

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

August 14, 2009

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 5, Issue 24



INSIDE: Hunting Annual '09

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A proposal might make it harder for ranches to keep saving the scimitar-horned oryx.

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Seeing blue: Deer eyes different



Blue jeans brighter than blaze to deer

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

A white-tailed deer sees things humans don't in low light, but their vision is similar to ours in other respects, according to studies conducted by Dr. Karl Miller, professor in wildlife ecology and management at the University of Georgia. "Their vision is very similar to humans," Miller said. "But their body language is their most important communication tool."

The studies show that whitetails' eyes sport a

See *DEER VISION*, Page 28



THE EYES HAVE IT: Wearing blue jeans to a deer hunt is a bad idea. Deer see the color blue better than humans. The deer's eyes are also fairly stationary, explaining why they stare and move their heads from side to side to attempt to focus on an object. Photos by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Sabine trout biting away from sun

Anglers going early to catch limits at lake

By Robert Sloan
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Warren Claybar and Rian Glasscock are not Sabine Lake guides. But when it comes to finding and catching trout on this bay, the pair of Beaumont-based anglers are two of the best.

"The best bite has been over slicks," Glasscock said, as his group made a run across the lake at daylight. "I was out here yesterday, and we picked up easy limits. The best bite has been on soft plastics."

It didn't take the group of three long to find trout under the slicks. Within about three hours they had a full box of trout to about 5 pounds.

"The bite has been best on soft plastics in white or chartreuse," said Claybar, who grew up in Orange and knows

the fishery very well. "The key has been to be out here early and looking for slicks."

INSIDE
Statewide: See fishing reports for Sabine Lake and other areas.
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on quarter-ounce lead heads.

"You want a pretty fast fall on a fast retrieve," Glasscock said. "The quarter-ounce head is also good for making long

See *SABINE*, Page 25



SLICK SPECKS: Anglers on Sabine Lake have been finding good-sized speckled trout under slicks caused by feeding activity below the water's surface. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

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CELEBRATE THE SEASON: The chamber of commerce queens float rolls through Hamilton during the town's Dove Festival parade. Hamilton is one of several cities celebrating dove season throughout the state with a festival or luncheon.

Dove festivals celebrate hunting, thank hunters

Some offer hunts; most just a reason to have a barbecue

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

In Stonewall, it's the Peach Jamboree. Tyler has the Rose Festival. Waco crowns a queen at its annual Cotton Palace Pageant.

Festivals celebrating all things agricultural are common throughout

Texas and the United States. Hunters have their days too, especially in Texas. Come September, several small towns will host dove festivals to welcome hunters to town and pay homage to a long tradition.

Coleman hosts two dove events: Fiesta de la Paloma (the Festival of the Dove, in Spanish) and the fourth annual Dove Fest.

One of the top attractions at the Fiesta is the brisket, pinto bean and dove cookoff, said Mary Griffis, executive director of Coleman's cham-

See *DOVE*, Page 29

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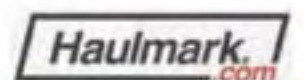
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CONSERVATION

Operation Orphans hits 50

Program connects children with doe whitetails at ranch

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The late Gene Ashby, a Texas game warden, saw the burgeoning populations of whitetails in the Hill Country and had an idea more than 50 years ago.

He contacted local ranchers with the idea of allowing orphans to harvest antlerless deer.

Fifty years later, Operation Orphans is still going strong with the help of its all-volunteer army of ranchers and hunters.

Donations outfit the youngsters, mostly from children's homes and foster care, with clothing and boots.

As the program grew, housing became an issue. But with the help of sportsman's clubs and others, a 320-acre tract near Mason was purchased. Since that time, a kitchen and dining hall, three dormitories and a clothing room have been constructed. Now Camp Gene Ashby can hold and feed up to 250 visitors.

And some of the youngsters have returned, but not to hunt.

"We've had several over the years return as guides," said Director Bob Moore. "And some now work in children's homes and bring kids to hunt."

Over the 50 years, Operation Orphans has helped more than 17,000 kids and at least 14 have returned as guides.

Mark Vaughan of Colleyville was



TWO OF A KIND: Roger Garcia, 14, shot his first deer at an Operation Orphans hunt while being guided by Mark Vaughan of Colleyville, who also shot his first deer at the camp as a youngster.

one of those kids in 1982. He returned the next seven years.

"I lived in an orphanage in South Texas," Vaughan said. "The first shot I took, the recoil knocked me on my rear."

Vaughan improved with each trip and harvested several animals, including a blackbuck antelope.

Later, in the U.S. Coast Guard, he earned the distinction of Expert Marksman, possibly driven after

missing shots at white-tailed deer that first year at the camp.

Now, Vaughan is back in his home state and has been guiding children the past four years and is on the board of directors for the nonprofit, which will host five doe hunts this season.

"The work of these people changed my life," he said. "I intend to be involved with them for the rest of mine."

Conservation News in Brief

Park Cities Quail Unlimited chapter dissolves; members form new group

The top fundraising chapter of Quail Unlimited — to the tune of more than \$1 million over the last three years — has dissolved, with members forming a new nonprofit in its place.

The new group, Park Cities Quail, is gearing up for its March 11 annual dinner and auction, and directors expect little change in the group's ability to raise money.

"We wanted to have complete responsibility for the money we raise," said 2010 Chairman Matt Perry-Miller. "We receive some large donations, and we wanted to be able to tell the people that 100 percent of the money can go where we dictate."

Funds raised will go to the chapter's primary beneficiary, namely the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch in Roby, with additional funds going to causes like the Texas Bobwhite Brigade.

Perry-Miller said the split from Quail Unlimited was very amicable. "QU has done a heck of a job for 28 years and will continue to do so," he said. "But we feel starting Park Cities Quail is being a better steward of the money."

— Staff report

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

★ Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper ★

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GUN SHOW

Texas Gun & Knife Association Show Dates

2009

September 12-13	Kerrville	Youth Exhibition Center
October 10-11	Abilene	Civic Center
October 31-November 1	Fredericksburg	Gillespie County Fairgrounds
December 12-13	Amarillo	Civic Center

2010

January 9-10	Abilene	Civic Center
February 20-21	Fredericksburg	Gillespie County Fairgrounds
March 20-21	Amarillo	Civic Center
March 27-28	Abilene	Civic Center
April 24-25	Kerrville	Youth Exhibition Center
May 15-16	Abilene	Civic Center
July 17-18	Amarillo	Civic Center
July 31-August 1	Abilene	Civic Center
September 11-12	Kerrville	Youth Exhibition Center
October 9-10	Abilene	Civic Center
October 30-31	Fredericksburg	Gillespie County Fairgrounds
December 11-12	Amarillo	Civic Center

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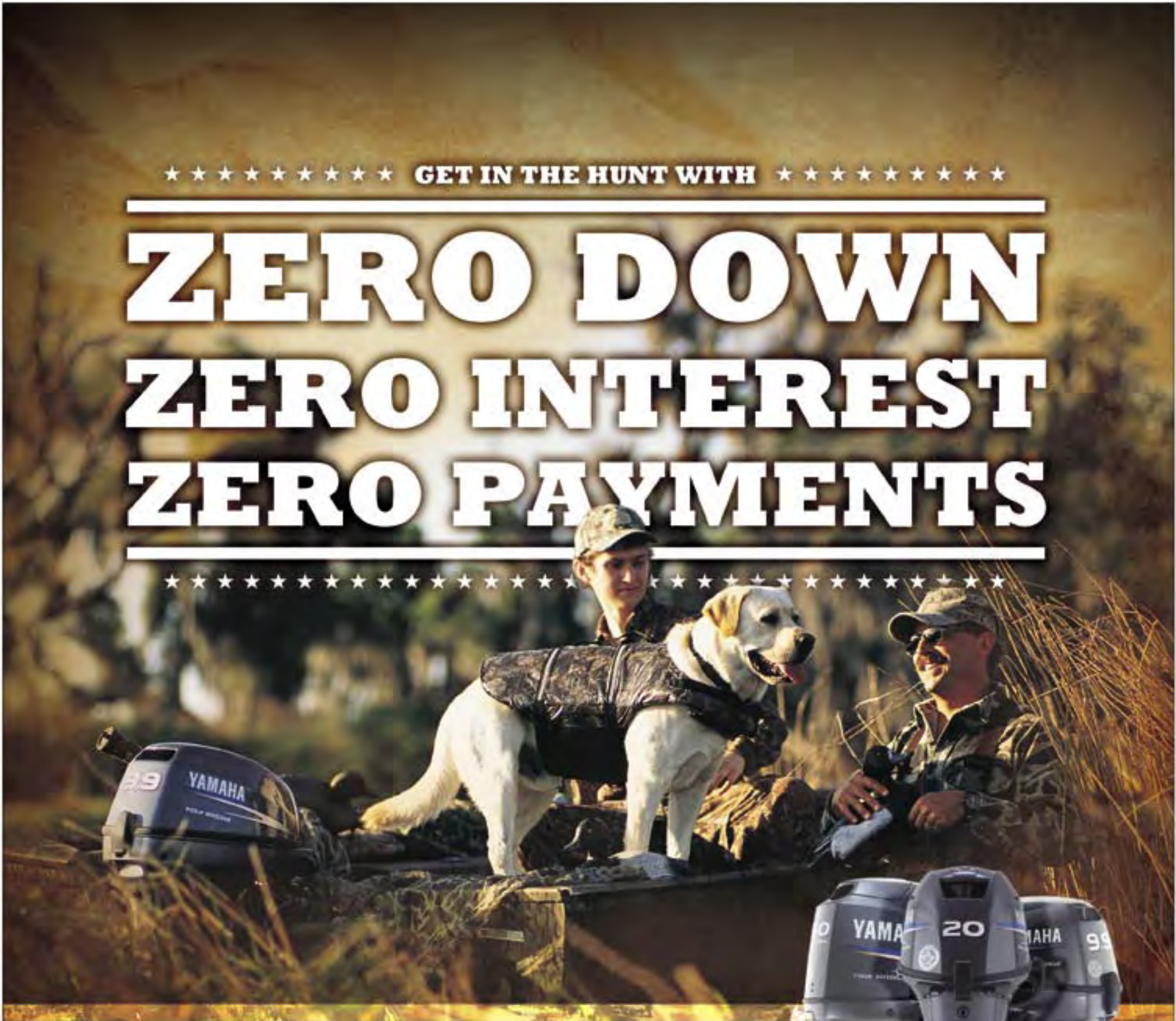
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HUNTING

Waterfowl guide lands internship during duck hunt

FOR LOVE OF THE DUCKS: At his summer internship with DU, Shannon Cunningham located and identified nests and eggs and returned every three days to see whether the nests had been predated or the eggs hatched.



Summer spent studying ducks in N.D. prairie

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Shannon Cunningham of Rockport has been interested in studying waterfowl since grade school. This summer, he realized a dream through a summer internship with Ducks Unlimited in the prairie pothole region of North Dakota.

Cunningham's hunting and wildlife interests started at age 11 with his uncle.

"We hunted everything — ducks, geese, deer and hogs," Cunningham said. "And I've really gotten into archery hunting."

At age 15, Cunningham started working

at Port Bay Hunting Club as a guide on weekends.

"My uncle also was a guide at Port Bay when he was in high school," he said.

Now Cunningham is 22 and entering his senior year at Angelo State University, studying natural resources management.

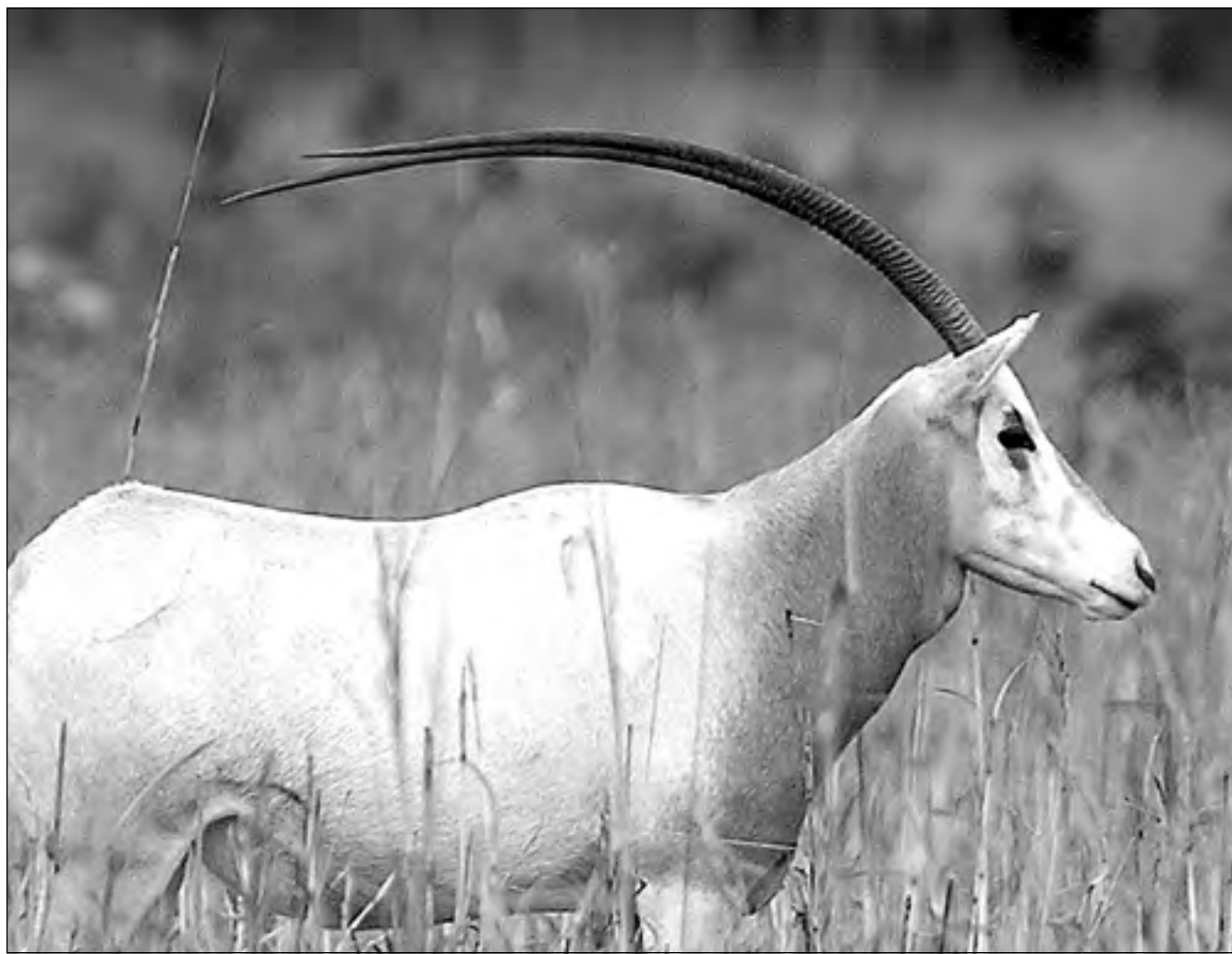
At Port Bay, Cunningham guided Tim Soderquist, a regional director for Ducks Unlimited.

"I told him about working for Texas Parks and Wildlife the previous summer in Mexico," Cunningham said. "We worked on white-winged dove studies and nest monitoring. It

See *INTERN*, Page 28



ON THE WEB
More photos from Shannon Cunningham's internship.
LSONews.com



PRESCRIPTION FOR DISASTER: The scimitar-horned oryx, extinct in its native Africa, is thriving at Texas ranches with up to 15,000 animals. New restrictions on hunting of the species here are expected to diminish its value to the point the population could disappear. Photo by Exotic Wildlife Association.

Saved by hunting

Endangered antelope thriving in Texas, not on home range

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The scimitar-horned oryx is extinct in its home ranges in Northern Africa — but thousands live on Texas ranches. The recent efforts of two anti-hunting groups may result in the antelope species disappearing from U.S. soil, too.

Three antelope species, the scimitar-horned oryx, the dama gazelle and the addax, are gone or all but gone in their home ranges. Captive herds numbering in the thousands have thrived on U.S. ranches, especially in Texas, largely because of ranchers' ability to sell, trade, breed and allow the hunting of these animals.

The three antelope species have been on the endangered species list since 2005, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a rule exempting captive animals from the Endangered Species Act prohibitions. With approval, ranchers have been able to allow hunting within the herds they manage.

Two groups, the Humane Society of the United States and Friends of Animals, filed suit to challenge the exemption. Their challenge was unsuccessful, but the U.S. District Court for the Dis-

trict of Columbia ruled that the ESA does not allow a blanket exemption to endangered species prohibitions, and those who wish to hunt or otherwise conduct activities that amount to a "taking" of these species must apply for an individual enhancement of survival permit from the USFWS.

Since the applications must be published in the Federal Register, the notice of the application makes it possible for groups to comment on the proposed activities.

"We won't be raising 1,000 oryx to shoot 20 per year. It will be one-tenth of that."

— Aaron Bulkley, hunting outfitter

It's the scimitar-horned oryx that is expected to suffer the most.

Aaron Bulkley of Texas Hunt Lodge, based in Kerrville, books hunts on 12 privately owned ranches.

"According to the Exotic Wildlife Association, there are 7,500 scimitar-horned oryx in Texas," he said. "The number is probably closer to 15,000 — some ranches have up to 500."

Bulkley said ranchers have purchased, bred and raised the oryx largely because of their value.

"No one is out there shooting breeding or bred cows," he said. "But without the hunting the ranchers would not have raised them."

If the restrictions go through, the animal's value goes with them.

"You take away the hunting, the value goes to nothing," Bulkley said.

Bulkley's prognosis for the oryx if the restrictions remain in place are not good.

"Ranchers will just open the gates," he said. "It will be just like the emu when their value declined."

Bulkley said the USFWS has three options: to fight the decision, issue a new type of permit to breed and hunt the animals or require that ranchers apply for a cull-and-take and a breeder's permit.

He is hopeful the ruling will be challenged, but he is also taking steps to be ready for change.

"We're already preparing for option No. 3," Bulkley said.

Even with the permits, Bulkley said the numbers of the majestic animals will decline drastically.

"We won't be raising 1,000 oryx to shoot 20 per year," he said. "It will be

See *ORYX*, Page 20

Pronghorn numbers following weather

Population might have grown in Panhandle, fallen in Trans-Pecos region

By John R. Meyer
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Pronghorn antelope numbers are up in the Panhandle and down in the Trans-Pecos, according to state biologists studying the population.

The year's pronghorn surveys are complete, but biologists are still processing their data. The state will not set the number of pronghorn hunting permits for the Oct. 4-12 season until the study is completed.

Panhandle numbers appear to be similar to last year's, with a chance of a slight increase.

Gene Miller, a Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist based in Canyon, said the animals had good range and herd conditions, helped by favorable weather conditions.

"Overall vegetative conditions are good," he said, crediting adequate moisture and relatively normal summer temperatures.

Higher fawn production rates put an exclamation point on robust overall numbers.

Trans-Pecos numbers will likely be down somewhat from last year, said Billy Tarrant, a TPW biologist in Alpine.

The Trans-Pecos numbers were disappointing, though not altogether surprising.

"The Trans-Pecos survey this year showed that the

Oct. 4-12

Dates for the 2009 pronghorn hunting season in Texas.

See *PRONGHORN*, Page 16



COUNTING PRONGHORNS: Antelope numbers rose in the Texas Panhandle but declined in the Trans-Pecos region, according to recent aerial surveys. Hunting permit numbers are set based on survey results. Photo by John R. Meyer.

Outdoor News in Brief

Feds again allow liberal limits for duck season

As expected based on increased duck population numbers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed continuing liberal hunting season lengths for the 2009-10 late waterfowl seasons.

Central Flyway highlights include a full season on pintails with a one-bird daily bag limit, a full season on canvasbacks with a one-bird daily bag limit and a full season on scaup with a two-bird daily bag limit.

In the Central Flyway, the Hunter's Choice experimental program has ended. This season, the daily bag limit will be six ducks, with restrictions as follows:

- Mallard: five, no more than two of which may be females
 - Scaup and redhead: two
 - Wood duck: three
 - Pintail, mottled duck and canvasback: one
- The mottled duck season will begin five days after the beginning of the regular season. The

Proposed waterfowl season dates

DUCKS

High Plains Mallard Management Unit

Oct. 24-25; Oct. 30-Jan. 24

Youth-only season: Oct. 17-18

North and South Zones

Oct. 31-Nov. 29; Dec. 12-Jan. 24

Youth-only season: Oct. 24-25

GEESE

Western Goose Zone

Nov. 7-Feb. 7

Eastern Goose Zone

Oct. 31-Jan. 24 for light geese and Canada geese

Oct. 31-Jan. 10 for white-fronted geese.

Light Goose Conservation Order

Feb. 8-March 28 in the Western Goose Zone

Jan. 25-March 28 in the Eastern Goose Zone

possession limit would be twice the bag limit.

Season dates will be set by the state after the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting in late August.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

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FISHING

From Gulp! to his own venture

Texan develops key formula, starts new lure company

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

David Nichols of Brownsboro owns a medical device company in Athens. Several years ago, while working with polymers for medical devices, he stumbled onto a formula that helped change the fishing world.

"We needed a polymer that would start to break down when it got wet," Nichols said. "It turned out, it worked perfect in plastic worms."

Nichols, in addition to his engineering degree, was an avid bass fisherman, having fished tournaments and guided fishermen on the side.

He presented his find to Berkley, and things took off from there.

"Berkley had the scents, we just happened to come up with the right formula that released the scents into the water," he said.

Field tests on two Texas lakes sealed the deal.

"We molded 500 power worms with their scent and tested them against regular power worms," Nichols said. "The molded worms kicked butt."

Berkley took it from there and Gulp! baits have since captured the market.

"They had been working on that technology for a long time," Nichols said. "We just helped put the pieces together."

Nichols still makes medical devices, but with some friends is beginning a new tackle adventure — Brass n' Blades.

The buzzbaits and spinnerbaits heading to market were developed after hundreds of hours of engineering time, and Nichols thinks anglers will like the results of the work.

"We searched for the perfect balance, just the right bend in the wire, and every other minute detail in order to make our baits perform to the highest standards," he said.

The baits sport some unique fea-

See LURES, Page 16



BRANCHING OUT: David Nichols, an engineer who owns a medical device company in Athens, helped in the development of Gulp! baits and is now starting a new lure company making spinnerbaits and buzzbaits.

Texan near top of FLW Cup board

Hackney wins with strong finish in Pitt

By Cody Ryan Greaney
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The Forrest Wood Cup has become the richest paying bass tournament in the world, and this year it was Louisiana's Greg Hackney who cashed in with a remarkable comeback at Pittsburgh's Three Rivers.

After the first day of the four-day event, Hackney had caught slightly more than 3 pounds, leaving him in 36th place among a field of 77 fishermen. He was a long shot to make the cut, but the next day he brought one of the best comeback stories in bass fishing to the scales. He caught 14 pounds, 13 ounces, launching him into first place at the tough fishery.

The final two days are a new tournament, with 10 anglers starting over.



Curtis

Hackney fell to sixth after day three as California's Rusty Salewke took the lead. David Curtis of Trinity stood less than 1 pound behind. But Hackney issued another comeback on the final day with an early limit, topping Mike Iaconelli by 3 ounces.

Curtis dropped to sixth after weighing in only one fish on the final day, but he was rewarded with a check of \$45,000 for his efforts.

See FLW CUP, Page 12



SO CLOSE: Top, David Curtis of Trinity was in second place going into the final day of the FLW Cup but fell to sixth. Above, Greg Hackney of Gonzalez, La. won the event. Photos by FLW Outdoors.



NEW THREADS: Buying high-quality flies can take as much skill as matching the hatch. Though clousers such as the one pictured above tend to be sturdier and last longer, other flies, such as dry flies and poppers, can be delicate. Photos by Thomas Phillips, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Finding fine flies

Separate treasures from trash when buying not tying

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Not all flies are created equal. Few flies, unlike conventional lures, come individually packaged in plastic and cardboard. They are boxed by the dozens and left to await their fate in fly shop display cases.

Handled by untold numbers of anglers, flies are on defense from the moment they leave the tying vice.

When it comes time to buy one, which may be many stonefly hatches after the fly entered the economy, the prospective purchaser needs to pay close attention. Basics to test are the hackle, hooks and how it looks.

Hackle

Dry flies in particular should be well-tied. They are often meant to represent a specific insect, and their size and color should be appropriate.

"They're not difficult to tie, but they have to be done right," said Kyle Hand, who has been tying flies for 28 years and has tied flies commercially.

Dry-fly inspection points

Wings: Make sure the fly has the appropriate number of wings and that they are the proper size.

Tails and antennae: Should resemble the insect's and should not be folded or of unequal length.

Hackle: Should be stiff (unless the fly is a soft hackle), the shiny side should be very shiny, and the hackle should not be oversized.



Hand suggested that when buying flies, an angler should compare two from the same tray. They should be twins.

"Sometimes they'll be totally different," he said.

Dry-fly hackle should be stiff, Hand said. Some fly tiers will use cheap barnyard chicken feathers. Quality feathers come from birds bred and raised for stiff hackle fibers.

"If you go out to a farm, most people will kill their chickens after 18 weeks," Hand said. "Most of these chickens (for flies) aren't killed until after 45 or 50 weeks, to get the stiffest fibers."

The hackle should also be bright and shiny, healthy-looking, said Frank Schlicht, the edu-

See FLIES, Page 32



HIGH AND DRY: Captains may have a sixth sense about how to stay in a boat, but inexperienced boaters might be prone to losing their balance or slipping on a wet deck. All boaters can help keep the trip underway by following a few tips. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Slip-sliding aweigh: Avoiding man overboard

Knowing tricks for when someone falls in can help save lives

By Dan Armitage
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

A routine slip or trip on land is a trivial thing, forgotten as soon as it happens. Take a tumble on a boat and it can be life threatening.

Wet or fish-slimed decks are the most common causes of lost footing aboard any watercraft. Textured "non-skid" surfaces are often applied to decks and areas where secure footing is critical.

Once slick areas are identified where passengers may — or already have — slipped, installing skid-resistant step pads or applying self-adhesive strips of non-skid tape will help provide better footing. Tennis shoes or bona-fide boat shoes with non-slip soles help too, along with a mop to clean up a slimy slick spot.

Sloppy handling also results in tumbles. Guests who don't compensate for acceleration and deceleration during starts, stops or turns are prime candidates for losing their balance and going over.

Maintain a steady speed when changing direction, taking turns as wide as conditions allow.

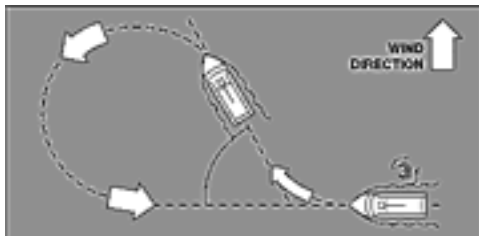
Before getting underway, make sure all passengers are seated, wearing life jackets if required and aware that the boat will begin moving so they can brace themselves for motion. Discourage walking around while the boat is underway.

If it happens

If someone ends up in the drink, the first order of action is to identify where the person is in the water. The second is to maintain visual contact with the overboard boater. If another passenger is in the boat, assign him or her to watch the person in the water, pointing to provide you with a location reference.

If you are the lone person remaining aboard, maintain the victim's location in relation to the watercraft.

If you are underway when the person falls, the first action is to slow the boat's forward progress



RESCUE MANEUVER: To execute a Williamson turn, first turn the boat 60 degrees, then immediately turn 240 degrees. The vessel ends up on the opposite course from where someone fell overboard.

and turn back to the victim in a safe manner.

Of four different "man overboard" maneuvers for powerboats tested by the Safety at Sea Committee of the Seattle Sailing Foundation, an immediate reduced-speed turn met every criteria for small-craft man-overboard rescue situations. The method is quick, keeps the boat near the victim and can be conducted by inexperienced boaters.

Other than drowning, the most immediate threat to a person who has fallen overboard is presented by the boat and motor of the rescue craft. When conditions allow, approach the victim from downwind so the boat will not be knocked into the victim by wind or waves. When coming alongside the victim, the engine should be in neutral while the person is helped back aboard.

Executing the Williamson turn

If someone falls overboard in conditions of reduced visibility, or for any other reason the location of the victim is not known, the best tactic to take to retrace the boat's path is the Williamson turn. The technique calls for slowing and turning the steering wheel all the way ("hard over") toward the side of the craft that the person is believed to have fallen over, and holding it there until the boat's heading has changed 60 degrees from the direction the boat was headed when the incident took place.

At that point, the wheel is turned all the way to the opposite side to bring the boat around 240 degrees in the other direction. That will place the boat's heading back on the reciprocal course, which can be followed to retrace the boat's progress in an attempt to locate the person who went over the side.

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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

TICKET TOOK TOO LONG

Texas Parks and Wildlife's Fort Worth Regional Office received a complaint from an area lake after a 26-year-old female had received a citation for no certificate of number on her personal watercraft and a warning for improper life jacket. The father of the female called the office to complain about the warden, not for issuing the citation, but for the time it took to write the citation, causing his daughter to get sunburned.

'NOT ONE DRINK' WAS THE TRUTH

A boat was running fast after sunset without lights on Lake Bryan. Brazos County Game Warden Leanne Winkenwerder stopped the vessel and performed a routine water safety check. When asked how much he had to drink, the operator said, "Not one drink." Throughout the water safety check, Winkenwerder noticed the driver really concentrating on what he was doing and smelled alcohol on his breath. The driver submitted a breath sample that measured his blood alcohol level at .246, and he failed field sobriety tests. The driver was arrested for boating while intoxicated and transported to Brazos County Jail. Two hours later, the suspect still blew a .148 on the Intoxilyzer. Case pending.

DRUG RUNNERS ESCAPE NEAR BRACKETTVILLE

Edwards County Game Warden Scott Holly helped a Border Patrol agent chase a vehicle on Brackettville Highway. After Holly joined the pursuit, which lasted for 5 miles, the suspects' 2009 Dodge Ram crashed through a fence and into brush. The two occupants ran into the brush and escaped. Inside the pickup were 124 bundles of marijuana weighing 477 pounds. The

Survival is an un-American act

Two boaters survived three days on sardines given to them by non-U.S. citizens after their boat capsized while floating the Pecos River. Val Verde County Game Warden JC Flores and Department of Public

Safety pilot Tony Ashley found the stranded boaters from the air. They picked them up and flew them to safety. The two boaters were hot, hungry and a little thirsty but otherwise in good condition. They had

been stranded after hitting a large rock and capsizing their boat. They lost all of their food and water in the incident. Non-citizens who were passing through gave them some cans of sardines to eat.

area was searched again using a K9 unit, but the occupants of the vehicle were not located.

ELDERLY MAN STUCK IN MUD FOR DAY

While enforcing fishing and water safety regulations on Balmorhea Lake, Game Wardens Jared Self and Chris Sanchez inadvertently came across a vehicle that was stuck in the mud near the canal. An elderly man occupied the vehicle. After some questioning and phone calls, the wardens determined that the 89-year-old was reported missing from Monahans by his grandson. After further investigation, it became apparent the man had been stuck for almost 24 hours.

NEIGHBOR HOPES FOR NO-KILL ZONE

A neighbor drove up to hog hunters' game feeder and scared away nearby animals, and the hunters were deciding whether to file charges. Palo Pinto County Game Warden Cliff Swofford investigated the alleged hunter harassment. He located the neighbor, obtained information and spoke to the hunters.

RACCOON-LIKE COATI SEIZED IN ROBERTSON COUNTY

A Freestone County resident investigated for possession of a baby white-nosed coati led game wardens to six more. When Freestone County Game Warden Craig Hernandez told a woman that the animal she pos-

sessed was a threatened species, she told Hernandez it was purchased in Robertson County. Game Wardens Jason Bussey and Russel Murden spoke with the owner of the property where the coati came from and found six more there. The animals were seized, and cases were filed for the sale and possession of the threatened species.

FREED DEER TAKES A REST FROM SWIMMING

A man called Texas Parks and Wildlife about 7:30 p.m. needing help on a ranch in western Uvalde County. The man had been trying since 11 a.m. to help a doe white-tailed deer escape from a 6-foot tall concrete water storage tank. It was unknown how the deer came to be in the storage tank. The tank was full of water, and the deer was tired of swimming. Uvalde County Game Warden Henry Lutz enlisted the help of a state trooper who was nearby to help with the rescue. With some rope that Lutz had in his patrol vehicle, a small wooden ladder and a piece of all-terrain vehicle ramp located on the ranch, Lutz and the trooper captured the swimming deer and pulled it over the side of the concrete trough. After removing the ropes, the deer wobbled about 15 yards and laid down.

SECOND TIME'S A CHARM AT BOERNE LAKE

Kendall County Game Warden Vance Wallace issued a 19-year-old

man a trespass warning after watching him climb up and jump from the concrete overflow structure located in Boerne Lake. Wallace told the man (and his friends) that the warning serves as the official notice not to trespass again. If caught on the structure again, he would be charged with trespassing and face arrest. Twenty minutes later (after he thought Wallace left the area), Wallace watched as the man again climbed up the structure. A trespassing case was filed.

DEATH OF HEADLESS AXIS UNDER INVESTIGATION

A landowner reported an axis deer had been killed and the head removed. The deer was killed in a neighborhood near Kerrville where a group had been caught "deer bashing" a few months ago by Kerr County Game Warden Kenny Lee. The residents had constructed an electric gate at the entrance of the neighborhood, but unfortunately it did not keep all of the poachers out. A bullet was removed from the deer, and Lee continues to investigate.

FEEDER TIPS OFF NEIGHBOR TO POACHING

Grimes County Game Warden Jonny Heaton received a poaching-in-progress call in Shiro. The caller said he heard a rifle shot coming from his neighbor's property and mentioned that his neighbor had been running a deer feeder for two weeks. Within a few minutes, Hea-

ton received a second call informing him that a man was trying to recruit help to clean a deer. Upon arrival, Heaton spoke with two men. Both had blood droplets on their boots. After a quick search of the area, a cooler containing a quartered deer was located. The men said the deer had been hit by a car. After inspecting the discarded parts of the doe, Heaton told them men that an auto vs. deer accident rarely results in a bullet hole to the rib cage of the animal. One man then confessed to shooting the deer with a .30-30 rifle, and the other confessed to helping him retrieve and clean the deer. Cases pending.

FOUR OFFICERS BUST NOODLERS

Game Warden Victor Gonzales received information about possible noodlers on Yegua Creek near Lake Somerville State Park. Gonzales, Bruce Fike, Tommy Snow and Game Warden Sophia Hiatt sneaked into the Newman's Bottom area of the state park on foot and found the group preparing to leave. One vehicle with two men had already left but was stopped by Snow and brought back to where the wardens were questioning the other two. All admitted to grabbling and produced one 22-inch yellow catfish. All four were cited for grabbling fish.

TWO MANY STRIPERS ON TEXOMA

Grayson County Game Warden Dale Moses, while patrolling Lake Texoma, checked a boat with two fishermen and asked how many stripers they had caught. The fishermen told Moses that they had caught 17. When the fish were counted, they instead had 25, five over their two-person limit of 20. Both were cited for exceeding the bag limit. Cases and civil restitution are pending.

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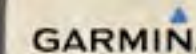


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FLW Cup

Continued from Page 8

Curtis is no stranger to fishing for a living, having fished professionally since the 90s. His first appearance at the Forrest Wood Cup was last year, but he failed to make the top 10 cut. Curtis had been anticipating this tournament since winning the Stren Series Championship for Texas that qualified him for another shot at the title.

"I fished the tour a long time ago, before I had any business fishing it," Curtis said. "I just wasn't skilled enough as an angler. I stuck around for a season or two and never really completed it."

Curtis was able to regroup, had a productive couple of seasons and decided to give the

tour another try.

"I had a couple good tournaments and a couple of real bad tournaments," he said. "Then I decided to back off again and fish the Stren Series in Texas," he said.

After qualifying last year, his ambition to win was greater than ever before.

"It was an awesome opportunity to fish for a million dollars," he said. "Every fiber in me wanted to win this tournament — but I am grateful to be here."

When Curtis is not on the water, he is eating, sleeping, hunting or fishing. He left Pittsburgh to head south to prepare for another tournament.

"If my wife was over here, she would verify it," he said. "And (I'm at) church on Sundays, unless I make a top 10."

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HEROES



COLTON and **KIMBER WOMACK** enjoyed an evening fishing at a private pond outside Chandler.



DAVID BRENNAN of Dallas took what was the No. 4 SCI free range archery exotic axis in late October in Boerne. Since then two larger axis have been taken, and it is now No. 6.



DIXIE YEATTS was successful during her spring turkey hunt at Greystone Castle with guide Nate Goudy.



JAIME QUIROGA caught a limit of speckled trout at Holley Beach wade fishing with soft plastics during his honeymoon.



TY GERKE, 7, of Hallettsville caught this 29-inch trophy trout in July while anchored in the Lower Laguna Madre fishing with his father, **Billy Gerke**, and grandfather, **Bill Gerke**.

Share an adventure

Want to share hunting and fishing photos with the **Lone Star Outdoor News** family? Send them to us with a phone number and caption information.

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BROOKE BEARD, 11, of Bryan had a successful white-winged dove hunt with her father, **Phil Beard**, in October in South Texas. She used a 20-gauge shotgun to shoot the dove and the family's springer spaniel, **Gus**, brought them to hand.

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LONE STAR NEWS
 All about boating in 2009
 Hit the water this year

UP AND DOWN: Pronghorn numbers are down in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas, and fewer hunting permits are expected for the 2009 season. The Panhandle could see an increase in permits because of a strong population. Photo by John R. Meyer.



Pronghorn
Continued from Page 6

herd has declined," Tarrant said. "Last year we saw a significant die off in the Marfa Plateau," he said, citing several different factors contributing to the beginning of what is now a two-year downturn.

During the most recent year, challenging weather combined with low fawn production for a one-two punch.

The brightest spot was the herd nearest Marathon, which exhibited relatively higher reproduction than the rest of the district, though it was still challenged by the similar weather.

The current downturn comes on the heels of a good streak.

"In the Trans-Pecos, we saw an encouraging recovery from the drought of the '90s, through 2007," Tarrant said.

As with any native species in a

delicate balance, though, Tarrant is on continual alert for the health of the herd and looking for ways to address the situation.

Tarrant said 710 permits were issued last year in the Trans-Pecos region.

"It will be a lot less this year," he said.

In the Panhandle, 952 permits were issued last year.

Average success over the past 10 years has been about 50 percent.



LEAD-FREE LURES: The Brass n' Blades spinnerbaits are made with serrated-edged blades to maximize vibration. Photo by David Nichols.

Lures

Continued from Page 8

tures — such as double hooks, brass heads, coated wire and serrated blades.

"The concept of double-hook use in spinnerbait-type lures has been on the market for years," Nichols said. "But it has yet to be pursued at this level of manufacture. We incorporate a Gamakatsu double-hook design into our baits.

"Bass slap at a lot of baits, and we're catching a lot of those fish."

Nichols thinks the blades on the new lures will make a big difference.

"We're using a blade with a serrated edge all the way around," he said. "It creates a greater vibration than a regular blade."

For anglers who prefer a willow-leaved blade, greater vibration will be a big plus, he said.

"We're testing to quantify the vibration," he said. "We want to prove it rather than just say it on a package, but our willow-leaved blade provides as much or more vibration than a standard Colorado blade."

To prepare for future environmental changes, the baits are all lead-free, with brass heads that hold paint better than lead.

"We wanted to be on the cutting edge," Nichols said. "There's a lot of changes coming — lures with lead almost got banned in national parks this year. We wanted to provide an alternative to lead-based products in spinnerbaits and buzzbaits."

National News in Brief

Thief caught after listing goods on site

A Missouri man accused of stealing fishing gear worth nearly \$100,000 was arrested after an angler bought his own reel on eBay and called authorities.

Property had been stolen during fishing tournaments at Lake of the Ozarks, Table Rock Lake and Truman Reservoir. The tournaments were hit at night, when boats were taken from their slips, stripped of all gear and left adrift.

The man charged faces up to seven years in prison for the felony charges.

— Staff report

Tenn. elk permit sells for \$17,700

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation sold the final Tennessee Special Elk Take Permit on eBay for \$17,700. The winning bid among 31 bidders was placed by Andy Miller, a businessman from Franklin, Tenn.

The permit is one of five bull elk tags issued for 2009.

— Staff report

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The Rhino is a serious off-road vehicle and should be driven only by those 16 years of age or older with a valid driver's license. All Rhino drivers and passengers should wear a seatbelt, helmet, eye protection, gloves and over-the-ankle boots at all times. Passengers must be tall enough to reach the handholds with their back against the seat and their feet flat on the floorboard. The Rhino was designed for off-road use only, and should never be operated on public roads or paved surfaces. Please drive responsibly.



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PROTECTIONS GONE AWRY: These scimitar-horned oryx are part of the healthy population at Texas ranches. Ranchers are concerned about new Endangered Species Act restrictions and believe the restrictions will hamper efforts to re-introduce the species to its native range in Africa. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.

Oryx

Continued from Page 6

one-tenth of that — there will be five to 10 ranches in Texas with 100 animals or so.

"The groups will get exactly the opposite of what they were hoping for."

Jesse Grace of J&D Professional Guide Service in Boerne said the challenge and decision will doom the scimitar-horned oryx.

"It's a death sentence for the species," he said.

The Second Ark Foundation is an arm of the Exotic Wildlife Association, and its purpose is to reintroduce endangered species to their countries of origin. The foundation has been raising funds for its Scimitar-Horned Oryx Repatriation Project to try to reintroduce the species back to its native lands.

Charly Seale, the EWA's executive director, said that in this case the Endangered Species Act has actually endangered the very species it was designed to protect.

"This act needs some major changes," he said. "The private breeding and ownership of these animals is what has led to the vast num-

bers in this country today."

Seale worries that the associated red tape will result in the demise of the species.

"Our ranchers and breeders spend millions of dollars each year maintaining the health and welfare of the animals," he said, adding that the opposing groups have not spent any money toward the animals' welfare.

The Humane Society of the United States takes a different approach, and Senior Director of Wildlife Abuse Campaign Andrew Page said the organization is against any hunting in fenced enclosures.

And do the groups plan to comment and object to the applications for permits to hunt the animals when they appear in the Federal Register?

"Absolutely," Page said.

Seale expressed his concern that the comments and objections would further damage the species.

"It's like they would rather see them extinct than to see ranchers freely trade them," he said. "It's the animals that will be the real losers."

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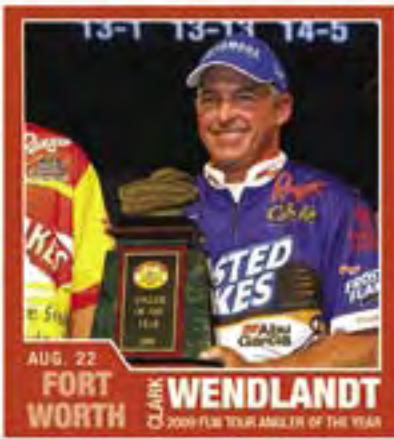
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- 11 a.m. - Tru Tungsten Advantages
- 11:30 a.m. - Get a Jump On Dove Season
- 12:30 p.m. - Summer Catfishing
- 1 p.m. - Top Archery Gear Picks for 2009 Bow Season
- 1:30 p.m. - Dutch Oven Cooking
- 2 p.m. - Catch Bigger Bass in Texas
- 3 p.m. - Kistler Custom Fishing Rods- New Techniques
- 3 p.m. - Duck and Goose Calling
- 3:30 p.m. - Deer Quartering 101
- 4 p.m. - Pattern, Density and Steel Comparison

SUNDAY, AUG. 23

- 9 a.m. - Kids Fishing Derby
- 10 a.m. - Fly Fishing Lessons
- 11 a.m. - Tru Tungsten Advantages
- 11:30 a.m. - Get a Jump on Dove Season
- 12:30 p.m. - Summer Catfishing
- 1 p.m. - Top Archery Gear Picks for 2009 Bow Season
- 1:30 p.m. - Dutch Oven Cooking
- 2 p.m. - Kistler Custom Fishing Rods- New Techniques
- 2:30 p.m. - Smokin' Summer Spectacular
- 3 p.m. - Duck and Goose Calling
- 3:30 p.m. - Pattern, Density and Steel Comparison

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SATURDAY, AUG. 22

- 11 a.m. - Choosing the Right Bow
- 12 p.m. - Preparing for Teal Season
- 1 p.m. - General Waterfowl Hunting
- 2 p.m. - Rangefinders for Bowhunters
- 3 p.m. - On the Hunt for Reds

SUNDAY, AUG. 23

- 11 a.m. - Choosing the Right Bow
- 12 p.m. - On the Hunt for Reds
- 1 p.m. - General Waterfowl Hunting
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Texas Coast Tides

Sabine Pass, jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Aug 14	4:55 a.m.	2.7H	3:57 p.m.	-0.4L		
Aug 15	4:38 a.m.	2.9H	5:01 p.m.	-0.7L		
Aug 16	3:08 a.m.	2.9H	6:04 p.m.	-0.7L		
Aug 17	3:29 a.m.	2.9H	7:01 a.m.	2.7L	9:22 a.m.	2.9H
Aug 18	3:50 a.m.	2.9H	7:25 a.m.	2.7L	11:32 a.m.	2.9H
Aug 19	4:10 a.m.	2.7H	8:11 a.m.	2.3L	1:05 p.m.	2.9H
Aug 20	4:30 a.m.	2.5H	9:03 a.m.	2.0L	2:29 p.m.	2.7H
Aug 21	4:49 a.m.	2.5H	9:56 a.m.	1.4L	3:52 p.m.	2.7H
Aug 22	5:07 a.m.	2.3H	10:51 a.m.	1.1L	5:18 p.m.	2.5H
Aug 23	5:23 a.m.	2.3H	11:45 a.m.	0.7L	6:49 p.m.	2.5H
Aug 24	12:09 a.m.	1.6L	5:37 a.m.	2.3H	12:40 p.m.	0.4L
Aug 25	1:12 a.m.	2.1L	5:42 a.m.	2.3H	1:37 p.m.	0.2L
Aug 26	2:38 p.m.	0.0L			8:30 p.m.	2.5H
Aug 27	12:49 a.m.	2.9H	3:42 p.m.	0.0L		
Aug 28	2:10 a.m.	2.9H	4:46 p.m.	0.0L		

Galveston Bay entrance, south jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Aug 14	5:42 a.m.	2.1H	4:23 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 15	5:25 a.m.	2.3H	5:27 p.m.	-0.6L		
Aug 16	3:55 a.m.	2.3H	6:30 p.m.	-0.6L		
Aug 17	4:16 a.m.	2.3H	7:27 a.m.	2.1L	10:09 a.m.	2.3H
Aug 18	4:37 a.m.	2.3H	7:51 a.m.	2.1L	12:19 p.m.	2.3H
Aug 19	4:57 a.m.	2.1H	8:37 a.m.	1.9L	1:52 p.m.	2.3H
Aug 20	5:17 a.m.	2.0H	9:29 a.m.	1.6L	3:16 p.m.	2.1H
Aug 21	5:36 a.m.	2.0H	10:22 a.m.	1.1L	4:39 p.m.	2.1H
Aug 22	5:54 a.m.	1.9H	11:17 a.m.	0.9L	6:05 p.m.	2.0H
Aug 23	6:10 a.m.	1.9H	12:11 p.m.	0.6L	7:36 p.m.	2.0H
Aug 24	12:35 a.m.	1.3L	6:24 a.m.	1.9H	1:06 p.m.	0.3L
Aug 25	1:38 a.m.	1.7L	6:29 a.m.	1.9H	2:03 p.m.	0.1L
Aug 26	3:04 p.m.	0.0L			9:17 p.m.	2.0H
Aug 27	1:36 a.m.	2.3H	4:08 p.m.	0.0L		
Aug 28	2:57 a.m.	2.3H	5:12 p.m.	0.0L		

San Luis Pass

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Aug 14	6:12 a.m.	1.3H	5:19 p.m.	-0.2L		
Aug 15	5:55 a.m.	1.4H	6:23 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 16	4:25 a.m.	1.4H	7:26 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 17	4:46 a.m.	1.4H	8:23 a.m.	1.3L	10:39 a.m.	1.4H
Aug 18	5:07 a.m.	1.4H	8:47 a.m.	1.3L	12:49 p.m.	1.4H
Aug 19	5:27 a.m.	1.3H	9:33 a.m.	1.1L	2:22 p.m.	1.4H
Aug 20	5:47 a.m.	1.2H	10:25 a.m.	0.9L	3:46 p.m.	1.3H
Aug 21	6:06 a.m.	1.2H	11:18 a.m.	0.7L	5:09 p.m.	1.3H
Aug 22	6:24 a.m.	1.1H	12:13 p.m.	0.5L	6:35 p.m.	1.2H
Aug 23	12:40 a.m.	0.5L	6:40 a.m.	1.1H	1:07 p.m.	0.3L
Aug 24	1:31 a.m.	0.8L	6:54 a.m.	1.1H	2:02 p.m.	0.2L
Aug 25	2:34 a.m.	1.0L	6:59 a.m.	1.1H	2:59 p.m.	0.1L
Aug 26	4:00 p.m.	0.0L			11:47 p.m.	1.3H
Aug 27	2:06 a.m.	1.4H	5:04 p.m.	0.0L		
Aug 28	3:27 a.m.	1.4H	6:08 p.m.	0.0L		

Freeport Harbor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Aug 14	5:04 a.m.	1.8H	4:20 p.m.	-0.2L		
Aug 15	4:47 a.m.	2.0H	5:24 p.m.	-0.4L		
Aug 16	3:17 a.m.	2.0H	6:27 p.m.	-0.4L		
Aug 17	3:38 a.m.	2.0H	7:24 a.m.	1.4L	9:31 a.m.	2.0H
Aug 18	3:59 a.m.	2.0H	7:48 a.m.	1.4L	11:41 a.m.	2.0H
Aug 19	4:19 a.m.	1.8H	8:34 a.m.	1.2L	1:14 p.m.	2.0H
Aug 20	4:39 a.m.	1.7H	9:26 a.m.	1.0L	2:38 p.m.	1.8H
Aug 21	4:58 a.m.	1.7H	10:19 a.m.	0.7L	4:01 p.m.	1.8H
Aug 22	5:16 a.m.	1.6H	11:14 a.m.	0.5L	5:27 p.m.	1.7H
Aug 23	5:32 a.m.	1.6H	12:08 p.m.	0.4L	6:58 p.m.	1.7H
Aug 24	12:32 a.m.	0.8L	5:46 a.m.	1.6H	1:03 p.m.	0.2L
Aug 25	1:35 a.m.	1.1L	5:51 a.m.	1.6H	2:00 p.m.	0.1L
Aug 26	3:01 p.m.	0.0L			8:39 p.m.	1.7H
Aug 27	12:58 a.m.	2.0H	4:05 p.m.	0.0L		
Aug 28	2:19 a.m.	2.0H	5:09 p.m.	0.0L		

Moon Phases

First Aug. 20
Full Aug. 27
Last Sept. 4
New Sept. 12

Port O'Connor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Aug 14	7:34 a.m.	0.8H	7:22 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 15	8:23 a.m.	0.9H	8:39 p.m.	-0.4L		
Aug 16	9:19 a.m.	1.0H	9:49 p.m.	-0.4L		
Aug 17	10:22 a.m.	1.0H	10:51 p.m.	-0.4L		
Aug 18	11:39 a.m.	0.9H	11:45 p.m.	-0.4L		
Aug 19	1:34 p.m.	0.8H				
Aug 20	12:33 a.m.	-0.3L	3:59 p.m.	0.7H		
Aug 21	1:16 a.m.	-0.1L	6:03 p.m.	0.7H		
Aug 22	1:53 a.m.	0.1L	8:15 a.m.	0.4H	1:11 p.m.	0.3L
Aug 23	2:21 a.m.	0.3L	7:31 a.m.	0.5H	2:18 p.m.	0.1L
Aug 24	2:29 a.m.	0.5L	7:02 a.m.	0.6H	3:18 p.m.	0.0L
Aug 25	6:43 a.m.	0.7H	4:18 p.m.	-0.1L		
Aug 26	6:39 a.m.	0.8H	5:23 p.m.	-0.1L		
Aug 27	6:55 a.m.	0.9H	6:37 p.m.	-0.1L		
Aug 28	7:25 a.m.	0.9H	7:59 p.m.	-0.1L		

Rockport

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Aug 14	9:10 a.m.	0.31H	8:18 p.m.	-0.09L		
Aug 15	10:12 a.m.	0.34H	9:22 p.m.	-0.10L		
Aug 16	11:20 a.m.	0.37H	10:27 p.m.	-0.10L		
Aug 17	12:28 p.m.	0.38H	11:28 p.m.	-0.08L		
Aug 18	1:34 p.m.	0.38H				
Aug 19	12:22 a.m.	-0.05L	2:39 p.m.	0.35H		
Aug 20	1:04 a.m.	0.01L	3:53 p.m.	0.31H		
Aug 21	1:32 a.m.	0.07L	5:42 p.m.	0.25H	1:33 a.m.	0.15L
Aug 22	7:49 a.m.	0.21H	1:58 p.m.	0.16L	9:19 p.m.	0.22H
Aug 23	12:16 a.m.	0.21L	6:53 a.m.	0.26H	3:33 p.m.	0.10L
Aug 24	6:46 a.m.	0.32H	4:35 p.m.	0.06L		
Aug 25	7:06 a.m.	0.37H	5:28 p.m.	0.04L		
Aug 26	7:44 a.m.	0.40H	6:21 p.m.	0.03L		
Aug 27	8:38 a.m.	0.42H	7:17 p.m.	0.05L		
Aug 28	9:44 a.m.	0.42H	8:18 p.m.	0.07L		

Port Aransas, H. Caldwell Pier

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Aug 14	5:35 a.m.	1.7H	4:02 p.m.	-0.2L		
Aug 15	5:18 a.m.	1.8H	5:06 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 16	3:48 a.m.	1.8H	6:09 p.m.	-0.3L		
Aug 17	4:09 a.m.	1.8H	7:06 a.m.	1.2L	10:02 a.m.	1.8H
Aug 18	4:30 a.m.	1.8H	7:30 a.m.	1.2L	12:12 p.m.	1.8H
Aug 19	4:50 a.m.	1.7H	8:16 a.m.	1.0L	1:45 p.m.	1.8H
Aug 20	5:10 a.m.	1.6H	9:08 a.m.	0.8L	3:09 p.m.	1.7H
Aug 21	5:29 a.m.	1.6H	10:01 a.m.	0.6L	4:32 p.m.	1.7H
Aug 22	5:47 a.m.	1.5H	10:56 a.m.	0.5L	5:58 p.m.	1.6H
Aug 23	6:03 a.m.	1.5H	11:50 a.m.	0.3L	7:29 p.m.	1.6H
Aug 24	12:14 a.m.	0.7L	6:17 a.m.	1.5H	12:45 p.m.	0.2L
Aug 25	1:17 a.m.	0.9L	6:22 a.m.	1.5H	1:42 p.m.	0.1L
Aug 26	2:43 p.m.	0.0L				
Aug 27	1:29 a.m.	1.8H	3:47 p.m.	0.0L		
Aug 28	2:50 a.m.	1.8H	4:51 p.m.	0.0L		

South Padre Island

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Aug 14	2:05 a.m.	1.5H	3:58 p.m.	-0.5L		
Aug 15	3:05 a.m.	1.7H	5:06 p.m.	-0.6L		
Aug 16	3:56 a.m.	1.8H	6:13 p.m.	-0.7L		
Aug 17	4:39 a.m.	1.9H	7:16 p.m.	-0.7L		
Aug 18	5:10 a.m.	1.8H	8:14 p.m.	-0.5L		
Aug 19	5:27 a.m.	1.7H	9:29 a.m.	1.5L	12:03 p.m.	1.6H
Aug 20	5:29 a.m.	1.5H	9:34 a.m.	1.3L	2:04 p.m.	1.5H
Aug 21	5:24 a.m.	1.3H	10:06 a.m.	0.9L	3:44 p.m.	1.5H
Aug 22	5:14 a.m.	1.2H	10:47 a.m.	0.6L	5:19 p.m.	1.4H
Aug 23	5:02 a.m.	1.1H	11:33 a.m.	0.3L	6:58 p.m.	1.4H
Aug 24	12:42 a.m.	1.0L	4:45 a.m.	1.1H	12:22 p.m.	0.0L
Aug 25	1:51 a.m.	1.1L	4:10 a.m.	1.2H	1:16 p.m.	-0.1L
Aug 26	2:16 p.m.	-0.2L				
Aug 27	1:21 a.m.	1.6H	3:22 p.m.	-0.1L		
Aug 28	2:39 a.m.	1.7H	4:33 p.m.	-0.1L		

Solar | Sun times | Moon times

Houston

2009	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Aug-Sep	Minor	Major	Rises	Sets
14 Fri	12:15	6:24	12:39	6:53
15 Sat	1:05	7:20	1:35	7:51
16 Sun	2:01	8:17	2:33	8:48
17 Mon	2:58	9:13	3:29	9:44
18 Tue	3:53	10:09	4:24	10:39
19 Wed >	4:48	11:03	5:17	11:31
20 Thu N	5:42	11:56	6:09	12:22
21 Fri >	6:36	12:24	7:02	12:49
22 Sat >	7:31	1:18	7:55	1:43
23 Sun >	8:26	2:13	8:50	2:38
24 Mon	9:21	3:09	9:46	3:33
25 Tue	10:16	4:04	10:41	4:29
26 Wed	11:10	4:58	11:36	5:23
27 Thu	-----	5:50	12:03	6:16
28 Fri Q	12:27	6:40	12:53	7:06
29 Sat	1:16	7:28	1:41	7:53
30 Sun	2:01	8:14	2:26	8:38
31 Mon	2:45	8:57	3:09	9:21
01 Tue	3:27	9:38	3:50	10:01
02 Wed >	4:08	10:18	4:29	10:40
03 Thu >	4:48	10:58	5:09	11:19

Dallas

2009	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Aug-Sep	Minor	Major	Rises	Sets
14 Fri	12:20	6:29	12:44	6:59
15 Sat	1:10	7:26	1:41	7:56
16 Sun	2:07	8:22	2:38	8:54
17 Mon	3:03	9:19	3:34	9:50
18 Tue	3:59	10:14	4:29	10:44
19 Wed >	4:54	11:08	5:22	11:36
20 Thu N	5:48	-----	6:15	12:28
21 Fri >	6:42	12:29	7:07	12:55
22 Sat >	7:36	1:24	8:01	1:49
23 Sun >	8:31	2:19	8:56	2:43
24 Mon	9:27	3:14	9:51	3:39
25 Tue	10:22	4:09	10:47	4:34
26 Wed	11:16	5:03	11:42	5:29
27 Thu	-----	5:55	12:08	6:21
28 Fri Q	12:33	6:46	12:59	7:11
29 Sat	1:21	7:34	1:46	7:59
30 Sun	2:07	8:19	2:31	8:44
31 Mon	2:51	9:02	3:14	9:26
01 Tue	3:32	9:44	3:55	10:06
02 Wed >	4:13	10:24	4:35	10:46
03 Thu >	4:53	11:04	5:14	11:25

San Antonio

2009	A.M
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FISHING REPORT

HOT BITES

LARGEMOUTH BASS



LAKE O' THE PINES: Excellent on topwaters early, later switching to shallow running crankbaits, Texas rigs and spinnerbaits.

COLEMAN: Very good on Rat-L-Traps, spinnerbaits and chartreuse soft plastics.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Very good on black soft plastic lizards and watermelon soft plastics near the dam in 6-12 feet.

ALAN HENRY: Good on white buzzbaits and spinnerbaits along brush and grass lines and black/blue soft plastics and jigs worked in brush.

ARROWHEAD: Black bass are good on chatterbaits off rocky points and topwater baits early in day.

WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



CEDAR CREEK: White bass are excellent on topwaters, Humdingers and slabs.

PROCTOR: Striped bass are excellent on live shad. White bass are excellent on minnows.

RAY HUBBARD: White bass are excellent on slabs.

AMISTAD: Striped bass are good on slabs and topwaters under the 277 bridge in San Pedro.

CATFISH



BRAUNIG: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cut bait and cheesebait near the dam.

CALAVERAS: Channel catfish are excellent on liver, cheesebait and shad. Blue catfish are excellent on liver and cut bait.

FALCON: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on frozen shrimp, cut bait and stinkbait.

BUCHANAN: Yellow and blue catfish are very good on juglines and trotlines baited with goldfish and perch.

CANYON: Yellow and blue catfish are very good on juglines and trotlines.

GIBBONS CREEK: Catfish are very good on stinkbait, cut bait and frozen shrimp.

CRAPPIE



LIVINGSTON: Excellent on minnows in 20 feet.

RAY ROBERTS: Excellent on minnows and jigs.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 81 degrees; 0.01' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on live bait.

AMISTAD: Water clear; 87 degrees; 0.61' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastics and jigs in 22-28 feet. White bass are good on topwaters and slabs. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and punchbait in 40-96 feet. Yellow catfish are fair to good on trotlines and juglines baited with live perch in 20-30 feet.

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 5.56' low. Crappie are good on jigs. White bass are good trolling and casting towards rocky points in Sailboat Cove area. Blue catfish are good drift fishing with cut shad.

ATHENS: Water fairly clear, 83-88 degrees; 0.23' high. Black bass are good on buzzbaits early, later switching to shaky head jigs, Carolina rigs and medium running crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows over brush piles. Catfish are good on prepared bait and nightcrawlers.

BASTROP: Water clear. Black bass are fair on watermelon spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and stinkbait.

BELTON: Water clear; 88 degrees; 5.86' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Hybrid striped are fair on live shad in coves. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on summer sausage. Yellow catfish are fair on perch and live shad.

BOB SANDLIN: Water fairly clear; 84-88 degrees; 0.19' low. Black bass are good on Yellow Magics early, later switching to weightless 5" Yum Dingers, Rat-L-Traps and drop-shot rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs under railroad bridges and over brush piles. White bass are fair on slabs. Catfish are good on and prepared bait.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; 87 degrees. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits and dark soft plastic worms in reeds and near the dam. Striped bass are good on liver and perch off points near the pier. Redfish are excellent on perch, shad and silver spoons.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 87 degrees; 6.29' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red spinnerbaits near the docks and on June bug soft plastic worms. Hybrid striped are fair trolling and drifting shad in Hybrid Alley at night. White bass are good on crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel catfish are good on trotlines. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 88 degrees; 24.26' low. Black bass are good on white buzzbaits and jigs, watermelon topwaters and weightless Texas-rigged purple soft plastics. Striped bass are fair on topwaters, jigging white bucktail jigs and drifting live bait. White bass are fair trolling and jigging. Crappie are good on minnows and crappie jigs. Channel catfish are good on live bait and dipbait.

CADDO: Water off-color; 85-89 degrees; 0.29' high. Black bass are good Texas rigs, weightless Senkos and Texas-rigged worms. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs in the river bends. Channel catfish are good on nightcrawlers. Bream are good on red wigglers.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 87 degrees. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are fair on spoons and striped jigs between the dam and the crappie wall and on chicken livers and shad along the shoreline. Redfish are excellent down-rigging silver and gold spoons, on live perch and tilapia along the shoreline and on live bait along the crappie wall. Crappie are slow.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear; 86 degrees; 14.84' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red Flukes, Texas-rigged watermelon soft plastics and white crankbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Smallmouth bass are good on root beer grubs and craws and watermelon red tubes on ball jigheads. Crappie are fair to good on crappie jigs and live minnow. Channel catfish are slow.

CEDAR CREEK: Water lightly stained; 83-88 degrees; 0.38' low. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching

to jigs, Carolina rigs and DD 22s. Hybrid striped are fair to good on live shad. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait and fresh shad.

CHOKE CANYON: Water clear; 88 degrees; 8.66' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse/white spinnerbaits and large soft plastics. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Drum are fair on worms. Channel and blue catfish are good on punchbait. Yellow catfish are good on live perch and goldfish.

COLEMAN: Water clear; 88 degrees; 8.44' low. Hybrid striped are fair on live shad near the park and the store. Crappie are good on minnows at night. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch and chicken livers.

COLETO CREEK: Water stained; 85 degrees (93 degrees at discharge); 3.72' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastics and topwaters. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

CONROE: Water murky; 1.14' low. Black

crappie are good on minnows and green tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, chicken livers and frozen shrimp.

GRAPEVINE: Water off-color; 84-89 degrees; 2.16' low. Black bass are fair early on topwaters, later switching to shaky-head-rigged finesse worms, Carolina rigs and medium running orange/brown crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good in the marinas and over brush piles. White bass are good on Road Runners, slabs and Humdingers. Catfish are good on prepared bait and nightcrawlers.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear; 87 degrees; 0.77' low. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on live minnows in coves near the marina. Bream are very good on live worms off piers and grass beds and in coves. Channel and blue catfish to 4 pounds are very good on trotlines baited with perch on the north side of the lake in 12-20 feet.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 79 degrees; 5.61' low. Black bass are good on white buzzbaits or spinnerbaits and pumpkin soft plastic lures worked

white spinnerbaits and live bait. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on live bait.

PALESTINE: Water lightly stained; 84-88 degrees; 0.99' low. Black bass are fair to good on white buzzbaits early, later switching to Texas-rigged 7" black/blue Power Worms, chartreuse/white spinnerbaits and shaky head jigs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. White bass are good early on topwaters, later switching to slabs and Little Georges. Hybrid striped are fair on live shad and swim baits. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 80 degrees; 4.18' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse soft plastics and silver/blue back Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows and yellow jigs. White bass are good on silver jigging spoons. Strippers are good on silver spoons. Catfish are fair on live shad.

RAY HUBBARD: Water fairly clear; 85-89 degrees; 0.16' low. Black bass are good on Carolina rigs, shad pattern spinnerbaits and Texas-rigged soft plastics. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Hybrid striped are good on slabs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and prepared bait.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear; 84-87 degrees; 0.01' high. Black bass are fair on small spinnerbaits and split-shot rigs. White bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to spoons.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water off-color; 84-88 degrees; 3.14' low. Black bass are good early on buzzbaits, weightless flukes, Carolina rigs and shaky-head jigs. White bass are good on slabs and topwaters. Hybrid striped are fair on large slabs and live shad. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are good on prepared bait and fresh shad.

SAM RAYBURN: Water murky; 87 degrees; 3.08' low. Black bass are slow. White bass are fair on minnows and silver spoons. Crappie are fair on minnows and chartreuse jigs. Bream are fair on crickets and nightcrawlers. Catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait, liver and cut bait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear; 90 degrees; 2.78' low. Black bass are good on minnows. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

TAWAKONI: Water fairly clear; 84-89 degrees; 0.75' low. Black bass are fair to good on topwaters early, later switching to Carolina rigs, shaky-head jigs and shallow-running crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on topwaters (while surface schooling). Striped bass and hybrid striped are fair on live shad and Sassy Shad. Catfish are good on bait.

TEXOMA: Water off-color; 83-88 degrees; 0.06' low. Black bass are fair to good early on buzzbaits, later switching to Carolina rigs and DD 22s. Smallmouth bass are fair to good on slabs and live shad around points with steep rocky drop-offs. Striped bass are slow. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers, prepared bait and live shad.

TOLEDO BEND: Water murky; 85 degrees; 2.72' low. Black bass are good but small on redbug and watermelon red soft plastic worms and crankbaits. Striped bass are fair on minnows and silver striped jigs. White bass are fair on silver spoons. Crappie are good on minnows and blue/green tube jigs. Bream are good on nightcrawlers and crickets. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait, stinkbait, livers and hearts.

TRAVIS: Water stained; 88 degrees; 44.48' low. Black bass are good on bone topwaters, red shad worms and smoke grubs. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on grubs, topwaters and chrome jigging spoons. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on nightcrawlers and fresh cut perch.

WHITNEY: Water stained; 11.92' low. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on minnows, pet spoons and Charlie slabs. Crappie are fair on minnows and yellow tube jigs. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, stinkbait and live bait.

HOT SPOT



East Galveston Bay

Trout in the 21- to 23-inch range are good for drifters working deep shell on plastics and live bait, and lighter winds have made for easier drifting. Whiting and sand trout are good on the edge of the Intracoastal on fresh shrimp.

bass are fair on watermelon red Carolina-rigged soft plastics and crankbaits. Striped bass are good on silver/gold striped jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and green and blue tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, liver and bait shrimp.

COOPER: Water lightly stained; 83-87 degrees; 0.55' low. Black bass are good on buzzbaits early, later switching to drop-shot rigs and shaky head jigs. Crappie are good on minnows over brush piles. White bass are good on topwaters and Humdingers. Hybrid striped are fair to good on live shad and Sassy Shad. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

FALCON: Water stained; 89 degrees. Black bass are good on large soft plastics and slow rolling spinnerbaits in 5-8 feet. Striped bass are slow.

FAYETTE: Water clear; 92 degrees. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps early and late and on Carolina-rigged watermelon red, watermelon gold, watermelon seed and green pumpkin soft plastics over humps during the day. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

FORK: Water lightly stained; 84-89 degrees; 0.09' high. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to Carolina rigs, jigs, drop-shot rigs and medium diving crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around bridge columns and over brush piles. Catfish are good on prepared bait and nightcrawlers over baited holes.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear. Black bass are fair on watermelon red soft plastic worms with chartreuse tails. Crappie are fair on minnows and blue/black tube jigs.

GRANBURY: Water clear; 2.47' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and watermelon gold Carolina-rigged soft plastics, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are fair on minnows and silver striped jigs. White bass are fair on minnows, Charlie slabs and pet spoons.

along trees and stickups. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass and hybrid stripers are good on live bait and white crankbaits. Catfish are fair on live bait.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 85-89 degrees; 1.3' high. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cheesebait.

LBI: Water stained; 87 degrees; 0.47' low. Black bass are fair on topwaters and weightless watermelon red soft plastics. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and white crappie jigs. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are fair on trotlines baited with goldfish and perch.

LEWISVILLE: Water off-color; 83-88 degrees; 0.31' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon seed tubes, drop-shot-rigged worms and chrome Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs around bridge columns and over brush piles. White bass are good on topwaters, Humdingers and slabs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and prepared bait.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; 86 degrees; 0.02' high. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass are good but small on slabs, pet spoons and troll tubes. White bass are good on troll tubes, pet spoons and slabs. Blue catfish are good on shad.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 79 degrees; 12.31' low. Black bass are good on live bait, shad-colored buzzbaits, spinnerbaits and crankbaits and black/blue soft plastic jerkbaits worked around grass lines. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait. Smallmouth bass are good on live bait and shad-colored crankbaits. Channel catfish are good on live bait.

OAK CREEK: Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 5.38' low. Black bass are fair on

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Trout are fair in the river on live shad. Redfish are good in the cuts and drains leading to the marsh on shrimp and jigs tipped with shrimp.

SOUTH SABINE: Trout are fair to good while drifting the reefs on live shrimp and soft plastics. Trout, sheepshead and redfish are fair to good at the jetty on live shrimp and shad.

BOLIVAR: Trout are fair on the south shoreline on small topwaters and soft plastics. Black drum, sand trout and redfish are good at Rollover Pass.

TRINITY BAY: Trout are good for drifters working wells and shell pads on shrimp and mullet. Redfish are good on live bait around the reefs and at the spillway.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Sheepshead, redfish and black drum are good at the jetty on shrimp and crabs. Trout are fair in Christmas Bay on live shrimp over reefs. Offshore is good for tarpon, kingfish, red snapper and ling.

TEXAS CITY: Trout are fair on the reefs on live shrimp and croakers. Trout are fair along the edge of the Ship Channel on croakers and shrimp. Redfish are fair in Moses Lake on shrimp and mullet.

FREEPORT: Sand trout and sheepshead are good on live shrimp on the reefs in Bastrop Bay. Trout, Spanish mackerel and sand trout are good at the jetties on soft plastics and shrimp.

EAST MATAGORDA BAY: Trout are fair for drifters on live shrimp over humps and scattered shell. Redfish are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on crabs and mullet. West winds have plagued drifters.

WEST MATAGORDA BAY: Trout are fair on sand and grass humps on soft plastics and topwaters. Redfish are fair on live shrimp in Oyster Lake and Crab Lake. Giggers have taken half-limits of flounder. Tides are low.

PORT O'CONNOR: Trout and redfish are fair on live bait over sand, grass and shell in San Antonio Bay. Kingfish have been showing at the jetty.

ROCKPORT: Trout are fair in the guts and channels on free-lined shrimp. Redfish are good on mullet and shrimp around Dagger Island and in South Bay.

PORT ARANSAS: Trout, redfish and sheepshead are fair to good at the jetty on shrimp and croakers. Trout are fair around Shamrock Cove on topwaters, piggish and croakers.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Trout are fair to good on the edge of the spoils on Gulps and live shrimp. Redfish are good in the potholes on shrimp. Kayakers have found trout and reds in protected waters on small topwaters.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout are fair on topwaters around rocks and grass near the Land Cut. Trout are fair to good on the King Ranch shoreline on croakers, topwaters and plum Bass Assassins, Sand Eels and Trout Killers.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout and redfish are fair on topwaters around sand and grass near spoil islands. Redfish are fair to good while drifting potholes and sight-casting to shallow water. Offshore is good for red snapper and kingfish.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout are fair in South Bay and Mexiquita Flats on shrimp and plastics under rattling corks. Tarpon have been in the pass, but high winds have made it difficult to fish.

PORT ISABEL: Trout and redfish are fair to good on the flats on live shrimp under a popping cork. Snook are good early in the morning around the Brownsville Ship Channel on topwaters.

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STAR tournament leaderboard

With less than one month remaining, the CCA Star Tournament leaderboards are seeing fewer and fewer changes. But one shot at a tagged redfish boat package still remains. The contest ends Labor Day.

Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division
Truck-boat package
 ■ John Sendejas
 ■ Sam Campos
 ■ David Raska
 ■ Ronald Scheck
 ■ Keith McLaren

Boat package
 ■ Ty Howard
 ■ Charles Maresh
 ■ Benjamin Bo Patrick II
 ■ Nico Espinosa

Starkids Scholarship Division
Ages 6-10 \$50,000 Scholarship
Flounder: 6 pounds, 6 ounces
 Anthony Skrobarczyk, 9, of Corpus Christi
Sheepshead: 9 pounds
 Rodolpho Ibarra III, age 9, of Dayton
Gafftop: 7 pounds, 8 ounces
 Jeremy Chessher, 10, of Warren

Academy Sports & Outdoors Starteens
Scholarship Trout Division (Ages 11-17)
6-pound min., \$20,000 scholarship

Speckled trout Upper Coast:
 8 pounds, 11 ounces
 Cory Cobler, 16, of Lake Jackson

Speckled trout Mid-Coast:
 7 pounds, 14 ounces
 Jeremy Patrick, 13, of Corpus Christi

Speckled trout Lower Coast:
 8 pounds, 2 ounces
 Jacob Adams, 14, of Willow Park

Time Warner Cable Starteens
Scholarship Inshore Division (11-17)
\$20,000 Scholarship

Flounder: 6 pounds, 1 ounce
 Cody Meineke, 15, of Spring

Sheepshead: 9 pounds, 4 ounces
 Nicholas Pantoja, 16, of Highlands

Gafftop: 7 pounds, 10 ounces
 Bryce Darder, 16, of Nederland

Ford / Tilson Home Corp. Leader Board
Speckled trout Upper Coast:
 9 pounds, 2 ounces
 Harold Riley of Webster

Speckled trout Mid-Coast:
 9 pounds, 2 ounces
 Robert Hibbert of Houston

Speckled Trout Lower Coast:
 10 pounds, 7 ounces
 Robb Sherron of Corpus Christi

Kingfish: 52 pounds, 12 ounces
 Jeffery Wagen of Seabrook

Dorado: 46 pounds, 2 ounces
 W. R. Trey Buford III of Harlingen

Ling (cobia):
 79 pounds, 3 ounces
 Steven A. Richards of Porter

Flounder: 6 pounds, 14 ounces
 Joseph Jackson of Corpus Christi

Sheepshead: 10 pounds, 3 ounces
 David Martin of Baytown

Gafftop: 7 pounds, 11 ounces
 Amanda Darder-Hebert of Nederland

Results are as of Aug. 10. For more information, including a list of weigh-in stations and registration locations, visit www.ccatexas.org. Proceeds from STAR go to CCA Texas and its conservation programs.

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Sabine

Continued from Page 1

casts. The drill is simple. Find a fresh slick, make a cast and let the jig settle to bottom. Then work it back with a fast up and down retrieve.”

Finding trout under the birds on Sabine has been hit and miss. Guide Jerry Norris said he has been working jigs and topwater plugs around very small groups of birds.

“If you can find two or three gulls hovering over shrimp popping on the surface, you can pretty much bet that trout are going to be there with them,” Norris said. “Even a single gull can lead you to trout.”

Norris has been fishing slow-sinking Assassins under the birds.

“You can rig them on a eighth-ounce head for a slower fall,” he said. “Limetreuse and red shad are the best colors right now.”

The best topwater bite has been from daylight until about 8 a.m., Norris said.

“That’s when She Dogs in chrome or bone are best in 4 to 6 feet of water.”

Norris reminded anglers not to forget about the jetties.

“An outgoing green tide has been best for trout up to about 4 pounds,” he said.

Fishing the Louisiana side of the east jetty, Norris starts the day with the topwater.

“What I like to do is get there right at dawn and



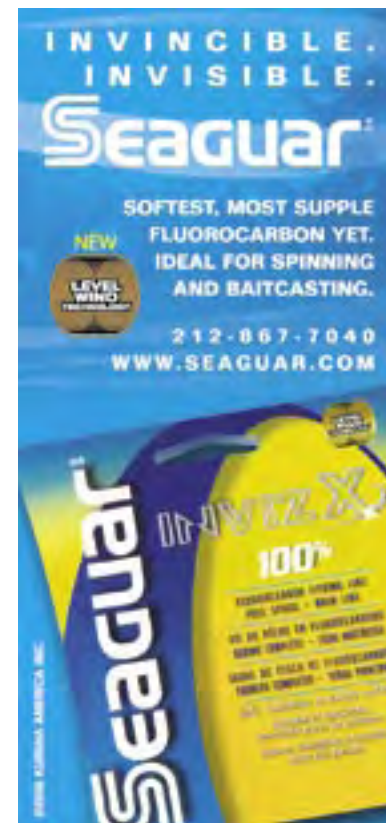
RISE AND SHINE: Rian Glasscock prepares to net a trout reeled in by Warren Claybar. Photo by Robert Sloan, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

hit the topwater bite for an hour or so,” he said. “Once the sun hits the water, you’ll do best with jigs.”

But beware the Spanish mackerel along the

rocks.

“You might want to rig up your soft plastics with 4 to 5 inches of wire,” Norris said. “Otherwise you’ll be losing lots of lures.”



FDA issues warning for fish poisoning

Grouper, others carrying toxin in northern Gulf

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a letter to seafood processors earlier this summer warning of ciguatera fish poisoning in grouper and amberjack in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

Ciguatera, common in the tropics, is not generally associated with fish caught in the northern Gulf of Mexico. However, several recent illness outbreaks have been linked to grouper and amberjack species captured near the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary area near Galveston.

Unsafe concentrations of ciguatera toxin have been found in commercially caught marbled grouper, gag grouper, scamp grouper and amberjack. FDA has also studied local fish populations in that region and detected unsafe concentrations of ciguatoxin in barracuda.


CFP is caused by the consumption of fish that have eaten toxic marine algae directly or that have eaten other toxin-contaminated fish. The toxin is not destroyed by cooking or freezing.

Symptoms of CFP include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and numbness and tingling around the mouth with general and intensified prickly feeling in the skin, joint pain, muscle pain, headache, reversal of hot and cold sensation, and acute sensitivity to temperature extremes, vertigo and muscular weakness. Cardiovascular symptoms can include irregular heartbeat, slow heartbeat or rapid heartbeat and reduced blood pressure. The onset of the disease takes place shortly after the ingestion of toxic fish and generally subsides in a few weeks.

The FDA now considers CFP a food safety hazard for hogfish, grouper and snapper species of concern caught within 10 miles of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, and amberjack, barracuda and other species captured within 50 miles of the sanctuary.

The FDA recommended that seafood processors avoid purchasing these species that came from these areas.


— U.S. Food and Drug Administration report




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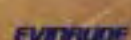
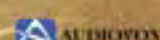
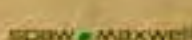
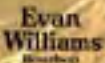
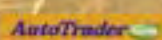
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CHANGING: Britton Karisch competes during a different kind of duck-calling contest that mimics real-life calling. Photo by Erik Guggenheim.

New format for calling contests emerging

Competitions test hunters' skills

A new format of waterfowl calling contests is springing up in the South — and it is designed for duck and goose hunters.

“You call more than one species of waterfowl when you’re hunting,” said Randy Wheeler, one of the Team Real Duck organizers. “In these contests, you call like you do in the field.”

The Real Duck contest involves calling mallards, pintail, wigeon, blue-winged teal and wood ducks.

Several contests are scheduled, including ones recently completed at Ford Park Exhibit Hall in Beaumont and most recently at Gander Mountain in College Station.

More events are set, giving callers across the state a chance to try their luck at real-world duck calling contests, Wheeler said.

Greg Hubbell of Belmont, Calif., topped the field in the junior categories at the World Waterfowl Calling Championships in College Station, winning the snow goose, specklebelly and real duck titles.

Other winners in the senior divisions were:

- Sandhill Crane — James Prince of Port O’Connor
- Snow Goose Mouth — Jay Foster of Mont Belvieu
- Team Snow Goose — James Prince and David Pruett of Columbus
- Live Snow Goose — Nathan Wright of Hemphill
- Specklebelly Goose — Ken White of Manteca, Calif.
- Live Specklebelly Goose — Nick Patin of St. Martinville, La.
- Sr. PWP’s Open Duck — Jason Campbell of Iowa, La.
- Real Duck — David Sohrt of Tomball

— Staff report

Upcoming Real Duck events

Aug. 15-16
The Houston Challenge
 Bass Pro Shops, Pearland

Aug. 22-23
The Bossier City Challenge
 Bass Pro Shops, Bossier City, La.

Oct. 3-4
The Fort Worth Challenge
 Cabela’s, Fort Worth

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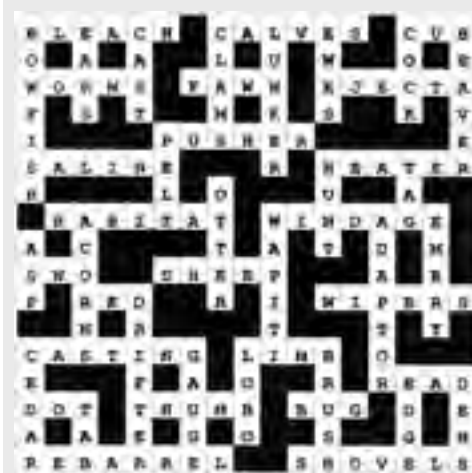
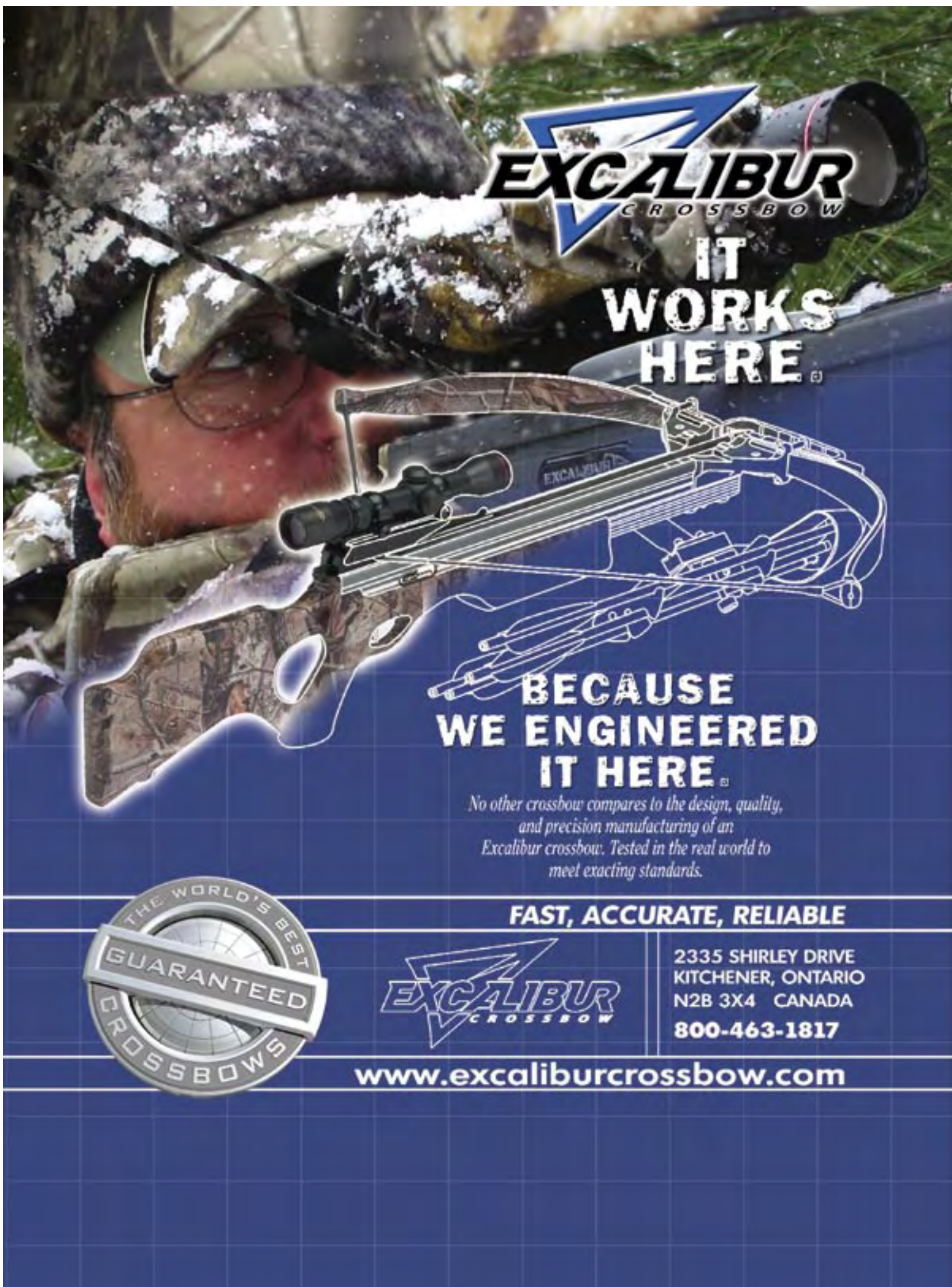
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Intern

Continued from Page 6

was volunteer work — we stayed in Ciudad Victoria and worked out of a village.”

The summer in Mexico taught him a lot about improvising.

“It wasn’t very well organized, and we didn’t know Spanish,” he said. “We learned it quick.”

Soderquist asked about the DU internship.

“That’s what I always wanted to do,” Cunningham said.

Soderquist made some calls, and Cunningham secured one of the last few spots.

“I had to drop some classes at school and quit the track team for the season to do it,” Cunningham said.

Once in North Dakota in mid-May, Cunningham worked with a student from the University of North Dakota who was conducting a study on whether wind farms affect duck nesting near the town of Kulm.

“We trapped ducks in that area, banded the drakes and put radio collars on the hens and tracked them,” he said. “The decoy traps didn’t work well, so we did nest dragging — we used two four-wheelers with a 200-foot chain between them.”

Other work consisted of performing pair counts and monitoring the number of water-



SEARCHING FOR WATERFOWL: During his internship, Shannon Cunningham helped study whether wind farms affect duck nesting on the North Dakota prairies by dragging for nests and monitoring the numbers of waterfowl using certain wetlands. Photos by Shannon Cunningham.



fowl using certain wetlands.

Then he traveled a few hundred miles to Kenmare, where they did more nest dragging to locate and monitor ducks and their eggs.

“We would identify the species of duck and mark the nest and count the eggs,” he said. “We would return every three days to see if the

eggs had hatched or if they had been predated.”

His favorite part of the summer?

“Being out in the prairie, stopping to eat lunch on top of a hill and not seeing or hearing anyone,” he said. “It was really peaceful.”

His least favorite?

“The long hours, we worked 90- to 100-hour weeks,” he said. “We got paid, which was better than the Mexico internship. And we figured it out: It was about \$3.25 per hour.”

Having returned to Texas in early August, he’s ready for hunting season — and he’ll spend weekends this winter again guiding at Port Bay.



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Deer vision

Continued from Page 1

wider pupil.

“It’s rectangular and three times larger than a human’s,” Miller said. “That’s why they can run through the woods at night. Like a horse, the danger comes from the horizon — that’s why they have a narrower field of vision.”

And the deer have better peripheral vision.

“They have a much better ability to pick up movement because of their peripheral vision,” Miller said. “And they see much, much better at night.”

Miller said whitetails have a reflector in the back of eye, called the tapetum lucidum.

“That’s why the eyes shine when a headlight is on them,” he said. “They have 18 times better ability to see in dim light than humans.”

“The deer’s eyes are more on the side of the head,” he said. “A white-tail can see 320 degrees. A horse, 357 degrees. That’s why you can never sneak up on a horse from behind.”

Some hunters wonder why deer seem to stare and move their heads from side to side. Miller said it’s an issue of focus.

“Humans can focus on a single spot, the eye is consistently in motion,” he said. “The rest is peripheral. With deer the eye is pretty stationary, so it turns its head to focus.”

“The deer’s eyes aren’t designed to focus on a single spot — they focus along a band. When they aren’t moving, they don’t see in 3D, that’s why they’ll move from side to side when looking at you.”

Miller said a deer’s vision is about 20/100, not 20/20.

So why do hunters, when spotted, watch the whole herd take off?

“The foot stomp alerts the other deer,” he said. “They really can’t see you that well. And then there’s the white tail — it’s a signal when fleeing and easy to see in a group.”

And how do the deer see color? The results may surprise many hunters.

“Like humans, deer do have both rods and cones in their eyes,” Miller said. “Rods are for black and white, and cones allow them to see color.”

But deer have only two photo receptors — blue and yellow.

“Humans have three — blue, green and red,” Miller said. “Animals have to have at least two to see color.”

Miller said whitetails basically see like colorblind humans.

“They have a hard time distinguishing between red and green,” he said. “They don’t see a deep red, it fades to black. And they don’t see blaze orange well.”

But wearing blue jeans will make the hunter stick out like a sore thumb.

“They see blue better than humans,” he said. “Any hunter that refuses to wear blaze orange but wears blue jeans to the field is making a big mistake.”

Bear killed in Menard; ranch hand in trouble

Worker kept head, feet after ranch said to bury body

By Bill Miller
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

A small black bear was sighted far from traditional ranges earlier this summer, only to wind up dead on a ranch along the border shared by Menard and Concho Counties east of San Angelo.

A rancher on the Menard County side told game wardens in June that he shot the bear in self-defense and then told his ranch hands to bury it.

One worker, Ray R. Hernandez, 53, admitted to wardens that he kept the head and paws. He was given a citation for possessing a species that has been listed as "threatened" — a Class C misdemeanor.

The man claimed he kept the parts for "medicinal purposes," said Capt. Alan Teague of Kerrville, who supervises wardens in Central Texas.

"He has a Native American heritage," Teague said of the suspect, but it's still illegal to possess the parts.

Hernandez faces a fine of up to \$500, but his trouble may not end there.

"The state," Teague added, "is seeking civil restitution in the

amount of \$12,407.50 — the replacement value of the illegal possession of the bear parts.

"Black bears are a protected species."

And they are also quite rare, especially in counties outside the mountainous areas of Far West Texas, Teague said.

Black bears were once common in Texas, but their numbers dropped as the state was settled in the 1800s. Unconfirmed bear sightings have picked up in East Texas in recent years.

Old-time ranchers in Central Texas have reported sighting a few bruins in the 1940s and 1950s, Teague said.

And about the same time, bears were still seen in remote areas of the Trans-Pecos region.

By the 1990s, however, small populations re-established themselves in the Chisos Mountains of Big Bend National Park, where they thrive today.

Also during the 1990s, black bear sightings were reported in Sutton and Schleicher counties, Teague said.

Schleicher is next door to Concho and Menard counties.

It's unclear if the bear found in June was male or female because wardens only recovered parts and did not exhume the carcass. The size of the head indicated that it was a small bear, and likely wild, Teague said.

"We have no reports of any

\$12,407.50
Amount of civil restitution the state is seeking for the bear parts.

See BEAR, Page 34

Dove

Continued from Page 1

ber of commerce.

The Fiesta is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 3 at the Coleman rodeo grounds, and other activities include a car show and live music.

"We have all kinds of things that are going on that day," Griffis said.

A month earlier, the Dove Fest is primarily a luncheon for hunters in the area on opening weekend.

"Basically, we're just thanking them for coming to Coleman and spending money," said Jody Barr, a member of the chamber committee organizing the event.

Fried catfish will be served from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 5 at the rodeo grounds. Six shotguns will be given away during lunch, one every 30 minutes. Shotgun brands include Benelli and Browning, and other door prizes will be handed out.

Hunters will also be interested in the virtual trap shooting contest.

Exhibitors such as guides will also have booths set up.

Money raised at the luncheon sends children to the Hunters Brigade program and other youth organizations in the county. Price is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and free for military members.

Hunters in Hamilton could spend more time at the festival opening weekend than they do in the field.

The 38th annual Dove Festival officially begins with a parade at 10 a.m. Sept. 5 and rolls through Sunday night.

"As you know, we're known as the dove capital of Texas," boasted Steve Almquist, the chamber of commerce manager.

Events Saturday include the parade, live entertainment, a carnival, softball tournament, horseshoe tournament and dances.

"Just regular festival-type events," Almquist said.

Cowboys will compete in a rodeo Friday and Saturday nights.

More dove- and hunting-centered events once were part of the festival, Almquist said, though none are planned this year.

"Over the years, it has evolved away from it, which is bad," he said.

The only real connection to hunting is small: The American Legion might raffle a shotgun, Almquist said.

Events will be held at Pecan Creek Park and Fair Park.

Winters will continue its annual celebration this year. The town, southwest of Abilene, makes a stronger push to connect the town with dove hunting and hunters with hunting.

A clay pigeon shoot will be held alongside the gun and knife show and barbecue lunch Sept. 5. West Texas Re-



WINTERS WONDERLAND: Hunters visiting the Winters Dove Fest will find many activities aimed at entertaining them, including a barbecue lunch, music and clay pigeon shoot. Photos by Mike Neal.

hab will host dove hunts for the public.

Six shotguns will be raffled during lunch, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"It started just as a way for the community to celebrate our hunting heritage," said Amanda Collom, the executive director of the chamber of commerce.

Karnes City has its Lonesome Dove Fest planned for Sept. 18-19, also with more dove-hunting activities.

Competitors can win prizes at the sporting clays shoot, and they can go on an organized hunt after the competition.

"From novice to pro, celebrity to kids, we try to give everyone a chance to shoot," said Randy Witte, one of the organizers.

Brownwood and Early have held dove events before but canceled them for this year. Instead, Brownwood will make coupon books available around town geared toward hunters and their wives. Coupons will be good for discounts on food, ice, deer corn and items at a hardware store.

Included in the book will be an entry form for a drawing for a shotgun.

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The ranch is a distributor for Game Guard camo, Woodsey Too tree stands, Pacific Bow Butt targets and Rinehart targets.

Owner Joe Musacchio says the plans are for Cinnamon Creek Ranch to become a full-service stop for hunters. Phase Two includes plans for an indoor archery range, a place for hunters to practice filming each other shooting at moving targets, along with youth programs and youth camps.

Cinnamon Creek Ranch opened in mid-July and Internet buzz from visitors has been posi-

On July 11, the ranch hosted Cabela's Youth 3D Archery Shoot. The company hopes to team up with Cabela's again for future events.

The archery range is open Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., weather permitting. It costs \$25 to \$35 per round. Memberships are available. Benefits include a punch card for five free rounds, \$10 off per round, and an invitation to an annual members' banquet.

Musacchio also has relocated his Syracuse Custom Meats to a new state-of-the-art wild game processing plant at this location. One of the largest game processors in the country, the plant processes an average of more than 6,000 animals per year.

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Flies

Continued from Page 8

cation director for Texas Fly Fishers of Houston. Schlicht has been tying flies for about 40 years.

Feathers have a shiny side and a dull side, and the shiny side should be noticeably shiny. Feather shine should also be checked when buying materials for tying flies.

Hooks

Hooks used in flies might be harder to inspect than on conventional tackle. They can be covered in materials or hidden inside hackle.

The point should be sharp, of course, but a check for nicks and bends wouldn't hurt.

"I never had any real problems with them," Schlicht said.

"One of the things that does happen — and this may not be the hook manufacturer's fault and all — but every now and then you'll get a hook that if you hit a rock on it on a back cast, it'll shatter."

Hooks are made from wire, and the wire is heated to be bent. Damage, showing itself in a spider-web pattern on the metal, can result from the heat, Schlicht said.

Faulty hooks will sometimes break off in the vice, he said, culling them from the fly population early on.

For saltwater anglers, the advent of stainless steel hooks ended the need to clean, rinse and dry flies at the end of the day. It still helps saltwater flies last longer if they've been cleaned, but it's not necessary for the hook's sake, Schlicht said.

How it looks

A first glance can often provide good clues for how well a fly is tied.

"If it looks funny, it probably is," Hand said.

If the proportions are incorrect, it probably indicates the tier is not paying attention to other details, Schlicht said.

A few good questions to ask when checking a fly: Are the tail feathers skewed? Do the mate-

rials line up with the spine? Are the wings, antennae and hackle the correct size?

"A lot of people will use an oversized hackle on a dry fly, and it looks terrible," Hand said.

Dry flies should have a consistent taper from the head back, Schlicht said.

"These bugs are a little thicker through the head and the chest than they are in the abdomen," he said.

For poppers and streamers, see if the materials are securely tied to the hook. Some popper heads will spin around if not properly fastened.

Rubber legs can also be problematic, Hand said. Over time, the rubber becomes brittle and will break. He suggested wiggling the fly to check for bounce.

"If they break off, that popper's probably had a birthday or two in that bin," he said.

Materials

Other things to check on a fly are the overall construction and materials, Hand and Schlicht said.

"Most of these cheap fly makers, if you will, are getting by on the cheapest materials they can," Hand said.

Large-scale manufacturing houses can have labor problems that show up in flies. Workers have a learning curve to work through while tying, even if they use quality materials, Hand said.

High-quality tiers will remove paint or head cement from the eye of a hook, Schlicht said.

For Hand, when he purchases flies someone else tied, he buys them from a reputable dealer and checks them over before making a transaction. And despite the land mines on the road to buying flies, most of the for-sale flies are up to par.

"I would say that of the flies that I fish with that I buy, you're looking 85 percent or better are good quality," he said. "You're gonna have the ones that something falls off in the bin, and that might be four or five people handling it before I did."

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Bear

Continued from Page 29

bears turned loose," the captain said. "There is nothing to contradict that it was a wild bear."

But the bruin created a stir before its death.

Ranch hands and the landowner called wardens to say they saw the bear and asked if they should kill it, according to reports.

The wardens told them that the bear was protected and to leave it alone. But the next day the wardens began receiving tips that a bear had been killed in Menard County.

Teague, game wardens and sheriff's deputies fanned out and started interviewing people.

The rancher said he encountered the bear, which appeared to be approaching him, so he shot it, Teague said.

That was an extenuating circumstance, according to the county's prosecutor, so the rancher was not charged, Teague said.

But the furor didn't stop there.

Another person providing a tip

said the bear had been shot from a helicopter — a violation of state laws — but wardens found no such evidence.

"Of course that was very intriguing," Teague said. "There could be multiple violations there."

He said that feral hogs can be shot from helicopters, but only with a Texas Parks and Wildlife permit.

"(The rancher) would be hard-pressed to claim self-defense if he was in a helicopter," Teague said, "but we've found no evidence to support that."

The case is closed unless wardens receive better evidence of an aerial shooting, Teague said. Anyone with tips can call the Operation Game Thief hotline at 1-800-792-GAME.

More bears may be sighted in Texas as if they are expanding their ranges, Teague said.

"It's hard to get people in cattle and goat country to not shoot a predator, but a bear is different," he said. "If they're not immediately attacking you or one of your animals, they can't be shot for what they might do later."

ETHANOL 101

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT E10/ETHANOL FUEL

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PROBLEM 1: DEBRIS IN FUEL

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PROBLEM 2: EXCESSIVE WATER IN THE FUEL AND PHASE SEPARATION

Ethanol attracts moisture from the atmosphere, chemically bonding with it to form an ethanol/water molecule. Water in the fuel causes engines to run rough, stall and can lead to internal damage to engine components. Fuel will naturally hold .5% water in suspension, but if water levels exceed this threshold the water drops out of suspension. The water/ethanol molecules are heavier than the fuel and drop to the bottom of the tank. This is phase separation. Ethanol provides a significant amount of the fuel's octane, so when the ethanol separates and drops to the bottom of the tank, the remaining fuel is left without enough octane to properly operate the engine. Plus, the ethanol/water mixture is only partially combustible which can lead to severe engine problems.

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PROBLEM 3: ETHANOL FUELS BREAK DOWN QUICKLY

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Outdoor News in Brief

Olson tops field at Houston SC shoot

The Houston Safari Club recently hosted its fourth annual Member/Guest Sporting Clays Shoot at the American Shooting Center, with more than 100 HSC members and friends showcasing their shooting skills in the Houston heat.

HSC member Dean Olson won Top Overall Shooter honors in a shoot-off.

Other winners were:

- Class A — HSC member Rick Storey
- Class B — HSC member Ray Ward
- Class C — HSC President-elect Gary Ellison
- Team — Cross Creek Energy: Team members were Brent Balcer, Terry Edwards, Tom McCarroll, Greg Moredock and Jack Trice
- Top Youth Shooter — Jared Musgrove
- Top Woman Shooter — Liz Edwards
- Top Gun Professional Shooter — HSC member Jim McAshan

Rancho Caracol sponsored the shoot, and The Ellison Family and Dean Olson of RMO Distributing Wholesale Copiers were station sponsors.

— Houston Safari Club report

TPW Commission to meet in Fort Worth

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission will hold its annual public hearing Aug. 26-27 in Fort Worth in conjunction with its August meeting.

The Fort Worth meeting continues a department effort to increase public input. The commission hit the road last year to Houston.

The meeting will take place at the Amon G. Carter Jr. Exhibit Hall in the Will Rogers Memorial Center. Starting at 9 a.m. Aug. 26, the regulations, conservation and finance committees of the commission will meet. The annual public hearing will begin at 2 p.m.

At the public meeting, the commission will take public testimony on any issue related to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

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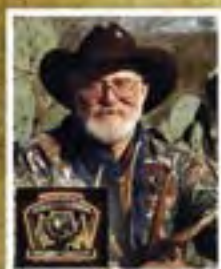
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