

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

MADE
IN TEXAS



Artist has a special
tie to his craft
See Page 14

★ June 9, 2006

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

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INSIDE HUNTING



The drought plaguing Texas, especially South Texas, will most likely impact the size and strength of deer antlers, experts say, leading to many deer breaking their antlers during skirmishes.

See Page 6

Pheasant hunters will be able to put one more bird in their bag this coming season, thanks to a rule change by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

See Page 6

FISHING

Texas Parks and Wildlife is considering a management change that will allow them to localize rules to meet the needs of particular areas, such as the Lower Laguna Madre, which is seeing a downturn in its seatrout population.

See Page 8

Fish slicks offshore can point to a fishing orgy. They're produced when prey fish feast on baitfish. They're tricky to fish, though, unless you know how.

See Page 8

NATIONAL

Four hours of fishing – make that fighting – may have landed a Florida man an all-tackle world record, after he caught a 1,262-pound hammerhead shark.

See Page 4

CONSERVATION

Ducks Unlimited is launching a billion-dollar campaign aimed at saving America's wetlands. The unprecedented program seeks to save and restore millions of acres of wetlands.

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DEPARTMENTS

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June beckons feisty sandies

'Schools' give anglers a lesson in fast and furious

BY DIANA KUNDE

They bite aggressively. You can catch a lot when they're schooling on the surface. And they're great eating. It's no wonder white bass, or "sandies," are a favorite with Texas anglers.

Early June is usually a good time to find these voracious fish going after shad on lake surfaces. And when you luck into a feeding frenzy, it's an ideal fishing lesson for kids, who don't have a chance to get bored.

'They've been schooling on top for awhile. They usually do that throughout the summer.'

— JOE REID

Just find your birds, and it's one right after the other. It doesn't take a genius to figure them out," said Rafe Brock, fisheries biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife in Fort Worth.

Gulls and terns, circling above the water, are attracted to areas where schools of white bass drive baitfish to the surface.

Once located, anglers can catch white bass on spoons, spinners or minnows. Whatever the bait, the angler is in store for a fast and furious fight with the fish.

People are catching a lot of both white bass and hybrid striped bass on north central lakes, despite this year's low water flows, he said. "Lewisville is doing well; Lake Benbrook is doing well; Ray Hubbard is still doing very well — those are proba-

See SANDIES, Page 10



EDUCATION ON THE LAKE: Marina Sams, 11, shows a white bass caught on Lake Grapevine. Fifth-grade teacher Steve Fogel, looking on, spends many of his summer days off teaching kids about fishing. Photo by David J. Sams.



MIX IT UP: Anglers are adding a twist to offshore fishing using light tackle.

Chum 'em up for a change when offshore

BY DANNO WISE

The warmer weather, calmer seas and longer days of summer seem to beckon an increasing number of anglers offshore.

As these fishermen head out for a day of "deep-sea fishing," they inevitably have a specific game

plan in mind. For most, this involves finding the nearest, most convenient structure and bouncing jigs or bait off the bottom for red snapper, grouper and a host of other structure-oriented species.

Although this method can be productive, it can also become rather monotonous. However, you

See CHUMMING, Page 11

Dog's hearing loss just a shot away

BY DARLENE MCCORMICK SANCHEZ

If that gunshot blast hurts your ears, then you can bet it's hurting your dog's ears too.

Hunters may not realize that gunshot blasts can cause hearing loss in dogs — just like it can in humans.

"It's common. It's not very recognized," said Michael Stewart, owner and trainer at Wildrose Kennels in Oxford, Miss., which specializes in hunting dogs.

See HEARING, Page 12



DECIBEL DANGER: Gunshot blasts can reach 140 decibels, which can damage a dog's hearing.

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Outboard Model	Stroke	Outboard HP	FTI	Cost Toward Rigging/Labor	Command Link Starter Kit
50-115	4-Stroke	2-Stroke Outboard (Tech, Oper/Mtl Lgt)	\$650	\$650	\$1390
50-115	4-Stroke	4-Stroke Outboard (Tech, Oper/Mtl Lgt)	\$650	\$650	\$1390
150-300	4-Stroke	2-Stroke Outboard (Tech, Oper/Mtl Lgt)	\$690	\$690	\$3590
150-300	4-Stroke	4-Stroke Outboard (Tech, Oper/Mtl Lgt)	\$690	\$690	\$3590
50-115	2-Stroke	2-Stroke Outboard (2-Stroke, Oper/Mtl Lgt)	\$450	\$450	\$6635
50-115	2-Stroke	4-Stroke Outboard (2-Stroke, Oper/Mtl Lgt)	\$450	\$450	\$6635
50-115	2-Stroke	4-Stroke Outboard (2-Stroke, Oper/Mtl Lgt)	\$450	\$450	\$6635
150-300	2-Stroke	2-Stroke Outboard (2-Stroke, Oper/Mtl Lgt)	\$450	\$450	\$6635
150-300	2-Stroke	4-Stroke Outboard (2-Stroke, Oper/Mtl Lgt)	\$450	\$450	\$6635
150-300	2-Stroke	4-Stroke Outboard (2-Stroke, Oper/Mtl Lgt)	\$450	\$450	\$6635
150-300	2-Stroke	4-Stroke Outboard (2-Stroke, Oper/Mtl Lgt)	\$450	\$450	\$6635

Outboard Model	Stroke	Outboard HP	FTI	Cost Toward Rigging/Labor	Command Link Starter Kit
50-115	4-Stroke	4-Stroke	\$0	\$450	\$450
150-300	4-Stroke	4-Stroke	\$0	\$650	\$650
50-115	2-Stroke	4-Stroke	\$0	\$450	\$450
150-300	2-Stroke	4-Stroke	\$0	\$450	\$450

The value of the benefit will be applied to the purchase price of the outboard motor. The benefit is not available for outboard motors that are not eligible for the promotion. See participating participating Yamaha Full-Line dealer for complete details.

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GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING ^{†††}	7000 LBS	6900 LBS	6700 LBS	6600 LBS
AUTOMATIC REAR LOCKING DIFFERENTIAL	AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE
ONSTAR [*]	AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE
XM SATELLITE RADIO ^{**}	AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE
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NATIONAL

Shark landing may be record

All-tackle quest on line after angler battles hammerhead at Boca Grande Pass

BY CRAIG NYHUS

On May 23 at Boca Grande Pass, Bucky Dennis landed a great hammerhead shark — and maybe an all-tackle world record — after a four-hour battle.

The Port Charlotte, Fla. resident's catch measured 14.5 feet, and tipped the scales at 1,262 pounds.

Dennis donated the shark to the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota for study.

The previous all-tackle record is 991 pounds, according to the International Game and Fish Association.

Dennis used a 25-pound live stingray for bait on a 130-pound braided line.

All-tackle world records can be caught on line no heavier than 130-pound breaking strength under IGFA rules. Braided line may test higher than the labeled breaking strength. Application for the record must be made to the IGFA.

Boca Grande Pass was also the site of



HAMMERHEAD HAUL: A 1,262-pound shark is readied for transport to the Mote Marine Laboratory. The fish was caught by Bucky Dennis at Boca Grande Pass, Fla. Photo by Ron Giudice, Blue Heron Communications.

another potential record shark two weeks earlier, when Capt. Andy Whitbread hooked a 13-foot, 750-pound great hammerhead on a live 12-pound crevalle jack. The giant shark may break the 80-pound class record. The previous line-class record was 620 pounds.

Boca Grande Pass lies off the southern tip of Gasparilla Island, south of Fort Myers. Since the early 1900s, it has been a popular tarpon fishery. "We begin seeing large numbers of tarpon in April," said fly-fishing guide Capt. Bill Blanton. "Anywhere you find large numbers of tarpon you're going to find sharks. We mostly see hammerhead and bulls."

John Tyminski, senior biologist at the

Mote Marine Laboratory, agrees. "The tarpon fishing at Boca Grande Pass is world-renown," he said. "The fish literally stack up like cordwood this time of year."

The reason for the large numbers of tarpon in the area, he described, is the make-up of the pass itself. "It is the largest pass in Charlotte Harbor, with a very large estuary," Tyminski said. "The tarpon are drawn by their prey, probably crabs."

Sharks have long been recognized as natural tarpon predators. "The tarpon are a very good source of food for the hammerhead and bull sharks," Tyminski said. "The shark/tarpon interaction has been going on for years and years."

Many tarpon fishermen become frustrat-

ed with losing fish to the sharks, or having released fish being attacked. "The sharks have learned to take advantage of the weakened and vulnerable fish and attack them," the biologist said.

"Some of the guides are concerned about resuscitating fish because they are afraid of sticking their hands in the water," said Luis Barbieri, a biologist with the Florida Marine Research Institute in an interview.

Fishermen seeking snook and redfish have also experienced difficulties with sharks. "We're seeing a lot of smaller bull sharks on the shallow flats," Blanton said.

Craig Nyhus is publisher/editor of the Lone Star Outdoor News.

Whiteface students earn national recognition

Four middle school students from Whiteface, located west of Lubbock, are finalists for a \$25,000 grant from the Columbus Community Foundation.

Seventh-graders Zachary Wilbanks, Cullan Howe, Herbert Donnell, Mario Hernandez and their coach, school science coordinator Laura Wilbanks of White Face Junior High School, developed an All-Terrain Vehicle safety program for Texas teens. The team received assistance from Conservation Officer Tim Jenniges of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Their entry, "VROOOM! ATV Safety," included a small ATV course with safety and environmental awareness signage to alert drivers of

the hazards. They also developed a classroom safety course to simulate different driving conditions and responses.

"If they win the competition, they would like to convert a 22-mile section of abandoned railroad track into an ATV trail through the grasslands ecosystem of West Texas in a way that is light on the environment," Wilbanks said.

The ATV Safety Institute reports the highest rates of accidents and deaths with ATVs occur in the 13- to -16-year-old age group, a statistic that hit too close to home for the students and motivated them to take action.

— A Lone Star Outdoor News staff report.

States revoke hunting and fishing licenses of deadbeat dads

Wildlife agencies in Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee are teaming with their states' departments of human services to revoke hunting and fishing licenses of people who fail to pay their court-ordered child support payments.

In Tennessee, where wildlife and child support departments interface if a person is more than \$500 in arrears, 570 people had their hunting and fishing licenses revoked last year.

The ability of the departments to communicate stems from a federal mandate requiring sportsmen to provide social security numbers when purchasing their hunting or fishing licenses.

Suspension of driver's licenses has been the tool most used by states.

Nearly all states have some sort of recreational license restrictions, but many do not have the communication between departments that provide for automatic enforcement of the restrictions.

In Texas, the ability to revoke any license from the state, including driver's licenses, professional licenses and hunting or fishing licenses has existed since September 1995, if the individual is in arrears more than 90 days.

"The suspension or revocation of a state license cannot be the first enforcement remedy in Texas," said Janece Rolfe, spokesperson for the Child Support Division of the Office of the Attorney General.

Initially, a motion to enforce is

required and a hearing is held after which a plan for repayment is established.

"The license suspension may occur when a there is a plan for repayment that has not been followed, and the delinquent party is given notice that his licenses are in jeopardy and is given an opportunity to make the payments to avoid further action" she said. "We do communicate with 60 state agencies, including Texas Parks and Wildlife.

"Our goal is not to suspend licenses, but rather to get people to take care of their children and pay their child support."

— A Lone Star Outdoor News staff report.

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CONSERVATION

DU announces largest wetlands campaign

In the race against time to save North America's wetlands, Ducks Unlimited and its foundation, the Wetlands America Trust, have announced the launch of the largest wetlands conservation campaign in history.

The Wetlands for Tomorrow campaign will raise \$1.7 billion over the next five years to conserve North America's wetlands for future generations.

Jim Kennedy, president of Wetlands America Trust and chairman and CEO of Cox Enterprises, Inc., announced the campaign at the

69th annual Ducks Unlimited convention in Phoenix, Ariz., in front of nearly 1,000 DU members.

"I can't imagine these places going away, and we are not going to let them," he said. "America's greatest treasure is the grasslands of the prairies, and wetlands are vital to our existence. I don't want to have to describe wetlands to my future grandchildren. I want to be able to show them these wonderful places."

Wetlands for Tomorrow will raise funds for nine initiatives that will help DU restore and manage millions of acres of wetlands. Because

these initiatives are specific to certain areas of North America, donors will be able to direct their gifts toward regions and projects in which they have a special interest or about which they are particularly concerned.

According to Don Young, executive vice president of Ducks Unlimited, time and effort are of prime importance. "Every 10 minutes in the United States, an acre of wetlands is lost," he said. "We must reverse this trend, and with this campaign, we know we can do it."

— A Ducks Unlimited report.

\$8 million wildlife grant to benefit tribal lands

Acting Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett announced that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is awarding nearly \$8 million to help federally recognized Indian tribes conserve fish and wildlife on their lands.

The Service is awarding the grants under two programs: the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program.

The Tribal Landowner Incentive Program helps federally recognized Indian tribes protect, restore, and manage habitat for species at risk, including federally listed endangered or threatened species, as well as proposed or candidate species on tribal lands. The Service is providing

more than \$2 million to help fund 15 Tribal Landowner Incentive projects.

About \$6 million will help fund 28 projects under the Tribal Wildlife Grants program. These grants are awarded to federally recognized Indian tribes to benefit fish, wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished.

"These grants help tribes preserve and restore fish and wildlife resources that are important to their culture and heritage," said Scarlett. "These programs also encourage mutually beneficial partnerships between tribal and federal natural resource management agencies and help ensure a brighter future for fish, wildlife and their habitat on tribal

lands."

Since 2003, the Service has put more than \$38 million to work for tribal conservation efforts through the two grant programs.

"The Service's Tribal Landowner Incentive and Wildlife Grant programs provide financial resources and encourage cooperation while supporting the authority of the tribes to manage their resources," said Fish and Wildlife Service Director H. Dale Hall. "The flexibility of the programs allows the tribes great latitude in funding natural resource-management actions that are driven by their conservation priorities."

— A U.S. Fish and Wildlife report.

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HUNTING

Broken antlers

Drought haunts deer in many ways

BY MARK ENGLAND

Spotty rains haven't brought much relief from an ongoing drought, especially in South Texas. Your eyes will tell you that. Hunters, though, won't have to look at the countryside to note the effects, experts say.

It's likely they'll find deer have smaller antlers as a result — with many deer suffering from brittle antlers.

"There just seems to be more broken antlers during a drought," said Charles DeYoung, who holds the Stuart W. Stedman Chair for white-tailed deer research at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute in Kingsville. "The inside of the antlers looks different. It has a different consistency. Chalky is a good word for it."

Drought affects deer in many ways, DeYoung said.

Besides the size and strength of their antlers being diminished, deer suffer weight loss during a drought. It can also have a calamitous effect on fawn survival. Low birth weight is the main culprit.

Poorer nutrition is at the heart of the ripple effect. During a drought, less forbs (weeds) are available for deer to consume.

"When there's a wet spring, you get a lot of forb response," said Mickey Hellickson, chief wildlife biologist at the King Ranch. "Deer will shift from browse to forbs, which are a lot more digestible and nutritious. It's just the opposite during a dry spring. Fewer forbs grow and deer are forced to continue eating browse."

Examples of browse plants are greenbriar, honeysuckle and sassafras.

"That impacts antler size and probably antler strength,"

'They've been in a pretty long drought. We're well into the antler-growing season. Even with a quick turnaround in the weather, they're not going to be able to catch up.'

— CLAYTON WOLF



See **ANTLERS**, Page 10 MISSING THE POINTS: Drought can affect the strength and size of antlers.



Focusing on the game

High-tech cameras allow hunters to monitor deer activity

BY MARY HELEN AGUIRRE

An increasing number of hunters are adding high-tech scouting cameras to their arsenals.

The mountable tracking cameras are designed to provide surveillance 24 hours a day so hunters can determine when and where game is moving on their property. The cameras are triggered to shoot photos when their infrared sensors detect heat and motion.

An unexpected bonus? The occasional

funny, unusual or downright beautiful image of wildlife captured by the automated camera.

"They are tremendously popular," said Lawrence Taylor, public relations manager for Pradco Outdoor Brands who through Moultrie Feeders markets the Game Spy digital camera series (www.moultriefeeders.com).

Mark Scheurer, owner of the Heath-based Web site Native Outdoors, said "this year, (consumers) are going to be looking for new and better features, and they'll be picking up a second or third camera."

That is the case for Clint Coffee of

Midlothian. He initially purchased a Cuddeback Non-Typical Camera. When prices dropped, two more were added to monitor a 700-acre property in Stephens County.

"This is the third season we've had them. We keep them out all year," Coffee said.

But for hunters looking to purchase their first game camera, it might be a little daunting to know which model to choose and how much to pay. A quick survey found scouting cameras starting at less than \$100 to upwards of \$750.

Experts offer the following suggestions.

Definitely go digital

Digital camera sales are expected to peak in 2006, said Dimitrios Dallis, the director of marketing research for Photo Marketing Association International. Digital technology is so popular that recently Canon Inc. announced it may stop development of new film cameras to focus on digital models.

The technology is especially handy for hunters.

"The 35mm creates one big problem. You

See **CAMERAS**, Page 7



DOWNLOADING: Lawrence Taylor, above, views his field camera on his hotel television screen. Taylor brought in the camera after a morning hunt to watch any activity that came to his feeder during the night. Top left photo shows a captured image of a buck taken by a Moultrie Game Spy digital camera. Photo by David J. Sams.

TPW ups pheasant limit

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has approved increasing the daily bag limit for ring-necked pheasant in Texas Panhandle counties from two cocks to three.

The additional bird in the bag is not expected to significantly impact overall harvest based on a long-term comparison of hunter effort.

The ring-necked pheasant is a polygamous species (the male mates with multiple females) and harvest is restricted to males which will not affect the overall population, according to TPW wildlife biologists.

"An analysis of harvest data during the last 11 years (eight years at a three-bird bag limit and three years at the two-bird bag limit) indicates that

the long-term average of total harvest has remained essentially unchanged," said Vernon Beville, TPW upland game bird program director.

From 1995 to 2003 (three-bird limit, 16-day season), the average harvest was about 26,000 cocks per year. From 2003 to 2005 (two-bird bag limit, 30-day season), the harvest averaged 24,000 cocks per year.

Hunter success during the period from 1995 to 2003 was about 1.25 birds per day, while from 2003 to 2005, it was about one bird per day. The estimated number of hunters from 1995 to 2003 averaged 25,900; from 2003 to 2005 it was 24,170.

—A Texas Parks and Wildlife report.



SOFT KICK: Benelli uses its ComforTech system in its Super Black Eagle II.

BUFFER ZONE

Recoil pads shoulder the blow

BY RALPH WININGHAM

With few exceptions, the idea of repeatedly beating yourself on the shoulder with a piece of wood or plastic until you are in pain is not the average person's idea of fun.

That basic concept is part of the idea behind modern technology that has developed a "shoulder buffer" for those engaged in shooting sports called a recoil pad.

Several manufacturers are

using advanced technology to include recoil reduction systems in their shotguns.

Beretta's "Kick-Off" system uses two hydraulic dampers within the stock. Benelli's ComforTech system includes right- and left-handed pads and a split stock. The new Remington features a Convex R3 recoil pad.

All manufacturers claim their systems reduce felt recoil up to and exceeding 40 percent.

The pads made of rubber, gel or other synthetic material are all

See **RECOIL**, Page 11

Hunter's Choice bag tops list of migratory bird proposals

Pending a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decision in July, duck hunting in Texas could get less complicated.

A Central Flyway experimental bag configuration would create the "Hunter's Choice" that would help eliminate the confusing season-within-a-season framework for less abundant bird species such as pintail and canvasbacks.

If implemented by the Service, the bag limit would drop from 6 to 5 birds overall.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announced the potential option as part of proposed changes to the migratory game bird hunting regulations for 2006-07.

The "Hunter's Choice" proposal would allow hunters to shoot

five ducks daily in one of two categories. In the "aggregate category" of less abundant ducks, one of those birds could be either a pintail, canvasback, "dusky duck" (mottled, black duck or Mexican-like duck) or a hen mallard.

Including hen mallards in the category would create a buffer to help reduce the harvest of the

less-abundant pintails and canvasbacks.

The proposal would make the regulations less complex and eliminate the risk of hunters accidentally shooting a pintail or canvasback during the closed portions of the duck season, since the season-within-a-season takes place only during the last 39-days of the regular duck sea-

son.

Within the Central Flyway, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Texas and Kansas would offer the Hunter's Choice limits in the trial. Harvest results would be compared to the five states in the flyway not participating in the experiment.

—A Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

Cameras

Continued from Page 6

have to process the film. A lot of times you're hunting in remote areas and a digital camera allows you to review images immediately," said Rich Walton, president of Hawk Associates, the advertising/public relations firm for CamTrakker.com, which specializes in scouting cameras.

Don't get too focused on resolution

"We've become resolution-centric," said Dallis, who sees that trend as being dictated by the technology that allows resolution to improve each year.

Walton said hunters who just want to know what's moving on their property can opt for as little as 1.5 megapixels. Those who want fairly good photos should go for about 3 MP, he suggests, and bloggers or outfitters who might want to publish images in brochures should look at 5 MP and higher.

Coffee's game cameras have a 2 MP resolution. He mainly stores images of deer in a folder for documentation purposes.

"But, if we get a strange or a funny one, we like to share them," he said.

Study the different features

Once, you go beyond the resolution, says Dallis, consumers are looking at factors such as trigger speed, zoom lenses, quality of lenses and amount of memory. Some might want the Bluetooth wireless technology that allows the download of images without a cable.

Other features hunters might appreciate are LCD screens that let them view images on site; modes that stamp temperature and moon phase as well as time and date on each image; and strobes or flashes capable of varying distances for nighttime images.

For Coffee, the features that have proven useful are the digital memory cards, which can hold 400-500 images; D batteries that can power his game cameras for weeks at a time; and the night flash that extends to 15 feet.

"We're amazed at the deer we see at night," he says.

To familiarize yourself with the capabilities of different game cameras, chat up the clerk at your favorite hunting supply store or visit the Web sites of game camera manufacturers or online merchants.

Buy from a knowledgeable dealer

First-time buyers, especially, should look for a trusted dealer who

can answer any questions or help resolve any problems that might arise.

Scheurer, who ships his cameras all over the world from his Web site (www.nativeoutdoors.com), has many conversations with people who are looking to buy a game camera. If they can give him such information as where and how the camera is going to be used, what their budget is, and even some features that they're interested in, he can help guide them to the proper game camera.

He said consumers can get a good system for about \$200. If they want a higher-end camera, they should expect to spend up to \$450.

The next new thing?

It could be infrared. Scheurer said there is a diehard contingency who believes the nighttime flashes spook the deer and might even teach them to avoid that spot. He believes those hunters will opt for cameras with infrared lighting for nighttime pictures, which will bump up the cost of the camera by several hundred dollars.

Mary Helen Aguirre is a native Texan with almost 15 years of experience editing and writing for newspapers.

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FISHING

TPW mulls cut in coastal trout limit

Lauguna Madre's 'downward trends' stir concerns over species' population

BY DANNO WISE

As most Texas coastal anglers know, the Lower Laguna Madre in deep South Texas has long been recognized as one of the state's most unique fisheries. However, data collected by Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists over the past decade has

pushed the Lower Laguna Madre to the cusp of officially being declared one-of-a-kind.

According to Larry McKinney, director of coastal fisheries for TPW, the department has noticed some "downward trends" that have "caused some concern." Those concerns have led TPW to consider a brave new (at least to Texas) man-

agement technique — regionalization. Essentially, if enacted, regional management would allow for localized fishery management.

As currently considered, the Lower Laguna Madre, from the Land Cut south to Port Isabel, would be a separate 'zone' from the rest of the state coastal waters and would be managed based on its

needs, rather than statewide trends.

The importance of this is underscored by recent TPW studies that show the Laguna Madre is the only bay system in Texas not experiencing an upward trend in the size and numbers of spotted seatrout.

"Talking about trout on a statewide basis can give a false impression," McKinney said. "Trout

are very specific to certain bay systems — they don't move from bay to bay, nor do they move offshore to spawn, like redfish. We have proven this with our genetic testing, where we've found distinctive stocks — reproductive populations — in different bay systems.

"So, what we are looking at is

See *LIMIT*, Page 9

PITCHING FOR BASS

Fishing technique used for centuries is all in the wrist

BY LARRY NIXON

If a bass could build its ideal habitat, the specs would be something like this: shallow water, in or near heavy cover with quick access to deep water nearby. Pulling bass out of water in or near heavy cover can pose access problems, however.

Safe and secure in its ideal surroundings, the bass has an ideal ambush point should it decide to feed on baitfish or crawfish. A bass isn't going to have a very big strike zone, so don't expect it to come charging out from cover to devour any fast-moving bait that just happens to be in the area.

Anglers should put bait right where the bass lives. Sometimes the bait has to work through an opening no bigger than a coffee can or under low-hanging trees. When cast-

ing, a big splash could spook the fish. This is where pitching comes in.

Pitching has been used for centuries with anglers tying lines to the end of a cane, making it easy to guide the bait to a desired location.

It worked then, and it works better today with the high-tech rods and reels.

Being a proficient pitcher can make an angler's days on the water much more successful — whether it's getting the bait in a small opening near heavy cover, under low-hanging limbs or around boat docks.

Pitching is ideal for using in off-color or muddy water. It's best for targets between 10 to 30 feet away, providing a quiet lure entry. Use a heavy rod with plenty of backbone to wrestle big fish

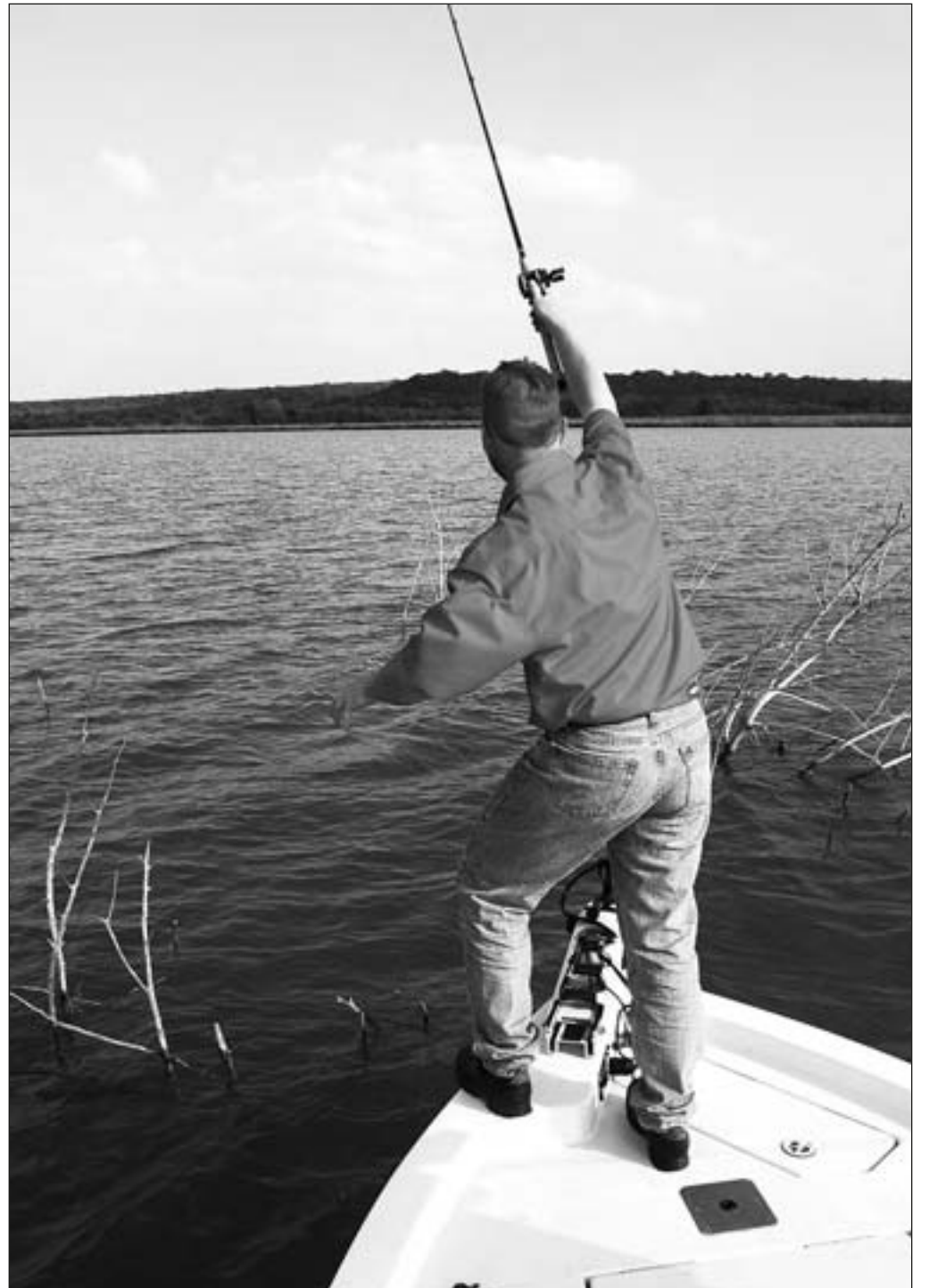


PITCHING PRO: Larry Nixon holds a bass caught on Lake Fork.

out of cover.

A must for anglers who use jigs, near-

See *PITCHING*, Page 10



QUIET CAST: Pitching is a way to avoid the big splash which could spook the fish. It's a technique that is good to use in off-color or muddy water. Photo by David J. Sams.



CLEAR, CALM WATERS: Fish slicks can be spotted on waters the year around. Paul Hudspeth and Terry Bodiford celebrate a catch in the Land Cut.

Fish slicks can make angler's day shine with success

BY MARK ENGLAND

Experienced anglers know that calm waters capped with a sheen and fraught with the smell of watermelon usually signal the start of some slick fishing.

"A fish slick is a good place to fish," said Bill Balboa, ecosystem

leader at Matagorda Bay for Texas Parks and Wildlife. "Especially if it just popped up. It means the fish are actively fishing at that point."

In other words, the big 'uns are hunting the little 'uns.

The predator fish can include trout, redfish, flounder or catfish, among others. The likeliest candidates for the bait fish are men-

haden, anchovies, mullet and shad.

"The predators chew up the prey into bits and pieces," Balboa said. "The oilier the prey fish, the bigger the slick. And since oil is lighter than water, it floats and produces a shine on the surface."

Menhaden, commercially fished for their oil and protein, especially produce a big fish slick, Balboa said.

However, the oil on the water's surface is more than just the remains of bait fish.

"All of the predator fishes feed beyond their needs," said David McKee, biology professor at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. "They regurgitate — like at the old Roman orgies — and then keep eating. It produces partially digested fish

along with stomach oils."

Both contribute to the surface sheen, although the oil from the prey fish is present in larger amounts.

As far as the calming of the water seen in fish slicks, a chemist attributed the effect to surfactants, substances capable of reducing the sur-

See *SLICKS*, Page 10

Association warns buyers to beware of damaged boats

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita may continue to cause devastation well into the 2006 boating season, warns the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA).

Due to the hurricanes in 2005, many boats were damaged or destroyed. The Boat Owners Association of the United States estimates that damages to recreational vessels as a result of Hurricane Katrina alone are \$650-\$750 million. Some of these boats are being sold as merely "used" to unsuspecting buyers.

"Sadly, unethical people are everywhere, even in times of disaster," said Rick Barrera, chairman of NASBLA's Numbering & Titling Committee. "Used boat buyers should take precautions to protect themselves down the road," he said.

Of the states that require titling, fewer than 10 require the titles of boats that have been totaled to be marked "salvaged."

Consumers, boating registration personnel and others can utilize a database of watercraft affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita developed by the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

According to the NICB, by March 2006, there were 206,000 vehicles in its flooded motor vehicle and boat database. The NICB warns that flooded vessels may be cleaned up, moved and sold in other areas of the country by unscrupulous operators.

Although the vessels were totaled by insurance companies and some are identified with the word "salvage" on their titles (meaning that they are not fit for any use except for scrap or parts), they could end up on the market in states where it is rela-

'Used boat buyers should take precautions to protect themselves down the road.'

— RICK BARRERA

tively easy to apply for a new title.

If a consumer buys one of these boats, they could be in for a surprise that could prove costly.

NASBLA encourages boat buyers to check out the history of any used vessel they may purchase. They can do this by searching the NICB database for watercraft affected by the hurricanes.

To access the database go to www.nicb.org and enter the hull identification number (HIN) of the boat you are buying. The HIN can be found on the right rear of the watercraft hull. While not all vessels scraped for salvage are in the database, it is one tool consumers can use to help lessen the chance of fraud.

Barrera said, "If a deal on a boat sounds too good to be true, most times it is. Take a few extra steps and make sure the vessel you are buying is legitimate and will provide a safe and enjoyable experience for you and your family."

— A Texas Parks and Wildlife report.



DARK DEALS: Damaged boats could end up on the market in states where it is relatively easy to apply for a new title. Photo by Erich Schlegel.

Limit

Continued from Page 8

managing the population of the Lower Laguna Madre in a different manner than the rest of the state," McKinney said. "The Lower Laguna is such a unique place — it has all the elements to be the very best seatrout fishery in the world. We feel with a little different management, we can help that along.

"But, we won't people to know that, from a fisheries management standpoint, the Lower Laguna is still in fine shape," McKinney said. "We just want to explore some options that can help reverse some of the downward trends we're seeing."

Randy Blankinship, the TPW biologist assigned to the Lower Laguna Madre, has spent the past decade or so studying the Lower Laguna's seatrout population and, though he sees no reason to panic, he is a little unsettled by what he's witnessed over the past few years.

"The Lower Laguna seatrout population is certainly in no danger of collapse," Blankinship said. "The population is not being overfished. But, we are seeing some disturbing trends that could lead to overfishing.

"Basically, over the last 8-10 years, we've seen an overall downward trend in our spring gillnet surveys," Blankinship said.

"In addition to the freezes of the '80s, the Lower Laguna Madre, more than any other bay in Texas, was affected by the 1997 freeze," Blankinship said. "Add to that the drought through the late '90s, and we have seen an impact on trout recruitment."

Texas Parks and Wildlife took yet another step closer to regional management of the spotted seatrout fishery earlier this month when it held three public "scoping" meetings in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

All three meetings were held in cities (Port Isabel, Harlingen and Port Mansfield) adjacent to the bay system. During the meetings, TPW biologists presented their argument for consider-

ing regional management.

The first of the scoping meetings, held June 5 in Port Isabel, drew around two-dozen fishermen — both professional guides and recreational anglers. After seeing the evidence Blankinship put before them, the vast majority of those in attendance agreed a change needs to occur in the management of the Lower Laguna Madre spotted seatrout stock.

"I think it's obvious that we (fishermen) are the problem — we're taking too many fish," said South Padre Island guide Capt. Randy Rogers. "And, I don't think something like a reduced bag limit would hurt our business at all. In fact, it would probably improve it, because we would be improving the fishery."

"I've been limiting my customers to five fish for the last few years and it hasn't hurt me a bit," said Port Mansfield guide Capt. Bruce Shuler. "We are as busy as we can possibly be."

Arroyo City guide Capt. Dan Coley agreed. "I've been polling my clients for the last several years," said Coley. "I fish about 200 days a year with an average of four clients per trip — that's 800 people a year. They've all said they would be fine with a five-fish bag limit. They just want to experience good fishing."

Other suggestions included an increased minimum size limit and the possibility of reducing the times people are allowed to fish.

When queried as to TPW's goal in regards to regional management, Blankinship said it would be to return the Lower Laguna to its "historical production," which means producing the numbers of quality fish the bay was once famous for.

After further analysis of both research information and the feedback gathered through the scoping meetings, a second round of scoping meetings will be held in July and August. A proposal could be put before the TPW Commission in either November 2006 or January 2007. Any approved change would take effect in September 2007 for the 2007-08 licensing period.



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Slicks

Continued from Page 8

face tension of the liquid in which they dissolve.

"A surfactant is the technical description of detergent," said Patrick Larkin, an assistant chemistry professor at Texas A&M-CC. "Surfactants break up water molecules so they're not in as close contact to each other. It reduces the tension, smoothes the surface."

The fatty acids in fish can act as surfactants, said Larkin, who noted that pioneers used to make a crude soap from animal fat.

McKee said sailors have long known of the benefits of fish oil. When several ships traveled together, an old sailor's trick was to dump fish remains off the lead boat, he said.

"It calmed the water behind them for the next boat," McKee said.

Although fish slicks can be found year round, they're more common in the spring and summer, Balboa said.

That's due to the metabolism of fish, which is tied to the water temperature. The higher the water tem-

perature, the higher the metabolic rate of fish — so they eat more. In winter, fish don't need to eat as often, given their slower metabolic rate.

Spotting a fish slick, however, doesn't automatically mean good times ahead. They can fool you, McKee said.

"You may stop and start casting and find nothing under you," he said. "It may be an hour old, come up half a mile away and drifted in the wind."

Spotting a fish slick as it pops to the surface is your best bet. After that, you need to know what to look for.

"Fresh fish slicks tend to be tight when they come to the surface," McKee said. "They get a little larger as they get older and lose some of their sheen. Those are your best indicators of how recent a slick is."

As far as the watermelon smell associated with fish slicks — stop here if you're squeamish — it has to do with regurgitation.

"Take human regurgitation," McKee said. "It all smells pretty much the same. Well, let's just say the digestive process in fish seems to be very similar."

Mark England is associate editor of Lone Star Outdoor News.

Sandies

Continued from Page 1

bly the top three."

Farther east, Lake Tawakoni fishing guide Joe Read said his parties have been "limiting out," or keeping 25 white bass each, 10 inches or more in length.

"They've been schooling on top for awhile. They usually do that throughout the summer," Read said. He's been getting ready for a sand bass tournament on June 10, sponsored by the Lake Tawakoni Sportsmen's Association, which hopes to raise funds for a fish-cleaning station.

At Richland Chambers Reservoir, fishing guide Bob Holmes said, "They're (white bass) on top right now, and the hybrids are on top with them. It's a bonus for me." He's throwing a Torpedo lure and a small spoon.

In south central Texas, Lake Corpus Christi has been turning up larger than usual white bass, said John Findeisen, fisheries biologist for TPW in Mathis.

"The interesting thing with Corpus is that the fish are reaching 16, 17 inches," he said. "As the result of the reservoir filling in 2002, we had a huge plankton bloom. The shad expanded, and the white bass were able to take advantage of that."

Choke Canyon is another lake that's traditionally good for whites. "Most of the time this time of year, I've seen the largest schools between Telephone Point and the dam," Findeisen said. For top-water fishing, lures like Little Georges, Gay Blades — any good



HOT SPOT: Anglers on Dallas-area lakes last weekend were having a busy time landing white bass. Don Schults, left, and Jim Peters haul in another white bass on Lake Grapevine. They were bottom bouncing Mann's spoons in 24 feet of water. Photo by David J. Sams.

shad imitations — seem to work best, he said.

Lake Brownwood and Lake Fort Phantom Hill have been good all spring, although the heavy rains at the end of May muddied the water, said Robert Cole, senior fisheries technician for TPW in Abilene. "They'll chase shad to the surface off and on all year long," he said. "Typically, at Phantom it'll slow down as the water heats up."

Top-water fishing will have slowed down by mid-June in Canyon Lake in the Texas Hill Country. Fish activity patterns in Lake Travis, Lake Georgetown, Lake Buchanan and Canyon — "the four biggies" in that region for white bass — are about two weeks ahead of the northern part of the state, said Steve

Magnelia, fisheries biologist for TPW in San Marcos.

"We do have some top-water fishing in Lake Buchanan into early June, but that's pretty much the end of it here," Magnelia said. After that, anglers have to go deep.

Whatever the lake, fillet your white bass and remove and discard the red meat portion for the best eating, said Cole from TPW in Abilene.

"In the warm weather, you really need to throw these fish on ice if you're going to keep them, instead of keeping them in a live well," he said. "If you're not going to keep them, it's best to release them right away."

Diana Kunde has 30 years of experience writing and editing. She is a freelancer based in Arlington.

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Antlers

Continued from Page 6

Hellickson said.

Clayton Wolf, Big Game program director for Texas Parks and Wildlife, said he doesn't think a reduction in antler size and brittle antlers "necessarily go hand-in-hand."

Wolf predicts antler size will be down among deer in South Texas. "They've been in a pretty long drought," he said. "We're well into the antler-growing season. Even with a quick turnaround in the weather, they're not going to be able to catch up."

However, rain later this summer could keep antlers strong, he said.

"If forage conditions improve," Wolf said.

Research on brittle antlers is almost nonexistent. Evidence regarding the condition is largely anecdotal, both DeYoung and Hellickson said.

A study on brittle antlers in mule deer by the United States Air Force Academy looked at the effects of fluoride and not drought. It determined that Colorado deer suffering from brittle antlers — as well as teeth lesions — had higher concentrations of fluoride.

Hellickson said he's heard anecdotal reports from hunters who claim to be seeing evidence of brittle antlers.

Older bucks are most susceptible, he believes.

"I think age is a factor regardless of nutrition," Hellickson said.

A drought, though, puts all bucks at risk.

"During a drought year, you're going to see a higher percentage of bucks with lighter antlers," Hellickson said.

What effect brittle antlers have on deer isn't well-known, DeYoung said. Deer use antlers to advertise their presence, and large, intact antlers may translate into dominance — allowing bucks more access to females.

"But that's kind of a long line of supposition," DeYoung said.

Pitching

Continued from Page 8

ly any single-hook bait can be pitched. With this Texas-rigged bait on the line, face the target, depress the line release trigger and let out enough line so that the bait is even with the first guide. With the bait in the off-hand and about waist level, lower the rod tip toward the water and put some

tension on the line. In one smooth, quick motion, swing the rod tip toward the target and upward, letting go of the bait in the free hand. This is all controlled with the wrist — arm movement is not a factor.

As the bait moves beneath the rod tip, release the line and continue raising the rod tip and control the spool with your thumb. The bait should fly just above the water's surface and should land in its desired location through a

combination of line tension and rod movement. Stopping the bait just before it enters the water almost always ensures a smooth, splash-free entry.

Pitching takes practice. Set up some drills in the backyard and work on accurate, quiet casts. The age-old technique is many anglers favorite way to target big fish.

Larry Nixon is a former Bassmaster Classic champion with more than \$2 million in career earnings. Nixon lives in Bee Branch, Ark.

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Recoil

Continued from Page 6

designed to put a barrier between the shotgun stock and the shooter's shoulder to handle recoil from each shot.

With a choice of more than 70 types of pads from about a half-dozen manufacturers such as Butler Creek, HiViz, Limbsaver and Pachmayr, in addition to special pads by gun manufacturers, picking the best pad for a shooter is generally an individual decision.

The price range for the various pads can be from less than \$20 for slip-on models to about \$40 for cut-to-fit pads that must be shaped for each stock.

"I recommend that a shooter find a recoil pad that absorbs, not stores, the energy from recoil," said Gary Greenway, chief instructor for the National Sporting Clays Association shooting instruction program.

"Gun fit is important, because you want the recoil all going into the shoulder so there is less felt recoil," he said. "You don't want the shotgun recoiling into your face or away from your face, but straight into your shoulder."

Greenway said his personal choice is a KICK EEZ pad because of the brand's recoil-absorbing quality and durability.

"For me, the KICK EEZ seems to absorb more recoil and the pads hold up pretty good," said the Master Class shooter who fires thousands of rounds each year.

Gunsmith David Dury of Dury's Gun Shop in San Antonio, who has installed hundreds of recoil pads, said he normally recommends the Pachmayr Decelerator models.

"A lot of people will feel a pad

with their thumb and think it is good because it feels soft. The problem is that those kind of pads won't last and might have to be replaced in three or four years," Dury said.

"A good pad will still be working after 20 or 30 years."

Fitting the pads to a stock, even by a qualified gunsmith, can be difficult because of the shape and design of the various pads, he added.

"The slip-on pads can be a problem because they add to the length of pull (which can affect the felt recoil) and can discolor the stock after lengthy use," Dury said.

Another undesirable feature with some of the soft or textured recoil pads is they can catch on the shooter's clothing or vest as the shotgun is mounted into the shoulder.

Most of the newer, better models are cut at an angle at the top of the pad or have a harder, slicker top on the pad to prevent this hindrance to a smooth mount. Some shooters who favor the recoil absorbing feature of soft pads will cover the back of the pad with slick tape as their solution to the problem.

Both of the experts agree that gun fit, no matter which type of pad is selected, is a vital element in managing recoil.

Novice shooters and veterans alike will benefit from having a knowledgeable gun fitter check out their shotgun's length of pull, height and thickness of the comp, cast and pitch. All of these elements can impact felt recoil.

After making sure the shotgun fits, each shooter can then find a pad that fits his or her individual needs.

Ralph Winingham is an award-winning outdoor writer, photographer, competitive shooter and National Sporting Clays Association Level II shooting instructor based in San Antonio.



CHOW TIME: Brandon Shuler tosses out a handful of chum over rocks five miles offshore. Photo by David J. Sams.

Chumming

Continued from Page 1

don't have to be a world-class offshore angler in order to mix things up a bit and add a new wrinkle or two to your bluewater day.

"A lot of people really get locked into bouncing bait off the bottom and just working close to structure for bottom fish," said Capt. Bruce Shuler of Get-A-Way Adventures Lodge in Port Mansfield. "I liken it to crappie fishing — but offshore. Basically, you find structure and fish bait around it. It is pretty much vertical fishing. It can be productive — and fun for awhile — but, it gets a little repetitive."

"To mix it up a bit, I recommend chumming — even for species like red snapper," Shuler said. "It is really easy

and you can fish the same locations. But, instead of just dropping a bait straight to the bottom, start chumming and get those fish to come up a little bit in the water column. When you have good visibility, you can see those sow snapper come up off the structure. Then you can actually sight cast to specific fish."

"The other thing we do to make it more interesting is to go lighter with our tackle," Shuler said. "But you have to decide — is it about putting fish in the boat or about enjoying the pull on the end of the line? If you want to have fun — lighten up your tackle. We routinely catch kingfish on our trout tackle and use reels as light as Pflueger 66s for red snapper. You will lose some fish by going lighter. But, if you accept that, you'll have a lot more fun."

Veteran offshore angler Matt Thornton, who has spent plenty of time perched in the fighting chair during competitions such as the Texas International Fishing Tournament, says snapper are part of his "fun" fishing plan, but there are ways to mix in other species as well. "We do fish for snapper quite a bit," Thornton said. "But, I like to troll a few lines on the way to and from the structure we're fishing. I really like trolling feathers and Rapalas when the kings are in close — particularly on a small boat on a calm day. Being offshore fishing light tackle in a smaller boat, as opposed to a big sportfisher, makes it more exciting — and makes all the fish seem bigger."

Danno Wise is an outdoor writer, artist and fishing guide who lives in Port Isabel.

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HUNTING NEWS, ARTICLES
AND KNOW-HOW

Hearing

Continued from Page 1

Stewart, who has written on the subject, speculates that dogs could suffer even more than humans because of their exceptional hearing. He pointed out that hunters often don't realize that if a dog is in front of the shotgun when it's fired, the dog's ears are feeling the full concussion from the blast.

For humans, hearing loss can begin when sound reaches 85 decibels for an extended period of time, according to experts. Gunshot blasts can reach 140 decibels.

According to David Hinebaugh, a California veterinarian whose practice includes hunting dogs, if a person's ears are ringing — which is a sign of possible hearing damage — then the dog's ears are most likely at risk also.

So how can a hunter tell if his dog is suffering from hearing loss? Look for

“hard-headed” or confused behavior as Hinebaugh put it.

Dogs that appear to be ignoring commands or distracted could have hearing loss, for example.

Jon Levine, a veterinary neurologist and assistant professor at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine, said a dog suffering hearing loss might be slow to obey or easy to startle.

He recalled the case of a hunting dog that suffered loss in one ear that had to be retrained with visual cues. “It was fairly effective,” Levine said.

If a hunter suspects his dog has hearing loss, then he can start testing different whistle tones to see if the dog responds, Stewart added. A vet visit wouldn't be a bad idea either, he said, to help confirm the problem.

Levine said veterinarian clinics with access to a veterinary neurologist or the ability to use the Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response test can determine if a

dog has hearing loss. The test, called BAER, uses headphones and clicking sounds to evaluate hearing.

Levine said dog owners often ask him if there are hearing aids designed for dogs.

“In general, the answer to that question is no,” Levine said.

Hinebaugh agreed the options are limited. Preventive measures such as using a special enclosure for your dog while hunting out of a blind can help, he said.

“You've got to think where the noise is going,” he said.

Dogs aren't known for easily accepting foreign objects in their ears — such as human earplugs — Hinebaugh said. But he added that it wouldn't hurt to try, noting he has had success with one of his own hunting dogs wearing protection.

“You might be surprised your dog can tolerate it,” he said.

Darlene McCormick Sanchez is contributing editor of the Lone Star Outdoor News.



KNOW THE SIGNS: Dogs that appear to be ignoring commands or distracted could have hearing loss.

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MADE IN TEXAS

Artist has special tie to his craft

BY MARY HELEN AGUIRRE

Douglas McKnight is an expert in the art of fly-tying. In a matter of two to 10 minutes, he can produce a hand-tied fly that will land a catch for many a fly-fisherman.

McKnight is also an artist with expertise in replicating Victorian-era flies, some of which have landed him a spot in an art gallery. Those flies take considerably longer to tie.

"They take anywhere from five to 25 hours, including the framing," says McKnight about the complex Atlantic Salmon fly designs that originated in the mid-to-late-1800s.

The Dallas artist says some of the material he uses in his art pieces is "antique stuff" that he might find at such venues as estate sales. He also incorporates exotic feathers, such as toucan or peacock, into his designs.

Corinne Elliot, gallery manager at Jack Dennis' Wyoming Gallery in Jackson Hole, uses such words as "vibrant," "beautiful" and "special" to describe McKnight's pieces.

"They're beautifully done and beautifully framed," she says of the artwork that starts at about \$500 in her gallery.

"The vibrant colors really grab

people," says Elliot, who adds that trout enthusiasts especially have shown a strong appreciation for McKnight's work.

McKnight, who is the fly-fishing manager for The Rise Fly-fishing & Wingshooting by day, has been a custom fly-tier since he was 20. He says he learned the basics at about 10 from his dad, Ron McKnight of Pennsylvania.

He credits "The Art of the Trout Fly" by Judith Dunham for inspiring him to try his hand at artistic fly-tying. The book features essays and photographs of distinctive creations from international masters.

"I saw the pictures and I thought, 'I've got to do these.' It had unbelievable flies — nothing short of art," he says.

But the majority of his work — he spends at least two to four hours per day on his craft — will end up in the water.

He generally likes a week or two of notice to fulfill orders and charges about \$2 to \$8 per piece.

"From March through August is my busy time. Right now, I have a pile of saltwater flies and a few trout flies for people leaving on trips," says McKnight, who has a room in his house stocked with natural and synthetic materials, including feathers, fur and fibers. "Some will show me a particular



THERE'S A CATCH TO IT: Douglas McKnight can "tie hundreds of different patterns" that entice a variety of species. Photo by David J. Sams.

fly that worked and order a bunch more and I'll replicate that," he says.

Or, customers can tell him where they are traveling and the species of fish they are going after, and he will consult his master list.

"I can tie hundreds of different

patterns," he says.

Many of the patterns are tried-and-true designs that have been around for a while. But about 40 to 50 are originals that McKnight says are different from anything out there. His crimp, for example, was designed to entice catfish, red-

fish, permit and bonefish. Beginning in August, the half-crab and half-shrimp flies will be available through Umpqua Feather Merchants (www.umpqua.com).

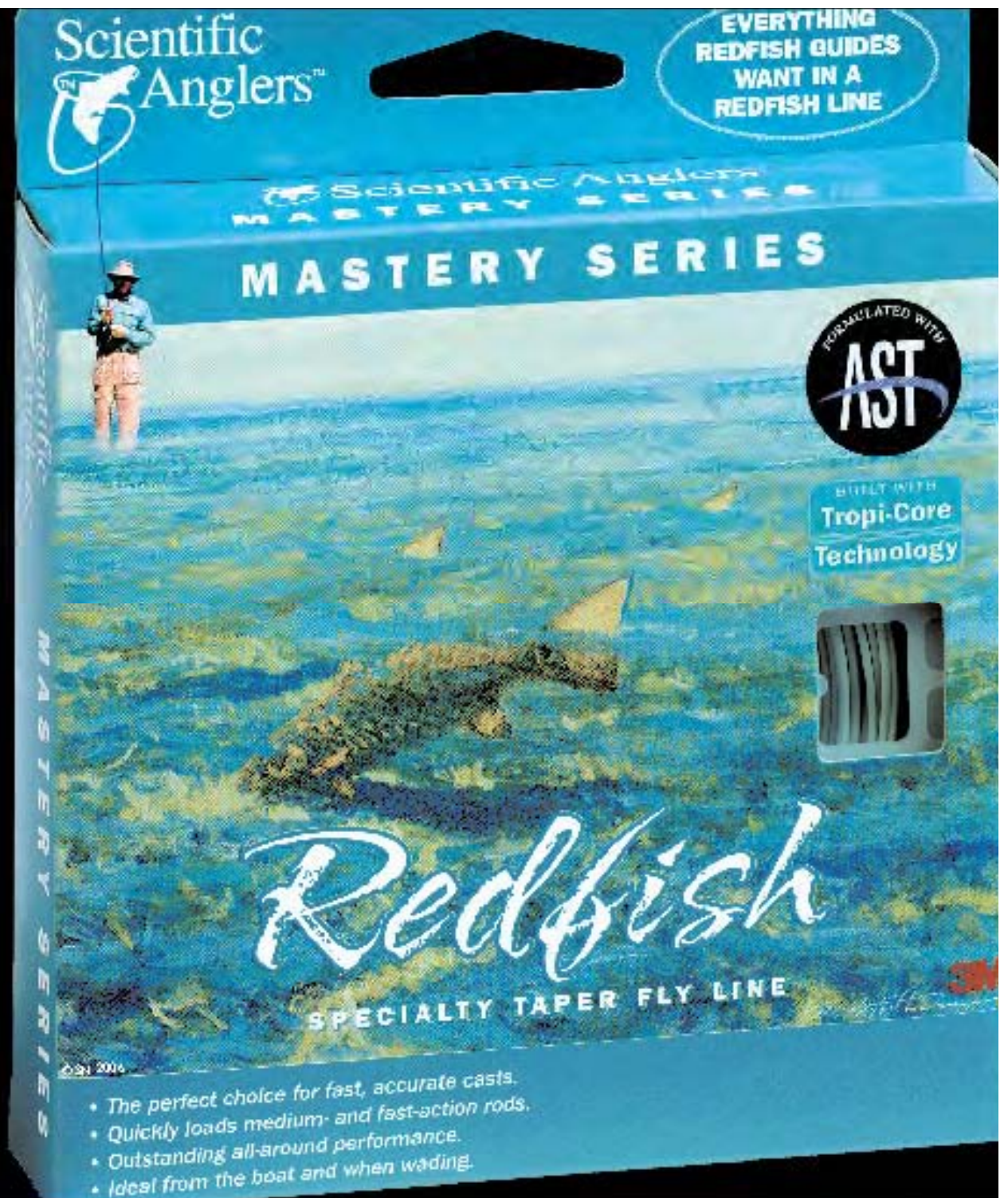
For more information about McKnight's custom flies, call (214) 683-4620.

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HEROES



JULIA HENRY, 10, caught a 1.5-pound largemouth bass at the Cross Timbers Duck Club in DeLeon.



MADDIE HOOFARD, 11, caught this crappie at a farm pond in Duster.



ROY HEARD and his grandson, **MATTHEW**, show turkeys they bagged near Brady.



DANA STEVENSON caught a snook on a soft plastic at South Padre. The 23 1/2-inch fish was released.

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.



CARTER MOORE, 10, of Nacogdoches caught this 8-pound largemouth bass at a private pond. He caught it on a Zoom Super Salty Fluke.



IAN VOELZEL of Austin set a new state fly-fishing record for redear sunfish while fishing on the South Fork of the Guadalupe River. The sunfish was 12-inches long and weighed 1.51 pounds. It was caught using a streamer.



DUSTIN SWANBURG and **CHAD KINNEY** show a yellow grouper. The fish was caught off Port Mansfield.

ON THE MOVE

A smooth ride with a strong pull

BY PETER B. MATHIESEN

There are few SUVs that have won the hearts and minds of boat haulers more than the 2-wheel-drive GMC Yukon. Past models have had stellar performance with vehicle size being much more manageable than its 18-inch larger cousin, the Yukon XL. It's no secret that with its successful pedigree, GM has a lot riding on this SUV's acceptance with Texas outdoorsmen.

So, is the new Yukon really new? Yes, it is. The exterior of the truck has dramatically changed. The outside lines are smoother and much more SUV looking than the past model's truck-like appearance. Inside is a completely revised dash, with numerous options like an auto opening rear gate, backup camera and numerous intuitive electronic components. The seats are roomy and are still the gold standard of large truck interiors.

Under the hood, there is no lack of horsepower and that's what any flats or bass boat owner will want to know. The standard available 5.3L V8 for the SLE and SLT sports a brawny 320-HP with a 4-speed transmission.

One of the biggest changes is GM's new Active Fuel Management System that allows the engine to run on 4 or 8 cylinders as needed. The good news is that if I wouldn't have been monitoring the system I would have never known that the engine had ever changed; the transition was virtually seamless.

That said, I'm not sure the fuel economy was any better than a 2006 Yukon. My daily driving in town was around 14 mpg with highway coming in at 16.5. While towing a 3,000-pound boat on flat ground with little wind at 70 mph, it fell to approximately 11.5 mpg. The handling was solid even with the



IN FOR THE LONG HAUL: The Yukon's 7,500-pound towing capacity is realistic and the truck pulls with authority. Photo by Peter B. Mathiesen.

boat, and the brakes were improved over last year's model. The 7,500-pound towing capacity is realistic and the truck pulls with authority. The Yukon comes standard with StabiliTrak traction/antiskid for ride assurance and tow/haul mode on the column.

The Bad News: Unless it improves after break-in, the fuel economy measured far below its EPA estimates of 16/21. For my taste the new styling is a little more SUV than truck-like, and I would love a 5-speed transmission.

The Good News: With comfort, impressive handling, snappy power and great seats, the Yukon still stands as an outstanding tow-

ing performer.

Bottom Line: The whole package indicates this truck will be up to the task to harness the hard work with an enhanced daily driving experience. To my surprise, I quickly got used to the rear back-up camera (it's a little surreal at first) for hitching up a trailer in addition to avoiding unseen obstacles. And the rear auto-opening door was actually a bonus. For anyone with a load to pull to the ranch, lake or beach, the new Yukon has luxury along with the capable pedigree of a working SUV.

Base prices start at \$33,000 for an SLE and \$40,060 for an SLT. For more information, go

to www.GMC.com

What Others Say:

"This is a great truck for traveling in comfort. All switchgear is utterly intuitive — no owner's manual needed." — Dan Wiese/St. Louis Post-Dispatch

"GM has paid special attention to insulating all those nooks and crannies that transmit noise." — Steve Purdy/The AutoChannel.com

Peter B. Matheson has written about automobiles and ATVs for eight years for *Field & Stream* magazine.

GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

SONAR USED TO FIND VICTIM

•Grayson County Game Wardens Dale Moses, Jim Ballard and Randolph McGee responded to a drowning on Lake Texoma. A 14-year-old boy drowned while wading to an island on a sandbar with his brother and another youth. Maj. Butch Shoop and Wise County Game Warden Chris Dowdy helped locate the victim using a side-scan sonar, which was purchased through a grant from Operation Game Thief.

GIVING AWAY THE EVIDENCE

•Wichita County Game Wardens Luett McMahan and Pat Canan received a call on about possible illegal fishing on Lake Wichita. By the time McMahan arrived, the suspects had left the lake but had given their illegal hybrid stripers to another person. McMahan interviewed a number of people at the lake as well as the person who made the complaint. The next day, McMahan and Canan located one of the suspects and obtained a confession along with the name of another suspect. Five citations plus one warning were issued for possession of undersized hybrids, over the daily bag limit and no fishing license.

JUMPING INTO TROUBLE

•While patrolling Lake Whitney, Hill County Game Warden Mark Hammonds and Bosque County Game Warden Preston Spiller came across three youths attempting to climb a cliff located in a restricted area on Corps of Engineers property. The climbers were escorted back to their boat where several of their friends had been waiting for them to jump from the cliff into the water. Hammonds and Spiller escorted the boat to shore and tested all of the juveniles for alcohol. Four citations were issued for minor in consumption, and the boat's owner was cited for not having enough lifejackets on the vessel. Cases pending.

TEEN OK AFTER JET SKI ACCIDENT

•Hood County Game Warden Danny Tuggle, while patrolling Lake Granbury, was dispatched to a Jet Ski accident. A 15-year-old boy had hit a boat dock at a high rate of speed. The teen was transported to

MAN SHOOTS GEESE AS A FAVOR

Bowie County Game Warden Shawn Hervey received a call that a man in a red Ford truck was shooting Canada geese. Hervey located the truck and confronted the shooter. The shooter said he

was doing the property owner a favor because he had complained that the geese were defecating all over his property. Charges were filed, and four geese were taken from the rear of his truck.

the local hospital in good condition.

PASSENGER ASSISTED TO SHORE AFTER WATERCRAFT DRIVER DROWNS

•While riding a personal watercraft on Lake Grapevine, a 28-year-old man stopped to swim and removed his life jacket. While swimming, the man went under and failed to resurface. The female who was with him tried to find him, but could not. The man had the key to the watercraft around his wrist when he drowned, so the passenger drifted until she was assisted to shore. After a three days, and with the assistance of the side-scan sonar from Wise County, the body was recovered. The victim was from Argentina, and contact with his family had to be made through the Argentine Consulate.

HOMELESS MAN ON THE RUN

•Henderson County Game Warden Audie Hamm stopped to check two people fishing under a bridge on Cedar Creek Lake. One could not produce a fishing license and gave Hamm his name. Hamm contacted Austin Communications. No fishing license was listed under the name he had given. Hamm and the man returned to the bank (which is where the man was living), and the man presented Hamm with a Texas driver's license that showed a different name. He then fled on foot. A check of the license revealed the suspect had more than 20 aliases and a criminal history. The man remains at large.

COSTLY CATCH

•Harris County Game Wardens Kevin Mitchell and Derek Spitzer received a final disposition in JP court on a case in which they found a Seabrook retail seafood store in possession of 1,068 undersized red snapper. The defendant was found guilty on all 70 cases

and fined \$100 per case, plus court costs. Restitution is pending.

CONTESTANT GETS LUCKY

•Zapata County Game Wardens Jesse Garcia and Martin Oviedo responded to a call for help from a stranded boater participating in a fishing tournament. The angler's engine on the boat had died during the contest. The wardens were able to tow him and his boat back to the Zapata public boat ramp in time for the weigh-in.

NETS HAULED IN

•Zapata County Game Warden Jesse Garcia received a complaint of illegal gill nets on Falcon Lake south of Zapata. Garcia proceeded to the given location and found about 2,000 feet of unattended gill net, which was seized. At the same time, Zapata County Game Warden Fernando Cervantes was patrolling Falcon Lake north of Zapata when he came upon several sections of unattended gill net stretched across the Rio Grande River. Fernando seized another 2,000 feet of net. One gar fish measuring about 4 feet was found in the nets.

FRIO DEER BREEDER ACCUSED

•A scientific breeder investigation initiated by Game Warden Sgt. Brad Chappell, Game Wardens Neal McCann and Stormy King branched off into Frio County. The investigators believe a Frio County landowner had unlawfully captured white-tailed deer from the wild. Sgt. Chappell and Game Warden Michael Morse interviewed those involved, which resulted in 12 Class B misdemeanors filed in Frio County Court.

VODKA MADE HIM MISS HER

•Guadalupe County Wardens Tracy Large and Kevin Frazier were called to Lake McQueeney for a

watercraft accident. It was 11:45 p.m., and the man involved was operating the vehicle without a lifejacket and at full throttle when he hit a gravel bar and was thrown off. The man was not hurt, but told the first people on the scene that his girlfriend had been with him. After searching the lake for about an hour, the girl called and said that she was not with him. An empty fifth of vodka was found on the watercraft. The operator was arrested on boating while intoxicated charges.

STRANDED VEHICLE LEADS TO DISCOVERY

•Montgomery County Game Warden Zak Bengé received a call from a deputy sheriff concerning a vehicle trespassing on some property near the Trinity River. The vehicle was reportedly stuck. The warden met with the deputies and was gathering information when another vehicle began exiting the pasture. Bengé attempted to stop the vehicle but it accelerated and went around his truck and began to flee. He followed the vehicle until the driver lost control, went through a fence and into the backyard of a residence where it came to a stop. All three people inside bailed out of the truck and ran to the river bottom. Based on evidence found in the truck, it appeared the group had been cooking methamphetamine and took the finished product with them. However they still had enough of the ingredients in the truck to make about \$17,000 worth of methamphetamine. Tracking dogs were called to the scene, but they were unsuccessful in finding the suspects. The investigation continues.

MAN SURVIVES 35-FOOT DROP OVER DAM

•Guadalupe County game wardens, along with Karnes County

Warden Chad Moore and intern Mario Barajas, were called to Lake Placid for a watercraft accident. A 35-year-old man had driven his watercraft at full throttle over the Lake Placid Dam. It's a 35-foot drop, and the driver had landed about 30 feet from the dam on a concrete apron. He broke both legs, including his femur, and broke his pelvis in three places. The investigation continues and charges of BWI are expected.

DISPUTE LEADS TO CHASE

•Mills and Comanche County Wardens Gary Voges and Mike Alexander were patrolling Lake Proctor when a deputy called for assistance on a domestic dispute at the lake. The wardens arrived just as a pepper-sprayed man jumped into his car and sped away, nearly hitting the wardens head-on. Officers pursued the man for 15 miles until he drove into a pasture near his mother's house and ran into the woods. Since the deputy knew who the man was, the search was called off and a warrant was obtained.

'GATOR GOT THE POINT

•Bowie County Game Warden Shawn Hervey received a call from a fisherman that an alligator had made its way into the spillway area and had become a target for bow fishermen. Cass County Game Warden Dan Hill, along with both the Bowie and Cass County sheriff offices received calls. When Hervey arrived, there were state troopers, deputies from both counties and park rangers on the scene. They had found the person responsible for shooting at the alligator. The man said he thought it would be fun to shoot one, but now realized that might be a problem. A citation was issued, and the bow and arrow were taken as evidence. The injured alligator had crawled up toward the gates of the spillway and out of harm's way. The park ranger made plans for the Corps of Engineers to open the gates the next day and flush the alligator down river. This was the second call of people shooting at this alligator.

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Welcome to Lone Star Outdoor News Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

We're publishing twice a month so we can bring you the very best of the Texas outdoors from the Big Thicket to the Big Bend and from the Red River to the Rio Grande. And hunters and anglers by the scores are sending us their thank-yous, comments and subscriptions.

Every issue, we'll bring you some of the state's best outdoor photography and stories. You'll read about big game hunting, waterfowling, upland bird hunting, freshwater fishing across the state and saltwater fishing all up and down the glorious Texas Coast. Plus, you'll get national news... conservation updates... weather report... wild game and fish recipes... and the latest breaking news from state and federal wildlife agencies.

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You won't want to miss a single issue

PRODUCT PICKS

CLAMP YOUR CAMERA: Trophy Tools has introduced the **Scope Clamp** for use with a spotting scope, still or video camera. According to Trophy Tools, the Scope Clamp provides the benefits of a tripod without the inconvenience of its bulky legs. Instead, it clamps to almost anything two inches thick or less allowing a hunter to use a camera or spotting scope from blinds, treestands, vehicles or even a tree limb. The 10-ounce clamp costs about \$45 and can be ordered from www.trophytools.com. For more information, call (972) 986-0603.



GRAPHITE REEL: Shakespeare's **Agility Low Profile Baitcast Reel** is for freshwater fishing. The graphite and anodized aluminum reel features a one-way clutch, instant anti-reverse bearing, adjustable magnetic cast control to help eliminate backlash, and an E-Z Cast thumb bar spool release. The 7.9-ounce reel has a 6.3:1 gear ratio. It costs about \$30. For retailers, call (800) 334-9105 or visit www.shakespeare-fishing.com.



COMPACT TREESTAND: North Starr Treestands has introduced its **Forest Tree Cat Ultra**. The folding belt climber boasts gripper belts that adjust as users climb, a seat with a back rest, and pivoting "Tree Gripper" feet. The treestand folds flat and compactly for transporting. It will be available this summer for about \$270. For more information, call (517) 439-1313 or visit www.northstarrtreestands.com.



SMART RANGEFINDER: Leupold's **RX Digital Rangefinder** series is for rifle or bow hunters who want to improve their long-range accuracy by determining the ballistic range of their target. The "smart" rangefinders offer multiple, customizable functions such as rain mode, compass, long-range mode, target mode and more. The series includes four models, which range in price from about \$300 to \$500. For dealers, visit the resources section at www.leupold.com.



FLASHY BAIT: Rebel Lures says its **Tracdown Minnow's** tight wiggle, small profile and slow-sinking motion will entice trout or bass in big pools and through shallow, rocky runs. The 2 1/2-inch-long bait that imitates forage fish comes in four high-gloss finishes. It costs about \$4. For dealers or to order, visit www.lurenet.com or call (479) 782-8971.

SILVER SCENT ZAPPER: X Scent Apparel's boot socks were designed to help hunters control foot odor. The company credits its **X-STATIC** silver-fiber technology for eliminating odor by preventing bacterial growth and regulating temperature and has incorporated its fabric into a full line of apparel. The boot socks, which have been worn by U.S. soldiers all over the world, come in green, gray or black. They are a blend of cotton, nylon, spandex and X-STATIC. The boot socks sell for \$10-13. For information, visit www.xscent.arcoutdoors.com or call A.R.C. at (877) 974-4353.



Advertisement

SPORTS TECH NEWS — 2006

New lure's catch rate may be too high for some tournaments.

Out-fished other bait 19 to 4 in one contest.
Uses aerospace technology to mimic a real fish.

ORLANDO, FL—A small company in Connecticut has developed a new lure that mimics the motion of a real fish so realistically eight professionals couldn't tell the difference between it and a live shad when it "swam" toward them on retrieval. The design eliminates wobbling, angled swimming and other unnatural motions that problem other hard bait lures. It swims upright and appears to propel itself with its tail.

Curiously, the company may have designed it too well. Tournament fishermen who have used it said it's possible officials will not allow it in contests where live bait is prohibited. They claim it swims more realistically than anything they have ever seen. If so, that would hurt the company's promotional efforts. Winning tournaments is an important part of marketing a new lure.

Fish would probably prefer to see it restricted. I watched eight veteran fishermen test the new

lure (called The KickTail™) on a lake outside Orlando FL for about four hours. Four used the KickTail and four used a combination of their favorite lures and shiners (live bait). The four using the KickTail caught 41 fish versus 14 for the other four. In one boat the KickTail won 19 to 4. The KickTail also caught bigger fish, which suggests it triggers larger, less aggressive fish to strike. You can see why the company needs to get it into tournaments. An almost 3 to 1 advantage can mean thousands of dollars to a fisherman, and hundreds of thousands in sales to the company.

The KickTail's magic comes from a patented technology that breaks the tail into five segments. As water makes by on retrieval, a little-known principle called aerodynamic flutter causes the tail to wag left and right, as if the lure were propelling itself with its tail. Unlike other hard baits, the head remains stationary—only the tail wags. A company spokesman told me this



Inventor Scott Wilson tests a 10-pond.

they determine if something is alive by watching its movement. A Maine biologist will tell you that the more a lure swims like a real fish, the more fish it will catch. Well, the only live thing the KickTail doesn't do is breathe. It's better than live bait! It lasts longer and it never hangs half-dead from a hook. It's always swimming wild and free. Fish can't stand it. We've seen fish that have just eaten go for the KickTail. It's like having another potato chip.

Increases catch almost 3 to 1

"To make the KickTail even more lifelike, we gave it a natural shad color and shaped it like the most prevalent bait fish of all, the threadfin. Game fish gobble up more threadfin shad than any other bait fish.

"We knew the KickTail would out-fish other lures. It had to. Other lures wobble their heads and swim on an angle. But 41 fish to 14? That's huge! I tell you, in ten seconds anyone who has fished a day in his life knows this little swimmer's a home run. Fishermen reserved thousands of KickTails before we produced it! Here, reel it in and watch it swim toward you. Can you tell the difference between it and a live fish? (I said no.) Neither can the fish.



New lure swims like a real fish—nearly triples catch in Florida contest.

"The flutter technology also allows the KickTail to swim at the water's surface. Other top water lures must be worked to have any live action, or have a bill that makes them dive on retrieval. Our diver version is the only deep crank bait that let's you do tricks like 'walk the dog,' 'twitch it' at deep levels and it gives an irresistible, lifelike action. Other lures 'dig.' And there's no need for rattles. The five tail segments click together as you pull it through the water, calling fish from a distance."

Whether you fish for fun or profit, if you want a near 3 to 1 advantage, I would order now before the KickTail becomes known. The company even guarantees a refund, if you don't catch more fish and return the lures within 30 days. There

are three versions: a floater for top water, a diver and a "dying shad" with a weed guard for fishing lily pads and other feeding spots. The company says it's the only hard bait of its kind in existence. Each lure costs \$9.95 and you must order at least two. There is also a "Super 10-Pack" with additional colors for only \$79.95, a savings of almost \$20.00. S/H is only \$6.00 no matter how many you order.

To order call 1-800-873-4415 or click www.ngo-sports.com anytime or day or send a check or M.O. (or cc number and exp. date) to NGC Sports (Dept. KT-1036), 60 Church Street, Yalesville, CT 06492. CT add sales tax. The KickTail is four inches long and works in salt and fresh water.

**CROSSWORD
PUZZLE
SOLUTION
FROM
PAGE 17**



Bass leaves Texas conservation legacy

Former Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission member, chairman, chairman emeritus and lifelong conservationist Perry Richardson Bass died June 1 at his Fort Worth home at 91, leaving a legacy that will long benefit all those who love fishing, hunting, state parks and the outdoor life.

Bass was appointed to the commission in 1977 by Gov. Dolph Briscoe. He was named chairman in 1979 by Gov. Bill Clements and served in that role until his term ended in 1983. Clements appointed Bass chairman emeritus in 1988, a role now held by his son Lee, also a former commissioner and commission chairman.

Texas conservation veterans remember the "Redfish Wars" as one of the state's most contentious issues. Bass personally championed the cause, prompting the legislature to designate red drum (redfish) and spotted seatrout as game fish. The passage of HB 1000 in 1983 took redfish and seatrout from commercially overfished species on the brink of collapse to the premier recreational catch on the Texas coast.

Several current leaders of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department were just starting their careers when Bass led the commission, including Executive Director Robert L. Cook, who was a wildlife biologist leading the white-tailed deer program in 1979.

"Mr. Perry Bass was one of a kind, an icon of Texas conservation," Cook said. "He was kind, considerate, and thoughtful to all people, big or small, young or old, rich or poor. He was a 'family man' every day. He was a leader in the business world; he worked hard, earned his way, and was very successful. Perry R. Bass exemplified what Texas Parks and Wildlife is all about. Millions of Texans have benefited greatly from his love for conservation and wild places. He was more than a hunter, more than a fisherman—he loved nature and the outdoors and was a true wildlife conservationist."

— A Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

TOURNAMENTS

Bass Champs Tournament Trail South Region Championship Falcon Lake June 4

Huge stringers were the highlight of the South Region Championship as well as the final regular season tournament held at Falcon Lake. Mike Kernan and David Weber topped the field with a 5-fish limit tipping the scales at 37.98 pounds. John Goin and George Kunkle placed second with 36.84 pounds, and Trent Huckaby and Bubba Haralson followed with 35.12 pounds.

The 12.06-pound big bass was landed by the team of Jimmy Johnson and Shan Gibson.

The championship took place one day after the final regular season event for the south region. Tony Oldham and Jamie Burtron weighed in 34.52 pounds for first place, and Kernan and Weber began their successful week-end in second place at 33.38 pounds.

The top 10 points leaders and top 10 Championship finisher qualified for the 2006 State Championship on Oct. 7-8.

Texas Fishing Forum Lake Fork Open June 3

James Beach and Greg Stanley reeled in first place at the 5th annual Lake Fork Open on June 3. Beach and Stanley weighed in a 5-fish limit at 9.04 pounds.

Randy Maxwell and Curtis Harrah placed second with 8.74 pounds, and Verlon and James Croney followed in third at 8.7 pounds.

The 2.78 pound big bass was caught by Harold Burns.

CCA State of Texas Angler's Rodeo (STAR)

LEADERS AS OF: 6-5-06

STARKIDS DIVISION (AGES 6-10)

Flounder

John Crouch, 8, of Mission
2 lbs. 13 oz.

Sheepshead

Taylor Shirley, 8, of LaPorte
4 lbs. 12 oz.

Gafftop

Kara Tibbitts, 7, of Orange
4 lbs. 13 oz.

STARTEENS TROUT & INSHORE DIVISIONS

(AGES 11-17)

Middle Coast Speckled Trout

Cody Poage, 17, of Deer Park
6 lbs. 11 oz.

Lower Coast Speckled Trout

Joshua O'Barion, 16, of Baytown
7 lbs. 6 oz.

Flounder

Keevin Holcomb, 17, of LaVernia
4 lbs. 9 oz.

Sheepshead

Jonathan Miller, 16, of Bacliff
5 lbs. 14 oz.

Gafftop

Cason House, 16, of Rio Vista
6 lbs. 10 oz.

Upper Coast Speckled Trout

Kenneth Schupp of Lake Jackson
9 lbs. 0 ozs.

Middle Coast Speckled Trout

Steve Lloyd II of Manvel
8 lbs. 2 ozs.

Lower Coast Speckled Trout

Anthony Mihalski of San Antonio
8 lbs. 12 oz.

OFFSHORE DIVISION

Kingfish

Neal B. Nichols of Houston
45 lbs. 4 ozs.

Dorado

Jack Thrasher of Galveston
43 lbs. 3 ozs.

Ling (Cobia)

Branch Luniga of Pharr
75 lbs. 10 ozs.

INSHORE DIVISION

Flounder

Charles Merrifield of Richwood
3lbs. 13 ozs.

Sheepshead

Michael Wayne Edgar of LaPorte
6 lbs. 12 ozs.

Gafftop

Patrick Harwood of San Antonio
9 lbs. 4 ozs.

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Photo: Courtesy of Berkley Stevedores

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Berkley salutes Preston Clark for the heaviest four-day catch in BASS tournament history - 115 lbs, 15 oz!

**I pulled in EVERYTHING but the kitchen sink.
My line could have even HANDLED that!**

When Preston Clark landed the record for the heaviest four-day catch total weight, he knew his Berkley line wouldn't let him down. Freshwater, saltwater, all water... Berkley has the right line for whatever record you're after. And nothing gives you the edge like Berkley line, bait, rods, and accessories.

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Promotion applicable from authorized participating Yamaha Outboard dealers in U.S.A. ONLY from May 15, 2006 to June 30, 2006 and is limited to available stock in dealer inventory.

* Promotion Terms and Conditions: Consumer benefit model eligibility is new (unused, and not previously warranty-registered) Yamaha 110-225 hp four stroke outboard and Yamaha 100-225 hp H.P.D.I. two stroke outboard only. To be eligible, outboard must also have been manufactured with a model year designation of 2004, 2005 or manufactured after April 6, 2006. Any outboards manufactured prior to model year 2004 are not eligible. To be eligible, outboards must also be sold as part of a new (unused, not previously warranty-registered) boat/outboard package. Consumer benefit offered for the purchase of an eligible outboard is a \$750.00 credit based on M.S.R.P. toward the purchase of goods and/or services available at authorized participating Yamaha Outboard dealers at no extra cost to the purchasing consumer. No model substitutions, benefit substitutions, rain checks or extensions will be allowed. Not redeemable for cash. This Promotion is only applicable for eligible outboard sold with a new boat and delivered to a purchasing consumer in the U.S.A. from May 15, 2006 through June 30, 2006. All eligible outboards must be PDI completed and warranty-registered on Y.M.B.S. by the dealer no later than June 30, 2006 in accordance with Yamaha's Promotion and warranty registration requirements. Any outboard sold, delivered or warranty-registered before or after these dates is not eligible. Outboards sold for rental, camp, resort, guide, demo and government agency use are not eligible. Outboards sold or provided directly by Yamaha for competition, tournament, promotion or sponsorship use are not eligible. Yamaha reserves the right to change or cancel this Promotion at any time.

This Promotion cannot be used in conjunction with any other Yamaha offer. Other restrictions and conditions apply. See authorized participating Yamaha Outboard dealers for complete details.

Eligible Outboards	Consumer Benefit
Eligible Four Strokes	
F115	\$750 Credit Toward Purchase of Goods/Services
F150	\$750 Credit Toward Purchase of Goods/Services
F200	\$750 Credit Toward Purchase of Goods/Services
F225	\$750 Credit Toward Purchase of Goods/Services
Eligible H.P.D.I. Two Strokes	
150hp	\$750 Credit Toward Purchase of Goods/Services
175hp	\$750 Credit Toward Purchase of Goods/Services
200hp	\$750 Credit Toward Purchase of Goods/Services
225hp	\$750 Credit Toward Purchase of Goods/Services

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- #CH3000G



369⁰⁰

BIODEL & LURES

- Bill-to-body design for extra strength and freedom of operation
- Comes in six performance variations



2¹⁹-3¹⁹

TACKLE

- Available in all the top felt-capturing styles and colors
- #1 choice of many tournament fishermen



2⁹³

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BASS ASSASSIN 30L, TEXAS ASSASSIN OR SHAD ASSASSIN



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CATCH 3

- Superior at depths of 10 to 12 ft.
- Ideal for fishing the flats or close to the surface



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D BAITCAST REEL**

- Magnalite™ spool
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- Five stainless steel ball bearings
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**PRESDRIT
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- 10-bearing system
- Instant anti-reverse one-way clutch bearing
- Anodized aluminum spool
- 6+ graphite rod
- #PLPFS9300M, PLPFS7000M



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**ALL-TERRAIN 70-
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- 70-lb. limit
- Streamlined foot pedal
- Tilt limit 180°
- Bowtwin 1300™ breakaway mount
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ANYWHERE ANYTIME



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- 10 double-shielded stainless steel ball bearings
- One-way clutch instant anti-reverse bearing
- Titanium line guide
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**FISHLARK
300 FISHER**

- 10 levels of graycode
- 1000 watts of power with depth to 800 ft.
- Up to 60 of fish detection coverage with high-precision editing
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- Eight double-shielded stainless steel bearing system
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- Aluminum spool
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BIODE FISHING LURE

- Clear line or low visibility green in 10 to 17-ft. feet
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- Perfect for fishing, hunting, camping, picnic and cookouts
- Includes a large and small flat knife, small combination knife, sharpening and honing tool, cutting board and carrying case
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- Includes five #3700 Stowaway™
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