

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

★ January 12, 2007

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 3, Issue 10 ★

www.lonestaroutdoornews.com

FISHING



Trout waters home to new state fly-fishing record for striped bass.

SEE PAGE 8

INSIDE FISHING



Party boats in the Gulf are willing to go the extra mile — or 20 — to ensure anglers land the fish they're after, be it king, shark, snapper or tuna.

See Page 8

HUNTING



As the duck season reaches its end, success has been spotty across the state. Doing some scouting before a hunt and a willingness to vary your technique present the best chance for a hunter to bag his limit, hunters say.

See Page 6

NATIONAL

Thermal infrared cameras placed at a "wildlife crosswalk" in Arizona have wildlife officials hopeful they can reduce the number of accidents between drivers and animals. The cameras, when they pick up wildlife large enough to pose a danger to drivers, signal the warning sign on State Route 260, east of Payson.

See Page 4

CONSERVATION

CCA Texas is putting up \$200,000 to buy back shrimp licenses to stem inshore shrimping and reduce the damage done by bycatch to Texas' coastal bay habitats.

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The \$60 million question

Groups: What's happening with 'sportsmen's dollars'?

BY MARK ENGLAND

With Texas Parks and Wildlife's budget scheduled for another belt-tightening, several outdoors organizations may meet with legislators to propose tapping the surplus in a wildlife

fund (Fund 9) that now exceeds \$60 million.

"We want to make sure the Legislature realizes these are sportsmen's dollars," said Kirby Brown, executive vice president of the Texas Wildlife Association. "There have always been unappropriated balances,

but we think it's gotten larger than it needs to be. When the money is not going out, you don't see things taking place on the ground that should take place, whether it's offering technical guidance to landowners or maintaining public hunting areas."

Brown said he's in discussions with

such groups as Ducks Unlimited, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, CCA Texas and the Dallas Safari Club on setting up a January meeting with legislators.

"Parks and Wildlife is one of our biggest partners," said Ed Ritter, DU's

See FUNDS, Page 14

'Once in a lifetime deal'



SPECIAL SHOT: Darren Brown poses with the desert bighorn ram he bagged during a recent hunt at the Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Dan Travis.

Texan battles rugged Sierra Diablo to bag 'trophy' ram of his own

BY BILL MILLER

Darren Brown's legs felt like spaghetti. And while climbing the steep, craggy ridges of the Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management Area in far West Texas, he got winded.

The lawyer from Port Neches also was surprised to see blood staining the inside of his socks around the tops of his boots — the work of ubiquitous cactus needles.

See RAM, Page 15

SAFARI EXPO BIG DRAW



Large crowds are expected for the Dallas Safari Club Convention entitled "Legends: Past, Present and Future" from Jan. 11-14 at Dallas Market Hall. The convention hosts more than 800 exhibits from Alaska to Zimbabwe, and includes informative seminars and a spectacular wildlife display. The event has been heralded as one of the finest hunting and conservation celebrations in the world. Photo by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Boon town

Amistad tourneys economic catch for Del Rio

BY ALAN CLEMONS

Changes are happening in Del Rio and on Amistad Reservoir, courtesy of a few hours of television exposure last year and word getting out about the lake's fantastic bass fishing.

When the Bassmaster Elite Series tournament was held last March

See ECONOMY, Page 14



CROWD PLEASER: Docks at Amistad Reservoir are expected to fill again in 2007.

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NATIONAL

Proposal: Put polar bear on endangered species list

'We are concerned the polar bears' habitat may literally be melting'

— INTERIOR SECRETARY DICK KEMPTHORNE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to list the polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

The service is initiating a comprehensive scientific review to assess the current status and future of the species.

"Polar bears are one of nature's ultimate survivors, able to live and thrive in one of the world's harshest environments," Secretary of the Interior Dick Kempthorne said. "But we are concerned the polar bears' habitat may literally be melting."

Polar bears are already protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. Under that law, it is generally prohibited to (1) take or (2) import marine mammals and their parts or prod-



ICE ROAMER: The polar bear is protected by international treaties involving countries in the bear's range. Photo by USFWS.

ucts. The species is also protected by international treaties involving countries in the bear's range.

In early December, Congress passed the United States-Russia Polar Bear Conservation and Management Act of 2006, implementing a treaty with Russia designed to conserve polar bears shared between the two countries. President George W. Bush is expected to sign this legislation into law.

Scientific observations have revealed a decline in late summer Arctic sea ice to the extent of 7.7 percent per decade and in the perennial sea ice area of 9.8 percent per decade since 1978.

Observations have likewise shown a thinning of the Arctic sea ice of 32 percent from the 1960s and 1970s to the 1990s in some areas.

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

WILDLIFE CROSSWALK

Thermal infrared camera could save lives of motorists and wildlife

Arizona activated its first-ever electric "wildlife crosswalk" aimed at reducing wildlife collisions that pose a risk to drivers and cost millions in property damage each year.

"This crosswalk on State Route 260 east of Payson has the potential to reduce the number of wildlife collisions and also make highways easier for animals to cross," said Norris Dodd, the Arizona Game and Fish Department's lead biologist on the project.

The crosswalk system uses thermal infrared cameras that send images to sophisticated software normally used by the military to find targets.

The software determines if the object is large enough — such as an elk or deer — to be a risk to motorists.

The software sends signals to electronic warning signs placed in advance of the crosswalk in either direction, and to flashing warning signs at the crosswalk.

A three-mile stretch of elk-proof fencing near the highway will funnel animals either to the crosswalk on the west end of the fence, or to

the east, where there are underpasses.

"Past measures on the highway have aimed at modifying elk travel behavior. The crosswalk tries to get humans to modify their behavior as well, by heeding the warnings, slowing down and reducing their chance of an encounter with a 600-pound animal," Dodd said.

The crosswalk system will be fine-tuned and modified where necessary before becoming completely operational.

Success will be measured by monitoring the wildlife-vehicle collision rate, tracking elk with Global Positioning System telemetry, counting animals at the crosswalk with video cameras and tracking and comparing average vehicle speeds before and after the warning signs are activated.

"If the data shows this project to be successful, the crosswalk concept could be considered elsewhere as a way of making other roads safer for wildlife and motorists," said Steve Thomas of the Federal Highway Administration.

— An Arizona Game and Fish Department report.

Briefs

Vermont lead sinker ban goes into effect

It is illegal to use lead fishing sinkers weighing 1/2 ounce or less in Vermont as of Jan. 1, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Also, effective last January, it became illegal to sell or offer for sale a lead sinker in Vermont.

"Sinker," according to Vermont law, means any device weighing one-half ounce or less that is attached to a fishing line for the purpose of sinking the line, and does not include other lead fishing-related items such as weighted fly line, lead-core fishing line, downrigger cannon balls, weighted flies, lures, spoons or jig heads.

Vermont's law controlling the

use of lead sinkers is intended to help protect wildlife that may ingest the sinkers.

Hunters, Anglers Key to Saskatchewan economy

Hunters and anglers are a key component to Saskatchewan's tourist and local economy. Saskatchewan Environment reports that of the \$1.4 billion spent annually by tourists in the province, \$307 million is spent by people engaged in hunting and fishing. Waterfowlers are a major part of the hunting community.

The study was commissioned by Saskatchewan Environment and will be used to help make future decisions about conservation and resource use in Saskatchewan.

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LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

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CONSERVATION

Pledge targets shrimp trawl bycatch impact



BUYER'S MARKET: Participants in the shrimping industry have the opportunity to sell their bay and bait licenses through the Texas buyback program.

CCA commits \$200,000 to license buyback program

In an effort to reduce the harmful impact of shrimp trawls in Texas coastal waters, Coastal Conservation Association Texas (CCA Texas) has made a \$200,000 commitment to the Texas Parks and Wildlife bay and bait shrimp license buyback program.

Since its inception in 1995, the Texas shrimp license buyback program has been a success, aiding in decreasing inshore shrimping effort by as much as 48 percent with a decrease in bycatch estimated to be

as much as 40 percent.

It is widely held that to produce one pound of marketable shrimp a shrimp trawl will create as much as five pounds of bycatch while also often causing significant degradation to coastal bay habitat.

"It is important to remember that shrimp trawl bycatch is made up of everything from vital forage fish to juvenile game species," said Luke Giles, CCA Texas Assistant Director. "It is estimated that as much as 80

million pounds of bycatch are removed from Texas bays each year by shrimping efforts. That is a significant negative impact on the resource."

The Texas buyback program offers the opportunity for participants in the shrimping industry to sell their bay and bait licenses. To date, a significant portion of the licenses have been removed, but hundreds still remain active.

— A CCA report.

Fuel-efficient prairie grasses boosts biofuel research

Diverse mixture reduces carbon dioxide levels in atmosphere

Mixed prairie grasses have emerged as a leader in the quest to produce biofuels.

Diverse mixtures of native prairie plant species have emerged as a leader in the quest to identify the best source of biomass for producing sustainable, bio-based fuel to replace petroleum.

A new study led by David Tilman, an ecologist at the University of Minnesota, shows that mixtures of native perennial grasses and other flowering plants provide more usable energy per acre than corn grain ethanol or soybean biodiesel and are far better for the environment.

The findings are published in the Dec. 8, 2006, issue of the journal *Science*.

Tilman and his colleagues estimate fuel made from this prairie biomass would yield 51 percent more energy per acre than ethanol from corn grown on fertile land.

Prairie plants require little energy to grow and all parts of the plant above ground are usable.

Fuels made from prairie biomass are "carbon negative," which means producing and using them actually reduces the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Prairie plants store more carbon in their roots and soil than is

released by the fossil fuels needed to grow and convert them into biofuels.

In contrast, corn ethanol and soybean biodiesel are "carbon positive," meaning they add carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, although less than fossil fuels.

The practice of using degraded land to grow mixed prairie grasses for biofuels could provide stable production of energy and have additional benefits, such as renewed soil fertility, cleaner ground and surface waters, preservation of wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities.

— A National Science Foundation report.

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HUNTING



CALLING IT A DAY: A hunter picks up decoys at sundown near Italy. Afternoon hunting proved successful for some this season. Photo by Marina J. Sams.

Scouting new techniques

Some areas holding birds – trying something different key

BY CRAIG NYHUS

With the duck season in its last month, duck reports are mixed across the state.

Some areas that were holding birds are seeing hunters come up empty, while other areas are producing limits. Hunters willing to scout and try new techniques are reporting the most success.

Clinton Hyatt of Brock reported that the Parker County area has been holding good duck populations since late November. "It has been good since the split," he said. "We had three-man hunts last weekend with limits of gadwall, green-winged teal and a few greenheads."

The groups were hunting extremely small ponds — less than one acre in size. "You definitely need to scout the ponds to see which ones the ducks have been using," he said. "Our best luck has been on the ponds surrounded by oak trees — the ducks like the acorns."

Some areas have seen the ducks disappear.

Jason McKee of New Braunfels hunts the rice prairies near Bay City. "We had great hunts in November and December," he said. "But the ducks moved out right after Christmas — we had several days of strong westerly winds off the coast.

We have good numbers of geese and cranes in the area, but very few ducks."

Reports of seemingly no ducks in the area have been received from hunters in central Texas, especially in McLennan and Comanche counties.

Waterfowlers in other areas are enjoying a banner season.

Tommy

Ramzinsky guides hunters in the back saltwater lakes near Rockport. "We've had a really good year," he said. "There are fewer numbers of birds from last year, so it's a little trickier."

Ramzinsky suggests trying something different. "Our best hunts have been in the afternoon — we don't leave until 1," he said. "The birds are milling around in the mid-afternoon."

Widgeon are the predominant bird in the area. "It has been at least 80 percent widgeon, with some gadwalls, teal and pintail —

except when we get a good south wind, then the redheads seem to show up," he said.

Reports from the Knox City area had thousands of mallards moving in after Christmas, with peanut fields being the best bet.

In the Panhandle, rains have improved the conditions of the playa lakes, and hunting is often very good, provided the hunters

'You definitely need to scout the ponds to see which ones the ducks have been using. Our best luck has been on the ponds surrounded by oak trees — the ducks like the acorns.'

— CLINTON HYATT

See DUCKS, Page 12



BRINGING 'EM IN: David Schuessler tries his hand at calling in ducks at Pierce Ranch near El Campo. Photo by David J. Sams.



NOT SO TYPICAL: Steven Zieschang took a big typical eight while hunting in Maverick County. The deer scored 179 5/8 inches net. Trophy bucks are few this season. Photo courtesy of David Brimager.

Big buck harvest down this season

Long-standing drought doesn't help trophy case

BY LYNN BURKHEAD

Another Lone Star State whitetail deer season has wound down in North Texas, while the season is heading towards the finish line in the Brush Country of South Texas.

And so far, the 2006-2007 deer season confirms that long-standing drought conditions do not help the business of taxidermists when it comes to mounting big trophy whitetail bucks.

"Oh yeah, our entries are way down this year across the state," said David Brimager, assistant vice president of operations for the Texas Wildlife Association and the director of the Texas Big Game Awards program

'We have score sheets still coming in every day, but in general, across the state, I'd say that entries are going to be down.'

— DAVID BRIMAGER, DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS BIG GAME AWARDS PROGRAM

(www.texasbiggameawards.com), now in its 15th year.

"Now granted we have score sheets still coming in every day, but in general, across the state, I'd say that entries are going to be down," Brimager said, noting this season's entry deadline for TBGA is March 15th.

But while overall entries are down, it doesn't mean that hunters have found the state void of big deer. Hardly, since some areas had better precipitation trends in 2006 than others did and because many ranches in Texas now intensively manage whitetails.

"These are unofficial scores at this point, but the largest buck that I would know of so far is a Kerr County deer that nets 240 0/8 inches non-typical, taken by Norman Huddleston," Brimager said. "After that, the

See DUCKS, Page 12

Fire ants sting Texas

Rural damages estimated at \$236.5 Million

A recent study in rural Texas estimated the damage from red imported fire ants, and also calculated benefits as well, according to a Texas Agricultural Experiment Station economist.

Agricultural producers in a 54-county area in East, Central and Northeast Texas reported an average total cost of \$1,691.41 per farm, for a total cost of nearly \$94 million, said Dr. Curtis Lard of College Station.

Extrapolating that cost statewide would mean that fire ants cost Texans an estimated \$236.5 million. This has increased from the \$90.5 million in fire ant costs projected from the last survey that was conducted 1999 and published in 2001.

But respondents estimated benefits of fire ants were \$6.5 million in the surveyed area. That would total about \$16.5 million in benefits statewide, Lard said.

The survey was conducted by Lard under the Texas Fire Ant Initiative through the department of entomology at Texas A&M University.

Red imported fire ants benefit some crops because they break up and aerate the soil, making more water and nutrients available to plants, Lard said. They also attack other harm-

ful insects in cotton fields.

Medical costs related to fire ants — for both humans and animals — were estimated at \$36,554. About 43 percent of the respondents reported harm to a person, and 23 percent reported harm to pets.

The highest category in costs was home-stead damage. Fire ant damage to electrical switchboxes and heating and cooling units totaled \$393,147.

Costs associated with the repair or replacement of equipment was more than \$281,000 for the area. According to the survey report, the costs included replacing or repairing broken parts on shredders, combines, tractors, well pumps, mowers, solar fence chargers and wheel bearings.

Wildlife losses were estimated at \$143,000 and included decreases in wildlife numbers and customers, such as hunters and fishermen.

The red imported fire ant is found in more than two-thirds of the counties in Texas; the survey area was chosen because of its diversity in crops and abundant presence of fire ants, Lard said.

— A Texas A&M Agricultural Experiment Station report.

Quail Unlimited's Texas Council steps up

State agencies will match a \$10,000 donation by the Texas State Council for the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative program.

Another first in the battle for the recovery of the Northern Bobwhite Quail became reality as the Texas Council of Quail Unlimited (QU) provided a donation of \$10,000 for the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI). The donation will be matched by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

"To the best of our knowledge, this is the first state council to meet QU's challenge to restore the quail through the NBCI, a landscape-scale restoration and population recovery plan in the U.S.," said Rocky Evans, President of Quail Unlimited.

In March of 2002 the Northern Bobwhite

Conservation Initiative was born from efforts of the Southeast Quail Study Group, a team of the leading quail biologists in the nation. Its purpose is to restore the bobwhite populations over its habitat range coordinating efforts to bring levels to a 1980 baseline. Being a habitat based plan, it must engage private landowners because the fate of the bobwhite hinges on their land use practices.

"Texas QU Chapters are putting the power on the ground; state chapters have given over \$300,000 toward quail studies, provided two pickup trucks and four all terrain vehicles as well as scholarships and paid expenses for the Bobwhite Brigade Camps for youth," said Chip Martin, Regional Director for Quail Unlimited.

— A Quail Unlimited report.



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FISHING

WAY OUT AND ABOUT

Party boats navigate to success miles offshore

BY DAVID J. SAMS

When facing a salty quest, vessels-for-hire and customers are hooked on an adventure for the long haul.

And reports from some Gulf Coast party boats are saying action is good. Parties are bringing in hundreds of pounds of numerous species.

At the Sea Ranch Marina in South Padre Island, Austin Camacho reported the party boat, Osprey, brought in 15- to 20-pound kings caught on ribbon fish.

A few 25- to 30-pound amberjacks also have been brought over the rails on their recent 8-hour trips. "We are also catching vermillion, mangrove and lane snapper on squid," Camacho said.

Some of the anglers are using jigs to catch red snapper in the state waters. "We do a 10- to 12-hour snapper trip on Wednesdays," he said. "We head north and fish the rock piles. Most of the fish are between seven and 15 pounds."

See PARTY BOATS, Page 9



ALL ABOARD: Offshore party boats fish the South Padre Island beachfront casting to spanish mackerel and sharks. However, offshore boats often head miles out into the Gulf chasing sharks, kings and tuna.



FOR THE RECORD: John Erskine shows the fly-fishing record 36.65-pound striper he caught on the Guadalupe River. Photo by Shea McClanahan.

Stately quest

Fly hooks record striper in trout territory

BY DIANA KUNDE

Imagine targeting striped bass with your fly rod for the very first time — and landing a state record. Then imagine doing that in waters typically fished for trout.

That's what happened to Austin angler John Erskine, who caught a 36.65-pound striper on the Guadalupe River below the Canyon tailrace on Dec. 2.

His catch was recently certified as a state record for fly tackle on the Guadalupe. It was 43 inches long and 26 inches in girth.

"It feels pretty good," Erskine said about his first striper and state record. And beyond that, "the Guadalupe River trout fishermen will be happy he won't be eating trout out of this hole anymore."

Erskine, a video game executive when he isn't fly-fishing, caught his record after a morning of catch-and-release fishing for rainbow

trout on dry flies. He also took along a heavier eight-weight fly rod with sinking line, aiming for the striped bass that anglers know are lurking in the deep holes below the dam.

He used a yellow and black bead-head bunny bugger, typically used for steelhead and other game fish. He cast down and across the deep holes in what he jokingly called a "serious dredgeomatic technique."

The big fish took a little more than 20 minutes to land for Erskine, a 10-year fly-fishing veteran who likes to go after large fish. Still, "this is the biggest freshwater fish I've caught," he said.

Fisheries biologist Steve Magnolia, with Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) in San Marcos, said there are escaped populations of striped bass in two of the rivers TPW stocks with rainbow trout each winter: the Guadalupe below Possum Kingdom.

See RECORD, Page 9

Stricklin wins TTT event on Amistad with near-record catch

Pro James Stricklin, Jr., of Jasper, caught a near-record five-bass limit weighing 37 pounds to win \$70,000 in cash and prizes, including a \$19VX Ranger boat, Sunday at the Wal-Mart Texas Tournament Trail event presented by Abu Garcia on Amistad Reservoir. His catch was just one pound 14 ounces shy of the all-time heaviest catch in FLW Outdoors history — an honor belonging to Mike Terry of Obion, Tenn., who caught a 38-14 limit during the 1992 Wal-Mart Bass Fishing League event on

Kentucky Lake.

The tournament was cut short by high winds and unsafe conditions, which forced the cancellation of opening day Saturday. The field of 200 pros and 200 co-anglers competed for a share of the \$226,000 purse on Sunday.

Rounding out the top five pros are David Longrie of Stoughton (five bass, 27-10); David Hogge of Nolanville (five bass, 26-10); Rick Turner of Tyler (five bass, 23-8); and Paul Ferguson of Whitehouse (five bass, 20-3).

James Bruton of Andrews won the Co-angler Division title with five bass weighing 16 pounds, 3 ounces.

The next TTT event will be held April 21-22 on Lake Livingston followed by the final regular-season event May 19-20 on Lake Texoma. The top 50 pros and co-anglers based on year-end points standings will then advance to the \$210,000 Wal-Mart Texas Tournament Trail Championship Oct. 13-14 on Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

—An FLW report.



WINNING WAYS: James Stricklin, Jr., of Jasper, won \$70,000 in cash and prizes at the Wal-Mart Texas Tournament Trail on Amistad Reservoir. Photo by Brian Argabright, Del Rio News-Herald.

Golden alga on the grow again

Fish kills caused by naturally-occurring, toxic golden alga are occurring at several lakes and river systems.

An active fish kill on E.V. Spence Reservoir north of San Angelo has affected largemouth bass, white bass, and other species; however, 99 percent of the estimated 316,500 fishes killed so far are 3-5-inch gizzard shad.

High golden alga concentrations are believed to result from a strong cold front that came down around the first of December allowing the

Fish kills haunt Texas lakes, reservoirs

golden alga to multiply rapidly while other algal species' growth slowed considerably.

E.V. Spence experienced a similar fish kill immediately following the first major cold front in December 2005 and stayed toxic through May 2006.

Red Bluff Reservoir also has an active golden alga kill in progress in

the upper section on the Texas/New Mexico border. No estimated losses are available from that reservoir at this time.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Inland Fisheries biologists and outside partners are also monitoring several other water bodies, including Possum Kingdom Reservoir, which showed low concentrations of gold-

en alga last week.

The upstream end of Lake Whitney also shows elevated golden alga levels, although no dead or stressed fishes have been seen or reported from there yet.

Lake Granbury also is reporting increasingly yellow-colored water, and the potential for an alga bloom there appears to be high.

Fish kills from the golden alga have been documented in inland waters in Texas since 1985. While originally noted in the Pecos River in the Rio Grande Basin, the alga has also caused fish kills in four other river basins (Brazos, Canadian, Colorado and Red River basins) in Texas.

The algal species is found worldwide in estuarine waters and in some freshwater bodies with relatively high salt content.

—A TPW report.

Party boats

Continued from Page 8

Their biggest catch as of late is a 6-foot blacktip shark. Their Bay King boat also is fishing in the bay and reported good catches of sand trout, and one- to two-pound whiting on shrimp and squid off the bottom. A few black and red drum also are being hooked.

"The seas have been a bit rough with the northers that are blowing through," Camacho said. "But after they calm down it's not bad."

Up the coast in Port Aransas, Trisha Henderson at the Fisherman's Wharf reported good offshore fishing as well. "The seas were a bit rough last week," she said. "But in 10- to 14-foot seas we really caught a lot of good snapper up to five pounds in the state waters."

Over the holidays the blue water was very close to the beach, the seas were calm and many people took advantage of the conditions.

"I have been putting 20 to 30 people on our boats and today, Capt. Marvin Horner on the Scat Cat is coming in with 500 pounds of fish," she said.

Mainly king, shark and a few black-fin tuna have been caught

Seawater temperatures

- NOAA buoy, Station 42035, 22NM East of Galveston - 58.8 degrees.
- NOAA buoy, Station 42020, 50NM Southeast of Corpus Christi, TX - 72 degrees.
- NOAA buoy, Station 42019, 60 NM South of Freeport, TX - 68.7 degrees.

Contact the boats at:

- Williams Party Boats (Galveston) 409-762-8808
- Fisherman's Wharf (Port Aransas) 800-605-5448
- Sea Ranch Marina (South Padre) 956-761-6655

recently. "The Kings are averaging about 10 pounds and we are having to go out 20 to 30 miles to get them. Our biggest fish was a 120-pound blacktip shark."

In the Galveston area, Vicky Arnold with Williams Party Boats, reported they have not been able to get out in the Gulf lately due to weather. "We do have a tuna trip scheduled for Jan 13-14," she said. "If the weather is good the 36-hour trip will go out about 150 miles."

Record

Continued from Page 8

"There aren't that many in the Guadalupe, but the ones down there are big," he said. "We routinely get striper (in fish surveys) from 30 to 50 pounds."

"They don't have much competition for food. I'm sure they eat quite a few of the stocked trout," he said.

Recently, more than one trout angler has decided to target the striper, said both Magnelia and Mick McCorcle, president of the Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, which also stocks the river with trout.

McCorcle said the Guadalupe has always held some large striper, and the current population can probably be traced to the flood of 2002, when water rushed over the emergency spillway for Canyon Dam.

"We also know they're trout-eating machines," McCorcle said. "A lot of our members target them specifically." One member landed a striper two years ago that probably was a record — at an estimated 31 pounds — but, he didn't weigh and certify, McCorcle said. The angler slit the lunger's stomach and found trout skeletons.

Joedy Gray, records program leader for TPW, advises catch-and-release fly fishers they can get a certified scale through Bastrop Scale Company or

go through International Game Fish Association, weigh their catch with a witness, photograph it and file the necessary paperwork for a state catch-and-release record.

Meanwhile, Magnelia said TPW isn't too worried about striper interfering with stocked trout populations.

"They're just another predator. We don't particularly like having them in there because they do eat trout, but they're just kind of a fact of life," he said.

"I don't think it's wise use of our time to get striped bass out of there," Magnelia said. "And who's unhappy about landing a 30-, 40- or 50-pound striped bass?"



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The event, which is set for Feb. 10, 2007 and will be headquartered at the new South Padre KOA, is a perfect opportunity for casual and avid anglers alike to participate in a fun, competitive setting and lend a hand to helping our coastal environment.

Participants will compete in three age groups - Small Fry, Junior, and Adult - ensuring anglers of all ages have an opportunity to win prizes.

And, since the competition is held on public beaches, everyone will have an equal opportunity to "get to the fish."

The tournament will also double as a beach cleanup effort. Each participant will be given a small drawstring bag at the beginning of the day. Everyone who returns the bag full of trash will receive a free t-shirt for their effort.

Entry is \$10 per adult angler and \$5 per child angler. A portion of the proceeds will go to the RGV Council of the Boy Scouts of America.



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2nd Annual Kids' Cup Redfish Tournament

The second annual Kids' Cup Tournament is set for April 14-15, 2007 on South Padre Island. Once again, the Kids Cup will be a qualifying event for the IGFA Junior Angler World Championship, with the Kids' Cup winner receiving an expense paid trip to Florida to fish the JAWC. Kids ages 10 - 16 are eligible to compete in the Kids' Cup Junior Division and are eligible for the IGFA JAWC.

This year's tournament format will be slightly different. For starters, competition will take place over two days. The entire field will fish day one, Saturday April 14. The top five day one finishers will fish day two to determine the overall champion.

Additionally, there will be a Small Fry division for anglers 6 - 9 years of age. Small Fry contestants will fish only one day, Saturday, April 14 and are not

eligible for a berth in the JAWC. However, the top finishers will receive trophies and tackle packs.

Pre-registration is required. Entry fees are \$100 per Junior Angler and \$50 per Small Fry, which includes dinner at the Captains' meeting Friday night, t-shirt, and goody bag. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Sea Turtle, Inc. and the IGFA.



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Tournaments staged with cooperation and support from South Padre Island CVB, Cameron County Park System, International Game Fish Association, Texas Outdoors Journal, Texas Outdoor News, Shakespeare Fishing Tackle, Cajun Red Line, X-Tools, Stanley Lures, DOA Lures, and Wal-Mart.

For more information, visit www.fishacrosstexas.com or call (956) 238-9476

GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

VIGIL PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON TEENS

•Late at night, Milam County Game Warden Mike Mitchell was watching an area in Milam County when a truck drove down the county road and started shining with two spotlights. Mitchell observed the truck start, stop, turn its headlights on, and turn its headlights off. Mitchell approached the vehicle and found 7

teenagers, 7 guns, 2 spotlights, 1 set of binoculars, 3 cases of beer, and a substantial quantity of ammunition. "I heard this is good hunting," said the driver. "We've only hunted this road once before," offered another teen. Evidence and guns were seized, and one gun had been stolen from an adjacent county. Numerous cases pending.

HUNTERS GAME FOR "DUMMY DEER"
 •Game Wardens Jake Simmering, Hudspeth County, Robert Newman, El Paso County, and Jared Self, Reeves County, set up a deer decoy operation in Hudspeth County on the closing day of mule deer season. The operation was very successful with three different groups of "hunters" shooting at the deer decoy. The decoy was called different names during the illegal act by the shooters including "dummy deer," "game warden deer," and "no es venado." One shooter fired six times at the decoy, claiming his rifle was shooting high until his brother convinced him that the deer was a decoy. Appropriate charges were filed on the shooters.

BAIT HUNT BRINGS IN SIX
 •Calhoun County Warden Kevin Stancik and USFWS Special Agent Stacey Campbell filed on six subjects for hunting waterfowl over bait. Cases pending.

NIGHT HUNTING DARKENS HUNTERS' DAY

•Young County Game Warden Brent Isom apprehended two subjects for killing a deer at night. One subject crossed over a fence on foot to retrieve the deer while the other subject drove off in the vehicle. A short time later the vehicle drove back by where the subject was hiding with the deer, but did not pick him up. Isom followed the vehicle until it was out of sight from the person in the brush. The vehicle was stopped, and Isom rode with the driver back to the subject hiding in the brush. Upon arriving back at the location, the subject on foot was observed climbing over the fence and dragging the deer to the pickup. The man was surprised to find Isom riding as passenger in the vehicle. A total of four deer were seized and approximately \$6,000 in fines and restitution assessed.

4-WHEELER TAKES DEER HUNTER FOR A RIDE
 •Harris County Game Warden Derek Spitzer along with Waller

County Game Warden Kevin Glass traveled to the residence of the man whom Spitzer had interviewed the day before to seize an 8-point buck deer. A conversation started concerning Honda 4-wheelers. The man said he had just got a "deal" on one from a friend of a friend. The man said he paid \$3,500 for the Honda Rubicon. The wardens asked if they could look at the 4-wheeler and determined it had been stolen. After hearing that the 4-wheeler he had just paid cash for was stolen, the man said, "You game wardens are killing me, first the deer and now this." The 4-wheeler was confiscated and a seizure hearing is pending.

RETAILERS, WHOESALE DEALERS RECEIVE SURPRISE VISIT
 •Harris County Game Wardens Tim Holland and Kevin Malonson conducted a surprise inspection of several retail and wholesale dealers in inner-city Houston. Three retail fish dealers' cases were made and approximately 50 pounds of undersized black drum was confiscated.

SLOW ROAD TO JAIL
 •Orange County Game Warden Ryan Hall was patrolling a rural county road south of Vidor where numerous complaints of road hunting activity had been reported. Hall observed a vehicle traveling slowly down the road and it appeared to be hunting from the roadway. When contact was made, the man denied hunting from the roadway and claimed he was just "driving around drinking a beer." The man claimed the loaded 30-30 rifle in his truck was

there from an hunting trip that morning. After a records check with Orange County SO, Hall discovered the man was a convicted felon. The man was arrested on charges of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. Case pending.

CASE OF MISSING RIFLE SHOOTS HUNTERS IN THE FOOT
 •Bandera County Game Warden Jeff Carter received information that someone had shot a deer from a roadway. The violator shot the deer about 40 yards off the roadway and went into a ranch to retrieve the animal. They loaded the animal and drove away but forgot to take their .270 rifle. The rifle was found lying in the grass on the side of the roadway. Cases pending.

WOMAN CALLS 911, REPORTS SHOOTING HUSBAND
 •Coryell County Game Warden Marvin Wills was notified by the Coryell County Sheriff's Department of a 911 call of which a wife reported she had just shot her husband. Wills arrived at the scene of the shooting; the wife had begun giving first aid to her husband whom she'd shot in the chest with a .44 magnum. The shooting victim is expected to live. Inside the home, Wills and Coryell County deputies found about five pounds of marijuana. The wife remains in Coryell County Jail.

'BLOOD TRAIL' LEADS TO FINE
 •In 2004, Warden Lane Pinckney received an Operation Game Thief call in reference to an untagged buck deer found hanging in a tree in a secluded area on a ranch. The

complainant, who was a hunter on the ranch, was contacted and advised none of the hunters on the lease would do such a thing and pointed fingers toward oil field workers. Two groups of hunters on the ranch were interviewed and denied any knowledge of the deer. Blood samples were taken from a knife of one of the hunters and from the pickup of another. Two years later, charges were filed on the man who owned the pickup after the San Marcos Lab matched the blood from the pickup to the deer. The owner of the pickup was re-contacted by phone and confronted with the evidence, but still denied any knowledge of the deer. The man returned to his lease to find a warrant for his arrest. He pled no contest and paid the fine of more than \$600 for untaged deer. Restitution pending.

OIL FILM TRACED TO BREAK IN HIGH-PRESSURE LINE
 •Cherokee County Game Warden Paul Gluck received a call from a concerned citizen there was an oil film on the Neches River at Hwy 21. Arriving at the scene, Gluck saw and photographed the oil sheen and contacted Anderson County Game Warden Dave Raybin, and Houston County Game Warden Eddie Lehr, and asked for their assistance to check their side of the river. Lehr contacted some fisherman at Hwy 21 and they told him the oil was coming from Box's Creek in Cherokee County. Gluck and Raybin worked down Box's Creek and found a broken saltwater high-pressure line in the middle of the creek. Lt. Shewmake was contacted at the Rusk Regional Office and con-

tact was made with Kills & Spills Biologist Greg Conley and the Railroad Commission. Gluck contacted the foreman of the oil and gas field and was instructed on how to shut down the high-pressure line. The flow was stopped. No fish kill was seen, and the investigation continues.

SHRIMP SELLERS WERE JUST THINKING OF MOM
 •Harris County Game Warden Susan Webb checked two young men selling shrimp on the side of the road. They said they were just trying to make some money to buy presents for their moms. Neither possessed the required licenses. Cases pending.

MORNING PATROL NETS TWO ARRESTS
 •Zapata County Game Wardens Jesse Garcia and Fernando Cervantes were patrolling Falcon Lake and at about 1:30 in the morning they observed a vessel enter Texas waters from Mexico. Garcia and Cervantes made contact with the vessel and found two subjects in possession of illegal fishing devices (gill net). Garcia and Cervantes arrested both subjects without incident, and Game Warden Martin Oviedo transported them to the Zapata County Regional Jail. Approximately 2,500 feet of gill net was seized as well as the boat and motor.

MEXICAN BROWN BEAR TRAILO TO ENSURE ITS OWN SAFETY
 •Kinney County Game Warden Henry Lutz responded to a call about a Mexican brown bear sighting west of Brackettville. The caller said the bear was walking along the highway right-of-way trying to get through the fence. He said he followed it for some distance before it came to a corner, climbed the fence, and went off into a pasture. This was the second sighting of a bear in that area in the last 30 days. TPW Wildlife Biologist Rick Taylor has been informed and both are trying to keep tabs on the bear to ensure its safety.

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Ducks

Continued from Page 6

have chosen the right lakes. Hunters willing to put in the time and effort are also reporting success. Glenn Harrison of Plano hunts public waters at Lake Ray Roberts in North Texas. "It has been surprisingly good," he said. "The area received an inch of rain just before the second split of the season — it filled some of the backwater areas that had been dry."

Harrison has had good shoots at mallards and teal, with some gadwall and pintail coming in to his spread. "It's best during the week," he said. "It's typical public hunting, very busy on the weekends."

The scouting efforts have paid off for Harrison. "I spent a full day scouting during the split and found the new spots the birds were using — it's really paid off." The hunts also require some effort as well. "It's about a mile walk — not too difficult but it's harder carrying two dozen decoys, a Mojo, a gun and gear."



ZEROED-IN: Sam Skipper's lab, Prince, hunts a downed bird. Photo by David J. Sams.

Bucks

Continued from Page 6

biggest non-typical deer I would have would be the Keith Chassin deer from Webb County which scores 207 1/8 net."

"On the typical side, Steven Zieschang took a big typical eight while hunting in Maverick County," he added. "That deer scores 179 5/8 inches net."

When asked if there were any surprising areas, Brimager had an answer.

"Out in West Texas, the Trans Pecos has probably had the most rain they have had in 10 years, so the antelope and mule deer and whitetails coming in from out that way have been extremely healthy," he said.

Brimager should know, having harvested a big pronghorn antelope in Hudspeth County that unofficially ranks as the state's second best antelope entry with a net score of 82 6/8 inches.

The Big Game Awards aren't the only game in town. Huddleston and Chassin counties lead their respective categories in both the Texas Gulf Coast deer competition and the Los Cazadores deer contest with only a few weeks remaining.

Clayton Wolf, big game program director for the Texas Parks and Wildlife, agrees with Brimager that the 2006-2007 deer season has been down.

But already, he is hopeful for next season since some areas of the state have received beneficial rains this fall and winter.

"I do think unless we get hammered with low precipitation in the spring months, we're set up better this year than last year," Wolf said. "In many places, there are green forbs starting to come up and we didn't have that last year."

Wolf reminds Texas deer hunters of two things.

First, with the remainder of the South Texas general season to come, not to mention late antlerless and spike seasons, hunters and land managers should continue to do management work on their properties to bring them to within carrying capacity.

And second, well, he quotes Texas Parks and Wildlife executive director Robert L. Cook for that.

"Like Mr. Cook says an average year in Texas is still better than most years in most other states."

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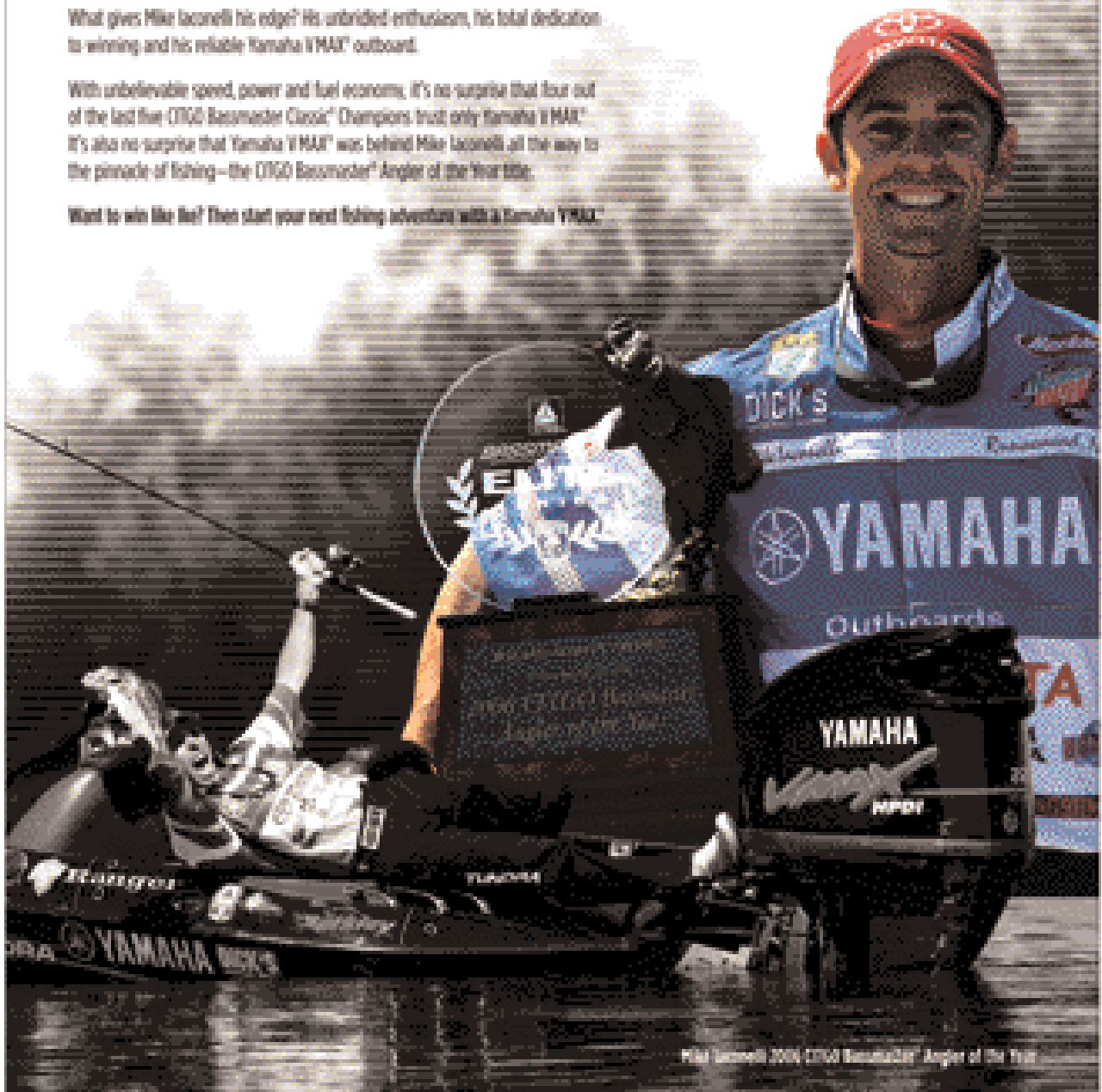
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Funds

Continued from Page 1

director of Conservation Programs for Texas. "We do a lot of work with them in relation to bird stamp monies. So it's pretty important to us that those monies go where they're intended to go."

Fund 9 money comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and stamps.

It also receives the lion's share of boat registration fees. In 2007, Fund 9 will account for 53.4 percent of TPW's budget or \$157,563,555.

Many outdoorsmen are asking whether Fund 9's monies have been diverted.

It is a dedicated fund that can be spent only for wildlife purposes and is separate from Fund 64 — which is set

aside for state parks, but frequently raided by legislators to pay for non-park needs.

However, the surplus in Fund 9 has gone from \$44 million in 2004 to \$66.7 million at the start of the 2007 budget year, and Brown is worried that legislators may be letting money pile up for political purposes.

"We're concerned that maybe these funds are being held back to help balance the rest of the state budget," Brown said. "That's not what we voted to increase hunting and fishing licenses for."

Lone Star Outdoor News contacted the office of Jim Pitts (R-Waxahachie) for comment. Pitts chaired the House Appropriations Committee during the previous Legislature. However, a representative said Pitts, who is running for speaker, was unavailable for comment.

Other past committee members were also unavailable.

A legislative staff member, without commenting on legislators' intent, confirmed that surpluses in agency funds are counted when determining the status of the state's budget.

Recommendations on Fund 9 should be forthcoming in two weeks, said the staffer, who asked not to be named.

"That's when people will get a sense of how much direction we've gotten from our bosses on this issue," the staffer said.

Legislators have asked TPW to submit budgets for the 2008-2009 biennium that are 90 percent of the current budget. The agency will then have to submit spending requests to reclaim the remaining 10 percent. TPW officials say they've been trading water financially the last few years.

"For the most part, our budget has essentially been stable," said Mike Berger, director of TPW's Wildlife Division.

Standing still isn't the same as keeping up, though, said TWA's Brown.

"Let's face it, everything costs more and budgets have to keep up," he said. "In essence, we're facing the loss of services."

TPW officials acknowledge their budget has been cut to the bone.

"We're at the point where we can't just keep taking pieces off of programs," said Phil Durocher, director of TPW's Inland Fisheries Division. "We'll have to cut some of the things that we do."

That could mean anything from firing biologists to closing a hatchery.

"Most of our budget is tied up in salaries," Durocher said. "If we cut our budget, we'll have to cut people. We can't cut equipment. There's no equipment in our budget."

DU's Ritter finds the financial squeeze being put on TPW baffling.

"It doesn't make much sense with

that surplus sitting there," he said.

Additional funding would let TPW do such things as upgrade an aging fleet of vehicles, spend more on programs encouraging landowners to manage their property for wildlife and conduct more frequent surveys of game and non-game animals.

"At this point, though, we need to do more of what we're already doing," Durocher said. "For example, we survey our lakes and reservoirs every four years. We'd like to cut that down to every two years. That requires more staff. We operate very efficient hatcheries. During the spring, though, they get short-handed. That's when most of the fish are produced."

"We need people to raise them, monitor their growth and to harvest and deliver them. Texas is a big place. It has lots of reservoirs. Also, the season is hard on the facilities. We need to keep them up."

2006-07 TEXAS HUNTING SEASONS			
WHITE-TAILED DEER			
<i>General</i>			
YOUTH SEASON	Jan. 20-21	<i>North Zone</i>	Dec. 9-Jan. 28
SOUTH TEXAS (30 counties)	Nov. 4-Jan. 21	<i>REGULAR</i>	
		<i>South Zone</i>	Dec. 9-Jan. 28
		<i>REGULAR GUN</i>	
<i>Late Antlerless and Spike</i>			
EDWARDS PLATEAU (39 counties)	Jan. 8-21	<i>Duck Bag Limit:</i>	
SOUTH TEXAS (30 counties)	Jan. 22-Feb. 4	The daily bag limit shall be 5 ducks with the following species and sex restrictions — scaup, redhead and wood duck — 2 ducks; only 1 from the following aggregate bag: 1 hen mallard, or 1 pintail, or 1 canvasback, or 1 "dusky duck" (includes mottled duck, Mexican-like duck, black duck, and their hybrids); all other ducks not listed — 5 ducks.	
		<i>Possession Limit:</i> Twice the daily bag limit.	
<i>Muzzleloader</i> (23 counties)			
Antlerless and Spike Only	Jan. 13-21	GOOSE	
<i>RIO GRANDE TURKEY</i>			
<i>Fall Season</i>			
YOUTH SEASON	Jan. 20-21	<i>West</i>	Nov. 4-Feb. 6
SOUTH TEXAS (26 counties)	Nov. 4-Jan. 21	<i>LIGHT AND DARK GEESE</i>	
		<i>Bag Limit:</i>	
Brooks, Kennedy, Kleberg and Willacy counties	Nov. 4-Feb. 25	Light Geese — 20 in the aggregate;	
		Dark Geese — 3 Canada and 1 white-fronted goose;	
		<i>CONSERVATION ORDER</i>	Feb. 7-March 25
<i>QUAIL</i>			
<i>Statewide</i>	Oct. 28-Feb. 25	<i>East</i>	Nov. 4-Jan. 28
<i>Bag limit:</i> 15 birds per day, 45 in possession.		<i>LIGHT GEESE</i>	Nov. 4-Jan. 14
		<i>WHITE-FRONTED GEESE</i>	Nov. 4-Jan. 28
		<i>CANADA GEESE</i>	Nov. 4-Jan. 28
<i>PHEASANT</i>			
<i>Bag limit:</i> 3 roosters per day, 6 in possession.		<i>Dark Geese — 3 Canada and 2 white-fronted.</i>	
Chambers, Jefferson, Liberty counties	Nov. 4-Feb. 25	<i>Possession Limit:</i> Twice the daily bag limit for dark geese, no possession limit for light geese.	
DUCK			
<i>High Plains Mallard Management Unit</i>			
<i>REGULAR</i>	Nov. 3-Jan. 28	<i>CONSERVATION ORDER</i>	Jan. 29-March 25
		<i>(Seasons on other species may be found on the TPW Web site — tpwd.state.tx.us/)</i>	

Economy

Continued from Page 1

and televised on ESPN2, the resulting splash in Del Rio was that of money instead of fish flopping in a weigh-in bin.

Texas and other southwest anglers have known for years the type of fishing available on Amistad, along with Choke Canyon and Falcon lakes.

But media exposure has increased the number of anglers interested in fishing on Amistad, the number of tournaments being held on the lake this year and revenue in the hotels, restaurants, gas stations and other businesses in Del Rio.

B.A.S.S. is holding at least four tournaments and the FLW Outdoors trails will visit several times, along with other regional and state events.

The Bassmaster Elite Series pros will return March 8-11 for the season-opening tournament, just like last year. California's Ish Monroe won it with more than 104 pounds in four days in a sight-fishing slugfest.

"We're in discussions right now with Fishers of Men to bring in a tournament that would have anglers from seven states," said Donna Langford with the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce. "That tournament, they're saying, could generate more than \$1 million alone for the area. I can't begin to tell you how much revenue is coming in and how important the tournaments are for the area. It's wonderful for us."

Between the state and regional tournaments, Amistad was a jewel in the rough among anglers who knew of its huge catches.

But factors prevented anglers from other parts of the country from experiencing it, namely the distance required to haul a boat and the unfamiliarity with the lake and surrounding area.

It's human nature to avoid things we don't understand, and lack of major exposure kept the Del Rio area's hospitality and outdoors potential limited to those in the Southwest.

Not anymore, though. Langford said of the 16 hotels with roughly 1,060 rooms available

in the area, "you can drive around just about every weekend and see boats in the parking lots." She added that 37 of the city's restaurants are in the chamber, as well as three fishing guides, and all have experienced benefits from televised and written coverage of the Bassmaster and FLW Tour events held in 2006.

Even non-endemic businesses are seeing an upside.

"There's a subdivision going up out by the lake and development is going pretty well," Langford said. "We have some new RV parks coming into the area. As you drive out by the lake you'll see more and more things coming in. People want to be close to the lake."

"I haven't been able to crunch the numbers yet, but I'd expect (revenue) to be double from last year, at least double if not more."

Sheree Bopp with the Amistad National Recreation Area — surrounding much of Amistad Reservoir — said two economic studies for the recreation area show a significant upturn. Bopp said 192 tournaments have been permitted this year by the agency, a surge of about 100 more than last year, "and that doesn't count the ones we don't know about."


"The latest economic numbers from 2002 showed about 1.1 million visitors (to the Amistad NRA) and about 30-plus million dollars in economic impact to Del Rio," Bopp said. "In 2006, the numbers indicate about 1.6 million visitors and about \$46 million in revenue."

Money isn't everything, though, and Langford said anglers with valid concerns about impacts to the lake and surrounding area should be heard.

"Obviously, some people will have concerns and that's normal," she said. "We know that and are experiencing with the Texas Parks and Wildlife people to hold town hall meetings to answer questions about the lake, catch-and-release and other topics."

"I think with all the tournaments and things, and with all the locals ... we're certainly not going to fish this lake out, but we haven't heard (discussion) for several years about these things. I think it's just time for Texas Parks and Wildlife to come in and reas-

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MADE IN TEXAS

Fishing villages from afar hook artist

'... these villagers need the catch to eat and to live and to survive'

BY MARY HELEN AQUIRRE

Paul Seifert of Dallas spent a year in fishing villages on the coasts of Peru, Brazil, Cameroon, Mozambique, Oman, India and Malaysia.

As a recipient of the prestigious Thomas J. Watson fellowship for the proposal "Where Fishing is Life: Recording Angling Cultures with Paint and Poetry," the 2004 Washington and Lee University graduate combined his passion for fishing with his innate artistic talent.

From August 2004 to August 2005, Seifert traveled, observed and sketched — and did some fishing.

"I fished in every place, but not as much as I thought I would," he said.

In Brazil, he went out on a jangada (a sailboat measuring anywhere from nine to 20 feet), where he found the combination of small boat, big swells and hot sun to be extremely physically taxing.

In that country, where you can sometimes spot the fishermen by the scarring on their hands and legs, Seifert said he saw fishermen land 100-pound tarpon with handheld fishing line wrapped around their wrists.

In Cameroon, fishermen aboard dugout canoes also would hold the line in their hands as they awaited the barracuda to bite.

In Mozambique, the villagers used spear guns to land their catches. Peruvian anglers would

mount reed rafts, called caballos, to ride out to sea.

The main difference between the recreational fishing he grew up with and the type of fishing he saw in the coastal villages?

"A day of fishing isn't ruined if you don't catch (the fish)," he said, "But these villagers need the catch to eat and to live and to survive."

Seifert said he used his art as a bridge to connect with the people, who would approach him and watch as he sketched.

At each site, he would set up on the beach. When the fishermen returned for their day, he would rapidly sketch the ensuing frenetic motion of the scene in front of him.

He did each ink drawing in about 45 minutes. "They were very fast and spontaneous sketches that would get very abstract," he said.

Those drawings were the basis for oil paintings he completed once he returned to the U.S. The resulting collection ("Where Fishing Is Life") was exhibited Sept. 22 through Oct. 28 at Washington and Lee University's Stanier Gallery, where several of his pieces sold.

The university purchased the 5-foot by 7-foot "Net Beaters," an oil painting inspired by Brazil's fishermen, for \$2,000 and will display it in the art department.

Kathleen Olson, one of his art professors, said Seifert's show received a wonderful response.

"He's one of the most talented students I've ever had," said



WORKS OF ART: Paul Seifert traveled, observed and sketched international fishing villages in many countries — and took some time to fish for sardines on this outing.

Olson, whose favorites are the ink drawings. "He's an incredibly gifted person."

Seifert, who is a landman for an oil and gas company and paints in the evening, also had a showing last year in the Al*so Gallery in Dallas. And, one of his fishing images graces the cover of Texas alternative rock band Red

Monroe's latest CD.

The Dallas artist came away from his trip with more than drawings and new fishing stories.

The yearlong trip also ignited an appreciation for other cultures. "Being in different cultures and different countries is what gets me going," he said.

He is planning to return to

Cameroon, where he will work for an organization that helps youths who want to start their own businesses. And, he will continue to sketch.

By fall Seifert hopes to attend law school, where he will focus on international law.

To view his paintings and drawings, visit www.pauseifert.com.

ShareLunkers



Eddie Horn of Alba caught Budweiser ShareLunker No. 424 on Nov. 25, 2006 at Lake Fork. Fishing in 14 feet of water with a 6" Black Zoom Lizard, Horn landed the first lunker of the 2007 season; it weighed 13.79 lbs and measured 26" long with a 20.5" girth.



Parker Chambers, 7, the youngest angler in the history of the Budweiser ShareLunker Program beamed as his father **Chris Chambers** proudly displays the 13.4-pound bass his son caught with his new Christmas rod and reel. It was the second lunker of the season.



Jaret Latta of Nacogdoches caught Budweiser ShareLunker No. 426 from Lake Nacogdoches Jan. 5. The 13.31-pound largemouth bass was 27 inches long and 20 inches in girth. Latta was fishing in 20 feet of water when the big bass took a one-ounce jig.

Ram

Continued from Page 1

"Everything out there will poke you and stick you," he said. "It's rough country."

But Brown would go back in a second if he could get another chance at a rare Texas bighorn sheep.

During his hunt, Dec. 16-18, he bagged a ram through a special permit issued by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Just a few decades ago, no one could hunt desert bighorns in Texas.

The "Texana" variety of the sheep had disappeared by the

1960s, falling victim to unregulated hunting and diseases from domestic livestock.

But now the wild sheep are enjoying resurgence in West Texas, the result of a massive effort to import bighorns from other desert states.

And sheep habitat improvements such as water "guzzlers" have been funded through a collaboration between TPW, private landowners and the Texas Bighorn Society.

The partners celebrated a milestone last summer when nearly 1,000 of the sheep were counted in helicopter surveys.

These tallies help the state determine how many rams will be avail-

able to hunters each year, said Mike Pittman, project leader for TPW's Trans-Pecos wildlife areas.

"Most all year, these sheep are subject to predators, old age and accidents," Pittman said. "During the breeding season (August through October) the rams do a lot of fighting and they butt heads."

"It's not uncommon for them to suffer some pretty good injuries."

There were 12 hunting permits issued in 2006, Pittman said. Nine went to landowners who charge as much as \$10,000 per hunt.

The other three were used for the TPW "Grand Slam" hunt, another hunt auctioned off by the bighorn society and for the special drawing won by Brown.

The lawyer said he was amazed to learn the auctioned permit fetched \$105,000 at the bighorn society's banquet last spring. Proceeds benefited the state's bighorn projects.

"If someone was willing to pay that much, with all of it going back to the sheep, I just thought I'd donate it back," Brown said. "I thought they could sell it again, but Mike Pittman told me there would be too much red tape."

And for that, Brown is grateful.

He said the accommodations at a ranch house about three miles from the hunt area were first-rate, as was Pittman's cooking.

He also credited guide Clay Roberts and his spotters for putting

him on a nice ram.

Brown took the bighorn at about 80 yards with 7mm-08 round, tipped with a 140-grain bullet.

Its Boone & Crockett score only reached about 150, considerably less than the biggest trophy ram taken so far in Texas, which scored 183 5/8 in 2005.

But points don't matter to Brown, whose recent experiences inspired him to join the Texas Bighorn Society.

"He's a trophy to me," he said of the ram. "I don't care what his score is."

"I heard that 2,000 or more people each paid \$10 for an application to the drawing. I got lucky."

"It's a once in a lifetime deal."

PRODUCTS

HANDCRAFTED BOW: Great Plain's SR Swift Series Take Down Recurve features a 16-inch riser. The manufacturer says this shorter recurve draws like butter and has all the advantages of a longer bow. It is available with 56-, 58- and 60-inch limbs and has an offset, complete centershot window. These bows are offered in six wood tones. They cost about \$750. For more information, or to order a handcrafted wood bow, call (806) 665-5463 or visit www.greatplains.pam.



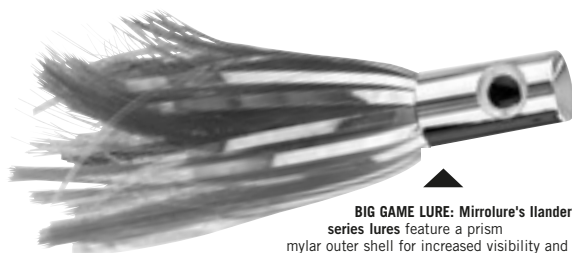
ANGLER'S WALLET: Falcon Rods' new FTO Bass Jig Wallet will help keep jigs dry, tangle-free and easily accessible. It holds 18 bass jigs inside a zippered shell of tough corduroy-like fabric that folds compactly like a wallet. It costs about \$12. For more information, call (918) 251-0020 or visit www.falconrods.com.



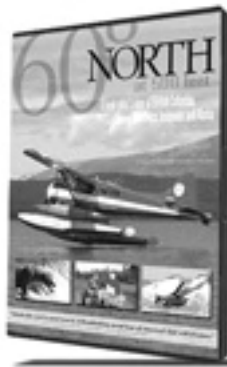
NEW PROPELLER: Yamaha's Reliance propeller, intended for use primarily with the company's F150 engine, promises excellent all-around performance in applications for outboards up to 300 horsepower. The manufacturer says the Reliance is faster at all rpm ranges and offers better grip than Yamaha's Black Steel propellers. The stainless steel propeller is available in pitches from 15 to 21 inches in right-hand rotation and in pitches from 17 to 21 inches in left-hand rotation. It sells for about \$495. For dealers, visit www.yamaha-motor.com or call (866) 894-1626.



RETRIEVER TRAINING: Expert instructor Roger Conant has educated more than 2,600 retrievers in abilities ranging from basic obedience to gun dog skills. Conant has channeled a lifetime of training expertise into a 90-minute DVD designed to take owners of retrievers step by step through an eight-week training course. **Through the Eyes of the Retriever** depicts Conant's innovative teaching method, which allows the retriever to tell the owner what it needs to understand the commands. Obedience is the foundation of the program, and the DVD teaches how varying personality traits, intelligence and athletic ability influence results, all of which can be applied to all canine breeds. The DVD costs \$39.95. For more information and to order, visit www.landmarkretrievers.com.



BIG GAME LURE: Mirrolure's Ilander Flasher series lures feature a prism mylar outer shell for increased visibility and realism. Like all Iland Lures, the Flasher series comes with those gold eyes that the company says intimidate, provoke and challenge for tournament-winning performance. The 8 1/4-inch-long Ilander Flasher lure is available in eight hues. It costs about \$25. For dealers, visit www.mirrolure.com or call (727) 584-7691.



AERIAL ALASKA: 60° North at 500 Feet offers a bird's-eye view as it follows bush pilots in a 1954 de Havilland Beaver on a 2,000-mile journey through British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Alaska. This 66-minute DVD has very little narration but is rich in scenery and music. A full summer of living above the 60th parallel is depicted. The DVD places the viewer in the co-pilot seat and tracks across mountain ranges, tundra, glaciers, capped volcanoes and waterfalls. The DVD has been critically acclaimed as "a combination of Warren Miller and Endless Summer for the wilderness adventurer." The DVD is available in widescreen format, and costs \$24.95 plus shipping and handling. To order, call (425) 843-5586 or view a preview and order online at www.Bush-Cat.com.

WATERFOWL LOADS: Rio Ammunition's Royal Steel shotshells promise knock-down performance. Thanks to the company's single base CSB powder, the pellets achieve high velocities while maintaining dense patterns at long distances. Royal Steel shotshells come in 2 3/4- and 3-inch cases. This line is available in shot sizes ranging from BB to No. 6 and is loaded in 1 1/8- or 1 1/4-ounce payloads. The shotshells cost under \$10 per box of 25. For retailers, call (713) 266-3091 or visit www.riammo.com.



POSSESSED LURE: It's the curve through the body and tail that give Sebile's Koolie Minnow its wobble and action. The company says its fleshy roundness and protruding eyes generate aggressive strikes like no other. This lure, like others in the Possessed series, is filled with a glittery fluid. The glitter emulates scales falling from an injured baitfish. The fluid, through mass transfer, facilitates long, accurate casting. Available in a variety of lips and models, the Koolie minnow sells for about \$14-\$15. For information, visit www.sebileusa.com or call (325) 437-8103.



HEROES



MICHAEL HASBANY SR. caught this peacock bass in Brazil.



BRIAN MOORE shot this 20 1/16" spread 8-pointer that scored 141 5/8 on the Southern Comfort Ranch while hunting with Texas Hunting Company in Young County.



LES CASTLEBERRY and his 16-year-old son, AUSTIN, killed 10 gadwall, 2 pintail and 1 teal along with Mike Kiefer at a private lease near Jacksboro.



SCARLETT HORTON, 6, shows her first deer — an 8-pointer that dressed out at 100 pounds.



JERI DUSEK of San Antonio with her first buck. Harvested at the Dos Locos ranch.



RACHEL SMITH, 14, with her first deer on Youth Hunt Weekend, taken at the Hearne ranch of her grandfather, JACK RAMSAY.

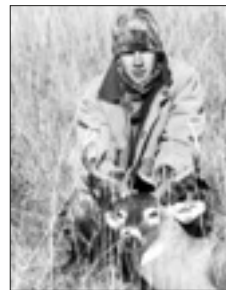


SCOUT MAYBERRY, 6, daughter of MIKE and ELAINE MAYBERRY of McKinney, shot her first buck while hunting with her dad and grandfather, RAY ALLRED, of San Antonio.

SHARE AN ADVENTURE

Want to share your great hunting or fishing photos with the Lone Star Outdoor News family? E-mail your photo, phone and caption information to editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com, or mail to:

Heroes, Lone Star Outdoor News, 9304 Forest Lane, Suite 114 South, Dallas, TX, 75243.



TY WELLBORN, 14, shot this deer with a bow.



MIKE DAVIS shot this bobcat while deer hunting near Llano.

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BASSIN'S BEST

BOAT BUYER'S GUIDE

The Z9 by NITRO Boats

THE SPECS: A 21-footer with infused hull, deck and transom. It has a 96-inch beam; a fuel capacity of 65 gallons; and maximum horsepower of 300. The boat, which weighs about 1,720 pounds, can accommodate four people (1,250 pounds).

ANGLERS WILL LIKE: The anti-fatigue padded bow deck, restyled seating and shock-absorption system for the helm and passenger seat are designed so fishermen will ride and fish in comfort. There are two positions for the bow seat pedestal and a folding fishing chair aft. The Z9 features two aerated livewells, retractable rod holder straps, built-in tournament ruler and holder, under-lid lure organizer, two oversized and a lockable rod boxes with rod-handle organizer. Plus, there is a drop-in molded storage tray above the battery and rigging compartment, a scent holder to keep fish-attractants handy and an in-floor cooler. Components include a MotorGuide trolling motor and a Lowrance X 25c sonar unit with built-in Global Positioning System.

BOTTOM LINE, ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER: Lighter, faster, stronger.

MSRP: \$46,940, with Mercury 225 OptiMax motor.

For additional features and options or for dealers: (417) 873-4555; www.nitroboats.com



Pro Team 175 TXW by Tracker Boats

THE SPECS: Made of a marine alloy, the hull measures 17 feet, 10 inches and has an 89-inch beam. Its fuel capacity is 21 gallons with a maximum horsepower of 75. The boat, which weighs about 961 pounds, can accommodate four people (560 pounds).

ANGLERS WILL LIKE: Boat has a 16-gallon aerated divided livewell and 25-quart cooler. Storage compartments include drop-in storage with three tackle trays, dry storage box, lockable center and portside rod box plus more. Also has elevated casting decks and expanded bow deck plus two fold-down fishing seats and three-across seating. Components include a Lowrance X37 Fish Finder and MotorGuide trolling motor.

BOTTOM LINE, ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER: It's a lot of fishing boat for not a lot of money.

MSRP: \$12,165, when equipped with a 25 EL Four-Stroke EFI motor.

For additional features and options or for dealers: (417) 873-4555; www.trackerboats.com



Pro186 SC by Pro Craft Boats

THE SPECS: Hand-laid hull is 18 feet, 4 inches long with a 91-inch beam. Fuel capacity is 39 gallons, with a maximum horsepower of 175. Designed for up to four people (650 pounds), it has a total weight capacity of 1,400 pounds. The boat weighs about 1,600 pounds.

ANGLERS WILL LIKE: This comfortable fishing platform incorporates an aerated livewell; Lowrance X37 fish finder (bow panel accepts a Lowrance X135); a MotorGuide trolling motor; oversized port and starboard rod lockers; onboard battery charger; and drop-in aft deck tackle storage. A convenient step accesses the bow deck and features a built-in cooler; it has three-across cockpit seating.

BOTTOM LINE, ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER: Delivers big boat room and features in a mid-sized tournament-ready package that is built to outmaneuver and outperform the competition.

MSRP: \$22,116, with Mercury 115 ELPT OptiMax motor.

For additional features and options or for dealers: (417) 873-4555; www.procraftboats.com



21 X 25C (X2 series) by Triton Boats

THE SPECS: All composite constructed 21-footer with 94-inch beam. It has a 53-gallon fuel capacity with a 200-300 horsepower range.

ANGLERS WILL LIKE:

Tournament bass boat boasts a 42.5 gallon livewell, an 84-quart baitwell, a 300-quart front storage box, oversized rod lockers, tackle storage boxes, portside rod rack with 12-rod capacity and built-in measuring board. Other features include a bike seat, a folding fishing seat, bench-style center seat plus bucket seats. Components include a Lowrance X135 Fish Finder.

BOTTOM LINE, ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER: Extra deep for greater rough-water security and packed with more than 30 innovative features...

MSRP: \$54,272, with a Mercury 225 ProXS outboard.

For additional features and options or for dealers: www.tritonboats.com



Eagle 180 by G3 Boats

THE SPECS: Aluminum boat with a 17-foot, 8-inch deck and 85-inch beam. Its fuel capacity is 21 gallons with a maximum horsepower of 115.

ANGLERS WILL LIKE:

Features include a lockable center rod storage for eight-foot rods, custom-molded console with full instrumentation, deluxe high-back three-across seating, Garmin FF 85 Fish Finder, Minn Kota trolling motor, aerated 27 gallon livewell and under seat cooler. Available in Gunmetal Blue or the new Firemetal Red, the boat also boasts a fully extended front casting deck.

BOTTOM LINE, ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER: This boat combines the performance, features and dependability of a serious tournament boat with the price-point suited to accommodate any working man's budget.

MSRP: \$18,695, when equipped with a 90 HP 2-stroke Yamaha motor (not including dealer prep and delivery charges).

For additional features and options or for dealers: (800) 588-9787 or www.g3boats.com



Puma by BassCat

THE SPECS: Fiberglass boat has a 20-foot, 4-inch hull with a 94-inch beam. Its fuel capacity is 52 gallons with a 200 to 300 HP range and weighs about 1,685 pounds.

ANGLERS WILL LIKE:

Deck layout provides storage from the bow to the console with rod boxes, aerated live wells, ice chest and dry storage compartments. There's even a handy space for net and measuring board. Fishermen on a long run will appreciate the comfort of the Euro-style bucket seats with spring-supported lumbar adjustment support. The Puma also boasts a trendy modular console designed to provide space for a built-in LCR plus lighted handrails and pop-up mooring cleats for securing the boat.

BOTTOM LINE, ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER: Stable hull that is agile in the roughest waters.

MSRP: \$58,468, when equipped with Mercury OptiMax 300 outboard and numerous upgrades.

For additional features and options or for dealers: (870) 481-5135; www.basscat.com



170 VS by Ranger Boats

THE SPECS: Fiberglass boat with 17-foot hull and 84 1/2-inch beam. Its fuel capacity is 25 gallons with a 115 maximum horsepower. It weighs about 1,270 pounds and can accommodate 1,000 pounds in people, gear and motor.

ANGLERS WILL LIKE: This single-console boat boasts an aerated livewell, rod storage under both sides of the front deck and a generous center storage compartment. It has a three-seat bench and two all-weather fold down seats on pedestals on the front and rear decks. Its length makes this boat easy to maneuver on the water and ideal for fishing structure like docks and trees that are common to most big-bass lakes.

BOTTOM LINE, ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER: "Comfort, convenience and fishability take center stage with this design and our upright, level foam flotation delivers even more peace of mind," said Ranger Boats President Randy Hopper.

MSRP: \$19,450, when equipped with a 90 HP Yamaha motor.

For additional features and options or for dealers: (800) 373-2628; www.rangerboats.com



200 Elite by Champion Boats

THE SPECS: 100 percent composite construction. At 19-feet, 8-inches long, this boat has a 95-inch beam with a 50-gallon fuel capacity and a maximum horsepower of 225. It can accommodate five people (870 pounds)

ANGLERS WILL LIKE: This tournament-level bass boat boasts large, wide-open casting decks, generous locking front and rear storage lockers, a dual aerated livewell system and cooler. Components include Lowrance X 135 locators, a MotorGuide trolling motor, plus more. Available in 58 base colors and hundreds of striping combinations.

BOTTOM LINE, ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER: "The all-new 200 Elite promises to set a new 20-foot benchmark in ride, performance and fishability..." said Don Wood, company president.

MSRP: \$44,185, when equipped with a Yamaha VZ 200 outboard.

For additional features and options or for dealers: (615) 494-2090; www.championboats.com



FISHING REPORT

HOT BITES

LARGEMOUTH BASS



AMISTAD: Black bass are good on watermelon red and chartreuse deep running crankbaits and soft plastics. **LBJ:** Black bass are fair to good on wacky rigged blue fluke Whacky Sticks, watermelon/red Snap Back creature baits, and black/blue Curb's jigs along boulders and rocky riprap on seawalls. **LIVINGSTONE:** Black bass are good on watermelon red and chartreuse soft plastics, crankbaits, and spinnerbaits. **POSSUM KINGDOM:** Black bass are good near rocky cover and boat docks on soft plastics or shad and crawfish imitation crankbaits.

WHITE HYBRID STRIPER



BOB SANDLIN: White bass are good on jigging spoons. **BUCHANAN:** Striped bass are good vertically jigging Pink Minnows and 1/4oz. white Curb's stripers jigs from Lighthouse Point up the lake early on cloudy mornings. **CADD:** White and yellow bass are good on small spoons and tailspinners in the Big Cypress channel near Johnson's Ranch.

CATFISH



RAY ROBERTS: Catfish are excellent on prepared bait and cut shad. **BRAUNIG:** Channel and blue catfish are very good on liver, cheesebait, shrimp, nightcrawlers, and cutbait. **CALAVERAS:** Channel catfish are very good on liver, shrimp, cheesebait, and nightcrawlers. Blue catfish are good on liver, cutbait, and nightcrawlers. **CHOKO CANYON:** Channel and blue catfish are very good on stinkbait and live minnows in 10 - 24 feet.

CRAPPIE



CADD: Crappie are good on red/white or red/green jigs in the pads along deeper creeks. **HOUSTON COUNTY:** Crappie are good on live minnows and chartreuse jigs near the dam in 18 feet.

BREAM



WEATHERFORD: Bream are good on worms.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 40 degrees. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

AMISTAD: Water clear; 58 degrees. Striped bass are fair on white and white/blue Rat-L-Traps. White bass are fair on white Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on cheesebait, shrimp, and nightcrawlers in 20 - 60 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch.

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 50 degrees; 5.6' low. Black bass are good near submerged timber or riprap areas with black/blue jigs and black/blue crawfish trailers. White bass are good on shad-imitation lures and white soft plastics off deeper points.

ATHENS: Water clear; 45-50 degrees; 4.09' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits and finesse jigs. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers.

BASTROP: Water stained; Black bass are fair on minnows and soft plastic worms. Crappie are fair on minnows and white tube jigs.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear; 46-51 degrees; 10.44' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastics and crankbaits.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; 65 degrees. Black bass are good on crankbaits and dark soft plastics in the reeds and near the dam. Striped bass are good on liver and shad, and down rigging spoons near the dam and jetty.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear; 45-50 degrees; 17.45' low. Black bass are good on Ban-it crankbaits and jigs around docks and near structure in 8 - 12 feet. Channel catfish are good on cut bait.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 47 degrees; 6.91' low. Black bass are good on 1/4oz. black/blue StrikeWorks jigs and chartreuse crankbaits around docks and brushpiles, and along the main lake shoreline.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 55 degrees; 22.46' low. Black bass are fair on in 10 - 15 feet.

CADD: Water fairly clear to stained; 45-52 degrees; 0.02' high. Black bass are fair on jigs, white spinnerbaits and flukes fished around vegetation.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 65 degrees. Black bass are good on dark soft plastic worms and live minnows over reed beds. Redfish are good down rigging silver and gold spoons, and on live perch, crawfish, and tilapia near the dam. Crappie are slow.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear; 55 degrees; 7.31' low. Black bass are fair on 3/16oz. Curb's jigs, purple Scoundrel worms on shaky jig-heads, and white suspending crankbaits along bluff ledges inside of secondary points in 8 - 14 feet.

CDAR CREEK: Water lightly stained; 46-50 degrees; 6.07' low. Black bass are fair on chrome Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits in creeks. White bass are fair on jigging spoons in 19-22 feet.

CHOKO CANYON: Water stained; 59 degrees; 7.57' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse soft plastics early, and later on watermelon red roadrunners in the hardwoods upriver.

CONROE: Water murky; 0.29 high. Black bass are good on watermelon red and pumpkinseed spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Catfish are good on stinkbait, cutbait, and chicken livers.

DUNLAP/MCQUEENEY: Water stained. Channel catfish are good on frozen shrimp and stinkbait. Blue catfish are fair on live perch.

FALCON: Water clear upper end, stained lower end; 59 degrees. Black bass are fair on watermelon red soft plastics in 10 - 16 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, cutbait, liver, and shad.

FAYETTE: Water clear; 65 degrees. Black bass are good on crankbaits off flats and over grass in 4 - 8 feet, and on watermelon red and plum Carolina rigged worms, buzzbaits, and topwaters in 6 - 10 feet.

FORK: Water clear; 47-51 degrees; 4.43' low. Black bass are fair on black/blue jigs trimmed with #11 black pork trailers around wood in the mouths of coves and 1/2oz. white/chartreuse spinnerbaits along main lake grass lines. Catfish are good on prepared baits in 23-25 feet along creeks.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water stained. Black bass are good on watermelon crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are good on cutbait, stinkbait, and frozen shrimp.

GRANBURY: Water stained; 61.19' low. Catfish are good on cutbait, stinkbait, and chicken livers.

GRANGER: Water murky; 53 degrees; 0.67' low. Blue catfish are fair on jugs lures baited with shad and cutbait.

GRAPEVINE: Water lightly stained; 44-50 degrees; 12.17' low. Black bass are fair on finesse soft plastics and medium diving crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on slabs and Humdingers. Catfish are fair on cut bait and chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers.

GREENBELT: Water lightly stained; 38 degrees; 28.7' low. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. White bass are fair on live baits and crankbaits.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water stained; 56 degrees; 1.03' high. Black bass to 3 pounds are fair on watermelon brush hogs in 20 - 25 feet. Bream are good on nightcrawlers off piers.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 50 degrees; 12.4' low. White bass and hybrid striped bass are good on live baits and slabs.

JOE POOL: Water fairly clear; 47-51 degrees; 1.35' low. Black bass are slow to fair on medium running crankbaits and brown/orange jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs around brush piles and bridge columns.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 46-52 degrees; 4.9' low. Black bass are fair on jigs and chrome crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows around heavy brush. Catfish are fair to good on prepared baits and cut shad.

LAVON: Water stained; 44-50 degrees; 15.36' low. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on Road Runners and slabs. Catfish are

fair on cut bait.

LBJ: Water clear; 56 degrees; 0.12' low. White bass are fair trolling Shad Raps. Crappie are fair on Curb's crappie jigs and live minnows over brush-piles in 10 - 15 feet.

LEWISVILLE: Water stained; 45-51 degrees; 8.37' low. Crappie are slow to fair on minnows and jigs in 15-25 feet under bridges and around bathouses. White bass are slow on slabs. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; 65 degrees; 0.80' high. Crappie are fair on minnows and tube jigs. Blue catfish are good on shad and doughbait. Yellow catfish are slow.

MACKENZIE: Water lightly stained; 40 degrees; 7' low. White bass and striped bass are fair on slabs and live bait. Smallmouth bass are fair on live baits. Walleye are fair on slabs tipped with minnows. Catfish are fair.

MEDINA: Water stained; 58 degrees; 35.56' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red soft plastics on main lake points and drop shots rigged with pumpkinseed worms off main lake points in 10 - 25 feet. White bass are fair vertically jigging KT Lures off main lake points in 20 - 30 feet. Crappie are fair on chartreuse crappie jigs tipped with live minnows over baited holes and brushpiles. Catfish are good on stinkbait and shad.

MEREDITH: Water lightly stained; 40 degrees; 32.5' low. Black bass are fair on Carolina-rigged soft plastics and live bait. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Walleye are fair on slabs tipped with minnows. Channel catfish are fair on prepared baits.

NASWORTHY: Water lightly stained; 51 degrees. Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Redfish are fair on live baits.

HOT SPOT



TOLEDO BEND
Water stained; 53 degrees; 3.81' low. White bass are good on minnows. Crappie are good on minnows in the river at the co-op. Bream are good on worms. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with hearts and cutbait.

PALESTINE: Water fairly clear; 45-51 degrees; 3.58' low. Black bass are fair on freetiger crankbaits and soft plastics. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear; 51 degrees; 2.7' low. White bass are good along channels/vertical jigging with silver slabs north of Costello Island with some striped bass. Catfish are good on set lines baited with shad in the upper part of reservoir.

PROCTOR: Water stained; 53 degrees; 8.55' low. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait and frozen shrimp. Yellow catfish are slow.

RAY HUBBARD: Water fairly clear; 43-50 degrees; 3.41' low. Black bass are slow on spinnerbaits and Texas rigged worms. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs at the fishing barges and around bridge columns. White bass are fair to good on white or chartreuse slabs and Humdingers. Hybrid striped bass are fair to good on slabs. Catfish are fair to good on slabs.

RAY ROBERTS: Water murky to stained; 46-51 degrees; 7.84' low. Black bass are fair on Yum grubs. White bass are good on slabs and CC jigging spoons in 25-35 feet. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs over Corps of Engineers brush piles. Jordan Park ramp is nearly unusable due to silt.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water fairly clear; 45-52 degrees; 10.65' low. Black bass are fair to good on crankbaits, Texas rigged purple worm and jig-n-jigs. White bass and hybrid striped bass are fair to good on live shad and white/chartreuse slabs on main lake humps.

SAM RAYBURN: Water murky; 63 degrees; 0.04' high. Black bass are slow to fair on dark blue/white Carolina rigged soft plastics and spinnerbaits.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear; 55 degrees; 3.40' low. Black bass are good on minnows and white soft plastic worms. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs and stinkbait.

TAWAKONI: Water stained; 44-51 degrees; 10.98' low. Black bass are fair on white/chartreuse spinnerbaits, flukes and black/blue jigs. White bass are fair on slabs and live minnows. Striped bass and hybrid striped bass are fair to good on live shad and topwaters. Catfish are fair on prepared baits.

TEXOMA: Water clear; 44-51 degrees; 2.55' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, buzzbaits, chrome crankbaits and Carolina-rigs. Striped bass are good on slabs, Sassy Shad and live shad.

TRAVIS: Water clear; 59 degrees; 36.85' low. Black bass to 4 pounds are good on watermelon drop shot baits, black worms, and chartreuse crankbaits in 10 - 32 feet. White bass are fair on chrome jigging spoons and minnows in 20 - 45 feet. Channel and blue catfish to 30 pounds are fair on fresh cutbait and bait shrimp in 20 - 40 feet.

WEATHERFORD: Water stained; 40-43 degrees; 8.87' low. Black bass are good on soft plastics and spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair and improving in the fishing barge and boat slips on minnows and jigs. Channel catfish are good on nightcrawlers and dough bait.

WHITE RIVER: Water lightly stained; 47 degrees; 27.5' low. Black bass are fair on live baits and black/blue rigs in buck brush.

WHITNEY: Water stained; 9.07' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Catfish are good on stinkbait, cutbait, and liver.

WICHITA: Water lightly stained; 49 degrees. Crappie are slow near pier poles. White bass and hybrid striped bass are good on minnows and white twister-tails along the dam, near old pier poles, and by spillway using live shad and a bobber. Channel catfish are good on worms and punchbait, or trotlines baited with cut shad.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water fairly clear; 44-50 degrees; 3.66' high. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, flukes and jigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers and prepared baits.

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Trout and redfish are fair while drifting the middle of the bay on glow and pumpkinseed plastics. Trout and redfish are fair to good on live shad in the river.

SOUTH SABINE: Redfish, whiting and black drum are fair at the jetty on live and fresh dead shrimp and mullet. Trout, croaker and flounder are fair to good near the causeway on jigs and grubs tipped with shrimp.

BOLIVAR: Whiting, black drum, and sheepshead are fair to good on dead shrimp and live mud minnows at Rollover Pass.

TRINITY BAY: Trout, redfish, black drum, and sheepshead are fair on live bait at the Spillway. Trout are fair to good on the north shoreline around Dow's and Beazley's Reefs on glow and chartreuse soft plastics.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout, black drum, and sheepshead are fair at the warm water discharge canal in Blackfish. Trout are fair to good in 6-8 feet of water while drifting scattered shell on plastics.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are fair at Confederate Reef, Offatts Bayou.

Campbell's Bayou and Green's Cut on live shrimp and red soft plastics. Redfish are fair to good in the deep holes on shrimp and mullet.

TEXAS CITY: Black drum, whiting and sheepshead are fair from the piers off the dike on dead shrimp. Redfish are good in the holes and drop-offs in Moses Lake on cut bait.

FREEPORT: Redfish are fair to good at the Surfside jetties. Redfish and flounder are fair in Christmas Bay, the Boilers and East Union on mud minnows and shrimp.

EAST MATAGORDA: Trout are fair while drifting Raymond and Cleveland Reefs. Redfish are fair on the shoreline in the deep guts on soft plastics and gold spoons.

MATAGORDA: Redfish are fair to good in the Diversion Channel on fresh dead shrimp Carolina-rigged on the bottom. Redfish are fair to good at Green's and Cotton's on gold spoons.

PORT OCCONOR: Redfish are fair to good at Grand Island on shrimp and mullet. Trout are good in the clear, deep holes of the bay lakes on soft plastics.

ROCKPORT: Trout are fair to good in the California Hole on red/white plastics and live shrimp. Black drum are fair to good in the Lydia Ann Channel on mullet and crabs.

PORT ARANSAS: Trout and redfish are fair to good off the Intracoastal on shrimp around Pelican Island on shrimp.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Sheepshead and black drum are fair to good on dead shrimp around rock groins and granite pilings. Trout are fair to good on red and glow plastics and live shrimp around the holes near the causeway.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout and redfish are fair in the deeper holes adjacent to the Intracoastal on live shrimp. Redfish, black drum and sheepshead are fair at the Land Cut on mullet and shrimp.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout and redfish are fair at East Cut on live shrimp.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout and redfish are fair to good at the jetties and the Intracoastal on live shrimp and pumpkinseed, red, and green soft plastics.

PORT ISABEL: Trout and redfish are fair in the Intracoastal and the channel on live shrimp. Black drum are good in the Intracoastal on shrimp and crabs.

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MOON PHASES

Last Jan 11	New Jan 18	First Jan 25	Full Feb 1
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TIDES

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



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OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

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Jan. 11-14: Dallas Safari Club's Annual Convention will be held at Market Hall, Hilton Anatole. Expo admission is \$15 per person for a day pass. Weekend passes per person are \$25 and three-day passes are \$35. Admission can be purchased at the Convention Registration Counter. The Renaissance Hotel is the host hotel this year and can be contacted at (800) 811-8893 or (214) 631-2222. Ask for the DSO rate. Banquets will be held at the Hilton Anatole Hotel.

Jan. 16: Centerville Delta Waterfowl dinner at the Jewett Civic Center. For more information, call Jeff Beshears at (903) 388-4705.

Jan. 18-21: Coastal Bend Marine Dealers 50th Annual Boat Show at the Port of Corpus Christi. Visit www.ccoatshow.com for more information.

Jan. 19-21: The Houston Safari Club is holding its annual Worldwide Hunting Expo at the Woodlands Waterway Marriott in The Woodlands. Hunters, guides and outfitters from all over the world will be there for every hunting need. Join other outdoorsmen during the weekend expo featuring the following types of exhibitors: outfitters and hunting representatives, vehicles, art, sporting goods, books, firearms, jewelry, optics and much more. Web site: www.houstonsafariclub.org.

TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE			
Stocking Location	City	Dates	
Blanco State Park #4	Blanco	Feb. 8.	Lewisville Tailrace
Bob Sandlin State Park	Mt. Pleasant	Jan. 28.	(Elm Fork Trinity River)
Canyon Southeast Park Lake	Canyon	Feb. 1.	Nolan Creek
Canyon Tailrace	New Braunfels	Feb. 2, Mar. 1.	Possum Kingdom Tailrace
Fort Richardson State Park	Jacksboro	Feb. 21.	(Clear Fork Trinity River)
Lake Corpus Christi	Mathis	Feb. 11.	South Llano River State Park
Landmark Inn State Park	Castroville	Feb. 4.	Tyler State Park
			Lewisville Mar. 1
			Belton Feb. 23.
			Graford Feb. 9, Mar. 9
			Fort Worth Feb. 6
			Junction Jan. 31
			Tyler Dec. 28

Jan. 20: Sheila Anderson, 2006 President of Texas Women's Fly Fishers, will speak at the Dallas Orvis store at 8300 Preston Road on the history of the group and will give a presentation on warm water fishing on the Llano and Nueces Rivers. For more information, call (214) 265-1600.

Jan. 20: BassChamps East Texas Teams tournament will be held at Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Visit www.basschamps.com or call (817) 439-3274 for more information.

Jan. 20-21: Captains Weekend at Cabela's in Buda. Twenty captains from up and down the Texas coast will hold seminars and visit with customers about coastal fishing and fishing trips. Visit www.cabelas.com for more information.

Jan. 20-21: Cabela's Fort Worth will offer an Aquarium Feeding Show at 1 p.m., and clinics on carp fishing at 1:30, fly casting at 2, choosing the right depth finder at 2:15, predator calling at 2:30, and arrow building and fletching at 3. Visit www.cabelas.com for more information.

Jan. 25-28: San Antonio Boat Show will be held at the Alamodome. Visit www.sanantonioboatshow.com

information.
Jan. 27: Has fly fishing got you in knots? The Dallas Orvis staff will present the basic knots for the beginning fly angler. Learn the best ties on flies and leaders, as well as set up your own reels. Leader types and tippets will also be discussed. For more information, call (214) 265-1600.

Jan. 27: The Dallas Fort Worth Labrador Retriever Rescue Club will be at the Dallas Orvis store, 8300 Preston Road. Call (214) 265-1600 for more information.

Jan. 27: Cypress Bayou Quail Unlimited Chapter banquet will be held at the Marshall Visual Arts Center in Marshall. For more information, contact Robert Speight at (903) 930-1940 or r.speight@att.net.

Jan. 27-29: The 24th Annual East Texas Boat, RV, and Camping Expo will be held at the Maude Cobb Activity Center and the Longview Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall. Call Mitzi Barnes at (903) 237-4021 or email mitzi@longviewpartnership.com for information.

Jan. 27: Big Thicket DU dinner will be held at the Chain

0' Lakes Resort. Contact Tom Johnson at (281) 593-9118 or email Brenda_burns@bscglobal.net for information.

Feb. 2-11: The 52nd annual Dallas Boat Show will be held at Market Hall. Visit www.dallasboatshow.net for information.

Feb. 2: Borger DU dinner will be held at the Country Club. For information, contact Heather Darbonne at (806) 274-3228 or email jwhite@ducks.org.

Feb. 2: Rusk County DU dinner at the Texas National Guard Army on TX-64 West. For information, call Darrell Alexander at (903) 898-2328 or email ythomas@ducks.org.

**CROSSWORD
 PUZZLE
 SOLUTION
 FROM
 PAGE 20**

Bush seeks \$2.1 billion for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

President George W. Bush's 2007 budget requests \$2.1 billion for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"Using the best science available, the Service continues serving our nation's fish and wildlife conservation needs," said Interior Secretary Gale Norton.

The budget request includes:
 • An increase of \$2.2 million for a total of \$41.6 million for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, which provides matching grants to private or public organizations and individuals to carry out wetlands

conservation projects that benefit waterfowl resources in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

• A total of \$42.7 million for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. This program works with private landowners on a voluntary basis to restore habitat on private land.

• An increase of \$2 million for the National Fish Habitat Initiative for a total of \$3 million. The National Fish Habitat Initiative is a nationwide effort that harnesses the energies, expertise and existing partnerships of state and federal agencies and conservation organizations to

improve aquatic habitat health.

• A programmatic increase of nearly \$1 million, for a total of \$11.8 million, to implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan to manage waterfowl and diverse migratory bird species.

• \$41.3 million for the Migratory Bird Management program, a \$2.5 million increase. The increase will go to monitoring the Nation's waterfowl population.

• \$61.1 million for the National Fish Hatchery System, including a \$1.9 million programmatic increase for hatchery operations.

OUTFITTERS

Advertisement

'We're in the catching business'

Captain Cal had become dissatisfied with his job in corporate America and wanted to fulfill a dream — it became a dream come true.

"I asked him what would you want to do?" said his wife, Dinah, who also was working in the corporate world at the time. "He said a fishing guide. We both had college degrees. We gave it up and decided to follow a dream."

Captain Cal, owner of Lakeside Lodge Guide Service, is now in his 13th year as a guide on Lake Texoma. He has become known by many anglers as one of the best. And the striper know it.

He is a licensed Merchant Marine Captain, having passed his 100 ton exam. And an excellent angler to boot. He has won two out of the last three Texas Striped Bass tournaments on the lake, coming in second only once.

Lake Texoma is right where Capt. Cal and Dinah — known as Mrs. Captain Cal — want to be. "It's just such an incredible fishery," she said. "One of the reasons is we have a larger limit — to 10 fish a day."

The limit is higher than other Texas lakes because "we reproduce and they don't," she



Captain Cal and Dinah

explained. "It's the only lake in the state where stripers reproduce naturally. The lake has been stocked (with striper) only twice back in the '60s.

"We have an incredible amount of shad and that's their favorite food."

Avid striper seekers after that trophy of a lifetime keep Captain Cal busy. February and March are our best months," to fulfill an angler's quest. "That when they can catch the big fish — it's trophy time," Mrs. Captain Cal said, explaining May and June are good months to fish the striper. They may not be as big, but the

action is hot. "It's a good time to bring the kids," she said, pointing out there's still some trophy catches out there.

Live or artificial bait? "We fish with whatever works best for the time of year," Mrs. Captain Cal said. "We're in the catching business, not the fishing business."

And after a day of action on the lake, anglers have the opportunity to enjoy an adventure in comfort. Captain Cal has two lodges.

Guest House One features two bedrooms and one bath. It has a comfortable living room and fully equipped kitchen. The master bedroom has a queen and a twin bed. The other bedroom has twin beds. This unit will accommodate 4 people comfortably.

Guest House Two features 1,000 square feet of living area, including two bedrooms which have double and king beds. This unit has two baths, one with a whirlpool tub. The kitchen features a glass top cooking surface, dishwasher, full-size refrigerator with ice maker. This unit has 6 beds and will accommodate 6 individuals, or 4 couples.

"We do have some people come up and just rent the lodging," Mrs. Captain Cal said.



Dave Bourgouise made a good choice picking a trip to Captain Cal's Lakeside Lodge.

"They tell us it's the best lodging on Lake Texoma." It's located right next to the lake looking out over the islands of Texoma.

There are fishing specials where lodging is included "at absolutely no charge." There's an all-inclusive special where three square

meals are provided.

The business also is set up for corporate trips, "so we can do multiple boats," Mrs. Captain Cal said.

Captain Cal offers the angler a chance to fulfill a dream — just as he did.

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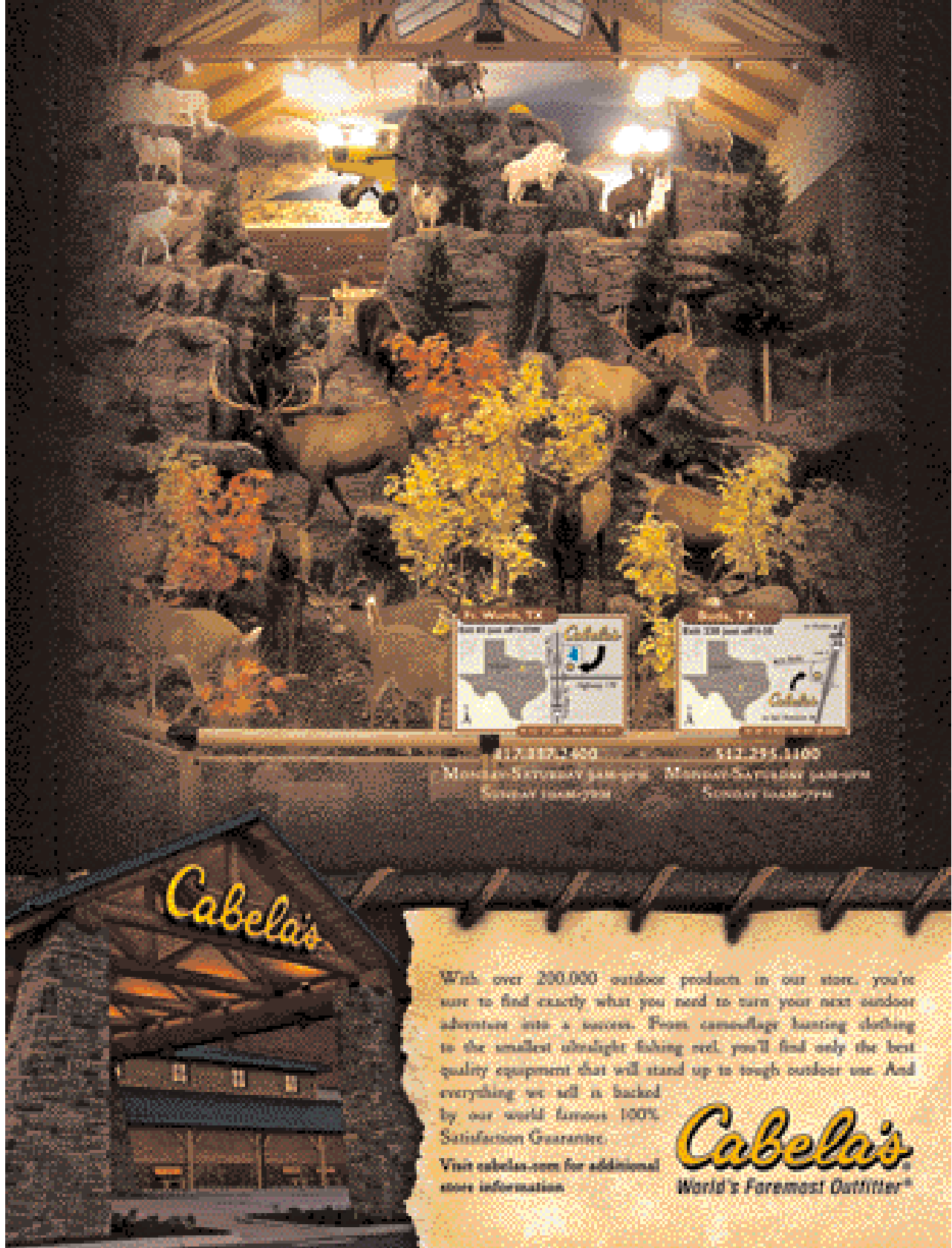
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