

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

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Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

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New world record
bull elk confirmed
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INSIDE FISHING



Follow gulls, shrimp

Gulls are still feeding on shrimp in Sabine Lake, guiding anglers looking for saltwater bites in Southeast Texas.

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Patient fisherman

A man fighting cancer takes the fishing trip of a lifetime through the South.

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HUNTING



Cat masters

Two Texas hunters help ranchers keep tabs on deer-killing mountain lions.

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African adventure

A Dallas couple recalls an exciting Cape buffalo hunt in Zimbabwe.

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Where's tom?

Turkey hunters around Abilene report seeing fewer birds during the fall hunt.

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CONSERVATION

For the love of Earth

Companies that say they support conservation are viewed more favorably, according to a new survey.

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Show stoppers

Visit to convention launches young hunter's career

BY CRAIG NYHUS

Marilyn Stevens, a single mother of 12-year-old son, Sage, had a dilemma. She has a son crazy about hunting, but she knew nothing about it. A stop at the membership booth at the Dallas Safari Club convention last year changed all that.

"My family didn't hunt, and Sage's father's family doesn't hunt," she said. "It was hard to think of a way to get him exposed to it. But it was all Sage talked about — I don't know where it came from."

A year ago, after learning about the Dallas Safari Club Convention and Sporting Expo, Sage pressed his mother to attend. "He talked me into going," she said.

The mother-son duo spent an afternoon at the show.

See HUNTER, Page 25



Sage Stevens

Top shot in the Dallas Safari Club photo contest



WINNING ENTRY: Outfitter Troy Wolfenden took this winning image of hunting guest Mark Murray atop the Beaverfoot Range of

1/2-hour hike up the mountain. Wolfenden's image of the hunter placed first in the Hunter with Trophy category in the Dallas Safari Club's annual photography competition. For more winners, see Pages 16-17.



PLAN AHEAD: A little research can help those planning a fishing getaway dodge the tournament crowds. Photo by David J. Sams.

Avoid big tournaments

Before you head to the lake, head to the Web — or the phone

BY THOMAS PHILLIPS

Silver sunlight glistens through clouds as your buddy backs the trailer. It's before dawn, and only small waves rub the shoreline at the boat ramp.

A crow flies overhead, its feathers dragging in the air as it flaps its wings. Then, a roar. Three hundred bass boats wake the dead at a marina around the bend.

One by one the boats, carrying tournament anglers, drip out of the

marina. You watch as green and red lights disperse throughout the lake, and then you rock on your boat atop the competitors' wakes.

You grab a gunnel and hang your head. What was going to be a day of solitude on the water has become a cocktail party of sorts.

Colliding with tournaments — with hundreds or dozens of anglers pressuring all the fishing hot spots — can be avoided with a little research

See AVOID, Page 25

Crappie gather a crowd

Pair meets in East Texas for the bite

BY CRAIG NYHUS

For more than 25 years, Mike Crossland of Longview has headed to Lake O' the Pines to fish for crappie. And he's not alone.

"There were more than 200 boats here on New Year's Day," he said. "The campgrounds are full of families, and they're all here to fish. It's good to see all of the kids and women out here."

See CRAPPIE, Page 18



WINTER FUN: Mike Crossland of Longview shows a crappie at Lake O' the Pines. Photo by Craig Nyhus.

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CONSERVATION

Conservation-minded companies win more support

Few in survey say conservation records have no influence

Large majorities of hunters and anglers say they are more likely to buy products from companies that support wildlife and fisheries conservation efforts, according to a recent survey.

Hunters and anglers also perceive specific firms as being particularly strong in support for conservation.

In separate November 2008 surveys

(one for hunters and the other for anglers), respondents were asked if they would be more or less likely to buy from companies that support conservation of wildlife and fisheries resources. Sixty-seven percent of hunters and 52 percent of anglers responded affirmatively when asked if they are "much more likely" to buy products from conservation-supporting com-

panies. A further 22 percent of hunters and 29 percent of anglers describe themselves as "slightly more likely" to buy products from such companies.

Only 7 percent of hunters and 14 percent of anglers said companies' support for conservation had no influence either way on their purchasing decisions.

"These results show that clear majorities of both hunters and anglers are positively influenced in their purchasing decisions by companies' perceived efforts in support of wildlife and fisheries conservation," said the

survey's author, Rob Southwick of Southwick Associates.

The survey results also show that hunters and anglers perceive specific companies as being supporters of conservation efforts. In the separate surveys, hunters were asked which listed companies they felt contributed to hunting and wildlife conservation, and anglers were asked which listed companies they felt contributed to fishing and fisheries conservation. A list of companies to choose from was provided to each respondent. The top five brands were (the figure following

each company or brand name indicates the percentage of respondents who perceived that company as a conservation supporter):

- Chevy Trucks: hunters 16 percent, anglers 15 percent;
- Budweiser: hunters 13 percent, anglers 12 percent;
- Polaris: hunters 12 percent, anglers 8 percent;
- Ford: hunters 10 percent, anglers 8 percent;
- Yamaha: hunters 8.5 percent, anglers 10.5 percent.

—Southwick Associates report

Founder of National Wild Turkey Federation dies

Group remembers Rodgers after 35 years

Tom Rodgers, founder of the National Wild Turkey Federation, passed away Dec. 25 after a long battle with cancer. He was 64.

Rodgers was survived by his mother, son, Mark, and two sisters.

As the NWTF ends its 35th anniversary celebration, it also remembers the man who started it all.

"Tom is the reason the federation is here, working daily to promote wildlife conservation and preserve North America's hunting heritage," said James Earl Kennamer, the NWTF's chief conservation officer. "The organization is reflecting on its rich history and honoring the man who started it all. He was a great friend, personally, a great asset for wildlife, and he'll be greatly missed."

"Tom's influence on the conservation industry, on wildlife and hunters' rights was immeasurable," said George Thornton, NWTF's CEO. "Without him, the NWTF wouldn't

exist, and wild turkeys literally would not be where they are today."

When Rodgers founded the NWTF in 1973, only 1.3 million wild turkeys remained throughout North America. Since then, the number of wild turkeys has increased to more than 7 million birds thanks to state, federal and provincial wildlife agencies, the NWTF, its members and partners. Much of the restoration was achieved through trapping and transferring wild turkeys to suitable habitat — an idea conceived by Rodgers.

Since the 1950s, state and provincial wildlife agencies have moved more than 195,000 wild turkeys to suitable habitat across North America. Throughout its 35-year history, the NWTF has helped accelerate those efforts through the purchase of trapping equipment, transfer boxes, funding and the help of its volunteers.

The NWTF started small. In 1969, Rodgers began his conservation career by writing a syndicated outdoor column about wild turkeys and smallmouth bass — his two favorite topics — for several Northern Virginia newspapers.

Rodgers began laying the groundwork for the federation in 1971. He founded and

named the NWTF and *Turkey Call* magazine, the NWTF's flagship publication, in his hometown of Fredericksburg, Va., in 1973. Later that year, Rodgers moved the federation's headquarters to its permanent home in Edgefield, S.C., and co-founded the first NWTF state chapter with his friend Sam Crouch Sr. in Edgefield soon after.

Rodgers invested \$10,000 in the NWTF, becoming the conservation organization's first donor and diamond life sponsor. Since then, the NWTF has helped raise and spend more than \$279 million and conserve nearly 14 million acres of wildlife habitat.

Rodgers served as the NWTF's first president and executive vice president until his retirement in 1981.

"All the NWTF has accomplished — from restoring wild turkeys and their habitat to defending our privileges to hunt — began with one great man's extraordinary vision," Thornton said. "His legacy will continue through the NWTF's conservation efforts, outreach programs, thousands of volunteers and members for many years to come."

—National Wild Turkey Federation report



WILDLIFE CHAMPION: National Wild Turkey Federation founder Tom Rodgers with the last wild turkey he harvested. Photo by Gene Smith.



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NATIONAL

Permit winner takes Neb. ram

Lottery held for lone bighorn tag

David Janssen of Hastings, Neb., took a full-curl bighorn ram Dec. 11 at Peterson Wildlife Management Area to fill his 2008 Nebraska bighorn lottery permit.

Janssen took the ram on the second day of the hunt. He was accompanied by wildlife biologist Dean Studnicka of Crawford and Todd Nordeen, district wildlife manager in the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's Alliance office. Biologists said the ram was about 7 years old.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commissioners authorized the issuance of one bighorn permit — a lottery permit — for the 2008 bighorn season. Janssen's name was drawn from a bar-



ONE SHOT: David Janssen of Hastings, Neb., poses with the bighorn sheep he harvested last month. Photo by Nebraska Game and Parks.

rel containing 1,357 bighorn permit applications.

"The lottery permit, which was made available only to Nebraska residents, is the first bighorn permit issued since the last bighorn hunt at Fort Robinson three years ago," Nordeen said.

"The bighorn hunt is an extremely rare opportunity to hunt for a trophy bighorn," Janssen said. "But the real story of the hunt for me is the work everyone is doing to bring the bighorns back to their historical ranges, here in Nebraska and across North America."

Once native to parts of Nebraska, bighorn sheep were reintroduced in the Pine Ridge in 1981 and to the Wildcat Hills in 2001. Significant disease losses in both areas during winter 2004-05 resulted in bighorn hunting season closure in 2006 and 2007.

Funds raised by the sale of bighorn permits are used for the Nebraska bighorn sheep management program. — *Nebraska Game and Parks report*

Kentucky has new state-record elk

Hunter practiced long shots to harvest 8-by-8 bull

Kelvin Jackson of Clay County, Ky., holds a new state record for a non-typical bull elk. Jackson's eight-by-eight bull, shot in Harlan County, officially scored 367 7/8 in the Boone & Crockett Club's scoring system. The bull beat the previous non-typical record of 349 3/8.

"When I got drawn for a bull permit, you can ask my wife, I was like a kid," Jackson said. "That's the first time I've felt that way since I was 7 years old."

Local residents helped Jackson locate elk, and he received permission to scout and hunt on private land.

"I went to people in a little place they call Greasy," Jackson said. "They told me where they've been seeing elk. When I found the herd, there were 22 cows and seven bulls. I'd go there once a week to watch them."

Jackson's work paid off. As he studied the herd's be-

havior, he prepared to take a long-range shot.

"They were in a field, and if you approached them, they would leave," Jackson said. "I practiced shooting long-range because I figured I'd have to do that."

Jackson took the bull at 465 yards with one shot from his 300 Remington Ultra Magnum.

"A little more than a decade ago, Kentucky had no wild elk," said Tina Brunjes, big game program coordinator for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "Today, we have a large, healthy herd that consistently produces quality animals that any hunter would be proud to take home."

Kentucky intends to issue 1,000 elk hunting permits next season. The state's herd is now estimated at 9,000 animals.

— *Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife report*

National News in Brief

Okla. black bear season proposed

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is considering a black bear season in four southeastern counties next season.

The proposed season would take place in Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain and Pushmataha counties. McCurtain County borders Texas north of Bowie County.

Under the proposal, bear season would open with deer archery season and run through deer muzzle-loader season. Hunters would be required to report bear harvests, and the total season harvest would be limited to 20 bears. The use of dogs would be prohibited. Baiting would be prohibited on public land.

"This proposal is based on more than 15 years of biological data and information from responding to nuisance bear calls," said Alan Peoples, chief of wildlife for the Wildlife Department. "Data points to a growing population of bears in Oklahoma, which is a great testament to the wildlife diversity and outstanding habitat in southeast Oklahoma. With an estimated population of as many as 500 bears in southeast Oklahoma, we're excited about the opportunities that this renewable wildlife resource will provide for Oklahoma sportsmen."

— *Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation report*

New junior hunters head to NY fields

More than 15,000 junior hunters took advantage of a new law to create a junior big-game license and

expand outdoor opportunities.

The new law allowed 14- and 15-year-olds to hunt big game for the first time. Records indicate 15,651 junior hunters took advantage of the new opportunity — harvesting about 3,679 deer.

"The junior big-game license has proven extremely popular," said New York Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis. "We were very excited to see so many young hunters afield, and we have received many letters and e-mails from parents and enthusiastic hunters about their experiences this year."

— *New York DEC report*

Wildlife refuge established in Pa.

A new national wildlife refuge has been approved in Pennsylvania.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established a boundary for the refuge, in Cherry Valley, encompassing 20,466 acres, within which it may acquire habitat for wildlife.

"The partnership approach to the planning for the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge is a model for future planning efforts," said USFWS Director H. Dale Hall.

USFWS's next step is to work with partners and landowners in the refuge to identify opportunities to acquire land. Organizations such as Pennsylvania, The Nature Conservancy, National Park Service and others already protect land in and near the refuge.

USFWS aims to provide recreational opportunities, such as hunting and fishing, when enough lands have been acquired to accommodate those uses.

— *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report*

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HUNTING

African safari brings thrill for Dallas couple

Buffalo hunt highlights Zimbabwe trip

By CRAIG NYHUS

It wasn't Karl and Rebecca Evans' first African hunting trip. But it will go down as their most exciting.

Karl's goal on the October trip to Zimbabwe was to harvest a Cape buffalo and a big kudu. Hunting with legendary professional hunter Lou Hallamore, the group set up camp near Lake Kariba.

"The first day of the buffalo hunt, we hunted at the edge of Lake Kariba," Karl Evans said. "The lake had green grass at the water's edge, and the buffalo would come down out of the hills to feed."

They saw one large herd of buffalo.

"There were about 110 animals, but they were all cows," he said.

The next day, the group checked out different watering holes where buffalo had been seen.

"We found tracks and followed them for about a half-mile and saw a large bull," Karl said. "I shot, and he jumped to the side — I wasn't sure if I hit him."

Following the tracks for another quarter mile, the buffalo was spotted again. "I shot him twice, once in the right shoulder and the second shot was more toward the rear," he said.

The tracking continued. After a few hundred yards the animal was seen again. And this time it was facing the hunters. "I shot him in the throat, twice," Karl said. "Then he started coming. I had used my two shots — I was empty."

But Hallamore had a rifle and handed it to Karl as the buffalo was

coming. "I shot again, and he went down," Karl said. "About 25 to 30 yards from us."

The hunter's description of the events may be surprising.

"I was pretty excited," he said. "It was fun — I want to do it again."

The big kudu Karl sought eluded him, and three days of leopard hunting brought only females to the bait. A hyena hunt brought more success, though.

The 10-day trip topped Rebecca's list as well.

"It was awesome," she said, though she didn't hunt. "I rode in the front of the truck with Lou. I heard all kinds of stories, and the country was beautiful. We were way out in the middle of nowhere."

The boat ride along Lake Kariba to the camp was a highlight for the couple as they viewed elephants and other wildlife. And at the camp, wildlife loomed nearby.



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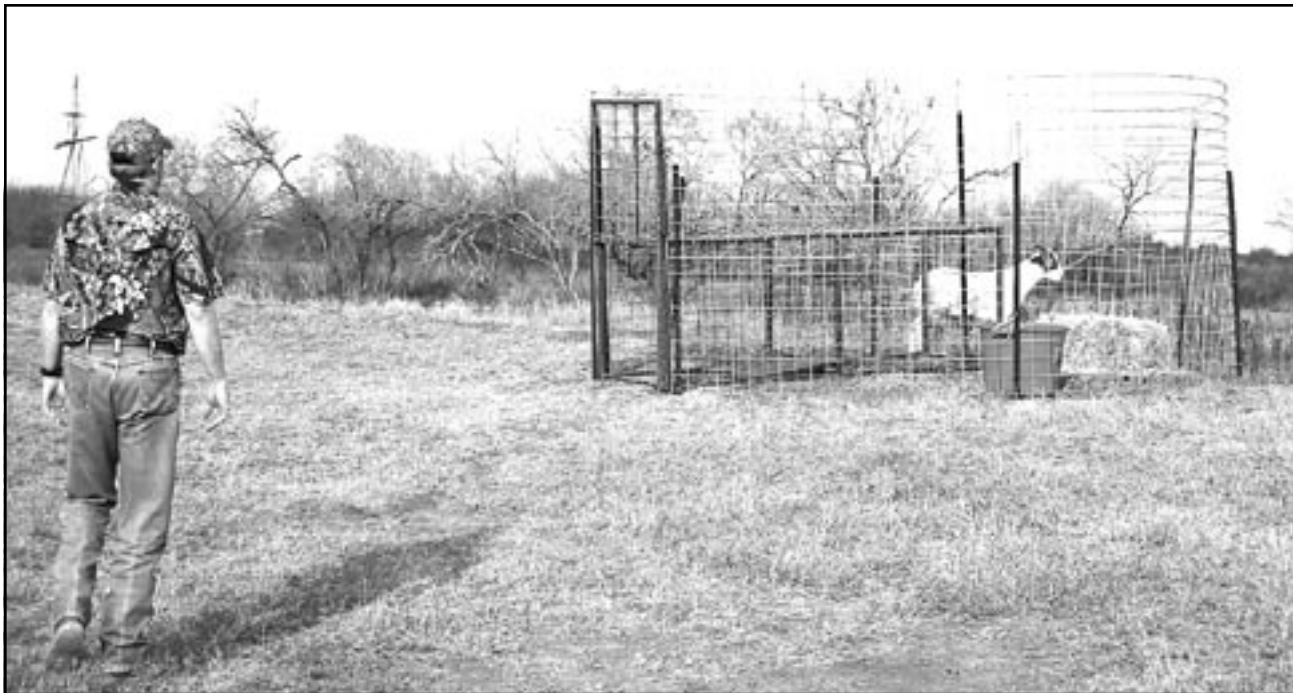
Rebecca, left, and Karl Evans, right, pose with the Cape buffalo Karl Evans shot this fall in Zimbabwe and their professional hunter, Lou Hallamore of Lou Hallamore Safaris. The buffalo charged the trio before Karl Evans finally dropped it.

"We heard lions roaring at night from an island about 400 yards away," Karl said.

The couple was quick to encourage any skeptical hunters to head

for Zimbabwe.

"With the political situation over there, I was very concerned," Rebecca said. "But we had no problems at all — I'm so glad we went."



BIG CAT CONCERNS: Above, one of the traps using live goats as bait, set out over nearly 7,000 acres of South Texas ranch land by professional lion hunters Tony Timmons and Henry McIntyre, is examined by ranch owner Joey McCarty.

Right, McCarty holds the head and antlers of a buck killed by a lion on his high-fenced ranch near Jourdanton. Photos by Ralph Winingham.



Right, Henry McIntyre, on horseback, and Tony Timmons, right, guided this hunter to track down and kill one of the lions they have helped ranchers eliminate. Photo by Sproul Ranch.



Lion hunters on the prowl

Pair helps ranchers manage profit-killing mountain lions

By RALPH WININGHAM

The instant Joey McCarty caught sight of a flash of tan and the distinctive long tail of a feline crossing a sendero on his ranch, he knew what he had to do — call in the professionals.

"That was the first live mountain lion that I have ever seen in the 35 years I have been hunting here, but I knew what lions can do to the deer population," McCarty said of his encounter about four weeks ago with the largest and most widespread feline predator in the Lone Star State.

"Back in 2002, during a two- or three-month period, we lost three bucks that were at or better than 200 (in the Boone and Crockett Club ranking) and probably 20 other bucks in the 4- to 5-year-old range. Conservatively, that was a loss of about \$100,000."

That buck-killing predator turned out to be a 183-pound, 7-foot-3 male lion that had its rampage ended in a chance en-

counter with a hog hunter, who fatally shot the cat.

"We conducted a helicopter survey of my property the day before the big cat was killed, and we did not see a single mature deer. The big bucks are territorial and will stand their ground and die, but the younger deer just head for the hills," McCarty said.

In an attempt to prevent a similar devastating blow to the deer population on his 1,400-acre high-fenced ranch, McCarty has hired lion-hunting professionals Tony Timmons and Henry McIntyre to trap or hunt down the big cats.

"By the time you start seeing lions on a ranch, you are very deep into a problem," Timmons said. "Most ranch owners never see what is happening and just don't know what kind of damage a lion might be doing."

During the past 12 years, Timmons has been working with McIntyre, a 27-year veteran lion

See **LIONS**, Page 12

Big Country hunters noticing fewer fall turkeys this season

Biologists say birds' numbers not declining

By BILL MILLER

Abilene-area deer hunters have been reporting fewer turkeys on their leases, but biologists for a turkey conservation group and the state suspect there hasn't been a major population decline.

The biologists added, however, that the birds might have shifted their patterns, and there could be several reasons for that.

A recent report in an Abilene newspaper said hunters, who are used to seeing big flocks of 30 to 50 birds, have seen few if any this deer season.

The condition has been noticed by Jimmy Pitstick of Arlington, who has a lease near Baird, about 25 miles east of Abilene.

"We used to see them a lot during rifle season," he said. "I mean, I'd like to know; they don't just fall off the face of the earth. Where do they go?"

There should be plenty of Rio Grande turkeys in Texas, said Jason Hardin, upland game bird specialist for Texas Parks and Wildlife, even though this year's hatch for Rios statewide is expected to be below average.

"Range-wide, I'd say the Rio

Grande hatch was down a little bit, and Eastern turkeys did a little better," Hardin said.

But Hardin noted that there was a statewide glut of jakes at the end of the spring hunting season.

Those guys are now about two years old and likely sporting beards, said Ross Huffman of Amarillo, a biologist who serves West Texas and Oklahoma for the National Wild Turkey Federation.

"So there are not as many (new) jakes," Hardin said, "but you will see a lot of those two-

See **TURKEY**, Page 12



WHERE'S TOM? Turkey populations are expected to be good near Abilene, although deer hunters are seeing fewer birds. Biologists expect a sizeable crop of 2-year-old birds this spring.

Jacksboro 'four seasons' e-mail is fiction, sort of

Teacher not real; students still give funny answers

By THOMAS PHILLIPS

Jacksboro Elementary School doesn't have a Miss Sally Edwards with students who gave funny responses when asked what the four seasons are. But the story circulating in a chain e-mail isn't entirely untrue.

The Internet story says 67 percent of Edwards' students answered "dove season, duck season, deer season and turkey season" when asked.

"Some of them do sometimes say 'football' or 'duck,' said Kelly Williams, a kindergarten teacher at the school. "They do say that some-

times. Course, you never know what kindergartners are going to say."

The writer took a little poetic license in his telling.

The school screens about 80 students in the spring before they begin kindergarten. Several will give funny answers when asked the seasons question, Williams said.

"They don't know the real ones," she said, adding, "They're not joking. They're pretty serious."

It's not only funny for Internet readers, either. Teachers become tickled too and have to turn their heads.

"Of course, that's every day," Williams said.

The subject line of the e-mail, "How we raise kids in Texas," is at least partly true for Jacksboro. It probably applies in more urban areas too, said Williams, who has

IN DEPTH
Read the full e-mail on Page 26.

See E-MAIL, Page 26

Waterfowl drifting in across state

High Plains Mallard Management Unit

Great goose hunts have been posted near Dumas. Hunters have had excellent decoying action over corn and plowed ground.

Many outfitters say they are getting their limit of dark geese with equal numbers of snow geese.

Lots of young snows have helped decoying action.

Duck action has been steady on playa lakes, but few hunters have taken advantage. Those who have hunted have taken limits of mallards.

Teal, wigeons, gadwalls and a few wood ducks have been taken as well.

Haskell County hunters have seen the same results.

North Zone

Timber hunters say wood ducks are steady in the morning and afternoon. More mallards have been taken in the past two weeks around the Red River.

Lake Wright Patman has been good for gadwalls, teal and mallards. Lake Palestine has been steady for gadwalls, teal and a few mallards.

Sam Rayburn has yielded limits for mallards, teal, gadwalls and wood ducks for hunters able to hunt lay-out blinds in coves. Hunting along Interstate 10 has been fair to good around Winnie and Anahuac. Gadwalls and green-winged teal have been harvested near Nome.

South Zone

Duck hunting on the coastal prairie has been steady on ponds able to be rested between hunts. Conditions remain dry, and many ponds have dried or are close to drying. Best duck hunts have been had near Wharton, East Bernard and Garwood. Hunters in Matagorda and Port O'Connor have taken redheads, pintails and a few wigeons. Rockport hunters have seen slow hunts. Inland ponds near Port Lavaca have been good for teal, gadwalls and pintails. Marsh hunters near Collegeport have scored limits of bluewings, greenwings and gadwalls. Goose hunters continue to benefit from a large flock of juvenile snow geese.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

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FISHING

Cancer patient's quest a success

Virginia men travel through South on journey to catch bass

By DOUG PIKE

Phil Kreutzer found out a while back that his best friend and lifelong fishing partner, John Rust, is losing his battle against an aggressive cancer. There was only one thing to do.

Road trip.

Once the two twentysomethings made the decision — it took Rust about two seconds to approve the idea — they had to decide where to spend a month fishing together.

Shortly after announcing their plan, those decisions were being made for the young Virginians. Word spread quickly throughout the fishing community. Before they could load the boat and leave the driveway, they were looking at an itinerary of prime

water stops from Alabama to West Texas.

The theme from so many generous sponsors: If you need it, you'll have it. Southeastern Pond Management hosted them for three days of action on private water in Alabama and Mississippi.

And while they were there, preparations were underway for a proper introduction to bass fishing Texas-style.

Not surprisingly, Kreutzer and Rust devoted the lion's share of their trip to Texas. And thanks to the overwhelming response to e-mailed solicitations by Academy Sports and Outdoors' Jerry deBin, the guys were treated to some major-league action.

They'll remember Fayette County Reservoir, the power-plant lake northwest of Houston, for steamy hot water despite frigid

air that followed them across the South that first week.

They'll remember The Lakes of Danbury for being granted access by manager Jim Thompson to some "special" water.

Both men left Virginia hoping to catch personal-best bass before their trip ended. At Danbury, Kreutzer scored a fat 7-pounder that bettered his previous mark by a full 2 pounds.

See QUEST, Page 23

TOP CATCH: John Rust of Virginia, left, caught his personal best bass at Lake Falcon while on a month-long fishing trip with his friend Phil Kreutzer. Photo by Phil Kreutzer.



Birds still on shrimp



SABINE SURPRISE: Sabine Lake anglers are seeing the shrimp — and the birds that locate them — remain longer this winter. Some believe higher water salinity and little released water from reservoirs are keeping the shrimp in the bay. Photo by David J. Sams.

Gulls helping anglers find fish near Sabine

By DANNO WISE

Anglers always look forward to seeing flocks of birds working over troupes of shrimp being pushed by schools of fish. Most often, this chain reaction occurs on Texas bays during the fall. But this year the shrimp and birds have remained active on at least one Texas bay.

"We still have lots of shrimp in the lake," said Sabine Lake guide Capt. Randy Foreman. "I'm still following birds to catch fish. So long as there isn't a big rain above us, I think the shrimp will stay in the lake. If they stay, the birds will still be working."

Foreman attributes the unusual activity to water salinity.

"In years when we have relatively high salinity in the winter, it seems like the shrimp stay longer," he said. "For those of us old enough to remember, this is like it was before the lakes (Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend) were built — when we had a more consistent salinity level."

The large reservoirs usually release water in late fall.

"When they release water, it seems to run the shrimp out of the lake," Foreman said. "But they haven't gotten enough rain above the lakes to cause them to dump water this year. And we usually don't have much rain in January, so the shrimp should stay until we start getting our heavy rains. As long as there are shrimp in the bay, the fish will stay on them. And the birds will help us locate them."

Anglers familiar with working birds over shrimp and fish know the trio of elements can result in fast action and quick limits. Foreman said working flocks of winter gulls is a little different in cadence but can still have the same end result.

"You have to remember everything moves slower in winter," Foreman said.

"The birds will still be working over the shrimp, but they won't be working quite as hard as (they) do in the fall. During the winter, if I see one gull, I'll go check it out. All it takes is one gull to show you where the shrimp are."

"But, again, the fish and birds will be feed-

ing on the shrimp, but they won't be working them as hard as they do in fall. So, if you see a gull, go investigate, but give everything time to develop. Usually, once one bird finds a school, other birds will start joining him. Pretty soon you may have several birds working. They won't be doing crazy cartwheels, but they will be diving and picking up shrimp from time to time."

You have to remember everything moves slower in winter," Foreman said. "The birds will still be working over the shrimp, but they won't be working quite as hard as (they) do in the fall."

— Capt. Randy Foreman, Sabine Lake guide

be mouthing it. And they don't want a lot of action on the jig. You still need to fish slow — just like you would in any other winter fishing situation. It really is no different than fishing over a mussel bed or mud flat during the winter, except the birds are helping you locate the fish."

Winds keep anglers off coastal bays

Finding productive protected water the key to success

By DANNO WISE

Most experienced Texas bay fishermen know winter can provide some of the year's best inshore action. For one thing, the fish are predictable during winter. However, knowing where the fish are and reaching them can often be two entirely different things. When harsh winter winds blow, anglers are often left scrambling for a backup plan.

"Fishing has been really good lately," said Port O'Connor guide Capt. Leonard "Capt. Mac" McPheters. "The problem is, a lot of what we're doing is open-bay stuff. And when we've got a lot of wind, getting to those fish is a problem. We can fish those areas on the calm days between fronts, but on windy days we've got to look for fish along the shorelines or in protected coves and back lakes."

Strong winds can affect anglers on any body of water during winter. But on expansive bay systems such as the sprawling Galveston Bay complex, it can turn conditions dangerous.

"Everybody talks about fishing the deep reefs during winter," said Galveston guide Capt. Michael LaRue. "But there are days you just can't get out there. What a lot of people don't realize, though, is there is also a lot of fish in the back end of Trinity (Bay) and up the rivers. The rivers are really overlooked. People don't realize how many fish move up there during the winter. And you can usually fish the river regardless of how strong the wind is."

See PROTECTED, Page 12



LOOKING FOR COVER: Strong winds send anglers to protected areas such as ship channels, back lakes and coves.

Savvy boat show shopping

Tips for tackling too many choices

By DAN ARMITAGE

If you're in the market for a new fishing boat — and who's not always at least looking — this may be the best time of year to make the best deal. Why? Because it's boat show season. And this season, it's a buyer's market out there, with lots of deals available and great interest rates.

Boat shows are where most anglers acquire information about new boats, according to a first-of-its-kind survey conducted recently by J.D. Power & Associates. The marketing information firm that's famous for its automobile ratings, based on customer satisfaction surveys, recently completed a similar study among 22,000 late-model boat owners showing that more than 56 percent of owners relied on boat shows as their main sources for boat-buying information. The balance, or 44 percent, said they relied on manufacturers' brochures for new boat info.

If you're serious about buying a new boat at the show, go early and with a plan, and plan to go again. To save time, trouble and money, don't step onto the show floor without knowing your budget and what type of boat you

want to buy.

Once you know what kinds of boats you want to consider and how much you can spend, shop the manufacturers and models that fit your criteria via the Internet and study the ads and boat articles available to learn the pros and cons of specific boats that strike your fancy and meet your needs. After you have identified a few models, make a list of those you're interested in to take to the boat show.

If you're in buying mode, consider going to the show twice, the first time with the family. Use that visit to see firsthand the models you're considering, screening those that meet your needs and gathering valuable first reactions from your companions — but not doing any serious negotiating. Save that for the second trip, preferably during a midweek day when the crowds are thin and sales people have time to work with you. If you remember to ask a dealer who has a boat you may be interested in, you may even score free admission for your second visit.

The boat show has the unique ability to allow you to comparison shop boat prices, models and manufacturers that may be only a few steps apart. And don't be afraid to shop deals between competing dealers. Most of all, allow yourself to have fun during the boat-buying process — it might result in ownership of a fishing boat that you and your family will enjoy for years to come.



BOAT HUNTING: More people obtain new boat information at boat shows than from any other source, according to a news study by J.D. Power & Associates. Winter boat shows offer welcome off-season contact with boats and fellow boaters — and they showcase new models. Photos by Dan Armitage.



OFFSHORE BONANZA: This blue marlin was caught and released on Dec. 30 by Meredith Sloan, Kristin Shimaitis and Chris Pickett aboard the Mo Azul out of Port Aransas. Photo by Peter Young.

Texas winter marlin biting

Fish are there, but bluewater anglers kept ashore by weather

By PETER YOUNG

Offshore anglers in Texas tend to target certain species during certain months of the year. But billfish are out there in the winter — if the anglers can get to them.

On Dec. 30, Chad Shimaitis, owner of the Mo Azul out of Port Aransas, saw a rare winter weather opportunity to head out, and the group was surprised with a 250-pound blue marlin within the first hour.

A break in the winds had the group out and trolling by 8 a.m. Chris Pickett, the first mate, was hoping to run into wahoo. Good water clarity and 73-degree water temperatures were good signs, he said.

At the end of the second pass over their chosen spot, the reel in the shotgun/long rigger position began to scream.

"I thought that it was probably a wahoo first," Pickett said. "Then I saw a big splash, and I still thought that it might be a wahoo trying to get turned around. I didn't want to say that it could be a billfish even though it looked and acted like it. About five minutes into it or so we got a good jump out of him and it looked to be about a 250- or 300-

See MARLIN, Page 26



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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

'DISABLED VET' BAGS DEER, CITATION

• A hunter with a deer was checked by Schleicher County Game Warden Marco Alvizo. The man showed a free disabled veterans license although he was not disabled and appeared totally healthy. The man admitted to acquiring the license by telling the license clerk that he was a disabled veteran. Charges were filed, and the license and deer were confiscated.

BOAT WITH ZEBRA MUSSELS STOPPED AT TEXOMA

• A marina service manager contacted Grayson County Game Warden Dale Moses about a boat that had come to Lake Texoma from Lake Michigan. The boat was about to be launched when the service manager noticed what he believed to be zebra mussels. The owner was told he could not launch the boat until it was inspected. Moses and Texoma fisheries biologist Bruce Hysmith inspected the vessel and positively identified the mussels as zebras. Plans are underway to have the boat decontaminated so it can be put on Lake Texoma.

DRIVER FORGETS ABOUT BLOOD IN PICKUP'S BED

• Houston County Game Wardens Zak Benge and Eddie Lehr stopped to talk to a pickup driver in the middle of a county road. The man said he had not killed anything until asked about the blood in the bed of the truck. A search of an ice chest revealed a quartered deer with the head missing. At the man's camp the wardens located the head of a spike buck that was clearly not killed that morning; however, the man insisted it was. The wardens issued three citations for untagged deer, no proof of sex and failure to complete the harvest log. Cases are pending.

TOO MANY SPECKLED TROUT KEPT IN CLEAR LAKE

• While patrolling Clear Lake, Harris County Game Wardens Tim Elmore

Poacher sends girlfriend, her mom after dropped cell

• A landowner found a deer on his property that had been shot from the road. He called De Witt County Game Warden Mike Hoffmann. When the landowner returned to the location, the deer was gone but a cell phone

was left at the scene. Later, a mother and daughter showed up at the landowner's gate and said they were looking for a phone that the daughter's boyfriend had thrown out the window along the road during a fit of rage. The

phone then rang inside of the landowner's pocket, and the women said it was their phone. The landowner told them they could talk to the game warden since he found the phone on his property, not along the road.

and Jennifer Inkster encountered two fishermen who exceeded the limit of speckled trout. The individuals were in possession of 33 trout and believed they could cull the fish that were too small. Multiple citations were filed.

GIRLFRIEND KEEPS EYE ON ROAD, BOYFRIEND EYES DEER

• In Duval County, Deputy Game Warden J.D. Beeson observed an occupant of a pickup truck shoot at a deer off the road. The shooter had his girlfriend drive while he shot at the deer from the passenger side with a .17-caliber rifle. The passenger shot twice but missed a six-point buck. Cases are pending, and the rifle was seized.

WARDEN RETIRES, BUT WILSON COUNTY STILL COVERED

• While patrolling in Wilson County, Atascosa County Game Warden Derek Iden observed a vehicle working a spotlight on a public road. Iden followed the vehicle four miles and stopped it. Four young men told Iden they were hunting for raccoons and stuff. They also said they knew the Wilson County game warden retired before hunting season and they knew Wilson County did not have a game warden. Citations were issued for hunting from a public roadway, and two guns and a spotlight were seized.

ANGLER PREFERS BARBECUE OVER PROPER LICENSING

• Game Wardens Jake Scott and Brent Satsky were working trout anglers on the Guadalupe River when Satsky came upon an individual fly-

fishing. Satsky asked the individual for his fishing license but was handed a hunting license instead. Satsky issued a citation for fishing without a valid license and advised the man not to fish anymore until he purchased a fishing license. Later that evening, Scott was patrolling the Canyon Lake Dam area and noticed the same vehicle. Scott walked down to the river and observed the man fishing again. Scott asked whether the man had purchased a fishing license. The man said he went to get a fishing license but decided to go eat barbecue instead. He received his second citation of the day.

TIGER CUB PROMPTS CALL TO FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, TOO

• A telephone call about a person housing a Bengal tiger at his residence was received by Starr County Game Warden Dennis Gazaway Jr. Gazaway, along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Agents Mark Johnson and Alex Rodriguez, located a four-month-old Bengal tiger. The case was turned over to local sheriff's department.

NO SNAKES OUT DURING A PANHANDLE WINTER

• A group of hunters witnessed a vehicle shooting from a public road and reported the shooting to Motley County Game Warden Matthew Cruse. Cruse located the shooter's vehicle and confronted the occupants. They men initially said they shot at a snake. After being informed it was December in the Panhandle, they then admitted to shooting at a coyote.

Cases were filed for hunting from a public road.

CHARGES FILED FOR INCIDENT IN 'WARDEN'S BACKYARD'

• Hale County Game Warden Mark Collins was getting ready to leave his residence when he heard several shots fired near his property. Collins observed several vehicles and 16 pheasant hunters. Three of the hunters were standing in the middle of county road and actively shooting. Charges were filed. One of the men said, "I didn't know we were hunting in a game warden's backyard."

'ONE BUCK' MEANS ONE BUCK IN STEPHENS COUNTY

• Stephens County Game Warden Ed Russell investigated a nighttime deer-poaching incident. The deer was still at the scene, and Russell stayed with it until a man came to retrieve it about 10:30 p.m. A felony case is pending. The man gave a statement that the deer was the second deer he killed in a one-buck county.

DUCK HUNTERS RESCUED FROM COLD LAKE FORK

• Wood County Game Wardens Derek Spitzer and Kurt Kelley rescued two duck hunters at Lake Fork in 25 mph winds and 28-degree temperatures. One of the hunters went out to retrieve a duck, and the 12-foot johnboat turned over. The man was able to climb on top of the boat while his partner called for help. Spitzer and Kelley accessed the lake using a remote duck camp boat ramp. After a little more than an hour, the cold,

wet man was brought ashore and was transported to a waiting ambulance. The hunter was treated and released at the scene after warming up and being checked out by paramedics.

HEADLESS DEER INCLUDED WITH OTHER CARCASSES AT ROADSIDE DUMP

• Live Oak County Game Warden Carlos Riojas responded to a complaint concerning dumping deer carcasses alongside a public road. Several boned out deer and one deer intact with the head removed were located. Riojas visited with nearby residents and obtained a description of a truck that was seen in the area. The vehicle was located, and a man said he had advised his hunters to dump the carcasses there but knew nothing about the whole deer. Riojas checked with taxidermists and found a deer head in the name of the man who claimed he had no knowledge of the dumped deer. The man later admitted his involvement in the dumping of the deer. Waste of game, illegal dumping and failure to tag deer charges were filed.

THREE CITED AFTER NILGAI SHOT FROM ROAD

• A landowner advised Willacy County Game Warden Oscar Castaneda of a truck driving suspiciously on a remote road of the county. Castaneda located the truck and observed one of its occupants discharge a weapon killing a 300-pound nilgai. The vehicle was stopped and three men were apprehended. Several citations were issued.

BACKSEAT POACHERS SHOOT AT PIG IN ROADSIDE DITCH

• A truck drove slowly toward Hopkins County Game Warden Jarrod Bryant's vehicle and stopped about 100 yards away as it sat on a dirt road about an hour after dark. Four shots were taken from the truck. When stopped, three people were hunting with three guns from the back seat. The group had shot at a pig in the ditch. Several cases are pending.

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Outdoor News in Brief

Rule for wildlife tax exemption updated

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Susan Combs, with input from the Texas Wildlife Association and other stakeholder groups, has updated agency rules to provide clarity for landowners and tax appraisers about wildlife management standards for property to be appraised as open space land.

The rules require a wildlife management plan for the property and outline the following factors indicating the primary use of land is for wildlife management:

- The tract is being managed under a wildlife management plan as required.
- The landowner gives the wildlife management practices and activities priority over other uses and activities that take place on

the tract.

● Secondary uses of the property do not significantly and demonstrably interfere with the wildlife management practices and activities being conducted on the tract of land or are not detrimental to the indigenous wildlife targeted for management.

The wildlife management rule became effective Dec. 11.

“The new rule was needed because there was considerable confusion and misapplication of requirements under the previous version by county appraisers,” said Kirby Brown, TWA vice president of public policy.

In 1995, Texas voters approved Proposition 11, a signature effort of the TWA. The proposition amended the Texas Constitution to permit agricultural appraisal for land used to manage wildlife.

— Texas Wildlife Association report

Protected

Continued from Page 8

The key to finding winter fish isn't necessarily the water depth, but the bottom composition.

“We fish the back end of the bays a lot in winter and fish (the) muddiest, nastiest bottom we can find,” said Rockport guide Capt. Jeff Steckler. “We rarely fish more than waist-deep. The muddy bottom on shallow flats soaks up heat, so the fish will naturally gravitate to those areas.”

“And the back ends of the bays usually aren't as windblown, so the water will stay a little warmer.”

Of course, as LaRue pointed out, not all protected waters are within the bays.

Port Isabel guide Capt. Eddie Curry, who unlike LaRue doesn't have easy river access for winter

fishing, said that when the winds howl across the Lower Laguna Madre, he won't even bother fishing the bay.

“Our problem is our bay runs north and south, and we really don't have many coves or back lakes like some of the other bays up the coast,” said Curry. “So when we get a hard south wind before a front or a hard north wind during a front, the bay can really get rough. When it's blowing like that, I'll head up the Brownsville Ship Channel.”

“The Ship Channel's great for a couple reasons. One, there's a lot of fish up there. You can catch snook, trout, mangrove snapper, big jacks, flounder — pretty much everything is up there in the winter. And since it runs east and west and has pretty tall banks, you have a good wind break from either a north or south wind.”

Turkey

Continued from Page 6

year-old birds. I'm expecting people are going to have a lot of fun hunting this spring.”

Huffman said some areas, especially in the Panhandle, traditionally produce flocks with 200 birds or more.

“They'll fluctuate year to year,” he said, “but this year it could be down.”

But where are they now? Huffman said recent cold snaps earlier in December may have restricted the birds' movements.

Hardin added that seemingly minor adjustments in a habitat, such as brush reduction, can force a flock to abandon traditional roosting areas for

more suitable places.

Pitstick wondered if something similar was happening on his lease but not by a situation forced upon the birds.

“I think what they'll do during the fall is move down to the Brazos River for the winter, and during the spring their breeding grounds are totally different.”

“Come March, when the turkey season is on, I think they'll migrate back into our area.”

But although Hardin said no scientific proof indicates a population shift, hunters deserve a lot of credit for paying attention to wildlife populations.

He said the animals will benefit tremendously from even more in-

volvement.

For turkey, that requires cooperation from landowners and the efforts of volunteers to do surveys on roost areas.

“If you really want to get a feel for what wildlife is doing on your land, record-keeping is best,” Hardin said. “Until you put the hours in you won't be able to determine any change.”

He suggested contacting the biologist assigned to a county, even if that person doesn't specialize in turkey habitat.

“If they aren't familiar with roost counts, they'll move your request up the chain to me, and we'll get you the information you need.”

“And it's free.”

Lions

Continued from Page 6

hunter, on ranches across West Texas. They are among the very few hunters in the state who specialize in tracking down and eliminating the big cats.

From their home base in Jeff Davis County, the self-described “mountain lion management specialists” are out hunting 200 days a year and have an average annual harvest of 20 big cats.

Texas is the only state where mountain lions are considered a non-game species and can be hunted year-round, with no special permit required.

When McCarty and two neighboring ranchers got together last month to contact Timmons and McIntyre, they found out that there had been four separate sightings of different lions on their combined 6,700 acres in the Jourdanton area.

Having first-hand knowledge of the potential damage from the predators, McCarty acted as quickly as possible.

“Not only do the lions target the big bucks that can be worth \$20,000 to \$30,000 if you were to sell them to a hunter, they take those big bucks out of your gene pool and can cause devastating damage that takes years in recovery time,” he said.

Timmons said that a common misconception is that the lions tend to have a wide range and only cause random damage to an animal population.

“In open areas like West Texas, they do have a wide range but they don't run randomly. They have certain ‘highways’ they like to travel, and it takes years of experience to be able to find those areas where they are moving.”

“That all gets thrown out the window with the high-

fenced ranches in South Texas. They are dependent upon food and water, and these high-fenced ranches are like a grocery store to them — why would they need to leave?” Timmons said.

He added that most ranch owners never realize they have a problem because the cats are nocturnal and drag their kills into the deepest, darkest, most inaccessible areas.

“Most lion kills are never found. After the lion is finished, the coyotes, raccoons, rats and mice come in and clean everything up in about 14 days,” Timmons said, adding that a big lion might kill a deer about every two or three days.

While Timmons and McIntyre specialize in hunting lions with their highly trained lion dogs, they have developed live traps — baited with a live goat — that have proven to be very effective in catching the big cats.

“Some lions won't go into a trap, and you can't expect to just plop down a trap anywhere. You have to know what you are doing and know where the lions might be,” Timmons said.

Based on their examination of the property, the lion hunters set up five separate traps across the three ranches, which will be monitored daily by the landowners.

“Sometimes it takes weeks, sometimes it takes months or longer,” Timmons said.

McCarty said that no matter how long it takes, he knew he and his fellow ranchers had to take some kind of action.

“Losing \$100,000 in deer during 2002 was a horrible experience,” he said. “We are spending so much money on taking care of deer here in Texas, with the cost of high fences, habitat management and protein-feeding programs, that kind of loss is just not acceptable.”

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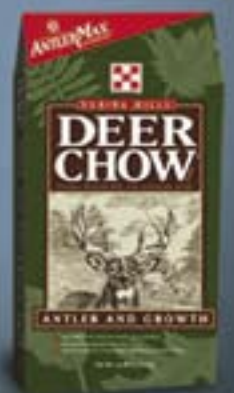
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HEROES



TIM SHARP of Dallas shot this deer Nov. 22 near Pickneyville, Ill., using a .45-caliber muzzleloader. The eight-point deer has split eye-guards and scored 153 inches.



CRIS LAYTON shows a red snapper she caught during her first offshore fishing trip nine miles off the Texas coast.



SOPHIE MARTINEZ, left, of Dallas shows a redfish she caught in October out from Port O'Connor.



TYLER LUCAS, 12, shot her first deer in Jack County with her father, **Todd Lucas**. Tyler used a .243 to make the 100-yard shot.



PEGGY FLYNN of Dallas shot this turkey in Cooke County.

SHARE AN ADVENTURE

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Winners from the Dallas Safari Club photo contest



Category: Angler With Fish. Photo by Chris Hudson.



Category: People. Photo by Chris Hudson.



Category: Landscape. Photo by Beau Purvis.



Category: Youth Hunter with Trophy. Photo by Lili Sams.



Category: Youth Wildlife. Photo by Lili Sams.



Category: Youth Angler with Fish. Photo by Megan Patton.

Winners capture images of outdoor life

For the second year, Dallas Safari Club members competed in an amateur photography contest, with the winners announced at the 2009 Convention & Sporting Expo. The five categories, for both adults and youth, are Landscape, Wildlife, Hunter with Trophy, Angler with Fish and People.



Category: Youth Landscape. Photo by Trina Cary.



Category: Youth People. Photo by Lili Sams.



Category: Wildlife. Photo by Beau Purvis.

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10:30 AM
 Dr. Larry Varner, Wildlife Nutritionist, Purina Mills. "Nutrient Availability in Deer Breeder Rations. Recent Field Data Reveals Significant Variations in Utilization"

11:00 AM
 Dr. Mike Bringans, Reproductive Physiologist. "The Evolution of Reproductive Science in Whitetail Deer: From A.I. to E.T., In Vitro Fertilization, Cloning and Semen Sexing"

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Crappie

Continued from Page 1

Crossland retired from a career as the superintendent of the Spring Hill Independent School District in 2005, and he and his wife bought an RV. They spend 14 days each winter at the campground at the Buckhorn Creek Park Recreation Area, east of the dam. They might stay longer, but 14 consecutive days is the most the park allows.

On Jan. 3, he fished with his friend of more than 20 years, Bob Bryan of Pauls Valley, Okla. More than 100 other boats joined them on the water.

Bryan, formerly of Longview, comes down once or twice each winter to fish with his friend.

"There's crappie in Oklahoma, but not with a crappie guy like Mike," he said.

Lake O' the Pines, nearly 17,000 acres impounded in 1956, is located northeast of Longview in Marion, Upshur and Camp counties. Special regulations on the lake require that all crappie caught during December, January and February be kept, regardless of size.

"There used to be a lot of small crappie floating and someone complained," Crossland said. "But there used to be eagles around to pick them up — we don't see them anymore."

Most of the fishing crowd uses a simple approach, dropping minnows in 30 to 35 feet of water near the dam. Crossland and Bryan use a 3/4-ounce bell sinker 12 to 18 inches below their bait in drop-shot fashion.

On their Saturday outing, 25 mph winds kept Crossland from his favorite spot. "We usually go upriver a few miles, the fish seem to be a little bigger there."

The crappie didn't seem to mind the wind as the pair landed easy limits with some 2-pound beauties, and the old friends had trouble keeping their four rods rigged.

"Anybody got a free hand?" Cross-



CRAPPIE CROWDS: Families head to Lake O' the Pines for winter crappie fishing fun, and more than 100 boats near the dam are a common sight. Above, Connor Cox of Longview, fishing with his grandfather, prepares to place a fish in the livewell. Above right, Bob Bryan show his best crappie of the day. In the winter months, the first 25 fish caught at the lake must be kept regardless of size. Photos by Craig Nyhus.

land asked as he simultaneously set the hook on two rigs.

Bryan pulled in a nearly 2-pound

crappie as their day came to a close.

"That's the pole that hasn't been catching anything," he said.

As with most fishing friends, boating the small ones also landed good-natured ribbing.

"Are you catching bait," one of them asked as a small fish was tossed in the livewell.

Hot streaks brought a similar flair. In the early afternoon, when Bryan landed five good-sized fish in a row, Crossland started in.

"You're a whole lot more cheerful than you were an hour ago," he said. "Earlier you wanted me to check his rigs to see if he was rigged up right."

"Yeah, I couldn't catch anything this morning," Bryan said.

The 100-plus boats in the area came in all shapes and sizes, from 10-year-old Trackers to pontoon boats — and from johnboats to fully rigged new Ranger bass boats. The trailers sport license plates from Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

Although many of the boats don the latest high-tech equipment, the GPS isn't the most important tool for many of the anglers. Here, most find their spot the old-fashioned way — saying to line up a certain tree with a certain point with a certain structure on the bank and you'll find crappie.

And, like most anglers, they don't want to see their secret spot in print.

But for those heading to Lake O' the Pines this time of year, the spots — or the boats — aren't hard to find.

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FISHING REPORT

HOT BITES

LARGEMOUTH BASS



BRAUNIG: Good on spinnerbaits, dark soft plastic worms and minnows in the reeds and near the dam.

CALAVERAS: Good on dark soft plastic worms, live minnows and crankbaits around reed beds and near the dam.

SAM RAYBURN: Good on watermelon red and watermelon gold soft plastics, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps.

TOLEDO BEND: Good on chartreuse blue and chartreuse green soft plastics, spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps.

CANYON LAKE: Good on Texas-rigged Red Shad worms, pumpkin drop-shot worms and tubes on jigheads in stick-ups in 6-15 feet.

WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



BUCHANAN: Striped bass are good drifting live shad and jigging Spoiler Shad swim baits and Pirk Minnows near Garrett Island in 28-40 feet.

RAY ROBERTS: White bass are excellent on 3/8 and 1/2 oz. jigging spoons.

TRAVIS: White bass are good on minnows and chrome jigging spoons in 35-50 feet.

CEDAR CREEK: White bass are good on slabs.

COOPER: White bass are good on slabs.

GRAPEVINE: White bass are good on slabs.

CATFISH



BRAUNIG: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, perch and shad in 20-30 feet.

CALAVERAS: Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp and nightcrawlers. Blue catfish are good on liver and nightcrawlers.

SOMERVILLE: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on bloodbait.

CRAPPIE



LAVON: Good on minnows and jigs around bridge columns.

LIVINGSTON: Good on minnows.

MONTICELLO: Good on minnows.

NAVARRO MILLS: Good on minnows in 9 feet.

O.H. IVIE: Good on minnows and jigs.

RAY ROBERTS: Good on 1/16 oz. jigs and Road Runners walking the creek banks.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 52 degrees; 0.15' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored chatterbaits, black/blue jigs and minnows suspended in trees.

AMISTAD: Water clear; 60 degrees; 1.33' high. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on slabs in 50 feet. Catfish are fair on cheesebait and stinkbait. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines and drop lines baited with live perch.

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 47 degrees; 6.16' low. Black bass are fair on shallow-running crankbaits and chatterbaits off secondary points.

ATHENS: Water lightly stained, 48-53 degrees; 0.56' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, flukes and Rat-L-Traps. Bream are fair to good on live worms. Catfish are good on live worms and prepared bait.

BASTROP: Water lightly stained. Black bass are fair on pumpkinseed crankbaits, spinnerbaits and soft plastics.

BELTON: Water clear; 62 degrees; 2.63' low. Black bass, white bass, crappie and catfish are slow.

BOB SANDLIN: Water fairly clear; 47-54 degrees; 0.37' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, Senkos, wacky rigs and Texas rigs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; 65 degrees. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits, dark soft plastic worms and minnows in the reeds and near the dam. Striped bass are good on liver and shad and on spoons in deeper water.

BRIDGEPORT: Water fairly clear; 47-52 degrees; 7.76' low. Black bass are fair on shad pattern crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps and 4" Yum Dingers.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 53 degrees; 4.85' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse/black jigs, small crankbaits and watermelon red worms over brush piles in 10-20 feet. Crappie are good on L-I Fishies and minnows over brush in 10-20 feet.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 62 degrees; 15.60' low. Black bass are good on black hair jigs, watermelon red curl tail grubs on jigheads and suspending crankbaits over deeper creek piles along ledges and points in 8-20 feet. Striped bass are good drifting live shad and jigging Spoiler Shad swim baits and Pirk Minnows near Garrett Island in 28-40 feet.

CADDO: Water off-color; 48-54 degrees; 0.55' high. Black bass are fair on Senkos, flukes, spinnerbaits and Texas rigs.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 65 degrees. Striped bass are good on Rat-L-Traps near the dam in 15-20 feet and on chicken livers and shad along the shoreline.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear; 61 degrees; 11.02' low. Black bass are good on Texas-rigged Red Shad worms, pumpkin drop-shot worms and tubes on jigheads in stickups in 6-15 feet. Smallmouth bass are very good on tomato red grubs, smoke/red flake tubes on jigheads and smoke drop shot worms along main lake points and bluff ledges.

CEDAR CREEK: Water lightly stained; 48-54 degrees; 2.33' low. Black bass are fair.

CHOKE CANYON: Water lightly stained; 65 degrees; 5.26' low. Black bass to 5 pounds are good on heavy jigs and large soft plastic lizards in the grass. Channel and blue catfish are good on punchbait in 2-7 feet.

COLEMAN: Water clear; 63 degrees; 5.69' low. Black bass are good on watermelon Rat-L-Traps and crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, nightcrawlers

and frozen shrimp.

CONROE: Water murky; 1.09' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red and pumpkinseed spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps in 15-30 feet.

Striped bass are good on minnows and white striper jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait and frozen shrimp.

COOPER: Water lightly stained; 47-53 degrees; 6.16' low. Black bass are fair on Texas-rigged blue fleck worms, drop-shot rigs and slow-rolled spinnerbaits.

FALCON: Water clear; 59 degrees. Black bass are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and cut bait.

FAYETTE: Water clear; 63 degrees. Black bass are slow to fair on Carolina rigged soft plastics in 15-22 feet on points.

FORK: Water lightly stained; 48-54 degrees; 0.81' low. Black bass are fair to good on slow-rolled spinnerbaits, spoons and Texas-rigged

are good on live bait.

JOE POOL: Water off-color; 48-53 degrees; 2.54' low. Black bass are slow to fair on Texas rigs, spinnerbaits and wacky rigs.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 47-53 degrees; 0.51' high. Black bass are slow to fair on Texas rigs, weightless flukes or 5" Yum Dingers and Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

LAVON: Water stained; 48-54 degrees; 4.43' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, spinnerbaits and shallow running crankbaits. White bass are good on slabs.

LBI: Water stained; 63 degrees; 0.16' low. Black bass are fair to good on black/blue Curb's jigs and green pumpkin tubes on docks.

LEWISVILLE: Water off-color; 47-53 degrees; 3.92' low. Black bass are fair on slow-rolled spinnerbaits, chat-terbaits, Texas rigs and Carolina rigs. Catfish are good on cut shad and

47-53 degrees; 0.23' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, jigs and crankbaits.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 55 degrees; 2.47' low. Black bass are fair on brown and red jigs along creek channel bends and main lake points in 15-22 feet. Catfish are good on live shad, cut bait and liver in the Rock Creek area. Trout are good on salmon eggs at the Highway 16 Bridge below the dam.

PROCTOR: Water stained; 62 degrees; 4.61' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse spinnerbaits and soft plastics. Channel and blue catfish are good on frozen shad and shrimp.

RAY HUBBARD: Water off-color; 47-53 degrees; 1.34' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Texas rigs.

RAY ROBERTS: Water stained; 46-50 degrees; 2.43' low. Black bass are slow to fair on slow-rolled Booyah spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on 1/16 oz. jigs and Road Runners walking the creek banks.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water off-color; 46-52 degrees; 4.39' low. Black bass are fair on medium running shad pattern crankbaits, Texas rigs and spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

SAM RAYBURN: Water lightly stained; 65 degrees; 6.79' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and watermelon gold soft plastics, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are good on stinkbait, frozen shrimp and liver.

STAMFORD: Water lightly stained; 52 degrees; 2.21' low. Black bass are fair on live bait along secondary points, creek channels and drop-offs

STILLHOUSE: Water clear; 62 degrees; 4.70' low. Black bass, white bass, crappie and catfish are slow.

TAWAKONI: Water lightly stained; 47-53 degrees; 4.75' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, jigs and Texas rigs.

TEXOMA: Water off-color; 46-52 degrees; 0.55' low. Black bass are fair on chatterbaits, spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Texas rigs.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear; 65 degrees; 3.68' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse blue and chartreuse green soft plastics, spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps.

TRAVIS: Water clear; 64 degrees; 25.31' low. Black bass are good on chrome jigging spoons, black jigs and smoke grubs in 28-45 feet. Crappie are good on minnows and pink and white tube jigs in 38-48 feet.

WALTER E. LONG: Water stained; 65 degrees. Black bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

WEATHERFORD: Water lightly stained; 47-52 degrees; 5.96' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, chat-terbaits and wacky rigs.

WHITE RIVER: Water lightly stained; 47 degrees; 28.87' low. Black bass are fair on minnows and slow-rolled white spinnerbaits or chatterbaits in and along deeper timber. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows.

WHITNEY: Water clear; 9.74' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, nightcrawlers and stinkbait.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water lightly stained; 48-54 degrees; 3.96' high. Black bass are fair on flukes, Texas-rigged worms and slow-rolled spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Trout and redfish are good in the river on shad.

SOUTH SABINE: Bull redfish and sheepshead are good at the jetty on crab and shrimp.

BOLIVAR: Trout are fair to good for waders tossing Corkies and Catch 5s. Redfish are good in Rollover Pass on natural baits.

TRINITY BAY: Trout are fair to good working slicks and mullet in 4-6 feet.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are fair to good while drifting shell in 4-6 feet of water on soft plastics. Redfish are good in the cuts and sloughs leading to the marsh on shrimp.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are fair to good while drifting shell and mud. Sheepshead and sand trout are fair to good around rock groins and the causeway pilings.

TEXAS CITY: Flounder are fair on the drop-offs adjacent to the channel on shrimp and mullet.

REDFISH: Redfish are fair to good in Moses Lake on mullet.

FREEPORT: Bull redfish are good at the jetty on shrimp and crabs.

EAST MATAGORDA: Trout are fair to good while drifting over shell on Bass Assassins, Norton Bull Minnows and Trout Killers. Trout are good on the south shoreline on Corkies, Bass Assassins, Sand Eels and Trout Killers worked in the guts.

MATAGORDA: Trout are fair to good while drifting mud and shell on Gulpes under popping corks. Redfish are fair on the south shoreline of West Bay in the guts and cuts on Bass Assassins, Sand Eels and Trout Killers.

PORT O'CONNOR: Bull redfish are good at the jetty on crabs, finger mullet and live shrimp. Trout are good over shell and mud in San Antonio Bay on soft plastics and live shrimp.

ROCKPORT: Trout are fair to good over shell and mud for waders working topwaters and soft plastics in Copano Bay. Redfish are good on live shrimp under a cork while drifting edges of Estes Flats.

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

CORPUS CHRISTI: Redfish are good on shrimp on the edges of the spoils in the Intracoastal and in the Humble Channel.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout are good for waders tossing Corkies around the rocks and on the edge of the grass. Trout 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 baits. Redfish are good around East Cut on mullet and other natural baits.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout, redfish and black drum are fair to good on the edge of the flats on shrimp and Gulpes. Snook and mangrove snapper are good in the Brownsville Ship Channel on shrimp and DOA Shrimp.



HOT SPOT

PORT ISABEL

Trout are good on the deeper flats and along the channel edges on DOA Shrimp, Gulpes and shrimp. Redfish are good in Cullen Bay on gold spoons and small topwaters. "We've been catching sheepshead, flounder and black drum up north in the guts at the Intra-coastal," said Capt. Jaime Alaniz, (956) 341-3549. "At the Brownsville Ship Channel, snook, mangrove snapper and some flounder and oversized black drum are biting."

10" Power Worms. Catfish are good on prepared baits under roosting cormorants.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water clear; 51 degrees; 0.56' low. Black bass are slow on live bait.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear. Black bass are fair on watermelon red spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp and stinkbait.

GRANBURY: Water clear; 2.23' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red/blue flake soft plastics and Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, stinkbait and liver.

GRANGER: Water murky; 50 degrees; 3.52' low. Black bass are slow. Blue catfish are good on shad and prepared baits.

GRAPEVINE: Water off-color; 48-53 degrees; 7.16' low. Black bass are fair.

GREENBELT: Water stained; 43 degrees; 28.14' low. Black bass are fair on black neon jigs and live bait suspended in trees and on shad-colored crankbaits along secondary points and creek channels. White bass are good on live bait and silver crankbaits. Walleye are good on live bait and crankbaits.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water stained; 53 degrees; 0.56' high. Black bass to 4 pounds are good on watermelon soft plastics north of the dam in 14 feet.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 50 degrees; 2.61' low. Black bass are fair on slow-rolled white spinnerbaits along secondary points and through deeper timber. Catfish

prepared baits.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; 62 degrees; 0.03' low. Black bass are fair on crankbaits. Blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with shad.

MACKENZIE: Water lightly stained; 44 degrees; 76.52' low. Black bass are fair on live bait.

MEREDITH: Water stained; 42 degrees; 73.51' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored crankbaits, slow-rolled spinnerbaits and minnows along secondary points and rocky humps.

MONTICELLO: Water fairly clear; 75-88 degrees; 0.3' low. Black bass are fair to good on topwaters early, later switching to weightless flukes, Texas rigs, spinnerbaits and chrome Rat-L-Traps.

NASWORTHY: Water lightly stained; 52 degrees. Black bass are slow on live bait.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water murky; 52 degrees; 2.87' low. Black bass are slow.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 53 degrees; 12.03' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored crankbaits, spinnerbaits and jerkbaits worked along secondary points and on live baits along channels and drop-offs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait and shad-colored crankbaits. Channel catfish are good on live and prepared bait.

OAK CREEK: Water lightly stained; 49 degrees; 2.48' low. Black bass are slow.

PALESTINE: Water lightly stained;

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Moon Phases

Full Jan 10	Last Jan 17	New Jan 26	First Feb 2
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Tides

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

Solunar Table

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
1/7 7:36a/1:20a	5:01p/11:12p	7:42a/1:26a	5:07p/11:18p	
1/8 8:06p/1:51p	5:24a/11:36a	8:12p/1:57p	5:30a/11:42a	
1/9 8:31a/2:15a	5:47p/11:59p	8:37a/2:21a	5:53p/12:06p	
1/10 9:04p/2:48p	6:08a/12:20p	9:10p/2:54p	6:14a/12:05a	
1/11 9:31a/3:14a	6:32p/12:42p	9:37a/3:20a	6:38p/12:26p	
1/12 10:04p/3:47p	6:53a/12:41a	10:10p/3:53p	6:59a/12:47a	
1/13 10:33a/4:16a	7:17p/1:05p	10:39a/4:22a	7:23p/1:11p	
1/14 11:05p/4:49p	7:37a/1:25a	11:11p/4:55p	7:43a/1:31a	
1/15 11:35a/5:20a	8:02p/1:50p	11:41a/5:26a	8:08p/1:56p	
1/16 11:59a/5:50p	8:22a/2:09a	12:11a/5:56p	8:28a/2:15a	
1/17 12:05a/6:22a	8:47p/2:35p	12:11a/6:28a	12:05a/2:41p	
1/18 12:36p/6:50p	9:07a/2:55a	12:42p/6:56p	12:36p/3:01a	
1/19 1:09a/7:22a	9:32p/3:20p	1:15a/7:28a	1:09a/3:26p	
1/20 1:35p/7:48p	9:53a/3:41a	1:41p/7:54p	1:35p/3:47a	
1/21 2:07a/8:19a	10:18p/4:05p	2:13a/8:25a	2:07a/4:11p	
1/22 2:31p/8:43p	10:39a/4:20p	2:37p/8:49p	2:31p/4:33a	
1/23 3:01a/9:12a	11:03p/4:51p	3:07a/9:18a	3:01a/4:57p	
1/24 3:24p/9:35p	11:25a/5:14a	3:30p/9:41p	3:24p/5:20a	
1/25 3:51a/10:02a	11:48p/5:37p	3:57a/10:08a	3:51a/5:43p	
1/26 4:13p/10:25p	11:46a/6:01a	4:19p/10:31p	4:13p/6:07a	
1/27 4:38a/10:50a	11:56a/6:22p	4:44a/10:56a	4:38a/6:28p	

Sun and Moon

Sunrise/set				
	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
1/7 7:18a/5:37p	7:32a/5:38p	7:30a/5:51p	7:56a/5:51p	
1/8 7:18a/5:38p	7:32a/5:38p	7:30a/5:52p	7:56a/5:51p	
1/9 7:18a/5:39p	7:32a/5:39p	7:30a/5:52p	7:56a/5:52p	
1/10 7:18a/5:40p	7:32a/5:40p	7:30a/5:53p	7:56a/5:53p	
1/11 7:18a/5:41p	7:32a/5:41p	7:30a/5:54p	7:56a/5:54p	
1/12 7:18a/5:42p	7:31a/5:42p	7:30a/5:55p	7:56a/5:55p	
1/13 7:18a/5:42p	7:31a/5:43p	7:30a/5:56p	7:55a/5:56p	
1/14 7:18a/5:43p	7:31a/5:44p	7:30a/5:57p	7:55a/5:57p	
1/15 7:18a/5:44p	7:31a/5:45p	7:30a/5:57p	7:55a/5:58p	
1/16 7:18a/5:45p	7:31a/5:45p	7:29a/5:58p	7:55a/5:59p	
1/17 7:18a/5:46p	7:30a/5:46p	7:29a/5:59p	7:54a/6:00p	
1/18 7:17a/5:47p	7:30a/5:47p	7:29a/6:00p	7:54a/6:01p	
1/19 7:17a/5:47p	7:30a/5:48p	7:29a/6:01p	7:54a/6:02p	
1/20 7:17a/5:48p	7:30a/5:49p	7:29a/6:02p	7:53a/6:03p	
1/21 7:17a/5:49p	7:29a/5:50p	7:28a/6:03p	7:53a/6:04p	
1/22 7:16a/5:50p	7:29a/5:51p	7:28a/6:03p	7:52a/6:05p	
1/23 7:16a/5:51p	7:28a/5:52p	7:28a/6:04p	7:52a/6:06p	
1/24 7:16a/5:52p	7:28a/5:53p	7:27a/6:05p	7:51a/6:07p	
1/25 7:15a/5:53p	7:27a/5:54p	7:27a/6:06p	7:51a/6:08p	
1/26 7:15a/5:54p	7:27a/5:55p	7:26a/6:07p	7:50a/6:09p	
1/27 7:14a/5:54p	7:26a/5:56p	7:26a/6:08p	7:50a/6:10p	

Moonrise/set				
	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
1/7 2:01p/3:36a	2:00p/3:51a	2:15p/3:48a	2:12p/4:17a	
1/8 3:00p/4:46a	2:58p/5:02a	3:14p/4:58a	3:10p/5:29a	
1/9 4:08p/5:54a	4:06p/6:10a	4:22p/6:06a	4:18p/6:38a	
1/10 5:21p/6:56a	5:21p/7:11a	5:36p/7:08a	5:34p/7:37a	
1/11 6:35p/7:48a	6:36p/8:02a	6:49p/8:00a	6:51p/8:27a	
1/12 7:47p/8:33a	7:49p/8:45a	8:00p/8:45a	8:06p/9:08a	
1/13 8:54p/9:11a	8:59p/9:21a	9:07p/9:23a	9:16p/9:43a	
1/14 9:57p/9:45a	10:04p/9:53a	10:10p/9:57a	10:23p/10:13a	
1/15 10:58p/10:16a	11:06p/10:22a	11:11p/10:29a	11:27p/10:41a	
1/16 11:57p/10:47a	none/10:51a	none/11:00a	none/11:08a	
1/17 none/11:18a	12:07a/11:20a	12:09a/11:31a	12:30a/11:36a	
1/18 12:55a/11:51a	1:07a/11:52a	1:07a/12:04p	1:31a/12:06p	
1/19 1:53a/12:27p	2:07a/12:27p	2:05a/12:41p	2:32a/12:40p	
1/20 2:50a/1:07p	3:05a/1:06p	3:02a/1:21p	3:31a/1:18p	
1/21 3:46a/1:52p	4:02a/1:51p	3:58a/2:07p	4:29a/2:02p	
1/22 4:39a/2:42p	4:55a/2:40p	4:51a/2:56p	5:22a/2:52p	
1/23 5:29a/3:36p	5:44a/3:34p	5:40a/3:50p	6:11a/3:46p	
1/24 6:13a/4:32p	6:28a/4:31p	6:25a/4:46p	6:54a/4:44p	
1/25 6:53a/5:29p	7:06a/5:30p	7:04a/5:43p	7:31a/5:44p	
1/26 11:57p/10:47a	none/10:51a	none/11:00a	none/11:08a	
1/27 8:00a/7:23p	8:11a/7:27p	8:12a/7:36p	8:33a/7:43p	

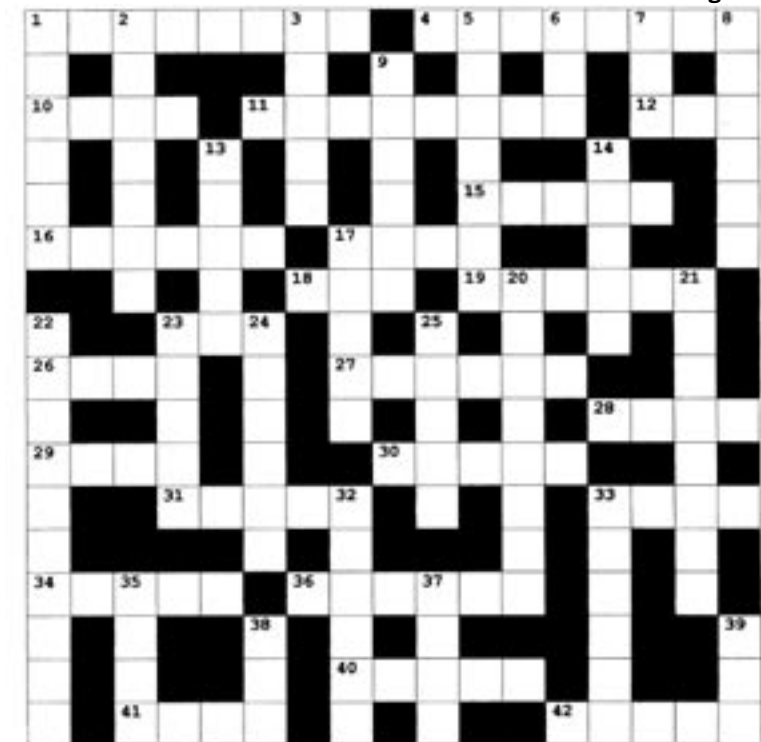
OUTDOOR PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Fish cut up into chunks and strips
- Method of showing lure to more fish
- The strength of a line
- Drifting with the tide while fishing
- Snakelike fish
- Term for casting for practice
- This species is black, blue and white
- Species of salmon
- The angler's limit catch
- Ship equipped for largest catch
- A method of fishing
- Spool for the fish line
- Boat docking and storage facility
- A slender freshwater fish
- A Fishing Association
- Dead fish will _____ up
- Commonly called the brookie
- A type of casting outfit
- Southern fish, comes close to beach, pier
- Fisherman's gear
- The best fish are usually _____
- The bait
- A method of fishing

DOWN

- Area to catch certain fish
- Type of trolling
- Popular catch around Florida Everglades
- A trout species
- To prop up a boat is to _____ it up
- A method of fishing
- Term for a guide or helper
- A run of fish in one place
- Term for fishing from shore
- Of a fly
- Sometimes used for bait



Solution on Page 26

- Fishing rig without pole or rod
- A large family of bottom fish
- A type of bait or lure
- A productive method of fishing
- A species of perch
- Basket used to carry fish
- Term for a hookless lure
- Weight to hold the bait down
- To dip water out of the boat
- A fish with large pectoral fins
- To construct a fly
- A type of fly

Outdoor Puzzler
Wilbur "Wib" Lundeen

FOR THE TABLE

Waterfowl-Stuffed Mushrooms

- 42 medium-sized mushrooms
- 1/2 pound shredded, slow-cooked duck or goose legs/thighs
- 3/4 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup unseasoned bread crumbs
- 3 tablespoons fresh parsley, minced



Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Remove stems from mushrooms, set caps aside and finely chop stems. To make the stuffing, combine the mushroom stems and waterfowl in a non-stick skillet. Stir frequently until mixture is heated through. Remove from burner and add cheese, bread crumbs and parsley. Arrange mushroom caps in large baking pan.

Spoon roughly 1 tablespoon of mixture into each cap. Bake 6 to 8 minutes or until cheese is melted.

— Recipe from Delta Waterfowl

Feral Hog Guisada

- 2 bell peppers
- 2 large onions
- 1 jar of mole
- 4 serrano peppers
- 1 50-pound feral hog
- Salt
- Fajita seasoning
- Chili powder

peppers and onions in side and lightly brown. Place the diced feral hog in the pot, and add about 1 quart of water. With a large spoon, stir and cook for about an hour. Add salt, fajita seasoning and chili powder to taste. Add the jar of mole, and continue to stir to keep the meat from sticking. Add water as needed to have a gravy texture. Cook for an additional two hours until meat is tender.

Start with the meat of a young feral hog diced up in half-inch pieces. Pour 1 cup of Wesson oil in a 5-gallon pot. Dice the bell peppers and onions. When the oil becomes hot, place the diced bell peppers, serrano

Serve with flour tortillas and pico de gallo.

— Recipe from Texas Game Warden Association

Have a flavorful wild game recipe? Submit it to For the Table.
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TnT making things happen in Colo., Texas

Outfitter puts hunters on several properties – in the Hill Country and the Rockies



Taylor Horton of TnT Outfitters recently finished his first season as a professional hunting guide, but he has already found success.

All of his hunters filled their tags at Horton's 15,000-acre lease in southwestern Colorado, and hunters have harvested several quality exotics at his ranches west of Kerrville.

"We had a great year this year," said Horton, who owns the company with his brother, Travis.

That "year" was more like several months. Horton graduated in May from Texas A&M University.

Upon graduation, he began booking hunts and was soon in Colorado.

Hunters shot large mule deer, elk and something they won't shoot in Texas.

"We've got probably more bears in September than any other piece of property I've been on," Horton said. "They're like raccoons up there."

One hunter harvested a 250- to 275-pound black bear with a cinnamon-colored coat during the September season. He picked it after seeing more than 20 others.

Elk and mule deer hunters often have their pick, too. A 200-acre alfalfa field inside a 600-acre

lowland, with a creek running through, attracts hoards of deer.

"It's nuts how many deer get in there," Horton said.

Most muleys harvested this season scored between 165 and 200.

"And we left some big mule deer, too, so we ought to have some big ones next year," Horton said.

Elsewhere, the property is a mix of sagebrush, shinoak, steep hills and steep mountains. Elevation ranges from 7,000 to 8,500 feet in La Plata County and Colorado Game Management Unit 741.

Southern Ute Indian land surrounds the lease, and hunting pressure in the area is minimal. Wildlife has free range in and through it, and it does not have high fences.

"We're pretty much the only hunters around," said Horton, who has hunted the property for 13 years. "You're definitely not going to see any other hunters."

Hunters using TnT in Colorado can fly into Durango, about 25 miles northwest of the lease. Ac-

commodations include a cabin — no tents necessary — guides, meals and a walk-in cooler.

Hunters need only bring their gear and rifles — or he will supply rifles.

"As long as you've got your hunting gear and a sleeping bag, you're pretty much good to go," Horton said.

In Texas, Horton's Hill Country ranches offer diverse terrain for taking white-tailed deer and exotics.

One property, Grand Oaks Ranch, is about 25 miles west of Kerrville. Unlike much of the Hill Country, it lacks a single cedar tree, Horton said.

The second property, about 45 miles west of Kerrville, is the more traditional Hill Country landscape of rolling hills, canyons and cedar brush.

Several gold medal black buck and several rams have been harvested there. Axis and elk are also available. Horton feeds protein



year-round, and both properties are game managed.

Both have good roads and accommodations: fully furnished cabins and processing rooms.

"We can pretty much cater to

anything anybody needs," Horton said.

For more information on Horton and TnT Outfitters, visit www.tnt-outfitters.com or call Horton at (979) 777-0328.

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This **Abu Garcia** low-profile baitcast reel was built to the specifications of the 2007 BASS Angler of the Year. Part of the Revo line, the Skeet Reese reel is made with an anti-corrosive X-Craftic alloy frame and side plate and has 10 stainless steel ball bearings. Features include a Carbon Matrix drag system for a smooth drag, large grips for control, and an extended throw handle with oversized knobs for easy retrieval. Offered for left-handed or right-handed anglers, the yellow-and-black reels sell for about \$280.
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SAFARI PRO BINOCULARS

Steiner has added two pocket, roof-prism binoculars to its Safari Pro line. Offering longer eye-relief and an improved ergonomic focus wheel, the binoculars boast a tough chassis and durable outer armoring. The water-resistant binos maintain good levels of brightness while blocking haze and UV light to deliver sharp images. The pocket Safari Pros are available in an 8x22 model (about \$120) that weighs 8.5 ounces and a 10x26 model (about \$140) that weighs 9.7 ounces. Both offer a 369-foot field of view at 1,000 feet and fold compactly to fit in a pocket or padded case (included).
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www.ameristep.com



OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

Jan. 9-11: The Dallas Safari Club Convention and Sporting Expo continues at Dallas Market Hall and the Hilton Anatole in Dallas. For more information, call 972-980-9800.



at (940) 521-0985.

Jan. 8-11: The Texas Fishing, Hunting and Outdoors Show will be held at the Arlington Convention Center. For information, call (469) 549-0673 or visit texasfishingshow.com.

Jan. 10: An official Rowland Ward Measurers Seminar will be held at the Dallas Safari Club Convention and Sporting Expo. RSVP to haskell@rowlandwardusa.com.

Jan. 15-18: The Austin Boat Show will be held at the Austin Convention Center. For information, call (512) 494-2238.

Jan. 16-18: The Houston Safari Club Convention will be held at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel. For information, call (713) 623-8844 or visit houstonsafariclub.org.



Jan. 17-18: The Challenged Outdoorsmen Youth hunt will be held at Lake Wright Patman, Clear Springs area. For information, contact Dearil at (903) 748-2437 or dearilw@aol.com.

Jan. 17: The Rotary Club of Port Aransas will hold a Casino Night and Fish Fry. For information, visit rotaryporta.com.

Jan. 17: The Eagle Lake Ducks Unlimited dinner will be held at the Eagle Lake Community Center. For information, call Duane at (281) 4114-4597.

Jan. 17: The Bass Champs South Region tournament will be held at Lake Amistad. For information, call Joy at (817) 439-3274 or visit basschamps.com.

Jan. 22 -25: The Coastal Bend Marine Dealers 52nd Annual Boat Show will be held at American Bank Center. For information, contact Carol at (361) 643-2258 or portlandmarine@aim.com.

Jan. 22: The Graham Ducks Unlimited dinner will be held at The Arena in Graham. For information, call Matt

Jan. 24: The Texins Archery Club banquet will be held at Brookhaven Country Club in Dallas. For information, call Doug at (972) 998-9480.

Jan. 24: The Big Thicket Ducks Unlimited dinner will be held at the Cleveland Civic Center. For information, call Joy at (281) 592-5495 or e-mail brenda_burns@sbcglobal.net.



Jan. 24: The Bass Champs East Region tournament will be held at Sam Rayburn. For information, call Joy at (817) 439-3274 or visit basschamps.com.

Jan. 24: The Cypress Creek National Wild Turkey Federation dinner will be held at the Gilmer Civic Center. For information, contact Marvin at (903) 238-3006 or wtbigdade@yahoo.com.

Jan. 30-Feb. 8: The Dallas Winter Boat Show will be held at Market Hall. For information, call (469) 549-0673 or visit dallasboatshow.net.

Jan. 31: The Hill Country Safari Club International dinner will be held at the YO Ranch Resort Hotel in Kerrville. For information, contact Ward at (830) 896-6714 or ward@omniglobal.net.

Jan. 31: The Texas Hill Country Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Big Game banquet will be held at the Community Center in Georgetown. For information, call Aaron at (512) 260-3003.

Jan. 31: The Gulf Coast National Wild Turkey Federation dinner will be held at the Charles T. Doyle Convention Center in Texas City. For information, call Troy at (281) 534-2890.

Feb. 5: The Erath County National Wild Turkey Federation dinner will be held at City Limits in Stephenville. For information, contact Daniel at (972) 533-5512 or danoprice86@gmail.com.

Feb. 6: The Victoria Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Big Game banquet will be held. For location and information, call C.W. at (361) 578-0082.

Feb. 6: The Dripping Springs NTFW dinner will be held

at Cabela's in Buda. For information, contact Heather at (512) 262-7443 or hruiz@austin.rr.com.

Feb. 7: The Ducks Unlimited Puddle for the Ducks Bike Ride will begin at Sun & Ski Sports at Katy Mills Mall. For information, contact Pat at (713) 669-9810 or duguy@hal-pc.org.

Feb. 7: The Bass Champs Central Region tournament will be held at Lake Travis at Pace Bend Park. For information, call Joy at (817) 439-3274 or visit basschamps.com.

Feb. 7: The Tomball Toms National Wild Turkey Federation dinner will be held at the VFW in Tomball. For information, contact Jess at (281) 806-9066 or jrw1217@gmail.com.



Feb. 7: The Berger Ducks Unlimited dinner will be held. For information, call Heather at (806) 273-2200.

Feb. 12: The Hill Country National Wild Turkey Federation banquet will be held at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds in Fredericksburg. For information, contact Tony at (830) 990-2070 or fbgtx@yahoo.com.

Feb. 12: The Washington County National Wild Turkey Federation dinner will be held at the Washington County Fairgrounds Event Center in Brenham. For information, call (979) 830-1619 or e-mail nwinkelm@msn.com.

Feb. 13: The Brazos Valley Ducks Unlimited dinner will be held at the Brazos Center in Bryan. For information, contact Michelle at (979) 255-8507 or m-jones@ttimail.tamu.edu.

Feb. 13: The Lake Proctor Comanche Ducks Unlimited dinner will be held at Melody Oaks Ranch in Priddy. Call Jerry at (254) 485-0389 for information.

Feb. 13: The 21st Century Deer Management Workshop will be held at the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo. For information, call Kody at (830) 995-4792.

Have an event? E-mail it to editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com

Quest

Continued from Page 8

In late December and early January, Rust (who already had a 7-pound largemouth on his fishing resume) rung the bell at Lake Falcon with his first-ever 10-pounder.

Between stops at Danbury and Falcon, the young men also got a little saltwater on their shoes thanks to guide Chad McNeal and Coastal Conservation Association Texas' executive director, Robby Byers.

McNeal and Byers put Kreutzer and Rust on an outstanding day of speckled trout near Rockport that tallied more than 100 fish.

They're wrapping the journey with a stop at Amistad.

The two have run out of fishing time, and they've run out of room in the van thanks to the generosity of hosts along the way.

A taxidermist even has stepped up to offer permanent mementos of the trip.

The duo was guests on a Houston outdoors radio show the day they fished Danbury. They talked about friendships and what it meant to share this remarkable adventure.

They said they felt blessed to have been so warmly welcomed everywhere they went.

"The timing was good," deBin said. "Phil and John got a lot of people thinking about helping other people."

Aside from tight lines and photographs and shared laughter, Kreutzer and Rust left in their wakes on this trip an affirmation that many good people still exist, and that there is no limit to what good people will do for each other.

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ADVERTISEMENT

E-Z Drainer pulls the plug on clogged coolers

Device keeps water flowing from coolers, live wells

Bid farewell to freezing hands and fingers in cold cooler water. E-Z Drainer solves one of outdoors enthusiasts' most discomforting hassles: clogged cooler drains.

Made of food-grade, FDA-approved composite material, E-Z Drainer fits over a cooler's drain to keep it from clogging. It resembles a shower head, but it works in reverse. The dozens of tiny holes on all sides provide ample places for water to flow freely, creating a virtually clog-free drain. Even a plastic bag can't stop the flow of water exiting the cooler, as shown on the product video at www.ezdrainer.com.

"It was invented or made out of necessity," said E-Z Drainer's inventor, Jerry Rains.

Rains also owns the company that produces E-Z Drainer.

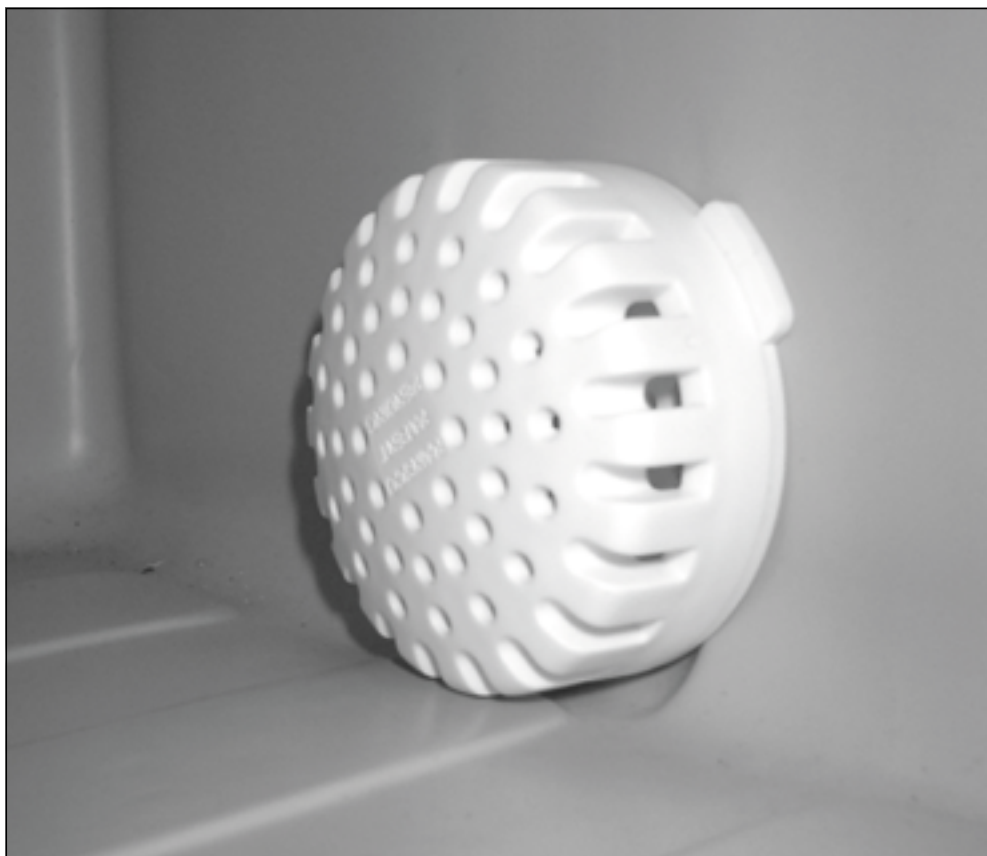
Rains stopped on his way home from a successful hunting trip one year to go into a store. With his cooler packed with venison and ice, he pulled the drain plug to release the melt water while inside.

When he returned he discovered a cooler still full of water due to a piece of meat obstructing the drain.

He stood outside in the rain with his hand submerged in freezing water for several minutes to keep the items inside from obstructing the drain and allow the water to exit.

"On the way home, I decided I was going to build something to alleviate that problem," Rains said.

Rains primarily had hunters and anglers



packing their harvest in coolers in mind when he invented E-Z Drainer. However, its application has expanded beyond that.

"When we initially introduced E-Z Drainer, our main goal was to get our product in every cooler," Rains said.

He first sold E-Z Drainer at hunting and fishing shows, and over time customers told him they not only used it in their coolers but also in the live wells on their boats.

"It turned out to be more versatile than we originally intended," Rains said.

E-Z Drainer is easy to install. It can be mounted permanently or temporarily, for use on more than one cooler. Because it is made of food-grade composite, it is safe for use with game meats. The invention saves people from having to constantly mind their coolers while draining them. Without an E-Z Drainer, a person could do as Rains did on the way home from his



hunt and continually remove debris from the drain by hand. Or a person could pick up one end of the cooler and drain excess water over the top.

Both require constant attention, while E-Z Drainer frees people from that hassle.

Tipping a cooler also risks shifting the contents of a precisely packed cooler, a special concern for picnickers. Some contents in a cooler might be placed so they will not contact water. E-Z Drainer is available at www.ezdrainer.com and Academy.

It sells for \$6.99 and comes with a guarantee not to clog.

ADVERTISEMENT

Texins Archery Club teaching children

Members devote programs, money to beginners

Texins Archery Club introduced about 1,000 children to archery last year and aims to introduce 5,000 more in 2009.

The general public is invited to the 2009 Annual Meeting & Extravaganza, to be held from 7-11 p.m. Jan. 24 at Brookhaven Country Club, 3333 Golfing Green Drive in Farmer's Branch.

Proceeds benefit the nonprofit club's programs promoting archery to the community and new youth programs. A reception and seated dinner, silent auction and music by Bud Andrews are planned. In addition, promotional booths by all of the archery industry associations will be present, including Texas Parks and Wildlife, Lone Star Bowhunters Association, Traditional Bowhunters of Texas, ASA, etc.

Featured speaker for the evening will be attorney R. Ted Cruz, the former solicitor general of Texas. Author of more than 70 Supreme Court briefs, Cruz is a partner at Morgan, Lewis and Bockius, leading the firm's Supreme Court and national appellate litigation practice. Cruz has won landmark decisions before the Supreme Court, successfully defending the

Texas Ten Commandments monument, the Pledge of Allegiance, the Texas congressional redistricting plan and U.S. sovereignty from attempts by the World Court to bind the U.S. justice system. As to the night's topic, Cruz will address defending the Second Amendment before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Money from the Annual Meeting & Extravaganza helps the club increase knowledge of the sport and improve individual skill. The club's 8-acre shooting range in Dallas (near the intersection of Interstate 635 and U.S. 75) offers a wide variety of shooting opportunities, in addition to a convenient location. Memberships cost \$120 per year.

Amenities include multiple ranges for 3-D, field, practice, etc. Hunters will enjoy the broadhead range and multiple hunting stand scenarios. There is even a pneumatic "pop-up" target range!

Each Wednesday, the club hosts an Intro to Archery program, introducing children — and all newcomers — to the sport. Participants receive instruction on use of the equipment, which is provided, archery's history and safety. Instructors demonstrate different shooting styles.

Sundays, regular Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) clinics are scheduled, supervised classes geared toward schoolchildren and adult beginners.

Twenty certified instructors lead the clinics, reviewing shooters'



technique and safety practices. Private instruction is also available through the club.

New for 2009 are planned After School Programs, which will be the major beneficiary of the Annual Meeting & Extravaganza, similar to children's team sports practice.

Other activities include league and tournament shoots, community programs and group-event shoots — for Scouts, birthday parties and similar arrangements. The club also sponsors seminars and field trips every quarter. Seminar topics include bowhunting, bowhunting safety and instructor education. Field trips are usually hunts organized by the club for deer, hog and fowl. Bowfishing trips are also scheduled.

For more information on the Texins Archery Club, visit www.dallasarchery.com or call President Clint Montgomery at (214) 827-7000.



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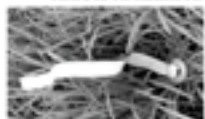
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Hunter

Continued from Page 1

"We had a great time," Marilyn said. "We stopped by the membership booth and met Steve Davis — everything took off from there."

Davis, a member of the DSC Board of Directors, took Sage under his wing.

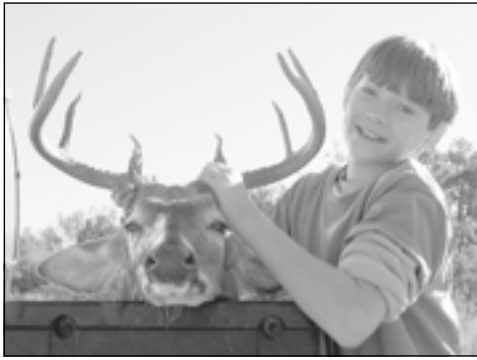
"Steve told us Sage should go on a deer hunt and also set up a dove hunt for us," Marilyn said.

The dove hunt was for youth who had completed outdoor adventure courses at school, but Sage's school, William B. Travis magnet school in Dallas, didn't have the program.

"They let us come anyway," Marilyn said. "We went to Elm Fork to practice first. Sage shot several dove, and I even shot one."

But the highlight of Sage's brief hunting career was a recent deer hunt at the ranch of DSC Executive Director Ben Carter in Stonewall County. Davis was there, too, along with fellow board member Robert Studdard.

Sage and Carter spent 45 minutes in one of the blinds when they saw an eight-point buck.



ONE YOUNG HUNTER AT A TIME: Sage Stevens, 12, of Dallas, smiles with his 8-point buck taken in Stonewall County. After showing his interest in hunting, Dallas Safari Club board members responded and took him on the hunt.

"He was the perfect buck for an amateur hunter like me," Sage said.

Prepared to shoot, they watched the buck wander back into and out of brush. But he stayed behind a bush that blocked sight of him.

"Then he jumped up and ran off, snorting

very loudly," Sage said.

Later, the two took off in a golf cart, searching for another management buck. At a branch in a trail, they spotted a few does and a three-year-old 10-point buck, and then they saw the eight-pointer they had seen earlier that morning.

To prepare for the shot, Carter gave Sage a shooting stick.

"I got to where there was an opening of bushes and trees, set up the shooting stick so that it was the perfect height for the shot and set the gun on it so that I was ready for the shot," Sage said. "He finally turned broadside and looked straight at us. Mr. Carter told me I could take the shot. I looked down my scope, knowing that he was just about to bolt, put my crosshairs right behind his shoulder and pulled the trigger. I was very confident in my shot."

Finding the buck took a little longer than expected. "We thought he had gone a little bit towards us, but after almost 10 minutes of looking I was beginning to doubt my shot," Sage said. "We were driving back to the trail to get more help with the search when we spotted it lying under a big tree."

The buck had moved only 10 yards after the shot.

They returned to the camp to find Sage's mother.

"We all went back to the buck with cameras, took a lot of pictures and field dressed the buck," Sage said. "And the next morning, Mr. Studdard taught me how to quarter it."

Joining DSC that afternoon started a new set of adventures for Sage and his mother.

"We went to Summer Blast, and we go to the monthly meetings," Marilyn said. "Sage loves to listen to the speakers describe their trips. And we're going to the S.A.F.E.T.Y. youth event in the spring."

Sage's birthday and Christmas gift came at the same time — a new Beretta 391 shotgun. And the future adventures don't stop there.

"Sage is getting his merit badge in shotgun shooting," Marilyn said. "And I told him if he becomes a National Merit Scholar we can go to Africa."

Mother and son will be volunteers at this year's convention, ending Jan. 11 — at the membership booth with Davis, of course.

Avoid

Continued from Page 1

beforehand.

"Go and search a few of the larger tournament organizations, and make sure they don't have a tournament on your lake that day," said Chad Potts, president of Bass Champs, one of Texas' largest bass tournament organizers.

Bass Champs and other large organizers — BASS's Federation Nation regions, FLW, Stren and Sealy Outdoors — post their schedules online and can be reached by telephone.

Those groups' tournaments can be big. Try anywhere from 250 to 2,000 boats for a Bass Champs tournament to almost 7,000 for Sealy Outdoors' and McDonald's Big Bass Splash, which has a \$1 million purse.

Bob Sealy of Sealy Outdoors recommended checking with chambers of commerce and tourism bureaus. His tournaments, which do not allow professional anglers, are held four times a year at different lakes.

One more piece of Sealy's advice: If

you show up at a crowded lake, try a different one.

Another source for tournament information is the reservoir's controlling authority. Some authorities, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and local governments, require tournaments to register beforehand.

The No. 1 source for tourney information on Lake Amistad is the National Park Service, said Carl Wengenroth, owner of Angler's Lodge in Del Rio.

Amistad sits on the U.S.-Mexico Border and is part of Amistad National Recreation Area. NPS maintains a list of tournaments in the Amistad NRA section at www.nps.gov.

"Every tournament that comes out of here has to be on that list," Wengenroth said.

Wengenroth recommended two additional methods for seeing if a lake will host a tournament: ask the hotel when making reservations, and visit Internet fishing forums such as www.texasfishingforum.com.

The Web site serves as a bulletin board for all things Texas fishing. One

section shows posts on tournament dates and information.

A local marina, tackle shop or fly shop may have information, too.

Tom Bendele, owner of Falcon Lake Tackle, informs anglers who call, and he keeps a list on the shop's Web site.

"Any that we know about, we put up there," he said.

He gathers information from callers and organizers.

An FLW Stren Series tournament set for Jan. 15 at Falcon will bring about 200 boats and TV crews to film it.

"That puts a lot of pressure on hotel rooms in this little town," Bendele said.

Philip Webb, director of the northeast Texas region of Texas BASS Federation Nation, sees tournaments from both sides of the boat.

"It's a sensitive topic with non-tournament anglers," Webb said.

As part of the leadership with the northeast Texas region, Webb helps organize tournaments. Their tournaments are not large, about 30 boats, Webb said. But when planning tour-

naments, they too research the lake to find out about other tournaments.

"I want to stay out of their way as much as I want them to stay out of mine," Webb said.

Myriad bass clubs also host tournaments. They face the same hunt for information as individual anglers.

When Joey Deans served as tournament director for the Century Bass Club, he made calls and tried to assemble a master calendar of tournaments.

"We try at all costs to avoid those large tournaments as well," Deans said.

He visited texasfishingforum.com and called the Corps of Engineers.

Deans, who was tournament director for two years and is now the club's assistant tournament director, decried the lack of coordinated information in researching tournaments.

"The more I talk about it or think about it, it really is difficult for the average recreational angler to know," he said.

Century once encountered a 100-boat open tournament on Stillhouse

Hollow Lake while trying to host a tournament there. The club's tournaments usually see about 20 to 25 boats, Deans said.

"Every once in a while, you just get caught by surprise," he said.

Coming bow to bow with a tournament does not have to be a bad thing.

Potts suggested anglers could visit the tournament's weigh-in to see the day's catch and visit with professional or accomplished anglers. Weigh-ins usually begin about 3 p.m., so the water should be competitor-free by then.

Many tournaments are held on Saturdays, so Sundays and weekdays should be less crowded, too, Potts said. Bass Champs' staff also helps anglers — non-competitors and competitors — at boat ramps.

Still, a little research could help solo anglers avoid a take-a-number day on the water — a day behind hundreds or thousands of boats at the ramp, marina and every piece of desirable water.

"Those are events where you don't want to be on the lake if they're going on," Potts said.

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Sunday: 10-5 PM

Plus, tips and advice from these leading sports and outdoors experts:

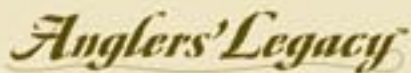


Wally Marshall
AKA "Mr. Crappie"

Marshall, AKA "Mr. Crappie," earned the title because he catches crappie better than anyone else. In 2008, Marshall was inducted into the "Legends of the Outdoors" National Hall of Fame and is America's best-known crappie angler and a Bass Pro Shops Pro Fishing Team member. After nearly 20 years of tournament fishing, Wally has numerous winning achievements.

Mike DelVisco
Professional Bass Angler

One of the best professional bass anglers in the world, Mike DelVisco has competed on the Bassmaster Trail for 17 years and currently competes in Bassmaster Open events and ABA Grand Slam Series. He has become one of the sport's top teachers and innovators, pioneering the use of multimedia technology at his popular seminars and Bassmaster University.



Join 97.1 The Eagle's Angela Chase at the show from 5-7pm on Friday, January 9th.

Catch Angela on-air Saturdays and Sundays from 6pm-12am

Tickets and Additional Info Available at:
www.texasfishingshow.com

THE NIKON BDC RETICLE

The patented Nikon BDC reticle has taken the hunting world by storm, offering an incredible advantage for long range shooting. Engineered to allow you to effectively hold "dead-on" at ranges exceeding those previously thought possible, the BDC's unique ballistic circles take the guesswork out of holdover at longer ranges.



Standard	Magnum
100 yds	200 yds
200 yds	300 yds
300 yds	400 yds
400 yds	500 yds
500 yds	600 yds

Unique, See-through Aiming Circles
Specially-calibrated ballistic circles provide fast target acquisition and uncluttered sighting of even smaller game out to 500 yards or more.

Fast, Simple Aiming Points
Eliminate guesswork. Circles each subtend 2" at 100 yards.

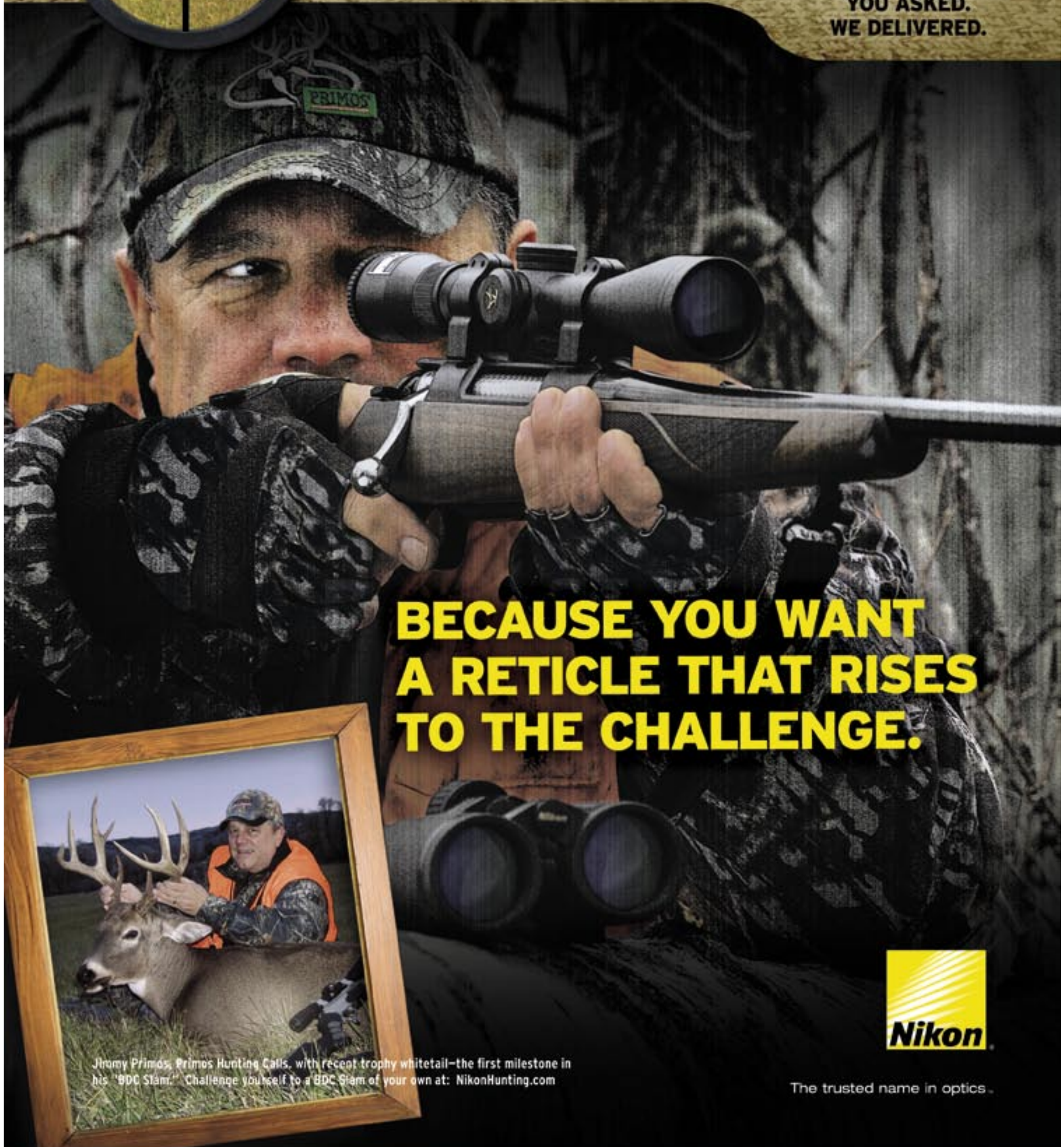
Strong Recoil-Proof Design

NIKONHUNTING.COM

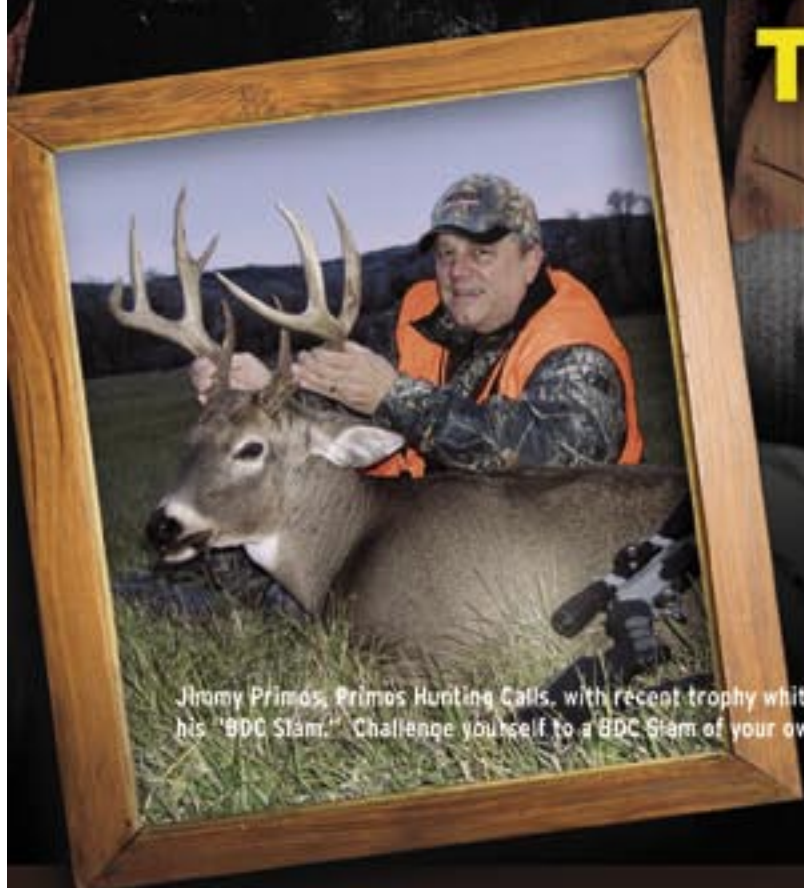
Built to withstand even the hardest kicking Magnum rounds.

A Reticle For Every Scope
Nikon offers variations of the Patented BDC reticle in its complete line of scopes for rifles, muzzleloaders, slug guns and handguns.

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**BECAUSE YOU WANT
A RETICLE THAT RISES
TO THE CHALLENGE.**



Jeremy Primos, Primos Hunting Calls, with recent trophy whitetail—the first milestone in his "BDC Stam." Challenge yourself to a BDC Stam of your own at: NikonHunting.com



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