

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS



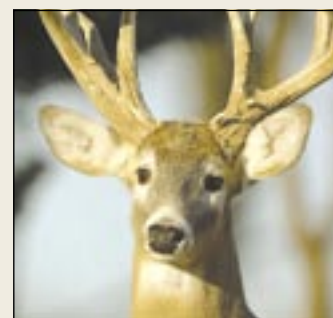
February 27, 2009

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 5, Issue 13



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Hearing like the hunter's

Deer have hearing similar to humans. **Page 6**

INSIDE HUNTING



Roadkill warrior

Robert Davidson has a unique way of monitoring the rut in Comal County.

Page 6

Obey their laws, too

Texas might join an agreement to penalize Texans who break other states' laws.

Page 6

Hog wrecks rising

Wrecks between vehicles and feral hogs have risen in Texas.

Page 7

FISHING



Trailer tuneup

Put your boat in the water, not on the street: a few tips for trailer maintenance.

Page 8

Padre guide permit

Guides along Padre Island National Seashore will have to carry a federal permit.

Page 8

CONSERVATION

RMEF loves Texans

There's a reason the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is bringing its show to Texas.

Page 4

NATIONAL

Sales up in 2008

Guns and ammunition sales — and the taxes collected with them — rose in 2008.

Page 5

INDEX

Classifieds	Page 19
Crossword	Page 16
Game Warden Blotter	Page 10
Fishing Report	Page 17
Heroes	Page 12
Outdoor Datebook	Page 19
Products	Page 20
Weather	Page 16
For the Table	Page 16



Big, gentle fly

For speckled trout, soft landing crucial

By Scott Sommerlatte
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Fly anglers have no magic bullet for catching big speckled trout, but they do have preferences for fly selection on the Texas coast. A few Texas captains have advice for finding what works.

"One of my favorite flies is a big mullet imitation made of deer hair," said mid-coast skiff guide Ethan Wells. "It is real important that fly floats or suspends right above the fish so the deer hair has to be stacked as tightly as possible."

In addition, Wells likes to use a fly that has become very popular with Florida Keys tarpon anglers — the Toad — when he is targeting fish laying up in potholes. He typically will have anglers cast into the hole and let the fly sit for a moment before starting the retrieve.

"The beauty of the Toad is that,

while it sinks faster than the mullet patterns that I fish, it really breathes, which tends to trigger strikes with very little manipulation of the fly by the angler," Wells said.

Top trout anglers believe the fly should be fished above the fish, and it should move or undulate when not being retrieved. Landing the fly quietly on the water is crucial to avoid spooking the fish, so weighted flies are rarely used unless fishing water more than 2 feet deep.

Lower Laguna Madre fly guide Dale Fridy chooses a big Sea-Ducer over just about every other fly.

"One of the best big trout anglers on the coast, Dave Hayward, and I have studied it for years," Fridy said. "A big Sea-Ducer with a very full, palmered (spun hackle) head lands very softly, fishes very shallow and then pulses when it sits

See **TROUT FLIES**, Page 14

TROUT TIPS

- **Lower Laguna:** Fishing still hot with new bag limits. **Page 8**
- **Big bite:** Speckled trout fishing report. **Page 8**

INSIDE

ABOUT TROUT: Speckled trout feast on a variety of fly patterns, but anglers would do well to try three favorites. Photo by Scott Sommerlatte, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Cold can kill: Ways to avoid hypothermia

State known for heat has dangerous low temps too

By Mark England
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Two feet of water on a 12-degree day almost took R.D. Wilson's life. He fell into a southern Arkansas river while duck hunting Jan. 22. His waders filled with what was literally ice water. Fortunately, one of his hunting companions noticed a disoriented Wilson try-

ing to load his shotgun brass first.

He escorted him back to their vehicles and summoned help.

"It's a day that will live in infamy," said Wilson, a Texas decoy carver. "I had no idea hypothermia was that dangerous."

About 750 Americans die annually from hypothermia, where the body's core temperature drops from prolonged exposure to cold, according to the Center for Disease Control. The initial symptoms are sleepiness, confusion and clumsiness.

Last month, an Amarillo father and

See **HYPOTHERMIA**, Page 21



BIG CHILL: Waterfowl hunters and anglers are at risk of hypothermia. Caution is needed while in the outdoors when temperatures drop. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.



JUBILATION: Skeet Reese celebrates his weigh-in from the final day of the Bassmaster Classic. Photo by BASS.

Reese wins Classic

Texans come close on Red River

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Skeet Reese feared his second close finish at the Bassmaster Classic would be a repeat of 2007 — when he lost by 6 ounces to Boyd Duckett.

Add to that fear the screams that might have been heard from miles away on the Red River coming from Mike Iaconelli as he landed bass after bass during the Classic's final day.

See **CLASSIC**, Page 14

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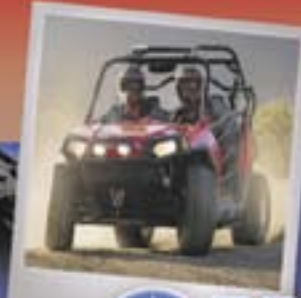
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CONSERVATION

Passion helps Texas land elk show

Exhibits, seminars set for Fort Worth

Wild elk have never been prevalent in Texas, but the species remains an inspiration for conservationists active in Texas chapters of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Since 1984, Texans have raised more than \$7.3 million for RMEF habitat projects while keeping another \$215,000 for conservation and education initiatives at home.

"Among states without major elk populations, Texas is far and away our most successful fundraising state," said Steve Decker, RMEF director of field programs. "Actually, Texas performs at a higher level than most Rocky Mountain states. And the big numbers aren't just related to the size of the state. Clearly, Texans are passionate about conserving pristine western landscapes, and they're passionate about elk."

Texas has been a major player in helping RMEF reach its recent milestone of 5.5 million acres enhanced or conserved for elk and other wildlife. Within the state, RMEF funds on-



ELK AWARE:

Texans have made strong commitments to elk, and the state will host the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's 25th annual Elk Camp & Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Expo from March 5-8. Daily admission is \$12 per person, \$25 per family and free for kids 5 and under. Photo by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

going research on habitat preferences, movement patterns and demographics of the 150 elk in the Glass Mountains of West Texas. Smaller herds occur in the Guadalupe Mountains and three other nearby ranges, but none exceeds 40 elk. Though classified as non-native species that can be hunted any time of year, research may lead to private-land management to ensure the future of wild elk in the region.

Texas' commitment to conser-

vation helped it become the site of RMEF's silver anniversary convention. The 25th annual Elk Camp & Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Expo runs March 5-8 at the Fort Worth Convention Center. The event includes the RMEF/Leupold 2009 World Elk Calling Championships, seminars, displays of record elk, children's activities and an exhibit hall filled with art, gear, firearms and outfitters.

—Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation report

Outdoor News in Brief

Report: Annual loss of 59,000 acres of wetlands near coasts

While the nation as a whole gained wetlands from 1998 to 2004, a new report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration documents a continuing loss of wetlands in coastal watersheds of the eastern United States.

The new report shows an annual loss of 59,000 acres

of wetlands in coastal watersheds of the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Great Lakes from 1998 to 2004. The losses of wetlands in coastal watersheds are in stark contrast to the nationwide increase in wetlands over this same time period. A UFWS report on the status and trends of wetlands nationwide from 1998 to 2004 found a net gain of 32,000 acres per year because of inland gains.

This wetland loss is concentrated in coastal watersheds because of the large number of people living in and moving to coastal areas. It is estimated that more than half of the country's population now lives in coastal counties at densities about five times greater than inland counties.

— U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report



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For more information, contact Helen Holdsworth at (800) 839-9453, (210) 826-2904, or h_holdsworth@texas-wildlife.org.



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NATIONAL

Gun, ammo sales, tax revenues rise

New data from the U.S. Treasury Department show sales by firearm and ammunition manufacturers increased 9.7 percent between July and September when compared with the same period in 2007.

Sales of pistols and revolvers were up 23.6 percent, ammo sales rose 8.4 percent and long gun sales saw a 4.1-percent increase, according to the latest Pittman-Robertson federal excise tax collection report.

During the quarter, \$89.7 million was generated for conservation — \$19.8 million was collected for pistols and revolvers, \$33.2 mil-

lion for long guns and \$36.6 million for ammunition. The latest tax collections suggest overall sales of \$834.2 million, not including retail markup or final retail sales.

Total excise tax collections for the federal government's fiscal year (Oct. 1 to Sept. 30) were \$321.9 million.

Firearms and ammunition excise tax collections for third quarter of calendar year 2008: handguns, \$19,882,672.52; long guns, \$33,253,298.08; and ammunition, \$36,643,018.49.

— *National Shooting Sports Foundation report*

National News in Brief

House lets nonresidents hunt elk on N.M. preserve

In an effort to raise money for operations and improvements, the Valdes Caldera National Preserve may offer out-of-state hunters the chance to bid on elk hunts at one of New Mexico's prime locations

Under a bill passed in the House, the preserve will auction off a certain number of permits to hunt bull elk on the 89,000-acre former ranch in the Jemez Mountains of northern New Mexico.

Currently, at least 78 percent of elk permits on the federally owned preserve must go to New Mexico residents.

— *Staff report*

Saskatchewan to OK Sunday hunting for fall

Texas waterfowl and deer hunters traveling to Saskatchewan won't have to take Sundays off this season.

Nancy Heppner, Saskatchewan's environment minister, used a speech to the annual convention of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Feder-

ation to announce that Sunday hunting will be allowed across the province starting this fall.

Heppner estimates a \$10 million boost to Saskatchewan's rural economy by allowing hunting on both days of the weekend.

— *Staff report*

Sacramento River fall Chinook at all-time low

Preliminary 2008 salmon data indicate a continued and significant reduction in the return size of Sacramento River fall Chinook stock.

The California Department of Fish and Game estimates that 66,200 Sacramento River fall Chinook adults returned in 2008 — the lowest recorded return since comprehensive monitoring began in the 1970s.

In 2008, all ocean salmon seasons were closed for the first time in California history. The closure was enacted to protect Sacramento River fall Chinook stocks.

These stocks are considered a primary driver of both commercial and recreational salmon fishing off the coast of California and most of Oregon.

— *California Department of Fish and Game report*



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HUNTING

Caught in California? Pay in Texas, too

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Texas may join agreement to enforce other states' wildlife laws at home

In November 2008, the Sunset Advisory Commission reviewed Texas Parks and Wildlife policies and recommended Texas become a member state in the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, a agreement between states to enforce hunting and fishing laws on nonresidents.

The compact brings advantages in enforce-

ment and some potential pitfalls.

"The compact began in the West where most of the property being hunted is public," said Col. Peter Flores, law enforcement division director for Texas Parks and Wildlife. "The problem there was with outfitters poaching across state lines.

The compact was set up to keep them from being able to buy licenses in neighboring states and basically hunt in the same areas."

The compact allows member states to enforce game violations by nonresidents with a citation rather than the current enforcement in Texas

that requires the warden arrest the violator and take him or her to a justice of the peace, taking valuable time in the field away from the warden.

According to the most recent available statistics in 2006, of the 1.1 million hunters in Texas in 2006, 123,000 (11 percent) were nonresidents. Of the 2.5 million anglers, 218,000 (8.7 percent)

See AGREEMENT, Page 21



DEER EARS: White-tailed deer hear about like humans, according to studies, often making whispering in a distant blind unnecessary. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Common sense is deer sense

Expert: White-tailed deer hear about the same as humans

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

It happens every weekend morning on some of the outdoor TV shows. Deer hunters set up and watch deer 100 yards or more away. They tell what they see by whispering — barely audibly — into the microphone so not to alert the deer of their presence. Some even whisper after they shoot their rifle.

Do they need to?

Actually, the issue has been studied and the answer may or may not be a surprise.

"Deer hear about the same as humans," said Dr. Karl Miller, professor in wildlife ecol-

ogy and management at the University of Georgia. Miller is considered one of the country's top experts on white-tailed deer behavior and presented his findings on the deer's senses to attendees Feb. 13 at the 21st Century Deer Management Workshop in San Antonio.

"Arthur Stattelman conducted a Pavlov-type study nearly 20 years ago," Miller said. "A deer would push a button for food every time the deer heard a noise."

The conclusion was a deer's hearing was really no better than a human's.

Later, more complicated auditory studies were done on white-tailed deer, essentially

confirming the findings.

"Yeah, I also thought it was interesting that the guys in blinds were whispering with deer at more than 100 yards," Miller said. "I also found it a little annoying because I couldn't hear what they were saying either. Basically, based on our research, if a human can't hear a sound at a given distance, it doesn't appear likely that the deer would either — especially in a blind that would muffle the sound somewhat."

There was one distinction between the hearing of a human and a deer.

See DEER SENSE, Page 21



A DAY'S WORK: Robert Davidson washes out the back of his flatbed pickup after returning to the Comal County Road Department from a day of removing roadkill. Photo by Thomas Phillips, LSON.

Roadkiller: one man's work

Roads cleaner in Comal County because of one man

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Robert Davidson returned to the county road department outside New Braunfels about 4 p.m. one weekday afternoon earlier this month. He had been to the dump and was back to wash off his flatbed pickup. He was ending his shift and had just dropped off the remains of nine animals he picked up from roads around the county.

With a high-pressure washer he rinsed out the little that remained of five deer. Only a faint odor from a skunk could be smelled when the rinsing began.

The roadkill king of Comal County doesn't mind his job, removing dead animals from county roadways.

"I'm more or less my own boss," said Davidson,

61. "People call in (to report dead animals), but I still don't have anybody watching over my shoulder or anything."

While patrolling, he picks up whatever dead animals he finds on public property, loads them in his truck, and at the end of the day takes them to the dump. In a typical month he loads 60 to 75 deer, or about 600 a year.

He also finds hogs, raccoon, foxes — and one porcupine.

"I didn't even know we had porcupine up here at Canyon Lake," he said.

Many of the deer he picks up are "puny," he said, but he has found eight-, nine- and 10-point bucks.

The job doesn't turn him off from hunting deer, either.

See ROADKILL, Page 21

Writer wins Pickens award

The Dallas Morning News' outdoors writer has won the 2009 T. Boone Pickens Lifetime Sportsman Award.

Ray Sasser will receive the award March 12 from Pickens at the Park Cities Quail Unlimited banquet at the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas.

"Ray Sasser and I have been friends and hunted together for almost 20 years, and I am confident in saying that no one will ever be more deserving of this award," Pickens said. "He is a fearless advocate for the management of our outdoor resources for the benefit of all the people of Texas. On more than one occasion he has moved me and others to go to Austin and lobby for causes that he has made us aware of through his column."

Sasser began in the newspaper business at The Lufkin News in 1970 while still in college. His first outdoor job was at the Port Arthur News in 1973. He moved to Dallas in 1983 to work for the Dallas Times Herald, then moved in 1986 to The Dallas Morning News.

"Bobwhite quail are the ultimate game birds, and Texas is the ultimate quail hunting state," Sasser said. "Knowing what we know about wild-



HIGH HONOR: Ray Sasser, left, will receive the 2009 T. Boone Pickens Lifetime Sportsman Award in March from the award's namesake, right.

life conservation, it's an absolute crime that we've allowed quail to suffer such a precipitous decline. It's time for the bobwhite population roller coaster to head back toward the top of its cycle. By adopting the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch, PCQU has exhibited its dedication to saving our finest upland game bird."

— Park Cities Quail Unlimited report

Hog-vehicle wrecks increase

Damage averages about \$1,200 per vehicle

Last November, over a period of a couple of days, Armon Hewitt counted at least six road-killed feral hogs on the 10-mile stretch of state highway he drives daily to and from the Texas AgriLife Extension Service office for Trinity County in Groveton.

"Evidently, the deer hunters were driving them out of the woods during hunting season," Hewitt said. "There's a deep ditch alongside the highway, and the hogs, being usually black, are hard to see at night. They try to outrun the cars and lose."

And there are other signs of hog-car "interactions," Hewitt said.

"I was seeing a lot of cars bashed up," he said. "When one of those little cars, like a Honda, hits

one, it pretty much demolishes the front end."

Feral hog-vehicle collisions seem to be increasing in Texas, said Dr. Billy Higginbotham, AgriLife Extension fisheries and wildlife specialist based in Overton.

"Common sense dictates that as feral hog populations in Texas have increased over the past two decades, so have hog-vehicle collisions," he said.

In addition to many hogs being out at night, other reasons make them prone to being a road hazard, Higginbotham said.

"Feral hogs lack the 'eyeshine' that reflects the light from headlights that deer and many other vertebrates have," Higginbotham said.

Another factor at play in increased collisions is the continued encroachment of urban development into rural areas, he said. Wooded areas, which make new housing divisions attractive to home buyers, offer cover for feral hogs, too.

— Texas AgriLife Extension Service report

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FISHING

Padre seashore guides to need federal permit

New rule affects commercial users around seashore

By David Sikes

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Starting March 7, fishing guides or any commercial users within park waters surrounding Padre Island Na-

tional Seashore will be required to have a commercial use permit.

For years, fishing guides, with the exception of surf-fishing guide Billy Sandifer, have operated without commercial authorization within the jurisdictional boundaries of Padre Island National Seashore. The understanding was that this federal permission simply wasn't necessary.

Other guides who fish waters along the backside of PINS have done so despite a National Park Ser-

vice requirement that has been in place for some time. Enforcement of the requirement saw a resurgence a few years ago for commercial fishermen, but since has rarely been applied or enforced. Other national parks strictly enforce the rule, according to Kaci Messenger with the National Seashore.

So starting around mid-March, park rangers will be greeting Laguna Madre anglers who fish east of the Intracoastal Waterway along the 80-

mile-long National Seashore. Messenger said rangers will be checking everyone they see within park waters to see whether they're operating a charter outfit. Those who are can expect a warning during a grace period. But afterward they'll be fined, Messenger said. The fine can range from nothing to \$5,000 and/or a six-month imprisonment.

Rangers will explain the permit program and distribute literature that outlines the application pro-

cess. Anyone, excluding vendors and concessionaires, who makes money from a public resource at the National Seashore or within its aquatic perimeter is required to possess a National Park Service-issued permit while operating their service.

The application cost is \$50, a non-refundable administration fee. If you provide the necessary documents and are approved, then the annual fee will be \$200 to cover the cost of enforcement.



BAY TROUT: Capt. Kyle Tomek chases big trout in West Matagorda Bay. Anglers are wading the bays looking to catch a trophy. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Eye on big trout

Anglers finding, waiting for larger trout on coast

By Danno Wise

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Big-trout chasers up and down the Texas coast are cinching on their wading belts and hitting the water looking for trophies.

Anglers in some bays have reported good early returns, while anglers in other areas say prime time is still a little ways off.

"We've caught some decent fish, but no real big ones yet," said Matagorda-

based guide Capt. Bill Pustejovsky. "We've had a few in the 28-inch range over the past few weeks, but we haven't gotten into any 30-inch fish yet. But I've got a feeling it's about to happen."

"We're actually just now getting into the prime time for our big trout fishing in East Matagorda Bay."

Pustejovsky will target knee-deep mud and shell for the next few months.

"That's the best way I've found to consistently catch big trout, and we've got some big trout in the bay," he said. "It's just a matter of time before we start catching them."

Lack of water has hampered his efforts somewhat.

"For most of the last few weeks, we haven't had much water in the bay,"

Pustejovsky said. "When that water falls out, those trout aren't up along the shorelines. With our water coming back now, we should be finding a lot more fish along the shorelines."

A little farther south, Aransas Pass guide Capt. Tom Hall's recent experience mirrors that of Pustejovsky.

"We've caught a few 28s in Nueces (Bay), but we haven't caught any real big fish yet," Hall said. "I've seen some monsters laying up on the flats in both Nueces and in Aransas, but we haven't been able to catch any bigger than 28 so far."

Hall expects that to change. "We've had really low water for the past few weeks. So, a lot of the areas

See **TROUT**, Page 19

Check boat trailer before hitting road

Preseason work keeps boat on water

By Dan Armitage

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Texans are known for traveling long distances with their boats to go for a weekend of fishing. Most maintenance and inspection tips are directed at boats and motors, and completely overlook the foundation of the boat-towing trinity: the trailer.

Anyone who has towed a boat knows that no matter how well-appointed the craft and finely-tuned the engine, neither will get the chance to prove their mettle if the trailer that transports them isn't up to snuff, too. Fortunately, most common problems with boat trailers not only can be foreseen but seen with the naked eye by owners who take the time to give their rigs regular maintenance during the off-season and regular walk-around inspections every time the

boat, motor and trailer are used.

Repacking wheel bearings, testing lights and brakes and replacing worn components should be an annual preseason task; visual inspections should be conducted at the start of every trip, looking for grease stains on the wheels, cracked springs, burned-out lights, or tires that look worn or are hot to the touch after a few miles on the road. These are common warning signs of trouble ahead, readily apparent to a boater who takes the time to look for them.

Whether you plan to cross several latitudes or the county for the first fishing trip of the season, when you break out the rig from winter storage the trailer deserves as much attention as you give the craft it cradles. Here are some of the key areas to check before heading

See **TRAILERS**, Page 19



TRAILER TALK: A little trailer maintenance can pay off in a big way for anglers on the go.

Whites beginning run

By Craig Nyhus

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

White bass are running up rivers and creeks in parts of the state, but low water is slowing or shutting down the run in dry areas — saddening anglers looking forward to the yearly ritual.

"They're running up in Carthage right now, and they're doing pretty good below the dam at Lake O' the Pines," said Lionel Clouatre, a maintenance supervisor and avid fisherman from Gladewater. "They're full of eggs, the females are huge."

Clouatre fishes on the Sabine River near the intersection of County Roads 699 and 2715.

"We used little jigs, but just about anything is working," he said.

Pete Campbell operates Pete's Boat Ramp off of Hwy. 247 near Midway, 200 yards from where Bedias Creek flows into the Trinity River.

"They did well last Sunday (Feb. 15)," he said. "But then the weather turned cool, and they dropped off. But at Crockett (by Texas 7) they are doing pretty good."

Campbell said the big females

haven't moved up — yet.

"They're catching mostly males, many of them less than 10 inches," he said. "We need some water or the majority of the females won't come up."

Campbell said "the shoals," a set of rocks four miles upstream from the boat ramp, are producing best.

"The only way to get there is by boat," he said. "People used to park on the 247 bridge and walk but they can't anymore — they trashed it too much."

The best baits have been small Rat-L-Traps and Mr. Twisters, based on reports coming into the ramp.

"There are a lot of people trying to catch them," he said.

At some of the popular white bass run hotspots, the Colorado River at Colorado Bend State Park (the boat ramp is out of the water and closed), the Nolan River near Blum and the Frio River near Tilden, anglers are praying for rain — allowing access and triggering the whites to move upstream.

But better reports are coming from the Nueces River near the U.S. 59 bridge near George West and from the Middle Concho River near San Angelo.

Too soon to tell on new bag limit

Lower Laguna Madre still hot

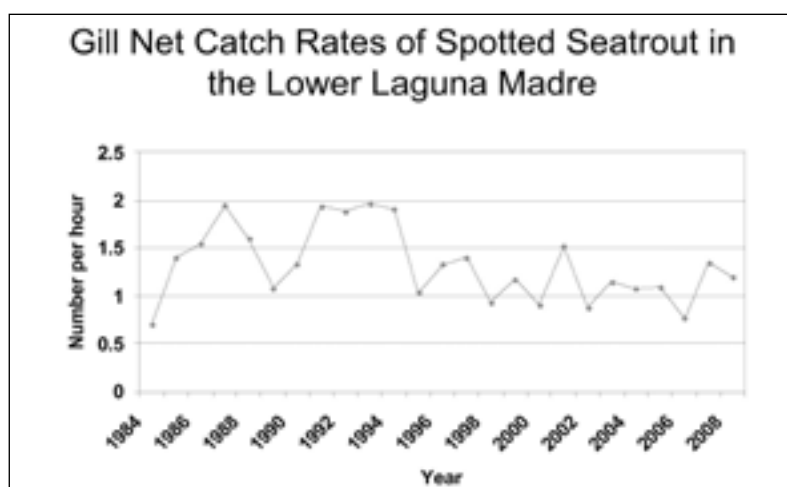
By Thomas Phillips

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Speckled trout numbers in the Lower Laguna Madre measured last spring were down slightly from the year before, but the results probably do not indicate the success or failure of lowered bag limits enacted 17 months ago.

"It's one year, and we're expecting years for it to show results," said Mark Fisher, science director for Texas Parks

See **LAGUNA**, Page 19



Three lakes give up large bass

Three largemouth better than 13 pounds were caught recently in Texas waters.

Bruce Peel of Granbury caught a 13.13-pound largemouth bass Feb. 12 from Lake Fork. Mark Goetzman of Willis landed another 13.13-pounder Sunday on Lake Conroe. And Troy Brauchle of Helotes caught a 15-pounder on Choke Canyon Reservoir.

Peel was fishing in 16 feet of water on the edge of White Oak Creek using a four-inch Big Bite Beaver in watermelon.

"It was the second place we tried," said Peel, who was fishing with his wife. "We'd been on the water only a couple of hours. I was looking for grass that might hold some heat."

The water temperature was 51.7 degrees. Peel didn't find the grass before the big bass

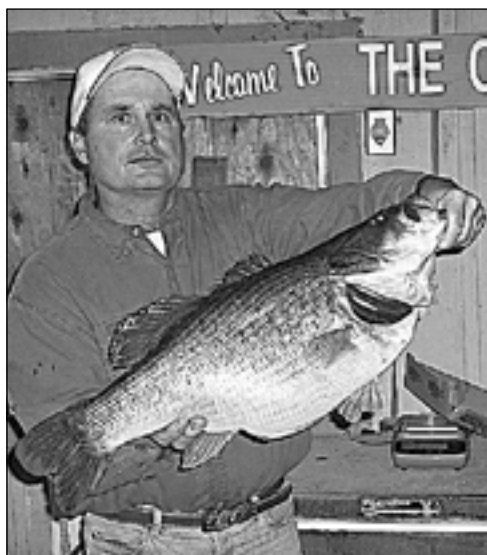
hit. When he finally wrestled it into the boat, he almost released it immediately.

"Then I thought, maybe I ought to have this fish weighed," he said.

Goetzman caught his big bass on a Brush Hog about 10 a.m. If the name Goetzman sounds familiar, it's because Mark is the father of Tyler Goetzman, who caught a 13.06-pounder Jan. 13 from Lake Conroe. Tyler was fishing with Kyle Nitschke on Dec. 13 when Nitschke caught a 13.07-pounder.

Brauchle's fish was the second from Choke Canyon in less than a month weighing 15 pounds or better. On Jan. 21, Brad Bookmyer set a new water body record with a 15.45-pounder.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report



BIG BASS: Above, Troy Brauchle of Helotes caught a 15-pound largemouth bass earlier this month from Choke Canyon Reservoir. The fish was 25.75 inches long and 22.75 inches in girth. Right, Bruce Peel of Granbury caught a 13.13-pound largemouth bass Thursday from Lake Fork. The fish was 25.75 inches long and 20.5 inches in girth. Top right, Mark Goetzman of Willis caught his 13.13-pound bass from Lake Conroe. Photos by Calliham Store, Jim Brockman and TPW.

Outdoor News in Brief

11-time Classic qualifier Wharton dies at 59

David Wharton, an 11-time Classic qualifier, died of an apparent heart attack on Feb. 16 at the age of 59.

Wharton had participated in 264 BASS tournaments between 1979 and 2005 and had over \$800,000 in career earnings. His latest victory came at the 2003 Louisiana Showdown on the Toledo Bend Reservoir.

According to tournament partner Ray Beck, Wharton had a slight heart attack at his home in Jasper and had a second attack while awaiting surgery.

"His wife, Carla Sue, was with him. His spirits were good," Beck said. "We lost truly one of the great pioneers. Those that knew him loved him. Those that didn't idolized him."

Still active in regional fishing tournaments, Wharton's death was a shock to friends.

"He was expecting to get up to the Classic and visit with his buddies," Beck said.

— BASS report

Fritts wins FLW Tour Chevy Open with 38 lbs.

David Fritts of Lexington, N.C., caught a final-round total of eight bass weighing 38 pounds, 1 ounce to win \$200,000 in the Walmart FLW Tour Chevy Open on Lake Gunterville. Fritts topped his closest rival, Sam Newby of Pocola, Okla., by 1 pound, 1 ounce.

"I just got in a zone today," said Fritts, who notched his fifth FLW Tour victory. "I was fishing and feeling good and I just caught a ton of fish. It was one of those things where I knew what I was going to have to do and I really kept my concentration and nothing interfered with me."

Fritts used Rapala DT-10 crankbaits in Hot Mustard and Shad colors with VMC Sure Set hooks.

John Tanner of Quitman finished seventh with 9 bass weighing 27 pounds, 12 ounces, winning \$26,000.

— FLW Outdoors report

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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

COYOTE HUNTERS CROSS FENCE ONTO ADJOINING RANCH

A landowner called Hudspeth County Game Warden Ricky May after hearing shots from trespassers. Warden Chad West responded and found three out-of-state men who had been coyote hunting on an adjoining ranch and jumped the fence and continued their hunt. They admitted to the judge that they had seen the no trespassing signs. Cases adjudicated.

BLOOD TRAIL FOLLOWED TO EIGHT-POINT BUCK

A landowner called Terrell County Game Warden Saul Aguilar about a doe and spike hunter. After locating the man, who said he did not see anything worth shooting, Aguilar found specks of blood that led to a gutted eight-point white-tailed buck. Several citations were filed.

BOATER EJECTED AFTER HITTING STUMP

Clay County Game Warden Eddie Hood received an early morning call about a boat that had hit a stump in the middle of Lake Arrowhead. After locating the boat, Hood found that one of the two occupants had been thrown from the boat and received a slight bump on the head. Hood assisted in removing the boat. No other injuries were reported.

TEENS CAUGHT POACHING WITH .22 RIFLE

Several groups of teenagers apparently poaching in the Austin area were investigated by Travis County Game Warden Cody Jones. Two juvenile males were reported to have killed an eight-point buck with a .22 rifle. They took several photos with their cell phones of the deer and rifle, and sent the photos by text message to several friends. Jones located one of the juveniles' homes and saw a white pickup matching

Poachers cross into King, Kenedy ranches

Just after dark, Game Wardens Matt Strauss and Matt Robinson were checking hunters on Los Olmos Creek under the Highway 77 bridge and spoke to a man who said he was preparing to drive west down the creek to pick up his friend. The wardens advised the man that he could not legally operate a motor vehicle on the creek bed. While explaining the regulations for hunting on Los Olmos Creek, the

other hunter walked up. It was learned that the second man had killed a deer with a rifle — illegal on Los Olmos Creek. The wardens proceeded to the area on foot and found the deer. They followed the drag marks from where the deer was killed and found that the deer had been killed some distance inside the King Ranch. The wardens brought the deer back to their vehicles, and the man asked to take a

picture of the deer. While preparing the digital camera to take the picture, Robinson noticed him scroll through some pictures of him and a friend posing with a dead nilgai antelope. They advised they had killed them the day before on Los Olmos Creek with a rifle. After some back tracking of the drags left, the wardens found that the nilgai had been killed on the Kenedy Ranch. Cases pending.

dumped the buck and that the father was not aware that he had done so. The co-worker admitted he is not a hunter and left the buck hanging too long to salvage the meat. He had cut the antlers off at the request of the father so the son could have them and dumped the deer on the side of the road. Civil restitution, warnings and citations were issued. Cases pending.

WARDENS HELP FIND MISSING BOY IN LLANO COUNTY

District 2 Game Wardens Rick Snitkin, Sean Reneau, Kevin Webb, Keith Gerth and Chris Wilson helped the Llano County Sheriff's Office search for a missing 2 1/2-year-old boy. The boy was missing overnight but was located with a Department of Public Safety helicopter about 7:30 a.m. Reneau was the first officer to the boy, who was alive but very cold — temperatures were 28 degrees. The boy had wandered a mile and a half from his home.

INFRARED CAMERA CAPTURES ILLEGAL DUMPING

A game warden and a constable teamed up to catch illegal dumpers. Milam County Game Warden Mike Mitchell and the constable used hidden, infrared digital cameras to catch violators. After taking more than 10,000 images over three months, the officers filed 12 cases on five individuals. The cameras showed that only 12 minutes of dumping occurred in this period, but it was directly into a creek so numerous charges were filed. After spending more than \$12,000 to clean up the area, the county accepted pleas from all defendants. Penalties included 80 hours of combined community service picking up trash, \$5,000 in civil restitution back to the county and court costs, and each dumper must provide proof of residential trash service.

the description provided by a caller, who reported seeing two males enter the woods with a rifle and dressed in camouflage clothing. Jones contacted the juvenile and his parents and confronted him about the poaching. The juvenile said he legally killed an eight-point buck behind his friend's house with a compound bow. The juvenile was asked to contact the friend and advise him to bring his parents and the compound bow used to kill the deer to the residence. The friend arrived with his parents and the bow along with a bloody arrow. Once Jones confronted the juvenile about the need to send the blood to the crime lab for analysis, the juvenile admitted the blood on the arrow was squirrel blood, the buck in question was shot in the head with a .22 caliber rifle, and the antlers and backstraps were removed. The buck, which had two points broken, scored 126 B&C. Cases and restitution pending.

HUNTERS REPORT STOLEN DECOYS ON LAGUNA MADRE

After the normal check of a boat with duck hunters in the Upper Laguna Madre, one of the occupants told Game Warden Matt Robinson he had some of his decoys stolen near the Land Cut. He gave a description and left. About three checks later, Robinson checked a boat with the stolen decoys in it. Charges pending.

NIGHT POACHERS CAUGHT WITH RIFLE

While searching for road poachers in Fannin County, Grayson County Game Warden Dale Moses and Fannin County Game Warden Eddie Hines observed two men spotlighting from the road. The men claimed they were not hunting, but were observed working a spotlight from three different roads, and a loaded .22-250 was between the passenger's legs. Cases pending.

FATHER LET CHILD RIDE WITHOUT LIFE JACKET

While checking fishermen coming off the water, Dimmit County Game Warden Gene Fernandez noticed a group of fishermen that included a

child. The father said his son was 8 years old. Fernandez informed the man that children are required to wear a personal floatation device while on the water. The father replied that his son had just taken it off because he was hot. The father was told that he had been watched from a distance, and the child never had his PFD on. Citation issued for child without PFD.

FATHER RUINS BOY'S BUCK HUNT

A landowner reported a white-tailed buck that had been dumped on the roadside in Travis County. Game Warden Christy Vales saw that the antlers had been cut off and that the tag was still attached to the leg. The tag, a mule deer tag, was dated and said the buck was harvested in Williamson County. The license number on the tag was for a 12-year-old male. The hunting license of an adult male with the same last name and home address was located. The father said he took his son to hunt at a ranch in Williamson County and thought that they were considered to be in the South Texas Zone. He also told his son to shoot at an illegal buck (11 inches), that he used a mule deer tag by mistake and that he inked the date instead of cutting out the date. A co-worker said he had

WARDENS REPORT HEARING SHOTS NEARBY

During a youth hunt on a ranch during the youth-only open season, Lt. Andy Ozuna, who was assisting Lampasas County Game Warden Jim Lindeman in hosting the hunt, heard shots on an adjacent ranch. Lampasas County Game Warden Jeff Hill was called to investigate. He

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HEROES



Country music star **RADNEY FOSTER** of Nashville landed this 40-plus-inch redfish in the marshes of West Galveston Bay.



MIKE WITEK of Cibolo shot this 10-point mule deer with a 23-inch spread in the Panhandle.



PHIL HILL of Cibolo shot this 10-point mule deer with a 22.5-inch spread in Hall County.



JAMES COOK, 10, of Monte Alto shot his first deer out of his grandfather's blind in Hidalgo County.



SHELBI ANN MILLS, 15, of Pearland shot her first deer, a nine-point buck, at the Mariposa Ranch in South Texas.

SHARE AN ADVENTURE

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

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AVERY LIARDON, 9, of Pearland took this buck Jan. 10 on her first trip to her family's low-fence lease in Coahuilla, Mexico. The deer scored 138+.



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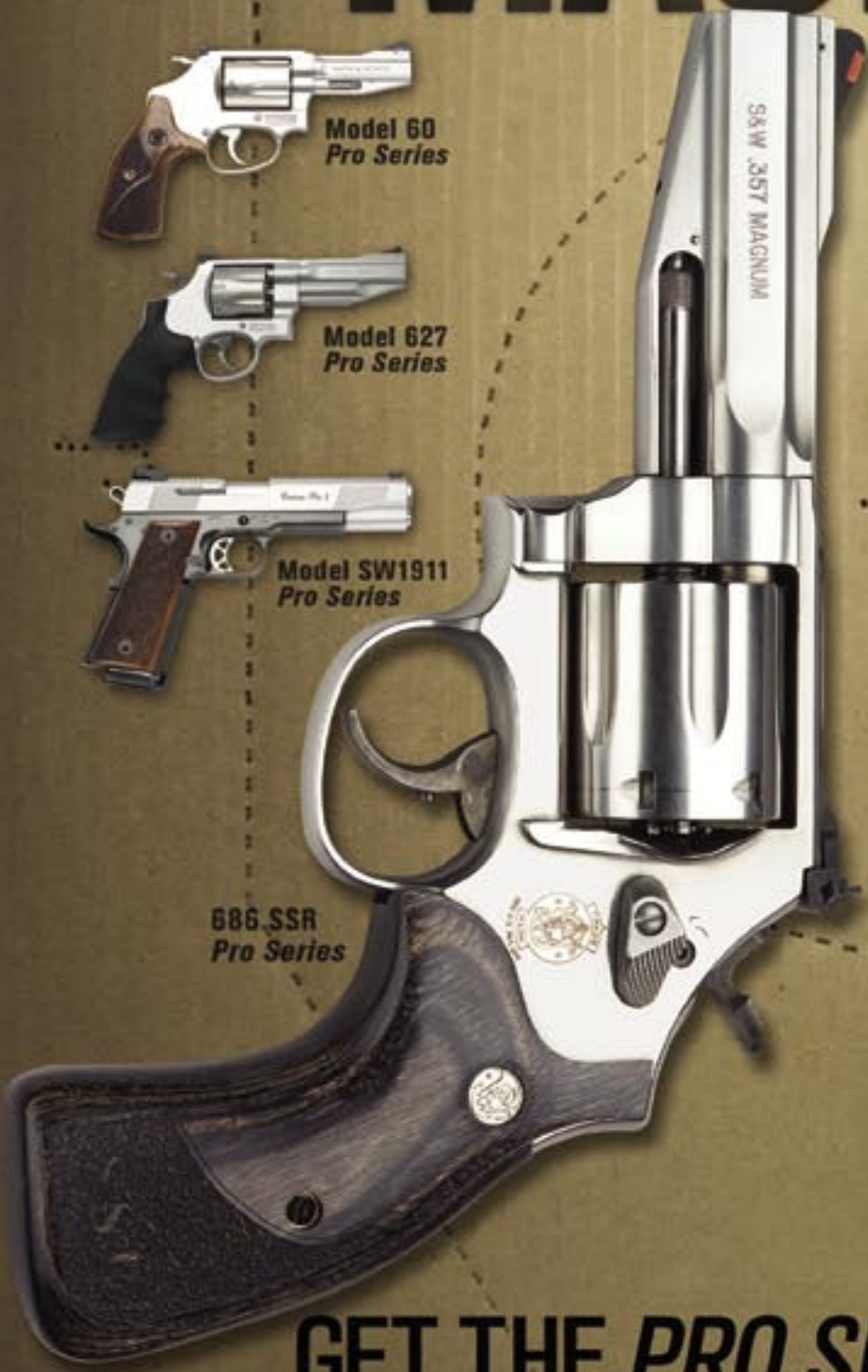
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Outdoor News in Brief

Classic crowd sets attendance record

The people of Northwest Louisiana, East Texas and Southwest Arkansas proved something to organizers of the Bassmaster Classic: Shreveport-Bossier City is a good location for the Super Bowl of bass fishing.

Weigh-ins at the CenturyTel Center in Bossier City were filled to capacity (9,300) with hundreds of hopeful attendees left waiting outside the doors on Saturday and Sunday — courtesy of local fire marshals.

And at the time of Saturday's weigh-in, there was a Mardi Gras parade going in downtown Shreveport.

The Bassmaster Classic Outdoors EXPO, held at the Shreveport Convention Center, saw lines 10 deep at the doors when the doors opened on

Saturday. A mind-boggling 60,233 fishing fans entered the hall on that day alone — shattering the attendance record for any Classic EXPO by more than 7,000 — and the previous record was for the entire three-day event.

On the final day, despite shorter hours, the EXPO drew 31,254, bringing the three-day total to 137,700.

"We're in a hotbed of BASS fans," said BASS Communications Director Anthony Bartkowski. "You have Texas, especially Dallas, three hours away, southwest Arkansas so close, and Louisiana has always had a huge following."

Even the early morning launches, normally watched by family, friends and a scattering of spectators, were viewed by 2,000 people Saturday and Sunday morning.

— Staff report

Trout flies

Continued from Page 1

still in the water between strips.

"If I am fishing primarily for trout, I always seem to go to the Sea-Ducer."

Surprisingly, most Texas fly anglers choose a Sea-Ducer over hundreds of other patterns for chasing larger trout, especially for fish in water less than 18 inches deep. But the size and color of the flies offered to the fish vary.

Because most anglers live and die by the old adage, "the bigger the fish, the bigger the bait," it is not uncommon to see anglers tossing flies that are 6-7 inches long. However, quite a few choose to use a more moderately sized fly.

Classic

Continued from Page 1

Sitting in ninth place after two days, Ike, the 2003 Classic champion, moved to the top on the unofficial leaderboard — prepared from on-the-water reports from observers on the boats.

At the official weigh-in, Ike brought in 20 pounds, 3 ounces, bringing his 3-day total to 54 pounds, 2 ounces.

But Skeet Reese had the advantage of a 4-plus pound lead over Ike going into the final day.

As the anglers came off of the water, unofficial estimates had Ike leading Reese by 1 ounce.

The final results were different, though, and to Reese's elation his 16-pound, 12-ounce bag brought his total to 54 pounds, 13 ounces, enough for an 11-ounce lead and the victory.

Since winning his Angler of the Year title, "this was my focus," Reese said. "Everything fell into place this week."

Reese fished in the same 200-yard stretch of water all day using a white Redemption spinnerbait and a new Crazy Legs Chigger Craw.

Texan Kelly Jordon struggled to catch fish in the areas that had him in fourth place after two days. After catching two small fish early, he moved.

Having grown up fishing on the Lower Laguna Madre near his hometown of Port Mansfield, T.J. Neal of East Cut Saltwater Flies likes using a white Sea-Ducer tied on a No. 2 hook that is about 3 to 4 inches long.

"Let me put it this way," he said, "the fly needs to land gently on the water but be substantial enough to interest the fish."

"If it is too small, a big trout won't pay any attention to it."

Fly anglers who chase big trout have a tendency to tie all of their own flies.

"When you go after a fish of a lifetime, you want the fly tied exactly the way you want it," Fridy said. "It is a rare occasion that I can walk into a shop and find a fly with the exact amount of materials tied exactly the right size and that is the right combination of colors."

Texas finishers

6. **Bryan Schmidt**, Olney 51 pounds, 1 ounce
10. **Kelly Jordon**, Mineola 48 pounds, 12 ounces
14. **Alton Jones**, Waco 46 pounds, 11 ounces

Texans who missed the cut

Todd Faircloth, Jasper 19 pounds, 6 ounces
Gary Klein, Weatherford 19 pounds, 12 ounces
Mike Burns, Plano 18 pounds, 12 ounces
Byron Velvick, Lake Amistad 9 pounds, 15 ounces

The move proved costly. Fellow Texan Alton Jones went into Jordon's hot spot and landed upwards of 30 bass, helping elevate him to 14th in his quest to defend the title.

"It was raining 3-pounders," Jones said. "But by the time Kelly (Jordon) got back in there, the rain had stopped."

Jordon knew the risk of the move, but didn't think anyone knew his spot.

"It comes down to decisions," he said. "When I came back, another guy was in there. It really hurt my chance at the Classic."

Jones lamented losing a big fish at the end of day two that he estimated weighed 9 pounds.

"That fish could have made the difference," he said.

The least-known Texan made the biggest move. Bryan Schmidt, who qualified by winning the Federation Nation Championship, moved from

18th to 6th with his 22-pound, 1-ounce bag, including a 6-pound, 10-ounce largemouth.

The 38-year-old Olney resident, who works as a planner for a company that builds crop dusters, said once the water warmed from 47 to 51 degrees, the fish turned on.

"It happened quick," Schmidt said. "I caught them all in the same area flipping hyacinth with an Innovator Sweet Beaver."

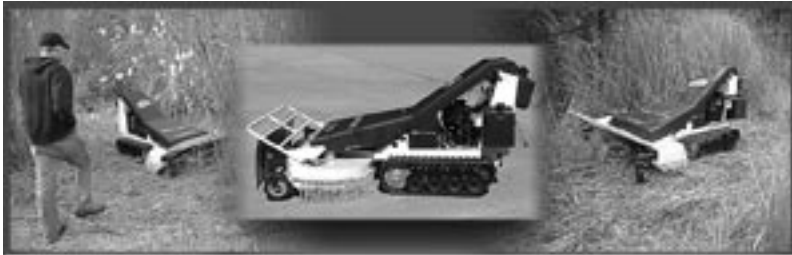
The Classic experience didn't alter his future plans much, though.

"I'll be at work Tuesday," he said.

Schmidt plans to fish the Central Open events this season.

The anglers fought three separate weather patterns in the three-day event. After clouds and rain on day two, the final launch saw temperatures just below 30, delaying the morning bite for many.

Reese's decisions meant a Classic victory.



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In 1983, when the Tecomate Ranch was purchased, I began intensively searching for ways to produce bigger bucks with food plots, and I met Dr. Larry Varner who was working on a similar program for Purina Mills® using high-protein feed. By the late 80s, we had both figured it out, and I immediately implemented both programs on my ranch. The results were and continue to be startling, as evidence by the explosion in the size and productivity of the deer.

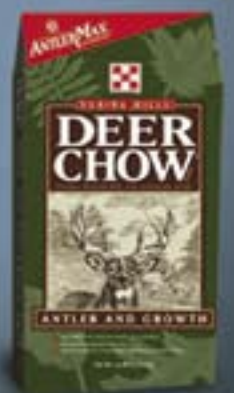
Food plots or feed...which should you do? For maximum results do both! They each have their advantages. More importantly, go with the companies with real research and the time honored work to back back it up, not just "lip service research."

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Dr. Gary M. Schwarz
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Moon Phases

New	First	Full	Last
Feb 24	Mar 4	Mar 10	Mar 18

Solunar Table

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
2/25	11:08a/5:23a	8:47p/2:32p	11:14a/5:29a	8:53p/2:38p
2/26	---/5:44p	10:08a/3:54a	---/5:50p	10:14a/4:00a
2/27	11:53a/6:08a	10:35p/4:22p	11:59a/6:14a	10:41p/4:28p
2/28	---/6:30p	10:55a/4:43a	---/6:36p	11:01a/4:49a
3/1	12:45a/6:56a	11:21p/5:08p	12:51a/7:02a	11:27p/5:14p
3/2	1:07p/7:18p	11:42a/5:30a	1:13p/7:24p	11:48a/5:36a
3/3	1:35a/7:47a	---/5:54p	1:41a/7:53a	---/6:00p
3/4	1:59p/8:11p	12:06a/6:17a	2:05p/8:17p	12:12a/6:23a
3/5	2:29a/8:42a	12:29p/6:40p	2:35a/8:48a	12:35p/6:46p
3/6	2:55p/9:08p	12:54a/7:06a	3:01p/9:14p	1:00a/7:12a
3/7	3:27a/9:41a	1:18p/7:29p	3:33a/9:47a	3:27a/7:35p
3/8	3:54p/10:08p	1:45a/7:57a	4:00p/10:14p	3:54p/8:03a
3/9	4:26a/10:41a	2:09p/8:21p	4:32a/10:47a	4:26a/8:27p
3/10	4:56p/11:11p	2:39a/8:51a	5:02p/11:17p	4:56p/8:57a
3/11	5:27a/11:43a	3:03p/9:15p	5:33a/11:49a	5:27a/9:21p
3/12	5:58p/---	3:33a/9:45a	6:04p/---	5:58p/9:51a
3/13	6:27a/12:13a	3:58p/10:10p	6:33a/12:19a	6:27a/10:16p
3/14	6:58p/12:42p	4:28a/10:40a	7:04p/12:48p	6:58p/10:46a
3/15	7:24a/1:09a	4:53p/11:06a	7:30a/1:15a	7:24a/1:12p
3/16	7:55p/1:39p	5:22a/11:34a	8:01p/1:45p	7:55p/1:40a
3/17	8:18a/2:04a	5:47p/---	8:24a/2:10a	8:18a/---

Tides

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

Sun and Moon

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
2/25	6:52a/6:18p	7:01a/6:22p	7:04a/6:31p	7:21a/6:39p
2/26	6:51a/6:18p	7:00a/6:23p	7:03a/6:31p	7:20a/6:40p
2/27	6:49a/6:19p	6:58a/6:24p	7:02a/6:32p	7:19a/6:41p
2/28	6:48a/6:20p	6:57a/6:24p	7:01a/6:33p	7:18a/6:41p
3/1	6:47a/6:21p	6:56a/6:25p	7:0	

FISHING REPORT

HOT BITES

LARGEMOUTH BASS



HOUSTON COUNTY: Very good on Carolina-rigged watermelon french fries and on junebug, watermelon red and black/blue flake soft plastics near the pump station and the islands in 17 feet.

LB: Very good on Bleeding Shad Rat-L-Traps and plastic swimbaits along seawalls among schooling shad and on buzzbaits and weightless watermelon red Whacky Sticks along lay downs and stumps on creek points.

WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



TAWAKONI: Striped bass and hybrid striper are excellent on 4" Bass Assassins dead-sticked with a 1 oz. jighead.

LB: White bass are very good on L'il Fishies at night.

GRAPEVINE: White bass are good on slabs.

JOE POOL: White bass are good on slabs.

TEXOMA: Striped bass are good on slabs and large Road Runners over humps.

CHOKO CANYON: White bass are good on small spinnerbaits and Rapalas from 99 Bridge north.

CATFISH



BRAUNIG: Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheesebait and cut bait near the discharge. Blue catfish are good on cut bait.

FALCON: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on shrimp, nightcrawlers, stinkbait, liver and cut bait under cormorant roosts.

CONROE: Very good on stinkbait, cut bait and frozen shrimp.

FORK: Good on prepared baits under roosting cormorants.

CRAPPIE



SOMERVILLE: Excellent on minnows and on tube jigs with red heads and green skirts.

ARROWHEAD: Good on tandem rigged jigs or minnows fished deep off the derricks and on minnows at the east side bridges.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 46 degrees; 0.02' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored spinnerbaits and DD-22 crankbaits along creek channel bends and fair on shad-colored soft jerkbaits, dark jigs and live baits suspended in trees. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on live baits.

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 48 degrees; 6.45' low. Black bass are fair on shallow-running crankbaits or chatterbaits off secondary points. White bass are fair trolling. Blue Catfish are good drift fishing with cut shad or cheese baits on flats at 10-14 feet depth.

BASTROP: Water lightly stained. Black bass are good on red/white spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows and green tube jigs over brush piles. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, liver, shrimp and minnows.

BELTON: Water clear; 56 degrees; 3.06' low. Black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits. Hybrid striper are good on live shad. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows in 18-20 feet at night under lights. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and hot dogs.

BOB SANDLIN: Water fairly clear; 52-58 degrees; 0.2' high. Black bass are fair to good on wacky rigs, spinnerbaits and Senkos (bass are on beds in the coves). White bass are good on slabs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on trotlines.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; 62 degrees. Black bass are fair on crankbaits and dark soft plastic worms in the reeds. Striped bass are fair on liver and shad. Redfish are slow.

BRIDGEPORT: Water fairly clear; 51-57 degrees; 8.86' low. Black bass are fair on shad pattern crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps and 4" Yum Dingers. White bass and hybrid striper are fair on slabs and live bait. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 62 degrees; 15.52' low. Black bass are fair on hard jerkbaits and plastics. Striped bass are good jigging and trolling. White bass are fair. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles in 12-15 feet. Channel catfish are slow.

CADDO: Water off-color; 52-59 degrees; 0.78' high. Black bass are fair on Senkos, flukes, spinnerbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 62 degrees. Black bass are fair on dark soft plastic worms, spinnerbaits and crankbaits near the dam. Striped bass are fair on spoons and jigs near the dam. Redfish are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on liver, shrimp and cheesebait near the railroad trestle.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear; 60 degrees; 11.58' low. Black bass are fair suspending jerkbaits in 12-20 feet. Striped bass are fair to good trolling 1/4 oz. white striper jigs and vertically jigging minnows. White bass are fair. Smallmouth bass are very good on smoke/red flake tubes, tomato red curl tail grubs and tomato red drop shot worms over rock piles in 12-25 feet. Crappie are fair on minnows and crappie jigs upriver.

CEDAR CREEK: Water lightly stained; 51-57 degrees; 2.6' low. Black bass are fair on medium running shad pattern crankbaits, Texas rigs and drop shot rigs. White bass are good on slabs. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad and large slabs jigged vertically. Crappie are fair to good on minnows. Catfish are fair drifting cut shad.

CHOKO CANYON: Water clear; 63 degrees; 5.67' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastic worms and lizards and flipping jigs in the grass. White bass are good on small spinnerbaits and Rapalas from 99 Bridge north. Crappie are slow. Drum are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on punchbait in 5-10 feet. Yellow catfish are fair on live perch.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear; 74 degrees (81 degrees at discharge); 3.61' low. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are

slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and red tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are fair on perch, stinkbait and frozen shrimp in 18-25 feet. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live perch in 18-25 feet.

CONROE: Water murky; 1.15' low. Black bass are fair on dark soft plastics, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows.

COOPER: Water lightly stained; 51-56 degrees. Black bass are fair on Texas-rigged blue fleck worms, drop shot rigs and slow-rolled spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair to good on jigs and minnows over brush piles. White bass are good on slabs. Hybrid striper are fair to good on slabs and live shad. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and prepared bait.

FALCON: Water clear; 67 degrees. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are slow.

FAYETTE: Water clear; 59 degrees. Black bass are fair on watermelon red, green pumpkin and redbug Carolina-

and minnows.

JOE POOL: Water off-color; 50-57 degrees; 0.48' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, spinnerbaits and wacky rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and prepared baits.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 52-58 degrees; 0.51' high. Black bass are slow to fair on Texas rigs, weightless flukes or 5" Yum Dingers and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut shad. Bream are fair on red wigglers.

LAVON: Water stained; 51-57 degrees; 4.01' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, spinnerbaits and shallow slow-running crankbaits. White bass are good on slabs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around bridge columns. Catfish are fair to good on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

LB: Water stained; 63 degrees; 0.33' low. Striped bass are good on 2" Spoiler Shads and L'il Fishies at night.

suspended in 8'-18' depths. Crappie are fair on minnows and yellow jigs in Caddo and Bee Creek. White bass are fair on silver spoons or slabs along the river channel suspended in 20'-40' on the North End of reservoir. Stripers are good below the Dam.

PROCTOR: Water stained; 63 degrees; 4.95' low. Black bass are fair on deep running crankbaits and worms off points. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows near the dam and over brush piles in 10-15 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on live shad and goldfish in 22-25 feet.

RAY HUBBARD: Water off-color; 50-57 degrees; 1.93' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Texas or Carolina rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on small Bass Assassins. Hybrid striper are good on 4" Bass Assassins. Catfish are fair to good on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

RAY ROBERTS: Water murky; 51-55 degrees; 2.43' low. Black bass to 8.4 pounds are good on drop shot rigged Yum worms. White bass are good on Silver Dollar Slabs.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water off-color; 50-56 degrees; 4.87' low. Black bass are fair on medium running shad pattern crankbaits, Texas rigs and spinnerbaits. White bass and hybrid striper are good on slabs, Bass Assassins and live shad. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

SAM RAYBURN: Water lightly stained; 62 degrees; 6.17' low. Black bass are fair on Carolina-rigged watermelon red soft plastics and spinnerbaits. White bass are fair on live minnows and silver spoons. Crappie are fair on minnows. Bream are fair on worms. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, live minnows and stinkbait.

SOMERVILLE: Water fairly clear; 3.17' low. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and minnows.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear; 56 degrees; 5.41' low. Black bass are fair on shad, minnows and watermelon seed soft plastic worms. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on corn, dough and wieners.

TAWAKONI: Water stained; 51-57 degrees; 5.04' low. Black bass are fair on red Rat-L-Traps, spinnerbaits, jigs and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows. White bass are good — follow the birds. Catfish are fair on prepared bait.

TEXOMA: Water off-color; 50-56 degrees; 0.52' high. Black bass are fair on chatterbaits, spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait and live shad.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear; 62 degrees; 3.11' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse green and chartreuse blue soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Bream are fair on worms. Channel and blue catfish are good on frozen shrimp, cut bait and stinkbait.

TRAVIS: Water clear; 58 degrees; 26.62' low. Black bass to 4 pounds are good on watermelon soft plastics and crankbaits in 5-18 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on white grubs and chrome and gold jigging spoons in 32-45 feet. Crappie are fair on minnows and pink tube jigs in 22-38 feet. Channel and blue catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and fresh cut bait in 30-42 feet.

WHITNEY: Water clear; 10.05' low. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are fair on minnows and striper jigs. White bass are fair on minnows. Crappie are good on minnows and blue tube jigs. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and stinkbait.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water lightly stained; 51-57 degrees; 4' high. Black bass are fair on flukes, Texas rigs and slow-rolled spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait and cut shad.

HOT SPOT

AMISTAD

Water clear; 57 degrees; 2.07' high. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits, crankbaits, jerkbaits and soft plastics. Catfish are good over baited holes in 80-120 feet. Striped bass are good on slabs and small crankbaits under birds. White bass are good on slabs and small crankbaits under birds.

rigged soft plastics off deep points and on spinnerbaits, Rat-L-Traps, Senkos, flukes and soft plastics in shallow areas. Channel and blue catfish are fair on juglines baited with shad.

FORK: Water lightly stained; 51-58 degrees; 0.81' low. Black bass are fair to good on soft plastics and spinnerbaits in the shallows and off the first drop-target pre-spawn and bedding bass. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs.

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

GRANBURY: Water clear; 1.96' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red soft plastics, spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water off-color; 50-56 degrees; 7.83' low. Black bass are fair on jigs, Texas rigs, crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water stained; 58 degrees; 0.62' high. Crappie are good on live minnows near the dam and the subdivisions on the south side of the lake in 20 feet. Bream are slow. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 52 degrees; 2.81' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored spinnerbaits, crankbaits and live baits along timber lines near drop-offs and creek channels. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. White bass and hybrid stripers are fair on live baits and lipless crankbaits. Catfish are fair on cut shad

and minnows over brush piles in clear water. Channel catfish are fair to good on minnows and worms. Yellow and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait.

LEWISVILLE: Water off-color; 50-56 degrees; 4.19' low. Black bass are fair on slow-rolled spinnerbaits, chatterbaits, Texas rigs and Carolina rigs. White bass and hybrid striper are fair to good on slabs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on cut shad and prepared baits.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; 57 degrees; 0.23' high. Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Blue catfish are good on cut bait and shad.

MONTICELLO: Water fairly clear; 75-88 degrees; 0.89' low. Black bass are fair to good on topwaters early, later switching to weightless flukes, Texas rigs, spinnerbaits and chrome Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait.

NASWORTHY: Water lightly stained; 50 degrees. Black bass are slow on live baits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Redfish are fair. White bass and striped bass are fair on minnows and silver spoons. Catfish are fair on minnows and cut baits.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water stained; 56 degrees; 3.22' low. Black bass are fair minnows. White bass are good on jigs. Crappie are good but small on red/chartreuse jigs off piers in 9 feet. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 50 degrees; 2.76' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored crankbaits and brown jigs on southern reservoir points

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Trout are good for drifters working around pods of mullet. Trout and redfish are good in the river on shad and Gulp.



SOUTH SABINE: Trout are fair for waders working mullet-imitation plugs. Bull redfish and sheepshead are good at the jetty on crabs and shrimp.

BOLIVAR: Redfish and black drum are fair to good in Rollover Pass on natural baits. Sand trout are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on fresh shrimp.

TRINITY BAY: Trout are fair to good while working slicks and pods of mullet on Catch 5s, Catch 2000s and 51M MirrOures. Redfish are fair to good around the spillway and in the marsh on natural baits.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are fair to good while drifting shell on soft plastics. Redfish are good in the cuts and sloughs leading to the marsh and in Moses Lake. Black drum are beginning to show in the channel.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are fair to good while drifting shell and mud. Waders have taken their best trout in the afternoon. Bull redfish, black drum and sheepshead are good at the jetty on a variety of natural baits.

TEXAS CITY: Sand trout and croaker have been taken on fresh shrimp around the rocks and in the holes. Black drum are good in the channel. Redfish are fair to good in Moses Lake on mullet and shrimp.

FREEPORT: Bull redfish and sheepshead are good at the jetty on shrimp and crabs. Red snapper are good in state waters.

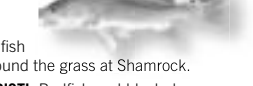
EAST MATAGORDA: Trout are fair while drifting over shell on plum Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Bull Minnows. Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline on Corkies and slow-sinkers. Best fish have come over mud.

MATAGORDA: Redfish are fair on the south shoreline of West Bay in the guts and cuts on Bass Assassins, Sand Eels and Trout Killers. Trout are best in the Colorado River at night under lights.

PORT O'CONNOR: Bull redfish are good at the jetty on crabs, finger mullet and live shrimp. Sheepshead are good around the piers and rocks on shrimp. Redfish are good in the back lakes on shrimp and plastics.

ROCKPORT: Trout are fair to good over shell and mud for waders working Corkies, Catch 5s and Catch 2000s. Redfish are good on live shrimp under a cork while drifting the edges of the Estes Flats.

PORT ARANSAS: Bull redfish and sheepshead are good at the jetty and on the edge of the Intracoastal on crabs, finger mullet, cut-bait and fresh table shrimp. Redfish are good around the grass at Shamrock.



CORPUS CHRISTI: Redfish and black drum are good on shrimp, crabs and sea lice on the edges of the spoils in the Intracoastal and in the Humble Channel. Trout are fair to good from the piers at night on live bait.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout are fair on soft plastics around the rocks and on sand and grass. Water clarity has been off-colored, which has hurt the bite. Trout and black drum are fair to good under lights at night in the Land Cut on live shrimp and glow plastics.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout are good around pods of bait on soft plastics and suspending MirrOures. Redfish are good around East Cut on mullet and other natural baits. Trout are good for waders working the edge of the channel on plastics and Corkies.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout and redfish are good on the east and west side of the bay on plastic shrimp under a popping cork. Snook, trout, redfish, jack crevalle, ladyfish and mangrove snapper are good in the Brownsville Ship Channel on live shrimp and plastic shrimp.



PORT ISABEL: Trout are fair to good while drifting the flats on Baïtbusters. Warmer temperatures have aided in a better topwater bite as well. Redfish are good around the spoils on live shrimp and plastic shrimp under popping corks.

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Business is booming at Castaway Lodge

Corporate clients increasing trips for Seadrift destination

As an economic hurricane batters the world economy, Capt. Kris Kelley and Castaway Lodge are fishing under sunnier skies.

Business is up — by double digits — at the Seadrift outfitting company, Kelley said.

"The adverse economics are affecting us positively," he said.

In good times, Kelley said, corporate movers and shakers do less moving and shaking to attract and retain customers. They don't take out their clients on outdoors junkets to woo them.

They hardly leave the office because they're making money hand over fist.

But now, with the stock market down and the credit market in a shambles, business people are busy working the room, and they're treating the customers with loads of appreciation. They're taking them to places such as Castaway Lodge for guided fishing and hunting trips and stays in the lodge's accommodations.

At Castaway, the fishing business is up 26 percent, hunting is up 37 percent, and lodging is up 33 percent.

The business numbers follow Kelley's outdoors reports.

"Trout fishing's explosive," he said. "It's been hot down here all year. We've been hammering speckled trout and have been all

winter."

The company will soon resume offering airboat trips for redfishing, a service no one else offers, Kelley said.

When not on the water, guests can relax at the well-appointed lodge facilities, which can accommodate 16 guests in private quarters.

The main lodge building offers comfortable common areas and a massive wraparound porch for entertaining. Large trees cast deep shadows over the property, sheltering guests from the sun and further enforcing the relaxing atmosphere.

Guests will also find comfort pouring from Castaway's kitchen. Chef Wendi Kelley, Kris' wife, serves dishes with a Southern influence using local ingredients. Gulf seafood finds a prominent place on Castaway's menu, and comfort food does its job for worn-out anglers and hunters.

"Blackened," "grilled" and "fried" are common table talk at Castaway. And guests will find their fill after a long day chasing fish and game.

Guests can opt for a cast and blast with Castaway, perhaps starting the day on the water casting for tailing redfish and speckled trout and heading inland to hunt mourning dove or waterfowl.

However the trip is put together, Castaway Lodge can provide a well-balanced visit to the Texas coast.

More information on the lodge is available by calling (888) 618-4868 or visiting seadriftbayfishing.com.



Fishing is hot and so is business at Castaway Lodge on the Texas Coast at Seadrift. Owner and guide Kris Kelley reports increases in fishing and hunting trips and stays at the lodge.

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Puzzle solution
 from Page 16

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Trailers

Continued from Page 8

down the road:

■ Test the trailer's lights. If one doesn't work, check the bulb, fuse and connector plug in that order before you direct attention to the wiring system.

■ Inspect and, if needed, lubricate or replace the trailer wheel bearings. Make sure the spindle nut is tight and top off bearing protectors with the proper lubricant.

■ If equipped, check the brakes and break-away system and adjust to the specs listed in the owner's manual. Top off the fluid level and replace shoes if necessary.

■ Take a close look at the tires — including the spare — checking for lumps, cracks or excessive tread wear. Replace questionable tires and top off each with the proper air pressure.

■ Inspect the winch strap and safety chains for wear. Look at the length of the strap and replace it if it is frayed or worn, paying extra attention to where it attaches to the bow hook.

■ Check the hitch couplers and winch. Make sure trailer and vehicle couplers latch tightly and adjust or replace if they don't.

Trout

Continued from Page 8

those fish are normally found this time of year just haven't had enough water. And it seems like the fish are running a little late this year. I haven't seen any fish with fully developed eggs yet. Even the smaller fish we're cleaning — the eggs are just getting started. Once they get a little more de-

veloped and once we get our water back so they can move up shallow to lay their eggs, we'll start catching some bigger fish."

Down south, Port Isabel guide Capt. Vere Wells is looking for the big trout boom to get started.

"I haven't caught or heard of any trout over 26 or 28 inches so far," said Wells. "But, we've been catching an awful lot of really fat 21- to 26-inch fish. I had a 24-incher that weighed nearly 6

pounds a few weeks ago. But here pretty soon we should start seeing some really big trout caught."

Wells said he will target potholes for big trout.

"What I look for is potholes surrounded by tall grass next to drop-offs," he said. "You find an area like that and have the right tide, you'll have a shot at some really big fish. And we're coming into that time of year when we'll see our biggest fish caught."

Laguna

Continued from Page 8

and Wildlife's coastal fisheries division. Preliminary results of the decreased bag limit in the region will probably take three or four years to show improvement, Fisher said. The population will likely not be back to normal levels until 2015 if all goes according to plan, he said.

The lower number came from TPW's annual spring gill net survey. The survey showed a drop of about 12 percent in the trout population. The decrease may seem significant, but the trout gill net catch rate

swings widely. From 2006 to 2007 saw an increase of about 76 percent. The catch rate is the number of speckled trout caught per hour. It is used to help estimate the trout population.

Creel surveys conducted by TPW show a rise in harvest during the 2007-08 season of about 35 percent from the season before.

Fishing pressure also increased, with angler hours up 20 percent.

Anglers in the Lower Laguna Madre, the area of the Laguna Madre south of the Land Cut of the Intracoastal Waterway, may possess five spotted seatrout. Anglers

elsewhere on the Texas coast may have 10.

Will Bullock, the manager of the Mansfield Club, a fishing and hunting club in Port Mansfield, said fishing has been good, regardless of the new limit.

"We had a tremendous year last year," said Bullock, a former guide. "I don't think it can get much better."

The tougher regulations have not been in effect long enough to show a difference in the trout population, and why 2008 was such a good year is unknown to him, Bullock said.

A group that went fishing out of

the club earlier this month caught several trout, Bullock said, including a 27.5-incher. Fishing for red drum has also been good, he said.

Capt. Robert Sirvello said last season was good for him, though the lower limit has changed his routine. His clients quickly catch their trout limits, leaving the rest of their time open for pursuing other species.

"I think it's a good law," Sirvello said. "I get a few people frowning on it."

His anglers have still been catching their limits, but they are perhaps not catching fish as big as they used to.

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Browning has introduced its newest autoloading shotgun, which the company says will deliver up to 18 percent less felt recoil, 44 percent less muzzle jump, 19 percent faster bolt speed, and 24 percent faster locktime than its nearest competitor. Among the firearm's many features are a gas piston with larger exhaust ports, an enclosed seal to keep residue out of the action, a soft Inflex Technology recoil pad and a new trigger system. The 12-gauge's composite stock and lightweight aluminum alloy receiver help keep the rifle's weight to just under 7 pounds. The shotgun sells for about \$1,200.

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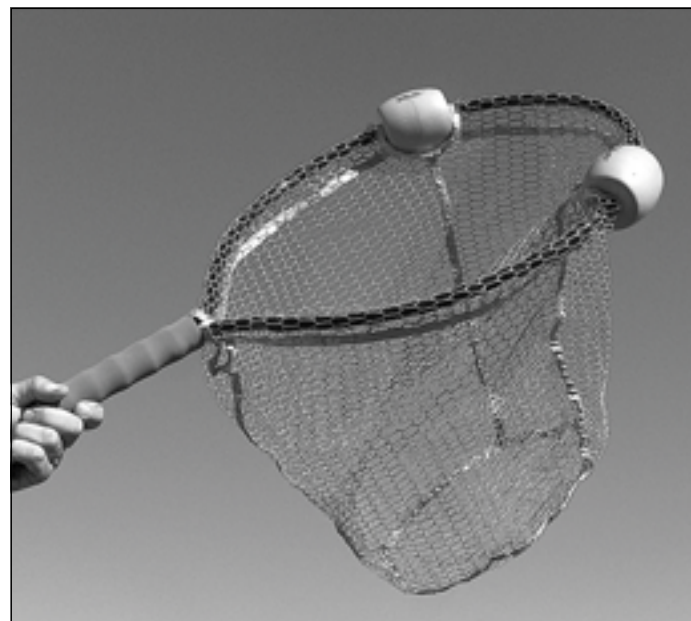


ForEverlast Hunting & Fishing Products will introduce to saltwater anglers two new innovative items for the 2009 fall season. First the new **FlipFlop Box Over The Shoulder Tackle System** empowers anglers to have their favorite tackle at their fingertips while wading. The unique design provides maneuverability to change out topwater lures, soft plastics baits or whatever the angler desires to carry in the large four-compartment box with its flip-down pouch, allowing for handsfree use. The shoulder strap is fully adjustable and features a nonslip pad so the system will stay exactly where the angler positions it. \$29.95

Second in the line is **The Net**, the best landing net for wade fishing to hit the market. The Net features a large, uniquely designed non-sag net material with a large top opening, flotation evenly distributed throughout and a long handle to give plenty of leverage in landing that trophy. It also features a heavy-duty clip with a stretchable lanyard so it reaches and retracts on demand. \$34.95

ForEverlast will also introduce for 2009 its new SnakeGuard Boots. The footwear combine a rugged exterior of smoothed-skinned leather with a 900 denier nylon exterior in stylish camouflage that will protect against the viciousness of a snake bite and brush while afield. A patented sole gives support, rugged durability and traction with a breathable inner lining for the most comfortable, rugged and stylish boot of its kind. Available at your favorite outfitter or on the Web at www.foreverlast.com. \$179.95. Also available from ForEverlast are the popular SnakeGuard Shields and Chaps.

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Agreement

Continued from Page 6

were nonresidents. Texas game wardens processed 1,803 alleged violations by nonresidents — 8.2 percent of the total number of citations issued.

Under the compact, violators who fail to either contest or pay their citations are subject to having their hunting or fishing licenses suspended in all compact states. The potential problem, Flores said, was that wildlife laws differ greatly between states.

“A violation in one state may not be a violation in another,” he said.

A few examples include guides, regulated in other states but not in Texas, and baiting, illegal in many states but not in Texas.

“Joining the compact requires legislative approval,” Flores said. “The way it is set up, the regulatory process is then up to the Parks and Wildlife Commission.”

By this means, Texas may elect to only recognize crimes that are illegal in Texas.

Flores said this is a necessary distinction, as Texas’ reluctance to join the compact was a potential requirement to enforce other states’ different wildlife laws to the same degree.

“The way it will be set up is that we can pick and choose what we feel is egregious,” he said. “Do we want to suspend a fisherman’s license for us-

Deer sense

Continued from Page 6

“The deer hear in a higher frequency a little better than us,” Miller said.

Hearing at higher frequencies prompted another question.

Do the “deer whistles” sold for installation on the front of vehicles work?

“They are supposed to make sounds at certain frequencies that they claim the deer can hear and humans can’t,” he said. “Few of the whistles examined emitted much at all, but some did. The problem is to project the sound at a frequency far enough in front of the vehicle to alert a deer it would have to be at a volume so high it would shatter every window in the vehicle.”

So, if the deer hear the sound, he said, the vehicle has long since passed it, not providing much in the way of safety for the deer or the vehicle.

So why are deer alerted to sounds when the hunters aren’t?

“It spends 365 days per year in the woods,” he said. “It knows sounds it is supposed to hear and sounds it is not supposed to hear.”

The larger ear does help amplify sounds in the direction it is pointed, but that’s a double-edged sword.

“It diminishes sound from the other direction,” Miller said.

Roadkill

Continued from Page 6

“Oh no,” he said.

Last year he hunted near Smiley, east of San Antonio. His biggest buck was a 10-pointer, and his son shot a 12-pointer out of Davidson’s blind. Next season he will hunt in Ozona, he said. In addition to hunting deer, he and his wife fish for bass.

During deer season when he’s not in his blind, Davidson keeps up with those who are. He occasionally finds carcasses improperly dumped by hunters along the roadside.

Some he reports to game wardens, such as ones still bearing the hunter’s tag.

“I’ve found a couple of those,” he said.

He has also found partially butchered deer carcasses — with the backstraps or buck’s head removed.

“During deer season I find ... maybe four or five,” Davidson said. “Just the head’s gone.”

Davidson’s job is an effort to remove unsightly and unpleasant carcasses from roads and to reduce the health hazard from having them around. In other areas, the job often is performed by any available road crew worker.

“It’s not a very glamorous job. That’s about it,” Davidson said. “I’ve had a lot of people thank me for it.”

ing two poles at the same time in another state where another state might do it? We’re after the poachers, road hunters, hunters and fishermen engaged in illegal commerce, telephone shockers (of fish) and the like.”

The compact provides advantages for Texans hunting or fishing in other member states. In 2006, 70,200 Texans hunted in other states, and 232,000 Texans fished out of state. Since the compact allows them to be treated as if they were residents of the other state, violations can be handled with a citation and the Texan may be released on his or her own recognizance, saving a potentially large bond or a trip to the county jail.

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact member states include Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Flores said he expect Texas to be on of the new members soon.

“It’s time to do it,” he said.

Hypothermia

Continued from Page 1

son drowned while duck hunting at Lake Greenbelt. The Donley County sheriff attributed their deaths partly to hypothermia. Across the country, two anglers from Arizona died from hypothermia after their boat capsized in Chesapeake Bay. They were in 46-degree water for 30 minutes.

“I don’t think hunters and anglers pay attention to things like hypothermia unless they’re going to a state known for being cold, like Alaska or Colorado,” said Steve Hall, education director for Texas Parks and Wildlife. “They tend not to be prepared.”

Wilson admits he wasn’t. No one in his hunting group had heat packs, extra clothes, warm beverages or high-energy foods.

“I didn’t even have matches to start a fire,” Wilson said.

Wilson and his hunting companion walked 30 minutes to get to a boat, crossed a stream and then rode an ATV for 45 minutes.

“When we got to the boat, I started walking off by myself,” Wilson said. “That’s where hypothermia gets

you. You don’t know what’s going on. When we got to the four-wheeler, I passed out. He had to tie my arms around him. When we got back to the truck, he pulled off my waders. They stood up by themselves, frozen. He got me in the truck, got it warm and called the game warden.”

The game warden took Wilson to a medical clinic in Felsenthal, Ark. His body temperature was recorded as being 88 degrees.

“I’m still not 100 percent,” Wilson said. “I’ve got two fingers that are numb. I feel a lot better, though, when I think how close I came to dying.”

Treatment for hypothermia should start as soon as possible, said Dr. Kathleen Delaney, professor of emergency medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

First, take off the victim’s wet clothes — which conduct heat from the body 240 times faster than air.

“If their hands or feet freeze, don’t rub them,” Delaney said. “That can damage tissue. In the ER, we submerge the frozen parts in warm water, not hot, then dry them. If the person is healthy and their body temperature is above 86 degrees, they can

warm quickly if they’re dry and in a sheltered place.”

In dire situations, put someone in a sleeping bag with another warm body, Delaney said.

Although hot beverages can help fight hypothermia, alcohol doesn’t.

“Drinking to get warm is a bunch of hooey,” Delaney said. “It causes the blood flow to increase to the skin and you lose heat to the environment.”

Delaney, who has trekked the Himalayas, said outdoorsmen need to prepare for the worst when going out in cold weather.

“You need plenty of food,” Delaney said. “The body burns a lot of calories trying to keep warm. You need to layer your clothing, so sweat evaporates and your clothes stay dry. You need a down sleeping bag to capture the body’s warmth and a shelter to keep the wind off you.”

Hall warns hunters and anglers that anytime the air or water temperature drops below 60 degrees, hypothermia can be a danger if you get wet.

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