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June 9, 2006

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

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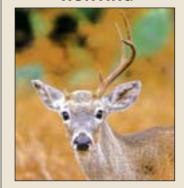
Volume 2. Issue 20

Artist has a special tie to his craft See Page 14

MADE IN TEXAS

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 1,262pound 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.

See Page 5

DEPARTMENTS

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Fishing Report	Page 20

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

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

— Joe Reid

the summer.'

fishing lesson for kids, who don't have a chance to get bored. "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 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.

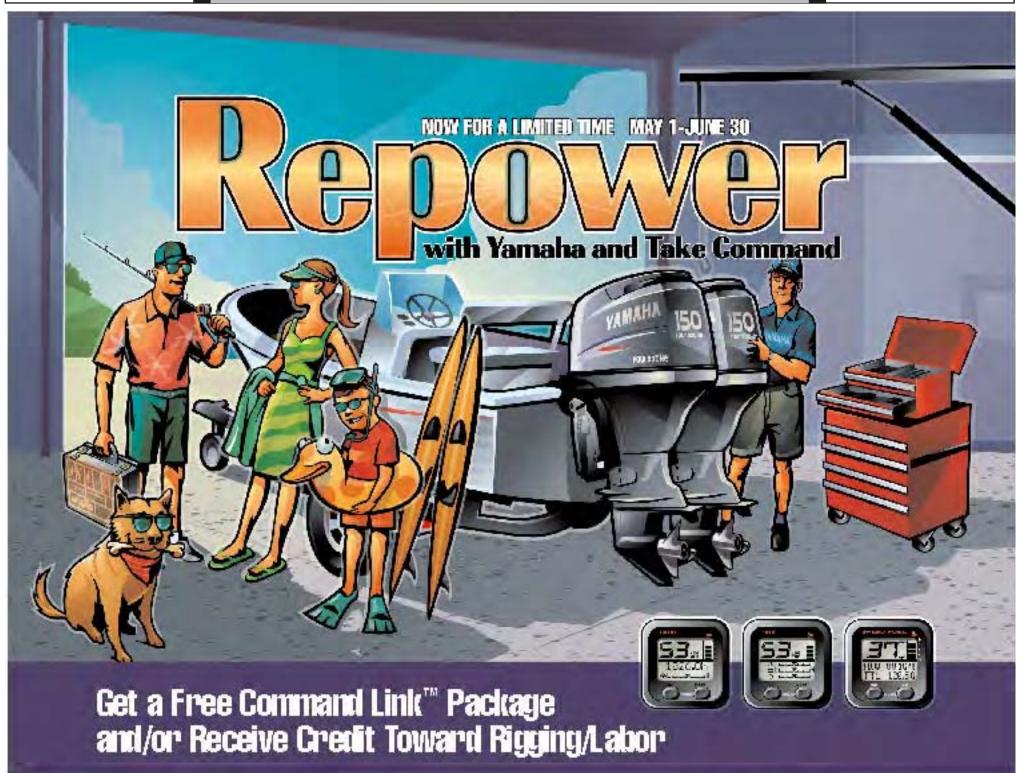
"It's common. It's not very recognized," said Michael Stewart, owner and trainer at Wildrose Kennels in Oxford, Miss., which spe- DECIBEL DANGER: Gunshot cializes in hunting dogs.

See HEARING, Page 12 hearing.



blasts can reach 140 decibels, which can damage a dog's

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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

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

John Tyminski, senior biologist at the

Mote Marine Laboratory, agrees. "The tarpon fishing at Boca Grande Pass is worldrenown," 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

Whiteface students earn national recognition

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

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

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

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

"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.

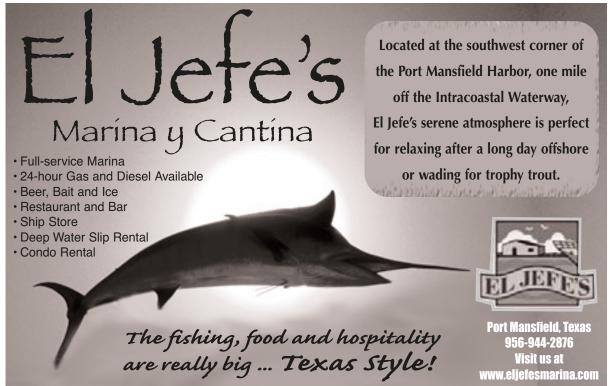
Initially, a motion to enforce is

required and a hearing is held after which a plan for repayment is estab-

"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

"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



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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 genera-

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

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 mil-

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 con-

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 more than \$2 million to help fund 15 Lynn Scarlett announced that the Tribal Landowner Incentive projects. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is awarding nearly \$8 million to help federally recognized Indian tribes conserve fish and wildlife on their

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

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

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 pri-

— A U.S. Fish and Wildlife report.

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HUNTING

Broken antlers

Drought haunts deer in many ways

'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

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,"

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

n 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



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.

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 now 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 Dimitrious 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 to

"The 35mm creates one big problem. You See CAMERAS, Page 7

TPW ups pheasant limit

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has approved increasing the daily bag limit for ringnecked 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 Bevill, 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

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

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

bow, or...) 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

"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 night-time 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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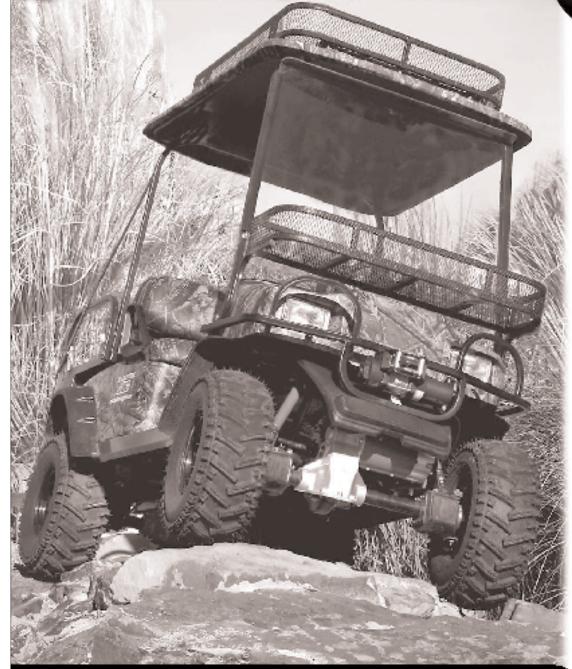
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FISHING

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) management 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 experienc-

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

ing an upward trend in the size and

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

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

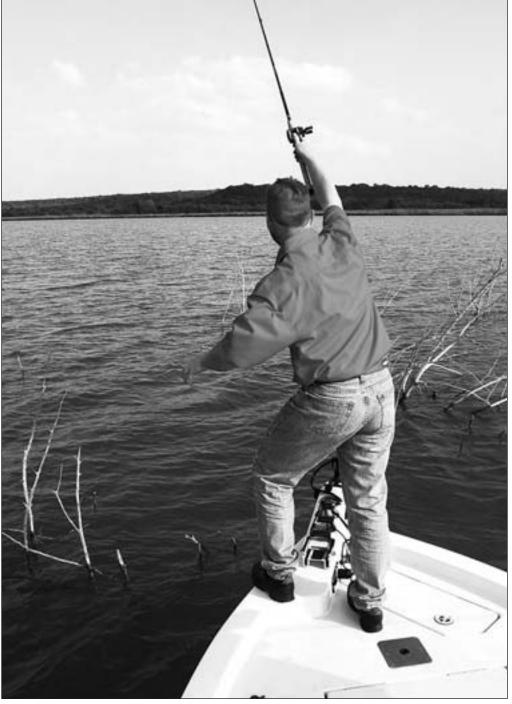
Pitching has been used for centuries with anglers tying lines to the end of a cane, making it easy to guide the bait to a desired location.

It worked then, and it works better today with the hightech 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 lowhanging 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

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.



PITCHING PRO: Larry Nixon holds a bass

caught on Lake Fork. out of cover.



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 menhaden, 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.

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

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

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

"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.



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

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," Findheisen said. For topwater fishing, lures like Little Georges, Gay Blades — any good



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

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 Hellickson nutrition,"

A drought, though, puts all bucks at risk.

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

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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

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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.

McCLELLAND GUN SHOP



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 manufactures 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."

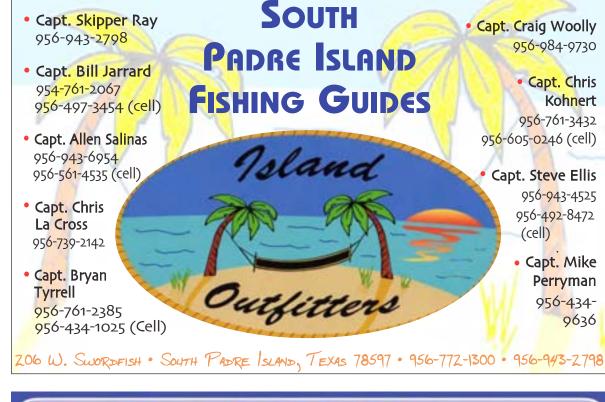
"The other thing we do to make it more interesting is to go lighter with our tackle," Shuler said. "But you have to decide — is it about putting fish in the boat or about enjoying the pull on the end of the line? If you want to have fun — lighten up your tackle. We routinely catch kingfish on our trout 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









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

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 star-

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

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

"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 Victorianera 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 midto 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 mas-

"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

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 triedand-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).

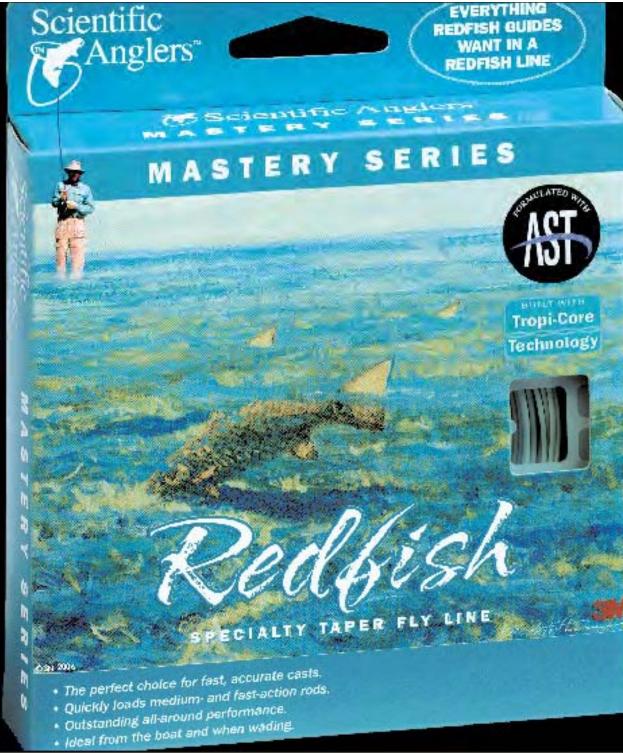
For more information about McKnight's custom flies, call (214) 683-4620.

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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 outdoors-

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 autoopening 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.

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6/12	7:26 a.m.	11:10 p.m.			6/12	1:01 p.m.	12:43 a.m.			6/12	7:25 a.m.	10:20 p.m.		
6/13	8:17 a.m.	11:57 p.m.	_		6/13	2:08 p.m.	1:29 a.m.			6/13	8:16 a.m.	11:07 p.m.		
6/14	9:08 a.m.	12.47			6/14	3:10 p.m.	2:16 a.m.			6/14	9:07 a.m.	11:57 p.m.		
6/15	9:53 a.m.	12:47 a.m.			6/15	4:04 p.m.	3:01 a.m.			6/15	9:52 a.m.	12:49		_
6/16	10:24 a.m.	1:38 a.m.	0:01 n m	5.22 n m	6/16	4:46 p.m.	3:43 a.m.	_		6/16	10:23 a.m.	12:48 a.m.	0:00 n m	1.12
6/17	10:47 a.m.	2:33 a.m.	9:01 p.m.	5:33 p.m.	6/17	4:23 p.m.	4:18 a.m.	_		6/17	10:46 a.m.	1:43 a.m.	9:00 p.m.	4:43 p.m.
6/18	11:03 a.m.	3:33 a.m.	11:55 p.m.	6:01 p.m.	6/18	1:13 p.m.	4:37 a.m.	_	8.32 n m	6/18	11:02 a.m.	2:43 a.m.	11:54 p.m.	5:11 p.m.
6/19	11:15 a.m.	4:51 a.m. 6:47 a.m.	11:24 a m	6:38 p.m.	6/19	11:37 a.m.	3:37 a.m.	_	8:32 p.m.	6/19	11:14 a.m.	4:01 a.m.	11:23 0 m	5:48 p.m.
6/20 6/21	2:04 a.m.	9:03 a.m.	11:24 a.m. 11:23 a.m.	7:17 p.m.	6/20 6/21	10:35 a.m. 10:09 a.m.	9:07 p.m. 9:50 p.m.			6/20 6/21	2:03 a.m. 3:33 a.m.	5:57 a.m. 8:13 a.m.	11:23 a.m.	6:27 p.m.
6/22	3:34 a.m. 4:37 a.m.	9:03 a.m. 8:38 p.m.	11:25 a.m.	7:57 p.m.	6/22	10:09 a.m. 10:18 a.m.	9:30 p.m. 10:37 p.m.		_	6/22	4:36 a.m.	7:48 p.m.	11:22 a.m.	7:07 p.m.
6/22	4.37 a.iii.	0.30 p.III.			6/23	10.16 a.iii.	10.37 p.III.			6/23	4.30 a.iii.	7.46 p.III. 8:20 p.m		

Q		D		
20	DLUNAR [LABLE N	Major/Minor pe	eriods:
	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
6/7	8:40a/2:29a	5:50p/——	8:46a/2:35a	5:56p/——
6/8	9:02p/2:51p	6:16a/12:02a	9:08p/2:57p	6:22a/12:08a
6/9	9:19a/3:07a	6:39p/12:27p	9:25a/3:13a	6:45p/12:33p
6/10	9:42p/3:31p	7:02a/12:50a	9:48p/3:37p	7:08a/12:56a
6/11	10:02a/3:49a	7:26p/1:14p	10:08a/3:55a	7:32p/1:20p
6/12	10:27p/4:15p	7:46a/1:34a	10:33p/4:21p	7:52a/1:40a
6/13	10:51a/4:37a	8:11p/1:58p	10:57a/4:43a	8:17p/2:04p
6/14	11:18p/5:04p	8:31a/2:18a	11:24p/5:10p	8:37a/2:24a
6/15	11:45a/5:31a	8:56p/2:43p	11:51a/5:37a	9:02p/2:49p
6/16	/6:00p	9:17a/3:03a	/6:06p	/3:09a
6/17	12:14a/6:30a	9:44p/3:30p	12:20a/6:36a	12:14a/3:36p
6/18	12:45p/7:00p	10:06a/3:52a	12:51p/7:06p	12:45p/3:58a
6/19	1:19a/7:34a	10:34p/4:20p	1:25a/7:40a	1:19a/4:26p
6/20	1:49p/8:04p	10:59a/4:44a	1:55p/8:10p	1:49p/4:50a
6/21	2:24a/8:39a	11:27p/5:13p	2:30a/8:45a	2:24a/5:19p
6/22	2:53p/9:08p	11:54a/5:40a	2:59p/9:14p	2:53p/5:46a
6/23	3:28a/9:42a	/6:08p	3:34a/9:48a	3:28a/6:14p
6/24	3:56p/10:10p	12:23a/6:37a	4:02p/10:16p	3:56p/6:43a
6/25	4:29a/10:42a	12:50p/7:04p	4:35a/10:48a	4:29a/7:10p
6/26	4:55p/11:08p	1:20a/7:33a	5:01p/11:14p	4:55p/7:39a
6/27	5:25a/11:37a	1:46p/7:59p	5:31a/11:43a	5:25a/8:05p
S T	IN AND M	I OON		
		IOON		
Sun	rise/set			
	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
6/7	6:20a/8:21p	6:20a/8:35p	6:33a/8:32p	6:32a/8:59p
6/8	6:20a/8:21p	6:19a/8:35p	6:33a/8:33p	6:32a/9:00p
6/9	6:20a/8:22p	6:19a/8:36p	6:33a/8:33p	6:32a/9:00p
6/10	6:20a/8:22p	6:19a/8:36p	6:33a/8:33p	6:32a/9:01p
6/11	6:20a/8:22p	6:19a/8:36p	6:33a/8:34p	6:32a/9:01p
6/12	6:20a/8:23p	6:19a/8:37p	6:33a/8:34p	6:32a/9:02p
6/13	6:20a/8:23p	6:19a/8:37p	6:33a/8:35p	6:32a/9:02p
6/14	6:20a/8:23p	6:19a/8:38p	6:33a/8:35p	6:32a/9:03p
6/15	6:20a/8:24p	6:19a/8:38p	6:33a/8:35p	6:32a/9:03p
6/16	6:20a/8:24p	6:19a/8:38p	6:34a/8:36p	6:32a/9:03p
6/17	6:20a/8:24p	6:19a/8:39p	6:34a/8:36p	6:32a/9:04p

Mo	onrise/set			
	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
6/7	4:41p/3:18a	4:52p/3:21a	4:53p/3:31a	5:15p/3:38a
6/8	5:40p/3:48a	5:53p/3:50a	5:52p/4:01a	6:18p/4:05a
6/9	6:43p/4:22a	6:58p/4:23a	6:55p/4:36a	7:24p/4:36a
6/10	7:48p/5:03a	8:04p/5:02a	8:00p/5:17a	8:31p/5:14a
6/11	8:52p/5:52a	9:09p/5:50a	9:04p/6:07a	9:37p/6:01a
6/12	9:53p/6:50a	10:09p/6:47a	10:04p/7:04a	10:37p/6:59a
6/13	10:46p/7:55a	11:02p/7:53a	10:58p/8:10a	11:28p/8:05a
6/14	11:33p/9:04a	11:46p/9:04a	11:44p/9:19a	none/9:16a
6/15	none/10:14a	none/10:15a	none/10:28a	12:11a/10:29a
6/16	12:12a/11:22a	12:24a/11:25a	12:24a/11:36a	12:47a/11:41a
6/17	12:47a/12:28p	12:57a/12:33p	12:59a/12:42p	1:18a/12:51p
6/18	1:19a/1:33p	1:27a/1:40p	1:31a/1:46p	1:47a/1:59p
6/19	1:50a/2:36p	1:56a/2:45p	2:03a/2:49p	2:14a/3:07p
6/20	2:21a/3:41p	2:25a/3:52p	2:34a/3:53p	2:42a/4:15p
6/21	2:55a/4:47p	2:57a/5:00p	3:08a/4:59p	3:12a/5:24p
6/22	3:32a/5:53p	3:33a/6:08p	3:46a/6:05p	3:46a/6:34p
6/23	4:16a/6:59p	4:14a/7:15p	4:30a/7:11p	4:27a/7:42p
6/24	5:05a/8:02p	5:03a/8:18p	5:19a/8:13p	5:14a/8:46p
6/25	6:01a/8:58p	5:58a/9:14p	6:15a/9:09p	6:09a/9:42p
6/26	12:12a/11:22a	12:24a/11:25a	12:24a/11:36a	12:47a/11:41a
6/27	8:01a/10:28p	8:00a/10:42p	8:15a/10:40p	8:13a/11:07p

TEXAS TIDBITS

For crossword puzzle solution, see Page 22

6/23

6/24

6/25

6/26

5:27 a.m.

6:12 a.m.

6:57 a.m.

7:41 a.m.

OUTDOOR PUZZLER

6/23

6/24

6/25

6/26

10:48 a.m.

11:29 a.m

12:18 p.m.

1:12 p.m.

11:25 p.m.

12:14 a.m.

1:03 a.m.

ACROSS

- 1. A buck's collection of does 6. Buck's mark to mark his
- 10. Wrong position for the deer hunter

5:28 a.m.

6:13 a.m.

6:58 a.m.

7:42 a.m.

9:19 p.m.

10:00 p.m.

10:42 p.m.

11:22 p.m.

6/24

6/25

- An animal's hideaway 12. A deer food and scent
- 13. Term for a part of a deer rack
- 15. A buck's mate 16. A bow made from a single
- piece of wood 18. Still hunter's platform
- 19. Wind causes this of an arrow
- 20. To aim ahead of a moving
- game 21. They are hunted for their fur
- 24. A breed of retriever
- 25. Term for a dropped antler 27. Hunters strive for a clean
- 28. The wind blowing toward game 29. Term for a round in an
- archery shoot
 31. Wary deer will _
 cover
- 32. A deer's teeth can reveal
- this 35. A duty of the gundog
- 39. Bowhunter's protective device,
- pad 41. A deer mating period 43. State has plenty of potatoes
- and elk 44. A female bear
- 45. The cause of an arrow
- drifting 46. A species of antelope

DOWN

- Skin or fur of a game
 A game's pathway
 A species of deer 4. Deer can do this to escape
- - danger 5. A deer scent
 - Shoulder hide of a deer
 - 8. Coyote, wolf, cougar class
- 9. The deerhunter's platform 13. A deer at rest
- 14. Act of reading how old game tracks
- 15. Exciting, tense, fun-filled event
- 16. A method of hunting
 17. A scent that will bring game to the
- 18. Camo slip-ons for a bow 22. A deer's racks
- 23. Serves as a lure
- 26. Scouting activity for game 27. First aid containers
- 28. To pull back a bow string
 30. Bucks, bull, gobbler class
 33. Unusual on a mule deer

- 34. The bowman's ammo
- 36. A male goat
- 37. A wild pig 38. A bow division 40. Hunt the whitetail in the early
- 42 To treat a hide

Outdoor Puzzler, Wilbur "Wib" Lundeen

WILD IN THE KITCHEN

6:20a/8:25p

6:20a/8:25p

6:21a/8:25p

6:21a/8:25p

6:21a/8:26p

6:21a/8:26p

6:22a/8:26p

6:22a/8:26p

6:22a/8:26p

6:22a/8:26p

6/18

6/19

6/21

6/22

6/24

6/25

6:20a/8:39p

6:20a/8:39p

6:20a/8:40p

6:20a/8:40p

6:21a/8:40p

6:21a/8:40p

6:21a/8:40p

6:21a/8:40p

6:22a/8:40p

6:32a/9:04p

6:32a/9:04p

6:33a/9:05p 6:33a/9:05p

6.33a/9.05r

6:34a/9:05p

6:34a/8:36p

6:34a/8:36p

6:34a/8:37p

6:35a/8:37p

6:35a/8:37p

6:35a/8:37p

6:35a/8:38p

6:36a/8:38p 6:36a/8:38p

Quick flounder fillets with carrot coins

First

Ingredients:

8:29 p.m. 9:10 p.m.

9:52 p.m.

10:32 p.m.

- 1 pound (4 large) julienne
- 2 tablespoons minced parsley
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper • 1 teaspoon coarse-grain Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 4 (4-5 ounces) flounder fillet

Combine carrots, parsley, oil, salt and pepper in a 7-by-11-by-2-inch microwave-safe baking dish. Cover with wax paper. Microwave at 100 percent power for five minutes, stirring once.

To make an even thickness, fold over thin fillets or bend long fillets. Place fillets on top of carrots in the corners of the dish with the thick parts towards the outside and thin parts toward the center. Combine the mustard and honey and spread over fillets.

Cover with wax paper. Microwave at 100-percent power two minutes. Rotate fillets, placing cooking parts toward the center and continue to cook one-three



minutes longer or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Let stand covered two minutes. Arrange fish and carrots on warm plates.

Makes 4 servings

Nutritional Information: Calories: 170 Protein: 22.7g Carbohydrates: 13.3g Fat: 2.82g Cholesterol: 54.4mg Sodium: 229mg

Recipe courtesy of the National Fisheries Institute, www.aboutseafood.com.

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 McMahen and Pat Canan received a call on about possible illegal fishing on Lake Wichita. By the time McMahen arrived, the suspects had left the lake but had given their illegal hybrid stripers to another person. McMahen interviewed a number of people at the lake as well as the person who made the complaint. The next day, McMahen 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

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-yearold 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 sidescan 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

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

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 Benge 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. Benge 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 alli-

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OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

HAVE AN EVENT?

E-mail it to editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com

June 10: Kids' Day at Bass Pro Shops in Katy from 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. John Deere Tractor pedal races, contests, fishing, seed-ball making, skills workshops and lots of other activities set up by Katy Mills Mall that include a petting zoo. Exit Pin Oak off of Interstate 10 in Katy. For more information, call (281) 644-

June 15: Boater's World in Dallas will be offering a free seminar on bass fishing from 6-7 p.m. For more information. contact Mike Wray at (214) 704-2920.

June 16: Bay Area Ducks Unlimited crawfish boil at 5:30 p.m. The event will be held at the East Harris County Community Center. Contact James Willingham at (713) 891-8990 or tsoderquist@ducks.org for more information.

June 16: The NWTF Brazos Basin

Bearddraggers banquet at the Greater Hewitt VFW Post 6008 in Hewitt. For information on the Hewitt banquet, call Ellie Schad at (254) 722-5575.

June 16: Dallas Safari Club Summer Blast Banquet, Auction and party. Love Field Flight Museum. Call (972) 980-

June 17: Dallas Safari Club Summer Blast Sporting Clays Shoot. Dallas Gun Club. Call (972) 980-9800.

June 17-18: Cabela's in Fort Worth is sponsoring its second annual free Kids Days during the Father's Day weekend. The event will be a combination of teaching firearms safety, basic fishing and archery skills. Other activities will include a pie-eating contest, face painting, wader races, BB gun shooting, archery, laser shooting, paintball, and a

scavenger hunt. The event will also mark the Chili Appreciation Society International Chili Cook-off as well as the Dock Dogs Competition. The event will begin at 10 a.m. and end at dusk. For more information, call (817) 337-2400

June 18: Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center — Father's and Grandfather's Day. Free admission for grandfathers, fathers and accompanying children. The event will be held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call (903) 676-BASS for more information.

June 20: DU Lake Lewisville volunteer recruitment meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Grill, Contact (214) 564-3050 or imiiliie@comcast.net for more

June 22: Boater's World in Dallas is offering a free seminar on striper fishing from 6-7 p.m. For more information, contact Mike Wray at (214) 704-2920.

June 22-24: Texas DU state convention in Galveston. Festivities will kick off with a Thursday night early arrival party. A Friday night party will also be held. Saturday morning will feature the youth event and the state banquet will be held Saturday night. For more information,

contact John White at (325) 236-6726 or jwhite@ducks.org.

June 23-24: Texas Wildlife Association 21st Annual Convention. Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa. For more information, see texas-wildlife.org.

June 24: Eisenhower SP — Texoma on the Fly. Programs will showcase flyfishing opportunities at Lake Texoma and the park. This is a rare opportunity to learn fly-fishing from certified instructors and friendly fly-fishers with fly-tying demonstrations, classes and casting coaches. The class will be held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call (903) 465-1956 for more information.

June 24: Galveston Island SP — Fishing Clinic. Learn to fish in a fun, safe, kidfriendly environment through Texas Parks and Wildlife's Angler Education Program. Open to kids ages 5-15. Space is limited. The event will take place from 9 a.m.-noon and preregistration is required, Contact Collin Campbell at fishingeventplanner06@ yahoo.com or call the park at (409) 737-1222.

June 24: Lake Livingston SP — Fish With a Ranger. Learn how to freshwater fish by completing exercises on rules, education, knot-tying, fish identification and casting safety from 8-11 a.m. Reservations are required. Call (936) 365-2201, ext. 17.

June 24: Cameron County Friends of the NRA Fun Shoot at Loma Alta Trap & Skeet Range Brownsville. Open to adults and youths. The event will allow you to shoot with the experts, 1-5 p.m. Contact (956) 541-3159 or narcisoc@aol.com.

June 24: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Top of Texas chapter big game banquet will be held in Amarillo at the Amarillo Civic Center. For tickets, contact Carson Christie at (806) 355-1375.

June 30-July 2: BowMasters of Arkansas World Qualifier at Bass Pro Shops in Grapevine. Individual or team competition. For more information, call Jerry Boyles at (501)337-2414.

July 7-9: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Texas State Convention. J.W. Marriott at the Galleria in Houston. For more information, call Walt or Carol Isenhour at (512) 273-2129.

OUTFITTERS

Fishing the Laguna Madre for 30 years

Capt. Terry Neal knows the Laguna Madre well. His relationship with the lower Texas costal waters spans 30 years.

Neal, one of the state's leading fishing guides, has seen a lot of changes in saltwater fishing dur-

"I can remember the first guy who made plastic baits," Neal said. "You would buy a bag of 25 to 50 and that was your bait for the next week." Today he sees all kinds of tackle, rods and boats with high-tech equipment to help the angler in his fishing quests.

The number of anglers is also at the top of the list of changes. "It used to be you would go out and might not even see a boat," he said. "Now the parking lots are full.'

Neal also points out that he has seen changes in fish patterns. "A lot of the fish have been pushed off the flats and have changed their habitats through the years because of the boat traffic," he said.

The Port Mansfield guide is experiencing one of the best years on the waters he can remember.

"The biggest trout I have ever caught was this May," Neal said. "It looked like a kingfish it was so big — it was between 33 and 35 inches.

"This year has been one of the best years we have had in a long time. The water is clear and there is lots of bait in the water," Neal said. "We've probably got a state record out there."

Neal said anglers were bringing in trout 28 to 35 inches throughout May.

Whether an angler prefers wade fishing, flyfishing, or sight casting, Neal has the know-how to help land a trophy trout.

"Ninety percent of my business is wade fishing," he said. "The average water depth here is 2 1/2 feet. You can actually see the fish. You get to see them take the bait."

Fishing activity is high during the summer months, but it's later when things are best, Neal said. "The best time of the year is November through January. There's little boat traffic and the fish school up and get together.

"The best quality and quantity catches have been in December. It's also a time to catch the

For 30 years Neal has greeted each day as a chance to offer anglers an education on the outdoors. "It's a learning experience," he said. "And I consider myself a professor."

Book an adventure with Capt. Neal by calling (956) 944-2559 or (956) 642-7367, or visit www.terrynealcharters.com. Anglers come to Texas from across the United States to fish the Laguna Madre. Neal doesn't hesitate to point out the reason why.

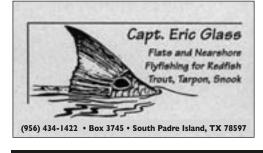
"It's one of the best fisheries in the state," the veteran guide said.

Ph. 214-352-8488



Terry Neal

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South Padre Island Waterfront properties on the Laguna Madre and Gulf of Mexico. Call: David A. Lohse Real Estate, Inc. (956) 761-6699.

For Sale — 960 Ac., Fisher Co., mule/WT deer, blue/bob quail, hogs, nice home, barn, pens, bordering the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River, income-producing ranch. \$785.00 Ac. www. fickesdorety. com, (817) 925-0483.

South Texas — Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg County Ranches. Call: David A. Lohse Real Estate, Inc. (956) 761-6699.

FISHING REPORT

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water stained. Black bass are good on silver/white Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows and blue tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and stinkbait. Yellow catfish are slow.

BELTON: Water stained; 72 degrees; 1.87' low. Black bass are good on purple soft plastics. Hybrid striper are good on live shad. White bass are good on silver jigs. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait. Yellow catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 77 degrees; 2.44¹ low. Black bass to 7.71 pounds are excellent on Red Bug Grande Bass 4in. finesse worms on 3/16oz. Giggy Heads, chartreuse/white and perch crankbaits, and firetiger 1/4oz. Chad-eer Doggs in 5 - 18 feet. Hybrid striper to 3 pounds are fair on silver/blue crankbaits. White bass to 2 pounds are excellent on crankbaits and jigs. Crappie to 2 pounds are excellent on white Li¹l Fishies and minnows in 8 - 15 feet. Channel and yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait in 10 - 20 feet

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 70 degrees; 9.60' low. Black bass are fair to good on cotton candy straight tailed Scoundrel worms on jigheads, Carolina rigged Snap Back creature baits, and root beer JDC drop shot worms along bluff ledges and mid-lake secondary creek points in 8 - 15 feet. Striped bass are fair to good drifting live bait from Garrett to Shaw Island with a shot surface action bite at first light on 3" Spoiler Shads, Rat-L-Traps, and white Snap Back jerkbaits rigged on a red Bait Jerker Hook. White bass are slow to fair vertically jigging silver Pirk Minnows and 2" Spoiler Shads on deep main lake points and submerged humps in the lower end of the lake. Crappie are fair on minnows over brushpiles. Channel catfish are fair to good. Yellow and blue catfish are fair.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear; 72 degrees; 3.35' low. Black bass are good cranking shad Deep Little N's, smoke JDC grubs, and blue line finesse worms on jigheads over submerged trees along ledges deeper than 15 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair to good on 2" natural Spoiler Shads, Tiny Traps, and Pirk Minnows in jumps early. Smallmouth bass are good on Ice Tea Devil's Tongues on drop shots, smoke/red tubes, and smoke 3" JDC Craws in 12 - 23 feet early. Crappie are fair on minnows tight to trees. Channel catfish are fair. Yellow and blue catfish are fair.

COLEMAN: Water clear; 70 degrees; 2.43' low. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striper are slow. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with liver. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with liver.

COLORADO RIVER: (At Colorado Bend State Park) Water murky. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Catfish are excellent on trotlines baited with perch, and

DUNLAP/MCQUEENEY: Water stained. Black bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and green crappie jigs. Channel catfish are good on shrimp and stinkbait. Blue catfish are fair on shrimp and nightcrawlers. Yellow catfish are slow

FAYETTE: Water lightly stained; 82 degrees. Black bass are good on shad patterned shallow running crankbaits in 7 - 18 feet, Pop-R's, Yellow Magics, white and chartreuse buzzbaits and spinnerbaits, and plum, plum crazy, and green Texas and Carolina rigs. Slow after 10 a.m. Channel and blue catfish are good on perch.

GRANBURY: Water murky, 0.61' low. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are fair on minnows and shallow running crankbaits. White bass are fair on minnows. Crappie are fair on minnows and white and pink tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp, and liver.

GRANGER: Water murky; 76 degrees; 0.52' low. Black bass are slow. White bass are fair on trolled crankbaits along main lake roadbeds. Crappie are good on jigs in 7 - 15 feet. Blue catfish are good on shad and cutbait. Yellow catfish are fair.

LBJ: Water stained to clear; 71 degrees; 0.30' low. Black bass to 6 pounds are good on watermelon JDC Skip-N-Pop topwaters, blue shad Terminator buzzbaits, and wacky rigged watermelon/red Whacky Sticks under clouds. Striped bass to 19" are fair on Spoiler Shads and white grubs at night. White bass are very good on 1" Spoiler Shads and Li'l Fishies on 1/32oz. jigheads at night. Crappie to 15" are fair on minnows over brushpiles. Channel catfish are good on liver, minnows, and dip bait. Yellow and blue catfish to 14 pounds are good.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water stained; 4.82' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and minnows. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are slow. Yellow catfish are slow.

PROCTOR: Water murky; 73 degrees; 2.94' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse, yellow, white, and pink spinnerbaits, crankbaits, soft plastics, and Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are fair on striper jigs, slabs, spoons, and live bait. White bass are fair on minnows, crankbaits, spinnerbaits, and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows and tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on frozen shrimp, shad, liver, nightcrawlers, and minnows. Yellow catfish

SOMERVILLE: Water stained; 2.25' low. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are slow. Yellow catfish are slow.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear; 80 degrees; 0.01' high. Black bass to 9 pounds are good on crankbaits and soft plastics. White bass are good on minnows and spinnerbaits in 30 feet. Crappie are good on minnows on the bottom in 30 feet. Channel and blue catfish are fair on minnows, shrimp, and hot dogs. Yellow catfish are slow. Carp are good on corn.

TRAVIS: Water clear; 77 degrees; 17.90' low. Black bass to 5 pounds are good on watermelon soft plastic worms and chrome PJ Pops in 6 - 18 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie

to 12" are fair on minnows and blue and white tube jigs in 16 - 30 feet. Channel and blue catfish to 5 pounds are fair on bloodbait and nightcrawlers in 18 - 35 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

WALTER E. LONG: Water clear. Black bass are good on minnows and crankbaits. Hybrid striper are fair on minnows and crankbaits. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp, and frozen shad in 30 - 40 feet. Yellow catfish are good but small on juglines baited with perch.

WHITNEY: Water murky; 2.44' low. Black bass are fair on Carolina rigged blue fleck worms, Gambler Swim Blades and wacky rigged pumpkinseed worms. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are fair on liver and shrimp.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 70-76 degrees; 1.4' low. Black bass are good on Carolina rigs on points in 10-18 feet. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows in 3-6 feet. Catfish are good on punch bait and worms around baited holes.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear; 71-77 degrees; 5.2' low. Black bass are good on Carolina rigs off main lake and secondary points. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows in 3-6 feet around heavy brush. White bass are good on Rat-L-Traps in the mid to lower lake. Catfish are good on punch bait over holes baited with soured grain in shallow water.

CADDO: Water stained; 72-76 degrees; 0.11' high Black bass are good on watermelon flukes and Senkos fished around cypress trees - also on frogs and buzzbaits in the pads and grass. Crappie are fair on shiners around deeper trees and oil rigs. Red Ear Bream are good on crickets in shallow cypress breaks. No reports on catfish.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear; 73-78 degrees; 2.09' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits over grass. White bass are excellent on Humbugs early, midday switching to slabs over humps. Hybrid striper are good on Sassy Shad. Crappie are good on tube jigs around shaded boathouses and brush piles. Catfish are good on livers and cut shad drifted over humps. COOPER: Water stained; 71-76 degrees; 8.99' low. No report available. Due to the low level of the lake, boaters are advised to use extreme caution.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear; 76 (main lake) - 86 (outlet) degrees; 3.5' low. Black bass are good on worms and shad pattern crankbaits around lay down logs, brush and reed beds. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut bait. Redfish are fair on Black Saltys and Rat-L-Traps. Bream are excellent on worms in 2-4 feet.

FORK: Water clear; 73-76 degrees; 2.46' low. Black bass are fair to good on sour grape frys and Carolina rigged junebug Baby Brush Hogs in 8-14 feet along main lake grass lines. Crappie are fair on small jigs in 20 feet under main lake bridges and around brush piles. Catfish are good in 15 feet on prepared baits.

GRAPEVINE: Water lightly stained; 70-78 degrees; 5.16' low. Black bass are fair to good on Carolina rigged junebug worms, medium diving crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs over brushpiles. White bass are good on slabs and Humdingers. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

JOE POOL: Water fairly clear; 71-77 degrees; 0.08' high. Black bass are good around points near the mouth of coves on Carolina rigged soft plastics and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on live minnows and jigs. White bass are good on TNT slabs and white Road Runners in 10-15 feet. Channel catfish are excellent drift fishing fresh shad and prepared catfish baits.

LAVON: Water stained; 71-76 degrees; 8.7' low. Black bass are good on soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and black/red/chartreuse jigs around brush. White bass are fair on slabs and Humdingers. Catfish are good on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

LEWISVILLE: Water stained; 72-78 degrees; 6.73' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and Carolina rigs of main lake and secondary points in 8-16 feet. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are excellent on slabs and TailHummer around main lake points, humps and flats. Catfish are excellent on prepared baits and fresh shad.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear; 3.7' low. Black bass are good on Carolina rigs and shallow diving crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows over submerged brush and timber. Catfish are excellent on trotlines and juglines baited with cut bait and punch bait.

PALESTINE: Water fairly clear; 72-77 degrees; 1.74' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits, watermelon candy worms and Rat-L-Traps around points close to deep water. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around brush and stickups. Catfish are excellent on punch bait. White bass are excellent on Rat-L-Traps around main lake points. Hybrid striper are fair on live perch and Sassy Shad.

RAY HUBBARD: Water fairly clear; 72-77 degrees; 0.55' low. Black bass are fair on Scum Frogs, white/chartreuse Booyah spinnerbaits and Senkos. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs in the marinas and around bridge columns. White bass are good on slabs and Humdingers. Catfish are fair on prepared baits.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear main lake, muddy in the creeks; 70-78 degrees; 2.73' low. Black bass are good on Yum Dingers and split shot rigged green Houdini shad on the edges of the milfoil. White bass are good on topwaters and Humdingers - surface schooling on the main lake and around Wolf Island. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around Corps of Engineers brush piles. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and prepared baits.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water fairly clear; 71-78 degrees; 5.37 low. Black bass are fair to good on spinnerbaits, white/chartreuse crankbaits and Carolina rigs. White bass and hybrid striper are fair to good on chartreuse slabs and Humdingers. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around brush. Catfish are good on juglines with live shad

TAWAKONI: Water stained; 72-76 degrees; 5.76' low. Black bass are fair on plastic worms and spinnerbaits. Crappie are slow on minnows and jigs.

low. Black bass are fair on plastic worms and spinnerbaits. Crappie are slow on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on 1 1/4oz. chartreuse slabs and Sassy Shad. Striped bass and hybrid striper are fair on Sassy Shad, slabs and live shad. Catfish are excellent on punch bait and nightcrawlers.

TEXOMA: Water clear; 72-75 degrees; 0.07' high. Black bass are fair on drop shot rigs, spinnerbaits and Texas rigged finesse baits. Smallmouth bass are fair on drop shot rigged finesse worms and silver/blue Pirk Minnows around steep rocky drop-offs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Striped bass are fair to good on topwaters early and late, midday switching to live shad and Sassy Shad. Catfish are fair to good on night-crawlers and cut shad.

WEATHERFORD: Water stained; 73-76 degrees; 6.34' low. Black bass to 9 pounds are good on crankbaits and Carolina rigged soft plastics. Crappie are good in the fishing barge and marina cove on jigs and minnows. Channel and yellow catfish are good on nightcrawlers, liver and shrimp. Schooling white bass are excellent on Little George's and Road Runners. Bream are excellent on worms.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear; 70 degrees. Black bass are good on white and tequila sunrise topwaters and jigs. Striped bass are fair on topwaters and large jerkbaits. White bass are fair on shallow running crankbaits. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on cheesebait, shrimp, and night-crawlers. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; 93 degrees. Black bass to 4 pounds are fair but mostly small on dark soft plastic worms and live minnows near the jetty and in reed beds. Striped bass to 4 pounds are very good on perch, shad, and chicken livers early. Redfish to 17 pounds are fair on perch and crawfish near Dead Tree Point at night, and down rigging spoons in the main lake. Channel and blue catflish are good on liver, shrimp, and stinkbait. Yellow cafflish are slow.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 92 degrees. Black bass to 6.5 pounds are good on soft plastic worms near the jetty and in reed beds. Striped bass are good on liver and shad. Redfish to 14 pounds are good on shad, spoons, tilapia, and Rat-L-Traps early and late. Crappie are slow. Channel catfish are good on liver, shrimp, and nightcrawlers. Blue catfish are fair on liver and nightcrawlers. Yellow catfish are

CHOKE CANYON: Water stained; 78 degrees; 4.63' low. Black bass to 10 pounds are very good on shad 11/2oz. Revenge spinnerbaits and smoke pearl laminate YUM Houdini Shad on main lake points early in 2 - 8 feet, and later on mean green Norman DD-22s in tree tops; good on Carolina rigged smoke purple red ZOOM Magnum lizards. White bass are very good on live minnows and silver Bomber slabs along main lake points. Crappie are good on white crappie jigs tipped with live minnows and white 1/32oz. Road Runners over brushpiles and standing timber in 4 - 12 feet. Channel and blue catfish are very good on Lewis King punchbait, perch, and shad gizzards in 8 - 15 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines and juglines baited with hybrid bluegills and jumbo minnows in 15 - 25 feet.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear; 85 degrees (94 degrees at hot water discharge); 3.71' low. Black bass are good on watermelon and pumpkinseed soft plastics and crankbaits in 5 - 12 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on perch, stinkbait, and shrimp in 10 - 15 feet. Yellow cat-

FALCON: Water stained; 86 degrees. Black bass are excellent on spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and Carolina rigs along outside ledges and points on the main lake. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue caffish are excellent on shad, cutbait, and frozen shrimp. Yellow catfish are slow. Mexican fishing licenses and boat permits are required to fish in Mexican waters. Everyone in the boat must have a Mexico Fishing License whether fishing or not.

MEDINA: Water stained; 77 degrees; 18.72' low. Black bass to 4 pounds are good on white 3/8oz. Oldham's spinnerbaits and cotton candy ZOOM Super Flukes across main lake points and coves early in 2 - 8 feet, and later on weightless smoke pearl laminate YUM Dingers and June bug candy Berkley Beasts in 10 - 20 feet. Striped bass are fair vertically iigging chrome/blue Fle-Fly slabs in 15 - 30 feet and drifting live hybrid bluegills or jumbo minnows near the dam. White bass are fair vertically iigging silver/black Bomber slabs and live minnows along main lake points. Crappie are good on white crappie jigs tipped with live minnows around brushpiles and standing timber at night under lights in 10 - 25 feet. Channel and blue catfish to 6 pounds are very good on Lewis King punchbait, hybrid bluegills, and cut shad in 5 - $15\,$ feet. Yellow catfish to 20 pounds are good on juglines baited with perch and goldfish in 20 - 30

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water stained; 3.62' low. Black bass to 4 pounds are fair on watermelon spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass are good on yellow striper jigs and live bait. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are fair on liver and stinkbait.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water stained. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and white/blue soft plastics. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are fair on liver and bait shrimp.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water stained; 81 degrees; 0.26' high. Black bass to 11.75 pounds are very good on shad medium running crankbaits, white spinnerbaits with gold blades, blue soft plastic worms with flakes, purple glitter Zoom Craw worms, and purple worms with white tails off points and in coves in 7 - 20 feet. Crappie are very good on live minnows in 15 - 20 feet around structure and near

the island. Bream are good on live worms in 3 - 6 feet. Catfish to 4 pounds are good on trotlines bait ed with chicken gizzards, and on shad off piers. Bream are good on live worms over grass beds.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; 70 degrees; 2.51' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass are good on Rat-L-Traps and slabs. White bass are excellent on slabs, pet spoons, and hellbenders. Crappie are fair to good on minnows. Blue catfish are excellent on shad, cutbait, and prepared baits. Yellow catfish are slow

SAM RAYBURN: Water clear; 71 degrees; 1.31' low. Black bass are fair on dark spinnerbaits and orange/white Rat-L-Traps, and on orange buzzbaits and Pop-R's. Crappie are good on minnows and small tube jigs.

TOLEDO BEND: Water stained; 3.94' low. Very little fishing activity due to the low water level - navigation is dangerous with all the exposed stumps and stickups. Most tournaments have been moved to Lake Sam Rayburn.

PANHANDLE

BAYLOR: Water lightly stained; 72 degrees. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Catfish are fair on live bait.

GREENBELT: Water lightly stained; 69 degrees; 25' low. Black bass are good on topwater lures at dawn, and shad-colored spinnerbaits and pumpkin soft plastics along grass lines and timber throughout day. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live bait. Smallmouth bass are good on chrome Rat-L-Trap along riprap. Walleye are good on live bait. Catfish to 6 pounds are good on minnows and cut shad.

MACKENZIE: Water lightly stained; 66 degrees; 67.65' low. Black bass are good on live bait and shad-colored spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass and striped bass are good on brown crawfish colored crankbaits along riprap. Smallmouth bass are fair on small crankbaits and inline spinners. Walleye are good on live bait. Catfish are good on live and cut baits.

MEREDITH: Water lightly stained; 68 degrees; 29.1' low. Black bass are fair on live bait, white spinnerbaits and black back crankbaits. Crappie are good on jigs and small crankbaits along riprap. White bass are good on minnows and jigs near humps. Smallmouth bass are fair on crankbaits and live baits. Walleye are good on bottom bouncers, and chrome jerkbaits near northern points and riprap. Channel catfish are good on cut baits. Note: Fritch Fortress ramp is open. Cedar Canyon is open to small vessels.

PALO DURO: Water lightly stained; 68 degrees; 48.85' low. Black bass are good on live bait and white spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Smallmouth bass are fair on live bait. Walleye are fair on live bait. Channel catfish are good on minnows.

WEST

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 76 degrees; 1.68' low. Black bass exceeding 7 pounds are good on shad-colored spinnerbaits, soft plastic jerkbaits and crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 75 degrees; 2.6' low. Black bass are fair and improving on Senkos, 1/2 oz. jigs and Rat-L-Traps off points and in flooded brush. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs along dam and near some derricks suspended 14-15 feet, with most spawning over. White bass are good on shad-imitation baits on shallow points and schooling on flats. Blue catfish are good on shad, punch bait and juglines in lake-wide.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear; 70-76 degrees; 9.46' low. Black bass good on Carolina rigged worms and Rat-L-Traps around riprap and shoreline cover. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around docks with brush. White bass are excellent on slabs and Humdingers in 12-15 feet. Hybrid striper are slow on live shad in 12-20 feet. Channel catfish are good in 10-15 feet on fresh shad and punch bait.

COLORADO CITY: Water clear; 76 degrees; 2.62' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. Catfish are slow.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water clear; 74 degrees; 6.77' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on live bait.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 75 degrees; 10.72' low. Black bass are fair on live bait, or pumpkin and red soft plastics near reeds and timber. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. White bass and hybrid striper are good on live baits. Catfish are good on minnows and prepared baits.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 72-78 degrees; 1.83' low. Black bass are good on Texas rigged purple worms, shad pattern medium running crankbaits and white/chartreuse buzzbaits early and late. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around brush. White bass are fair on jigging spoons and live minnows. Catfish are good on blood bait and worms in holes baited with soured grain.

NASWORTHY: Water lightly stained; 76 degrees. Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Redfish are slow. White bass and striped bass are good on live bat. Catfish are fair on cut baits and minnows.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 75 degrees; 17.62' low. Black bass are good on live bait, white spinnerbaits and soft jerkbaits near timber. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on inline spinners and minnows. Smallmouth bass are good on chartreuse/black crankbaits. Channel catfish are good on live baits and chicken liver.

OAK CREEK: Water lightly stained; 74 degrees; 19.6' low. Black bass are fair on live bait. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on minnows. No boat ramps open. 4x4 vehicles can unload on dirt road near the dam.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear; 76 degrees; 1' low. Black bass are fair on Senkos, pumpkinseed

wacky worms, white or chartreuse spinnerbaits in the shallows near cover in Caddo Creek area. White bass are good around river and off points near Willow Beach. Striped bass are fair at night near lighted piers. Blue and channel catfish are good on set lines baited with shad in the upper part of

SPENCE: Water lightly stained; 76 degrees; 50.25' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. Striped bass and hybrid striper are slow. Catfish are slow.

STAMFORD: Water lightly stained; 75 degrees; Black bass are fair on live bait and white spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair on red/white jigs and minnows. White and striped bass are fair on live baits. Catfish are fair on minnows and prepared baits.

WHITE RIVER: Water lightly stained; 75 degrees; 23.45' low. Black bass are fair on live bait and Junebug soft plastics along grass lines and timber Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Walleye are fair on live bait. Channel catfish are good on live baits.

WICHITA: Water lightly stained; 76 degrees; 4" low. Crappie are slow on 1/8 oz. chartreuse jigs or small minnows along dam riprap, old pavilion pier poles and Legion point. White bass and hybrid striped bass are good on minnows, white twister-tails and trolling along riprap. Channel catfish are fair on punchbait or trotlines baited with shad.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE: Trout and redfish are good while drifting slicks and on live shad, Norton Sand Eels and Bass Assassins. Flounder are good on live bait and pepper/chartreuse and red shad plastics tipped with shrimp on the Louisiana shoreline.

SOUTH SABINE: Trout are good while drifting the Reef on plum and red shad Norton Bull Minnows and Sand Eels. Redfish are good at the jetty and in the middle of the lake on live shad and shrimp. Trout are good on topwaters against the rocks at the jetty.

BOLIVAR: Trout are good at Rollover Pass and in the Pocket on live shrimp, plum Bass Assassins, Sand Eels, Trout Killers and She Dogs. Redfish are good in the surf on cut-bait. Gafftop, sand trout and flounder are good at the Pass on live bait.

TRINITY BAY: Trout fair to good while drifting deeper shell reefs and slicks on glow/chartreuse and plum Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels. Trout, sand trout, redfish and croaker are good on live shrimp in front of the Spillway.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are good at Hannas and Deep Reefs on plum/white and red shad Norton Sand Eels, Bass Assassins, live shrimp and croakers. Trout and gafftop are good off the spoil banks in the Ship Channel on live croakers.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Trout and redfish are good on plum Bass Assassins and gold spoons under the birds. Gafftop, sand trout, speckled trout and whiting are good from the beachfront piers on live bait. Offshore is good for snapper, shark, ling and amberjack.

TEXAS CITY: Trout are good on the Dollar Flats on croakers and plum plastics. Redfish are good in Moses Lake from the deep holes on live shrimp. Trout, redfish and gafftop are good at night from the piers on live shrimp.

FREEPORT: Trout and sheepshead are good at the Surfside and Quintana jetties on live shrimp. Trout and redfish are fair to good at San Luis Pass on live shrimp and spoons. Whiting and gafftop are good on fresh dead shrimp on the beach.

EAST MATAGORDA: Trout are fair to good while wading the flats on the east end on red shad and black/chartreuse Sand Eels, Bass Assassins and Trout Killers. Redfish are fair to good on the west shoreline on gold spoons, live shrimp and roach Hogies, Trout Killers and Norton Sand Eels.

MATAGORDA: Trout are good on the south shoreline on red shad, morning glory and fire tiger Bass Assassins, Norton Sand Eels and Trout Killers. Redfish are fair to good on live shrimp over scattered shell.

PORT O'CONNOR: Trout are good on croakers on the shell and in deep guts. Trout are good while wading grassy flats on roach and pumpkinseed/chartreuse Sand Eels and Trout Killers. Trout and redfish are good at the jetty on topwaters on croakers and mullet.

ROCKPORT: Trout are good on the outside of Traylor Island and on the Estes Flats on live croak ers. Redfish are good on cut-mullet around Mud Island.

PORT ARANSAS: Trout are good on the San Jose Island shoreline on croakers and plum Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Norton Sand Eels. Redfish are fair to good on the East Flats on mullet and topwaters. Offshore is good for wahoo, red snapper, dorado, amberjack and kingfish.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Trout and redfish are good on live shrimp and croakers around the causeway. Redfish are good around the shell on live shrimp. Trout and redfish are good at on the Portland shoreline on live shrimp and croakers.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout are good around the rocks, at the Land Cut and around Rocky Slough on s Sand Eels, Trout Killers, Bass Assassins and bone She Dogs. Redfish are good at the Land Cut while drifting the grass on live shrimp under a popping cork.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout and redfish are good while drifting West Bay on live shrimp and bone topwaters and soft plastics. Trout and flounder are good on live bait in the Intracoastal. Whiting, flounder and sheepshead are good on fresh dead bait at the iettv.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout and redfish are good on pumpkinseed/chartreuse and plum Hogies, Sand Eels, Trout Killers and Bass Assassins at Three Island. Trout are good at the Gas-Well Flats on She Dogs and live shrimp under a popping cork.

PORT ISABEL: Trout are good on live shrimp and croakers at Airport Cove. Trout and redfish are fair to good at Laguna Vista and the jetty on spoons, live shrimp and fire tiger Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels.

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

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 antireverse 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.



clamp costs about \$45 and can be ordered from

www.trophytools.com. For more information, call

(972) 986-0603.

SMART RANGEFINDER: Leupold's RX Digital Rangerfinder 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 or 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

(877) 974-4353.

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

Advertisement

SPORTS TECH NEWS - 2006

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

Out-fishes other bait 19 to 4 in one contest.

> **Unes астопрасе** technology to mimic a real fish.

ORLANDO, FL- Asmall company in Connecticut has developed a new hue that mimics the motion of a real fish so realisti-

cally eight professionals couldn't tell difference oetween francia Hye when it altad 'swam'' toward them on retrieval The design elimiwobbling, nates augled awimming

and other mountural motions that problem other hard bait hues. It swims upright and appears to propel itself with its tail

Curiously, the company may have designed it too well. Toumament 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 hust the company's promotional efforta Winning tounaments is an important part of marketing a new hue.

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

hue (called The KickTail^o) on a lake cutaide OrlandoFL for about four hours Four used the KickTail and four used a combination of their favorite hures and shiness (live bait). The four using the KickTail canglet 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 fighto strike. You can see why the company needs to get it into tommamenta. An almost 3 to 1 advantage can le of dollars fisherman, and hundreds of thousands in sales to the company.

The KickTail's magic comes



Brombe Seett Wilson Lands a 184 madeu

from patented technology tliat bieaka the tail into five segments. As water malies by on retrieval, a littleknown principle called aeronantical flutter causes the tail to

wag left and right, as if the hure were propelling itself with its tail. Unlike other hard baits, the head remains stationary—only the tail waga A company apokeaman told me thia

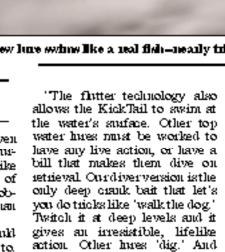
"Figh attack live things, and

they determine if something is alive by watching ita movementa Manne biologists will tell you that the move a hive awima like a real fialt, 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 halfdead from a hook. It's always swimming wild and free Fish can't stand it We've seen fish that KickTail It's like having another potato chip.

Increases catch almost 3 to L

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

We knew the KickTail would out-fish other hues. It had to: Other has wobble their heads and awim on an angle. But 41 fish to 14? That's large! I tell you, in ten seconds anyone who has fished a day in his life knows this little swimmer's a home nut 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.



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

there's no need for rattles. The

five tail segments click together

as you pull it through the water,

calling figh from a distance."

are three versions: a floater for top water, a diver and a "dying aliad" with a weed guard for fighing lily pads and other feeding apota. The company says it's the only hard bait of its kind in existence. Each have 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 1-300-373-4415 or click www.ngo sports.com anytime or day or send a check or M.O. (or oc number and exp. date) to MGC Sports (Dept KT-1036), 60 Clavich Street, Yalesville, CT 05492. CT ald sales tax. The KickTail is four inches long and works in salt and fresh water

WHATCH Work Hollie, Inc. 2006 Dept. KT1058



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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 17



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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 weekend in second place at 33.38 pounds.

The top 10 points leaders and top 10 Championship finisher qualifed 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

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.

GafftopKara 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.

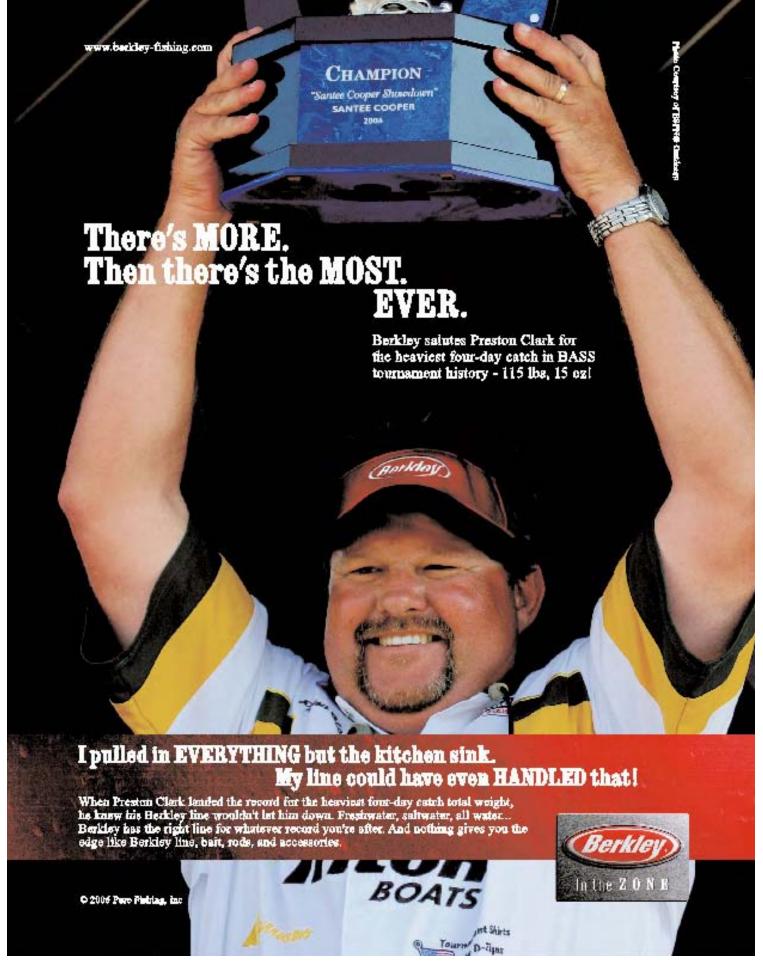
INSHORE DIVISION

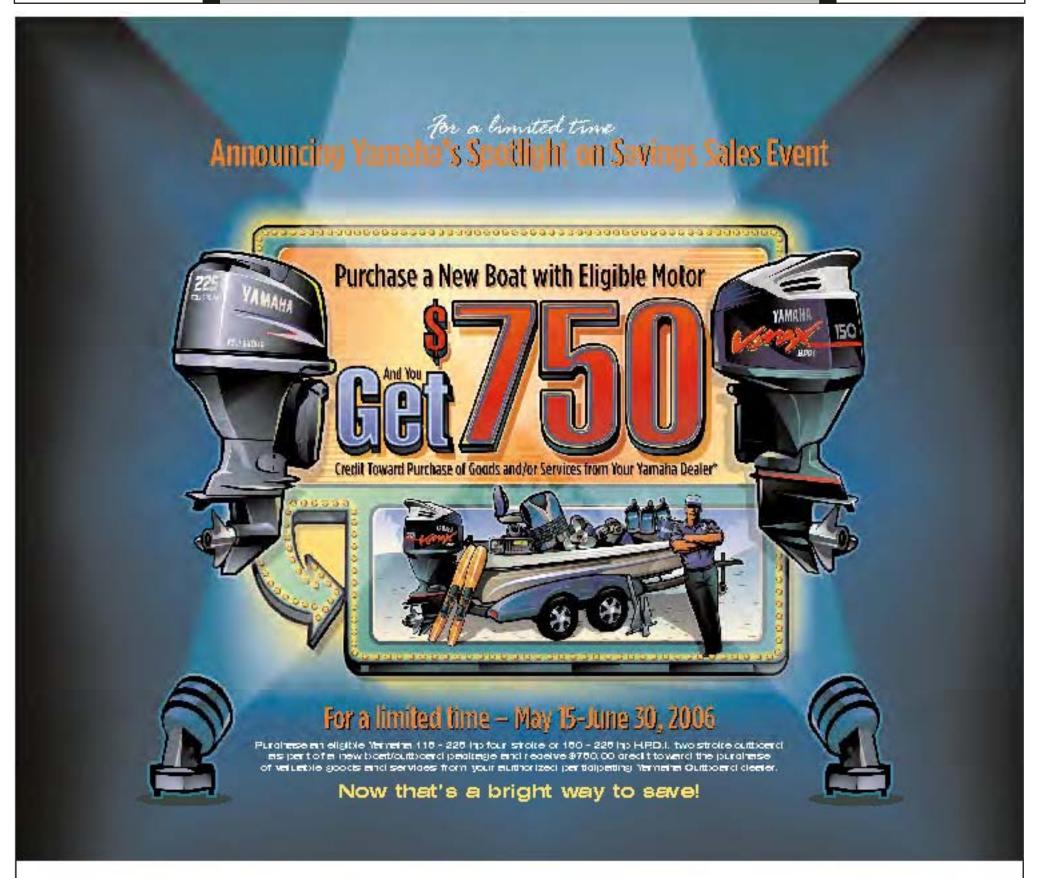
Flounder Charles Merrifield of Richwood 3lbs. 13 ozs.

Sheepshead

Michael Wayne Edgar of LaPorte 6 lbs. 12 ozs.

Patrick Harwood of San Antonio 9 lbs. 4 ozs.





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 (invised, and not previously tvarrantyregistered) Yarnaha 116-225 hp four stroke outboards, and Yarnaha 100-225 hp H.P.D.I. two stroke outboards. only. To be eligible, outboardernust 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 (in used, not previously warranty registered) boat/outboard package. Consumer benefit offered for the purchase of an eligible outboard is a \$700.00 credit based on M.S.R.P. toward the purchase of goods and/or services available at authorized participating Yarnaha Outboard cleaters at no extra cost to the purchasing consumer. No model substitutions, benefit substitutions, rain checks or extensions will be allowed. Not redeemable for each. This Promotion is only applicable for eligible outboards sold with a new boat and delivered to a purchasing consumer in the U.S.A from May 16, 2003 through June 30, 2003. All eligible outboards must be PDI completed and warranty registered on YMB.S. by the dealer no later than June 30, 2003 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, carno, resort, guide, demo and government agency use are not eligible. Outboards sold or provided directly by Yarnaha for competition, tournament, promotion or sponsorship use are not eligible. Yarnaha reseme athe right to change or cancel this Promotion at any time.

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

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F200	\$750 Crafil Townol Printers of Goods Services
F225	\$750 Crafil Townol Puroless of Goods/Services
Eligible HPOI	Two Strokes
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200իր	\$750 Crafil Townol Puroless of Goods Services







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