

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS



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Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

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Geared up  
for wading



Anglers up to the waist  
in lightweight trends  
Page 8

## INSIDE HUNTING



Thomas D. Friedkin of Houston was among five Texans recognized at the Boone and Crockett Club's 26th triennial awards banquet honoring North American trophies taken from 2004-2006. Friedkin's desert bighorn ram scored 182 6/8.

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## FISHING



Heavy rains have made bait shrimp hard to come by. The rains have meant cooler temperatures, which means smaller shrimp. It also lowered the salinity in the estuaries, prompting the young brown shrimp to head for the saltier Gulf earlier than normal.

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## CONSERVATION



Today, populations of wood ducks throughout North America are stable and on the increase.

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## NATIONAL

Statistics gathered over the past three years show that target shooting — with rifle, handgun and shotgun — is actually more popular than many pastimes historically considered mainstays of warm-season recreation.

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# Flooding favors fishing



**UNCHARTERED WATERS:** Steve Schiele did not let the flood at Lewisville Lake stop him from fishing. The fishing guide caught largemouth bass from underwater structures in the flooded areas. Photo by David J. Sams.

## Heavy rains fill state's lakes to healthy level

By BILL MILLER

Summer 2007 will be remembered for destructive flooding in Texas; when, as of July 6, 13 people had died and 1,000 homes were lost.

But anglers were ecstatic. Heavy rains since late May have recharged Texas lakes that were nearly sucked empty by more than a decade of dry weather, including two years of severe drought.

Now the higher lake levels are cre-

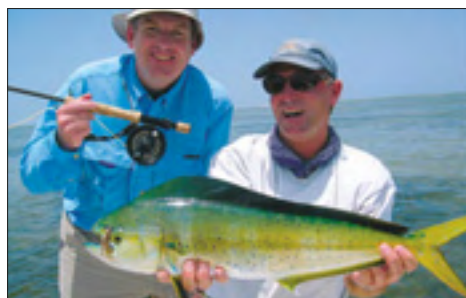
ating new fish habitat by inundating grassy areas near shores.

"To get our lakes full and healthy again could never be a bad thing," said Nick Carroccio of Plano, president of the Century Bass Club, "even if it scatters the fish somewhat."

The result is excellent cover for young fish, said Rafe Brock, a Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist assigned to Fort Worth.

"It's hard to get excited when people are losing their houses," Brock said. **See FLOODING, Page 17**

## BAY BONANZA



**A FISH OF A DIFFERENT COLOR:** Eric Glass, right, holds a dorado that Walter Humann caught on a shallow flat near South Padre Island. Photo by Walter Humann Jr.

## Angler lands colorful surprise

By DANNO WISE

Fishing the Lower Laguna Madre, Walter Humann hooked up with the "incredible."

By all accounts, South Padre Island guide Capt. Eric Glass and his fly-fishing client Humann had enjoyed a successful late June day

on the Laguna shallows. Humann, along with his son, Walter, Jr., had already caught and released 15 redfish and several large ladyfish.

However, as Glass' trained eyes scanned the shallow sand flat over which they were drifting, he spotted an unusual shape swimming toward them. "I saw a fish swim-

**See DORADO, Page 21**

## Study beams in on West Texas elk

By CRAIG NYHUS

The first extensive study of Texas' elk population is ongoing in the Glass Mountains in Brewster County.

The West Texas Elk Project began in 2006 and Phase I will conclude in May of 2008. "Three bulls were radio-collared with VHF (Very High Frequency) collars in October of 2006, and 11 females were collared in

March of 2007 using helicopters with rocket nets," said Brendan Witt, a master's student in Range and Wildlife Management at Sul Ross State University and the primary field investigator on the project. "We're looking at the distribution of the animals, how far they travel, and their habitat preferences."

The field research includes mapping the roads in the area, collecting **See ELK, Page 17**

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## CONSERVATION

# Wood ducks rebound

It might be just another dead, hollow tree near the water's edge, but it's prime wood duck real estate.

Leaning to one side, extending out over the water of the marsh, this tree not only houses a brood of wood ducks, but it will also serve as a launching point for these ducklings.

Once old enough to leave the nest, the newly hatched wood ducks heed the hen's call and high dive from the opening of the nest before plunging — safely — into the water below.

In the past, trees like this have been in short supply — and sometimes still are. But today, whether they nest in hollow trees or in man-made wood duck boxes, there's more and more wood ducks filling the skies and the water.

A century ago, change and expansion swept much of North America, and the wood duck suffered as a result. Prior to wide-spread logging and farming operations throughout the nesting grounds of the wood duck, these beautiful birds had plenty of old trees in which to make nests.

With their down-lined houses high enough off the ground to escape predation and rising water, wood ducks were plentiful and the object of affection for sportsmen, artists and wildlife watchers alike. In



**ON THE GROW:** The populations of wood ducks throughout North America are stable and on the increase with the help of wood duck boxes.

the late 19th and early 20th centuries, however, the desire to clear-cut homesteads to make room for growing crops and selling timber led to a dearth in old trees for wood ducks to nest in. As a result, their numbers dropped dramatically.

Today, populations of wood ducks throughout North America are stable and on the increase. One of the main reasons for the rebound of the populations is the success of sportsmen and women in building and using wood duck boxes.

These boxes, hung high in trees, light poles, barns and other places, give ducks a place to hatch their young. In many states, agencies are using funds collected from sportsmen dollars to expand these programs. The impact has been substantial: More and more wood ducks are seen on the water, roaming the ground under big canopies of oak trees, eating acorns, which are a main staple in their diet.

*A National Shooting Sports Foundation report.*

## Pheasants Forever, FFA team up

Pheasants Forever has announced the creation of a national collaborative effort with the National Future Farmers of America organization to focus on building student leadership and instilling a conservation ethic in young adults.

Through a variety of projects and programs, including schoolyard habitat projects, the effort will connect local PF chapters and members to their local FFA chapters and student members, benefiting school systems and communities.

Schoolyard habitats are designed to establish working outdoor classrooms for students, which create environments that allow students to learn a variety of subjects through the outdoors.

"Both organizations realize that the youngsters our programs reach today will be future leaders in agriculture and conservation tomorrow," said Rich Wissink, PF Youth Program Specialist. "This new collaboration with the FFA gives young adults in high school the opportu-

nity to satisfy their interest in conservation and wildlife management."

"This collaborative educational effort makes total sense for both organizations. It will connect PF

members to local agricultural science education programs and local agriculture educators," said Lynn Campbell, Senior Regional Director with the National FFA Foundation. *A Pheasants Forever report.*

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## HUNTING

### 'SHE'S MY HUNTING BUDDY'

# Daughter's trophy bucks dad on Big Time hunt

BY MARY HELEN AGUIRRE

Larry Leschper has been living in Sharsburg, Georgia, for the past 17 years. But he grew up in San Antonio and continues to hunt turkey or deer every year in Edwards County.

This year, he went on a Texas hunt courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife. Leschper was the winner of the Premium Buck Hunt, one of several Big Time Texas Hunts offered each year by drawing.

His prize was a four-day hunting trip for himself and a guest. The package included professional guide service, food and accommodations, plus the opportunity to hunt a mature trophy whitetail buck at the Caiman Ranch south of Cotulla. The ranch comprises about 10,000 acres of typical South Texas brush country set smack in the middle of some of the state's best big buck hunting.

Leschper invited his daughter, Kristina, who was 15 at the time, to accompany him.

"Both my daughters have been hunting and fishing with me since they were four or five," he said.

In January, 20-year-old daughter Lauren went to Brazil for five days of fishing.

But last December it was Kristina's turn.

"She hunts with me all the time. She's my hunting buddy," Leschper said.

"I was really excited," Kristina said. "That's the first time I've been able to

See HUNT, Page 12



**TOP SCORE:** Larry Leschper and his daughter, Kristina, pose with the 195-pound buck she harvested that scored 148 4/8.

# 'Good old days of hunting are today'

## Boone & Crockett Club honors 94 trophies at awards banquet

BY BILL MILLER

"Surreal" is how Ben F. Carter described the frozen moonscape above the Arctic Circle near Kugluktuk, Nunavut, Canada, where he hunted in 2004.

But despite temperatures 35 degrees below zero, the builder from Dallas managed to take a trophy musk ox.

It was one of 94 trophies honored June 23 at the Boone and Crockett Club's 26th triennial awards banquet in Fort Worth.

Carter, a past president of the Dallas Safari Club, was among five Texans recognized at the event honoring North American trophies taken 2004-2006.

But club officials noted the recognition was more a celebration of the game animals themselves, and the conservation methods that ensure their survival.

"When an animal doesn't have a value, it disappears," Carter said. "If it wasn't for the Boone and Crockett Club, I'd say we probably wouldn't have all the animals we do today."

Boone and Crockett officials say it is the oldest hunter-conservation group in the United States.

The club, based in Missoula, Mont., was founded in 1887 by Theodore Roosevelt and like-minded sportsmen who were alarmed by rapidly decreasing populations of North American big game animals.

Diseases had taken their toll, along with unregulated market hunting that fed growing settlements in the American west.

"Big game was taking it on the chin," said Keith Balfour, the group's marketing director, "so the club pushed for designated seasons to put an end to year-round hunting."

"To do that, Boone and Crockett brought sportsmen into the concept of wise-use conservation and fair chase ethics."

As those concepts caught on, the group in 1950 created a scoring system to measure trophies.

But, more importantly, the information taken from the scoring process has been used to gauge the overall health of big game species, Balfour said.

Today, the Boone and Crockett score is the standard for trophy measuring in North America.

And data taken from the scores paints a picture of success, according to club officials.

"In a lot of ways, the good old days of hunting are today," said Eldon L. "Buck" Buckner, the club's vice president of records. "Prior to 1920, there were 150,000 elk, but today there are 1.2 million."

"Whitetail deer numbered 500,000, but there are 36 million today."

Perhaps the most recent conservation



**B&C HONORS:** Dallas resident Ben F. Carter shot this musk ox near Nunavut, Canada. It scored 123 6/8.

## Texans score big at B&C banquet

Several Texans were honored June 23 at the Boone and Crockett Club's 26th triennial Big Game Awards Banquet at the Doral Tesoro Hotel and Golf Club in Fort Worth. Judging took place at the Fort Worth Cabela's, where the competing trophies were on display in May and June. The desert bighorn felled by Terry Fricks of Fort Worth in 2005 was the only trophy actually taken in Texas during the three-year period, but it's not unusual for Lone Star

hunters to be highly recognized at the banquet, a club official said.

"Hunting is a very strong tradition in Texas," said Keith Balfour, director of marketing. "They excel, not just in their state, but also elsewhere." Texans recognized included:

- James Schacherl, Waelder, First Award Non Typical Coues Whitetail Buck, 2005, Sonora, Mexico. Score: 134 4/8.

- Thomas D. Friedkin, Houston, Second

- Award, Non Typical Mule Deer Buck, 2004, Mojave County, Arizona. Score: 272 1/8.

- Terry J. Fricks, Fort Worth, Third Award, Desert Bighorn Ram, 2005, Brewster County, Texas. Score: 183 5/8.

- Thomas D. Friedkin, Houston, Fourth Award, Desert Bighorn Ram, 2005, Hidalgo County, New Mexico. Score: 182 6/8.

- Ben F. Carter, Dallas, Fourth Award, Musk Ox, 2004, Kugluktuk, Nunavut, Canada. Score: 123 6/8.

success story on display at the banquet was the desert bighorn ram taken in 2005 by Terry J. Fricks of Fort Worth.

In the 1950s, desert bighorns became extinct in Texas, having fallen victim to

unregulated hunting and diseases from domestic sheep.

But they have since made a comeback; a census taken last summer counted nearly 1,000 of them in arid West Texas.

"You hunters are heroes," Executive Vice President Lowell Baier told the audience. "But the real thing people will remember is your code of conduct in the field."



**ON TARGET:** Janet Tausch of San Antonio will be aiming for another title at the 2007 National Sporting Clays Association National Championship in October. Photo by Sherri Wiebush.

# San Antonio woman triggers way to national recognition

BY RALPH WININGHAM

Winning a title does not even make her top three list of goals when sporting clays lady champion shooter Janet Tausch of San Antonio steps onto a clays course.

"I shoot for fun and to be with people who I like," said the 35-year-old accountant and Master Class competitor. "I don't think about how I am doing against anyone else — the only one I am really competing against is myself."

Her system seems to be paying

off, as Tausch has become the only woman in U.S. shooting sports history to earn the top lady's title at the National Sporting Clays Association National Championship; the World English Sporting Clays Championship; and the U.S. Open Championship during a single year.

The NSCA event was in September 2006, the World English was in April and the U.S. Open was just completed in June. With the 2007 NSCA National Championship coming up in October, Tausch is an odds-on favorite to scoop up

another national title for her packed trophy cabinet.

Despite smacking the competition in the three prestigious events, Tausch remains modest about her accomplishments.

"For me, shooting is just a hobby. I don't want it to become a job. When I go to a shoot, whether it is a major event or just a weekend competition, I want to enjoy myself," she said.

Tausch entered the world of scattergun shooters when she was about 13 and her father took her out to hunt birds or bust a few clay targets.

See TAUSCH, Page 12

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## FISHING

## Geared up for wading



**SLIM PICKINGS:** Shrimp has been hard to find at some coastal bait stands.

## Bait shrimp blues



### Early migration puts strain on demand

BY HAL BROWN

The sloshing-wet weeks Texans have put up with this year have put a crimp in bait shrimp availability.

There's plenty of shrimp, but they've all gone into the Gulf, said Art Morris, a Texas Parks and Wildlife fisheries outreach specialist.

"The bay shrimpers just missed it," Morris said of the annual brown shrimp migration from the back bays to the Gulf. "It happened so fast they didn't have a chance to catch them and when they did they were too small to keep, or the bigger ones just weren't enough to sustain the demand."

That corresponds with what Bodeaux's Bait Shop in Winnie is finding, too.

Debra Thibodeaux said the shop draws shrimp most from eastern Galveston Bay and there have been problems most of the year.

"You can go to Louisiana and get some," she said. "You might could get some there, but we haven't been seeing much of

See SHRIMP, Page 21



**THE RIGHT STUFF:** Hunter Uzzle, 11, wades Sabine Lake with his dad, Chuck. Uzzle is wearing a Fishing Tackle Unlimited wade belt, while dad uses a homemade rig. Photo by David J. Sams.

## Anglers up to waist in lightweight trends

BY KYLE TOMEK

Summer heat undoubtedly binds fishermen indoors and away from fishing grounds. However, anglers clad in a wardrobe of breathable outerwear and lightweight wading gear harness heat waves and fish the scorching temps without a break in their stride.

Outerwear that is lightweight and breathable rests high with wade-fishermen. Columbia and Magellan, for example, construct shirts and shorts made especially for wade-fishing.

Outdoor retailers carry lines of fishing clothing that promise a breathable and comfortable approach to the summer heat. Shirts with long sleeves are popular in summer and effective in providing protection from sunburns; sleeves also soak up cooling moisture.

Bulky wading belts containing rod hold-

ers, wading boxes, and a stringer holder were a coastal norm for years. However, means of transporting tackle and supplies is becoming more diverse and less weighted.

Garrett Menefee of Port Alto stows his summertime lures in an over-the-shoulder wading box.

"I built my own wading box a few years ago," Menefee said. "The strap that runs over my shoulder is connected on the sides of the box; an attached loop allows a place for my stringer and Boga Grip. I carry everything I need without towing the drag of a wading belt at my waist."

Waders on the southern reaches of the coast often tote a spare rod when making long wades across shallow water flats. The availability of a quick lure change and the insurance of a broken rod or backlashed reel keeps many with a rod on the waist standing at attention.

Lower coast fishing guide, Capt. Tricia Buchen and her clients rely on Fishing

Tackle Unlimited wading belts with rod holders to carry a spare rod. "I am hooked on carrying an extra rod on wades," she said. "To ensure the rod holders stay in place, I punch rivets on each side of the rod holders."

For added back support, wading belts are the choice of many. Walk-N-Wade and Wade Aid make belts offering back support along with storage of tackle, rod holders and accessories.

When fish are concentrated in deeper water during summer, a wading backpack is an alternative to a wading belt for carrying spare rods. Galveston Bay plucker Jake Brown uses a WavePack by the Big Fish Wish Company. The pack provides storage and double rod holders at an elevated height.

"I like it best for wading the surf and deep water," Brown said. "The rods are located high and out of saltwater's reach."

## Fresh waters run deep with reds



**SEEING RED:** Guide Shawn Reese sets a line near a power plant. The Braunig Lake and the Calaveras Lake power plants produce ideal conditions for catching redbfish in fresh water. Photo by Ralph Winningham.

### Downriggers troll for heavyweight hookups

BY RALPH WINNINGHAM

The high-pitched hum of downriggers slicing through the surface of Calaveras Lake sings a siren song for anglers looking for big redbfish that lurk deep in this freshwater reservoir.

Like their saltwater counterparts, these big reds put up quite a tussle before they can be brought into the boat — maybe the fact they cannot reproduce in fresh water makes them just a little meaner.

"These reds like to be down deep and they want to stay down deep," said guide Shawn Reese

during a recent "hunt" for reds on Calaveras.

"They are the same fish and I go after them both here and at the coast, but I think they fight harder at the lakes," he said.

Whether the search for big reds is taking place at the 3,624-acre Calaveras Lake near San Antonio or the nearby 1,350-acre Braunig Lake, finding and hooking up with the deep-water runners is more like a hunting expedition than a fishing trip.

Downriggers utilize heavy weights to keep Tony Aceta spoons and curly-tailed plastic grubs near the bottom as fishermen troll across the lake in

search of schools of big redbfish. Through the use of electronic fish finders, the big fish can be seen as blips on the screen.

"This is just the opposite of fishing in most places. You look for areas where there is no bait — the big reds just chase the bait away," said Reese, who has been a guide on the lakes since 1989 with Shawn's Guide Service.

"When you hook up a fish, there normally is a double dip in the rod tip and the line that is held in a clip on the downrigger will go out. I can tell by the sound when we have a hookup," he said.

See REDS, Page 12

# Man drowns in fishing accident

## Recreational fatalities grow in '07

By BILL MILLER

The June 24 death of a Fort Worth angler, who went after a submerged rod and reel, has been called an accidental drowning, according to reports.

Michael Peterson, 48, drowned in a creek at Lake Mineral Wells State Park, the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's office reported.

His death adds to a growing list of recreational fatalities on Texas waters in 2007, which has already outpaced deaths in 2005 and 2006, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Peterson and his niece's husband were in a boat that traveled up Rock Creek which feeds Lake Mineral Wells, according to two reports.

J.C. Travis, an assistant fire marshal for Parker County, told *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram* that Peterson hooked a fish at about 11:30 a.m. and "it literally pulled the rod and reel out of his hand."

They tried to retrieve the pole by dropping a line after it. That didn't work so Peterson took off his shoes and got into the water.

Peterson's fishing partner said the man went below the surface, came back for air, and went down again, Travis said.

But the companion said Peterson had a blank look on his face when he resurfaced, Travis said.

The man asked him if he was OK, Travis said, but there was no response; Peterson was tossed a flotation device, which hit him on the head.

"He looked at it, then started to swim toward shore," Travis said. "He turned and put one hand on the jacket and then slowly

sank into the water."

The medical examiner's office said the body was found in about 9 feet of water.

His death and other fatalities from flooding or other accidents in June are not included in a recent TPW report on 2007 water-related deaths.

But the report does state there were 23 boating fatalities and 33 injuries on Texas waters from Jan. 1 to May 31 this year.

By comparison, there were 20 deaths for the same period in 2006 and only 13 for the first five months of 2005.

TPW officials said the increase shows why they launched the statewide "Nobody's Waterproof" campaign.

Maj. Alfonso Campos, TPW's chief of marine safety enforcement, said "the overall trend is not positive."

"Last year we had 47 fatalities," Campos said. "At the rate we are going, we may exceed 50 fatalities for the first time since 2002."

TPW also noted flooding has contributed to the deaths, including the drowning of Game Warden Ty Patterson.

The warden, who was assigned to Johnson County, died May 30 while searching for the body of teen-ager who drowned on the Paluxy River near Glen Rose.

But other incidents have involved drunken or reckless boaters failing to keep a proper lookout.

"The most serious consequence of being unsafe on the water is that someone dies," Campos said. "That's something you can't ever undo or make right."

For safety tips and more information on "Nobody's Waterproof," go to:

- <http://www.nobodyswaterproof.com>
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## GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

### SPECIAL FISHING OUTING TURNS OUT NOT SO SPECIAL

•Tarrant County Game Warden Chelle Mount was contacted by a local landowner about individuals fishing on his property. Upon arriving at the location, there were two men fishing from the bank of a small tank. Mount asked the individuals if they knew on whose property they were fishing, and the subjects replied that they did not. Upon further questioning, the son said he just wanted to take his dad out fishing for Father's Day. Citations are pending for fishing without landowner consent.

### MAN WINDS UP FISHING FOR BEER BOTTLES

•Smith County Game Warden Chris Green was patrolling Lake Tyler with Intern Darrin Peoples. They responded to a disturbance call at a nearby park. Arriving at the park, Green stepped onto the shoreline and confronted two men hollering and throwing beer bottles into the lake. Green took control of the scene, writing citations and placing one in custody for a parole violation and outstanding warrants. Smith County deputies transported that man to jail while the other fished beer bottles out of the lake. Cases pending.

### WARDEN ROPES GATOR IN MIDDLE OF ROAD

•Smith County Game Warden Chris Green was notified by Tyler police dispatch of an alligator on the road inside the city limits. At the scene, Green was able to place a rope around the alligator and walk it to the shoulder into the grass. Green's local alligator trapper Mark McDonald was called to come and pick up the alligator. Green, McDonald and a few sheriffs' deputies were able to wrangle the gator and place it in McDonald's vehicle. Being on a busy roadway,

## LARGE TREBLE HOOK CATCHES BIG TROUBLE

•Comal County Game Warden Michael McCall and Atascosa County Game Warden Arthur McCall received a call reporting suspected illegal fishing on the Comal River in New Braunfels. The wardens arrived at the loca-

tion and found two men coming in off of the river. After a quick inspection, numerous violations were discovered. The men were in possession of several bass, which were snagged using a large weighted treble hook,

and neither man had a fishing license. Citations issued included no fishing licenses, insufficient number of PFDs, and taking game fish by illegal means. Cases pending.

the media responded. Green explained why it was being removed and the law about hunting them and especially not feeding them. The alligator was measured at 8 feet long and was relocated and released back into the wild.

### TREE FALLS ON MAN RUNNING TROT LINES

•Waller County Game Warden Kevin Glass investigated a boating accident that occurred on the Brazos River. A fisherman was running his trotlines when a large tree fell on him and his boat. The man was able to make it to the bank while his boat floated off down stream. Some other fishermen saw the severely damaged boat floating down the river and contacted Glass. He followed up on the information and located the boat operator in a local hospital. Information indicated the man walked to a residence near the accident location and got a ride to the hospital where he was admitted with trauma injuries. Investigation continues.

### STRANDED VICTIMS TURN OUT TO BE A SURPRISE TO WARDEN

•Val Verde County Game Warden Jason Huebner received a call of a stranded boater on Lake Amistad close to Rough Canyon. Huebner responded to the call and was very surprised to find that the stranded victims were relatives. The boat was towed to the boat ramp where it

started. It is unknown for sure what was wrong, but it may have been something to do with the kill switch.

### WOMAN CRAWLS UP BOAT RAMP INTO TROUBLE

•Sabine County Game Warden Randy Button was at the Mill Creek Boat Ramp on Sam Rayburn where he observed a woman on her hands and knees attempting to crawl up the boat ramp. Button asked her what she was doing and the woman replied, "Backing the truck in for my husband." Button's next question was, "Where is your husband?" The woman answered, "In the white boat." After locating the white boat, Button asked the driver to perform some sobriety tests. The man refused all tests and stated, "I'll just walk home." The driver of the boat was transported to Sabine County Sheriff's Office and charged with BWI. His wife was charged with public intoxication.

### HUNTER ACCIDENTALLY SHOOTS SELF IN LEG

•Anderson County Game Warden Karen Gray was contacted by the Anderson County Sheriff's Office regarding a nonfatal hunting accident. The victim was interviewed by Gray at the Palestine Regional Medical Center. Apparently, the victim's gun accidentally discharged into his leg while he was exiting his vehicle to shoot at sever-

al nuisance hogs in his hay pasture. The victim was released the following day.

### NO HOOK MARKS POINT TO SOMETHING FISHY

•Scurry County Game Warden Mel Reed and Nolan County Game Warden Ken Nevins were patrolling Lake J.B. Thomas when they observed four individuals swimming in an area of the lake that contained large rocks typical of the kind grapplers use to locate fish. One of the men began posing for pictures with a large flathead catfish. With no fishing equipment evident, the wardens suspected illegal activity. After being confronted with the fact that none of the fish had hook marks and no one could produce fishing equipment, the men admitted to taking the fish by illegal means. Eight large flathead catfish were seized. The following day, the wardens observed two individuals in another area of the lake in the act of grappling catfish.

### LAKE RUN TURNS INTO CHARGES AT MIDNIGHT

•Montgomery County Game Wardens Dean Fitzpatrick and Brannon Meinkowsky stopped a vessel around midnight on Lake Conroe for a water safety inspection. During the inspection, one occupant was showing signs of impairment and was uncooperative. Fitzpatrick eventually arrested

the man for public intoxication. Meinkowsky filed minor in possession charges on another occupant and insufficient PFDs on the owner of the vessel. Cases pending.

### WARDEN SERVES UP ARREST AT BAR ON LAKE

•Travis County Game Warden Cody Jones received a call about a reckless boat operator who was possibly intoxicated. He located the operator at the local bar on the lake with some of the occupants from the boat. While he was interviewing them, one of the passengers dropped a rolled-up sock that contained an unlabeled bottle of Xanax pills and a roll of money in small bills. After interviewing witnesses, the man with the pills was determined to be selling the drugs around the lake, and the boat operator failed the sobriety tests resulting in his arrest for BWI. Cases pending.

### BONG SHOW LEADS TO FIVE ARRESTS

•Travis County Game Warden Christy Vales and Region I Game Warden Terry Lloyd were returning from the night's patrol on Lake Travis around midnight when they noticed two vehicles in the parking lot, one with the dome light on. As Vales approached the vehicles, she observed five young men passing around a bong with smoke coming from it. The odor of burning marijuana was strong, so she identified herself, startling the men, who tried to hide the paraphernalia in the vehicle. With the assistance of Travis County Warden Josh Koenig, they searched the two vehicles and found a bag of marijuana, drug paraphernalia and some scales with residue on them. All five men were arrested, and the Travis County Sheriff's Office transported them to jail.



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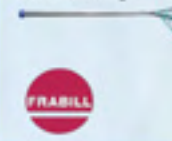
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# Hunt

Continued from Page 6

go hunting in Texas. It was an awesome experience for me."

Once at the ranch, they each were paired with a guide.

"The first evening, we saw a buck and a doe. We set up a portable blind to see if he'd come out," Leschper said.

After a scant 15 minutes of waiting, the 10-pound buck emerged.

When the 165-pound whitetail was within 70 to 80 yards, Leschper took his shot.

"That was the biggest buck I've gotten," he said of the deer, which was scored at 147 4/8.

Daughter Kristina, now 16, took her time.

And, on the last day of the four-day hunting trip, she got her buck.

Leschper said Kristina had spotted the buck she wanted four or five times either coming in or going out.

"But I couldn't get a clear shot," Kristina said.

"The last day, it was storming. I was pretty bummed because I didn't think he was going to come out," she said.

At about 10 a.m., a big buck came out

from behind a bush. But, because it was pouring, she couldn't see his antlers and wasn't sure if it was her buck.

"But my dad said: 'That's your deer,'" she said.

"I raised my gun and took a shot," she said.

The 10-point buck ran and the group trailed him in the mud and rain for about 30 minutes before finding him.

"He was stone cold dead," she said of the 195-pound buck that scored 148 4/8.

"It was the largest one I've gotten," she said of her third buck. And it was larger than her dad's buck.

"I got a little teasing about that," her father admitted.

It costs \$10 per entry to enter to win one of seven Big Time Texas Hunts (including the Grand Slam, Premium Buck Hunt, Waterfowl Adventure, Exotic Safari, Big Time Bird Hunt, Whitetail Bonanza and Gator Hunt). Proceeds benefit conservation, wildlife management and public hunting opportunities in Texas. For information, call (800) 895-4248. Entry forms will be available Aug. 15.

# Tausch

Continued from Page 7

"Even then, I did not put a lot of pressure on myself," she said. "I did not start shooting a lot until about 10 years ago and I was lucky to shoot with some people who really made sporting clays fun.

"There were times back then that I got frustrated with myself if I didn't break targets, but now I don't really worry about how I am shooting or how other people are shooting," she said.

During the past year, Tausch has been sponsored by Beretta and has been shooting a Beretta Model 687 EELL over and under with 32-inch barrels. Other than a slight adjustment to shorten the length of pull, the shotgun features standard dimensions.

Most sporting clays champions compete with highly customized shotguns and have

spent hours and hours with top level instructors to develop specific shooting styles.

This is not the case with Tausch, who spends very little time on practice courses and has



JANET TAUSCH

not sought out formal instruction.

"I have been asked if I want to start instructing and I have said that I am not interested. I really couldn't tell you what style I use to handle targets. I just get up

there and shoot," she said.

Fortunately for Tausch, her long-time shooting buddy and fiancé, Marshall McDougall — also a Master Class shooter — can fulfill the role of a good coach. They often help each other with advice on how to handle the variety of sporting clays targets that they might encounter.

Sporting clays is often called "golf with a shotgun" because of the wide offering of targets, testing shooters' skills on clays simulating everything from climbing teal and flushing quail to bouncing rabbits.

"I really don't have any particular targets that give me trouble, and even if I have struggled with a station, I just move on to the next one. All I ever try to do is shoot my best and have a good time," Tausch said.

With three major titles under her belt, it seems that this lady top gun may have just hit on a winning formula.

# Reds

Continued from Page 8

If a big redbird has snapped up the lure, a fisherman can expect an arm-testing fight. The reds like to run, pushing 20-pound test line to its limit, and do not tire quickly.

The other type of fish that is popular with downriggers is hybrid striped bass. What they lack in size (the minimum length is 18 inches), they make up in power and they fight like the reds.

There is a five-fish limit on strippers and a three-fish limit on redbirds at the freshwater lakes.

Both the lakes, built in the 1960s as cooling reservoirs for San Antonio's City Public Service coal-fired power plants, have been regularly stocked by Texas Parks and Wildlife with redbird and other saltwater species since the 1970s.

Unlike many of the stocking experiments with other saltwater species, the redbird have thrived and have become a favored test of anglers' skills at the reservoirs.

Although they are unable to reproduce in the fresh water, an abundant supply of bait fish has allowed the stocked reds to grow fat and healthy. The record for Braunig Lake is 30.2 pounds and the record for Calaveras Lake is 29.3 pounds.

The minimum size for redbird is 20 inches, but there is no maximum limit like the saltwater restriction of one fish over 28 inches.

Bank fisherman using heavy gear and fishing from docks or along the edge of the reservoirs bring in a good number of keeper redbird and strippers, although they miss out on the thrill of the trolling the lake on a hunt for big reds.

"I have found that the reds like the heat of the day with clear skies and a little wind. We fish all year round and in the winter, I don't even try to go out until after 10 a.m.," Reese said. He puts up the cover on his 23-foot boat if the sun becomes uncomfortable on his fishermen.

"When you find them, you might have two, three or four hookups at one time. That makes it pretty exciting," he said.

Guided trips on both Braunig and Calaveras, which are about 15 minutes south of San Antonio, have been available since 1983 through several outfitters who split their time between the freshwater lakes and the coast.

Reese with Shawn's Guide Service can be reached at (210) 288-4972 and information on the two lakes is also available by calling the Calaveras Lake concession building at (210) 635-8359 or Braunig Lake concessions at (210) 635-8289.

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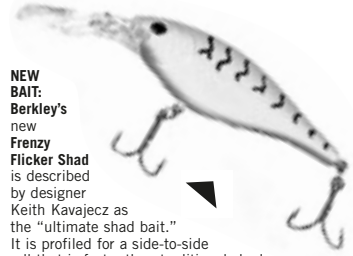
### COLLECTOR'S BOOK:

**"Leopard" (Mission Trails Media; \$150)** is a labor of love by Craig Boddington, Tim Danklef and Dave Fulson, who have collectively spent thousands of hours pursuing this elusive African big cat. The book offers the most complete treatise ever published on the complex chess game of leopard hunting, according to Boddington. He also hosts Gander Mountain's Tracks Across Africa, which airs on The Outdoor Channel. The 200-page large format book, which contains more than 150 color photographs, will have a limited printing of 1,250 copies. Each copy will be numbered, signed and offered in a beautiful presentation box. Order at [www.craigboddington.com](http://www.craigboddington.com) or by calling (214) 360-9599.



### NEW BAIT: Berkley's new Frenzy Flicker Shad

is described by designer Keith Kavajecz as the "ultimate shad bait." It is profiled for a side-to-side roll that is faster than traditional shad baits, providing a realistic side flash to imitate fleeing bait fish. The bait has an internal rattle made of glass beads and extra sharp black nickel hooks. It comes in two sizes and 14 color patterns and sells for about \$4.50 to \$5. For retailers, visit [www.berkley-fishing.com](http://www.berkley-fishing.com) or call (800) 237-5539.



**BOAT ROD HOLDER:** Sometimes, the angle of the rod can make the difference between a good and a great catch. The **Troll & Stow Rod Holder** by **Manufacturers Industrial Group** is available in four different models to hold rods in various positions: flat (parallel to the water); at a 22-degree angle; at a 45-degree angle; and upright. The rod holders are made from aluminum with a Plastisol coating.

They can accommodate spinning and bait casting rod sizes up to 1 1/2-inches in diameter. The holder can be secured to the gunnel with mounting screws or to a railing with a U-bolt. A Troll & Stow holder costs about \$24. For information, call (731) 967-0001.



### BIGGER JACKPLATE:

**Bob's Machine Shop** has unveiled a beefy, 12-inch setback version of its current jackplates. The new jack promises better fuel economy, more speed, improved boat handling and allows for easy access to skinny water. It will accommodate engines up to 300 horsepower. The jackplate's longer length moves the engine farther behind the transom. This reduces the need to raise the engine as high to achieve maximum performance. The jack also contains an improved cylinder and new travel stop to compensate for heavy, high-horsepower, four-stroke engines. It sells for about \$1,010. For information, call (813) 247-7040 or visit [www.bobsmachine.com](http://www.bobsmachine.com).



# Saturday, July 28

## Fly Fishing Texas and the Southwest

(Everything you wanted to know, but were afraid to ask.)

# DALLAS

**Experts will be on-hand all day to answer questions and give presentations.**

<p><b>Rob Woodruff</b> <i>Orvis Endorsed Guide from Quitman, Texas</i> Rob guides anglers on the waters of Lake Fork for trophy bass and on the Lower Mountain Fork for trout. Rob will be presenting a new program on the LMF, the year-round trout fishery that is closest to Dallas.</p>	<p><b>Steve Hollemsted</b> <i>Lake Texoma</i> Steve is a Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructor who guides for strippers and smallmouth bass on Lake Texoma. A truly knowledgeable fisherman, Steve is the only fly fishing guide for Texoma's healthy striped population.</p>
<p><b>Doc Thompson</b> <i>Orvis Endorsed Guide from Tiao, New Mexico</i> Doc was the Orvis Endorsed Guide of the Year in 2006 and guides anglers on the Cimarron, Rio Grande, Red River, Rio Costilla and more.</p>	<p><b>Andy Moreau</b> <i>Beavos River</i> Andy has been fishing the Beavos for over twenty years and guiding for the last ten. Using an airboat to reach unspoiled stretches of river, Andy brings anglers to some of the best river fishing found in North Texas.</p>
<p><b>Capt. Foad Houston</b> <i>Orvis Endorsed Guide from Devine, Texas</i> Foad operates Sandy Oaks Ranch, an Orvis Endorsed Wing Shooting Lodge that also has trophy bass fishing on its private lakes. Foad guides the saltwater flats of south Texas from his Hell's Bay shallow-water skill.</p>	<p><b>Bill Buell</b> <i>The Flies of Texas</i> Size 22 woolly buggers? Yep, Bill can tie them as well as smaller dries and nymphs. A true master at the vise, Bill takes fly tying to a whole new realm with his micro flies.</p>

Also in attendance will be representatives from **The Coastal Conservation Association, Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited, and Texas Parks and Wildlife.**

**ENTER TO WIN a Zero Gravity fly rod and Battenkill Mid Arbor reel!**  
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# OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

## HAVE AN EVENT?

E-mail it to  
editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com

**May 26-Sept. 3:** The CCA Texas STAR tournament will take place along the Texas coast. Twelve divisions with \$1 million in scholarships and prizes. Register online at [ccatexas.org](http://ccatexas.org) or call (800) 626-4222 for information.

**July 13-15:** The 4th Annual Laredo Hunting and Fishing Show will be held at the Laredo Entertainment Center. For information, call Quincy Barnes at 800-532-3976 ext. 202 or visit [www.smc-events.com](http://www.smc-events.com).

**July 19:** The Tarrant County NWTFF banquet will be held at the Lockheed Recreation Center in Fort Worth. Call Robert Cantrell at (817) 731-3402 for information.

**July 19:** The Dallas Safari Club monthly meeting will be held at Bent Tree Country Club. Steve Miller will speak on the antelope of South Africa. For information and reservations, e-mail [debi@biggame.org](mailto:debi@biggame.org) or register online at [www.biggame.org](http://www.biggame.org).



**July 26:** The Dallas Safari Club will host its Fort Worth Summer Meeting. For reservations and information, call (972) 980-9800 or e-mail [d\\_brimager@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:d_brimager@texas-wildlife.org).

**July 21:** The Pineywoods Texas Big Game Awards banquet will be held at the Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches. For information, visit [www.TexasBigGameAwards.com](http://www.TexasBigGameAwards.com) or e-mail [d\\_brimager@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:d_brimager@texas-wildlife.org).

**July 20-21:** The Gander Mountain store in Beaumont will hold a hunter's education class with instructors Jack and Mary Beach in the Gander Mountain Lodge. Call the store at (409) 347-3055 or Jack or Mary Beach at (409) 727-5017 for information.

**July 20-22:** The Texas Hunters & Sportsman's Expo will be held at the McAllen Convention Center. For information, call (956) 664-2884.

**July 21:** Cabela's in Fort Worth will host its Kid's Fishing Day and its first-ever Dog Days event. Dogs are welcome in the store and vendors will answer dog-related questions. Seminars and a vaccination station will be on site all day. For information, visit [www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com) or call Stephanie Perry at (817) 337-



2400.

**July 21:** Cabela's in Buda will host its Kids Fishing Day in front of the store. For information, call the store at (512) 295-1100.

**July 22-26:** The North Texas Buckskin Brigade will be held at Stabney's Cook Ranch in Albany. For information, contact Helen Holdsworth at (800) 839-9453 or [h\\_holdsworth@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:h_holdsworth@texas-wildlife.org).

**July 26:** The Lost Pines NWTFF chapter dinner will be held at New Sacred Parish Hall in Rockne. Contact Matthew Maas at (512) 303-0063 or [maas5@ddc.net](mailto:maas5@ddc.net) for information.

**July 26:** The North Houston DU dinner will be held at the Greer & Lowdermilk Conference Center. For information, contact Marissa Morgan at (281) 528-8789 or [mchavez1999@hotmail.com](mailto:mchavez1999@hotmail.com).

**July 27-28:** The Gander Mountain store in Tyler will hold a hunter's education class with instructor Phil Brakebill in the Gander Mountain Lodge. Call the store at (903) 839-8205 or Phil Brakebill at (903) 882-5618 for information.

**July 28:** The Texas Women's Shooting Sports/DIVAS will host the 2007 Big Brothers and Big Sisters Kids Camp at Elm Fork Shotgun Park in Dallas. For information, contact Judy Rhodes at (214) 349-0045 or [jr@txdiva.com](mailto:jr@txdiva.com).

**July 28:** The Top Of Texas RMEF Big Game banquet will be held at the Amarillo Civic Center. For information, call Carson Christie at (806) 355-1375.

**July 28:** The Clay County NWTFF dinner will be held at the Holman Center in Henrietta. Contact Wade Bryant at (940) 538-4354 or [wade\\_bryant@hotmail.com](mailto:wade_bryant@hotmail.com) for information.

**July 28:** The Region 3 Texas Big Game Awards banquet will be held at the Abilene Civic Center. For information, contact David Brimager at (800) 839-9453 or [d\\_brimager@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:d_brimager@texas-wildlife.org).

**July 28:** The Dallas Orvis store will play host to Fly Fishing Texas and the Southwest. Presentations from top fly-fishing experts, prizes and more. For information, call the store at (214) 265-1600 or visit [www.orvis.com](http://www.orvis.com).

**July 28:** The Deep East Texas NWTFF chapter dinner will be held at the VFW in Jasper. For information, contact Cindy Dans at (409) 383-0862 or [cndans@yahoo.com](mailto:cndans@yahoo.com).

**July 28:** The Uvalde Guajolotes NWTFF chapter dinner will be held at the Eldorado Hunting Lodge in Uvalde. For information, contact Brad Farr at (830) 592-0742 or [lala1988@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lala1988@sbcglobal.net).

**Aug. 2:** The Allen DU banquet will be held at the Allen Hilton Garden Inn. For tickets and information, contact Brad Hempkins at (972) 396-9797 or [brad@hempkins.com](mailto:brad@hempkins.com).

**Aug. 2:** The Lone Star Longbeards NWTFF banquet will be held at the

Brazos Center in Bryan. For information, contact Timothy Akers at (979) 229-1602 or [t.akers@bediasbank.com](mailto:t.akers@bediasbank.com).

**Aug. 3-5:** The Texas Trophy Hunters Extravaganza will be held at the Reliant Center in Houston. For information, visit [www.ttha.com](http://www.ttha.com) or call (800) 800-3207.

**Aug. 4:** The Santa Fe DU dinner will be held at the Galveston County Fairgrounds on Highway 6. For information, contact Bud or Judy Cochran at (409) 925-4349 or [santafecochran@aol.com](mailto:santafecochran@aol.com).

**Aug. 4:** The North Texas RMEF Chapter will hold its Big Game Banquet at Embassy Suites at BassPro Outdoor World in Grapevine. For tickets and information, contact Charlie Barnes at (214) 232-0489 or Richard Biggers at (972) 742-9101.

**Aug. 9:** The Irving DU banquet will be held at the Studios at Las Colinas. Contact Randy Chandler at (214) 957-2449 or [randy@prostarair.com](mailto:randy@prostarair.com) for information.

**Aug. 9:** The Houston Delta Waterfowl dinner will be held at the Cadillac Bar and Grill at I-10 and Shepherd. For information, call Justin Teltchik at (713) 490-3865.

**Aug. 9:** The Paris Delta Waterfowl dinner will be held at the Love Civic Center. For information, call Donny Gentry at (903) 982-5470.



## CCA State of Texas Angler's Rodeo (STAR)

LEADERS AS OF 7-2-07

**Leaderboard**  
Middle Coast Speckled Trout  
Norman Frankum of Sweeney  
9 lbs.

**Lower Coast Speckled Trout**  
Bryan R. Tucker II of Corpus Christi  
8 lbs. 14 ozs.

### OFFSHORE DIVISION

**Kingfish**  
Rodney McWhorter of Angleton  
55 lbs. 9 ozs.

**Dorado**  
Ben Scott of Port Arthur  
43 lbs. 15 ozs.  
**Ling (Cobia)**  
Chris Jacobs of Sweeney  
75 lbs. 3 ozs.

**INSHORE DIVISION**  
**Flounder**  
Joseph Bryan of Beaumont  
6 lbs. 8 ozs.

**Sheepshead**  
Jeff Nouis of Deer Park  
8 lbs. 3 ozs.

**Gafftop**  
Debbie Mahon of Winnie  
7 lbs. 1 oz.

### STARKIDS DIVISION (AGES 6-10)

**Flounder**  
Sam Wittman, 7, of Houston  
3 lbs. 14 ozs.

**Sheepshead**  
Forrest Karl, 6, of Edna  
7 lbs. 7 ozs.

**Gafftop**  
Jarren Mahon, 8, of Winnie  
7 lbs. 6 ozs.

### STARTEENS TROUT & INSHORE DIVISIONS (AGES 11-17)

**Upper Coast Speckled Trout**  
Britney Halewyn, 17, of Alvin  
7 lbs. 3 ozs.

**Middle Coast Speckled Trout**  
Jana Kubecka, 15, of Edna  
6 lbs. 14 ozs.

**Lower Coast Speckled Trout**  
Nicholas Joiner, 17, of Robstown  
8 lbs. 3 ozs.

**Flounder**  
Hunter Rising, 12, of Crystal Beach  
4 lbs. 1 oz.

**Sheepshead**  
Darian Gibbs, 11, of Spring  
6 lbs. 5 ozs.

**Gafftop**  
Lance Knox, 11, of Rosenberg  
7 lbs. 11 ozs.

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# FISHING REPORT

## HOT BITES

### LARGEMOUTH BASS



**BROWNWOOD:** Black bass to 7 pounds are excellent on buzzbaits and spinnerbaits near the docks, and on Shaky Heads and redbug 4" worms with chartreuse tails around rocks and brush piles in 12-15 feet.

**CHOKO CANYON:** Black bass to 9 pounds are good on deep running crankbaits and white/chartreuse spinnerbaits.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Black bass to 8 pounds are good on minnows and dark soft plastic worms.

### WHITE/HYBRID/STRIPER



**ARROWHEAD:** White bass are good trolling, on flats and near dam with some surface action.

**TEXOMA:** Striped bass are good on Pencil Poppers and live shad.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** White bass are good just off river channel north of Costello Island jugging with silver slabs and trolling with striped bass being caught.

### CATFISH



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

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

**WEATHERFORD:** Channel catfish are good on worms, liver and dough bait in the river channel on the north end. Large yellow catfish are excellent on live bream.

### CRAPPIE



**O.H. IVIE:** Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

**CONROE:** Crappie are good on minnows and fair on blue tube jugs over brush in 22 feet.

### BREAM



**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Bream are good on live worms over grass beds and around piers.

**TOLDEO BEND:** Bream are good on crickets and nightcrawlers in 3 feet.

**ALAN HENRY:** Water lightly stained; 83 degrees. Black bass are good along brush lines on topwater lures early and late in day, shad-colored spinnerbaits and green pumpkin soft plastics and jigs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

**AMISTAD:** Water clear; 80 degrees. Black bass are fair on Senkos, crankbaits, spinnerbaits, soft plastics, and flukes. Catfish are good on stinkbait, night-crawlers, and frozen shrimp over baited holes. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch.

**ARROWHEAD:** Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; full at spillway level. Black bass are good on topwater lures early in day and on spinnerbaits near shallow vegetation. Catfish are good in upper end on punchbait or juglines baited with cut chad or carp.

**ATHENS:** Water off color, 75-82 degrees; 0.53' high. Black bass are fair on Zoom finesse worms, spinnerbaits and topwaters. Crappie are fair to good on jigs and minnows over brush piles. Catfish are good on prepared baits.

**BASTROP:** Water murky. Channel and blue catfish are good on frozen shrimp, minnows, and stinkbait.

**BELTON:** Water murky; 73 degrees; 28.35' high. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait and frozen shrimp.

**BOB SANDLIN:** Water stained; 74-81 degrees; 4' low. Black bass are fair on buzzbaits, drop shot rigs and topwaters.

**BRAUNIG:** Water stained; 86 degrees. Redfish are excellent on perch, tilapia, shad, and silver spoons, and downrigging near jetties and dam.

**BRIDGEPORT:** Water off color; 74-82 degrees; 2.41' high. White bass are good on Humdingers. Catfish are good on prepared baits.

**BROWNWOOD:** Water clear near the dam, murky near rivers; 75 degrees; 1.22' high. Hybrid striped are good on shad in Hybrid Alley. White bass are excellent on L'il Fishies and Persuader crankbaits off lighted docks at night. Crappie are good on minnows and L'il Fishies in 8-12 feet. Channel catfish are good on trotlines baited with cut bait and chicken livers in 8-12 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with cut bait and chicken livers.

**CADDO:** Water stained; 79-85 degrees; 1.3' high. Black bass are good on chartreuse spinnerbaits on the edges of grass and Scum Frogs around pads. White bass are good on the main lake on chrome Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and prepared bait.

**CANYON LAKE:** Water murky to clear; 81 degrees; 2.61' high. Black bass are fair on topwaters, flukes, and Whacky Sticks among flooded bushes and grass banks early. Yellow and blue catfish are good on goldfish and perch upriver.

**CEDAR CREEK:** Water stained; 74-83 degrees; 0.43' high. White bass are good on Humdingers and TNT slabs. Hybrid striped are fair on Sassy Shad early. Catfish are good drifting cut shad.

**CHOKO CANYON:** Water stained; 84 degrees; 1.52' low. Yellow catfish are good on juglines baited with perch.

**COLEMAN:** Water clear; 73 degrees; 0.94' high. Channel and blue catfish are good on minnows and blue catfish are good on goldfish and perch upriver.

**COLETO CREEK:** Water murky; 89 degrees (97 degrees at hot water discharge); 0.58' high. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with liver, stinkbait, and live bait.

**CONROE:** Water stained; 0.31' high. Black bass are good on Carolina rigged soft plastics, crankbaits, and spinnerbaits. Catfish are good on stinkbait, chicken livers, and nightcrawlers.

**FALCON:** Water clear from Marker 9 south, stained north; 82 degrees. Black bass are good on crankbaits and chartreuse Carolina rigged soft plastics.

**FAYETTE:** Water clear; 92 degrees. Channel and blue catfish are good on worms, and on juglines baited with fresh shad.

**FORK:** Water off color; 75-83 degrees; 0.66' high. Black bass are fair to good on buzzbaits and Yellow Magics early and late, and midday on spinnerbaits, drop shot rigs and Carolina rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs under the bridges and over brush piles.

**GIBBONS CREEK:** Water stained. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers, cut bait, and chicken livers.

**GRANGER:** Water murky; 13.19' high. Lake is closed indefinitely due to high water.

**GRAPEVINE:** Water stained; 74-82 degrees; 18.45' high. All boat ramps are closed. No reports available.

**GREENBELT:** Water lightly stained; 79 degrees; 15.75' low. Black bass are good on shad-colored spinnerbaits, pumpkin soft plastics and drop shot rigs, firetiger shallow crankbaits, and topwater lures at dawn and dusk. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live bait and shallow crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are good on shad-colored crankbaits and topwater lures. Walleye are good on crankbaits and live baits. Catfish are good on live bait.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water stained; 88 degrees; 0.63' high. Crappie are very good on live minnows around stumps in 12-14 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on shad.

**HUBBARD CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 81 degrees; 10.8' low. Black bass are good on shad-colored spinnerbaits and firetiger crankbaits, junebug soft plastics, and live baits. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. White bass and hybrid striped are good on live baits.

**JOE POOL:** Water off color; 75-81 degrees; 3.9' high. White bass are fair to good on Humdingers and topwaters. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and prepared baits.

**LAKE O' THE PINES:** Water stained; 77-84 degrees; 3.03' high. Black bass are fair on topwaters early, midday switching to Texas rigs and spinnerbaits.

Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and Danny King's Punch Bait.

**LAVON:** Water murky; 75-82 degrees; 8.14' high. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits and topwaters in the shallows. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs around structure.

**LEJ:** Water murky; 80 degrees; 0.60' low. Black bass are slow.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water stained; 75-83 degrees; 11.63' high. Catfish are good on prepared bait or baited holes. Hybrid and white bass are good on topwater.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water murky; 76 degrees; 0.33' high. White bass are good on peep spoons, Charlie slabs, and hellbenders. Blue catfish are good on cut bait and minnows.

**MACKENZIE:** Water lightly stained; 78 degrees; 0.08' low. Black bass are good on shad-colored crankbaits and spinnerbaits, and live baits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass and striped bass are good on live bait and inline spinners. Smallmouth bass are good on live bait and crankbaits.

**MEREDITH:** Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 30.65' low. Black bass are good on shad-colored spinnerbaits, black/chartreuse soft plastics, and live baits. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live bait and crankbaits.

**MIRRORES:** Water stained; 75-83 degrees; 11.63' high. Catfish are good on prepared baits.

**NASWORTHY:** Water lightly stained; 80 degrees. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on cut shad.

**O.H. IVIE:** Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 17.25' low. Black bass are good on topwater lures at dawn and dusk, shad-colored spinnerbaits, watermelon/chartreuse soft jerk baits along brush and timber. White bass are good on live baits and crankbaits.

**PALESTINE:** Water stained; 77-83 degrees; 1.45' high. White bass are fair to good on Humdingers. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cheese bait.

**PALO DURO:** Water lightly stained; 78 degrees; 43.5' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and live baits. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water clear; 81 degrees; 1.2' low. Black bass are good shallow near Rock Creek and back of Caddo Creek cove on Texas-rigged 6-inch watermelon/pepper fleck soft plastic lizard baits.

**PROCTOR:** Water murky; 72 degrees; 28.93' high. The boat ramps are closed. Channel and blue catfish are fair on shrimp, shad, and stinkbait.

**RAY HUBBARD:** Water stained; 75-83 degrees; 0.11' high. Black bass are fair to good on spinnerbaits, soft plastic frogs and buzzbaits. White bass are good on Humdingers and chrome topwaters.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water stained; 76-82 degrees; 8.48' high. All boat ramps are closed. No reports available.

**RICHLAND CHAMBERS:** Water off color; 75-83 degrees; 0.5' high. White bass and hybrid striped are fair to good on Humdingers, topwaters and live shad. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are good on cut shad and prepared baits.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Water stained; 75 degrees; 0.33' low. Crappie are good on minnows and blue tube jugs over baited holes in 20 feet. Catfish are very good on trotlines baited with live bait and cut bait.

**SOMERVILLE:** Water stained; 72 degrees; 1.91' high. Channel and blue catfish are good on juglines baited with live shad.

**STILLHOUSE:** Water murky; 73 degrees; 35.03' high. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits and soft plastics along the shorelines near the marina. White bass are good on minnows at night.

**TAWAKONI:** Water stained; 75-82 degrees; 1.85' high. White bass are fair to good on topwaters and Little George's. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and prepared.

**TEXOMA:** Water off color; 74-82 degrees; 19.49' high. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, drop shot rigged finesse baits and Texas rigs. Catfish are good on live and cut shad.

**TOLDEO BEND:** Water clear; 80 degrees; 0.49' low. Black bass are good but small on redbug soft plastic worms, spinnerbaits, and crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and blue/green tube jugs over baited holes in 20 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait, stinkbait, livers, and hearts in 30 feet.

**TRAVIS:** Water clear; 78 degrees; 19.10' high. Black bass are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on fresh cut bait and stinkbait.

**WEATHERFORD:** Water muddy; 75-81 degrees; 0.3' high. Black bass are good on soft plastics around docks and on rocky points. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs in the crappie house and over brush piles. White bass are good all over the lake on small shad imitation lures. Bream are good on worms.

**WHITE RIVER:** Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 25.5' low. Black bass are good on pumpkin/chartreuse soft plastics and shad-colored spinnerbaits along brush, timber and reeds. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows.

**WHITNEY:** Water murky; 21.57' high. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, stinkbait, and live bait.

**WICHITA:** Water turbid; 82 degrees; normal pool. White bass and hybrid striped bass are good on minnows or live shad in front of spillway. Channel catfish are good drift fishing.

**WRIGHT PATMAN:** Water off color; 76-82 degrees; 7.9' high. White bass are fair to good on Humdingers and topwaters.

## SALTWATER SCENE

**NORTH SABINE:** Trout are fair to good on live shad and shrimp while drifting the middle of the lake. Redfish and flounder are fair to good in the marsh on live bait.

**SOUTH SABINE:** Trout are fair to good from the Causeway Pier at night under the lights on live shrimp and glow tan, dem-rigged plastics.

**REDFISH:** Redfish are good at the jetty and from the pier on live shrimp.

**BOLIVAR:** Bull redfish are good in the surf on cut-bait. Trout, gaftop, sand trout and flounder are fair to good at Rollover Pass on live shrimp, Little Fishies and mud minnows.

**TRINITY BAY:** Trout are fair to good while drifting deeper shell reefs, slicks and birds on glow/chartreuse, red/white, and plum plastics.

**EAST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are good while drifting with glow and lime/rose plastics over Hannas Reef. Trout are good in the Ship Channel on croaker.

**WEST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout, redfish and flounder are fair to good on live shrimp at the railroad and causeway bridge.

**TROUT:** Trout, redfish, flounder, black drum, sand trout and shark are good off the beachfront piers on live shrimp and mullet.

**TEXAS CITY:** Trout are good on live shrimp and tandem-rigged Little Fishies, DOA Shrimp and live strainers and top the lights. Black drum, sheepshead, whiting and sand trout are good on fresh dead shrimp.

**FREEPORT:** Trout and redfish are fair to good at the Quintana jetty on shrimp and Mirrolures. Trout are good at San Luis Pass on croaker, shrimp and topwaters.

**EAST MATAGORDA:** Trout are fair to good on live shrimp and red shad and pumpkinseed Bass Assassins, Trout Killers, Sand Slabs and Hejjes while drifting deep shell.

**MATAGORDA:** Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline on topwaters and black/chartreuse plastics. Trout and redfish are fair to good at the jetty on croaker, pogies and shrimp.

**PORT OCONNOR:** Trout are fair to good on croaker on the reefs in Espiritu Santo Bay and San Antonio Bay. Trout and redfish are good on live bait at the jetty.

**ROCKPORT:** Trout are good on croaker along the shell and grass of Aransas, St. Charles and Copano Bays. Redfish are fair to good on live bait at the jetty.

**PORT ARANAS:** Redfish are fair on live shrimp and mullet at the North Jetty. Offshore is good for kingfish, dorado, ling, shark and red snapper.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Trout and redfish are fair to good on the shell in Nueces Bay on croaker, live shrimp and plum plastics.

**TROUT:** Trout and redfish are fair to good on live shrimp, croaker and topwaters in Shamrock Cove, Oso Bay and around Pelican Island.

**BAFFIN BAY:** Trout are fair to good at Emmords Hole on croaker, live shrimp and plum plastics. Trout are fair to good at Rocky Slough and the Land Out on croaker, live shrimp, Trout Killers, Bass Assassins and Sand Eels.

**PORT MANSFIELD:** Trout are good on the humps and guts adjacent to the Intracoastal on chartreuse Top Dogs, chrome She Dogs and bone Trout Killers, Bass Assassins and Sand Eels.

**SOUTH PADRE:** Trout are good around Un-Necessarily Island on live shrimp under a popping cork and plum/white plastics.

**PORT ISABEL:** Trout are fair to good at Laguna Vista on live shrimp under a popping cork and She Dogs. Trout, redfish and black drum are good on the Gas Well Flats and at Airport Cove on live shrimp under a popping cork.



## HOT SPOT

### Calaveras

Water stained; 86 degrees. Hybrid striped bass are good on spoons and stripers jigs between the dam and the crappie wall in 15-20 feet, and on chicken livers and shad along the shoreline. Redfish are excellent down rigging silver and gold spoons and live bait along the crappie wall and the dam in 10-20 feet, on live perch and tilapia along the shoreline, and on live bait along the crappie wall. Channel catfish are excellent on liver, cheesebait, and shad near the railroad trestle and 181 Cove. Blue catfish are excellent on liver and cheesebait.

Channel catfish are good on live baits.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water clear; 81 degrees; 1.2' low. Black bass are good shallow near Rock Creek and back of Caddo Creek cove on Texas-rigged 6-inch watermelon/pepper fleck soft plastic lizard baits.

**PROCTOR:** Water murky; 72 degrees; 28.93' high. The boat ramps are closed. Channel and blue catfish are fair on shrimp, shad, and stinkbait.

**RAY HUBBARD:** Water stained; 75-83 degrees; 0.11' high. Black bass are fair to good on spinnerbaits, soft plastic frogs and buzzbaits. White bass are good on Humdingers and chrome topwaters.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water stained; 76-82 degrees; 8.48' high. All boat ramps are closed. No reports available.

**RICHLAND CHAMBERS:** Water off color; 75-83 degrees; 0.5' high. White bass and hybrid striped are fair to good on Humdingers, topwaters and live shad. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are good on cut shad and prepared baits.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Water stained; 75 degrees; 0.33' low. Crappie are good on minnows and blue tube jugs over baited holes in 20 feet. Catfish are very good on trotlines baited with live bait and cut bait.

**SOMERVILLE:** Water stained; 72 degrees; 1.91' high. Channel and blue catfish are good on juglines baited with live shad.

**STILLHOUSE:** Water murky; 73 degrees; 35.03' high. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits and soft plastics along the shorelines near the marina. White bass are good on minnows at night.

**TAWAKONI:** Water stained; 75-82 degrees; 1.85' high. White bass are fair to good on topwaters and Little George's. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and prepared.

**TEXOMA:** Water off color; 74-82 degrees; 19.49' high. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, drop shot rigged finesse baits and Texas rigs. Catfish are good on live and cut shad.

**TOLDEO BEND:** Water clear; 80 degrees; 0.49' low. Black bass are good but small on redbug soft plastic worms, spinnerbaits, and crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and blue/green tube jugs over baited holes in 20 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait, stinkbait, livers, and hearts in 30 feet.

**TRAVIS:** Water clear; 78 degrees; 19.10' high. Black bass are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on fresh cut bait and stinkbait.

**WEATHERFORD:** Water muddy; 75-81 degrees; 0.3' high. Black bass are good on soft plastics around docks and on rocky points. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs in the crappie house and over brush piles. White bass are good all over the lake on small shad imitation lures. Bream are good on worms.

**WHITE RIVER:** Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 25.5' low. Black bass are good on pumpkin/chartreuse soft plastics and shad-colored spinnerbaits along brush, timber and reeds. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows.

**WHITNEY:** Water murky; 21.57' high. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, stinkbait, and live bait.

**WICHITA:** Water turbid; 82 degrees; normal pool. White bass and hybrid striped bass are good on minnows or live shad in front of spillway. Channel catfish are good drift fishing.

**WRIGHT PATMAN:** Water off color; 76-82 degrees; 7.9' high. White bass are fair to good on Humdingers and topwaters.

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# Flooding

Continued from Page 1

said, "but from the perspective of a fisheries biologist, this is great."

Brock explained some anglers like lower lake levels because they tend to concentrate fish populations in lower pools, making them easier to find.

But lower pools offer less cover for fingerlings, Brock said.

"It hurts young fish survival," he said. "After they get big enough, they can fend for themselves, but when the lakes are low, the little ones don't have places to hide."

The result, over time, is smaller fish populations.

Brock noted, however, that increased cover in Texas lakes will allow more bass and panfish to get old enough to spawn.

"Those medium-size fish are what drives the whole engine for these species," Brock said. "They're more vigorous; they go after food and they perpetuate themselves."

"Our growth rate should be phenomenal."

The improved habitat is a good sign for the Florida largemouth bass fingerlings that TPW recently stocked in

# High waters bring new strategies

By BILL MILLER

It's time for anglers to dust off their top-water fishing skills.

Recent floods have restored volume to drought-stricken lakes in Texas, which has also flushed fish populations out of deep, concentrated pools.

But now that the fish are scattered, it's time to rethink strategies and use techniques that were shelved during the recent two-year drought.

Veterans agree that because the floods are stirring mud in the lakes, bass and other species will be found closer to the surface.

"The light can't penetrate, so you need to concentrate on fishing towards the top of the water table," said O.K. Carter, of Arlington, who has written extensively about fishing. "But this is one of the few times

you can take advantage of a fish's sensitivity to vibrations," he added. "So use flashy, noisy spinnerbaits and top-water baits that are noisy — like the tiny torpedoes that have blades on them."

Carter and James Niggemeyer of Van, a Lake Fork guide and BASS pro, both said anglers should be prepared to keep moving while the fish are scattered, especially along shorelines.

"If you're not getting any bites, keep the troll motor going and cover a lot of water," Niggemeyer said. "Keep moving until you find them; there's something happening somewhere."

Niggemeyer added that some people might be surprised to find bass only a foot below the surface.

"Typically in the summer, people don't look real shallow for bass," he said. "There is an actual shallow water column to be explored this time of year."

But anglers might also have to be patient to wait for their favorite lakes to become more accessible after floods.

The 4th of July week was bleak because flood conditions at lakes made fishing difficult. But some anglers took advantage of the high water conditions and low boat traffic.

Steve Schiele, a professional guide on Lewisville Lake, known for having one of the highest boating traffic rates in the state, has been tearing up the bass since the flood.

"The lake has not been this high since 1981, there is so much new area to fish right now and there is no boat traffic," he said.

"I have been spending a lot of time fishing newly flooded structure and catching some good largemouth bass," he said. "I just remember where the (drain) culverts cross the flooded roads and have been whacking them

there."

While the water on Lewisville is very clear and the fish are feeding, many of Schiele's clients are reluctant to go fish. "The TV news is telling people the lakes are closed," he said. "This is not true. Just the ramps are closed. I have a private spot to put in every day."

As waters receded by week's end, however, governing organizations like the Brazos River Authority, the Lower Colorado River Authority and the Army Corps of Engineers were easing the restrictions.

But Carter noted that not being able to launch a boat doesn't necessarily mean you can't be on the water.

"I use a kayak for stuff like that," he said. "I just toss in a couple of rods and a sandwich and then I get out there and try it."

To reach Schiele, call (214) 629-1628.

lakes like Benbrook, Grapevine and Ray Hubbard, Brock said.

Strike King pro staffer James Niggemeyer of Van, now in his rookie season in the BASS Elite Series, said he is eager to revisit his East Texas

haunts, once he gets a break from the tour.

"I really love to get over to Palestine, Tyler, Lake Fork and Tawakani," he said. "It's going to be great to fish some of the shallow pat-

terns that haven't been so good in the low years.

"It's aummer not to have good water."

Niggemeyer and Carroccio both predicted conditions will continue at

least through the fall.

"I was at Richland Chambers the other day and every cove had flood willows and good healthy grass," Carroccio said. "It's going to be phenomenal."

# Elk

Continued from Page 1

scat soon after defecation, and recording visual observations. So far, approximately 30 locations used by the elk have been recorded and mapped through the radio telemetry.

Two of the cows are slowly moving toward the Davis Mountains, according to the research, and one of the bulls has moved throughout the Glass Mountains.

"The past research on the Texas elk population has been limited," Witt said. "Monitoring periods weren't short, and habitat preferences weren't able to be thoroughly investigated. Newer

technology such as telemetry and remote sensing is giving us better habitat information."

Initial results have indicated several of the animals have traveled significant distances, and most of the animals seem to prefer the riparian habitats located near streams or ponds throughout the mountain range.

The Texas elk population has seen extreme variations, and proper management is essential, Witt said. The herd in the Guadalupe Mountains reached a high of approximately 400 elk in the late 1930s, but declined to 40 animals by 1994. The Glass Mountain herd was estimated in 1983 at 161-168 elk.

"We're mainly trying to figure out the overall characteristics of the Glass

Mountain elk herd to aid in management by the landowners," Witt said.

Researchers believed a native population of Merriam's elk once existed in Texas, and reintroduction efforts date back to 1928 when Judge J. C. Hunter released 44 Rocky Mountain elk from South Dakota in the Guadalupe Mountains. This population grew to 400 elk by 1938, but declined to approximately 40 by 1994.

Witt isn't so sure a native population ever existed in Texas. "The DNA of Merriam's elk has been discovered in most Rocky Mountain elk populations found in North America," he said. "It's possible the original Texas herd migrated from the Rockies."

Witt said a group of owners of large ranches in the area are very interested

in managing the herd properly, which is essential since the animals migrate large distances over time. "As long as they cooperate with each other, the herd can be managed well without outside interference," he said. "And, since the elk are considered exotic in Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife currently does not aid in management."

"If a few landowners sought to maximize their hunting revenue by over-harvesting the animals, it could have a devastating effect. This has occurred a few times in the past, and hopefully we can help avoid it in the future to preserve the population."

Associate Professor Dr. Louis Harveson is the supervisor of the project. "We're off to a good start," he said.

"I think people will discover there are a lot more elk than they realize. The landowners have been extremely hospitable, and access hasn't been a problem."

Harveson has been surprised with some of the initial results. "It has been remarkable how far the cows are moving, and we're looking to double the size of the project in the future," he said.

Walt Ienhour is the RMEF representative for the project. "We're looking for a good concise census of the elk in West Texas, and to understand their habitat, and we're excited about the results so far," he said. "We're looking to develop a Phase II to continue the work in the Davis and Guadalupe Mountains."

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## House rejects polar bear hunting ban

Congress has refused to impose restrictions on big game hunters that would have crippled polar bear conservation.

On June 27, the U.S. House of Representatives defeated a last-minute amendment to HR 2643, the House Interior Appropriations Bill, which would have banned the import of polar bear trophies. The House turned down anti-hunters' efforts to prohibit American big game hunters from pursuing healthy, sustainable polar bear populations in Canada.

American sportsmen comprise

approximately 90 percent of the foreign hunting clientele in Canada, annually pouring millions of dollars into polar bear conservation and management, not to mention the financial benefits to the local communities.

The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance is a national association of sportsmen and sportsmen's organization that protects the rights of hunters, anglers and trappers in the courts, legislatures, at the ballot, in Congress and through public education programs.

A U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance report.

## Katy man wins 3rd at World Cup

Two-time Olympian and member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Glenn Eller of Katy took home the bronze medal at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Maribor, Slovenia. Eller was tied for fifth place going into the finals and shot a 47 to finish with a total score of 188 and claim the bronze.

Italy's Francesco Daniello won the gold with a final score of 192, while Hakan Dahiby of Sweden took the sil-

ver with 190.

Eller was the Men's Double Trap Gold Medalist in Changwon, Korea in April, where he also secured an Olympic participation slot for the U.S. Shotgun Team at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. He recently finished first at the Shotgun Spring Selection Match, setting a national record of 149, which also exceeded the world record.

A USA Shooting report.

## NATIONAL

# Shooting sports among favorite seasonal activities

America's favorite summertime sports have long been played on trails, waters, fields, courses and courts.

Statistics gathered over the past three years show that target shooting — with rifle, handgun and shotgun — is actually more popular than many pastimes historically considered mainstays of warm-season recreation.

In fact, participation in shooting sports tops tennis, softball, jet skiing, water skiing, mountain biking, most team sports and virtually all of the seasonal technical sports like rock climbing and kayaking, according to the

most recent numbers from American Sports Data, a consumer research firm for the sporting goods, fitness and health club industries.

The research shows more than 18 million Americans enjoy the shooting sports. Actual numbers may be even higher. In a 2006 survey, 17 percent of Americans, or about 50 million people, said they had been shooting with a rifle in the past two years.

Per capita, the study shows Idaho as the most avid shooting state (18 of every 100 people participate), followed by Utah, Wyoming, Montana

and Arkansas. Texas shows 6.8 of every 100.

In overall numbers, California is No. 1 with more than 2.1 million shooters.

Shotgun games include fast-action trap, skeet and sporting clays. Rifle shooters can choose from infinite forms of target sports, from composed precision to boisterous cowboy shooting. Handgun options range from simple practice on paper silhouette targets to reactive obstacle courses that test competitors' athleticism, speed and accuracy.

An American Sports Data report.

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# Shrimp

Continued from Page 8  
them."

This year's rains came just as brown shrimp were developing and migrating into the Gulf, Morris said. The rains have meant cooler temperatures, which means smaller shrimp. It also lowered the salinity in the estuaries, prompting the young brown shrimp to head for the saltier Gulf earlier than normal.

Johnny Hawes at The Fishing Center in Port O'Connor said until a few weeks ago shrimp availability was good.

"Now that we've had 17 inches of rain, we may not (be getting shrimp)," he said.

"Prior to the rain we'd been doing pretty good."

Hawes said Espiritu Santo Bay, which feeds off San Antonio Bay, didn't produce any shrimp this year. Matagorda Bay, he said, had a crop.

Todd Hoefner of Marburger's Sporting Goods in Seabrook said bait shrimp has been available there, but demand from hordes of anglers has made it difficult for bait fishermen to keep up with demand.

Bays like Matagorda Bay and Galveston Bay, Morris said, do better in drier years on their brown shrimp. The Laguna Madre, conversely does better when there is more fresh water coming in.

TPW trawls in San Antonio Bay in June showed a catch rate of 367 juvenile shrimp an hour—for the first two weeks. The last

two weeks, Morris said, "They didn't catch any. The shrimp moved out."

Reports conflict on whether shrimp have been available further south on the coast.

At the Red Dot Pier in Corpus Christi, Alex Gardner reported no problem getting bait shrimp this year. The winter months, as usual, were a little lean, he said.

"I talked to a guy the other day in the Laguna," Morris said. "The shrimp moved out when they were just eyeballs and whiskers and they never got large enough to be the normal (size) you would expect."

Offshore, it's a different story. Morris said TPW shrimp trawls have been the second-highest ever recorded this year.

July is an in-between season for shrimp. Morris said in mid-August the white

shrimp start to come out.

"This will be good for white shrimp — they like the low salinity," he said. "There should be good late summer and fall bait availability. That extends all the way up into November, I guess."

From a fisheries perspective, Morris isn't concerned about the shrimp population at all.

"Overall shrimp operations are growing and doing good," he said. "We had a good spawn last year and we're seeing that this year in our above-average (offshore) catch rates. That's good."

The smaller bait shrimp, he said "were there, the shrimpers just didn't have a chance to get at them when they were at their normal size. It was too late, they just took off."

# Dorado

Continued from Page 1

ming toward us that was dark with a forked tail," said Glass. "Initially I thought it was huge ladyfish, but then I noticed the tail color was wrong for a ladyfish."

"We kept looking and trying to figure out what it was. Then, Walter made a pretty long, into the wind, backhand cast. One strip and the fish charged the fly. Right when it took the fly, we realized it was a dorado."

"Hooking that dorado was just incredible," Humann said. "Eric saw it and I cast to it. It wasn't long and the fish jumped on the fly."

"After several acrobatic jumps — and much disbelief on our part — we landed the colorful dorado. And, this fish was miles away from any Gulf access!"

Hooking a dorado in any Texas bay ranks as unusual. However, hooking one that far inside a bay, particularly one as shallow as the Lower Laguna Madre, ranks as extremely rare.

"We do sometimes see young pelagics — including dorado — come inside the boat basins and such in the bay," said Tony Amos of the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas. "And we do catch them in our net surveys. However, these are very tiny fish. They're out of larval stage, but they certainly aren't anywhere near 27 inches."

"Most of these fish we see in the bay are really small — like 2 inches — and float in with sargassum," said Scott Holt, also with UTMSI. "I haven't seen any evidence that these fish grow up in the bay. Usually, if they float in, they're doomed."

"This year, we've had a lot of sargassum, so it probably followed the sargassum into the bay," continued Holt. "From there, it probably just got lost and was wandering around until it was caught. Very few dorado this size come in as close as the jetties."

"Even fewer come inside the pass. Fewer yet get into the bay. From there, you can work your way down and see it would be rare for this to happen."

There is no dorado record currently listed for any bay system in Texas.

Using the accepted length/girth formula, Humann's fish would have weighed approximately 4.86 pounds.



PRESENTS

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# HEROES



**WILLIAM RURY**, 14, of Dallas shot this 12-point buck, his first, while in a deer blind with his grandfather, **GIFFORD TOUCHSTONE**, hunting in Bosque County. He shot it at 237 yards with his 7mm mag.



**ERIC NELSON** of the Woodlands, left, caught this 41-inch drum while fishing with **CAPT. ALAN SKROBARCEK** at Copano Bay. Nelson used 10-pound test line and the battle lasted one hour and 25 minutes. The fish was released.



**TROY GIBSON** with a big Kansas Eastern Gobbler.



**TONY CUMMINGS**, left, congratulates fishing partner **PHILIP SCHOENECK** of Dallas on their halibut catch in the Cook Inlet, just offshore from Ninichik, Alaska.



**RONALD RIGHT** caught this redfish in the Lower Laguna Madre with cut mullet. The bull red was 44 inches in length.

## 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.

CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE  
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