

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Classic quest



Anglers team up
pro skills at tourney

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INSIDE HUNTING



James Hrabovsky's \$10 entry to win one of seven Big Time Texas Hunts paid off. He brought home an exotic trophy.

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Global Positioning System (GPS) and topography has opened a whole new world to hunters, and in the process advanced pre-hunt scouting to a new level of effectiveness.

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Coastal fly-fishing is growing in popularity, but the traditional saltwater patterns remain the staple of Texas fly-casters.

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The men behind the pro women anglers at tournaments are known as "bass caddies." They're ready to pitch in.

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CONSERVATION

The official opening of the Richard M. Hart and Johnny Morris Conservation Center featured a tour of the new state-of-the-art facility, which includes classroom space, offices, a conference center and a game warden museum.

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Reds star on Texas flats

Action heats up as anglers swing into spring

BY MARK ENGLAND

Eric Glass loves fishing for redfish on the flats off South Padre Island. Ask why and he'll tell you that he's a product of his environment.

"On the clear flats, 95 percent of the time the redfish is going to be the largest fish you see," said Glass, a fishing guide. "It's like if you walked across South Texas with a shotgun, you'd be a quail hunter. This is a redfish place."

Flats fishing can be done in Texas anywhere from around Galveston to the Lower Laguna Madre. Besides redfish, it can be for seatrout, black drum and sheepshead.

Redfish, though, are the main attraction on the flats, be it seagrass flats or sand flats.

They spend their first years there before heading out to the Gulf to spawn and range between 15-30 inches in size and weigh up to 10 pounds. Although anglers can hunt redfish year-round, April is when the fishing starts to boil, according to Glass.

"Now through Thanksgiving, we really do fish for redfish every day on the flats," Glass said.

Glass' weapon of choice is a fly rod.

"Once you gain a certain level of skill, fly-fishing is a very efficient means of catching redfish," he said. "Most of the prey that redfish feed on are pretty small, much smaller than traditional tackle lures."



FISHING THE FLATS: Kelli Sellers holds a redfish she caught on a fly. To see more of her fishing adventures, see www.lonestaroutdoornews.com. Photo by Gray N. Thornton.

See REDS, Page 12



BUCKS FOR BUCK: Straws from the semen of Stickers will bring \$4,000 to \$5,000 each.

The 'Stickers' price \$1M sale speculation dispelled

BY BILL MILLER

low deer breeders have been speculating on the price tag.

Some estimates involve seven figures for the 6-year-old monarch buck, whose semen fetches \$4,000 to \$5,000 per straw. Noonan, however, said the price is going to stay between him and the seller — Tommy Dugger, one of the state's top deer breeders.

With a 46-point rack and a Boone and Crockett score of 334, it's hard to argue that a whitetail named Stickers isn't the biggest buck to ever consume protein in Texas.

Sammy Noonan of Hondo brought Stickers home in February. Since then, fel-

See STICKERS, Page 21

Observers on board Event draws views on tourney's concept

BY CRAIG NYHUS

The first Toyota Texas Bass Classic showed that a big-time bass tournament can be a success on a slot-limit lake.

The first-of-its-kind event showcased Lake Fork, a slot-limit lake with a reputation for giant bass,

and the bass management darling of Texas Parks and Wildlife.

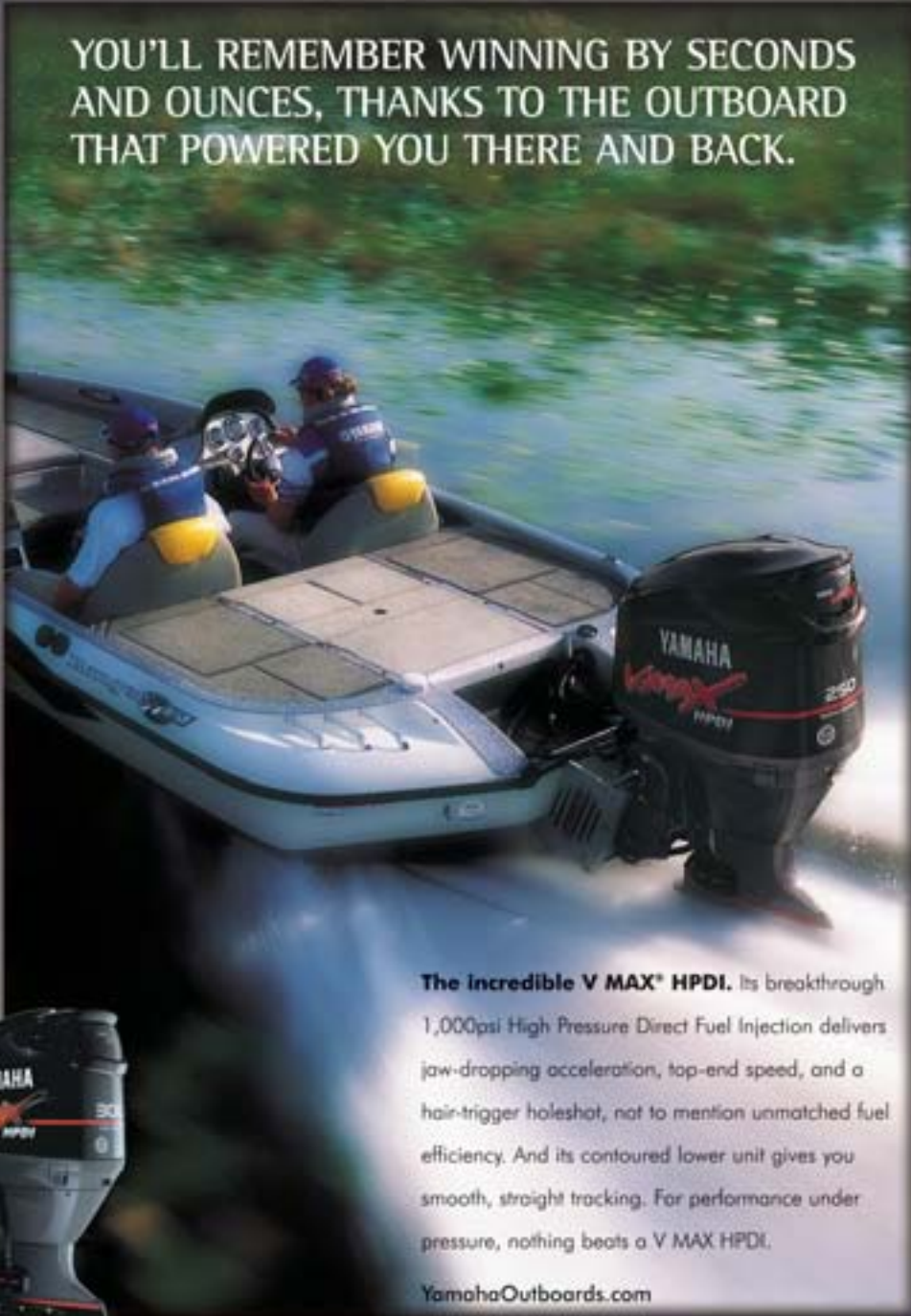
Organizers and pros hoped for good crowds and big fish. Although the weather didn't cooperate the first two days, they got both.

Fork's slot-limit allows keeping five fish per day, but all fish between 16 and 24 inches must be released.

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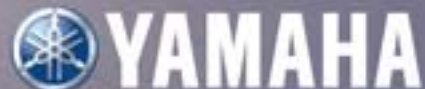
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ShareLunkers



DALE WASHINGTON of Godley caught ShareLunker No. 436 from Lake Fork April 10 on a DD-22. The 13.05-pound fish was 25.5 inches long and 20.5 inches in girth. It was the second time the fish (No. 415) had been entered into the ShareLunker program.



JEFF KIRWOOD of Royse City caught ShareLunker No. 437 from Lake Fork April 10. The fish weighed 13.07 pounds and was 25.5 inches long and 20 inches in girth.

DONNY COLLINS of Canyon Lake didn't let the fact April 13 was on a Friday stop him from going fishing on Falcon International Reservoir. He was rewarded with ShareLunker No. 438, a 13.02-pound largemouth he landed about 4:30 p.m. The fish was 25.5 inches long and 19.5 inches in girth. Photo by Donny Collins.



PHILLIP POOL of Lubbock made ShareLunker program history April 18 when he caught this 13.2-pound Lake Alan Henry largemouth on a swimbait. The fish was entered into the ShareLunker program for the third consecutive year. Photos by TPW.

Jarden acquires Pure Fishing, Inc.

Jarden Corporation announced the acquisition of Pure Fishing, Inc., a leading global provider of fishing tackle, lures, rods and reels marketed under well-known fishing brands, including Abu Garcia, Berkley, Mitchell, Stren, Trilene and Gulp.

Detailed terms of the transaction were not disclosed, but the purchase price consisted of \$300 million in cash, a \$100 million five-year note with a 2-percent coupon

and warrants exercisable into Jarden common stock with a strike price of \$45.32.

In addition to the upfront purchase price, a contingent purchase price payment based on the future financial performance of the acquired business may be paid.

Pure Fishing will be joining The Coleman Company, Inc. as part of the company's Outdoor Solutions segment.

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CONSERVATION

Freshwater Fisheries Center dedicates new building

The official opening of the Richard M. Hart and Johnny Morris Conservation Center was held in Athens April 14, and 250 guests toured the new state-of-the-art facility, which includes classroom space, offices, a conference center and a game warden museum.

Funding for the \$2.1 million facility was all raised from private sources. Leading the effort was Richard M. ("Dick") Hart of Dallas, who organized Schooling for Bass as a unit of the Friends of TFFC. "The thing I'm really proud of is the fact that in Texas the volunteer program really works," Hart said. "You ask for people's help, and they respond. A 14,000-square-foot building anywhere wouldn't raise an eyebrow, but a 14,000-square-foot building for outdoor education should raise two eyebrows. To my knowledge there is nothing else like it in the United States. We should all take great pride in what has been accomplished."

Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris provided \$650,000 for construction in the form of a challenge grant. In 1986, the state record largemouth bass caught by Mark Stevenson was given to Bass Pro Shops for display in its store in Springfield, Missouri. "That fish ("Ethel") was one of our biggest motivations for support for this building," Morris said. "She was the best thing that ever happened to Bass Pro Shops as far as getting people in there. She was an awesome tribute to the efforts here and an unbelievable inspiration to a lot of folks."

"It is a tremendous honor for us to be affiliated with this place and the people here," he said. "Our support for this was not inspired by the opportunity to make a speech or have our name on a plaque. It came from a lot of gratitude from every-



BUILDING AN EDUCATION: Johnny Morris, left, and Richard M. Hart played key roles in raising the money to build the new conservation center, below, at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens that now bears their names. Photos by TPW.



body at Bass Pro and from the people we are fortunate to serve who love fishing and the outdoors. It also comes with high hopes for the future that you will keep on inspiring everybody, especially the next generation, to enjoy the outdoors and to have respect for fish and wildlife."

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center incorporates a visitor center,

Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, Texas Game Warden Memorial, wetlands trail and casting pond. "The Richard M. Hart and Johnny Morris Conservation Center is the next step, our next big challenge," said TFFC Director Allen Forshage. "Having this building will give us the opportunity to do a much better job of education."

A Texas Parks and Wildlife report.



ARTISTIC FLAIR: Anthony Padgett's painting "Diligence - Yellow Lab" resulted in Padgett being named Ducks Unlimited 2008 International Artist of the year. Photo by DU.

DU names Padgett top international artist

Wildlife artist Anthony Padgett of Mascoutah, Ill., is Ducks Unlimited 2008 International Artist of the Year. His painting, "Diligence — Yellow Lab," grabbed the top honor.

"I've been absolutely speechless for the whole day," said Padgett. "I have a board in my office with my list of goals on it. Being Ducks Unlimited International Artist of the Year was always one of those goals."

Print sales at DU events across the country will benefit DU's wetlands and waterfowl habitat conservation work.

A Ducks Unlimited report.

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EDITORIAL OFFICES:

9304 Forest Lane, Suite 114 South,
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Phone: (214) 361-2276 Fax: (214) 368-0344

Publisher/Editor: CRAIG NYHUS
Design Editor: DUDLEY GREEN
Associate Editor: MARK ENGLAND
Founder & CEO: DAVID J. SAMS

CONTRIBUTORS

MARY HELEN AGUIRRE	DIANA KUNDE	WES SMALLING
ALAN CLEMONS	WILBUR LUNDEEN	SCOTT SOMMERLATTE
JOHN FELSHER	PETER MATHIESEN	CHUCK UZZLE
BINK GRIMES	BILL MILLER	RALPH WININGHAM
BRIAN HOLDEN	TODD NAFF	DANNO WISE
BOB HOOD	DAVID SIKES	PETER YOUNG

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HUNTING

The price is right

It costs \$10 per entry to enter to win one of seven Big Time Texas Hunts (including the Grand Slam, Premium Buck Hunt, Waterfowl Adventure, Exotic Safari, Big Time Bird Hunt, Whitetail Bonanza and Gator Hunt). The entry fees benefit conservation efforts. For more information, call (800) 895-4248. Entry forms will be available Aug. 15. Watch for future stories of other Big Time Texas Hunts.



BANG FOR THE BUCK: James Hrabovsky shot this waterbuck that scored 251.9 using the Trophy Game Records of the World System.

Exotic hunts draw big thrills

BY MARY HELEN AGUIRRE

When James Hrabovsky of Victoria went out to the Mason Mountain

Wildlife Management Area last January, he was hunting exotic game. But not any trophy would do.

"My goal was to kill true trophies. I wanted the biggest one I could kill," he said.

Hrabovsky was a winner of a Texas Exotic Safari hunt, one of several Big Time Texas Hunts offered by Texas Parks &

Wildlife each year by drawing.

He and his son, Brett, drove out late Wednesday, Jan. 4.

Around 11 a.m. the next morning, they headed out on a safari-style guided hunt with wildlife biologist Jay Carroll.

The three traveled on high-rack vehicles around the WMA, a 5,300-acre area of steep canyons, caliche hills and granite outcrops that are home to eight exotic species: waterbuck, gemsbok, scimitar-horned oryx, Thomson's gazelle, impala, sable, kudu and axis.

Hrabovsky knew what he wanted — a waterbuck and a

gemsbok. The strategy was to bag the waterbuck first, then go after the gemsbok, a wary animal that's more difficult to take. If they spotted a management animal (a male with a broken horn), Brett Hrabovsky would get his chance at a trophy, too.

"We saw a couple of waterbuck bulls, but passed," Hrabovsky said.

Carroll told him the bigger of those two bulls was probably in the top three on the ranch. Hrabovsky replied if that massive bull was No. 3, he'd like to see Nos. 1 and 2.

See EXOTIC, Page 19



TACTIC TALK: Turkey hunters discuss the next day's plan at sundown while listening for roosting birds.

GPS gobblers

Electronics map way to high-tech scouting

BY BOB MCNITT



TRAILING TOMS: Stalking all day can lead to many miles afoot.

There's no substitute for on-site pre-season scouting when it comes to locating the best hunting areas.

Narrowing down a large area to small ones the game most prefers can require time and worn boot soles. However, thanks to today's technology, it's getting a whole lot easier.

The biggest challenge to the hunter is hunting a new area that is totally unfamiliar, with limited time, and without the aid of a local guide to pinpoint the hunting hotspots.

Since most of us do have limited time to hunt, spending several days scouting new

areas often takes away from those valuable days we could be actually hunting. Electronic scouting may be the answer.

Used correctly, the marriage of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and topography has opened a whole new world to hunters, and in the process has advanced pre-hunt scouting to a new level of effectiveness.

A few years ago, a few mid-May days were spent hunting in a large state park.

The park was extensive with varying terrain and just a handful of access roads. Choosing the wrong areas could result in hours spent searching for hotspots instead of working gobblers.

The computer topographical program with the park area map (a topo map would suffice as



HUNTING HOTSPOT: The GPS can help you find prime hunting areas.

GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM

See GPS, Page 19

Coalition keeping a watchful eye on bill

Legislation's language stirs sporting, conservation groups

BY DAVID SIKES

Changes within a piece of legislation aimed at strengthening Texas' animal cruelty laws have at least temporarily averted possible legal threats for sportsmen.

House Bill 2328 continues to receive much attention from sporting and conservation groups as it makes its way through the legislative process.

Vague and ambiguous language in the original bill, authored by Texas Rep. Beverly Woolley of Houston, resulted in an early test for Texas Outdoor Partners, a newly-formed coalition of hunting, fishing and conservation organizations.

TOP front men, acting as legislative watchdogs, believe if the original bill had become law it could have potentially outlawed hunting, fishing, trapping and certain accepted wildlife management practices conducted by deer ranchers and scientific breeders.

TOP Chairman Kirby Brown said few people believe this negative result would have been an intended consequence of the legislation, but it could have provided an open door for animal-rights or anti-hunting groups to exploit.

Among the potential problems with the original bill is the phrase "defense to prosecution," in reference to hunting, fishing and accepted wildlife management practices.

TOP watchdogs argued this language could have resulted in the costly arrest of folks engaged in hunting or deer management.

While it is unlikely such an arrest would have ended in prosecution or conviction, it is not inconceivable that a judge or jury could be left to decide the legal fate of an innocent hunter, Brown said.

TOP, led by the Texas Wildlife Association in this effort, fought and won this battle, convincing lawmakers to provide a specific exemption for hunting, fishing and other such accepted practices.

Another victory for sportsmen involved the original bill's narrow definition of livestock animals. The bill now includes in the livestock category native and non-native hoofstock raised under agricultural practices. This would exempt exotics and many deer operations.

Brown said this is a victory for scientific breeders and ranchers who engage in deer management practices.

Several sticking points in the bill remained this week during hearings in the House Calendars Committee, which Woolley chairs. Woolley has been cooperative and compromising while working with TOP to craft a better bill, according to Brown.

TOP continues its attempts to close loopholes involving activities that surround or support traditional hunting, such as bird dog training and field trial practices.

And this battle continues regarding legislative tweaks that would provide stronger exemptions for common practices seen on shooting preserves, specifically involving pen-raised birds such as quail or exotics hunting.

A complementary bill to HB 2328 in the Texas Senate (SB 1100) is the next challenge.



'Blind Lodge'

A pair of Canada geese sit atop their nest on top of a duck blind on a private pond near Athens. Larger Canadas are nesting in areas of North Texas and the Panhandle where there is permanent water, according to Bill Johnson, a waterfowl biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife for the Panhandle. Photos by David J. Sams.



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FISHING

'Bass caddies'

Men pitch in to help get job done on women's tour

By DIANA KUNDE

They drive long hours hauling a boat trailer. They unload gear and wipe down the boat at the end of the day. They'll run up the hill to get the truck and pull the boat out of the water. Sometimes they cook.

They're the men behind the pro women anglers at the Mercury Marine Women's Bassmaster Tour (WBT) and other tournaments.

They're known as "bass caddies." Or, said Lila Bass of Austin, "there are lots of names for them — mostly angels."

Bass, whose husband, Mike, also competes in tournaments and can't always travel with her, said the husbands, boyfriends and fathers on the tour typically pitch in and help any woman who can use a hand.

"They do everything from helping us make sure there is oil in the tank to rebuilding the boat," said Bass, a rookie in this year's WBT tour. On a recent tournament, "one of the ladies blew her power-head. Her sponsor helped her get a boat that had to be rigged. Her husband and a few of the other husbands were up all night and into the next day" doing that, Bass said.

Angie Douthit and her husband, Chet, have a fishing guide business on Florida's Lake Seminole. Douthit, who placed eighth in the WBT March event on Lake Dardenelle, Ark., said the crucial help she gets from Chet comes from his long experience in guiding and pro angling.

Her husband's contacts are invaluable in helping her research a lake, Douthit said. "His main role is to help steer me in the right direction," On the other hand, she prefers to practice by herself

See CADDIES, Page 13



Tanya Kreuzer credits her husband, Dean, for helping her compete on the Women's Bassmaster Tour — although he's no fan of the term "bass caddy."

Braided line doesn't cut saltwater anglers any slack

'Remember to loosen the drag lighter than monofilament.'

— GREG BAGBY



WINDING WAYS: An angler cranks a spinning reel near the South Padre Island skyline. Many saltwater anglers are loading spools with braided line.

Many fishers making switch to their attack

By KYLE TOMEK

Some hate it. Others love it — but spooling reels with braided line is an emerging trend filtering into the saltwater fishing scene.

The hardy line boasts more strength packed within a smaller diameter, and virtually no stretch — contrary to its stretchy cohort, monofilament. Braided lines especially stand out in bay systems rich with submerged rock and shell obstructions — areas where monofilament often reels in short.

Greg Bagby is a devoted plugger of the Matagorda Bay complex who made the switch to braid in saltwater a few years ago.

"I originally used braided lines in freshwater for bass," Bagby said. "Using braid for bass is tough to beat when you have to horse them through thick grass."

"It's easier to work a topwater — particularly in heavy winds and on the ends of casts."

Bagby, along with many other anglers, has taken a liking to the 8-

See BRAIDED, Page 13



BEST OF THE BEST: Four best flies for red drum: From top, Spoon fly, Clouser, Bonefish Slider and Sea-ducer. Photo by Scott Sommerlatte.

By SCOTT SOMMERLATTE

In the grand scheme of things, the art of fly-fishing has not been commonplace along the Texas coast for very long.

In fact, the sport is still very much in its infancy in that it only started becoming popular in the last 15 years or so. Despite the fact fly-fishing is relatively new, it has grown in popularity so much that many anglers have created numerous fly patterns that are uniquely designed for our Texas redfish.

While these patterns are very effective, it is hard to deny some of the older, more traditional patterns from the early days of saltwater fly-fishing remain the staple of Texas fly-casters.

The favorite redfish fly of many

Fly finesse for redfish

Anglers sound off on favorites

coastal anglers is the Sea-ducer, even though it was originally created for tarpon fishing in the Florida Keys.

The Sea-ducer sports a very bushy pattern. It is very light allowing it to be landed softly within inches of a feeding redfish, which often mistake it for a small crab.

Another popular pattern with Texas anglers is the Clouser Minnow. The Clouser was originally tied by smallmouth bass fisherman, Bob Clouser, to imitate the small baitfish that the bass fed on.

The weighted streamer quickly found fame on the flats landing bonefish, snook and eventually

redfish. Most Texas fly-fishing guides and avid fly-anglers have a few dozen of these bugs tucked away in their tackle bag.

Another must-have is the Bonefish Slider. It was created by well-known Florida Keys artist and fisherman Tim Borski to imitate a bonefish's favorite food — the shrimp. The fly is weighted, fairly weedless and a must for fishing shrimp-eating fish in water depths of eight inches to two feet.

"When heading out to the flats for a day of fishing, it is important to have a selection of flies that will cover the entire water column," T.J. Neal, owner of East Cut Salt Water Flies, said. "I would probably have to go with a small Sea-ducer, a Clouser minnow and a slider-type pattern however. But if

See FLYS, Page 12

HALF-CENTURY OF CHAMPIONS

World's oldest bass tourney still going strong

BRIAN ARGABRIGHT

In the era of big-money bass tournaments, a Texas tradition continues to roll strong behind the lure of family fun and the chance to be called a state champion.

The Texas State Bass Tournament hosted its 52nd annual event at Lake Amistad on April 14-15. It's the oldest organized bass tournament in the world, preceding the first official B.A.S.S. tournament by more than a decade.

"We've had one angler, Carl Knox Jr., who's fished every tournament we've held thus far," tournament director Sam Scroggins said. "We've had a handful who've fished some 50 or more of our tournaments, and still more who have fished at least 40 or more."

The tournament was the brainchild of Earl Golding, who was a young writer for the *Waco Tribune-Herald*. In 1955, shortly after the creation of Lake Whitney, Golding and several of his contemporaries were having breakfast and discussion arose over who was the best angler in the state.

To settle the matter, the group decided to invite 75 teams from across Texas to Lake Whitney for a one-day tournament to decide just who was the best. Seventy-three teams showed and competed.

"The tournament was so well-received that Golding and the tournament organizers began to receive calls and letters from other anglers asking for invitations to the next event," Scroggins said. "So in 1956, the tournament became an open. In 1957, the couples division was



STALETY SUCCESS: Bruce Benedict displays the top Individual Division award he won at the 52nd annual Texas State Bass Tournament. The award earned him the title of state champion. Photo by Brian Argabright.

added."

The tournament has carried the Texas State Bass Tournament title since 1956 and has bounced across the state, from lake to lake, every year since. With major sponsors, the tournament flourished through the 1970s and 80s with an average of 700 to 800 people participating yearly.

But then the tournament's num-

ber of anglers began to drop and the popularity of the event began to wane.

"As more and more big tournaments started popping up, offering cash prizes, people lost interest. Organizers felt something had to be done," Scroggins said.

In 1997, a committee was formed to breathe new life into the tournament. With the help of new spon-

sors, such as the Strike King Lure Company, Nitro boats, Waypoint Marine and Sewin' Sam's OutdoorWear, the tournament has maintained its tradition of providing a family friendly atmosphere at a low cost.

"We're all volunteers. No one is paid to put this tournament together," Scroggins said.

Plaques and trophies — and bragging rights — continue to be the top prizes in each division. "Being a state champion in any of our divisions most feel is a real honor. Everyone wants to take home a trophy, but they all want to take the big trophy home," Scroggins said.

There are no minimum, or maximum, age requirements to fish in the tournament. Participants must be a current or former resident of Texas, and cannot be guides on the body of water hosting the tournament.

With low entry fees, from \$50 to \$60, and a variety of divisions to suit any angler, organizers of the Texas State Bass Tournament hope the long-standing Texas tradition can maintain its impressive run for another 50 years.

Rough winds and cool temperatures greeted anglers on the tournament's first day. The choppy water made for rough casting and tough going as 59 of the tournament's 184 entries failed to weigh in a bass. The wind died down a bit on the tournament's second day. And warmer temperatures led to more fish at the weigh-in stand.

After the final weigh-in, six new state champions were crowned.

Next year's tournament will be held at Lake Sam Rayburn.

TEXAS STATE BASS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Del Rio's Bruce Benedict won the **Individual Division**, and the title of **state champion**.

Benedict beat three former state champions, Dick Murray (1990, 2006), Cecil B. Dressendorfer (1979, 1989) and Dan Wilson (2003).

The **Senior Team Division**, which featured anglers 60 years of age or older, was won by the Del Rio duo of Richard Hudson and William Thaxton.

Norman Terry of Jacksonville and Don Jones of Whitehouse finished second. They won the division in 1999, 2004 and 2005.

Bill Boyd of Bedford and Hoyt Fincher of Ft. Worth were third. They won the senior division in 1997, 1998 and 2006.

First place in the **Team Division** went to Tom LeBlanc of Sugarland and Travis LeBlanc of Houston.

The **Adult/Girl Division** was won by Jay and Mary Hakala of San Antonio.

The **Adult/Boy Division** was won by Pedro and Pedro Gutierrez Jr. of Eagle Pass.

The **Couples Division** was won by Ray and Amanda Murski of Meridian.

Second place went to Bill Wilcox of Burleson and Barbara Potts of Ft. Worth. They won the division in 2006.

Emma Boutté of Burleson won the **overall big bass** with a 9.68-pound monster; Clay White won the **boys big bass** plaque with his 8.13-pound bass; and Lauren Murski won the **girls big bass** plaque with her 8.04 pounder.

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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

SEASON NO DIFFERENCE TO TURKEY SHOOTERS

•Erath County Game Warden Tony Navarro responded to a call regarding someone who had been killing turkeys out of season. After Navarro made contact with the individuals involved, they confessed to killing two turkeys. Citations and civil restitution are pending.

STRANGE LITTERERS END UP IN CUSTODY

•While patrolling in Johnson County, Game Warden Ty Patterson stopped a vehicle occupied by a male driver and a female passenger for littering. Upon making contact with the occupants, Patterson noticed the passenger began to act strangely. After Patterson ran the driver through Johnson County dispatch, he came back with a revoked driver's license. The passenger gave a false name. After her name was learned, she came back wanted out of Grand Prairie. After both were taken into custody, a search of the vehicle revealed an assortment of drug paraphernalia and a box of unknown pills. Both individuals were taken to the Johnson County Jail. Cases pending.

BANK ANGLER CAN'T ESCAPE WARRANTS, CITATIONS

•Denton County Game Warden Ron VanderRoest, while patrolling Lewisville Lake, spotted a man fishing from the bank. As VanderRoest approached, the man loaded up his fishing gear in the trunk of his car and tried to leave. After apprehending the man, VanderRoest found the man had nine outstanding warrants. Citations were issued for three undersized bass and no fishing license. The man was transported to jail for the outstanding warrants.

STOLEN MERCHANDISE DOESN'T FLOAT WITH BOAT DEALER

•Tarrant County Game Warden Chelle Mount received a call from the Fort Worth office advising that a local boat dealer was stalling an individual trying to sell him a stolen boat. Upon arrival, Mount informed the sell-

TRAPPER WITHOUT A LICENSE HOOKED ONLINE

•Coleman County Game Warden Randall Brown received a call about someone selling a frozen bobcat and grey fox on eBay. Brown registered on eBay and sent a few

messages to the person selling them, hoping to meet with him or at least find out who he was. The person finally replied and said he had two more bobcats and four more

grey foxes. He also gave his name and phone number. Brown met with the subject, who had a hunting license but no trapper's license. Case pending.

er of the boat that it was being seized as stolen property. The property seized included a small plastic fishing boat, trailer and an Evinrude motor. The Fort Worth Police Department was contacted regarding the stolen report.

CITATION FLOWS AS FLOOD GATES OPEN

•Grayson County Game Wardens Jim Ballard and Randolph McGee patrolled for illegal fishing violations below Denison Dam as the flood gates were opened after the recent heavy rains. A fisherman was cited for having 10 striped bass over his limit. Cases pending.

YO-YOS REEL LOUISIANA ANGLERS INTO TEXAS TROUBLE

•Sabine County Warden Randy Button filed charges on two Louisiana men and one man from Texas for fishing by illegal means (24 Yo-Yos) in Texas water on Toledo Bend. Button had received a complaint on the men on Friday evening. He located the mechanical devices that evening and returned the next morning and observed them using the devices.

SMELLS LIKE TROUBLE

•Harris County Game Wardens Derek Spitzer and Kevin Mitchell were heading to Seabrook when Spitzer noticed the passenger in the vehicle next to him was smoking what appeared to be a joint. The wardens followed the vehicle and probable cause was made to initiate a stop. Once the vehicle was stopped, a strong odor of burnt marijuana came out from the vehicle. Consent to search the vehicle was obtained, and a small amount of marijuana in a baggy was located under the center console compartment along with a pipe locat-

ed in one of the men's pockets. Possession of marijuana under 2 oz. was filed, and cases are pending in county court.

SPOTLIGHT BRIGHTENS DRIVER'S WARRANT WOES

•Calhoun County Game Warden Mack Chambers investigated a spot-lighting incident in the Seadrift area. The driver was spot-lighting into the brush and moving at a slow rate of speed. The vehicle did not have current registration; the driver had an invalid license and warrants out of Calhoun County. The driver was arrested and taken to county jail.

HUNTER ENDS UP PAYING THE PRICE FOR KILLING WHITETAIL

•Hardin County Game Warden Mike Boone received information from a woman that someone had killed a white-tailed deer out of season. Boone arrived at the residence and was able to obtain statements from the individual in question and recover a freshly-killed deer. Cases pending.

GILL NETTERS BRING IN 20 TICKETS

•Warden Kathleen Stuman, Comal/Bexar County, received a call from Austin on some violators netting at Calaveras Lake. Stuman and a park officer responded. There were nine violators netting in the water with a gill net. Twenty tickets were issued for no fishing license and illegal means and methods.

COUPLE PRACTICES CATCH-AND-RELEASE-LATER

•While Lampasas County Warden Jeff Hill was patrolling the Sulfur Creek River bank, he checked a man and his wife for their fishing licenses. They were current on their licenses; howev-

er, their stringer revealed 12 undersized channel catfish. Hill asked why they had the undersized fish, some as small as five inches. The husband said they were going to release them after they were done fishing because they did not want to catch and release the same fish over and over. The fish were immediately set free and each received a warning citation.

RISING CREEK LEADS TO RESCUES

•Ellis County Game Warden Jeff Powell came to the rescue with his flat-bottom boat during recent flooding. An elderly man was stranded in his vehicle in a swollen creek on Hwy. 660. The water was too swift and the vehicle too far away for firemen to reach. Powell was able to reach the man, who was on top of the roof of his car, with his boat. A second vehicle was stranded on the bridge, and the Channel 11 News helicopter was able to land and take the occupant to dry land. Powell responded to three other rescue attempts. Ellis County received more than 10 inches of rain in less than a day.

ANGLER'S FREEZER TRUCK LEADS WAY TO FISH SALES

•Tarrant County Game Warden Clint Borchardt made contact with an man who had forgotten his fishing license while fishing the Clear Fork. The man was asked which vehicle he drove and indicated it was the truck with a freezer in the back. When questioned about whether or not aquatic products were being transported or sold, the individual admitted to having fish in the freezer, but only for personal consumption. A few days later, Borchardt and Tarrant County Game Warden Chelle Mount

arrived at the place of business advertised on the truck. The owner of the business did not want to cooperate at first, but later the owner and the driver provided statements admitting to selling fish. The owner also admitted they had previously removed all aquatic products from the place of business. Cases pending on both parties.

BOAT CHASE STUMBLES ON TO 15 YEARS OF PRIORS

•Newton County Game Warden Ellis Powell was patrolling Cypress Creek and noticed a flat-bottomed boat was on the water although it was sleeting. He attempted to make contact with the two men occupying the boat, and they began to flee, resulting in a four-mile boat chase. Powell lost sight of the men. He made contact with Newton County Game Warden Landon Spacek and gave him descriptions to identify the men. Spacek was able to make identifications and gave Powell directions to a house. Contact was made, and a man was arrested for evading arrest. Powell also went back to the creek and found the man's illegal hoop net. The net was rigged to catch turtles and was baited with a 20-inch striped bass. The man's priors went back 15 years and include hunting deer from a public road, illegal nets, fishing with an electrical device, hunting squirrels in closed season and illegal taking of alligators. Cases pending.

TARGET SHOOTING A SIGN OF THE TIMES

•DeWitt County Game Warden Michael Hoffmann was patrolling for night violations when he noticed a truck with two men shooting from a bridge. While looking at the firearms involved, he discovered casings on the bridge that did not match. The men said they had done this before. Road signs in the area showed signs of previous target shooting. Cases pending.

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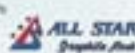
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Classic

Continued from Page 1

Only one fish more than 24 inches may be kept daily. The slot-limit has kept major tournaments, and most pros, away, since many bass couldn't be weighed.

Observers on the boats at the event reported catches of 8- and 9-pound fish measuring slightly less than 24 inches.

TTBC's solution was using trained, independent observers on each boat. The observer would measure, weigh on a certified BogaGrip scale and release the fish.

Any fish over the slot was kept in the boat's livewell and brought to the stage — 13 were brought in during the three-day event — and then monitored by TPW biologists in special holding tanks. All were released in good condition.

Fans could keep track of the fish caught by each 4-member team on big screens at the event or at home

on their computers.

The fish cooperated even when the conditions didn't. Despite strong southerly winds on the first day, and strong northerly winds and temperatures in the 40s on day two, huge invisible 'stringers' were totaled.

Five of the original 40 teams made the cut for the final day, which brought clear skies and calmer water.

The team of Terry Scroggins, Chris Daves, James Niggemeyer and Frank Ippoliti caught 51 pounds on the final day to win with a three-day total of 244 pounds, sharing the \$250,000 top prize.

After leading each day and through the final morning, the team of Alton Jones, Steve Daniel, Chris Lane and Kyle Mabrey finished second with 209 pounds.

Some hoped the unique weigh-in concept could be a showcase for future events.

Jamie Wilkinson, communications director for BASS, said the

concept will be discussed. "We are continually reviewing our weigh-in process," he said.

Proponents of alternate weigh-in procedures liked the concept, but don't expect significant changes on big or small tournament circuits. "From a conservation standpoint, we've pushed the idea of 'paper tournaments' for years, said Gene Gillian, a biologist with the Oklahoma Fish and Game Commission and author of the book "Keeping Bass Alive."

"The concept has been around for years, but has never caught on very strongly," he said. Gillian also was an official observer at the event and liked the weighing on-the-lake concept. "It allows them to fish in the handful of restricted lakes with slot-limits, and this one worked so well because they put observers in every boat," he said. "It also showed BASS and FLW that you can have a good tournament and get people to come to the weigh-in, even though only a few fish are actually brought

to the scales."

But using observers in each boat may not be practical for large tournaments or small circuits with limited budgets. "Just buying fifty Boga-grips at \$150 each and getting them certified would be too expensive for smaller tournaments," he said.

Country music concerts, vendors and activities helped draw the crowds. Local law enforcement officials estimated the final day's crowd at approximately 5,000. "We are proud to have partaken in the many firsts and successes of the Toyota Texas Bass Classic — from the establishment of a new tournament format to enabling the nation's top pro anglers to team up for the first time and enjoy competing on Texas' legendary Lake Fork," said Dan Friedkin, co-founder of the event and president of The Friedkin Companies, which own Gulf States Toyota. For final standings and a report on the event, visit www.lonestaroutdoornews.com.

Reds

Continued from Page 1

Most of the shrimp you see in a redfish's stomach are two inches long.

"When fly-fishing, I normally throw them a fly approximate to the size of the prey they're used to fishing on. It's light enough that I can put it close enough to a redfish without the splash scaring it."

Glass' favorite fly patterns are crab imitation, shrimp imitation and a tan and white Clouser.

Don't get the idea, however, that redfish are picky eaters.

"They eat whatever is available in the most quantity," said Bill Balboa, a Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist at Matagorda Bay. "They're kind of like people at a buffet."

And you don't have to cast flies to catch redfish either.

Guide Ken Marshall said he was with a group of 10 people recently that caught 150 reds in Matagorda Bay.

"One of my favorite soft plastics to use is a Norton bull minnow," he said. "It's got a little paddle tail that gives off a vibration. You can work it fast across shallow water. It's a deadly bait."

Topwater lures produce strikes, too.

"A topwater, to me, is the most exciting bite — to see the fish come to the surface and explode on the bait," Marshall said. "Twitched fast and erratically, a topwater imitates a wounded baitfish. A lot of the time, though, I think redfish hit them not because they're hungry but out of annoyance. Like you'd swat a fly."

Most of the redfish he pursues are in water less than two feet deep. In deeper and off-color water, Marshall prefers using live bait to lure them.

"Redfish love to eat crabs," he said. "Conditions have to be right to catch them on artificials in deeper water. The fish have to be fairly thick to where an artificial bait would result in strike. If it's just a few redfish swimming through an area, I think live bait works best."

Once hooked, redfish are fighters. Balboa compares them to bulldogs. He won't get an argument from Marshall (fish-matagorda.com).

"They don't make a high-speed burst like a trout will," he said. "But they'll fight a lot longer. They peel off a lot more line. They will nose down and rub the bottom, trying to get whatever is biting them out of their mouth. On some catches, I'll have a 10-pound wad of grass on my line."

Sight-casting is the way to go if conditions permit, both Marshall and Glass agree.

"Seeing the fish in the water, to me, brings the same thrill as seeing a dog on point," said Glass (captainericglass.com). "It's a primordial jolt. Spotting a redfish, that's pretty well camouflaged, before he sees you, placing a fly where he'll notice it, manipulating it to where he's convinced it's something he needs to pounce on, then watching him take it, that's a thrill."

Flys

Continued from Page 8

I had million dollars riding on one fish and one cast — I would have to tie on a small spoon fly."

For those not familiar with a spoon fly, it is probably the only fly that is not tied to mimic a specific forage, even though it does.

The spoon fly was originally created to look like the redfish-catching lure, the Johnson Silver Minnow weedless gold spoon. The original spoon fly was created by Florida angler Jon Cave and is routinely referred to as the Cave's Wobbler.

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Caddies

Continued from Page 8

during the open practice period (prior to the 14-day off limits). "To be honest, I can focus better when Chet's not with me."

Husbands — whether dubbed "bass caddies" or not — are helpful for the same reasons wives are helpful to men on pro angling tours, Douthit said. "It's supporting one another; it's helping one another reach goals."

Behind the glamour of a pro fishing tour is a lot of hard work and preparation, said Chet Douthit, an eight-time Bassmasters Classic qualifier. A partner provides support and shoulders some of the grunt work, he said. "The public, all they do is see what goes on — on TV. They don't know the lonely hours you spend driving down the road, sitting in a motel somewhere — all the dedica-

tion and prep it takes to do this," he said.

Driving the tired trek home is something Tanya Kreuzer really appreciates from her husband Dean, she said. Kreuzer, who lives in Mesa, Ariz., said her husband started her on bass fishing and is her coach.

But she doesn't want anyone to get the wrong idea.

"Dean doesn't really like the term 'bass caddy,'" she said. "It sounds like you (women pros) aren't doing it yourself. He helps me stay focused. He gets the boat ready. At the same time, he makes sure I'm capable of doing everything myself," Tanya said.

Robin Babb of Livingston, reached on her cell phone while ducking a storm on Lake Guntersville, Ala. — the next stop on this year's WBT tour, calls herself "single and planning on staying that way."

And, she says, she's "really thankful" the bass caddies are there to help, especially on launching boats.

"Luckily, I've been very fortunate to not need a lot of help, yet it's small things that mean a lot."

Steven Wells of Bainbridge, Ga., spoke from his cell phone, driving with his wife, Pam Martin-Wells, to Guntersville to practice early for the May 3-5 event. Pam is ranked third on the WBT tour.

"It's Pam's passion," he said. "I'm proud of her because I know how much work she puts into it. She really studies it, works hard at it."

He helps other women on the tour. "I'll get their keys so they don't have to walk to the truck. Any little thing you can do to help them takes the load off them," he said.

Pro angler Sammie Jo Denyes of Baker, Fla., said there are two main reasons her husband, Jerry, her father, and other men do the kind of helping that earns them the "bass caddy" handle.

"They have a love for us, and they have a love for the sport."

Braided

Continued from Page 8

diameter, 30-pound test. "I rig my line without a leader and normally with a clip, which works very well for quickly changing out lures." Some prefer a clip, while others tie loop knots to ensure a good connection.

First-time users may find out how easy it is to lose a fish when the drag isn't set correctly. "Remember to loosen the drag lighter than monofilament," Bagby said.

"Speckled trout lips are soft, and a tight drag and no-stretch line will surely make for many lost fish."

Braided line has a negative. While it offers durability and strength, backlashes, when they occur, can bury and knot in the spool. "Backlashes may be less often, but those that occur will have you trudging back to the boat," Bagby said.

But many feel the pros of braid out-

weigh the cons.

"I don't nearly need to change my line as often, the sensitivity is much better, and the slack in my line has drastically decreased since I started spooling braid instead of mono," said Capt. Bubba Simons, a middle coast bay and offshore guide. Smith's favoring of braid during his trout and redfish charters grows by the day. "I'll be switching all of my offshore reels soon," he said.

"Braid works extremely well when using spinning reels with live bait, and is less prone to create slack."

When rigging his 10-diameter, 40-pound test braid, Simons uses a fluorocarbon leader.

"I can attest to seeing the fluorocarbon bring more strikes," he said. "When the surf got very clear during the past summer, I fished alongside an angler that was using the same lure but did not have a fluorocarbon leader. The fish were drastically biting my lure more often than his."

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OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

HAVE AN EVENT?

E-mail it to
editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com

May 1: The Houston DU Golf Tournament will be held at Wildcat Golf Course. Contact Matthew Patterson at (713) 843-4934 or mgp@weinsteininspira.com for information.



May 2-June 23: Cabela's in Fort Worth will display more than 100 award-winning Boone and Crockett trophies in connection with Boone and Crockett's 26th Big Game Awards. Free admission during regular store hours.



May 3: The Cottonwood Creek NWTf dinner will be held at Stonebriar Country Club in Frisco. For information, call Dean Castillo at (469) 525-6551.

May 3: The West Houston CCA banquet will be held at the Houston Farm and Ranch Club. For information, call (800) 626-4222.

May 4: The Sam Houston NWTf dinner will be held at the Walker County Fairgrounds in Huntsville. Contact Robert Morton at (936) 439-7050 or conniemariethatsme@yahoo.com for information.

May 4-6: A Grand Opening celebration will be held at the new Orvis store at 3901 Arlington Highlands Blvd. in Arlington. Seminars, free gifts and drawings for great prizes. For information, call (817) 465-5800.

May 5: The South Texas Big Game Awards will be held at JK Northway Civic Center in Kingsville. For information, visit www.TexasBigGameAwards.com or call (210) 826-2904.

May 5: The Greater Longview Delta Waterfowl chapter will hold its sporting clay tournament at Prairie Creek Ranch. For information, call Dennis Blevins at (903) 759-5472 or Billy Miller (903) 759-0108.



May 5: The Charity Big Bass Tournament benefiting Joni and Friends will be held at Highland Village Copperas Branch Park on Lake Lewisville. Register online at www.TexasOutdoorExpo.com.

May 5: The North Bexar County DU Cinco de Mayo dinner will be held at Pedrotti's North Wind Ranch in Helotes. For tickets and information, call Roxanne Larson at (210) 615-5019.

May 10: The Golden Triangle CCA banquet will be held at Ford Park Expo Center in Beaumont. For information, call (800) 626-4222.

May 10: The Sam Houston CCA banquet will be held at the Walker County Fairgrounds in Huntsville. For information, call (800) 626-4222.

May 10: The Katy CCA banquet will be held at the Equestrian Center. For information, call (800) 626-4222.

May 11: The Pearland/Friendswood DU dinner will be held at Epiphany Lutheran Church. Contact Betsy Grubbs at (281) 997-7351 or betsygrubbs@sbcglobal.net for information.

May 11: Rockport Rio's NWTf dinner will be held at Pawn & Taws Convention Center. Contact Henry Harris at (361) 729-8130 or henryharris@charter.net for information.

May 12: The East Texas NWTf Chapter will hold its Women in the Outdoors event at Camp Gilmont near Gilmer. For information, contact Judy Kennemer at (903) 668-3624 or dkennemer450@myexcel.com.

May 12: The 2 of Us Couples Tournament will be held at Sanders Cove at Lake Murray. For information, call (972) 754-2458 or visit www.fishingworld.com/TwoofUs.

May 12: The Hemphill DU dinner will be held at the Hemphill VFW Hall. Contact Jon Schillings at (409) 7787-3102 or jsshillings@shelbysavingsbank.com for information.



May 16: The Dallas Safari Club monthly meeting will be held at the Dallas/Addison Quorum Marriott.

Steve Davis will be the guest speaker on Mozambique safaris.

May 17: The Metrocrest Addison DU dinner will be held at the Addison Convention Center. Contact Rob Gokey at (972) 234-3933 or rob@tribblefoods.com for information.

May 17: The Dripping Springs DU dinner will be held at Creekside Pavillion in Driftwood. For information, call Pete Edquist at (830) 833-1734.

May 17: The Blunt Spurs NWTf dinner will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Palestine. Contact James Woolverton at (903) 549-3462 or ewoolverton@airmail.net for information.



May 17: The Austin CCA banquet will be held at Austin Music Hall. For information, call (800) 626-4222.

May 18: The Navarro County Limbhangers NWTf dinner will be held at Star Hall in Corsicana. Contact James Moore at (903) 875-8146 or jameswmoore76@yahoo.com for information.

May 18: The Bay Area CCA banquet will be held in Clear Lake. For location and information, call (800) 626-4222.



May 18-19: The Aransas Bay CCA chapter will hold the 8th annual Babes on the Bay fishing tournament in Rockport. For information, visit www.babesonthebay.com or contact Karol Scardino at (361) 729-5353 or

dakglobal@earthlink.net.

May 19: The Leon County Delta Waterfowl chapter will host Guns, Cash & Crawfish at the Jewett Community Center. The Texas State Duck Calling Contest will also be held. For tickets and information, call (903) 388-4705.

May 19: The Los Cazadores Whitetail Deer Camp and Awards will be held at Freeman Coliseum in San Antonio. For a list of activities and information, visit www.loscazadores.com or call (830) 334-5959.

May 19: The Pioneer Chapter of Northeast Texas NWTf 2nd annual Women in the Outdoors event will be held at Rusty Lowe's ranch, north of Clarksville. For information, call Jackie Williams at (903) 427-0285 or Angie Bishop at (903) 249-1466.

May 19: The Lake Whitney Longbeards NWTf banquet will be held at the Meridian Civic Community Center. For information, call Barbara Stockstill at (254) 622-3030.

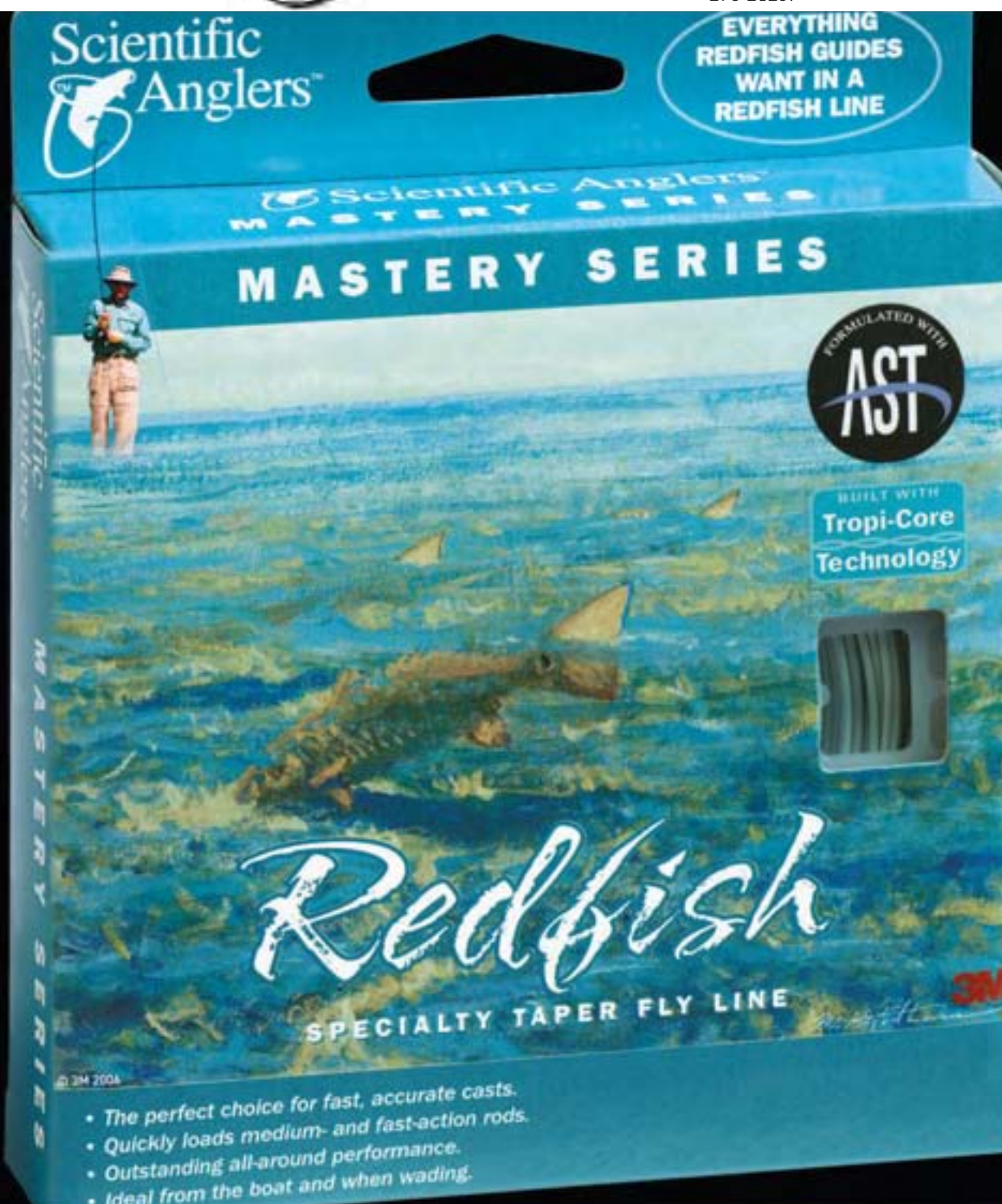
May 19-20: The Grand Opening of Dallas' Tail Waters Fly-Fishing Company will be held at 2416 McKinney. Flip Pallot will be the honored guest. For information, visit www.tailwatersflyfishing.com or call (214) 219-2500.

May 25-27: The Texas State RMEF Convention will be held at the Arlington Convention Center. For information, call Sam Thomas at (972) 966-1721.

May 25-27: The Lone Star Sportsmen's Show will be held at the Arlington Convention Center. For information, visit www.lonestarss.com or call (512) 273-2129.

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BASS PRO SHOPS	Katy	281-644-2200	GRUENE OUTFITTERS	New Braunfels	830/625-4440	TAIL WATERS FLY FISHING CO.	Dallas	214-219-2500



Kelly Jordan takes on some rough Lake Fork waters on his way to the afternoon weigh-in on Day 2.

CLASSIC CROWD

New format works on Fork



James Niggemeyer holds his winning team's crystal cup. The team caught 200-plus pounds of bass off of one point during the event, in 15-20 feet of water.

The new four-member, two-boat team format was a hit with the pros and spectators at the Toyota Texas Bass Classic. Spectators watched as team members worked together to develop lure and location strategies.

Fish up to 9 pounds were landed, weighed on the water, and released

while giant screens at the stage provided up-to-the-minute results.

Despite high winds and rough water on two of the three days, the pros continued to land Lake Fork's big bass.

While only 13 fish measuring 24 inches or longer were brought to the stage, the weigh-ins, strategy sessions and concerts brought in the crowds.



Alton Jones and teammate Steve Daniel land a bass during the final day.



David Walker, center, goes over a lake map. Most pros liked the team format. Photos by David J. Sams.

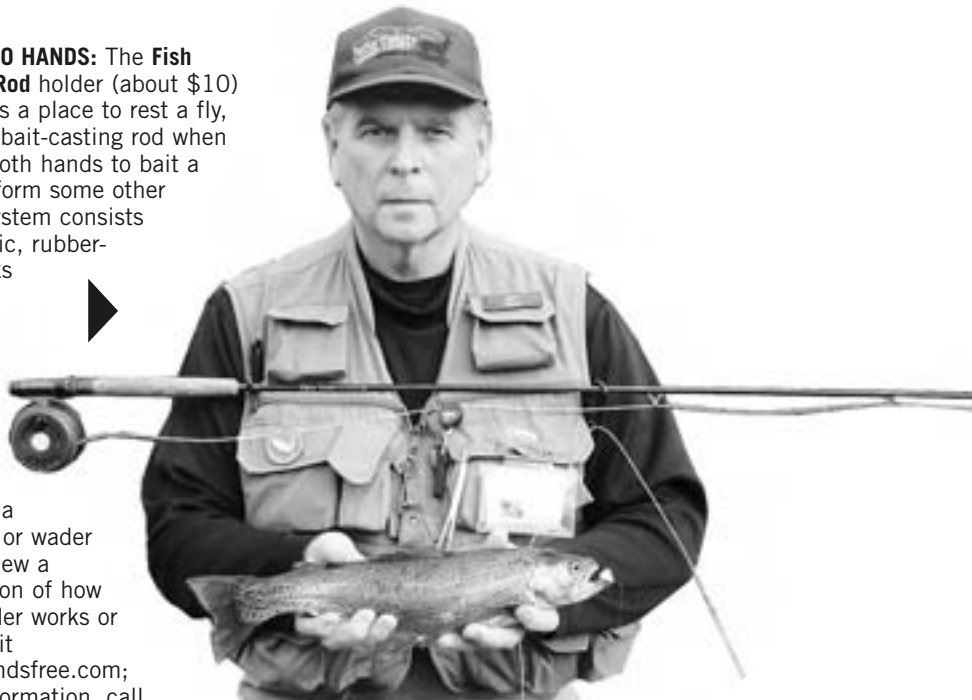
CAMO LEAD: This British Style Slip Lead by **Sam's Dog Hut** is a leash and collar in one, and it is available in the Realtree camo pattern. The slip lead is used by professionals and amateurs to train hunting dogs (as well as household pets). Made of leather, it is easy to slip on and easy to grip. When it's time to let the dog free in the field, owners don't have to worry about the dog's collar getting snagged by the brush. Available in 4- or 6-foot lengths, the lead costs \$16.50 to \$17. To order, call (888) 908-4888 or visit www.samsdoghut.com.



SMOOTHER TRIGGER ACTION: The **EZ-Pull Trigger Assist** by the **NWD Corporation** promises to reduce trigger pull by 50 percent. Made of non-corrosive aluminum, this device is quickly installed without costly gunsmithing and can be used on many rifles and shotguns. It sells for about \$40. For dealers, visit www.ezpulltriggerassist.com or call (866) 397-8744 to order.



LOOK, MA, NO HANDS: The **Fish Hands Free Rod** holder (about \$10) gives anglers a place to rest a fly, spinning or bait-casting rod when they need both hands to bait a hook or perform some other task. The system consists of two plastic, rubber-coated hooks that hold a rod and reel securely. The holders are easily attached to a fishing vest or wader straps. To view a demonstration of how the rod holder works or to order, visit www.fishhandsfree.com; for more information, call (866) 999-3303.



BIGGER FEEDER: **Texas Hunter Products** has introduced a bigger version of its automatic fish feeder. The new **DF425 model** can handle up to 215 pounds of floating fish pellets or 425 pounds of corn. The feeder was engineered to simplify the feed flow process, eliminating the need for augers, shut-off gates and other components that can malfunction,

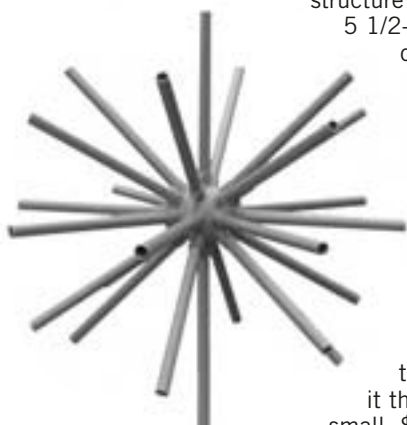


according to the company. The feeder uses a dual motor system with a built-in funnel that delivers a consistent, metered flow of feed into the powerful centrifugal air blower that projects pellets up to 45 feet in the water. Its digital timer allows owners to set the machine for up to nine feeds per day. The timer synchronizes the two motors, turning off the feed flow while the blower unit is still running, cleaning out the system until the next scheduled feed cycle. Other features include two feed level sight gauges and straight or adjustable legs for mounting on uneven terrain. An optional solar panel is available. The feeder costs about \$700. For more information, visit www.TexasHunterProducts.com or call (800) 969-3337.

GET THE POINT: The **Pocket Hook Sharpener** by **Berkley** gives anglers a clean, sharp point on their hooks in seconds. The battery-operated device works on hooks ranging in size from #6 to 10/0 and is good for about 1,000 sharpenings. It sells for about \$10. For retailers or to order, visit www.berkley-fishing.com.



IMPROVED HABITAT: The new **Bill Dance Porcupine Fish Attractor** provides cover for baitfish and smaller predatory fish that draw in the big species anglers are hoping to land. The structure comes in three sizes: 2 1/2-, 4- and 5 1/2-foot diameters. Each central sphere can hold up to 26 pipes. The durable structures work anywhere anglers would normally sink cover. Simply choose a spot to sink the attractor, assemble it in the boat, secure it and then mark the GPS unit with the coordinates for future fishing trips. Because lures won't get hung on the smooth plastic pipes, anglers can fire a crankbait, spinnerbait, jig or other bait into the Porcupine Fish Attractor and work it through. They cost about \$25 for the small, \$30 for the medium and \$35 for the large model. To order, visit www.porcupinefishattractor.com or call (270) 254-0150.



GATOR TOUGH: If the new **1966 side console Jon Boat** by **G3 Boats** is tough enough for relocating rogue gators, it's rugged enough to handle just about anything. The 18-foot, 11-inch boat has a 91-inch beam, with a maximum horsepower of 115. It boasts such standard features as rod holders and an aerated livewell. The boat has a full console with windshield, a 21-gallon fuel tank, plus more. Also available in Desert Brown, the 1966SC sells for about \$18,095, when equipped with a Yamaha F90 four-stroke motor (plus cost of dealer prep and delivery). For information, visit www.g3boats.com or call (800) 588-9787.

WATER-FRIENDLY SANDALS:

The **Hydrofoil** by **Sperry Top-Sider** is designed for ultimate performance around the water. The open toe sandal features a footbed with drainage holes plus a rubber outsole that provides traction in the water and on dry land. It also boasts a "dual-suspension system" based on the foot's natural shape for increased stability. Available in black, navy and orange, the sandals sell for about \$70. For retailers, visit www.sperrytopsider.com.



POWERFUL CROSSBOW:

TenPoint Crossbow Technologies says its new **Blazer HP** combines field-proven company technology with a new CADD-engineered high-performance HP Cam to create a potent combination of speed, accuracy and performance. When shooting the recommended aluminum or carbon 420-grain arrow, speeds can exceed 310 fps. The Blazer HP features 175-pound HL limbs, a machined riser, a machine-finished and bronze-anodized aluminum barrel, and a 3 1/2-pound PowerTouch trigger. When purchased as an accessorized package with a pro-40 multi-dot scope and the ACUdraw 50 cocking mechanism, the crossbow costs about \$1,000. It also can be ordered with a 3X multi-line scope. For information, call (800) 548-6837 or visit www.tenpointcrossbows.com.



FISHING REPORT

HOT BITES

LARGEMOUTH BASS



AMISTAD: Black bass are very good on Senkos, spinnerbaits, topwaters, and jerkbaits.

FORK: Black bass are good along main lake grass and pockets on Carolina rigged watermelon seed soft plastics in 5-8 feet and watermelon red wacky rigged worms in the back 1/3 of pockets.

WHITNEY: Black bass are good on watermelon red and watermelon seed Texas and Carolina rigged soft plastics and crankbaits.

WHITE HYBRID



BRAUNIG: Striped bass are excellent on liver and perch near Dead Tree Point, and down rigging spoons near the dam and jetty.

PROCTOR: Striped bass are excellent on shad colored crankbaits and cut shad. White bass are good on shysters, spinnerbaits, and crankbaits.

RAY HUBBARD: White bass are excellent on TNT slabs and Humdingers in 10-18 feet (follow the birds). Hybrid striper are good on TNT slabs.

SAM RAYBURN: White bass are excellent on spoons.

WICHITA: White bass and hybrid striped bass are excellent on artificial lures, minnows or live shad and bobber north side and near dam.

CATFISH



BASTROP: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on live bait, frozen shrimp, liver, and bloodbait.

BRAUNIG: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on shrimp, cheese bait, cut bait, and liver.

CALAVERAS: Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheese bait, and shad. Blue catfish are good on cut bait and liver.

FALCON: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on shad and jugs.

LIVINGSTON: Blue catfish are excellent on shad.

NAVARRO MILLS: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on frozen shad and shrimp in the bottom basin below the spillway.

CRAPPIE



PROCTOR: Crappie are excellent on minnows, and on chartreuse/avocado jigs.

SAM RAYBURN: Crappie are good on minnows and tube jigs in shallow areas.

TAWAKONI: Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around bridge columns.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 65 degrees. Black bass are good on along brush lines on shad-colored spinnerbaits and crankbaits, and dark soft plastics in brush.

AMISTAD: Water clear; 68 degrees. Striped bass are good on large redbins. Catfish are good on cheese bait in 12 - 25 feet.

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 4.9' low. Black bass to 10 pounds are good off rock points, and crankbaits or swim blade baits and black/blue jigs 4-7 feet deep with some caught in backs of coves. Crappie are good on minnows in shallows and jigs near state park and Henrietta Bridge; Crappie are spawning. White bass to 17-inches are good on shad-imitation lures off deeper points and trolling. Catfish are good along upper west side on punchbait or jugs/lures baited with cut shad or carp.

ATHENS: Water stained, 63-67 degrees; 0.07' low. Black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps, spinnerbaits and Senkos. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs in the shallows.

BASTROP: Water murky. Crappie are fair on minnows and white tube jigs.

BELTON: Water stained; 67 degrees; 3.66' high. Black bass are good on white and yellow Rat-L-Traps and Sassy Shad. Hybrid striper are good on minnows at night. White bass are good on minnows at night. Channel and blue catfish are good on minnows and nightcrawlers.

BOB SANDLIN: Water murky; 64-67 degrees; 7.55' low. Black bass are fair on crankbaits and Texas rigs with small to medium soft plastics.

BROWNWOOD: Water murky; 64 degrees; 2.10' low. Channel catfish are very good on frozen shrimp and shad.

BUCHANAN: Water murky; 66 degrees; 17.56' low. Black bass are good on topwaters, jigs, and wacky rigged watermelon/red Whacky Sticks in stickups and flooded grass back in creeks and pockets in 3 - 6 feet. White bass are good vertically jigging Bleeding Shad Tiny Traps and Pirk Minnows above Paradise Point. Yellow and blue catfish are good on jugs/lures and trotlines above Paradise Point.

CADDO: Water stained; 62-68 degrees; 0.85' high. Black bass are good on white or silver spinnerbaits around the single cypress trees. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows in the creek channel bends. White bass are good on Little George's and Road Runners.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 68 degrees. Striped bass are good on spoons and striper jigs near the dam, and on chicken livers and shad near the dam and power lines.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear lower end, murky upper end; 67 degrees; 5.17' high. Black bass are good on green pumpkin Whacky Sticks on jigheads, spider Grubs and grape worms on shaky jigheads in clear water along 6 - 12 foot break lines on gravel flats and transition areas of bluffs. Smallmouth bass to 4 pounds are good along main lake points and ledges in 6 - 15 feet on root beer curl tail grubs, Rat-L-Traps, and 6" watermelon worms on jigheads.

CEGAR CREEK: Water stained; 63-67 degrees; 0.04' low. White bass are good on jigging spoons over mid-lake humps. Hybrid striper are good on Sassy Shad under birds. Catfish are good on cut shad drifted over humps.

CHOKE CANYON: Water stained; 68 degrees; 6.54' low. Black bass to 10 pounds are good on Chatterbait-type lures and green pumpkin wacky rigged Whacky Sticks with chartreuse tails along points and tree lines in 6 - 12 feet. Yellow and blue catfish are good on cheese bait and stinkbait in 2 - 4 feet. Gar to 90 pounds are good while bowfishing.

CONROE: Water stained; 0.13' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and watermelon/green Carolina and Texas rigged soft plastics, and on spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are good on stinkbait, liver, and cheese bait.

FALCON: Water stained; 72 degrees. Black bass are good on watermelon red Brush Hogs, Senkos, and crankbaits in 15 - 20 feet.

FAYETTE: Water fairly clear; 72 degrees. Black bass are good on watermelon red, watermelon/green, and green pumpkin Texas and Carolina rigged worms in 2 - 10 feet, and shad and crawfish crankbaits in 6 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on jugs/lures baited with shrimp.

FORK: Water stained; 63-67 degrees; 1.15' low. Crappie are good on small jigs and minnows in the creeks. Catfish are good on prepared baits.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water stained. Black bass are good on watermelon and pumpkinseed soft plastics, spinnerbaits, and crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and chartreuse tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait and shrimp.

GRANBURY: Water stained; 0.52' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and watermelon green soft plastics and spinnerbaits. Striped bass are fair on minnows and white striper jigs. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are good on stinkbait, nightcrawlers, and shrimp.

GRANGER: Water murky; 64 degrees; 0.08' high. Blue catfish are good on shad. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch.

GRAPEVINE: Water murky; 65-67 degrees; 4.5' low. White bass are good to excellent on Humdingers and slabs.

GREENBELT: Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 26.45' low. White bass are good on live bait and shad-colored crankbaits. Walleye are good on live baits and slabs. Catfish are good on live bait.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water stained; 70 degrees; 0.57' high. Black bass to 9 pounds are good on green soft plastic worms near points and coves in 4 - 6 feet. Crappie are good on live minnows in 6 feet. Bream are excellent on live worms and crickets off piers.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 63 degrees; 11.35' low. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass and hybrid striper are good on live baits. Catfish are good on cut and live baits.

JOE POOL: Water off color; 64-67 degrees; 1.49' high. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits and Texas rigged lizards in 4-8 feet. White bass are fair on white Road Runners and slabs.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 64-68 degrees; 0.39' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigged watermelon seed soft plastics and Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are good on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

LAVON: Water off color; 63-67 degrees; 6.12' low. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on prepared bait and cut shad.

LBJ: Water clearing; 66 degrees; 0.32' low. Black bass to 5 pounds are good along break lines of flats in 5 - 12 feet on watermelon/chartreuse creature baits, Rat-L-Traps, and pumpkin topwaters. White bass are fair trolling Shad Raps and vertically jigging Tiny Traps and Pirk Minnows under birds. Crappie are good on live minnows and white Curb's crappie jigs in clear water in 6 - 10 feet.

LEWISVILLE: Water stained; 64-68 degrees; 4.54' low. Black bass are fair to good on good on jigs, spinnerbaits and soft plastics in 4-10 feet. White bass are good on Humdingers and slabs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs in 3-8 feet.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; 65 degrees; 0.44' high. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and soft plastics. Crappie are good on minnows.

MACKENZIE: Water lightly stained; 56 degrees; 6.15' low. White bass and striped bass are good on live bait. Smallmouth bass are fair on live bait. Catfish are good on live baits.

MEREDITH: Water lightly stained; 56 degrees; 33.4' low. White bass are good on live bait and crankbaits. Channel catfish are good on prepared and live baits.

NASWORTHY: Water lightly stained; 64 degrees. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass and striped bass are good on live baits. Catfish are good on live baits and cut shad.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water murky; 62 degrees; 6.67' high. Black bass are good.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 63 degrees; 21.25' low. Black bass are good on live baits, white spinnerbaits and crankbaits, and dark jigs along brush lines. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live baits. Smallmouth bass are good on crankbaits and live baits. Channel catfish are good on live baits.

PALESTINE: Water stained; 65-68 degrees; 0.21' high. Black bass are fair to good on crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps and black/blue jigs with a matching trailer.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear; 61 degrees; 2.3' low. Black bass are fair in lower half of reservoir near docks and back of coves on heavy jigs or shad imitation crankbaits.

PROCTOR: Water fairly clear; 60 degrees; 3.38' low. Black bass to 6 pounds are good on shad spinnerbaits. Channel and blue catfish are very good on shrimp and dough bait.

RAY HUBBARD: Water stained; 64-68 degrees; 0.98' low. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs in the marinas and around bridge columns.

RAY ROBERTS: Water stained; 65-68 degrees; 6.45' low. Black bass are fair on split-shot rigged Lake Fork Ring Frys, XCaliber Rattle Baits and Booyah spinnerbaits. White bass are good on jigging spoons.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water off color; 64-66 degrees; 0.37' high. Black bass are fair to good on watermelon or watermelon red Texas-rigged lizards, black/blue jigs and Rat-L-Traps. White bass and hybrid striper are fair on white Road Runners and Humdingers. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on jugs/lures set with live perch.

SAM RAYBURN: Water clear; 64 degrees; 0.19' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red Senkos, lizards, and Brush Hogs. Bream are good on night-crawlers and crickets. Catfish are good on trotlines baited with night-crawlers.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear; 63 degrees; 4.41' high. White bass are good on minnows upriver near Long Bridge. Crappie are good on minnows upriver near Long Bridge. Carp are good on corn. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs.

TAWAKONI: Water stained; 64-67 degrees; 6.39' low. White bass are fair on chartreuse slabs and live minnows. Striped bass and hybrid striper are fair on live shad, chrome Rat-L-Traps and Sassy Shad.

TEXOMA: Water off color; 63-66 degrees; 1.44' high. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs in marina slips and under bridges. Striped bass are fair on live shad. Catfish are fair to good on cut shad.

TOLEDO BEND: Water stained; 65 degrees; 1.13' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red soft plastics and spinnerbaits. White bass are good on spoons in the river. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait.

TRAVIS: Water clear; 66 degrees; 11.91' low. Black bass are good on Super Flukes, grubs, and white spinnerbaits in 5 - 20 feet. Crappie are good on minnows and blue and white tube jigs in 8 - 15 feet.

WEATHERFORD: Water muddy; 64-66 degrees; 5.89' low. Black bass are good around docks and on rocky points. Crappie are good in the crappie house and boat slips. Bream are good on worms.

WHITE RIVER: Water lightly stained; 61 degrees; 25' low. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. Channel catfish are good on cut baits.

WHITNEY: Water stained; 0.37' high. Striped bass are fair on minnows and white/green striper jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait and cheese bait.

WICHITA: Water clearing; 57 degrees; full at spillway. Crappie to 12-inches are fair near flooded brush. Channel catfish are good in shallows along north side of the upper end of reservoir using punchbait.

HOT SPOT



PORT ARANSAS

Trout are fair to good on topwaters around Dagger Island and good at the North Jetty on finger mullet. Black drum are good in the channel near Ingleside on crabs.

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Trout are fair to good on the flats near Pleasure Island on topwaters and Corkies. Flounder are good on the shorelines.

SOUTH SABINE: Trout are fair to good at the jetty on red shad Bass Assassins, Sand Eels and live shrimp. Redfish are good on shrimp on the Reef.

BOLIVAR: Sand trout, croaker and sheepshead are good on live bait around the rocks and in the surf. Trout are fair to good on shrimp, Little Fishies and DOA Shrimp in the gut at Rollover Pass.

TRINITY BAY: Trout are fair to good on deeper shell reefs on live shrimp and red shad and pumpkinseed plastics. Redfish, black drum, sheepshead and croaker are fair to good on shrimp at the Spillway.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout and redfish are fair to good near Yates Bayou and the shorelines close to Rollover Pass on She Dogs, Super Spooks and Corkies.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline on She Dogs and Corkies. Flounder are fair to good on mud minnows and red plastics tipped with shrimp near the cuts leading to the marsh.

TEXAS CITY: Trout, redfish and black drum are fair to good from the pier at the end of the dike on live shrimp and finger mullet. Trout and redfish are good at the flood gates in Moses Lake on shrimp and mullet.

FREEPORT: Trout and redfish are fair to good in Christmas Bay on live shrimp. Trout, redfish, black drum and flounder are fair to good at San Luis Pass on live shrimp and mullet.

EAST MATAGORDA: Redfish are fair to good on the west shoreline on live shrimp.

MATAGORDA: Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline grass beds on pepper/chartreuse and morning glory plastics. Redfish are fair to good on gold spoons and live shrimp in Oyster Lake and Crab Lake.

PORT O'CONNOR: Trout are fair to good in Pringle and Contee Lake on She Dogs, Super Spooks and Crazy Croakers. Redfish are fair to good near Grass Island on live shrimp under a popping cork and topwaters.

ROCKPORT: Redfish are good on Estes Flats and in South Bay on live shrimp. Trout are fair to good on the flats in Redfish Bay on topwaters and plum plastics.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Trout and redfish are fair to good at Shamrock Cove and on the flats on She Dogs and Corkies. Trout and redfish are fair to good from the piers near the causeway at night under the lights on DOA Shrimp, live shrimp and Little Fishies.

BAFFIN BAY: Redfish are good on the flats on live shrimp. Trout are good over sand and rocks on topwaters and Corkies.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout and redfish are fair to good in West Bay for drifters working topwaters over grass beds.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout and redfish are fair to good around Airport Cove on live shrimp and soft plastics and small topwaters. Redfish are good while drifting the flats on live shrimp and gold spoons.

PORT ISABEL: Trout and redfish are fair to good around Three Islands and the Gas Well Flats on live bait. Trout and redfish are good on finger mullet and DOA Shrimp at the jetty.



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Exotic

Continued from Page 6

Later in the day after taking a look at several other bulls, they went back to the site where they'd first seen the massive bull.

They had no luck there and headed toward a different area. En route, they saw two bulls fighting in the brush and stopped.

The bigger waterbuck ran off the smaller one before starting up a small hill: It was his 480-pound bull standing broadside at 147 yards.

Hrabovsky put the crosshairs of his Remington 7mm Ultra Mag square in the middle of the waterbuck's shoulder and squeezed: "The bull went down in his tracks."

Friday, although a great day, was uneventful. "We saw one exceptional gemsbok and a lot of other animals that I didn't want to kill," he said.

The next morning, a cold and drizzly Saturday, he and his son split up. Jeff Forman, a wildlife technician, guided Brett Hrabovsky while his dad and Carroll went after the gemsbok they'd seen the day before.

At 9:15 a.m., the gemsbok was spied about 425 yards away. But, because of the rain and haze, neither man was able to positively identify it as a bull. They moved closer and an hour later were within 125 yards of the animal, which was grazing in deep grass.

They waited, and waited.

"We got within 75 yards before we could sex him, but he got shy and went back in

the canyon. I got ready to take a shot when he got to an opening," Hrabovsky said.

The hunter waited for the gemsbok to enter scope, then pulled the trigger. But, the angle was bad and the target was moving.

"I took a bad shot," he said.

The gemsbok staggered, then surprisingly bolted and ran away with blood streaming down his mid-section, eventually disappearing down the canyon.

The two followed the blood trail for three hours through 3/4 of a mile of rough country. At 3 p.m., they lost the

blood trail.

Meanwhile, Brett Hrabovsky had taken a scimitar-horned oryx, a 395-pound bull

with both horns broken at about 18 inches. "He was ecstatic," said his dad.

Sunday morning, the Hrabovskys and a group from the WMA headed out to look for the gemsbok, but failed to locate the animal.

It was time to head home.

Later, Carroll called him with the news: They had found the gemsbok.

Mark Mitchell, manager of the Mason Mountain WMA, scored the bull at 288, according to the Trophy Game Records of the World System. The 480-pound waterbuck was scored at 251.9 using the same system. According to Hrabovsky, who used the the latest published edition of the TGRW, the gemsbok's score places him at No. 11 in all-time trophies killed outside of Africa with modern arms; the waterbuck's score puts him at No. 17.

"This is the first time I've hunted exotics of this caliber," said Hrabovsky, who owns an oil field service company. "It was truly the hunt of a lifetime."

'This is the first time I've hunted exotics of this caliber. It was truly the hunt of a lifetime.'

- JAMES HRABOVSKY

GPS

Continued from Page 6

well) served as the scout.

The map allows scanning the terrain that borders park roads, and looking for hardwood hillsides that face east or southeast, where a roosted gobbler would catch the first rays of the rising sun.

Then the hunter can narrow those locations to those that have nearby open areas. Finally, the areas can be culled by looking for areas with a stream or water source. From there, it's as simple as downloading the coordinates of the areas into the GPS as waypoints, identifying potential hotspots before the trip.

The GPS will lead to the waypoints selected at home. In order to estimate the time to reach the waypoint, the PC topo program will provide the distance as well as the elevation change.

The GPS and topo worked on

that day, and the hunt couldn't have been more successful with a day spent physically scouting the area beforehand.

Most hunters are pretty familiar with the type of habitat and terrain features various game species prefer. With spring gobblers, it's usually high hardwood benches that catch the early sun and overlook areas the hens nest and feed in.

A study of topo features along with aerial photos that show flora types such as adult hardwoods, brushlots and fallow fields will narrow any large area down to those small sections that contain the best habitat characteristics that will attract and hold birds. These are the prime waypoints to hunt.

Hunting and scouting a new area with a GPS can be invaluable. Most units can store hundreds of waypoints, so the hunter can enter the exact locations of the various sign encountered to return later.

The units are also great for way-

pointing a predawn setup to avoid searching for that exact location in the dark, and risking accidentally spooking that longbeard off his limb.

Pre-hunt scouting this way is enjoyable. It isn't a full replacement for actual hunting and physical scouting, but reviewing the topography of a new hunting area in the comfort of your home may be the next best thing.

After doing this a few times, you'll probably be able to accurately envision the areas you'll be actually hunting long before you set foot there. And when it brings a gobbler, you may never look at hunting new areas quite the same.

GPS and computer topo maps are available from Garmin, Magellan, Lowrance, Mytopo, and others. National Geographic Outdoor Recreation Mapping Software is available at www.nationalgeographic.com/topo.

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MOON PHASES

First  Apr 24 Full  May 2 Last  May 9 New  May 16

SOLAR TABLE Major/Minor periods:

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
4/25	7:34a/1:23a	2:34p/8:47p	7:40a/1:29a	2:40p/8:53p
4/26	7:57p/1:45p	3:05a/9:19a	8:03p/1:51p	3:11a/9:25a
4/27	8:15a/2:04a	3:32p/9:46p	8:21a/2:10a	3:38p/9:52p
4/28	8:36p/2:25p	4:05a/10:18a	8:42p/2:31p	4:11a/10:24a
4/29	8:51a/2:41a	4:31p/10:45p	8:57a/2:47a	4:37p/10:51p
4/30	9:11p/3:01p	5:03a/11:16a	9:17p/3:07p	5:09a/11:22a
5/1	9:26a/3:16a	5:29p/11:43p	9:32a/3:22a	5:35p/11:49p
5/2	9:45p/3:35p	5:58a/12:11p	9:51p/3:41p	6:04a/12:17p
5/3	9:59a/3:50a	6:24p/—	10:05a/3:56a	6:30p/—
5/4	10:19p/4:09p	6:50a/12:38a	10:25p/4:15p	8:02p/12:44a
5/5	10:35a/4:25a	7:15p/1:03p	10:41a/4:31a	10:35a/1:09p
5/6	10:55p/4:45p	7:38a/1:26a	11:01p/4:51p	10:55p/1:32a
5/7	11:14a/5:03a	8:03p/1:50p	11:20a/5:09a	11:14a/1:56p
5/8	11:35p/5:24p	8:22a/2:10a	11:41p/5:30p	11:35p/2:16a
5/9	11:57a/5:45a	8:47p/2:35p	12:03p/5:51a	11:57a/2:41p
5/10	—:—:—	9:06a/2:53a	—:—:—	—:—:—
5/11	12:19a/6:33a	9:31p/3:18p	12:25a/6:39a	12:19a/3:24p
5/12	12:45p/6:57p	9:50a/3:37a	12:51p/7:03p	12:45p/3:43a
5/13	1:12a/7:25a	10:17p/4:03p	1:18a/7:31a	1:12a/4:09p
5/14	1:37p/7:50p	10:40a/4:25a	1:43p/7:56p	1:37p/4:31a

TIDES

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

SUN AND MOON

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
4/25	6:45a/7:55p	6:47a/8:05p	6:58a/8:06p	7:03a/8:27p
4/26	6:44a/7:55p	6:46a/8:06p	6:57a/8:07p	7:02a/8:28p
4/27	6:43a/7:56p	6:45a/8:07p	6:56a/8:08p	7:01a/8:29p
4/28				



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Stickers

Continued from Page 1

"It's probably as high as anybody's ever paid," he said, "but we're not letting it out; Tommy and I have a gentleman's agreement."

Damon Thorpe, director of operations for the Texas Deer Association, said there are probably only two deer in the United States bigger than Stickers.

"I think you can say with confidence he's the most expensive deer ever in Texas," Thorpe said. "It's not inconceivable at all to think a deer like that is worth \$1 million."

Dugger told the *Lone Star Outdoor News* it would not be accurate to say the deer sold for one million dollars.

Wildlife consultant Chase Clark, who works with both Nooner and Dugger, said the

biggest buck title was previously held by Jake the Dream Buck, which was owned by Dugger. Jake died of a respiratory illness in the winter of 2005, Clark said.

In the meantime, Dugger acquired the up-and-comer Stickers, who was born in 2001 on the Glen Morgan ranch.

But Stickers had something else going for him, Clark said. This deer is the offspring of a doe impregnated by artificial insemination with semen from an Ohio legend named Redoy Ben.

The elder whitetail, who was only about 2 years old at the time, showed a lot of potential, Clark said.

Redoy Ben died that same year, also to a respiratory illness. Nevertheless, Clark said the big deer's potential was realized through his son, Stickers.

"It wasn't until October of 2006 that a tape was put on those antlers," Clark said of Sticker's headgear. "Now Stickers repre-

sents the ultimate in the Texas deer breeding industry."

Nooner, a South Texas gasoline distributor, is also known for the quality dove hunts he offers from his base in Medina County.

"We just wanted to help the genetics," he said. "It was fun just trying to see how big a deer could grow."

But Nooner may be on the verge of seeing his profits grow as well.

"Let's assume he did pay \$1 million for the deer," Thorpe said. "All he has to do is sell 200 straws to get his money out of him. You can easily get that in a year, and do it safely."

But despite his pedigree, Nooner and Clark agree there's nothing uppity about Stickers.

"Some deer are more nervous than others," Clark said. "They don't do well in breeding operations. But Stickers is pretty laid back."

"He's great at posing for the camera."

TPW adopts changes in hunts

Turkey, archery-only deer seasons see revisions

Rio Grande turkey hunters in the southern parts of Texas will get a two-week jump on gobblers next spring following changes in hunting regulations adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

"Two years ago, we simplified the season by combining the North and South Zones and added a week to the overall length," said Mike Berger, TPW wildlife division director. "After re-evaluating this move, we've opted to move the South Zone opening up to the Saturday nearest March 18 and leave the North Zone to open the Saturday nearest April 1. Both zones retain a 44-day season length."

The commission also approved extending the statewide archery-only deer season by five days.

Historically, the archery season has always closed the Sunday before the opening of the general white-tailed deer season.

The change eliminates the current five-day gap between the end of the archery season and the beginning of the general white-tailed deer season.

A TPW report.

Laugh at the 50 pound limit.

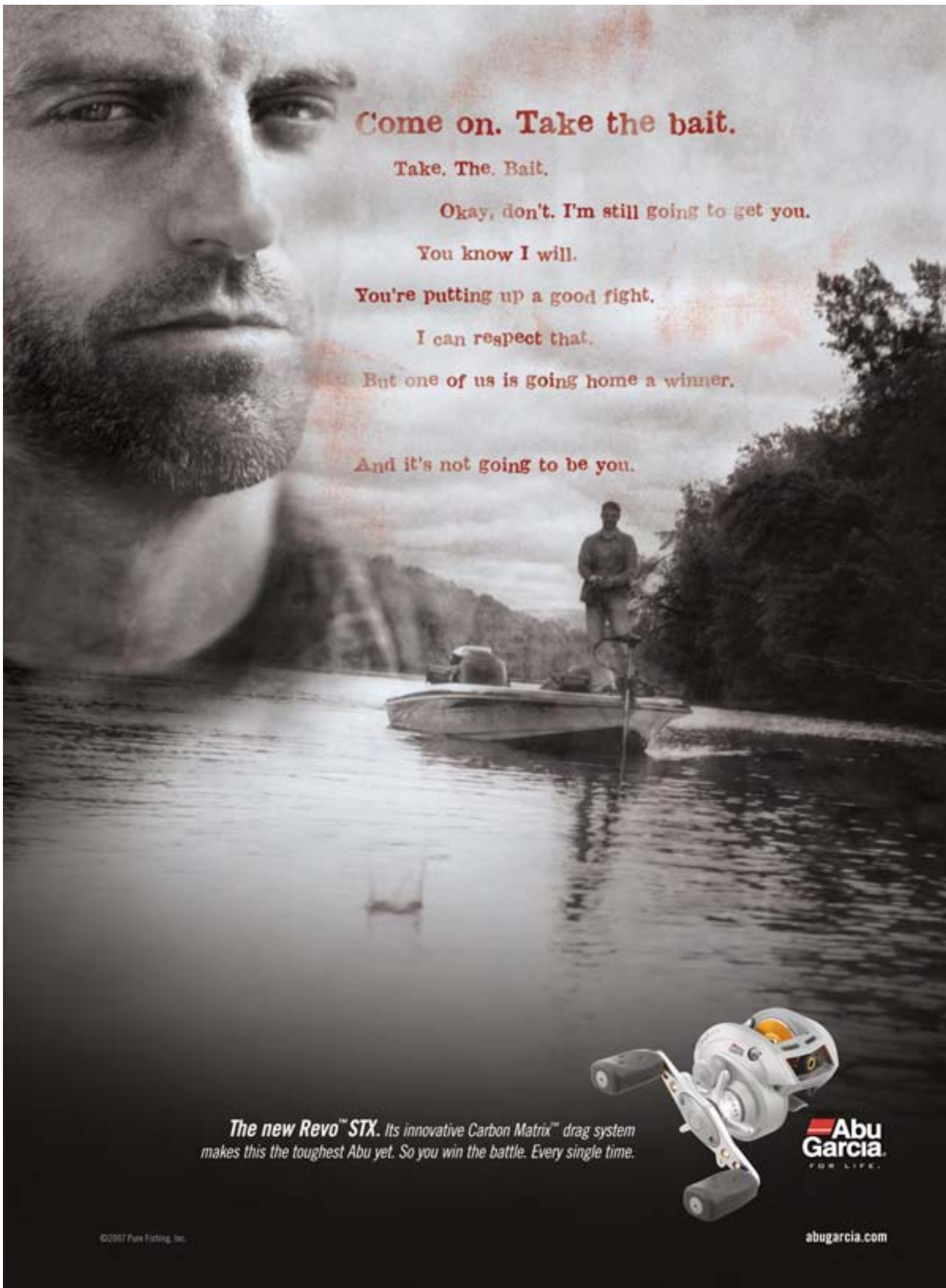
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HEROES



Capt. **FREDERICK MCBRIDE** caught this fish in East Galveston Bay on a pink fat boy Corky.



From left, **JIM CRABBE, MACK HAMILTON, ROB SAWYER, WILL, MARK** and **MATT SPICER** show the results of a good day of hunting during the last week of goose season at Thunderbird Hunting Club.



JORGE PEREZ, of New Braunfels, shot this axis buck hunting in the Hill Country of Comal County. It measured 30-inch beams with a 24-inch spread.



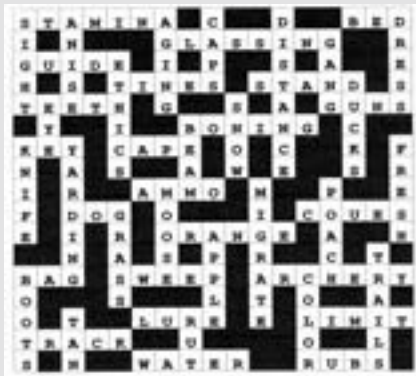
AUSTIN GLAZE, 6, caught this 3-pound bass in a private pond near Carthage in Panola County.



JUAN RICHARD, left, with **GABRIEL GOMEZ** show a 41.5-inch black drum Richard caught on a 12-pound test line on the Copano Bay old causeway pier.

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.

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FROM
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