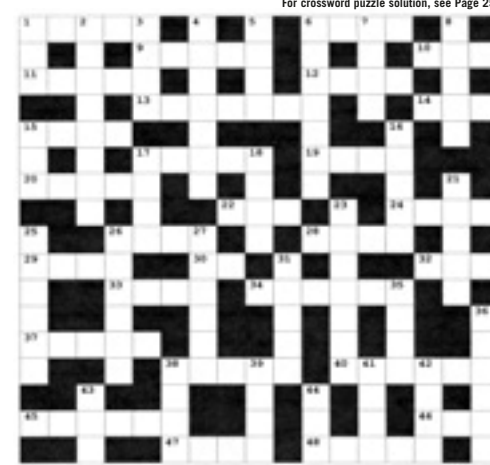
Table with 4 columns: Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Amarillo. Rows show sunrise and sunset times for various dates.

Tides

Large table with 12 columns (High, Low, High, Low, High, Low, High, Low, High, Low, High, Low) and many rows of tide data for various locations.

OUTDOOR PUZZLER

- ACROSS
1. Number game or fish allowed
6. A young deer
9. To remove a fired cartridge
10. Wild one is hunted in Hawaii
11. The wingshooter's quarry
12. A type of gunsight
13. Gun-firing lever
14. A reticle on a scope
15. Oxidation on gun parts
17. A great lure for Northern pike
19. A species of fish
20. To stalk a game
22. An auger is part of this fishing gear
24. A salmon
26. An underwater hazard
28. Type stand for still hunting
29. The antlers
30. A bullet code
32. A type of fly lure
33. Arrows to the bowhunter
34. A kind of turkey call
37. Bighorn, dall
38. It's in a hunter's snack pack
40. A family of sunfish
45. A species of the partridge
46. Good hunter takes TLC of this
47. Name for a type hunting boat
48. Canadian wildfowl



- DOWN
8. A big game
15. The buck mating season
16. Tasty method of preparing carp
17. To field dress a game
18. The slot for the bowstring
21. To bag game for the fur
23. The fur, hide hunter
25. Term for a man-made deer trail
26. Term for design of floating fly
27. There is the sage and the ruffed
31. Term for a one-man float tube
35. To analyze a game's trail markings
36. A shot that misses target
38. Popular baits for big bass
39. Recoil from firing a gun
41. Good shooters \_\_\_\_ the trigger slowly
42. Field habitat preferred by quail
43. Shell that fails to fire
44. A type fishing lure

Outdoor Puzzler, Witbur 'Wib' Lundeen

WILD IN THE KITCHEN

Turkey Enchiladas

- Ingredients:
2 (10 3/4-ounce) Cans cream of mushroom soup
1/2 Cup sour cream
1/2 Cup diced chilies
12 Tortillas, flour or corn
1 Cup grated Monterey Jack cheese
1 Cup cheddar cheese
1/2 Cup chopped onion
2 Cups cooked cubed wild turkey
Nonstick cooking spray
1/2 Cup sliced, ripe black olives (optional)



Instructions:
Combine soup, sour cream and chilies. Heat thoroughly. Warm tortillas in damp towel in microwave or in a non-stick skillet over the stove. Coat a 13x9x2-inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. Mix cheeses, onion, turkey

and 1 cup of the soup mixture. Put two tablespoons of cheese-turkey mixture in the center of each tortilla. Roll tortillas and place in baking dish. Pour remaining soup mixture over top. Cover, and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Uncover, and top with sliced, ripe black olives and additional cheese, if desired.

Recipe from The National Wild Turkey Federation, nwtf.org.

Bourbon Glazed Fish

- Ingredients:
4 6- to 8-ounce fish fillets, skin removed
Freshly ground black pepper
1/3 Cup dark brown sugar
1/3 Cup bourbon
1/4 Cup soy sauce
1 Teaspoon hoisin sauce
4 Garlic cloves, minced
2 Tablespoons fresh gingerroot, peeled and minced
1/3 Cup orange juice
1 Lemon, juice only

remaining ingredients. Place fish in a glass or plastic container or large Ziploc bag. Reserve 1/2 cup of the marinade. Pour remaining marinade over fish and refrigerate 2 to 4 hours, turning occasionally. Remove fish from marinade. Pat fish down with paper towels and air dry in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Grill fish over white-hot coals until just cooked. Just before removing from the grill, brush with reserved marinade.

Instructions:
Season fish with pepper. Combine

Recipe from Scott Leysath, huntfishcook.com.

# FISHING REPORT

## HOT BITES

### LARGEMOUTH BASS



**LIVINGSTON:** Black bass are excellent on spinnerbaits and soft plastics.

**BROWNWOOD:** Black bass are excellent on chartreuse spinnerbaits, craw jigs, crankbaits, and 3/16 oz. Shaky Heads with 4" worms along the shoreline, among rocks, and near dead grass in 1-15 feet.

**FALCON:** Black bass are excellent on watermelon red Brush Hogs and soft plastics, and chartreuse/white spinnerbaits in 2-6 feet.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Black bass are excellent on green flake worms, silver/blue Rat-L-Traps, and watermelon/red Baby Brush Hogs near the islands and the marina in 2-8 feet.

### WHITE/HYBRID/STRIPER



**CALAVERAS:** Striped bass are good on chicken livers, shad and spoons.

**WALTER E. LONG:** Hybrid striped are good on minnows along the bank at night.

**AMISTAD:** Striped bass are good on slabs, minnows, and small crankbaits up the Rio Grande and Devil's rivers.

### CATFISH



**CHOKO CANYON:** Channel and blue catfish are good on punchbait. Yellow catfish are good on punchbait.

**BRAUNIG:** Channel catfish are excellent on shrimp, liver, and stinkbait.

**STILLHOUSE:** Channel and blue catfish are very good on stinkbait and chicken livers.

**COLETO CREEK:** Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with perch and liver. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch.

### CRAPPIE



**LBJ:** Crappie are good on crappie jigs and live minnows in 2-4 feet.

**WHITNEY:** Crappie are good on minnows and pink tube jigs.

**TRAVIS:** Crappie are good on minnows and white tube jigs in 5-15 feet.

**MEREDITH:** Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live bait.

**O.H. IVE:** Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

**ALAN HENRY:** Water lightly stained; 58 degrees; 0.98' high. Black bass are fair on black/blue jigs suspended in timber, lipless crankbaits and white spinnerbaits along outer tree lines. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

**AMISTAD:** Water clear; 61 degrees; 7.23' low. Black bass are fair on jerkbaits, spinnerbaits, watermelon Senkos, and deep running crankbaits. White bass are good on slabs, minnows and small crankbaits up the Rio Grande and Devil's rivers.

**ARROWHEAD:** Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 2.46' low. Black bass are good on swimbaits and Texas-rigged worms fished shallow. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs at state park early and late in day, and around Deer Creek bridge pilings on minnows suspended 8-15 feet deep with spawning starting. Blue catfish are good on juglines and drift fishing with shad or punch bait.

**ATHENS:** Water stained; 59-66 degrees; 0.37' high. Black bass are fair to good on Senkos, Texas rigs and spinnerbaits. Catfish are good on prepared baits and nightcrawlers.

**BASTROP:** Water clear. 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; 59 degrees; 0.33' high. Black bass are fair to good on minnows and slabs. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs and shrimp.

**BOB SANDLIN:** Water off color; 59-66 degrees; 0.11' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigged lizards, wacky rigged worms and chatterbaits.

**BRAUNIG:** Water stained; 70 degrees. Black bass are good along shoreline and near the Hwy. 279 Bridge. Redfish are good on live perch and tilapia. Blue catfish are fair on chicken livers, shrimp, stinkbait and nightcrawlers.

**BRIDGEPORT:** Water stained; 58-65 degrees; 1' low. Channel catfish are good on cut and prepared bait.

**BROWNWOOD:** Water stained; 61 degrees; 1.11' low. Crappie to 1.75 pounds are excellent on L1 Fishies and jigs near stick ups in 1-5 feet

and near the Hwy. 279 Bridge.

**BUCHANAN:** Water clear; 62 degrees; 2.67' low. Black bass are good on white/chartreuse spinnerbaits, pumpkin/chartreuse tail Whacky Sticks, and albino/blue soft jerkbaits along drop-offs of points and pockets of creeks in 4-8 feet. Channel catfish are good on live bait. Yellow and blue catfish are good on juglines.

**CADDO:** Water stained; 57-65 degrees; 1.45' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigged Brush Hogs and Rat-L-Traps.

**CALAVERAS:** Water stained; 70 degrees. Black bass are good on soft plastic worms and grubs around reed beds along shorelines. Redfish are good on perch and shrimp on the bottom. Catfish are excellent on nightcrawlers, shad, and liver in 10-20 feet.

**CANYON LAKE:** Water clear; 62 degrees; 0.01' high. Black bass are good on jerkbaits, white spinnerbaits, pumpkin Whacky Sticks in 3-8 feet. Smallmouth bass are good on smoke/red tubes, root beer/green grubs over rock piles and on ledges in 12-25 feet. Yellow and blue catfish are good on juglines.

**CEDAR CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 58-65 degrees; 0.01' high. White bass are good on slabs.

**CHOKO CANYON:** Water lightly stained; 69 degrees; 1.36' low. Black bass are good on swimbaits and Texas rigged soft plastic lizards. Crappie are good on minnows and fair on jigs at night under lights.

**COLEMAN:** Water clear; 64 degrees; 1.28' low. Black bass are good on dark soft plastic worms and spinnerbaits.

**COLETO CREEK:** Water clear; 73 degrees (81 degrees at discharge); 0.41' low. Black bass are good on soft plastics and spinnerbaits in 5-8 feet.

**CONROE:** Water clear. Black bass are fair on chartreuse/green spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and soft plastics in 5-12 feet. Crappie are good on minnows and crappie jigs.

**FALCON:** Water clear lower end, lightly stained mid lake; 72 degrees. Channel and blue catfish are excellent on shrimp and stinkbait. Black bass are excellent on Carolina rigs and crankbaits on structure in 18-25 feet.

**FAYETTE:** Water lightly stained; 68 degrees. Black bass are good on watermelon, Worms and Senkos in 2-10 feet, on white and white/chartreuse spinnerbaits, and on pumpkinseed worms along the outside edges of breaks. Channel and blue catfish are good on cut shad and shrimp over baited holes.

**FORK:** Water fairly clear; 59-66 degrees; 0.43' high. Black bass are fair to good on red Rat-L-Traps, tubes and Texas rigs.

**GRANBURY:** Water clear; 0.40' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse/green soft plastic worms with white tails.

**GRAPEVINE:** Water stained to murky; 59-67 degrees; 5.77' high. Black bass are fair on wacky rigged finesse baits, Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps. White bass are fair to good on slabs.

**GREENBELT:** Water lightly stained; 46 degrees; 26.73' low. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live baits and lipless crankbaits along riprap. Walleye are good on crankbaits and live baits.

Catfish are good on live baits.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water clear; 69 degrees; 0.77' high. Crappie are excellent on live minnows on the north side of the lake around brush and boat docks. White bass are good along the northeast shore.

**JOE POOL:** Water off color; 59-66 degrees; 1.7' high. Black bass are fair to good on jerkbaits, Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs.

**LAKE O' THE PINES:** Water stained to murky; 59-67 degrees; 0.59' high. Black bass are fair on flukes, Texas rigs, spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

**LBJ:** Water stained; 63 degrees; 0.13' low. Black bass are good on blue/white spinnerbaits, green pumpkin Whacky Sticks, and soft plastic jerkbaits in 3-6 feet. Channel catfish are good on live bait. Yellow and blue catfish are good on trotlines.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water off color; 59-66 degrees; 1.44' high. Black bass are fair on chatterbaits, spinnerbaits and Texas rigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Catfish are good on prepared bait and cut shad.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water clear in creeks in the south end, stained in the main lake; 65 degrees; 1.19' high. Blue catfish are excellent on shad.

**MACKENZIE:** Water lightly stained; 45 degrees; 73.60' low. White bass and striped bass are good on minnows and lipless crankbaits.

**MEREDITH:** Water lightly stained; 87 degrees; 75.76' low. Walleye are good on chrome/black back jerkbaits and live baits along riprap and drop-offs. Channel catfish are good on live baits.

**MONTICELLO:** Water fairly clear; 68-82 degrees; 0.23' low. Black bass are fair to good on Rat-L-Traps, flukes and spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs.

**NAVARRO MILLS:** Water stained; 66 degrees; 1.65' high. Crappie to 2 pounds are good on black/orange tube jigs with pink heads.

**O.H. IVE:** Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 10.68' low. Black bass are good on shad-colored crankbaits and spinnerbaits, and live baits. White bass are good on live baits and jerkbaits.

**PALESTINE:** Water stained; 59-66 degrees; 0.35' high. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, Texas rigs and tubes.

Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water stained 59 degrees; 1.45' low. Strippers are good below the dam on white jigs. Catfish are good on set lines baited with liver in the cover adjacent to Rock Creek and in the river two miles below the dam.

**RAY HUBBARD:** Water stained; 59-67 degrees; 0.04' low. Black bass are fair to good on flukes, Senkos, spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water stained; 58-64 degrees; 1.56' high. Black bass are good to excellent on chatter baits and 3/4 oz. spinnerbaits (slow rolled). White bass are good on slabs and jigs and jigging spoons off deep water points or by following the birds.

**RICHLAND CHAMBERS:** Water off color; 59-66 degrees; 0.05' high. Black bass are fair to good on Senkos, Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Water stained; 68 degrees; 0.74' low. Black bass are good on Horny Toads and Super Flukes around shoreline grass in 1-3 feet, watermelon worms around hay grass in 4-6 feet, and Carolina rigged lizards and French fries around scattered hydrilla on main lake flats. Catfish are good on juglines baited with prepared bait.

**STILLHOUSE:** Water clear; 62 degrees; 0.27' high. Black bass are very good on shad along rocky ledges in 17-20 feet. White bass are good on minnows upriver. Crappie are very good on worms and minnows. Carp are excellent on corn.

**TAWAKONI:** Water lightly stained; 59-66 degrees; 0.89' high. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on slabs.

**TEXOMA:** Water off color; 58-66 degrees; 3.4' high. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, Texas rigs, flukes and spinnerbaits. Striped bass are fair to good on topwaters and live shad.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water clear; 67 degrees; 1.05' high. Black bass are good on chartreuse/blue spinnerbaits and shallow running crankbaits around hydrilla beds in 6-10 feet, and on camo and watermelon Wacky worms and Texas-rigged lizards around docks and shallow cover near secondary points. Crappie are good trolling black/chartreuse jigs over hydrilla beds.

**TRAVIS:** Water clear; 64 degrees; 0.72' low. Black bass are good on grubs, flukes, and watermelon lizards and worms in 4-12 feet. White bass are good on chrome crankbaits, white jigs, and minnows in 5-15 feet.

**WALTER E. LONG:** Water clear; 65 degrees. Black bass are good on green/red soft plastic worms near the dam. Crappie are very good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on minnows and cut bait.

**WEATHERFORD:** Water stained; 58-66 degrees; 0.05' low. Black bass are fair to good on tubes and Senkos. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs in.

**WHITNEY:** Water stained; 1.92' low. Black bass are good on pumpkinseed spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and soft plastics. Catfish are good on live bait and frozen shrimp.

See Hot Spot on Page 9.

## SALTWATER SCENE

**NORTH SABINE:** Trout are fair to good while wading the Louisiana shoreline on She Dogs and red shad soft plastics. Redfish and flounder are good on live bait in the marsh.

**SOUTH SABINE:** Trout are good at the Causeway Reef on plum, fire tiger and glow/chartreuse plastics and live shrimp. Black drum and sheepshead are good at the jetty on shrimp and crabs.

**BOLIVAR:** Trout are fair to good at Rollover Pass on Little Fishies, DOA Shrimp and Bass Assassins. Redfish, black drum, and whiting are good on the beachfront on fresh dead shrimp and crabs.

**TRINITY BAY:** Trout are fair to good on the east shoreline on She Dogs, Super Spoos and glow plastics.

**EAST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are fair to good on protected shorelines in the evening on topwaters and Corkies. Redfish are good in the Intracoastal on Redfish. Redfish are good in the channel on crabs.

**WEST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are fair over shell on live shrimp and red shad and plum plastics. Redfish, whiting and sheepshead are good on cut-bait from the beachfront.

**TEXAS CITY:** Black drum are good on cracked crabs and shrimp off the piers on the dike and at the Drum Hole. Trout and flounder are fair to good Dollar Reef and April Fool's Reef on live shrimp.

**FREEPORT:** Trout, redfish and sheepshead are fair to good at San Luis Pass, Cold Pass and Christmas Bay on live shrimp.

**EAST MATAGORDA:** Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline on red shad, plum and fire tiger plastics and topwaters. Redfish are fair on the shorelines on spoons and topwaters.

**MATAGORDA:** Trout and redfish are fair to good on the south shoreline on pepper/chartreuse plastics. Best bite has been in the afternoon. Redfish and black drum are fair to good in Oyster Lake and at Shell Island on shrimp under a popping cork in the evening.

**PORT O'CONNOR:** Trout and redfish are fair to good at the mouths of the bay backs and bayous on small topwaters and soft plastics. Redfish, black drum and sheepshead are fair to good on shrimp at the jetty.

**ROCKPORT:** Trout and redfish are fair to good on the Estes Flats on She Dogs, Top Dogs and Super Spoos Jrs. Trout and redfish are fair to good for drifters working around Dagger Island on topwaters and live shrimp.

**PORT ARANSAS:** Sheepshead and black drum are fair to good at the North Jetty on live shrimp. Redfish and sheepshead are good on crabs and shrimp around Hog Island and off the beachfront piers.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Trout, black drum, redfish and sheepshead are fair to good on live shrimp off the piers. Redfish and black drum are fair to good on shrimp and crabs in the channel near the causeway.

**BAFFIN BAY:** Trout are fair on plum and glow plastics and Corkies around the rocks and at the Meadows. Black drum and redfish are good on crabs at the Land Cut.

**PORT MANSFIELD:** Trout and redfish are fair to good on live shrimp around the Land Cut. Black drum are good on crabs in the channels.

**SOUTH PADRE:** Trout are fair to good at Laguna Vista on live shrimp and plum plastics. Redfish are good on topwaters and live shrimp in Airport Cove.

**PORT ISABEL:** Trout and redfish are good on live shrimp under a popping cork at the Gas Well Flats. Trout, black drum and flounder are good in the Intracoastal on live shrimp.

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## OUTFITTERS

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# Brown guides fish-rich waters of Rockport

Capt. Paul Brown, owner of Tail Feathers Fishing, knew what he wanted to be at age 12. You could say he had a vision.

"I looked out the blind and saw a guide and said, 'I want to be that guy,'" Brown said.

Hunting and fishing with his father gave him a passion for the outdoors, and Brown, while earning a college degree, started his own outfitting service, Prairie Goose Waterfowlers. After graduating, he continued guiding duck and goose hunters. In 1996, Brown moved to Rockport to guide for Redfish Lodge on Copano Bay. There he's the head fly-fishing guide in addition to running his own guide service: Tail Feathers Fishing.

What hasn't changed over the years is Brown's love of passing on his knowledge of fishing to the experienced and inexperienced angler.

"I handle anglers at all skill levels. I am patient and I enjoy working with fishermen of all ages," he said. "A number of guests who have caught their first redfish on a fly have caught it with me — and that's what I'm proudest of."

The guide's guests fish for redfish, speckled trout and black drum.

"We also catch quite a few Jack Cravalle, and also have occasional opportunities for snook and tarpon," Brown said.

Brown looks at his job as helping anglers get the fish they want.

"Can I get that angler in front of a school of redfish and give him the best opportunity to catch that fish?" Brown asked. "That is

a huge challenge. When I do my job right, it's more rewarding than me catching a fish on my own."

Tail Feathers Fishing gives anglers the opportunity to fly-fish Rockport, which is situated on the shores of the Aransas Bay Complex, providing access to hundreds of tidal ponds, miles of tidal creeks and tens of thousands of acres of seagrass flats.

Brown is entering his 13th season guiding on the fish-rich waters of Rockport, prime redfish and speckled trout habitat.

Now's a good time to book a trip with Brown — the fishing is heating up.

"It has really fired off the past couple of weeks," he said, pointing out the fish have been in the muddy waters, but with spring are biting.

"It really has seemed like the windier days are better," the guide said. "It moves the water and stirs the bait up."

"What's the pretty weather to us isn't always pretty weather to the fish."

Brown's wife, Dawn, is also active in the outdoors. Together they founded FishForward, a grassroots conservation initiative benefiting speckled trout and redfish.

Looking for a guide who enjoys the challenge of putting his guests in front of the fish? Book a trip with Capt. Paul Brown. Call (361) 729-0095 or visit [tailfeathersfishing.com](http://tailfeathersfishing.com).

Anglers also may benefit by joining the Bow of the Boat Club and view the monthly fishing forecast and articles containing on-line tips from Capt. Brown at no charge.



**THE SEARCH IS ON:** Paul Brown poles his skiff taking fly-fishing clients in search of redfish. Photo by Dawn Brown.

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# PRODUCTS

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**QUICK TAKE-DOWN:** **Summit's new Run-N-Gun** hunting blind utilizes an inverted high-tension adjustable framework that results in easy set-up and take-down coupled with sturdy construction. The blind offers a 6-foot-plus shooting diameter with ground-blind scaled camo and cotton/poly-backed weatherproof fabric. The Run-N-Gun sells for about \$157. For dealers, visit [www.summitstands.com](http://www.summitstands.com) or call (256) 353-0634.



**STRENGTH & SENSITIVITY:** The **Berkley Tactix Rods** boast an unsanded tip for more durable and consistent rod action plus hand-woven epoxy UV thread wraps for increased guide strength and abrasion-resistance. The rods, which have graphite blanks and a hard chromium guide system, are available in a variety of lengths and sell for about \$50 to \$60, depending on the model. For retailers, visit [www.berkley-fishing.com](http://www.berkley-fishing.com) or call (800) 237-5539.



**A LARGER CASE:** The **1440 Guide Series Case** by **Plano Molding** is made for larger accessories. It features a comfortable molded handle, four latches located on the front and sides along with a spot to place a padlock for maximum security. The case comes with a green protective lining plus an under-the-lid liner that provides private and secure storage for video cameras, compact binoculars and other large accessories. It measures 12.5 by 8.5 by 5.11 inches and sells for about \$35. For dealers, visit [www.planomolding.com](http://www.planomolding.com) or call (800) 226-9868.



**ALL-TERRAIN PANTS:** **Sitka's Ascent Pants** are engineered to excel in any hunting situation and most terrains. They feature a polyester Lycra stretch fabric that is quiet, soft, abrasion-resistant and water-repelling. The pants have articulated knees and are fully gusseted for ease of movement. Features include a roll-up snap system, adjustable cuff-shock cord and easy-access pockets. Available in sizes medium to 3XL, the pants sell for about \$130 for solid colors and about \$150 for camo patterns. For dealers, visit [www.sitkagear.com](http://www.sitkagear.com) or call (877) 748-5264.



**FOLDING TRAILER:** This **utility trailer** by **Lifetime Products** will fold to 29 inches in width in less than 90 seconds. Homeowners with limited storage can easily tuck it into a garage corner. The Fold-Up Utility Trailer comes in three sizes: a 4-by-6-foot model that folds to 29 by 72 inches; a 5-by-6-foot model that folds to 29 inches by 78 inches; and a 5-by-8-foot model that folds to 29 inches by 96 inches. The largest trailer will hold 1,500 pounds. Features include removable front and rear gates that double as ramps plus a scratch-resistant and weather-resistant finish. The trailers also come with a full light kit. They sell for about \$900 to \$1,400, depending on size. For dealers, call (800) 225-3865.



**SMOOTH & STRONG:** **Spiderwire's UltraCast** is a braided line ideal for nearly any freshwater or inshore saltwater application. It uses "cold fusion" technology, which the company credits for the line's superb knot strength, unmatched casting distance and accuracy and raw strength. The line is available in Lo-Vis Green and Hi-Vis Yellow and sells for about \$20 to \$24. For retailers, visit [www.spiderwire.com](http://www.spiderwire.com).

**TOUGH & BRIGHT:** **INOVA** has added several upgrades to its **T-Series LED flashlights**. The new T-Series MP line boasts the latest high-performance LEDs and advanced circuitry that yields greater efficiency, according to the company. The T4 rechargeable model, for example, will recharge from zero to a full charge in two hours. Its four-function switch provides high-power, low-power, strobe and momentary on/off modes. Features include aerospace-grade aluminum body, an anodized finish, impact-resistant head, plus more. The T4 sells for about \$200. For retailers, call (401) 294-2030.



**SMALL GAME RIFLE:** The **Walther Falcon-Hunter Edition** is a spring-piston magnum air rifle designed for small-game hunters. Available in .22 or .25 caliber, the rifle boasts exceptional power with its .22 reaching speeds of 1,000 feet per second with a lead pellet or up to 1,150 fps with a hyper velocity pellet. Features include a synthetic stock with checkering, a steel-rifled barrel, fiber optic sights, a muzzlebrake, an illuminated scope, plus more. Available in Mossy Oak Break-Up camo, it sells for about \$310. For dealers, visit [www.umarexusa.com](http://www.umarexusa.com); or, call Umarex USA at (479) 646-4210 for more information.





# NATIONAL Biologists seek public's help collecting tarpon DNA

Biologists at Florida Fish and Wildlife's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and Mote Marine Laboratory are using Florida anglers to help collect tarpon genetic information.

The Institute provides a free and easy-to-use sampling kit to anglers interested in collecting DNA samples. The kit contains an abrasive pad that anglers use to remove skin cells from the outer jaw of the tarpon. Anglers are requested to leave the fish in the water while using the pad.

Scientists will compare new tarpon DNA samples with cataloged samples to determine if the tarpon has been caught and sampled previously. Scientists also use this information to determine movement of tarpon in waters off the coast of Florida.

—Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute report.

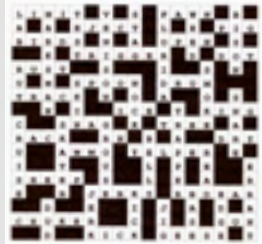


**CELL CHECK:** An abrasive pad is used to remove skin cells from a tarpon's jaw to provide DNA samples. Photo by FWC.

## Lake to rise from mountain snowmelt

The runoff from heavy mountain snowfall is expected to raise Lake Powell by 50 feet. Under the current inflow forecast, the Arizona and Utah lake could reach a peak elevation of 3,640 feet in July. Reservoir storage in Lake Powell has decreased to 50 percent of capacity during the past 8 years due to a prolonged drought.

—U.S. Bureau of Reclamation report.



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