

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

February 12, 2010

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 6, Issue 12



## Hogs and company

Hog traps are handy for the live capture of marauding swine, but sometimes untargeted animals climb inside for a bite at the bait. **Page 6**

## Inside



### HUNTING

#### Quail surviving

Quail had a rough year, but the situation seems to be improving, at least temporarily. **Page 6**

#### Young geese MIA

Hunters are reporting fewer young snow geese, which makes hunting more difficult. **Page 21**



### FISHING

#### Change on the way

Climate and demographic projections could impact fish and fishing, researchers said. **Page 8**

#### Same slot for snook

After public comments, the slot limit for snook will stay the same. **Page 8**

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## Big bass coming out of O.H. Ivie again



**RETURN OF A KING:** O.H. Ivie lost its crown as one of the best bass fishing lakes in Texas until recently, when anglers pulled two bass weighing more than 13 pounds from the West Texas reservoir. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

# A trophy bass fishery is reborn

By Kyle Carter  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

What do two trophy bass in one week mean for a lake? For O.H. Ivie in West Texas, a relatively young body of water, it meant a return to prominence.

In 1938 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it would like to dam up the Colorado River east of San Angelo to create a reservoir.

It only took 47 years for all parties to come to an agreement, then five more to complete the

project. In 1990, O.H. Ivie Lake, named after the water district's general manager, and its two-mile rolled earthfill dam were dedicated.

It was heavily stocked with bass from 1990-1991, but didn't hit the radar of most bass anglers until three bass over 13 pounds were pulled out in 2000 and two more in 2002.

Then came the drought toward the end of 2002, and there went the trophy bass.

"There were still quite a few older fish there that we knew

if they got the chance to reproduce with a good water rise, they would reproduce and restock the lake themselves," said Mandie Scott, an inland fisheries biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife. "The lakes fluctuate a lot out here."

When heavy rain returned in 2005, O.H. Ivie was ready to cover 20,000 acres again. For three years, brush had been replacing water on the lake's shoreline, so when it refilled, it had an abun-

See RETURN, Page 17

## Rainbow records, times 3

### Trout Days produces fat fish on Nueces River

By Aaron Reed  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

No one really thought the kid-friendly Trout Days event at Chalk Bluff Park in Uvalde would be one — much less three — for the books. Organizers were only hoping the bitterly cold weather forecast for the weekend wouldn't keep everyone away.

On Friday, Jan. 8, Walter Ross of San Antonio caught a 6-pound, 10-ounce rainbow trout in the Nueces River at the park, a new state record for a fly rod. That night, other members of the Alamo Fly Fishers club gathered what bits and pieces of fly-tying materials they could find and sat down at their vises to tie replicas of Ross' wooly bugger.

Saturday, the temperature dropped

See TROUT, Page 23



**TOP TROUT:** Rob Burlingame wraps his hands around the fly-fishing state record rainbow trout. Photo by Todd Fleming.

## TPW might cut budget by 5 percent

### All state agencies drawing plans for less spending

By Mark England  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Texas Parks and Wildlife officials must submit a plan by Feb. 15 to Gov. Rick Perry on how the agency would pare its \$468 million budget by 5 percent.

Perry and top legislative officials

See SPENDING, Page 21



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## CONSERVATION

# State seeks public comment on regulations proposals

## Two counties might gain mule deer season

State fish and wildlife officials are seeking comment on proposed regulations changes, including expansion of mule deer hunting opportunities.

Texas Parks and Wildlife is recommending an open general season for mule deer in Dawson and Wheeler counties and adding a day to the season across the Trans Pecos region.

Under current regulations, mule deer may not be hunted in Dawson and Wheeler counties. The proposal is to implement a nine-day, buck-only season in Dawson County and a 16-day, buck-only season in Wheeler County.

Mule deer in these counties are limited, but they are present in some areas with suitable habitat, TPW biologists said. A buck-only season will not have any measurable impact on herd productivity or expansion.

In the proposal for the Trans Pecos region, hunters might receive an extra day to hunt.

Traditionally, big game hunting seasons in Texas open on Saturday to give hunters a full weekend of opportunity. Because the mule deer season in the Trans Pecos starts on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the TPW Commission asked the Wildlife Division to explore an option to open a day earlier to take advantage of the long holiday weekend. The proposal would add a day to the current 16-day season and create an opening day on the Friday after Thanksgiving each year.

On fishing regulations, TPW proposals seek to strengthen commercial reporting requirements, separate commercial and recreational regulations and clarify rules regarding catching and possessing fish within protected length limits or in excess of bag limits.

Official proposals will be available for review and comment during a series of public meetings in February, as well as online. The TPW Commission will make a final determination on proposed changes April 1.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report



**BUCK BEGINNINGS:** Texas might open two additional counties — Wheeler and Dawson — to mule deer hunting. Biologists said the counties support mule deer populations that can handle a short season of nine days.

### Public comments will be taken in person at the following public meetings:

Houston	Feb. 15	Lone Star College, Library Room LB 103
San Antonio	Feb. 15	National Shooting Sports Complex Clubhouse
Dickinson	Feb. 16	TPWD Dickinson Marine Lab
Lamesa	Feb. 16	Women's Building
Amarillo	Feb. 17	Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Center
Port Isabel	Feb. 18	Port Isabel Community Center
Garland	Feb. 22	Bass Pro Shop
Corpus Christi	Feb. 23	Texas A&M-CC, Natural Resources Center
Tyler	Feb. 23	Smith County Courthouse
Wheeler	Feb. 24	Wheeler Co. Courthouse, Commissioners Courtroom
Fort Stockton	March 2	Pecos County Civic Center
Alpine	March 3	Turner Range Animal Science Bldg, Room 130
Van Horn	March 4	Van Horn Convention Center & Visitors Bureau

## Outdoor News in Brief

### Sheep tag sells for record \$115,000 at Reno show

A Texas bighorn sheep tag sold for \$115,000 at the Wild Sheep Foundation's grand finale banquet and auction Feb. 6 during its annual Sheep Show in Reno, Nev.

The price is a record amount paid for a Texas sheep tag. The previous highest tag sold for \$105,000.

The money will be used in West Texas for the big horn sheep management program.

David Combs of California was the lucky bidder. Combs' hunt will take place at Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area.

A Montana big horn sheep tag donated to the auction sold for \$275,000.

— Staff report

### TPW sets four goals in new land, water management plan


Texas Parks and Wildlife's update to its Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan focuses the department's work on four new goals, representing four key concepts: conservation, recreation, education and business.

1. "Practice, encourage and enable science-based stewardship of natural and cultural resources."
2. "Increase access to and participation in the outdoors."
3. "Educate, inform and engage Texas citizens in support of conservation and recreation."
4. "Employ efficient, sustainable and sound business practices."

The plan complements TPW's legislatively directed strategic plan called the Natural Agenda, which ties department activities and budgeting to legislative oversight and appropriations.

It also meshes with other TPW plans such as the Texas Wildlife Action Plan. Created in 2005, this plan was required for Texas to continue receiving millions of dollars in federal funding. The Texas Wildlife Action Plan provides a proactive blueprint to "keep common species common" and avoid additional endangered species, focusing conservation actions on priority species and ecological regions. The wildlife action plan will be updated in 2010.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report



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Photo by Bill Horza



## HUNTING



**LOOKING UP:** Quail had a rough year in 2009, but biologists said the increased amounts of rainfall and snow recently are helping conditions on the ground for the birds. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

# Prospects better in 2010 for quail

Increased precipitation increases odds for next season

**By Bill Miller**  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

State biologists predicted this quail season would be average to downright lousy across Texas, and they were right.

Last summer's drought prevented bobwhite populations from making a rebound in South Texas — a grim leftover from a decade that was mostly dry.

Success this season has been "spotty" in other regions, said Robert Perez, the upland game program leader for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

"South Texas surveys didn't look good as the season started," Perez said. "Private ranchers told me early on that they're skipping this year.

"The vast majority are light hunting, or they're not hunting at all."

State managers have done likewise. A public hunt scheduled for early January at Chaparral Wildlife Management Area, southwest of San Antonio, was limited to dove only.

"The Rolling Plains has been kind of a mixed bag," Perez added. "It did a lot better than South Texas because they had some rain. But it was real spotty."

All was bleak as the state entered February — the final month of the upland game season.

But that's not the whole story.

It may take another year, but conditions are improving for a possible bobwhite resurgence in Texas.

One is environmental, the other

is mental.

Recent rainfall and a little snow contributed to the first factor. A green up will provide weeds that the little birds like to eat and cover for them to hide and nest.

"We know at least we got winter moisture for the birds we have now," Perez said. "If we can get some spring moisture, we'll set them up nicely for breeding across the summer."

"They have the ability to reproduce very quickly if conditions are right. But even with all that in place, it still generally takes two years of good weather, back to back."

The mental component refers to new attitudes among landowners

See **QUAIL**, Page 13



**IMPRISONED:** A deer caught at Mike Perez's Central Texas ranch injured itself while thrashing around inside a hog trap. Perez released the buck, which might have made a nice trophy had Perez seen it before it entered the trap. Photo by Mike Perez.

## Unintended target: Hog trap traps a buck

Stuck deer might be tempting, but killing one is illegal

**By Ralph Winingham**  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Visions of pork chops and fresh pan sausage vanished when Gene McKendrick stepped around a mesquite tree to check out an animal captured in a hog trap on his South Texas ranch.

Inside the wire cage was no feral hog. Instead he had an eight-point white-tailed buck that had somehow managed to twist his 18-inch-wide rack through the door and crawled in to munch on a pile of corn placed near the trip wire.

"I don't know how he got in there, but he doesn't look very happy, and we've got to get him out," McKendrick said before enlisting the aid of one of the younger, more agile hunters in his group.

The young hunter climbed on top of the trap — carefully avoiding repeated jabs and thrusts of the buck's antlers as the angry deer tried to inflict damage on his captors — found the release wire and lifted the closed trap door.

Unlike a scene from a Walt Disney movie where a released animal shows gratitude to a good-hearted Samaritan, the uninjured and freshly freed buck immediately chased the younger hunter up a nearby mesquite tree as McKendrick watched from the safety of his pickup truck.

There was no doubt about the buck's intent as it glared up at the treed hunter. He was mad and ready for payback on anyone who had any connec-

See **TRAP**, Page 13

## Former star athlete shot while hunting

Houston man, 30, dies while duck hunting

**By Mark England**  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

When former Vice President Dick Cheney violated his safe zone of fire and peppered a hunting companion while chasing quail, it became a national joke.

The same mistake by a duck hunter, though, often proves fatal.

A 30-year-old Houston man, Matt Jansen, died Jan. 17 when a friend, whose name has not been released by authorities, re-

portedly violated the safe zone while the two men hunted Pond 17 at Sea Rim State Park, south of Port Arthur.

Jansen was shot and killed with a 12-gauge shotgun at close range.

"In quail and pheasant hunts, victims tend to get pelleted 30 yards away," said Steve Hall, education director for Texas Parks and Wildlife. "In duck hunting accidents, you have these short-distance blasts around the head and torso and they're often fatal."

Game Warden Steve Satchfield of Beaumont said Jansen and his friend, who had hunted together before, were hunting in a marsh that had an old

See **HUNTER**, Page 18



**FIREBALLER:** Matt Jansen pitched one of two no-hitters in University of Alabama-Huntsville history. Photo by Marvin Jansen.

# Texas men sentenced for theft, deer trafficking

## At least 125 deer illegally imported from Arkansas

A four-year investigation that began with two Texas game wardens investigating possible stolen property on two Northeast Texas ranches ended earlier this month with federal prison sentences for a father and son who pleaded guilty to transporting stolen property and wildlife trafficking.

Forty-nine-year-old James Dwayne Anderton and his 26-year-old son, Jimmie Wallace Anderton, both of Quinlan, were sentenced Feb. 2 in U.S. District Court.

The Andertons operate a turf grass and landscaping business and held a state permit to breed captive deer. In the spring of 2006 Game Wardens Dale Waters and Eric Collins were looking into possible deer breeding violations when they received information that the Andertons might be in possession of stolen heavy equipment and trailers.

The wardens relayed this information to State Trooper Sgts. John Murphy and Rex Wilemon, who searched two pieces of land owned by the Andertons, one in Delta County and the other in Hunt County near Quinlan. Six game wardens and Sgt. Brad Chappell of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Special Operations Unit participated in the search, which resulted in the recovery of stolen farm machinery and construction equipment.

Deputies with the Delta and Hunt county sheriff's departments and members of the Northeast Texas Auto Theft Task Force also assisted in the search.

The two DPS investigators presented the findings from their stolen equipment investigation to FBI Special Agent Ken Paith, who filed charges on the Andertons for interstate transportation of stolen property. Also indicted on the same charge was Timothy Shane Peavler, 37, of Lone Oak.

During this time, Chappell received information that the Andertons had been unlawfully importing white-tailed deer from Arkansas. The game warden sergeant contacted U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agent Mike Merida and began a joint investigation along with Little Rock-based Fish and Wildlife Special Agent Glen Pye and investigators with the Arkansas Fish and Game Commission.

### Up the ladder

The investigation eventually revealed the source of the deer the Andertons were illegally importing. Merida and Chappell determined the Andertons had paid more than \$63,000 for at least 125 white-tailed deer and imported them to Texas in violation of a state statute that restricts deer importation.

The two officers eventually learned that the Andertons had hired people to travel to a deer breeder's facility in northern Arkansas, load deer and return to Texas, where they delivered the illegal cargo to both the Andertons' properties.

The elder Anderton drew 30 months in federal prison for interstate transportation of stolen property and was ordered to pay \$180,952 restitution. His son will serve 27 months in federal prison for interstate transportation and will be jointly responsible for making restitution. In addition, both men received 12 months of federal confinement for violations of the Lacey Act involving the illegal transportation of deer across state lines.

These sentences will be served concurrently with their other sentence, but they also face 36 months of supervised release after their prison sentence ends.

Peavler pleaded guilty on July 27 to interstate transportation of stolen property and was sentenced to six months in federal prison and ordered to pay \$42,403 restitution. The Andertons pleaded guilty Aug. 31.

"This case is an excellent example of a joint effort on the part of local, state and federal law enforcement," said Col. Pete Flores, TPW's law enforcement director.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

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## FISHING

# After public outcry, snook regs staying the same

## Proposal to allow keeping fat species falls flat

By Thomas Phillips  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

A proposal to widen the slot limit for keeping snook met the same fate as many of the fish: it was caught and released.

Texas Parks and Wildlife cast a line seeking public input in late December on widening the slot from 24 to 28 inches to 22 to 28 inches.

During the month TPW gathered comments, four people spoke in favor of the proposal. Thirty spoke against.

"They like their snook," said Tonya Wiley, a

fisheries outreach specialist with TPW.

The proposal came about at the request of anglers in deep South Texas, who brought it to Mark Lingo, a TPW biologist.

"The people that approached me wanted to be able to keep a trophy fat snook," Lingo said.

Texas has two species of snook, common and fat. Fat snook rarely exceed 23 inches, so catching a keeper in the slot limit is all but impossible.

Lingo said he could not identify who ap-

See *SNOOK*, Page 18



### STILL SLOTTED:

Anglers in deep South Texas asked Texas Parks and Wildlife to widen the slot limit for snook, but other anglers objected, vocally. The result was that TPW dropped its proposal to change the regulations. Photo by Lone Star Outdoor News.

# What the future holds

## Officials say big changes on the way for Texas fish

By Thomas Phillips  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Fish and fishing in Texas could be much different in 2040.

Texas is projected to become hotter, more Hispanic and possibly drier in the next few decades, two state researchers said Jan. 22 at the annual meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

"Texas is undergoing very dramatic changes," said Karl Eschbach, the state demographer.

For one, Texas is on track to have about 45 million residents in 2040 — about 20 million more than now — Eschbach said. The average age of Texans will be older, and the proportion of Hispanics will be higher, Eschbach said.

Hispanics and people over age 65 are less likely to fish, he said, though Hispanics might fish more as their economic status improves.

More licenses for fishing and hunting will be sold — which directly impacts budgets for fisheries management — Eschbach said, but outdoorsmen will make up a smaller proportion of the population.

On the climate of the future, Texas is predicted to be 2 to 6 degrees warmer mid-century, said John Nielsen-Gammon, the state climatologist.

For an example of what that means, every summer in South Texas will be like the steamy summer of 2009, Nielsen-Gammon said.

"We're not talking about a small, unnoticeable change at this point,"



2040: Anglers mid-century might have higher temperatures and less water to contend with, but Texas fisheries biologists said the state's native fish can handle the changes. The state's booming population might have greater impact than climate change. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

he said.

Texas might also have less fresh water.

Nielsen-Gammon's projection shows rainfall dropping by about 5 percent in the next 40 years. Higher temperatures would also cut

down on water supplies because they would increase evaporation.

But the booming population, Nielsen-Gammon said, is going to impact water supplies more than the climate. The amount of water the population needs is directly re-

lated to its size.

So what does a hotter, drier, more crowded Texas mean for fish?

"That's the big question," said Ken Kurzawski, the regulations and programs director for the Inland Fisheries Division of Texas Parks

and Wildlife. Kurzawski is also the president of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

Texas' native fish will probably handle the temperature changes

See *FUTURE*, Page 15

# What's the point? And why, how and where?

## Fishing structure requires know-how, X-ray vision

By Alan Clemons  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Hop in the boat with Robert "Speedy" Collett for a day on Falcon Reservoir, and chances are you'll be given a thorough education on the effectiveness of fishing points, deep structure and drop-offs.

After motoring to his desired location, Collett idles around the area while checking his sonar unit to set up for a specific cast. It might be to a flat spot 40 feet deep dropping to 48 feet or more, or it could be to the end of a long point in the mouth of a creek. Once he lines up, Collett will fire a 3/4- or 1-ounce football jig and drag it

slowly over the area, watching for his line to jump before setting the hook on a chunky largemouth.

"I hate the transition period when they're moving from deeper water to shallow water," Collett said recently during a day on Falcon's famed waters. "Out here in deeper water is their home, where they live most of the time. The only reason they move away is to spawn or if they're following bait."

Points, and deeper drops with structure such as rocks or old house foundations, often are the home base or staging area for largemouth bass in almost any lake. Points extending from the shoreline or those created by the

junction of a tributary creek into the main channel can be excellent sites for catching numbers or big fish.

Bass use points as holding areas before moving through creeks or drains — even smaller ones, relative to water depth — for the spring spawn or autumn feeding binge. These areas are similar to a road map, with the point or juncture serving as the rest area and the creeks or drains similar to roads the fish use as travel routes.

With the proximity of these points and travel pathways, anglers can establish a plan of attack starting shallow and working deep — or vice versa

See *POINTS*, Page 16



UNDERWATER WAYPOINTS: Bass use underwater points in certain ways for navigating a lake, and anglers can learn those habits to target the fish. Photo by LSON.

# CCA founder Fondren dies of heart disease

## Angler loved fishing and fought to preserve it in Gulf of Mexico

The founder of the Coastal Conservation Association, Walter W. Fondren III, died last week in Houston of heart disease. He was 73.

Fondren was a driving force in the movement to save redfish and speckled trout along the Texas coast in the late 1970s. He was one of the first to grasp the potential of anglers as stewards of marine resources with the creation of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association (now CCA).

"Walter was one of those unique individuals who saw the whole chessboard," said CCA Chairman Venable Proctor. "When he saw a problem with fisheries on the Texas coast, he helped build a national organization to safeguard those resources for generations to come. He grew up hunting and fishing, and fully understood that it is the responsibility of all who enjoy such privileges to leave things better than they found them. He lived his entire life by that principle and infused it into every aspect of CCA."

As chairman of CCA, he helped guide the organization's growth into a national presence with 17 state chapters and almost 100,000 members on all three coasts. He served on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council as a member from 1982 through 1992; was council chairman from 1989 to 1990; and also had served on the Billfish Advisory Committee since 1994.

He received the Harvey Weil Sportsman/Conservationist Award in 2000 and the Charles H. Lyles Award in 2001 from the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission in recognition of a lifetime of exceptional contributions on behalf of marine resources.

"Walter was the right man at the right time to organize anglers to fight for conservation," said Bob Hayes, CCA's longtime general counsel. "He really helped shape the ethic of responsibility and stewardship in recreational angling at a



**FISH FRIEND:** Walter Fondren III poses with a snook in 1998. Fondren helped lead the charge for preserving redfish and speckled trout on the Gulf Coast.

time when everyone knew there were problems, but no one was sure how to attack them. Walter brought together a diverse group of individuals in a common cause, without a care for recognition as long as the job was done. We have lost one of the true leaders of saltwater angling, and a great friend, too."

Fondren was inducted into the International Game Fish Association Hall of Fame in 2004 and served as an IGFA trustee for many years. He also was the first recipient of the CCA's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997.

— CCA report

## Outdoor News in Brief

### Abandoned trap drop-off sites set along coast

Texas Parks and Wildlife will establish collections stations from 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 20 during the Texas Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program.

At all sites, garbage bins marked with banners will be available to receive traps for the duration of the closure. During the 10-day cleanup, from Feb. 20-28, all Texas bays will be closed to crabbing with crab traps, and any traps left in the bay will be presumed to be abandoned and considered litter under state law.

Traps will be accepted at these locations:

■ **Sabine Lake**

Tx/La Causeway Boat Ramp

■ **Galveston Bay**

Jones Lake State Ramp  
TPW Dickinson Marine Lab  
Galveston Island State Park  
Seabrook Texas 146 Bridge Public Boat Ramp  
Fort Anahuac County Park Boat Ramp

Chocolate Bayou State Boat Ramp  
Pier 30 Bait and Tackle, Freeport

■ **Matagorda Bay**

Mitchell Cut Boat Ramp, Sargent  
Matagorda Harbor

■ **San Antonio Bay**

Charlie's Bait Stand  
Port O'Connor TPW Docks

■ **Aransas Bay**

Goose Island State Park Boat Ramp  
North Cove Harbor Boat Ramp

■ **Corpus Christi Bay**

South Conn Brown Harbor Boat Ramp

■ **Upper Laguna Madre**

Bluff Landing Marina  
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■ **Lower Laguna Madre**

Adolfe Thomae County Park, Arroyo City  
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— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

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# GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

## COWBOYS REPORT EVIDENCE OF DEER DRAG NEAR HIGHWAY

A landowner on the Brooks-Hidalgo county line called Brooks County Game Warden Royce Ilse and Hidalgo County Game Warden Will Plumas to report that his cowboys had found a drag under the fence off a highway. It was in the same area as a phone and rattling horns had been found days before. Plumas and Capt. Ken Baker soon obtained the name and address of the suspect. Pictures were found on the phone of the suspect with numerous wildlife resources. Ilse and Plumas put together a search warrant and headed back to Edinburg to collect remaining evidence. That evening, Plumas, Ilse, Baker, Game Warden Ira Zuniga and local constables executed the warrant on the suspect's residence. After being questioned by Plumas and Ilse and Constable Eddie Guerra, the suspect agreed to give a statement about killing a deer from the highway and other activities he had been involved in. During the execution of the warrant, three white-tailed bucks, one Axis buck, two scoped rifles, about 100 pounds of meat and three pair of boots were seized. The case resulted in a charge of hunting white-tailed deer without landowner consent and Class C violations.

## DUCK BREAST SPOILED, BECOMES WASTED GAME

While visiting a hunting and fishing club on the Sabine River to check duck hunters, Wood County Game Warden Derek Spitzer entered the walk-in cooler. There he found a spoiled duck breast with wings attached and four ring-necked ducks. After interviewing the club manager and the club processor, Spitzer learned that the duck breast had been thrown away after spoiling. The club manager and processor also said they were responsible for throwing other ringnecks in the trash throughout the season because they were too hard to clean.

## Litter draws attention to other infractions

Trinity County Game Wardens Chad Jones and Sam Shanafelt were checking crappie fishermen on White Rock Creek. When they rounded a corner, the wardens saw a man throw something into

the water from a pontoon boat. After a brief interview, it was determined to be a soft drink can. While Shanafelt was questioning the front passenger about littering, Jones noticed a yo-yo fishing reel,

which is illegal, with a minnow on a hook attached to the boat.

Upon further inspection, Shanafelt located marijuana in a canister in the boat as well. Cases are pending.

## NEIGHBOR TURNS IN FELON WHO POACHED DEER, HAD DRUGS

A caller from Grayson County reported poaching of white-tailed deer across the county line in Collin County. After three days of investigation by Grayson County Game Wardens Jim Ballard and Randolph McGee, Collin County Game Wardens Leroy Thompson and Todd Long, a search warrant was issued. With the help of Grayson County and Collin County Narcotics Task Force officers, two individuals were arrested for taking eight white-tailed deer in closed season, possession of narcotics, hunting from a roadway, trespassing, hunting deer at night and numerous thefts that had occurred in both counties. The shooter is a convicted felon and will face federal charges. Numerous citations and civil restitution have been filed.

## FOLLOW THE TRAIL TO TRESPASSERS

Houston County Game Wardens Zak Bengé and Eddie Lehr received a trespassing complaint in the Lovelady area. After tracking the two people's shoe prints, they were able to make contact. The landowner signed the non-consent forms and warrants were obtained. The two subjects turned themselves in at the Houston County Jail.

## A LITTLE VENISON FOR YOU, A LITTLE FOR ME

A deer processor is accused of "skimming" white-tailed deer meat off customer orders, processing it and then selling it to other custom-

ers. Game Wardens Anthony Corcoran and Dean Fitzpatrick made an undercover purchase of some of the meat with the help of Game Warden Dornell Crist. Corcoran and Fitzpatrick conducted a lengthy interview of the suspect and obtained confessions on four episodes of the illegal activity. Multiple charges of sale of white-tailed deer meat were filed.

## PESKY HAWKS NOT BOTHERING CHICKENS ANYMORE

A caller reported that someone was killing hawks on his property. Hidalgo County Game Wardens Ira Zuniga and David Martinez arrived and saw in the person's backyard two Harris hawks dead on the ground next to a 12-foot pole with another Harris hawk dead and dangling from a snare on top of the pole. The landowner said he killed the hawks because they were eating his chickens. Citations with restitution were filed.

## PAIR POSSESS FIREARMS ON HIGH SCHOOL PROPERTY

Late one morning, Williamson County Game Warden Joel Campos and Travis County Game Wardens Braxton Harris and Cody Jones responded to shots fired behind McNeil High School in Williamson County. They contacted two males who had been detained by Williamson County deputies. One of them had a .22-caliber rifle with a silencer and the other had a 12-gauge shotgun. The people were on school property behind the high school. One was arrested on a

federal charge of being in possession of a silencer, and the other was arrested by a Williamson County sheriff's deputy for having a firearm on school grounds. Both were charged with hunting without landowner consent and hunting with illegal means or methods.

## SOME KIND OF DATE: TAKING THE WIFE OUT TO HUNT AT NIGHT

Just after dark, Red River County Game Warden Benny Richards saw a spotlight working near a deer camp behind a locked gate. After gaining access to the property, he found a husband and wife team night hunting. After a short investigation, Richards arrested the man for being a felon in possession of a firearm, possession of a controlled substance and possession of a stolen all-terrain vehicle. The next night the warden was back on patrol at when he heard two shots coming from a private ranch behind a locked gate. He went in on foot and located two men with two rifles, a spotlight and a freshly killed doe.

## WARDEN WAITS FOR HUNTER, WHO WAITED TO TAG DEER

Morris County Game Warden Michael Serbanic waited for a hunter to return to his vehicle after hearing a gunshot close by. The hunter returned and drove his truck into a pasture to retrieve his game. Serbanic stopped him at the gate, and an untagged antlerless deer was found in the back of the truck. Citations were issued

for hunting in closed season and untagged deer.

## WHAT'S THE LIMIT ON FILING CHARGES?

Limestone County Game Warden Randy Harper filed 25 cases for undersized crappie and one for no fishing license at the Navasota River. Cases pending.

## HOG POACHER WITH A PAST TRESPASSES

A caller reported a person shooting a feral hog on another person's property. Atascosa County Game Warden Derek Iden visited the location with a sheriff's deputy and learned from the complainant that the person was no longer in the area and had entered on foot with several other people. About 30 minutes later, Iden located three men on foot about a mile from the scene, and one of the subjects admitted he had killed the hog and said that he didn't know whose property he had killed it on. A wanted-person's check revealed that the man had an outstanding warrant for criminal nonsupport. He was taken to the Atascosa County Jail, and the complainant decided not to file poaching charges against him because he was already going to jail on the warrant.

## AFTER WRECK RESCUE, POACHERS BUSTED

Coryell County Game Warden Andrew Alexander and McLennan County Game Warden Jason Campbell were patrolling Tradinghouse Lake when they saw a car in a ravine resting on a tree. The driver, who had his 23-month-old child with him, had three warrants, some marijuana and was intoxicated. While Alexander went to reunite the child with the mother, a vehicle stopped and two men began shooting ducks with a .22. The duck poachers, who were without licenses, were confronted by the wardens.



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The 11.38-inch-long revolver also features a fully adjustable rear sight and a stainless steel finish. It sells for about \$680.

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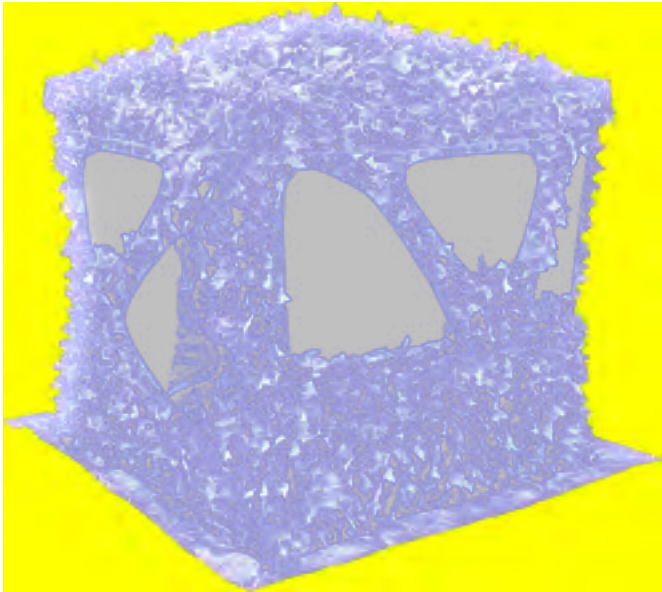
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## Quail

Continued from Page 6

who are seeking ways to improve quail habitat.

TPW, along with non-profit groups and universities, are ready to help them.

"Ranching for quail" provides income from hunting operations, but it also sets up an ecosystem that benefits other birds and wildlife, biologists say.

Perez noted that areas with strong quail numbers this season are typically ranches that are taking steps to protect habitat.

"If you have good management, you're making proactive decisions to leave some cover for these birds," he said. "You may still have some declines, but they're not going to disappear."

Take, for example, Dallas businessman Charles Hodges who has begun several quail-friendly practices on his Rolling Plains ranch in Dickens County. Included are supplemental feeding, deferred grazing and reduced bag limits while hunting.

"Our best day we saw 17 coveys," Hodges said. "We feel that what we're doing helps."

Hodges, an alum of Texas Tech University, drives nearly four hours from Dallas to reach his ranch near Spur, but his commitment to quail is much wider than that.

He is one of the co-founders of the Quail-Tech Alliance, a partnership between the nonprofit Quail First and Texas Tech's natural resources management department.

The alliance aims to create a wide range of quail research projects on "anchor ranches" across the Rolling Plains, looking at the many reasons why quail numbers are down, and how to reverse those trends.

Issues include "fragmented" habitat, genetics and disease, to name a few.

Hodges and other Tech alums came up with the idea during a

meeting last March of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Growers Association in Fort Worth.

They soon recruited 40 anchor ranches, and they hope to add more. Projects involving Tech students began Jan. 1.

The researchers are tasked with developing multiple "best practices" for quail management, said Dr. Brad Dabbert, research project director and associate chairman of Tech's Department of Natural Resources Management.

"We're not telling landowners what to do," Dabbert said, "but we will be giving them recommendations."

In five years the researchers plan to compile their findings in an easy-to-read handbook for landowners.

Dabbert said the prognosis is good for Texas bobwhites, but not just because of Quail-Tech's fledgling efforts.

He said other groups have already been working on these problems. He credited the efforts of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and the Quail & Grassland Bird Project of Audubon Texas.

"That's good," Hodges said. "The more soldiers we have in the field, the greater our chances are of unlocking the code of resilient quail genetics, which can benefit the entire gene pool."

On the net:  
**Quail-Tech Alliance**  
[www.quail-tech.org/](http://www.quail-tech.org/)

**Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute**  
[ckwri.tamuk.edu/](http://ckwri.tamuk.edu/)

**Quail & Grassland Bird Project of Audubon Texas**  
[www.sabalpalmaudubon.org/Quail.html](http://www.sabalpalmaudubon.org/Quail.html)

**Texas Parks and Wildlife**  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/planning/quail\\_forecast/forecast/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/planning/quail_forecast/forecast/)

## Trap

Continued from Page 6

tion with his short-lived incarceration.

Unable to inflict any damage on the ones who had released him from the trap, the buck walked to a nearby stock tank, jumped in and swam about 100 yards across the water to the other side before disappearing into the South Texas brush.

"I guess he just needed to cool off," McKendrick said after the buck was out of sight.

Although rare, reports come in nearly every year of hunters capturing a doe or buck in traps set for feral hogs. Although other mistakenly trapped animals such as raccoons or skunks can be released or dispatched with relatively minor consequences, deer pose a particularly perplexing dilemma.

"In this type of situation, you have to let the deer go," said Game Warden Maj. Al Vielma, based in San Antonio.

"Hunters are not allowed to trap deer; that is an illegal means and method," he said. "If the deer is injured and not able to get out, call a game warden, who can come out to assess the situation then help you do the right thing."

Freeing the animal and then shooting it outside the trap would be legal as long as the hunting season was open and the hunter was properly licensed, but such action would not be very ethical, Vielma said.

If a game warden is forced to kill an injured animal in a trap, the meat is normally donated to a needy charity organization and does not end up in the possession of the hunter.

Vielma also stressed that if the trapped animal is a buck, releasing the deer should be handled in a very

cautious and careful manner to avoid any injury to all parties.

"A deer, particularly a buck, can cause you some serious injury, so you have to be careful," he said. "Fortunately, we don't hear about trapped deer that much."

Mike Perez and Hal Kauffeldt avoided injury this fall when they caught a nine-point buck in a hog trap.

Perez had recently changed his feeder schedule from morning and evening to morning only at the ranch on the Caldwell-Gonzales county line. So he said the buck might have been extra hungry, motivating him to enter the trap and eat the pile of corn used as bait.

The trap had been set the night before, and it had not been set for months before that, Perez said.

When they released the deer, Perez pushed open the door with his hand.

He said if he had to do it again, he would use a piece of wire to open the door and put some distance between himself and the buck.

This time, the deer did not immediately bolt from the trap. It "ping-ponged" around inside for a moment and then fled with a self-inflicted bloody nose.

"Everybody was like I can't believe you let him go," Perez said, "the first catch and release deer on the property."

Perez said he considered shooting it but decided it would not be sporting and he was not sure it met the antler restrictions of having a minimum inside spread of 13 inches.

"I was concerned about them, but what was I going to do," Perez said, "shoot it and put it on the wall and say, 'I shot it in a trap?'"

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# HEROES



**TOM FRANKLIN** of North Richland Hills shot this five-by-five mule deer, which had a net Pope and Young score of 156, at 30 yards using a bow. The deer weighed 240 pounds, and Franklin shot it near Crowell.



**TARYN CARLIN** of Colleyville shot her first deer, a doe, near Brownwood.



**CASEY CARRINGER**, 17, of Plano shot his first buck white-tailed deer in West Texas. The trip was a reward from Carringer's father, **Robert**, for becoming an Eagle Scout.



**JOSHUA ROBERTSON**, 15, Austin shot this buck while hunting with his uncle, **Brett Robertson**, at the family ranch in Cherokee with a .223.



**HUNTER KROESCHE**, 11, of Magnolia harvested this Corsican Ram on his first bow hunt at the Bugscuffle Ranch in Vanderpool. Hunter was hunting with his father, **Larry Kroesche**.



**BREEZY DUENNENBERG**, 10, of Boerne shot this eight-point, her third, on her grandfather's ranch using a .243.

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**AUSTIN WHITE**, 9, of South Padre Island shot his first deer, a 12-point buck, with a .243 at a ranch in Southern Jim Hogg County one day before the season closed.

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**Future**

Continued from Page 8

well, Kurzawski said. They are capable of handling a wide range of temperatures, and the projected increase is within their survivable range.

Nonnative fish, such as rainbow trout and walleye, might meet a different fate. The fish are natives of cold water.

“High summer water temperatures restrict walleye growth and survival in much of Texas,” TPW said on its Web site. “However, in the north Texas lakes, such as Lake Meredith, the species does very well.”

But with increased temperatures, the walleye in Lake Meredith could run into trouble spawning. If the temperature is too warm, the fish won’t spawn, Kurzawski said.

Trout are stocked annually in Texas and do not generally reproduce.

Texas only has one recorded self-sustaining population of rainbows, and they live high in the Guadalupe Mountains of West Texas.

Stocked trout usually do not survive the summer in Texas, much less spawn and reproduce.

A temperature increase for these fish might mean it would not make sense to stock them as far south in Texas as is done today, Kurzawski said. And they might not survive as long into late winter and spring in some waterbodies.

Populations of smallmouth bass could be affected, too.

“Smallmouth seem to do OK in some of those rivers, but, once again, if those increase in temperature, they might start running into trouble,” Kurzawski said.

With an eye on the future, the state might also change its management strategy, said Brian Van Zee, a regional director in Central Texas with TPW’s Inland Fisheries Division.

Van Zee is also a past president of



**HEAVIER HAND:** Texas fisheries might require more stocking or management for different species, said Brian Van Zee, a biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife based in Waco. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

the AFS Texas Chapter.

Texas might have to stock more fish or manage for other species, Van Zee said.

“It’s really difficult to say,” he said.

TPW researchers are looking into changes in fish habitat and angler access to lakes.

The climate changes could lead to greater fluctuations in water levels. That could affect fish spawning, and it could leave boat ramps high and dry more often.

How the changes in demographics will affect fish and fishing is anybody’s guess.

Kurzawski said that Texas can

keep doing what it is doing as long as angler interest — which is directly linked to funding for management — stays the same.

“An increase would be great, but we can’t afford to see a big drop-off,” he said.

Although the projected changes might appear bold, Van Zee tried to

temper the forecast so it would not sound so alarming.

He said management of water resources will require “a paradigm shift.” But the future is not dim by any means for Texas fishing.

“I do think, God willing, we’ll always be able to go out and catch a 5-pound bass,” he said.

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# Points

Continued from Page 8

— to locate and catch fish.

Lakes throughout the country are different, and so “deep” or “ditch” may vary in size. For giant reservoirs such as Amistad and Falcon on the Texas-Mexico border, points may extend a long way and have significant creeks winding out from pockets. On shallow lakes, the bays may be shallow with smaller ditches or creeks that have silted in over the years.

In Texas, lakes such as Sam Rayburn, Fork and Toledo Bend are generally shallow with deeper tributaries winding through.

On Falcon, dissecting a major creek or large cove to locate the drain winding through a flat can be productive.

“Bass will use whatever the deepest water is available if they need to when they’re moving around or if the weather conditions dictate,” said longtime pro angler Cody Bird of Granbury. “If you have a drain running through a flat and it’s 4 feet or 8 feet, if it’s the deepest water, then that’s what they’re going to be using.”

Bird displayed that strategy recently on Falcon during a long day of unending rain and cool north wind as a front lingered over the lake. Although a few bass were caught around shallow wood, the numbers increased in a deeper hole near a tank dam drain and then in an 8-foot channel winding through the flooded timber.

The shallow bite was sporadic, with bass hitting jigs, 11-inch worms, lizards and square-bill crankbaits. But the motherlode was found in the channel with one after another whacking a chartreuse-white 1/2-ounce spinnerbait.

“Sometimes you just have to get in the deeper area and cover water,” Bird said.

For a larger point on the main lake or larger tributaries, the juncture of it with the creek or ditch may be a stellar site for deeper techniques. Current, stable water temperatures, forage and the ability to move easily from deep to shallow areas all contribute to a great holding area for bass. The addition of cover such as stumps, rocks or snags is a bonus.

Collett proved that with the football jig by dragging it slowly over the scattered rocks and old house foundations more than 40 feet deep. One area was at the juncture of an old creek that met the main Rio Grande channel, while another was a smaller “corner” point of



**DOWN BELOW:** Bass will use the deepest route for traveling through a lake. Anglers can find them winding through creek channels and drainages, which can be located using sonar or topographic maps. Photo by Lone Star Outdoor News.

a deep spot in a major tributary.

Depending on the depth, Collett also will throw a deep-diving crankbait in tilapia color or a big Texas-rigged Senko. Slow-rolling a spinnerbait, also in a tilapia color, also works if bass are feeding aggressively. Although not

always an immediate bite, the slower, patient technique with the football jig tipped with a big craw can pay off when bass are stacked.

“You just drag it over every rock and let it slide off,” he said. “Sometimes they’ll knock slack in your line and other times you may

not feel the bite, but only feel something heavy. That’s when you set the hook and hope it’s something you can’t move off the bottom easily. If you can get it up without much trouble, that’s not the (big) one you’re looking for.”



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# Return

Continued from Page 1

dance of cover.

With the habitat in top form and a fresh run of nutrients brought in from the rain, the food chain was boosted from the bottom up, and the natural progression of growth was allowed. The rain brings more plankton, the shad eat the plankton, the bass eat the shad, then humans catch the bass and send pictures to their friends.

The back end of that cycle started when Ben Blaine of Merkel landed a 14.02-pound largemouth bass on the evening of Jan. 16 on a crankbait in roughly 15 feet of water. The full cycle was made officially complete five days later when a 13.09-pound bass swimming 25 feet deep bit a jig from Wesley Pullig of Eden.

Word was out that a trophy bass fishery had been resurrected. At that point, O.H. Ivie Lake had produced a third of all the 13-plus-pound bass caught in Texas in 2010.

"We've been expecting it," said Bobby Farquhar, TPW's inland fisheries regional director from San Angelo. "About six to seven years after the end of a drought you usually see the big fish start to come out."

O.H. Ivie has even started growing bits of hydrilla and pond weed, a favorite of bass and a rarity in the arid climate of West Texas.

"It's a unique lake," Scott said. "It didn't have any grass before the drought, and we haven't done anything to enhance the habitat."

And while anglers will most surely comply, Scott said they need to get while the getting is good.

"It's going to go in cycles," she said. "This lake has a lot of potential to be a great bass fishery when the lake level is up, but we're going to have periods of drought where the level will consistently draw down over a period of years. Since it's been built, it seems like every four or five years it will change."



Maps by Google.

### O.H. Ivie facts

**Record largemouth bass:** 14.59 pounds, caught Feb 9, 2000, by Clarence Gayle.

**Location:** On the Colorado and Concho Rivers, 55 miles east of from San Angelo.

**Surface area:** 19,149 acres

**Maximum depth:** 119 feet

**Best-bet lures:** Slow-rolled chartreuse/white spinnerbaits, Carolina-rigged soft plastics, jigs and crankbaits.

**Fishing depth:** 15 to 25 feet



Wesley Pullig of Eden caught this 13.09-pound bass from O.H. Ivie Reservoir on Jan. 21. The fish was 26.125 inches long, 19.75 inches in girth. Photo by David Campbell, Texas Parks and Wildlife.



Ben Blaine of Merkel caught this 14.02-pound bass Jan. 16 from O.H. Ivie Reservoir. The fish was 25.5 inches long and 21.25 inches in girth. Photo by David Campbell, Texas Parks and Wildlife.

# Stories from the blotter

A new **book** out this fall compiles five years of the **Game Warden Blotter** from *Lone Star Outdoor News*.

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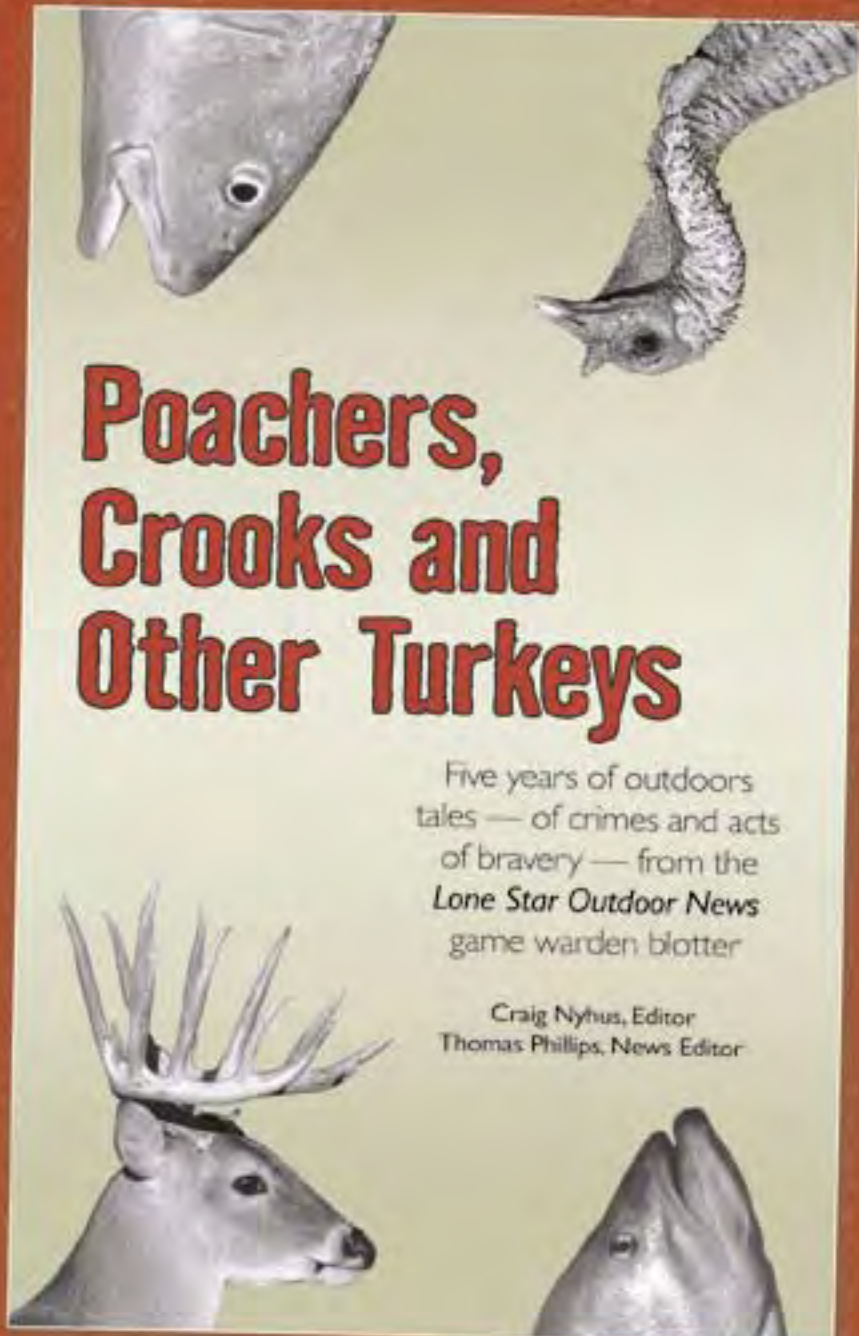
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Craig Nyhus, Editor  
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**Feb. 13**  
**Big Thicket Ducks Unlimited**  
 Fundraiser  
 Cleveland Civic Center  
 (281) 593-9118  
 tom@encinolandscapinc.com

**Feb. 18**  
**Dallas Safari Club**  
 Monthly meeting  
 Craig Boddington speaks  
 about safari rifles.  
 Embassy Suites Outdoor World, Grapevine  
 (972) 980-9800  
 www.biggame.org

**Feb. 20**  
**North Texas Chapter of Safari Club International**  
 Monthly meeting with speaker Dr. James C. Kroll.  
 Embassy Suites Outdoor World, Grapevine  
 (940) 612-1928  
 info@scinorthtexas.com

**Feb. 23**  
**Dallas Coastal Conservation Association**  
 Monthly meeting  
 Collector's Covey, Dallas  
 Dick Davis with the Texas  
 Parks and Wildlife Foundation  
 will be the speaker.  
 (214) 668-5683

**Grapevine Ducks Unlimited**  
 Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament  
 Stacy's Furniture, Grapevine  
 (972) 768-1682  
 rudyd@idgtx.com

**Feb. 25**  
**Corpus Christi Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation**  
 Fundraiser  
 Ortiz Center, Corpus Christi  
 (361) 548-4640  
 kalbrecht@grandecom.net

**Feb. 26-March 14**  
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**Feb. 26**  
**YMCA**  
 Sporting clays fundraiser  
 Dallas Gun Club  
 (972) 393-5121, ext. 207

**Franklin County Beard Busters National Wild Turkey Federation**  
 Fundraiser  
 Purley Gates Retreat,  
 Mount Vernon  
 (903) 588-4355  
 jhammond@neto.com



**Sherman-Denison Ducks Unlimited**  
 Couples Raffle Night  
 Sherman Municipal Building  
 (903) 271-3299  
 petelski@gmail.com

**March 4**  
**Alamo Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation**  
 Fundraiser  
 Alzafar Shrine, San Antonio  
 (210) 213-5339 or (210) 838-7585

**March 5**  
**Hunt County Ducks Unlimited**  
 Fundraiser  
 Texas National Guard Armory, Greenville  
 (903) 455-1631  
 bush\_man70@hotmail.com

**March 6**  
**Arlington Ducks Unlimited**  
 Casino Night fundraiser  
 Celebrations  
 (817) 368-1070  
 or (817) 832-8078



**March 11**  
**Lake Lavon Ducks Unlimited**  
 Fundraiser  
 Swingin' D Ranch, Parker  
 (214) 207-9325 or (972) 922-8665  
 paul.romano@e-hps.com

## Snook

Continued from Page 8

proached him, but he said they were anglers from Port Isabel.

When they learned the proposal was sunk, Lingo said, they were upset, but "not overly so."

While gathering public comments, anglers offered TPW suggestions for how to manage the snook fishery. Some wanted the regulations to become more strict, with only catch and release allowed or the slot limit to become

narrower. Others wanted to allow keeping snook only during certain times of the year.

Some asked for fat and common snook to be managed as separate species.

That could be difficult, however. Distinguishing traits between the two species are not obvious. The only scientific way, Lingo said, is to count the lateral line scales. The number is different for each species.

The people seeking the wider slot limit might have been OK with that.

"They weren't the average anglers," Lingo said.

## Hunter

Continued from Page 6

blind. The men were side by side, Jansen to the left, about an arm's length apart. Their decoys were about 20 feet in front of them.

Both men fired a shot each at a group of ducks swinging to their left.

"He (Jansen) stood up while his buddy was tracking a duck and he pulled the trigger," Satchfield said.

Jansen's friend called authorities, who had him put Jansen's body in a boat and meet them at a boat ramp.

Satchfield attributed the deadly accident to a lack of communication.

"They didn't tell each other, 'I'm going to shoot here, you shoot there,'" Satchfield said.

A spokesman for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department said the shooting death is listed as accidental pending the outcome of an autopsy and toxicology tests.

Both men had hunting licenses, according to the game warden's office.

However, only the shooter had met the state's hunter education requirement, said Game Warden Clint Caywood.

"I don't know why, but you can buy a hunting license in Texas without showing proof of having taken hunter education," Caywood said.

Hunting fatalities have declined dramatically since the state made hunter education mandatory in 1988, Hall said.

In 1966, for example, there were 28 hunting fatalities. In 2008, there were six. The last year where hunting fatalities were in double figures was 1991, when there were 13 deaths.

"You see the same kinds of mistakes,

though," Hall said. "They involve hunter judgment."

Satchfield, who has hunted the marsh where the fatality occurred, said the safe zone in hunting is the area "from shoulder to shoulder." Hall describes it as "that area in front of you that can be seen without moving your head."

Problems occur when a hunter violates the safe zone, Hall said.

If a hunter doesn't assess the safe zone properly before raising a gun, there's little chance he or she will be able to later.

"Your focus is far away on the ducks," Hall said. "If you swing your gun beyond what you can see peripherally, your eyes can't adjust fast enough to pick up something in front of the muzzle."

Hall said hunters, even those who have hunted together before, should discuss their safe zones before lifting their weapons.

"It's a problem, though, especially for guys, who grunt a lot," he said.

Hall recommends duck hunters use a trick endorsed by many hunting guides, given they have to deal with hunters of all abilities. They'll stick reeds in the ground to remind hunters of how far their safe zone extends.

"The reeds will block the swing of the gun even if the hunter forgets," Hall said.

A chemical engineer and unit supervisor at Bigler LP, Jansen was a former All-Conference pitcher and Academic All-American at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. He married his college sweetheart, former UAH volleyball player Whitney Mock, and the couple recently had their first daughter, Avery.

Jansen threw one of two no-hitters in school history in 2000 against the University of West Georgia.

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# Sun | Moon | Tides

## Texas Coast Tides

### Sabine Pass, jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 12	7:47 a.m.	-0.9 L	3:43 p.m.	1.4 H	7:44 p.m.	1.3 L
Feb 13	12:37 a.m.	1.6 H	8:14 a.m.	-0.7 L	3:49 p.m.	1.4 H
Feb 14	1:31 a.m.	1.6 H	8:39 a.m.	-0.4 L	4:00 p.m.	1.4 H
Feb 15	2:28 a.m.	1.4 H	9:05 a.m.	-0.2 L	4:13 p.m.	1.4 H
Feb 16	3:30 a.m.	1.4 H	9:32 a.m.	0.2 L	4:25 p.m.	1.4 H
Feb 17	4:39 a.m.	1.3 H	10:02 a.m.	0.4 L	4:33 p.m.	1.4 H
Feb 18	5:57 a.m.	1.3 H	10:34 a.m.	0.7 L	4:31 p.m.	1.4 H
Feb 19	7:28 a.m.	1.4 H	11:07 a.m.	1.1 L	4:13 p.m.	1.4 H
Feb 20	12:17 a.m.	-0.4 L	09:12 a.m.	1.6 H	11:40 a.m.	1.4 L
Feb 21	1:14 a.m.	-0.5 L	3:41 p.m.	1.8 H		
Feb 22	2:19 a.m.	-0.7 L	3:51 p.m.	2.0 H		
Feb 23	3:28 a.m.	-0.9 L	1:36 p.m.	2.0 H		
Feb 24	4:36 a.m.	-1.1 L	1:53 p.m.	2.0 H	5:12 p.m.	1.8 L
Feb 25	5:39 a.m.	-1.1 L	2:12 p.m.	2.0 H	5:51 p.m.	1.8 L
Feb 26	6:37 a.m.	-1.1 L	2:31 p.m.	2.0 H	6:38 p.m.	1.4 L

### Galveston Bay entrance, south jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 12	12:31 a.m.	1.3 H	8:13 a.m.	-0.7 L	4:30 p.m.	1.1 H
Feb 13	1:24 a.m.	1.3 H	8:40 a.m.	-0.6 L	4:36 p.m.	1.1 H
Feb 14	2:18 a.m.	1.3 H	9:05 a.m.	-0.3 L	4:47 p.m.	1.1 H
Feb 15	3:15 a.m.	1.1 H	9:31 a.m.	-0.1 L	5:00 p.m.	1.1 H
Feb 16	4:17 a.m.	1.1 H	9:58 a.m.	0.1 L	5:12 p.m.	1.1 H
Feb 17	5:26 a.m.	1.0 H	10:28 a.m.	0.3 L	5:20 p.m.	1.1 H
Feb 18	6:44 a.m.	1.0 H	11:00 a.m.	0.6 L	5:18 p.m.	1.1 H
Feb 19	08:15 a.m.	1.1 H	11:33 a.m.	0.9 L	5:00 p.m.	1.1 H
Feb 20	12:43 a.m.	-0.3 L	09:59 a.m.	1.3 H	12:06 p.m.	1.1 L
Feb 21	1:40 a.m.	-0.4 L	4:28 p.m.	1.4 H		
Feb 22	2:45 a.m.	-0.6 L	4:38 p.m.	1.6 H		
Feb 23	3:54 a.m.	-0.7 L	2:23 p.m.	1.6 H		
Feb 24	5:02 a.m.	-0.9 L	2:40 p.m.	1.6 H	5:38 p.m.	1.4 L
Feb 25	6:05 a.m.	-0.9 L	2:59 p.m.	1.6 H	6:17 p.m.	1.4 L
Feb 26	7:03 a.m.	-0.9 L	3:18 p.m.	1.6 H	7:04 p.m.	1.1 L

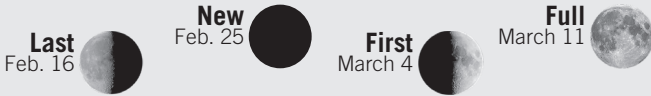
### San Luis Pass

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 12	1:01 a.m.	0.8 H	9:09 a.m.	-0.4 L	5:00 p.m.	0.7 H
Feb 13	1:54 a.m.	0.8 H	9:36 a.m.	-0.3 L	5:06 p.m.	0.7 H
Feb 14	2:48 a.m.	0.8 H	10:01 a.m.	-0.2 L	5:17 p.m.	0.7 H
Feb 15	3:45 a.m.	0.7 H	10:27 a.m.	-0.1 L	5:30 p.m.	0.7 H
Feb 16	4:47 a.m.	0.7 H	10:54 a.m.	0.1 L	5:42 p.m.	0.7 H
Feb 17	5:56 a.m.	0.6 H	11:24 a.m.	0.2 L	5:50 p.m.	0.7 H
Feb 18	12:08 a.m.	0.1 L	7:14 a.m.	0.6 H	11:56 a.m.	0.3 L
Feb 19	12:51 a.m.	-0.1 L	08:45 a.m.	0.7 H	12:29 p.m.	0.5 L
Feb 20	1:39 a.m.	-0.2 L	10:29 a.m.	0.8 H	1:02 p.m.	0.7 L
Feb 21	2:36 a.m.	-0.3 L	4:58 p.m.	0.9 H		
Feb 22	3:41 a.m.	-0.3 L	5:08 p.m.	0.9 H		
Feb 23	4:50 a.m.	-0.4 L	2:53 p.m.	0.9 H		
Feb 24	5:58 a.m.	-0.5 L	3:10 p.m.	0.9 H	6:34 p.m.	0.9 L
Feb 25	7:01 a.m.	-0.5 L	3:29 p.m.	0.9 H	7:13 p.m.	0.9 L
Feb 26	7:59 a.m.	-0.5 L	3:48 p.m.	0.9 H	8:00 p.m.	0.7 L

### Freeport Harbor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 12	08:10 a.m.	-0.5 L	3:52 p.m.	1.0 H	8:07 p.m.	0.6 L
Feb 13	12:46 a.m.	1.1 H	8:37 a.m.	-0.4 L	3:58 p.m.	1.0 H
Feb 14	1:40 a.m.	1.1 H	9:02 a.m.	-0.2 L	4:09 p.m.	1.0 H
Feb 15	2:37 a.m.	1.0 H	9:28 a.m.	-0.1 L	4:22 p.m.	1.0 H
Feb 16	3:39 a.m.	1.0 H	9:55 a.m.	0.1 L	4:34 p.m.	1.0 H
Feb 17	4:48 a.m.	0.9 H	10:25 a.m.	0.2 L	4:42 p.m.	1.0 H
Feb 18	6:06 a.m.	0.9 H	10:57 a.m.	0.4 L	4:40 p.m.	1.0 H
Feb 19	7:37 a.m.	1.0 H	11:30 a.m.	0.5 L	4:22 p.m.	1.0 H
Feb 20	12:40 a.m.	-0.2 L	09:21 a.m.	1.1 H	12:03 p.m.	0.7 L
Feb 21	1:37 a.m.	-0.3 L	3:50 p.m.	1.2 H		
Feb 22	2:42 a.m.	-0.4 L	4:00 p.m.	1.4 H		
Feb 23	3:51 a.m.	-0.5 L	1:45 p.m.	1.4 H		
Feb 24	4:59 a.m.	-0.5 L	2:02 p.m.	1.4 H	5:35 p.m.	0.9 L
Feb 25	6:02 a.m.	-0.5 L	2:21 p.m.	1.4 H	6:14 p.m.	0.9 L
Feb 26	7:00 a.m.	-0.5 L	2:40 p.m.	1.4 H	7:01 p.m.	0.7 L

## Moon Phases



### Port O'Connor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 12	11:49 a.m.	-0.5 L	11:06 p.m.	0.4 H		
Feb 13	12:26 p.m.	-0.4 L				
Feb 14	3:03 a.m.	0.3 H	12:58 p.m.	-0.3 L		
Feb 15	4:39 a.m.	0.3 H	1:28 p.m.	-0.2 L	09:44 p.m.	0.1 H
Feb 16	6:04 a.m.	0.3 H	1:52 p.m.	-0.1 L	08:13 p.m.	0.1 H
Feb 17	12:44 a.m.	0.0 L	7:35 a.m.	0.2 H	2:04 p.m.	0.0 L
Feb 18	1:29 a.m.	-0.1 L	09:53 a.m.	0.2 H	1:10 p.m.	0.1 L
Feb 19	2:18 a.m.	-0.2 L	5:03 p.m.	0.4 H		
Feb 20	3:15 a.m.	-0.3 L	5:27 p.m.	0.5 H		
Feb 21	4:23 a.m.	-0.3 L	6:07 p.m.	0.6 H		
Feb 22	5:43 a.m.	-0.4 L	6:54 p.m.	0.7 H		
Feb 23	7:06 a.m.	-0.5 L	7:46 p.m.	0.8 H		
Feb 24	08:22 a.m.	-0.5 L	08:44 p.m.	0.8 H		
Feb 25	09:26 a.m.	-0.5 L	09:53 p.m.	0.7 H		
Feb 26	10:22 a.m.	-0.5 L	11:55 p.m.	0.6 H		

### Rockport

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 12	2:07 a.m.	-0.08 H	12:18 p.m.	-0.40 L		
Feb 13	2:53 a.m.	-0.10 H	12:45 p.m.	-0.38 L		
Feb 14	3:41 a.m.	-0.12 H	1:05 p.m.	-0.35 L		
Feb 15	4:40 a.m.	-0.15 H	1:20 p.m.	-0.31 L	9:10 p.m.	-0.23 H
Feb 16	6:11 a.m.	-0.18 H	1:31 p.m.	-0.27 L	7:55 p.m.	-0.21 H
Feb 17	1:53 a.m.	-0.25 L	8:31 a.m.	-0.20 H	1:32 p.m.	-0.22 L
Feb 18	3:06 a.m.	-0.28 L	7:11 p.m.	-0.15 H		
Feb 19	4:01 a.m.	-0.31 L	7:10 p.m.	-0.12 H		
Feb 20	4:56 a.m.	-0.34 L	7:33 p.m.	-0.08 H		
Feb 21	5:54 a.m.	-0.36 L	8:21 p.m.	-0.05 H		
Feb 22	6:59 a.m.	-0.38 L	9:22 p.m.	-0.01 H		
Feb 23	8:07 a.m.	-0.39 L	10:26 p.m.	0.02 H		
Feb 24	9:13 a.m.	-0.39 L	11:30 p.m.	0.04 H		
Feb 25	10:14 a.m.	-0.38 L				
Feb 26	12:34 a.m.	0.04 H	11:09 a.m.	-0.35 L		

### Port Aransas, H. Caldwell Pier

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 12	12:24 a.m.	1.0 H	7:52 a.m.	-0.4 L	4:23 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 13	1:17 a.m.	1.0 H	8:19 a.m.	-0.3 L	4:29 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 14	2:11 a.m.	1.0 H	8:44 a.m.	-0.2 L	4:40 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 15	3:08 a.m.	0.9 H	9:10 a.m.	-0.1 L	4:53 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 16	4:10 a.m.	0.9 H	9:37 a.m.	0.1 L	5:05 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 17	5:19 a.m.	0.8 H	10:07 a.m.	0.2 L	5:13 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 18	6:37 a.m.	0.8 H	10:39 a.m.	0.3 L	5:11 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 19	08:08 a.m.	0.9 H	11:12 a.m.	0.5 L	4:53 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 20	12:22 a.m.	-0.2 L	09:52 a.m.	1.0 H	11:45 a.m.	0.6 L
Feb 21	1:19 a.m.	-0.2 L	4:21 p.m.	1.1 H		
Feb 22	2:24 a.m.	-0.3 L	4:31 p.m.	1.3 H		
Feb 23	3:33 a.m.	-0.4 L	2:16 p.m.	1.3 H		
Feb 24	4:41 a.m.	-0.5 L	2:33 p.m.	1.3 H	5:17 p.m.	0.8 L
Feb 25	5:44 a.m.	-0.5 L	2:52 p.m.	1.3 H	5:56 p.m.	0.8 L
Feb 26	6:42 a.m.	-0.5 L	3:11 p.m.	1.3 H	6:43 p.m.	0.6 L

### South Padre Island

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 12	08:06 a.m.	-0.3 L	5:05 p.m.	1.2 H	9:18 p.m.	1.0 L
Feb 13	08:40 a.m.	-0.1 L	5:05 p.m.	1.1 H	9:21 p.m.	1.0 L
Feb 14	12:56 a.m.	1.1 H	9:10 a.m.	0.0 L	4:58 p.m.	1.0 H
Feb 15	2:06 a.m.	1.0 H	9:39 a.m.	0.1 L	4:46 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 16	3:16 a.m.	0.9 H	10:08 a.m.	0.3 L	4:32 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 17	4:32 a.m.	0.9 H	10:42 a.m.	0.4 L	4:17 p.m.	0.8 H
Feb 18	5:59 a.m.	0.9 H	11:21 a.m.	0.6 L	3:58 p.m.	0.8 H
Feb 19	7:49 a.m.	0.9 H	12:12 p.m.	0.8 L	3:27 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 20	12:20 a.m.	-0.2 L	10:19 a.m.	1.0 H		
Feb 21	1:17 a.m.	-0.4 L	12:29 p.m.	1.2 H		
Feb 22	2:23 a.m.	-0.5 L	1:32 p.m.	1.4 H		
Feb 23	3:33 a.m.	-0.6 L	2:19 p.m.	1.5 H		
Feb 24	4:41 a.m.	-0.7 L	2:57 p.m.	1.6 H		
Feb 25	5:46 a.m.	-0.7 L	3:24 p.m.	1.5 H		
Feb 26	6:46 a.m.	-0.6 L	3:38 p.m.	1.4 H	7:59 p.m.	1.2 L

## Solunar | Sun times | Moon times

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

### Houston

2010	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Feb-Mar	Minor Major	Minor Major	Rises Sets	Rises Sets
12 Fri >	3:45 9:56	4:07 10:18	7:03 6:07	6:07a 5:07p
13 Sat N	4:27 10:37	4:48 10:59	7:02 6:08	6:39a 6:02p
14 Sun >	5:09 10:55	5:29 ----	7:01 6:08	7:09a 6:55p
15 Mon >	5:51 11:37	6:11 12:01	7:00 6:09	7:37a 7:47p
16 Tue >	6:35 12:25	6:55 12:45	6:59 6:10	8:05a 8:40p
17 Wed	7:20 1:10	7:41 1:31	6:58 6:11	8:34a 9:34p
18 Thu	8:08 1:57	8:30 2:19	6:58 6:12	9:04a 10:31p
19 Fri	8:58 2:46	9:21 3:10	6:57 6:12	9:38a 11:30p
20 Sat	9:51 3:38	10:16 4:03	6:56 6:13	10:16a NoMoon
21 Sun Q	10:46 4:32	11:13 4:59	6:55 6:14	11:01a 12:31a
22 Mon	11:42 5:27	---- 5:57	6:54 6:15	11:54a 1:33a
23 Tue	12:09 6:24	12:39 6:54	6:53 6:15	12:54p 2:34a
24 Wed	1:05 7:20	1:35 7:50	6:52 6:16	2:01p 3:32a
25 Thu	1:59 8:14	2:30 8:45	6:51 6:17	3:12p 4:25a
26 Fri	2:53 9:07	3:22 9:36	6:50 6:18	4:24p 5:12a
27 Sat >	3:45 9:59	4:13 10:26	6:49 6:18	5:34p 5:54a
28 Sun >	4:37 10:50	5:04 11:17	6:48 6:19	6:43p 6:32a
01 Mon F	5:30 11:43	5:56 ----	6:47 6:20	7:50p 7:08a
02 Tue >	6:26 12:13	6:51 12:38	6:45 6:20	8:57p 7:44a
03 Wed >	7:23 1:10	7:49 1:36	6:44 6:21	10:03p 8:22a

### Dallas

2010	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Feb-Mar	Minor Major	Minor Major	Rises Sets	Rises Sets
12 Fri >	3:50 10:01	4:12 10:24	7:12 6:08	6:18a 5:08p
13 Sat N	4:32 10:43	4:54 11:04	7:12 6:09	6:49a 6:04p
14 Sun >	5:14 11:00	5:35 ----	7:11 6:10	7:17a 6:59p
15 Mon >	5:57 11:43	6:17 12:07	7:10 6:11	7:44a 7:53p
16 Tue >	6:40 12:30	7:01 12:51	7:09 6:12	8:10a 8:47p
17 Wed				

# FISHING REPORT

## HOT BITES

### LARGEMOUTH BASS



**AMISTAD:** Good on football jigs, crankbaits, jigging spoons and soft plastics.

**BASTROP:** Good on watermelon red soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits.

**BELTON:** Good on spinnerbaits and trolling Rat-L-Traps.

**LB:** Good on pumpkin drop-shot worms, PBJ-colored jigs and green pumpkin tubes on docks and seawalls.

**WHITNEY:** Good on watermelon soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits.

### WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



**BRAUNIG:** Striped bass are excellent on liver and shad at Dead Tree Point and near the pier and down-rigging silver and gold spoons and marble spinners near the dam.

**BROWNWOOD:** White bass are excellent on L'l Fishies and crawdad crankbaits.

**CEDAR CREEK:** White bass are good on slabs.

**CHOKE CANYON:** White bass are good on small spinnerbaits and Rapalas off the bank in the river 5 miles south of the dam.

### CATFISH



**CALAVERAS:** Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp and cheesebait near the railroad trestle and 181 Cove.

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

**COLEMAN:** Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait and frozen shrimp.

**COLETO CREEK:** Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with perch in 6-15 feet.

**CONROE:** Good on stinkbait, liver and frozen shrimp.

**GIBBONS CREEK:** Good on frozen shrimp and stinkbait.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Channel and blue catfish are good using chum baits.

**LEWISVILLE:** Good on prepared bait and cut shad.

### CRAPPIE



**LIVINGSTON:** Very good on minnows.

**LAVON:** Good on minnows and jigs.

**PROCTOR:** Good on minnows.

**ALAN HENRY:** Water lightly stained; 45 degrees; 1.31' low. Black bass are fair on live bait and black/blue jigs and soft plastics suspended in trees. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on live bait.

**AMISTAD:** Water clear; 53 degrees; 1.96' low. Striped bass are good on slabs and jigging spoons. White bass are good on slabs and jigging spoons. Catfish are fair on shrimp, nightcrawlers and cheesebait. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live perch.

**ARROWHEAD:** Water lightly stained; 46 degrees; 6.32' low. Black bass are slow on crankbaits or black/blue jigs off rocky points. Crappie are fair on black and green tube jigs off the derricks in 25-30 feet. White bass to 15 inches are fair in shallows — watch for birds. Blue catfish are fair on cheese bait while drift fishing or anchored in 8-10 feet.

**ATHENS:** Water fairly clear, 44-50 degrees; 0.43' high. Black bass are slow to fair on jigs and Texas rigs worked slowly. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs fished over brush piles. Catfish are fair on prepared bait.

**BASTROP:** Water stained. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait and shrimp.

**BELTON:** Water murky; 50 degrees; 9.39' high. Hybrid striped are fair on live shad. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows under lights at night. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, summer sausage and hot dogs.

**BOB SANDLIN:** Water stained; 43-49 degrees; 0.05' high. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps and wacky rigs. Crappie are fair under the bridges. No reports on white bass or catfish.

**BRAUNIG:** Water clear; 55 degrees. Black bass are good on crankbaits and dark soft plastic worms in the reeds and near the jetty and dam. Redfish are slow. Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheesebait and cut bait near the spillway and the discharge. Blue catfish are good on cut bait.

**BROWNWOOD:** Water stained; 52 degrees; 7.34' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse spinnerbaits, craws, black/blue jigs, crankbaits and chrome/blue Rat-L-Traps along shorelines in 1-5 feet. Hybrid striped are slow. Crappie are fair on L'l Fishies and tube jigs over brush piles in 15-22 feet. Channel catfish are slow.

**BUCHANAN:** Water murky; 52 degrees; 19.57' low. Black bass are fair on Carolina-rigged black/blue lizards. Striped bass are fair drifting live bait in 28 feet. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on crappie minnows over brush piles in 12-15 feet. Channel catfish are slow.

**CADDO:** Water murky; 44-51 degrees; 1.82' high. Black bass are slow on flukes, jigs and spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

**CALAVERAS:** Water clear; 55 degrees. Black bass are good on dark soft plastic worms, spinnerbaits and crankbaits around reed beds and near the dam. Striped bass are good on spoons and jigs near the crappie wall and the dam in 15-20 feet and on chicken livers, shad and minnows along the shoreline. Redfish are slow. Crappie are slow.

**CANYON LAKE:** Water murky; 51 degrees; 6.57' low. Black bass are fair on Carolina-rigged lizards in 15-25 feet. Striped bass are fair to good trolling 1/4 oz. white striper jigs. White bass are fair jigging artificial minnows. Smallmouth bass are fair to good on smoke/red flake tubes, tomato red curl tail grubs and matching drop-shot worms. Crappie are fair on minnows and crappie jigs upriver. Channel catfish are slow.

**CEDAR CREEK:** Water stained; 43-49 degrees; 0.08' high. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striped are fair on live shad and large slabs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows. Catfish are fair.

**CHOKE CANYON:** Water clear; 54 degrees; 9.12' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastic worms and lizards and flipping jigs in the grass. Crappie are slow. Drum are slow. Channel and blue catfish

are good on punch bait in 5-8 feet. Yellow catfish are fair on live perch.

**COLEMAN:** Water murky; 51 degrees; 9.34' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Hybrid striped are fair on minnows and white striper jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows.

**COLETO CREEK:** Water stained; 56 degrees (73 degrees at discharge); 0.07' low. Black bass to 8 pounds are fair on soft plastics and spinnerbaits in 3-12 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish to 6 pounds are good on shrimp, liver and nightcrawlers.

**CONROE:** Water fairly clear; 0.43' high. Black bass are fair on watermelon soft plastics, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps in 15-30 feet. Striped bass are fair on minnows. Crappie are fair on minnows.

**FAIRFIELD:** Water fairly clear; 58-86 degrees. Black bass are fair on Senkos, spinnerbaits and split-shot-rigged Ring Frys. Redfish are fair to good on live bait.

live bait. Walleye are slow on live bait. Catfish are slow on live bait.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water fairly clear; 53 degrees; 0.78' high. Black bass are good on watermelon soft plastic centipedes near the dam in 18 feet. Crappie are good on live minnows near the dam.

**HUBBARD CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 53 degrees; 7.50' low. Black bass are fair on live bait and black/blue jigs worked suspended along grass lines and timber. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. White bass are fair. Catfish are fair.

**JOE POOL:** Water off-color; 43-49 degrees; 0.41' high. Black bass are fair on crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on slabs. Catfish are fair on prepared baits and nightcrawlers.

**LAKE O' THE PINES:** Water stained; 43-49 degrees; 4.6' high. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, jigs and Carolina rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs in 15-25 feet. Catfish are fair on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

## HOT SPOT



### Lake Travis

**Water murky; 54 degrees; 17.43' low. Black bass are good on black worms, chrome spoons, and firetiger crankbaits in 15-35 feet. Striped bass are good on shad crankbaits and chrome spoons in 32-50 feet. White bass are good on minnows, white grubs, and chrome spoons in 35-55 feet. Crappie are fair on minnows and pink and white tube jigs in 18-40 feet. Channel and blue catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and blood bait in 35-48 feet.**

**FALCON:** Water clear; 59 degrees. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and soft plastics in 1-6 feet. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are very good on small crappie rigs.

**FAYETTE:** Water stained; 52 degrees. Black bass are slow. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

**FORK:** Water stained; 43-49 degrees; 0.15' high. Black bass are fair on jigs, Rat-L-Traps and Carolina rigs. Crappie are fair to good on live minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on live and prepared bait.

**GIBBONS CREEK:** Water clear. Black bass are fair on watermelon red and watermelon/white soft plastics and crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows.

**GRANBURY:** Water clear; 0.36' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon and watermelon red soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp and stinkbait.

**GRANGER:** Water murky; 48 degrees; 1.32' high. Black bass are slow. White bass are fair on slabs upriver near Comanche Bluff. Crappie are slow. Blue catfish are slow.

**GRAPEVINE:** Water stained; 44-51 degrees; 0.4' high. Black bass are slow to fair on crankbaits, Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Catfish are fair on prepared bait and cut bait.

**GREENBELT:** Water stained; 33 degrees; 33.02' low. Black bass are slow on Carolina-rigged watermelon soft plastics and live bait. Crappie are slow on jigs and minnows. White bass are slow on live bait. Smallmouth bass are slow on

**LAVON:** Water stained; 44-51 degrees; 0.25' high. Black bass are fair on jerkbaits, crankbaits and drop shot rigs. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and prepared bait.

**LB:** Water stained; 54 degrees; 0.32' low. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair to good on silver artificial minnows and shads in the channel around the power plant. Crappie are fair on minnows in brush piles under heated docks. Channel catfish are fair on minnows and worms. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water stained; 43-50 degrees; conservation pool. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, Carolina rigs, drop-shot rigs and shad pattern crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Hybrid striped are fair on slabs and Sassy Shad.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water fairly clear; 54 degrees; 0.41' high. Black bass are good on buzzbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps and soft plastics. Blue catfish are good on shad.

**MACKENZIE:** Water lightly stained; 33 degrees; 79.38' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass and striped bass are slow on live bait. Smallmouth bass are slow. Walleye are slow on live bait. Catfish are slow on live bait.

**MEREDITH:** Water stained; 36 degrees; 77.86' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. White bass are fair on live bait. Smallmouth bass are slow. Walleye are fair on live bait. Channel catfish are fair on live bait.

**MONTICELLO:** Water fairly clear; 52-84 degrees; 0.62' high. Black bass are fair

to good on drop-shot rigs, Rat-L-Traps and Carolina rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on prepared bait.

**NAVARRO MILLS:** Water murky; 48 degrees; 4.94' high. Black bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on stinkbait and nightcrawlers.

**O.H. IVIE:** Water lightly stained; 50 degrees; 21.76' low. Black bass are fair on slow-rolled chartreuse/white spinnerbaits, Carolina-rigged soft plastics and live bait worked along channels. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on live bait. Smallmouth bass are fair on live bait. Channel catfish are good on live bait.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water stained; 52 degrees; 5.34' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon pepper soft plastics and shad-colored crankbaits off points in the Long Hollow and Caddo areas. Crappie are slow on live bait and jigs. White bass are good on silver jigging spoons. Strippers are good on silver spoons and shad-colored crankbaits. Catfish are good on live shad and cut liver on points.

**PROCTOR:** Water murky; 53 degrees; 4.88' low. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on juglines baited with cut shad.

**RAY HUBBARD:** Water fairly clear; 45-50 degrees; 0.01' high. Black bass are fair on white or chrome crankbaits, Carolina rigs and drop-shot rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on slabs. Hybrid striped are fair. Catfish are fair on cut and prepared bait.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water stained; 42-46 degrees; 1.19' high. Black bass are slow on crankbaits. White bass are good on jigging spoons and slabs.

**RICHLAND CHAMBERS:** Water off-color; 44-51 degrees; 0.02' high. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, crankbaits and jigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs and live minnows. Hybrid striped are fair on slabs and live shad. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on prepared baits and nightcrawlers.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Water stained; 55 degrees; 2.05' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red soft plastics, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. White bass are fair on live minnows and white spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows. Bream are fair on worms. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp and stinkbait.

**SOMERVILLE:** Water murky; 52 degrees; 1.21' high. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striped are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait.

**TAWAKONI:** Water fairly clear; 44-50 degrees; 0.21' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Striped bass and hybrid striped are fair on live shad and slabs. Catfish are fair to good on cut shad and prepared bait.

**TEXOMA:** Water off-color; 44-49 degrees; 0.02' low. Black bass are slow to fair on crankbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Striped bass are fair to good on slabs worked slowly. Catfish are fair to good on cut shad and prepared bait.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water lightly stained; 54 degrees; 3.49' low. Black bass are fair on dark red soft plastics and on white spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Bream are fair on worms. Channel and blue catfish are good on live bait, frozen shrimp and stinkbait.

**WALTER E. LONG:** Water stained; 53 degrees. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striped are fair on minnows and green soft plastic worms at the gravel pit and the hot water outlet. White bass are fair on minnows and green soft plastic worms. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on crickets and shrimp.

**WHITNEY:** Water murky; 0.70' low. Striped bass are fair on minnows and white striper jigs. White bass are fair on minnows. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, liver and stinkbait.

## SALTWATER SCENE

**NORTH SABINE:** Redfish are fair to good at the discharge canal on peeled shrimp. Black drum are fair around rock groins. Sand trout are good in the deep holes on shrimp.



**SOUTH SABINE:** Bull redfish are good at the jetty on crabs. Sheepshead and black drum are good at the jetty on live shrimp.

**BOLIVAR:** Sand trout are fair to good in the ICW on shrimp. Black drum and redfish are good at Rollover Pass.

**TRINITY BAY:** Redfish are fair to good in the bayous for waders tossing plastics. Redfish are good at the spillway on crabs and mullet.

**EAST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are fair over deep mud and structures on MirrOlures. Whiting and sand trout are good on the edge of the Intracoastal on fresh shrimp.

**WEST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are fair for waders in the mud and shell on MirrOlures and Corkies. Sheepshead, redfish and black drum are good at the jetty on shrimp and crabs.

**FREEPORT:** Sand trout and sheepshead are good on live shrimp on the reefs. Redfish are good in Cold Pass and San Luis pass on cracked blue crabs.

**EAST MATAGORDA BAY:** Trout are fair for drifters on live shrimp over humps and scattered shell. Redfish are fair on the edge of the Intracoastal on crabs and mullet.



**WEST MATAGORDA BAY:** Redfish are fair on the south shoreline in the guts and bayous. Sheepshead are fair around piers and rocks on shrimp.

**PORT O'CONNOR:** Redfish are fair on Corkies over soft mud and drop-offs near reefs on plastics. Redfish are fair at the mouths of drains on soft plastics and gold spoons.

**ROCKPORT:** Redfish are fair to good at California Hole on shrimp. Trout are fair on the edge of the ICW on glow DOA Shrimp. Redfish are fair to good on the edge of the Estes Flats on mullet and shrimp.



**PORT ARANSAS:** Redfish are fair to good on the edge of the channel on Gulps and mullet. Sand trout are good on shrimp in the channel.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Redfish are fair good in the Humble Channel and around Em-mords Hole on crabs and shrimp. Trout are best on the edge of the flats on live shrimp and DOA Shrimp.

**BAFFIN BAY:** Trout are fair to good in mud and rocks on Corkies and Catch 2000s. Redfish are fair on the edge of the Land Cut on plastics tipped with shrimp.

**PORT MANSFIELD:** Trout are fair to good on DOA Shrimp around grass holes. Trout and redfish are fair on muddy shorelines and on the edge of the ICW on Corkies and soft plastics worked slowly.

**SOUTH PADRE:** Trout and redfish are fair on the edge of the Intracoastal on DOA Shrimp and Gulps. Redfish, black drum and mangrove snapper are fair to good in the channel on shrimp.

**PORT ISABEL:** Trout are fair on the edge of the flats on soft plastics and imitation shrimp. Redfish are fair in the deep holes and along the edge of the channel on gold spoons and jigs tipped with shrimp.



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# Goose egg: Season's end not here soon enough for some

## With few young snow geese, hunters struggle

By Doug Pike  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

History may have recorded a poorer Texas snow goose season than the one most recently finished, but not many living hunters could recall it. For the most obvious of reasons, this one was a flop.

"There was talk of a bad hatch before the season started, like maybe 5 percent young," said Bink Grimes, who hunts primarily on the prairie southwest of Houston near El Campo. "But it was even worse than that. You could take a picture of a bunch of birds, blow it up on the computer and start counting, and it was more like one or maybe two young birds for every couple of hundred you counted."

Any season during which the migration is so lacking in young, inexperienced snow geese is going to be a tough one, no matter when or where a hunters sets decoys.

"I started off in Canada, hunting over electronic callers back in September," said guide Will Beaty. "They wouldn't decoy up there, either."

Beaty said that the effort up north wasn't half-hearted, either. Their spreads consisted of as many as 1,000 pieces, and the men there were all experienced hunters. Mature snow geese, as anyone who hunts them knows, are smart.

Hundreds of tales were told this year over lunch tables at country restaurants of geese that locked wings and glided beautifully toward decoy spreads, only to sound their alarms and bank hard away as they got within 100 yards or so. There's something the old birds see that gives away the fakery, and hunters haven't yet figured out what that is.

Beaty said that despite the season being slow overall, his groups posted decent shoots on mornings when a heavy overcast hung over coastal marsh through parts of Galveston and Chambers Counties. There, in the lingering wake of Hurricane Ike, native plants are recovering well and invasive species were knocked sharply back.

"Marsh habitat was the best I've seen it in years," Beaty said. "What we call 'three-square'

grass is doing really well, and the geese love it. They eat the blades, the roots and all. When we had weather, we had some pretty good shoots in the marsh."

Grimes, hunting a prairie on which agricultural practices have changed in recent years to include fewer and fewer acres of rice (a favorite of wintering geese), said his goose hunts were tough, rain or shine or fog or snow.

"You couldn't pattern the birds at all," Grimes said. "They'd stack up in a place for a couple of days, and you'd go set up on them, and they'd do something entirely different that morning."

Fortunately for both men, and for most waterfowl hunters, duck hunting across the coastal region was above average or better.

"Our duck action was off the charts," Beaty said. "We had birds from the start, and they were here right to the end."

Grimes and company were equally fortunate with ducks. And despite this year's outcome on geese, he remained optimistic.

"I can't ever remember having back-to-back hatches this bad," said Grimes. "So next year could be pretty good."



**TOO FEW, TOO SMART:** A poor hatch last year means fewer inexperienced, juvenile snow geese for hunters this season. Hunters and guides have reported encountering smarter birds in the field this year. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

## Spending

Continued from Page 1

asked state agencies to make plans for possibly receiving less money from the state. Although Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, said the move was precautionary, Gov. Rick Perry indicated he may seek immediate budget cuts.

More than half the state budget comes from sales taxes. Given the nation's recession, people aren't shopping as much, leading to a downturn unforeseen by the Legislature and governor when the budget was written a year ago. The budget, which started last September and goes through August 2011, allocated \$87 billion to agencies.

However, the state Legislative Budget Board envisions a deficit of \$10.8 billion, with some projections reaching \$20 billion.

No decisions have yet been made on TPW cuts, according to Gene McCarty, TPW's deputy executive director for administration. Staff recommendations are being reviewed by the TPW Commission this week. The department is primarily funded through hunting and fishing license sales, state park entrance and camping fees, and a dedicated portion of the state sporting goods sales tax.

TPW has more than 3,000 employees. Agency officials aren't saying whether jobs are at risk — in stark contrast to University of Texas at Austin officials, for example, who bluntly said that cutting costs will mean shedding salaries.

Both Dewhurst and Straus have given TPW and other agencies some hope that budget cuts may not be needed or, at least, might be less than 5 percent. The two men cited forecasts by Comptroller Susan Combs that the Texas economy is likely to rebound this spring or summer.

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# Commission approves \$2.5 million in ramp grants

## Money comes from federal sport fishing tax

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved \$2.5 million in grants to pay for 10 boat ramp construction or repair projects.

The funding receiving the commission's OK at its Jan. 28 meeting comes from the federal recreational boating gasoline tax and an excise tax on fishing tackle collected under the Federal Aid to Sport Fish Recreation Act. The program provides funding for the purchase, construction, renovation and maintenance of boat ramps, access roads and other related projects aimed at improving the recreational boater's access to public waters.

Local governments will operate and maintain the ramps.

The grants include:

- The Aransas County Navigation District will receive \$215,628 to expand the parking area at the boat ramp on the south side of Copano Bay, construct a walkway to improve access for people with disabilities, build covered picnic tables and provide signs.
- The city of Bastrop will receive \$397,600 to replace an old boat ramp to provide better access to the Colorado River, do dredging and place bulkheads needed to prevent bank erosion. The money also will allow for construction of a parking area and a sidewalk to improve access for people with disabilities.
- The Brazos River Authority will receive \$82,500 for renovation and expansion of a boat ramp on Lake Granbury in Hood County that had been damaged and in danger of collapse. The grant also covers bulkheads, lighting and signs.
- The city of Corpus Christi will receive \$500,000 to renovate and upgrade the heavily used Clem's Boat Ramp as well as the access road, parking area, utilities, courtesy dock, bulkhead and signs. The project will improve access to the Laguna Madre and Intracoastal Waterway.
- Calhoun County will receive \$126,000 to build a rock jetty to protect an existing public boat ramp on Magnolia Beach and improve lighting and signage. The boat ramp affords public access to Lavaca Bay. The jetty will project against silting and wave damage and make it safer to launch or land at the ramp.
- The city of Grapevine will receive \$198,750 for construction of a pavilion and restroom at the existing Meadowmere Park public boat ramp on Lake Grapevine in Tarrant County.
- The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority will receive \$75,000 for renovation of a boat ramp at Lake Wood, plus a walkway and courtesy dock to improve access for people with disabilities, new bulkhead, lighting and signage.
- The city of Jefferson will receive \$361,500 for construction of a boat ramp, parking area, access road, courtesy dock, lighting, a walkway to improve access for people with disabilities, and signage at Big Cypress Bayou in Marion County.
- The city of Port Isabel will receive \$388,330 to renovate and improve a boat ramp, parking area, bulkheads, restroom, utilities and lighting at Pompano Street on the Laguna Madre. The grant also will cover construction of a new courtesy dock and fish cleaning table.
- Tom Green County will receive \$199,941 for construction of a new boat ramp on the South Concho River to replace an older ramp. The grant also will fund a parking area, bank stabilization and signs.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

# Trout

Continued from Page 1

to 15 degrees, and club members contended with iced rod guides and frozen waders as they helped tournament anglers — mostly local children with their parents — with the fundamentals of the long rod.

On Sunday, Rob Burlingame landed a 7-pound, 13-ounce trout, displacing the as-yet-uncertified, one-day-old state record.

“After seeing Walter’s fish on Friday, which was almost 7 pounds, we were all shocked,” Burlingame said. “We knew it was a big fish, but we didn’t know what the record was for the state until we got back to the cabin and punched it up on a guy’s iPhone.”

In addition to helping with the tournament and promotional event, hosted by the Texas Hill Country Rivers Region, the San Antonio anglers were hoping to fill the larder for the club’s January dinner.

“When we went to the dinner we told everyone there we had two state records that would be served that night,” Burlingame said. “You can’t say that very often.”

The big trout, he added, tasted pretty good.

The end of Trout Days didn’t bring an end to record entries. The next Wednesday, Jan. 13, Timothy “T.J.” Boehm of Canyon Lake drove to Uvalde with friends and, on his second cast, hooked into a big fish.

“I was using my son’s \$8 rod and spinning reel, with a Berkely Power-Bait speckled salmon egg, because it was already rigged-up,” Boehm said. “I thought it was a carp that hit it. Then I saw it roll, and I was like, ‘Oh Lord, that’s a rainbow!’”

Boehm stayed to get a limit of five fish, but had the big one weighed

on the return to his home on the Guadalupe River. The 26.5-inch trout, full of roe, weighed 8.92 pounds and is now the new rod-and-reel and all-tackle state record.

“It was a great experience,” he said. “I’ve lived overseas and done a lot of fishing, for everything from sailfish to grouper to barracuda, but this was just a real special experience for Texas.”

And the fish? The fish, Boehm said, “ate real nice.”

The spate of records from the Nueces River in Uvalde County may not be over. When the Hill Country Rivers Region ordered their trout, they asked for 100 pounds of “lunkers.” Apparently it did not occur to organizers — or to the fish stockers — that they were putting potential state records in the river.

But John Johnson, a pond consultant and stocker at Arms Bait Company and Fish Farm in Proctor wasn’t too surprised.

“We didn’t know anything about the size of the record,” Johnson said. “We don’t weigh individual fish, we just put them in a bucket and weigh a tub of them.”

Johnson said organizers of the Uvalde event requested 100 pounds of lunkers, and 400 pounds of half-pound fish. The lunkers, he said, could range from 6 to 9 pounds, “sometimes even a little bigger.”

“They come in from Missouri at a pretty good size,” he said. “We don’t stock them with the intention of setting records, we stock them with intention of the customers having a good winter of fishing.”

Anglers who don’t manage to hang a lunker trout at the Nueces this year might come back around in 2011 for even more opportunity. The Texas Hill Country Rivers Region reports that it will be stocking fish in the Frio River as well.



**TOAD TROUT:** T.J. Boehm of Canyon Lake caught the 8.92-pound state record rainbow trout using “my son’s \$8 rod and spinning reel.”



**RECORD FOR A DAY:** Walter Ross caught a 6-pound, 10-ounce rainbow trout, a fish that unofficially, briefly became the new fly rod state record. Photo by Rob Burlingame.

## Stocking schedule

Below are the remaining locations and dates for trout stocking by Texas Parks and Wildlife in Texas.

Location	City	Stocking date
Ascarate	El Paso	Feb. 21
Atascosa River	Pleasanton	Feb. 18
Bear Creek Park	Keller	Feb. 27
Blanco State Park #4	Blanco	Feb. 24
Buena Vista Park Lake	Waco*	
Bullfrog Pond	Austin*	
Canyon Southeast Park Lake	Canyon	Feb. 12
Cleburne-Hulen Park	Cleburne	Feb. 16
Comanche Trails Park	Odessa	Feb. 21
Copperas Cove City	Copperas Cove	Feb. 14
Doornbos Park	Nederland	Feb. 21
Fort Richardson State Park	Jacksboro	Feb. 14
Frisco Commons Pond	Frisco	Feb. 14
Greenbriar Park	Fort Worth*	
Hurst Chisholm Park	Hurst*	
Kidd Springs Park	Dallas	Feb. 24
Lakeside Park	Duncanville *	
Lewisville Tailrace	Lewisville	Feb. 26
Mary Jo Peckham Park	Houston*	
Medical Center South	Amarillo*	
Mike Lewis Park	Grand Prairie	Feb. 18, March 7
Miller’s Pond	San Antonio *	
Nolan Creek	Belton	Feb. 12
Pair-a-Trees Pond	Wills Point	Feb. 21
Pampa City	Pampa City	Feb. 18
Pittsburg City Lake	Pittsburg	Feb. 28
Plum Lake	Wichita Falls*	
Possum Kingdom Tailrace	Graford	March 2
Samuel Farm Pond	Mesquite	Feb. 17
South Lakes Park Pond	Denton*	
Spring Lake Park	Texarkana	Feb. 27
Teague Park	Longview	Feb. 14
Temple Lion’s Park Lake	Temple	Feb. 14
Tom Bass I	Houston*	
Two-Acre Lake	Canton	Feb. 14
Utopia Park Lake	Utopia	Feb. 16
Veterans Park	Fort Worth	Feb. 23
Waterloo Park Pond	Denison	Feb. 14

\*Stocked periodically until early March.

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**Puzzle solution from Page 19**

G	U	N	D	O	G		G		A	C	T	I	O	N						
O		U		E	V	E	N		D		H		N	F						
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