

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS



March 27, 2009

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 5, Issue 15



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Lead ban halted

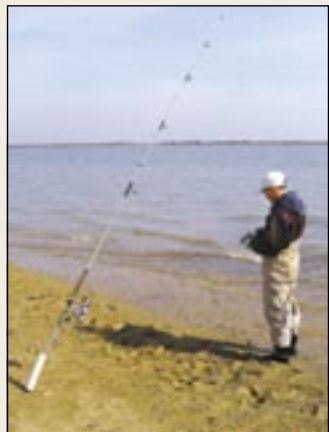
National Park Service officials backed off a plan to ban lead ammo and fishing gear. **Page 6**

INSIDE FISHING

Huge bass at Choke

Anglers at Choke Canyon Reservoir caught bass of 14.47 and 15.27 pounds March 21. Oh, somebody caught a 13-pounder, too.

Page 9



North Texas surf rig

Anglers catch hybrids at Lewisville Lake using big saltwater tackle.

Page 8



Paluxy put back

Jakesy Jordaan released a would-be record largemouth back into the Paluxy.

Page 8

HUNTING

Cutting-edge Texan

Charles Allen makes knives for rugged Alaska bears and East Texas whitetails.

Page 6

CONSERVATION

Farewell, father

Harry Tension, remembered as the Father of the Black Rhino, has died.

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NATIONAL

Illegal trade busted

Wildlife authorities in New York ended a suspected black market wildlife trade ring.

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Turkey season boosted

Rains giving some birds a slight break from drought

By Craig Nyhus

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Early forecasts for the Texas spring turkey season started out bleak. Severe drought had crippled habitat in much of the state, and the likelihood of hens taking any interest in breeding was low.

Heavy rains received in much of the state,

however, boosted the optimism of turkey biologists and hunters, and with good numbers of 2-year-old toms just reaching sexual maturity, hunters have reason to hope for a much better start to the spring season.

"It looked pretty bad until we got 5 inches of rain last week," said Bill Magee, a retired Texas

See **TURKEY**, Page 20

INSIDE

■ **Proper scoring:** A few tips. **Page 7**

■ **Down South:** Conditions south of San Antonio are drier. **Page 12**



SUCCESS: Turkey hunters may have to be more patient and wait longer to bag a mature gobbler this season. Many 2-year-old birds are expected to be seen. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.



LOFTY GOALS: Snook are being raised in captivity at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas, with the hopes of spawning the fish to help create a top-level snook fishery in Texas. Photo by Erich Schlegel for Lone Star Outdoor News.

Growing up snook

UTMSI program seeks to boost fishery

By Craig Nyhus

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Rick Kline, a doctoral candidate at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute Fisheries and Mariculture Laboratory in Port Aransas, has a goal. He would like to see a Texas snook fishery that rivals the Florida Keys.

"We would like to raise snook in

captivity and spawn them," Kline said. "And then give the technology to Texas Parks and Wildlife."

Last year, some of the research was funded by the Coastal Conservation Association. Kline hopes funding for the \$30,000 per year project will continue.

The most fun — albeit sometimes

See **SNOOK**, Page 22

Sportsman's Warehouse to close its Texas stores

Retailer files for bankruptcy, blaming slow sales, economy

After a deal to sell all of its stores partially fell through, Utah-based Sportsman's Warehouse Holdings announced the company will close 23 stores to reduce bank debt. UFA Co-op, a Canadian retailing company, will purchase 15 stores.

Sportsman's Warehouse filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection March 22, citing a "liquidity

crisis" triggered by declining sales and the global economic slowdown.

The outdoor retailer reported combined assets with a book value of \$436.3 million and combined debt of \$452.2 million as of Dec. 31.

Texas has two remaining stores in

See **WAREHOUSE**, Page 16

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CONSERVATION

Tennison remembered as Father of the Black Rhino

Hunter helped African species avoid extinction

Harry Tennison, a hunter and conservationist known as the Father of the Black Rhino, died earlier this month. He was 89.

Tennison was a pilot in the Army Air Forces in World War II. He attended Baylor University, and received the Outstanding Alumni Award for Conservation from the university.

Tennison traveled as a professional hunter in Africa, Australia, India and New Zealand. When rhinos were

near extinction, he founded Game Conservation International, which enabled him to bring two species of rhinos to the United States for breeding.

He earned the title Father of the Black Rhino for his work in Operation Rhino. In 1989 he brought 10 black rhinos from Africa.

Three went to South Texas ranches, two to a ranch owned by fellow Fort Worth Zoo boosters Lee and Ramona Bass.

"Harry was sounding the alarm bells in regard to the rhinos' decline many years before the others real-



Tennison

ized their peril," Lee Bass told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "He pioneered the concept of establishing a viable breeding population of black rhinos outside of Africa."

Tennison was a long-time Operation Game Thief committee member and a supporter of Texas Parks and Wildlife programs.

He was awarded the inaugural Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award by the Dallas Safari Club and the Dallas Ecological Foundation in 2005.

Tennison is survived by two daughters, Jil Barnes and Kit Moncrief; a son, Lee Lupton Tennison; eight grandchildren and two great-step-grandchildren.

—Staff report

Conservation News in Brief

Anglers' Legacy hits 100,000 pledges

The Anglers' Legacy program reached 100,000 Pledges, the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation announced.

Formed in 2006, Anglers' Legacy asks outdoor enthusiasts to preserve the legacies of boating and fishing by introducing at least one newcomer to the sport.

—RBFF report

Court affirms Neches refuge

A federal appeals court March 12 affirmed a lower court decision in favor of creating the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge.

The U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service acted legally in creating the refuge and denied an appeal by the city of Dallas and Texas Water Development Board, in effect precluding their ability to construct the proposed Fastrill Reservoir in the same area. The city has not decided whether to appeal.

—Texas Parks and Wildlife report

Texan named to elk group board

Mark Tolar of Woodville was named a director on the board of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation earlier this month at its annual convention in Fort Worth.

Tolar is the associate pastor of the First Baptist Church in Woodville and founded the RMEF Chisholm Trail Chapter. He has served in several capacities for RMEF.

—RMEF report

Groups join forces for grasslands, grouse

More land to be protected under new partnership

Prairie Grouse Partners, a collaboration of the North American Grouse Partnership, Pheasants Forever, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and the Mule Deer Foundation, has been launched with an aggressive goal of restoring 20 percent of North America's native grasslands.

The effort would result in 60 million acres of improved habitat for a wide range of wildlife, including three species of prairie grouse. The announcement was made at the 74th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, a gathering of state, federal and

nonprofit wildlife and natural resource professionals.

The conservation work of the Prairie Grouse Partners will be guided by the Grassland Conservation Plan for Prairie Grouse, a landscape-scale, ecologically based plan developed in cooperation with state natural resource agencies and adopted by the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. The plan is centered on three major grouse species (sharp-tailed grouse, greater prairie chicken and lesser prairie chicken), considered primary indicators of healthy grassland ecosystems.

Pheasants, quail and mule deer thrive in similar habitat and will benefit from projects beneficial to prairie grouse.

Ten percent of North America's 585 million acres of native grasslands remain today.

—Pheasants Forever report



★ Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper ★

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NATIONAL

Black market trade busted

Snakes, turtles sent overseas for consumption, collections

An undercover investigation by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation into the poaching, smuggling and illegal sale of protected reptiles and amphibians has led to charges against 18 individuals for 14 felonies, 11 misdemeanors and dozens of violations.

The investigation, dubbed "Operation Shellshock," uncovered a lucrative, international black market for poaching and selling native, protected New York species — turtles, rattlesnakes and salamanders — through the Internet and at herpetological shows, DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis said.

Investigators found thousands of

New York turtles being laundered through "middlemen" in other states, then being shipped overseas for meat and other uses. More than 2,400 individual turtles, snakes and salamanders were involved in the documented crimes.

The undercover investigation began in 2007 and included officials from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Florida, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Service, the New York attorney general's office, Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Investigators found thousands of snapping turtles laundered through a Louisiana turtle farm,

then shipped illegally to China, and New York's timber rattlesnakes and wood turtles were being shipped out of state and out of the country to support high-end collectors. They traded with a smuggler from Canada to recover a population of endangered Massasauga rattlesnakes — nabbing him in a Niagara Falls parking lot with a van stuffed with 33 rattlesnakes in hidden compartments.

Federal Lacey Act charges are being pursued against a Louisiana turtle farm operator for knowingly purchasing illegally taken New York snapping turtle hatchlings and the export of such hatchlings to China and a Maryland meat processor for the knowing purchase of illegally trapped New York snapping turtles.

— *New York Department of Environmental Conservation report*

Bears waking; Vt. residents urged to remove bird feeders

As hibernation ends, seeds are high-energy food

Vermont's black bears are emerging from their winter dens and looking for springtime food sources.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says residents can help prevent the bears from getting into trouble by taking down their bird feeders.

"We are getting reports of bears getting into bird feeders in southern Vermont and at low elevations," said Col. David LeCours of the state's Fish and Wildlife Department. "We are urging people to help by removing any food sources that may

tempt the bears."

"We are asking people to stop feeding birds from April through late October," added LeCours. "Also, don't leave pet food outside, wash down your barbecues when done, and secure your garbage containers. And above all, never purposely leave food out for bears. Feeding bears may seem kind, but it is almost a sure death sentence for them."

Bears often eat seeds in the wild, so a bird feeder chock full of high-energy seed is a concentrated source of what a bear considers natural food. And they are smart.

Once bears learn to obtain food around people's homes, they will be back for more.

— *Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department report*

National News in Brief

Four men caught with 1,268 fish

Friday the 13th proved unlucky for four South Carolina anglers when a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officer seized their catch of 1,268 freshwater fish.

FWC officer Jim Adams received an anonymous tip that led him to seize 1,264 shellcrackers, one warmouth, one spotted sunfish and two undersized largemouth bass from the group of anglers fishing on Lake Kissimmee. Each angler is allowed 50 panfish per

day with 100 in possession. The violations are punishable by a fine of up to \$500, 60 days in jail or both.

The FWC donated all of the fish to Natural Encounters in Lakes Wales. The fish will provide a six-month supply of food for the birds that Natural Encounters trains for Disney Productions.

— *Florida Wildlife Commission report*

Cabela's, Remington getting new CEOs

Sporting goods retailer Cabela's and the parent company of firearms

manufacturer Remington have new CEOs in place or on the way.

Cabela's is putting Thomas L. "Tommy" Millner at the helm of the outdoors giant, which has Texas stores in Fort Worth and Buda. He begins April 6.

Millner, formerly chief executive of Freedom Group Inc., the parent company of Remington Arms Company, Inc., will succeed Dennis Highby. Highby will become vice chairman of the board.

Millner has worked for Remington for 15 years, the past 10 as CEO.

Highby was Cabela's 40th employee and first salaried employee 33 years ago. He served as CEO and president since July 2003.

In Millner's place, Freedom Group tapped Theodore "Ted" Torbeck to take

over. He joined Remington as its chief operating officer in February 2008.

— *Staff report*

Deadline nears for N.M. big game tags

April 8 is the application deadline for deer, elk, antelope, bighorn sheep, javelina, ibex and Barbary sheep.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is advising all hunters who have applied or plan to apply for 2009-2010 elk licenses to review their applications and consider revising them because of errors in the 2009-2010 "Big-Game & Trapper Rules & Information" booklet.

The booklet listed incorrect "fee types" for some elk hunts, which could affect the license-fee amounts and whether a hunter successful in the drawing will be eligible to apply for the same type of hunt the following season. Changes adopted by the State Game Commission make deer and elk hunters eligible for "High Demand" or "Quality" hunts only every other year. Nonresident licenses for HD or Q hunts also cost more than "Standard" fee-type hunts.

Hunters who applied online can change applications until 5 p.m. April 8. Hunters who applied incorrectly in the booklet will be contacted by e-mail or telephone.

— *New Mexico Game and Fish report*

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HUNTING

Lead-ban announcement riles sportsmen

National Park Service withdraws plan after outcry

The National Park Service announced plans earlier this month to ban lead ammunition and fishing sinkers from its lands by 2010, but after heavy criticism from the NRA and hunting and fishing groups, NPS has backpedaled.

Officials later said the ban only applies to NPS employees and its authorized agents.

The original announcement left little doubt that the ban would also apply to visitors to nation-

al parks — and it still may. The park service manages 61 properties that are open to hunting.

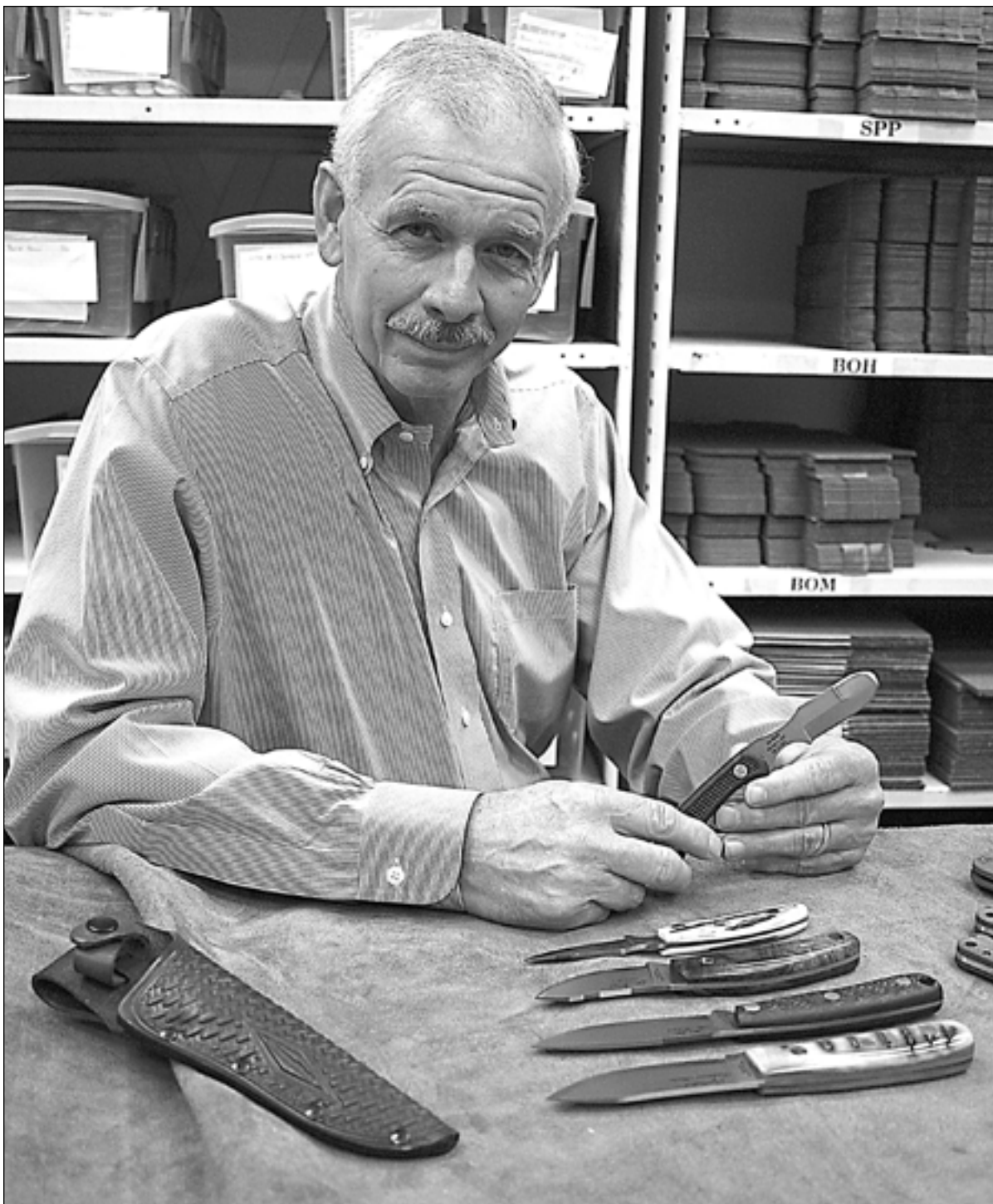
"Everything you could do before the announcement, you can still do today," said Bert Frost, associate director of natural resource stewardship and science for the National Park Service. "You can still use lead shot and lead ammunition. The point of the announcement was to let the public know that internally we want to get away from lead-based products."

Despite Frost's statements, people who hunt and fish in national parks could still be banned from using lead-based products. The park service will continue to look at prohibiting the use of lead

See **NO LEAD**, Page 16



LEAD BATTLES: Copper-coated lead bullets and lead fishing tackle were on the hit list on National Park Service lands. The ban initially applied to all hunters and anglers but was later overturned. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.



On the edge of Alaska

Texan develops knife companies out of need, inspiration

By Thomas Phillips

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Charles Allen developed two of his knives' biggest features with help from vastly different sources: an elderly Alaskan native woman and researchers at Brigham Young University.

Allen, owner of Knives of Alaska and DiamondBlade, was invited to help native Alaskans skin seals on the Gulf of Alaska one day when he met the woman, who had unique knives, called ulus, with rounded blades.

"This little old lady about 90 years old said, 'Here, take these,'" Allen said. "And she undid this oilskin pouch, and there must have been 10 or 12 of those things in there. And they must have been a hundred years old."

He added the ulu shape to a cleaver he had designed for processing deer while working as a wildlife biologist in East Texas for St. Regis Paper Co.

"We incorporated that ulu radius, that big sweep, into the nose of that cleaver and came up with essentially the perfect skinner-cleaver," he said.

From there Knives of Alaska was born.

Manufacturing takes place at a plant at the North Texas Regional Airport in Denison, near Allen's family.

The 150 Knives of Alaska products, including 33 blade styles, are available online and through 500 dealers nationwide.

Allen and his staff make DiamondBlade knives at the same location, though the technology behind it was developed elsewhere.

Cutting edges on DiamondBlade knives are forged in a process that applies tremendous pressure and heat to the steel. The process changes the molecular structure of the steel on the edge, making it harder and less brittle. The knife can hold a sharp edge longer because of the forging, Allen said.

Allen developed Friction Forging with BYU researchers, and steel for DiamondBlade knives is treated in Provo, Utah, near the school.

To demonstrate DiamondBlade's performance, Allen compared using a Knives of Alaska blade and a DiamondBlade to skin brown bears in Alaska. The animals have thick hides, often with sand in the fur.

"It's not as bad as a wild hog, but

See **KNIVES**, Page 21

SHARP-EDGED MAN: Charles Allen's knife companies manufacture a wide range of blades, including the blunt-nosed Muskrat in his hands. Photo by Thomas Phillips, LSON.

Muley research continues at Sul Ross

Biologist committed to improving bucks, West Texas habitat

Misty Sumner proudly posed with a trophy mule deer buck on the Jobe Ranch.

Then her co-workers untied bindings, and the buck, wearing a new radio collar, lurched to its feet and bounded back into the brush.

The procedure was repeated more than 20 times over a three-day period as part of a Sul Ross State University Wildlife Management research project.

Sumner's husband, Lane, a 1984 Sul Ross graduate, manages the Jobe Ranch in Culberson County. Misty, a regional biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife, is completing her master's degree at Sul Ross.

Her research includes determining the home range, assessing the health and measuring yearly antler growth of ma-

ture mule deer bucks. GPS radio collars enable Sumner to obtain home range sizes and movement by determining the location of each deer every five hours.

The collared bucks, ranging in age from 4 1/2 to 8 1/2 years, are hunted by helicopters using net guns. Once captured, they are restrained, blindfolded, processed, photographed and released. On the ranches that make up the study area, they are protected from hunters.

"Mule deer hunting — especially the trophy bucks — is a staple of West Texas' hunting economy," said Dr. Louis Harveson, Borderlands Research Institute director and Sul Ross professor of Natural Resource Science. "One of our studies is how to grow bigger and better deer, but at the same time balancing the nutrition, habitat and ranch management."

Presently, the BRI is managing roughly \$500,000 in mule deer research grants. Research includes Sumner's project of monitoring trophy mule deer buck movement, as well as projects studying genetics, habitat change and the effectiveness of feeding programs.

Deer feeding programs definitely add protein to deer diets, but Harveson said there is concern that overfeeding can lead to overpopulation and in turn jeopardize habitat.

"The deer herd cannot subsist on the feed (in feeders) alone," he said. "If too many deer crowd into an area because of the feeders, they may start feeding on other plants not normally in their diet and consequently do harm to the habitat."

— Sul Ross State University report



DEER DEVOTEE: Misty Sumner shows off the antlers — and a GPS tracking collar — on a mule deer trapped for a study in West Texas. Photo by Sul Ross State University.

MEASUREMENT: Turkey spurs, beards and body weights should be precisely measured for accurate scoring, according to the National Wild Turkey Federation. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.



How to score your wild turkey

The National Wild Turkey Federation provides a scoring calculator to help successful hunters. All measurements need to be converted to decimal form, and for consideration for records, a current NWTF member or another licensed hunter from the state where the bird was harvested must verify all measurements.

1. Weigh your bird in pounds and ounces and convert ounces to decimal form.

2. Measure each spur. Spurs must be measured along the outside center, from the point at which the spur protrudes from the scaled leg skin to the tip of the spur. Add both spur measurements and multiply the combined length of the spurs by 10. This is the number of points you receive for the turkey's spurs.

3. Measure the beard length (a beard must be measured from the center point of the protrusion of the skin to the tip) and convert it to decimal form.

Next, multiply the beard length figure by two. This is the number of points you receive for the beard length. If you have an atypical bird (multiple beards), measure each beard, convert them to a decimal number, then add those figures together and multiply by two.

4. Add together the weight, the points for spurs and points for beard(s): This is the score you receive for your turkey.

— National Wild Turkey Federation report

Public turkey hunting

Still looking for a place to turkey hunt? Public hunting opportunities are available in Texas, where an annual public hunting permit or other fees on federal lands will allow hunters access — and hopefully a gobbler will respond to their calls.

Here are a few places to try to set up a hunt this season. More locations are available through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Annual Public Hunting Permit map book and the Official Guide to Texas Wildlife Management Areas. Be sure to check with the area for fee and registration requirements and whether the area is a drawn-hunt property.

- Angelina National Forest, (936) 897-1068
- Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, (512) 339-9432, ext. 42
- Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, (806) 857-3151
- LBJ National Grasslands, (940) 627-5475
- O.C. Fisher Lake/ASU Area, (915) 947-2687
- Sabine National Forest, (409) 787-3870
- Lake Waco, (254) 756-5359
- Whitney Lake/COE Area, (254) 694-3189
- Wright Patman Dam and Lake, (903) 838-8781

Lindenwood U. wins its 6th straight shooting title

Texas A&M breaks top 10, with Sam Houston, A&M-CC close behind

A record 37 schools and 337 clay target shooters competed in San Antonio at the 41st ACUI Clay Target Championships. The event added seven new schools and saw an 11-percent jump in participation over last year's event.

Tiny Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo., dominated nearly every category and won the team overall competition for the sixth consecutive year. Lindenwood was followed by the University of Missouri and Southeastern Illinois College.

Lindenwood's Alexandra Chiang and Robert Auerbach won the men's and women's high overall.

Lindenwood swept the top six spots in the men's rankings, led by individual champion Auerbach, who finished with a score of 286. The program also swept the top three spots in the women's individual rankings, led by women's champion Chiang with 362 points.

Troy Kensing of Texas A&M finished third in International Skeet with 90 targets

Top shots

Overall team results

1. Lindenwood University
2. University of Missouri
3. Southeastern Illinois College
4. Colorado State University
5. Kansas State University
6. Texas A&M University
10. Trinity University
11. Sam Houston State University
16. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

Men's Overall results

1. Robert Auerbach, Lindenwood
2. Travis Mears, Lindenwood
3. Jon Shockley, Lindenwood
19. Troy Kensing, Texas A&M

Ladies Overall results

1. Alexandra Chiang, Lindenwood
2. Jessica Forbes, Lindenwood
3. Jenna McLean, Lindenwood
7. Katelyn Lenderman, Texas A&M

plus 22 in the shoot-off. Trinity University finished third in the International Trap team results.

— ACUI report

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FISHING

Young fly angler's bass almost record

Accomplished boy releases Paluxy River bucketmouth

By Ian Harrison

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

On the day before his 13th birthday, Jakesy Jordaan of Dallas went fly-fishing at a friend's secret spot on the Paluxy River near Glen Rose. But his catch that Sunday afternoon didn't stay a secret long when he landed a would-be river record.

Jordaan, a seventh-grader, learned fly-fishing at family property in Colorado and was hooked.

"I basically fish eight hours a day for two weeks in the summer," he said.

He's been to the Blue River and Broken Bow in Oklahoma, a fly-fishing camp in Montana and practices at a pond near his home.

"And he got a Helios rod from my parents for Christmas, so he won't pick up the other rods anymore," his mother, Sydney Hall, said.

Back at home, he frequents the Dallas Orvis store.

"He's a regular," his mother said. "He's there a few times every week."

On this Sunday afternoon, Sean Polk, the fly-fishing manager at the store, gave Jakesy the choice of fishing to catch good numbers of bass or to go for a quality fish. Jakesy chose the latter, knowing they might get skunked on the trip.

At the river, Polk made Jakesy promise to never reveal their location. "Sean's Secret Spot," as Jakesy named it, is a spring-fed, limestone-banked river holding bass and sunfish.

The duo hit the river with Jakesy's mom. The first spot they hit led to an almost immediate hook up on a Dahlberg diver — a fly that Polk had tied especially for their trip. Jakesy lost the fish after it made a few jumps and missed another.

"I was getting a little frustrated," he said.

But he didn't have to wait long to redeem himself. Polk

See **BOY ANGLER**, Page 21



NEW TECHNIQUES:

Photo by Craig Nyhus, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Surf's up at Lewisville

Shore anglers unload big tackle for North Texas hybrids

By Craig Nyhus

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Anglers and pleasure boaters viewing the points near the dam at Lewisville Lake in Collin County regularly see a sight usually reserved for the coast — large groups of bank fishermen — mostly of Vietnamese descent — with surf tackle. What they don't know is the groups are catching hybrids — and sometimes lots of them.

"I caught five on Monday with my two kids," said Thue Lam of Lewisville, whose 10- and 12-year-olds were on spring break. "And the biggest was a 10-pounder."

Lam, an architect at RHA Architects in Dallas, uses four poles rigged with 3- to 5-ounce weights set a few feet below the large hook.

"If it's windy, we use the heavier weights to keep them on the bottom," he said.

Usually, shad is the bait, but sometimes he uses whole crawfish with the shells removed.

"I use crawfish when I'm too lazy to catch some shad," he said.

The equipment the bank anglers use

is not your normal bank-fishing gear, at least at freshwater lakes in North Texas. Large surf rods and spinning rigs are the norm.

"This fishing equipment is expensive, though," he said.

Lam's G. Loomis rod cost around \$290 several years ago.

"I'm not sure what they cost now," he said.

Some curious eyes watch the anglers as they catch their bait using cast nets or seines, and especially when they wade out to waist- or sometimes chest-deep water to cast their rigs more than 100 yards away from shore.

But they catch fish.

"We come almost every weekend," said Tin Nguyen, also of Lewisville. "The best hybrids we catch are around 24 inches. But you have to get your bait beyond the shelf into deeper water."

Nguyen said the curiosity seekers don't lead to competition from the locals for angling space.

"They're curious and come and check

us out," he said. "But it's pretty much just us out here."

And many of them have a story to tell.

In 1979, Lam came to the U.S. from Vietnam with his brother.

"We were the only ones left in our family," he said. "The Catholic church sponsored bringing us over."

The brothers initially settled in Lawton, Okla., and Lam attended the University of Oklahoma.

Their favorite topic, though, is usually fishing, and Lam prefers

the from-the-bank variety, even though his brother has a boat, and they occasionally fish together at Lewisville or Texoma.

"I prefer it from the bank," he said. "The hybrids fight really hard and for a long time — especially when they bite way out there. I usually throw them back, but I love to catch them."

The best hybrids we catch are around 24 inches. But you have to get your bait beyond the shelf into deeper water.

— Tin Nguyen, Lewisville angler



YOUNG GUN: Jakesy Jordaan landed this bass on a fly at the Paluxy River the day before he turned 13. Photo by Sydney Hall.

Flush brine to save boat motor

Saltwater can corrode, leave deposits on sensitive parts

By Dan Armitage

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Whether your boat is primarily a freshwater fishing craft out for a day in the salt or is cruising in brine full-time, a freshwater flush is a post-trip task that simply can't be overlooked if you intend to keep your engine in top running shape.

The salt suspended in the fluid that floated your boat — and cooled

its engine — is hazardous to your rig's health. Long after the water has drained or evaporated, the corrosive chloride particles left behind will degrade any metal they contact. The most vulnerable areas of your rig are the ports and passages inside your outboard or sterndrive engine, where the saltwater was circulated by your water pump and impeller to keep the engine's internal workings cool.

Fortunately, the saltwater that re-

mains in your engine's cooling system after it has been shut down, and any salt deposits that may already be forming, can be rinsed away with freshwater. The "flushing" process directs freshwater into your engine's cooling system to displace the saltwater and wash away any potential for deposits to form.

You can flush an engine on a boat

See **FLUSH**, Page 16



FISH, RINSE, REPEAT: Flushing the engine's cooling system with freshwater after use in saltwater is one of the most important things you can do to prolong engine life. Most engine manufacturers now offer built-in flushing ports that can be connected to traditional water hoses to make the process simple, although common "earmuff"-style portable flushers do a good job as well. Photo by Dan Armitage, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

Choke Canyon producing giants

Four more big bass caught at S. Texas lake

Choke Canyon Reservoir continued its bass bonanza March 20 with a 13.12-pounder caught by Joseph B. Thoman Jr. of Farmersville, La.

Thoman was fishing in the Texas Bass Club for the Deaf tournament when he caught the fish.

Meanwhile, the Bass Champs South Region team tournament, also March 21 on Choke Canyon, weighed in two lunkers weighing 14.47 and 15.27 pounds, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife. Bass Champs reported the weights as slightly higher.

Neither fish survived. The deaths of the two big fish has generated discussion both within TPW and the tournament industry about ways to avoid similar losses in the future.

No tournament has ever weighed in more than one 13-pound-plus fish, and the fact that two tournaments on the same lake produced three in two days is big news for Texas fishing.

"We talked on the way home about ways to deal with ShareLunkers," said Joy Sanders of Bass Champs. "We've never had one before."

Tim Cook, state conservation director for the Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation, fished the Choke Canyon tournament.



CHOKO LUNKER: Carl Ames of Helotes caught this 15.27-pound bass from Choke Canyon Reservoir March 14. The fish was 26.5 inches long and 21.25 inches in girth. Photo by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

"No one wants to see big fish like these survive more than a tournament angler. We want the opportunity to catch that fish again when she's bigger, but a little extra help may be necessary such as the ability to weigh that fish early in a tournament," he said. "I am a big advocate for anglers policing themselves and not for government regulation. I believe that we can successfully work to reduce ShareLunker and tournament mortality."

Choke Canyon produced another big bass March 14. Carl Ames of Helotes caught a 15.27-pounder. The fish was 26.5 inches long and 21.25 inches in girth.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report



BIG KICKER: Joseph B. Thoman Jr., of Farmersville, La., caught a 13.12-pound largemouth March 20 while fishing in the Texas Bass Club for the Deaf tournament. Photo by Texas Parks and Wildlife.



BASS CHAMP: Derick Kuyrkendall caught a 15.56-pound bass March 21 on a rocky point in 7 to 10 feet of water at Choke Canyon Reservoir. Photo by Bass Champs.

Outdoor News in Brief

Texas A&M-Kingsville tops Texas colleges

Texas A&M-Kingsville students Jerrod Hawkes and Daniel Brock edged out Clint Nowell and Kevin Burke of Sam Houston State by two hundredths of a pound at the Lone Star Breakout fishing tournament at Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir. The team's five fish totaled 17.82 pounds.

"We keyed on chunk rock banks that had scattered brush or laydowns on them between 7 and 10 feet deep using a Norman Middle N in the Brown Trout and Gobbie colors," Hawkes said. "We caught about 30 fish with our best bites coming after 10:30 a.m."

Nowell and Burke weighed in four fish totaling 17.80 pounds, including one weighing 10.61 pounds, the biggest bass caught in the history of the Association of Collegiate Anglers competition.

Rounding out the Top five teams were:
 ■ University of Texas at Arlington: Bryan Lewis and Drew Bryan, 17.03 pounds
 ■ Texas A&M University: JT Larkin and Dillon Pechal, 16.56 pounds

■ University of North Texas: Austin Hollowell and Brandon Dickenson, 15.33 pounds
 — Association of Collegiate Anglers report

Williamson wins his first Elite tourney at Amistad

Jason Williamson soared from 38th to first March 14-15 at the 2009 Bassmaster Elite Series season opener on Lake Amistad.

The third-year BASS pro from Aiken, S.C., boated more than 68 pounds through the final two days for the \$100,000 top prize and his first Bassmaster win.

Williamson's four-day total of 96 pounds, 6 ounces was enough to hold off Alton Jones of Waco, who finished second with 87 pounds, 15 ounces. Williamson was able to overtake Jones with a tremendous two-day charge, which accounted for more than 70 percent of his weight.

Williamson's catches were cultivated from one spot that yielded nothing for him in the first two days of competition.


— ESPN.com report

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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

BOY FOUND AFTER WANDERING FROM FATHER

A 4-year-old boy wandered away from his father's pickup after the man walked 100 yards to check a feeder in Coleman County. Game Warden William Heath and Callahan County Game Warden James Brown responded to assist with the search. The search continued through the night, and the boy was located three-quarters of a mile away in the early morning. The boy was in good condition with slight dehydration, scratches and thorns in his legs. About 40 people from Coleman and Callahan counties aided in the search.

UNDERCOVER WARDENS OUTSMART POACHERS

Working in plain clothes after receiving reports of people taking undersized crappie in Sanders Creek, Lamar County Game Warden Bryan Callihan and cadet Darrin Peebles observed 15 cases for undersized crappie. Both heard lots of talk about outsmarting wardens and wardens being off that day. All were somber when the badges came out.

VAN CATCHES FIRE WITH ELDERLY DRIVER INSIDE

While patrolling, Hidalgo County Game Warden Ira Zuniga came across an individual who had driven his van into a ditch. The vehicle caught fire while Zuniga was calling for a tow truck. Zuniga removed the elderly man from the vehicle and called the fire department.

MIDDLE CONCHO ANGLERS CAUGHT WITH MARIJUANA

Tom Green County Game Warden Cynde Aguilar and Schleicher County Game Warden Marco Alvizo checked three men fishing under a bridge on the Middle Concho River. A clear plastic bag containing a green leafy substance was observed in the front seat of one man's truck. A search of

Cadillac found during sonar training; boat motor hits car

Taylor County Game Wardens Steve Medford and Roy Johnson went to Lake Alan Henry to provide training on the Humminbird Side Scan Sonar. While conducting training, the wardens located a vehicle in the lake. The vehicle was a Cadillac that was reported stolen in 2005.

On Stillhouse Hollow lake, an outboard motor struck an object that led wardens to two other stolen vehicles. Bell County Game Warden Justin Valchar responded and after speaking with the operator, a dark spot in the water could be seen. Falls County Game Warden Brandt Bernstein traveled to

Stillhouse after hearing the call. Both wardens confirmed that it was indeed a vehicle and dispatched a wrecker service and dive team to remove the vehicle. Upon the dive team's arrival, two vehicles were found; both had been reported stolen, one in 2005 and the other in 2006.

niles admitted to the offense. Cases pending.

POACHERS CAUGHT AFTER TOSSING DOE

Ellis County Game Warden Jeff Powell received a report from a local officer who heard several gunshots from his house and was able to see two men load something into the bed of a truck and drive off. Powell located blood and deer hair on the road. He and a deputy drove surrounding roads and located a dead yearling doe in a nearby creek. Powell obtained information on and located two men in Johnson County. He traveled to one man's home and caught the man's mother cleaning the back of the pickup with bleach. The second man admitted to road hunting after Powell told him to look in the back of his patrol truck at the dead doe. The man said he was surprised the deer had been found. The two men had killed more than 13 deer and a turkey at night in three area counties. Two rifles, several antlers and a turkey were seized. Multiple cases and civil restitution are pending.

FOR SALE ON CRAIGSLIST: VENISON

A woman faces charges after she advertised white-tailed deer meat for sale on craigslist. Travis County Game Warden Cody Jones worked with Special Investigations Sgt. Josh Koening, after paying for and taking possession of 10 pounds of deer meat, filed charges against the woman.

CANAL POACHERS CAUGHT WITH UNDERSIZED CATFISH

Hidalgo County Game Warden Will Plumas was traveling through Willacy County when he noticed poachers fishing along an irrigation canal. The group was in possession of 21 undersized catfish and had no fishing licenses. Nine cases were filed.

the vehicle revealed two jars containing more than 4 ounces of marijuana. One man was arrested for felony possession, another for furnishing alcohol to a minor. The third person was cited for minor consuming alcohol and released.

Jake Cawthon apprehended two men. Martinez boarded the Mexican vessel and both occupants were transported to Zapata County Regional Jail. The boat, motor and 3,300 feet of gill net were seized. Cases pending.

a fishing license that was purchased 10 minutes earlier. He also had outstanding warrants and was in possession of drug paraphernalia. Charges pending.

EXTRA BASS RETURNED TO WATER; TICKETS ISSUED

After receiving a report of a group of Louisiana men keeping too many fish, Val Verde County Game Wardens Mike Durand and Chrissy Huth made contact with the eight fishermen and found they had 28 fish over the possession limit. Citations were issued, and 28 live largemouth bass were released.

LICENSE CHECK REVEALS MAN'S UNPAID FINES

While working on Lake Bridgeport, Jack County Game Warden Gary Hobbs checked a man who was fishing without a license. The man still owed \$357.13 in civil restitution stemming from deer cases that were filed in 1986 and 1990. Citations issued.

ILLEGAL BOAT, GILL NET SEIZED AT FALCON

Using his night vision imaging system at Falcon Lake, Zapata County Game Warden Roy Martinez spotted illegal commercial fishermen. Martinez and Zapata County Game Warden

STRIPERS TOO SMALL TO KEEP

After checking several boats at Lake Casa Blanca, Webb County Game Wardens Colt Gaulden and Michael Hummert noticed a large group of people fishing on a rock ledge near the boat ramp. As the wardens began walking toward the group, Hummert noticed that several stringers of fish were being thrown towards the brush as Galuden approached the group. Four people were cited for undersized striped bass, and 15 undersized stripers were seized. One man, on parole, was also arrested on an outstanding warrant and transported to the Webb County Jail.

POACHER RETURNS WITH LICENSE, PARAPHERNALIA

While Lubbock County Game Warden Quentin Terrel was checking anglers at lakes in Lubbock, he observed a man on the other side of one lake stand up and walk off. When he reached the other side of the lake, poles and all gear were still there, but the fisherman was gone. Terrel moved his truck and observed the man return 40 minutes later. The man had

WOMAN'S 'PET' RACCOON BITES NEIGHBORHOOD BOY

A 6-year-old boy was bitten by a raccoon near his residence in Eastland, and Eastland County Game Warden Zach Havens responded. The raccoon was located in a treetop and captured alive. The boy said he thought the raccoon lived at a residence on the neighboring block. Havens located a woman who initially said the raccoon had been roaming the neighborhood for the last four months, but a search of the area revealed a large cage with water, shelter and raccoon droppings. The woman admitted the raccoon's name was Lucy and that Lucy stayed in the cage but preferred to run loose. The raccoon is being tested for rabies. The woman was cited for illegal possession of a live furbearer.

PICKUP IS NOT LEGAL HUNTING WEAPON

"Deer bashing," running down deer with trucks at night, was reported in Kerr County. Game Warden Kenny Lee witnessed three juveniles run down a deer. Lee stopped the vehicle as it was turning around to make a second attempt. The juve-

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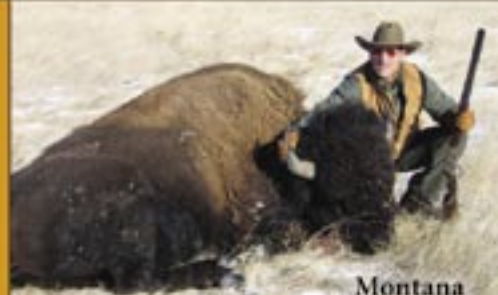
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TURKEY

South Texas drier; still gobbling

Toms active, though few hens nest in drought

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Uncertainty ruled during the turkey season opener in South Texas on March 21. But despite severe drought conditions, with many areas not receiving the recent rains that favored much of the state, hunters are still seeing birds.

Reports from across the southern region of the state show areas with good numbers of active, gobbling birds. But as always, getting the toms close enough for a shot can be more of a problem.

"Isolated pockets of South Texas caught rain," said Shawn Locke, extension associate with the Texas A&M University Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, who has been involved in studying South Texas Rio Grande turkeys through several years of drought. "In those areas, there are decent numbers of huntable birds."

In other areas, the severe drought continues.

"Very few hens actually nest in a drought," Locke said. "Of 60 hens we had marked (with transmitters) last year, we only had five nesting attempts."

This year's rains came a little bit late, and without more it may not be enough to sustain the birds, Locke said.

"There are fewer resources — there's not as much food to go around," he said.



COLD CALL: Turkey hunters may find active birds in South Texas, but having them respond to a call might take more work. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Jerry Warden, the Texas Youth Hunting Program director for the Texas Wildlife Association, hunts in Edwards County.

"We've seen more birds this year than in previous years," he said. "We have been feeding year-round because of the drought and also have several water sources."

Warden said the area benefited from storms bringing 2 to 3 inches of rain.

"The conditions went from pitiful to horrible," he said. "But now there is some grass and some forbs coming up. If we get a few more rains, it will be much better."

Warden said the toms at the ranch are active.

"We saw a big tom gobbling, call-

ing and strutting," he said. "The next day we tried to get him to come to the call but didn't have any luck."

At a TWA youth hunt in McMullen County, extremely dry conditions hampered the hunt, but good numbers of birds were still seen.

"The ground was so hard I had to pre-drill holes to set up the blinds," said volunteer Bob Warren of San Antonio. "Then, on the day of the hunt with five kids with their adult sponsors, it was drizzling."

The young hunters saw birds, though.

"We saw a group of more than 15 hens with four toms — I don't think the birds have divided up yet," Warren said.

Two of the young hunters took

shots but were unsuccessful.

"They get so nervous and excited we don't have many kills," Warren said. "But it's high excitement — they all want to come back and be turkey hunters. We just hope we can get more ranches to take out more young hunters."

Warren said he didn't hear any calling away from the roost, and saw very little strutting. But a few toms were receptive to the calls of others in the group.

"My wife called in four or five toms and some jakes," he said. "But they didn't come close enough for a shot. And one of the guides called one in from near the roost the day before. Both of them said they used very soft hen calls."

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HEROES



ROBERT MARTINEZ shot this hog near Goliad with a bow.



JAKE MOLAK, 14, had his first successful white-tailed deer hunt with a bow in October in Dimmit County.



FLOYD MADDOX of Ingleside caught this red drum March 6 on the Flipper at Dolphin Dock with Capts. Ryan McLaughlin and Brad Stanford.



SPENCER MCCLURE, 15, of New Waverly caught this 5-pound, 8-ounce bass from a private pond near Huntsville. It was caught with a chartreuse and white spinnerbait.



KELLI FORBES, 10, of Haslet shot this nine-point buck near Graham while hunting with her father.

SHARE AN ADVENTURE

Want to share your great hunting or fishing photos with the *Lone Star Outdoor News* family? Send your photo, phone number and caption information to editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com or **Heroes, Lone Star Outdoor News, 9304 Forest Lane, Suite 114 South, Dallas, TX, 75243.**

This Month's Youth

SnapShot Winner

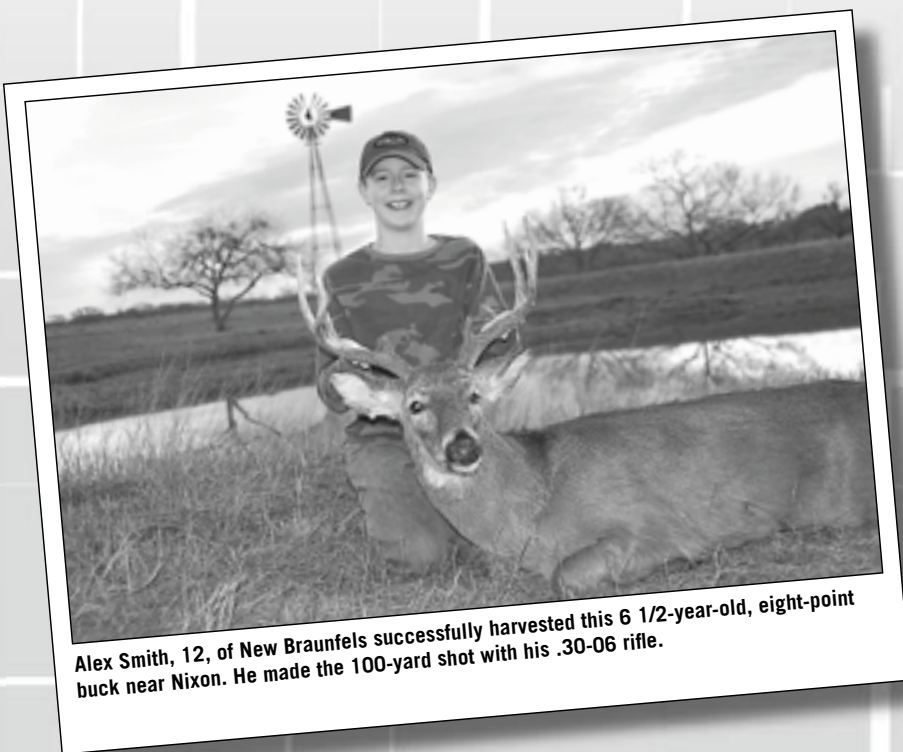
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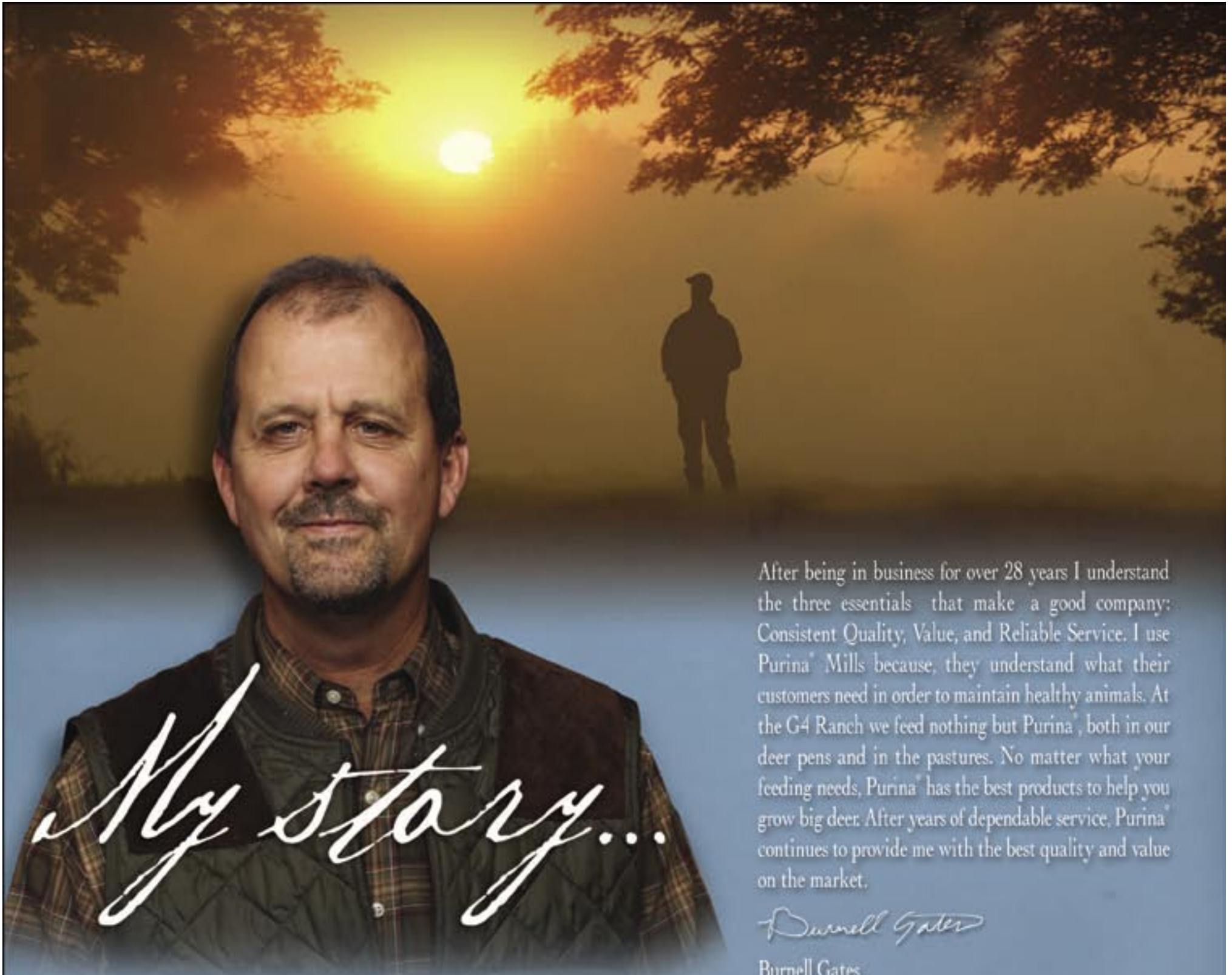


Alex Smith, 12, of New Braunfels successfully harvested this 6 1/2-year-old, eight-point buck near Nixon. He made the 100-yard shot with his .30-06 rifle.

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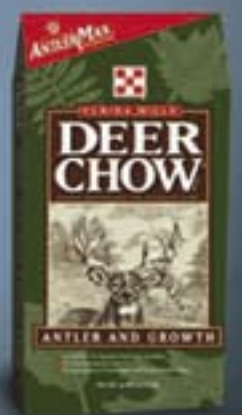
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Warehouse

Continued from Page 1

Round Rock and San Antonio. Liquidation sales are under way, and both stores are expected to shut down in May.

Patty Curnutte of San Antonio said she bought waders at Sportsman's Warehouse when she was going on a fishing trip to Oregon.

"It was a good place to grab something quick, like a box of shells," she said. "It is a shame they are closing. I felt like they were a good fit for San Antonio. They supported all the local clubs and gave discount cards to many. I think it is something that will be missed."

At one point, the company had four stores in Texas,

but stores in San Antonio and Lewisville closed because of poor performance.

CEO Stuart Utgaard said loan demands, not store performance, were forcing the company to close the remaining Texas stores. The San Antonio center on Loop 1604 was "doing very well, but did not get included in the sale to UFA, which primarily serves rural communities," according to its Web site.

Workers at the stores scheduled for closing have begun the liquidation process. Data released by state work force officials said employees at the two Texas stores were to be laid off May 11. The San Antonio store has 47 employees, while Round Rock has 45.

— Staff report

No lead

Continued from Page 6

ammunition and fishing tackle by visitors on a park-by-park basis, meaning bans could still be instituted.

A public comment period would be required before any ban could go into effect.

Most sporting groups believe NPS's actions were better termed overreactions.

The ban would have included national preserves, national recreation areas and national rivers, more than 20 million acres of land.

Sportsmen weren't happy. The National Shooting Sports Foundation issued a critical statement, with NSSF President Steve Sanetti calling the NPS decision "arbitrary, over-reactive and not based on science."

Many national park lands don't allow hunting. But fishing is commonplace. Of the more than 84 million acres managed by the National Park Service, more than 170 sites offer recreational angling opportunities.

The American Sportfishing Association, along with a number of fish and wildlife management conservation groups, asked the National Park Service to reconsider the ban.

"The sportfishing industry is surprised and dismayed by the March

10 announcement made by the National Park Service," said ASA Vice President Gordon Robertson. "Their intention to eliminate the use of lead in fishing tackle in national parks was made without prior consultation of the sportfishing industry or the millions of recreational anglers who fish within the national park system."

The group said in the normal course of events, the sportfishing

"We want to get all contaminants and pollutants out of our parks," said Phil Sheridan, a spokesman out of the Park Service's northeast regional office in Philadelphia. "And we want to do it in all units administered by the Park Service."

Changing all tackle to fish in the parks may be a monumental task for fishermen. More than 4,000 tons of lead fishing tackle are manufactured each year in the U.S. alone.

Proposed lead bans follow California's ban of lead ammo for hunting big game in areas designated as California condor range. Arizona followed suit in its condor range.

In Minnesota, programs that donate venison to feed the hungry were suspended, with authorities saying lead fragments were contained in the meat, despite the results of a study by the Centers for Disease Control finding that consuming game harvested with traditional ammunition poses no health risk. The study showed a statistically insignificant difference between participants who ate game harvested using traditional hunting ammunition and the non-hunters in the control group. The CDC encouraged that programs donating venison to feed the hungry continue.

— Staff report

The decision goes against the administration's stated commitment to transparency in government.

— Gordon Robertson,

vice president, American Sportfishing Association

and shooting sports industries would have been notified and invited to discuss the policy changes, but this announcement came out of the blue.

"The decision goes against the administration's stated commitment to transparency in government," Robertson said.

In West Virginia, where the New River Gorge National River and other NPS-administrated rivers cover a vast area, state officials questioned whether the NPS policy violates states' rights. West Virginia wildlife chief Curtis Taylor has gone on record as believing this decision "will come down to the powers of the states versus the power of the federal government."

NPS officials initially didn't back down.

Flush

Continued from Page 8

that is on a trailer or in the water at the dock, but read your owner's manual to learn their recommendations regarding both. Some manufacturers recommend that the engine be fully down during the flushing process, while other manufacturers of engines with horizontal cylinder configurations recommend that the engine be in a tilted position to allow the water to reach the entire powerhead. There are also flushing bags available that are filled with freshwater, fitted around the lower unit, and used while a boat is in the water or on a trailer.

Regardless of the recommended position of the engine, rinsing should be done as soon as possible before the water has a chance to evaporate and leave the salt behind. With most engines, if you begin the flushing process while the engine is still warm, the thermostat will be open to allow the entire cooling system to be accessed and rinsed right away; if you wait until the engine cools down you may have to operate it for several minutes with a freshwater flow before the engine warms enough to open the thermostat for a thorough flush.

Using a garden hose connected to a freshwater source, attach the male end of the hose to a threaded flushing port built into the engine by the manufacturer or as an after-market accessory, or to a portable flushing device commonly referred to as "earmuffs." The muffs place a flexible rubber cup over each water intake port on the lower unit; one cup has a threaded fitting that attaches to the garden hose to direct the freshwater into the intake.

With either type of flushing device, you simply introduce a flow of freshwater to the engine's cooling system.

With some newer outboards that offer a built-in flushing port, you do not need to have the engine running to circulate the water; gravity, water pressure from the hose or both do the job. On other engines, or when using earmuffs, you need to start the engine and operate it at idle speed to allow its impeller to draw and circulate

Apply freshwater

- Flush engine cooling system.
- Remove engine cover and wipe sea spray from engine parts. Spray with light oil.
- Rinse hull, decks and other exterior parts.

the water through the system, replacing any saltwater that remained.

Early in the process make sure water is circulating freely by checking that water is exiting the motor's jet ("pee") hole or ex-

haust port. While doing so, note the water's temperature; if it feels hot to the touch rather than simply warm, or is not flowing in a strong stream, it may mean that something is clogging the cooling system or that the impeller or water pump is failing. If it is flowing strong and steady, check the water by wetting a finger and touching it to your tongue; allow the engine to flush for at least a minute after there is no salty taste detected in the outflow.

The flushing process should continue to other areas of your boat and motor to eliminate saltwater and the damaging deposits it leaves in its wake. Remove the engine cover and look to see if any saltwater spray has breached it via the air intake ports. Wipe off any dampness or deposits you find, and coat the area with a light oil such as CRC or WD-40.

Rinse any metal fittings and surfaces on the outside of the boat and motor that might have been exposed to the brine. Combining the rinse with a cleaner made for the surface being washed will help remove the salt and any other build-ups that have formed. A coating of wax or light oil after the cleaning will offer future protection from the elements and leave your rig ready to tackle that next fishing trip.

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FISHING REPORT

HOT BITES LARGEMOUTH BASS



LIVINGSTON: Very good on crankbaits, spinnerbaits and soft plastics.
TRAVIS: Very good on Senkos, flukes and crawfish crankbaits in 5-15 feet.
ALAN HENRY: Good on white spinnerbaits, baby bass lipless crankbaits and white soft jerkbaits along creek channel bends and timber and fair on watermelon red large tube baits, dark jigs and live baits suspended in trees.
BASTROP: Good on dark soft plastics, crankbaits and spinnerbaits.

WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



BRAUNIG: Striped bass are excellent on liver and shad at Dead Tree Point and near the pier and down rigging silver and gold spoons and marble spinnerbaits near the jetty and dam.
CALAVERAS: Striped bass are excellent on spoons and jigs near the dam and the crappie wall in 15-20 feet and fair on cut perch and shad along the shoreline.
TAWAKONI: Striped bass and hybrid striper are excellent on 4" Bass Assassins dead-sticked with a 1 oz. jighead.
WALTER E. LONG: White bass are excellent on minnows. Crappie are slow. Hybrid striper are very good on minnows.

CATFISH



BRAUNIG: Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheesebait and cut bait near the dam and the discharge.
CALAVERAS: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp and cheesebait near the railroad trestle.
CONROE: Very good on stinkbait, cut bait and frozen shrimp.
FORK: Good on prepared baits under roosting cormorants.
GIBBONS CREEK: Good on frozen shrimp, nightcrawlers and stinkbait.

CRAPPIE



BELTON: Excellent on minnows around structure in 10-18 feet under lights at night.
BOB SANDLIN: Good on minnows and jigs.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 56 degrees; 0.16' low. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on live baits.

AMISTAD: Water clear; 60 degrees; 2.25' high. Black bass to 8 pounds are good on chartreuse 10" swimbaits and chartreuse 7" Senkos. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Catfish are good on shrimp and nightcrawlers. Yellow catfish to 28 pounds are good on trotlines baited with perch and goldfish.

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 6.87' low. Black bass are fair on shallow-running lipless crankbaits or swim blade jigs off rocky points. Crappie are good on minnows fished at the east side bridges with some fish moving shallow. White bass are fair trolling. Blue catfish are good drift fishing with cut shad or cheese baits on flats at 12-15 feet depth.

BASTROP: Water clear. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp and minnows.

BELTON: Water clear; 61 degrees; 2.13' low. Black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits. Hybrid striper are good on downriggers. White bass are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines and throwlines baited with live perch.

BOB SANDLIN: Water fairly clear; 53-59 degrees; 0.3' high. Black bass are fair to good on wacky rigs, spinnerbaits and Senkos. Bass are on beds in the coves. White bass are good on slabs. Catfish are fair to good on trotlines.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; 66 degrees. Black bass are good on crankbaits and dark soft plastic worms in the reeds and near the jetty and dam. Redfish are fair on perch, shad, tilapia, crawfish and shrimp near Dead Tree Point and down rigging silver spoons near the jetty and dam. Blue catfish are good on cut bait in 15-20 feet.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 59 degrees; 5.46' low. Black bass are good on craw and black/blue jigs, crankbaits and 4" worms along docks, between rocks and over brush piles. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are fair on Li'l Fishies, spinnerbaits and crankbaits off lighted docks. Crappie are fair on Li'l Fishies and minnows over brush piles in 10-18 feet and near the Highway 279 Bridge. Channel catfish are fair on cut bait and nightcrawlers over baited holes in 8-10 feet.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 65 degrees; 15.66' low. Black bass are fair on hard jerkbaits, pumpkin craws, craw trailers and black/blue plastics on jigheads along ledges in 12-20 feet. Striped bass are good jigging and trolling striper jigs, trolling crankbaits and drifting live bait from Garrett Island to Paradise Point in 20-30 feet. White bass are fair on artificial minnows, Shad Raps and live bait from the Willows to Cedar Point. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles in 12-15 feet.

CADDO: Water off-color; 52-59 degrees; 0.53' high. Black bass are fair on Senkos, flukes, spinnerbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 66 degrees. Black bass are good on dark soft plastic worms and crankbaits in reed beds and near the dam. Redfish are fair down rigging spoons near the dam and crappie wall in 15-20 feet. Crappie are slow.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear; 62 degrees; 11.65' low. Black bass are fair on jerkbaits, brown hair jigs, drop-shot worms and worms on shaky jigheads along break lines and ledges in 12-25 feet. Striped bass are fair to good trolling white striper jigs and vertically jigging artificial minnows and shads. White bass are fair jigging artificial minnows and blade baits along the main river channel at mid-lake in 40 feet. Smallmouth bass are very good on smoke/red flake tubes, tomato red curl tail grubs and tomato red drop shot worms over rock piles in 12-25 feet. Crappie are fair on minnows and crappie jigs upriver. Catfish are slow.

CEDAR CREEK: Water lightly stained; 53-60 degrees; 2.95' low. Black bass are fair on medium running shad pattern crankbaits, Texas rigs and drop-shot rigs. White bass are good on slabs. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad and large slabs jigged vertically. Crappie are fair to good on minnows. Catfish are fair drifting cut shad.

COLEMAN: Water clear; 65 degrees; 6.34' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastics. Hybrid striper are good on minnows and chartreuse striper jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait and cut bait.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear; 78 degrees (85 degrees at discharge); 3.52' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastics and spinnerbaits in 5-10 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and shrimp in 7-15 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on perch, liver and shrimp in 8-15 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with perch and liver in 8-15 feet.

CONROE: Water murky; 1.10' low. Black

degrees; 0.82' high. Black bass to 10 pounds are good on grape worms near the pump station and on soft plastic lizards and Bass Assassins near the marina and the islands. Crappie are fair on live minnows near the dam 3 feet off the bottom. Bream are slow. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 55 degrees; 2.77' low. Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits, firetiger crankbaits, orange crawfish lipless crankbaits and live baits along grass lines and stickups. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass and hybrid stripers are good on live baits and crankbaits. Catfish are fair on prepared baits.

JOE POOL: Water off-color; 52-59 degrees; 2.65' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, spinnerbaits and wacky rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. White bass are good on slabs. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and prepared baits.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 52-59 degrees; 0.19' high. Black bass

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 61 degrees; 12.86' low. Black bass are good on live baits, spinnerbaits and white or green pumpkin soft plastic jerkbaits, tubes or jigs along tree lines. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live baits. Smallmouth bass are good on minnows and white chatterbaits. Channel catfish are good on live baits.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 55 degrees; 2.96' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits, dark-colored soft plastic worms or watermelon soft plastic lizards on southern end of reservoir. Crappie are fair on minnows and yellow jigs in Rock, Caddo and Bee Creeks. White bass are fair on small silver Rat-L-Traps and white Beetle Spin baits in Rock, Caddo and Bee Creeks. Stripers are good on live shad below the Dam. Catfish are good on live shad, cut baits and cut liver.

RAY HUBBARD: Water off-color; 53-59 degrees; 2.42' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Texas or Carolina rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on small Bass Assassins. Hybrid striper are good on 4" Bass Assassins. Catfish are fair to good on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water off-color; 54-59 degrees; 5.23' low. Black bass are fair on medium running shad pattern crankbaits, Texas rigs and spinnerbaits. White bass and hybrid striper are good on slabs, Bass Assassins and live shad. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

SAM RAYBURN: Water murky; 66 degrees; 5.16' low. Black bass are fair on Carolina-rigged watermelon red soft plastics and spinnerbaits. White bass are fair on live minnows and silver spoons.

STAMFORD: Water lightly stained; 55 degrees; 2.74' low. Black bass are good on live baits along timber lines and rocky points and spinnerbaits worked along grass lines near channels. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White and striped bass are good on live baits and slabs. Catfish are good on live baits.

STILLHOUSE: Water stained; 64 degrees; 5.23' low. Black bass are slow. White bass are fair on Brush Hogs and watermelon seed soft plastic worms in 15-20 feet. Crappie are fair on minnows and worms in 15-20 feet. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

TAWAKONI: Water stained; 51-57 degrees; 5.04' low. Black bass are fair on red Rat-L-Traps, spinnerbaits, jigs and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows. White bass are good — follow the birds. Catfish are fair on prepared bait.

TEXOMA: Water off-color; 52-58 degrees; 0.08' high. Black bass are fair on chatterbaits, spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Striped bass are good on slabs and large Road Runners over humps. Catfish are fair to good on cut and live shad.

TOLEDO BEND: Water murky; 63 degrees; 1.81' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse green and chartreuse blue soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Bream are fair on worms. Channel and blue catfish are good on frozen shrimp, cut bait and stinkbait.

TRAVIS: Water stained; 58 degrees; 26.68' low. Striped bass are slow. White bass are good on chrome crankbaits, white grubs and minnows in 8-20 feet. Crappie are good on minnows and pink tube jigs in 8-18 feet. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

WALTER E. LONG: Water clear; 66 degrees. Black bass are good on minnows and chartreuse soft plastics. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water lightly stained; 54-61 degrees; 3.82' high. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, flukes, Texas rigs and slow rolled spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait and cut shad.

HOT SPOT



Choke Canyon Reservoir

Water clear; 67 degrees; 6.10' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and heavy jigs in grass. White bass are good on minnows and jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait and live perch.

bass are fair on dark soft plastics, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows.

FALCON: Water clear; 69 degrees. Black bass are fair on watermelon and chartreuse soft plastics, craw worms on 1/2 oz. jigs and Brush Hogs in 12-18 feet. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on frozen shrimp and cut bait.

FAYETTE: Water clear; 66 degrees. Black bass are good on watermelon red, green pumpkin and redbug Carolina-rigged soft plastics off deep points and on spinnerbaits. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp, nightcrawlers and stinkbait.

FORK: Water lightly stained; 53-61 degrees; 0.81' low. Black bass are fair to good on soft plastics and spinnerbaits in the shallows and off the first drop-target pre-spawn and bedding banks. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear. Black bass are fair on watermelon red and June bug red soft plastics and crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, nightcrawlers and stinkbait.

GRANBURY: Water clear; 1.35' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water off-color; 53-60 degrees; 8.25' low. Black bass are fair on jigs, Texas rigs, crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on slabs. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water stained; 64

are slow to fair on Texas rigs, weightless flukes or 5" Yum Dingers. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut shad. Bream are fair on red wigglers.

LAVON: Water stained; 54-61 degrees; 4.56' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, spinnerbaits and shallow slow-running crankbaits. White bass are good on slabs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around bridge columns. Catfish are fair to good on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

LBJ: Water stained; 66 degrees; 0.14' low. Black bass are good on black/blue Curb's jigs and watermelon tubes on docks. Striped bass are slow. White bass are good on silver artificial minnows and Spoiler Shads near the power plant. Crappie are fair on minnows in brush piles. Channel catfish are fair on minnows and nightcrawlers. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

LEWISVILLE: Water off-color; 53-59 degrees; 4.54' low. Black bass are fair on slow-rolled spinnerbaits, chatterbaits, Texas rigs and Carolina rigs. White bass and hybrid striper are fair to good on slabs and Sassy Shads. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on cut shad and prepared baits.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; 61 degrees; 0.49' high. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on slabs, pet spoons and hellbenders. Crappie are good on minnows. Blue catfish are good on shad.

MONTICELLO: Water fairly clear; 75-88 degrees; 0.89' low. Black bass are fair to good on topwaters early, later switching to weightless flukes, Texas rigs, spinnerbaits and chrome Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait.

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Trout are good while drifting with plastics and plugs on the Louisiana shoreline. Redfish are good in the marsh on small topwaters, spinnerbaits and Stanley Ribbits. Trout are good on shad in the river.

SOUTH SABINE: Trout are good for waders working the south shoreline on Corkies and Catch 5s. Bull redfish and sheephead are good at the jetty on crabs and shrimp. Black drum are good on crabs and shrimp in the channel.

BOLIVAR: Redfish and black drum are fair to good in Rollover Pass on natural baits. Sand trout are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on fresh shrimp.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are good for waders. Trout are fair to good while drifting shell on soft plastics. Topwater action has improved with rising water temperatures. Black drum are good in the Intracoastal.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are fair to good while wading shell and mud on Corkies and Top Dogs. Black drum and sheephead are good at the jetty. Drifters have caught fish on the shell.

FREEPORT: Bull redfish and sheephead are good at the Quintana jetty on shrimp and crabs. Trout are fair while drifting shell. Black drum are good around Cold Pass on crabs. Sharks have been caught on the beach.

EAST MATAGORDA: Trout are fair to good while drifting over shell. Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline while working mud and grass. Better trout have been taken by waders with Corkies and topwaters.

MATAGORDA: Redfish are fair on the south shoreline of West Bay in the guts and cuts on Bass Assassins, Sand Eels and Trout Killers. Redfish are fair on shrimp. Trout are fair at night in the river on glow plastics.

PORT O'CONNOR: Bull redfish are good at the jetty on crabs, finger mullet and live shrimp. Sheephead are good around the piers and rocks on shrimp. Redfish are good in the back lakes on soft plastics and jigs.

ROCKPORT: Trout are fair to good while wading mud and grass. Redfish are good on live shrimp under a cork while drifting the edges of the Estes Flats. Flounder jigging is good on lower tides. Black drum are good.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish are good around Shamrock Cove and East Flats. Bull redfish and sheephead are good at the jetty and on the edge of the Intracoastal on crabs, finger mullet, cut-bait and fresh table shrimp. Black drum are good on crabs.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout are fair around spoils for waders tossing Corkies and topwaters. Black drum are fair to good in the Intracoastal on sea lice and crabs.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout are good around pods of bait on soft plastics, topwaters and suspending baits. The topwater bite has improved with warmer temperatures. Redfish, black drum and sheephead are good on natural baits.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout are fair to good on shrimp and shrimp imitations on the edge of the flats.

Snook, trout, redfish, jack crevalle, ladyfish and mangrove snapper are good in the ship channel on shrimp. Sheephead and black drum are good at the jetty on shrimp.

PORT ISABEL: Black drum are good in South Bay and in the deep channels leading to the Gulf. Redfish are fair to good in Cullen Bay on gold spoons and small topwaters. Trout are fair on the edge of the grass flats on live shrimp and plastics.

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<p>Sea Hunt 200LE</p> <p>\$292^{25*} /m</p> <p>20' 200 LE w/150HP 4-stroke & Tilt List \$41,305 Dr Disc \$7,311 Sale \$33,995 \$202.26"/m 180 nos 7.99% APR w/10%dt+TTL</p>	<p>Sea Hunt BX 21 Pro</p> <p>\$257^{87*} /m</p> <p>21' Bay BX21 Pro w/150HP & Tilt List \$37,214 Dr Disc \$7,219 Sale \$29,995 \$207.87"/m 180nos 7.99% APR w/10%dt+TTL</p>	<p>Sea Hunt Gamefish 26</p> <p>\$636^{08*} /m</p> <p>26' Gamefish w/150HP T-Top & Tilt List \$94,999 Dr Disc \$20,574 Sale \$73,995 \$636.08"/m 180nos 7.99% APR w/10%dt+TTL</p>	<p>Sea Hunt 21' Skiff</p> <p>\$204^{48*} /m</p> <p>21' Skiff w/90HP 4-stroke & Tilt List \$26,762 Dr Disc \$5,717 Sale \$20,995 \$204.48"/m 144nos 7.99% APR w/10%dt+TTL</p>
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SEA HUNT

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

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Moon Phases



Solunar Table

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
3/25	11:13a/5:02a	---	11:19a/5:08a	---
3/26	11:35p/5:24p	4:15a/---	11:41p/5:30p	4:21a/---
3/27	11:56a/5:45a	---	12:02p/5:51a	---
3/28	---	4:15a/---	---	4:21a/---
3/29	12:18a/6:31a	---	12:24a/6:37a	---
3/30	12:15p/6:55p	4:15a/---	12:21p/7:01p	4:21a/---
3/31	1:11a/7:24a	---	1:17a/7:30a	---
4/1	1:36p/7:49p	4:15a/---	1:42p/7:55p	4:21a/---
4/2	2:08a/8:22a	---	2:14a/8:28a	---
4/3	2:35p/8:49p	4:15a/---	2:41p/8:55p	4:21a/---
4/4	3:10a/9:24a	---	3:16a/9:30a	3:10a/---
4/5	3:39p/9:54p	4:15a/---	3:45p/10:00p	3:39p/---
4/6	4:15a/10:30a	---	4:21a/10:36a	4:15a/---
4/7	4:45p/11:01p	4:15a/---	4:51p/11:07p	4:45p/---
4/8	4:15a/---	---	4:21a/---	4:15a/---
4/9	---	4:15a/---	---	---
4/10	4:15a/---	---	4:21a/---	4:15a/---
4/11	---	4:15a/---	---	---
4/12	4:15a/---	---	4:21a/---	4:15a/---
4/13	---	4:15a/---	---	---
4/14	4:15a/---	---	4:21a/---	4:15a/---

Tides

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

Sun and Moon

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
3/25	7:19a/7:36p	7:25a/7:43p	7:32a/7:48p	7:43a/8:03p
3/26	7:18a/7:36p	7:24a/7:44p	7:31a/7:49p	7:42a/8:03p
3/27	7:17a/7:37p	7:23a/7:45p	7:29a/7:49p	7:41a/8:04p
3/28	7:16a/7:38p	7:21a/7:45p	7:28a/7:50p	7:39a/8:05p
3/29	7:14a/7:38p	7:20a/7:46p	7:27a/7:51p	7:38a/8:06p
3/30	7:13a/7:39p	7:19a/7:47p	7:26a/7:51p	7:36a/8:07p
3/31	7:12a/7:40p	7:17a/7:48p	7:25a/7:52p	7:35a/8:07p
4/1	7:11a/7:40p	7:16a/7:48p	7:23a/7:52p	7:34a/8:08p
4/2	7:10a/7:41p	7:15a/7:49p	7:22a/7:53p	7:32a/8:09p
4/3	7:08a/7:41p	7:13a/7:50p	7:21a/7:54p	7:31a/8:10p
4/4	7:07a/7:42p	7:12a/7:50p	7:20a/7:54p	7:29a/8:11p
4/5	7:06a/7:43p	7:11a/7:51p	7:19a/7:55p	7:28a/8:11p
4/6	7:05a/7:43p			

DATEBOOK

March 28-29
Demo day kayaking
 Austin
 Hyde Park Quarry Lake
 austinkayak.com



March 28
Dallas Woods and Waters Club
 Annual fundraiser
 Plano Centre
 (214) 570-8700

April 1
Houston Safari Club
 Monthly meeting with speaker Bill Carter
 Omni Hotel
 (713) 623-8844



April 2
Grand Prairie Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Ruthe Jackson Center
 (214) 957-2449

South Texas National Wild Turkey Federation
 Fundraiser
 Bee County Expo Center
 (888) 740-2220

Brazoria County Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Lake Jackson Civic Center
 (713) 626-4222



Cat Springs Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Cat Springs Hall
 (713) 626-4222

Texas A&M Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Brazos Center
 Bryan
 (713) 626-4222

April 3
Cross Timbers National Wild Turkey Federation
 Fundraiser
 Decatur Civic Center
 (940) 627-4200

April 4-5
Kayaking demo day
 Austin Canoe and Kayak
 San Marcos
 The Texas Ski Ranch
 austinkayak.com

April 4
Mainland Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Nessler Center
 Texas City
 (281) 534-6242

Bass Champs Central Region
 Tournament
 Lake LBJ, McNair Park
 (817) 439-3274

Dallas Safari Club
 Gray Thornton Big Bore Shoot
 Texas Pistol Academy
 Whitewright
 (903) 364-2076



Redfish Bay Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Port Aransas Civic Center
 (713) 626-4222

Angelo State University Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Fort Concho
 (325) 277-2626



Coastal Bend National Wild Turkey Federation
 Fundraiser
 Victoria Community Center Annex
 (361) 649-3264

April 7
Frisco National Wild Turkey Federation
 Fundraiser
 Stonebrier Country Club
 (469) 525-6551



April 9
East Texas Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 Fundraiser
 Athens
 (512) 260-3003

Central Houston Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Verizon Wireless Theater
 (713) 626-4222

Dallas Woods and Waters Club
 Monthly meeting
 Sheraton North
 Dallas Hotel
 (214) 570-8700



South Plains National Wild Turkey Federation
 Fundraiser
 The Koko Place
 Lubbock
 (806) 789-6824

Rio Grande Valley Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Pharr Convention Center
 (713) 626-4222

April 16
Dallas Safari Club
 Annual trophy awards
 Doubletree Hotel Dallas
 (972) 980-9800
 www.biggame.org

McKinney Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Collin County Youth Barn
 (972) 727-5892

San Antonio Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Freeman Coliseum
 (210) 837-5500

Lake Proctor Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Melody Oaks Ranch, Priddy
 (325) 330-1833

Brazos Valley Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 Fundraiser
 Bryan
 (979) 845-3863

April 17
Sugar Land Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Missouri City Convention Center
 (713) 294-8400

Mid-Coast Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Victoria Community Center
 (361) 572-3011

April 18-19
Demo day kayaking
 ACK Canoesport
 Missouri City
 Independence Lake
 austinkayak.com

April 18
IFA Redfish Tour
 Tournament
 Rockport
 (478) 836-4266

Lamar Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Beaumont Elks Lodge
 (281) 382-6561
 lamarducks@hotmail.com

Bass Champs South Region
 Tournament
 Falcon Lake, Beacon Lodge
 (817) 439-3274

Boat Safety Check
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 Lloyd.carroll@cabelas.com



April 23
Tyler Delta Waterfowl
 Fundraiser
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Youngsters now have an option of attending a saltwater-themed camp with Outdoor Texas Camps. The company also provides freshwater fishing and hunting camps. Photo by Outdoor Texas Camps.

More new experiences at Outdoor Texas Camps

Saltwater, river fishing themes added for 2009

Outdoor Texas Camps began with its hunting and fishing camps at Stoney Creek Ranch north of Columbus, where campers could learn basic fishing and hunting skills in small groups to maximize their learning experience.

"The camps remain a big success," said owner David Todd. "But we kept hearing the kids — especially the kids that had been to one of the camps — wanted to get more specific experiences in the type of hunting or fishing activity they preferred."

Last year, a Saltwater Camp was added at Bluffs Landing on the Gulf Coast near Baffin Bay, the Land Cut and the Laguna Madre where the campers learned bay, flats, surf and offshore fishing, cast netting and kayak fishing. They also toured a Texas Parks and Wildlife fish hatchery.

Based on the success of the Saltwater Camp, a second camp has been added for 2009.

And Outdoor Texas Camps is adding two more camps for 2009.

The Hill Country River Fish Camp will be held at the Homer Martin Ranch near Mason on the Llano River.

"Fly-fishing will be a key component of this camp, as will kayak fishing," Todd said. "There will only be 16 campers at a time, so there will be plenty of one-on-one instruction."

The Deer Camp, put together with the support of the Texas Deer Association, also is new for 2009. Taking place at the Perlitz Ranch near Carrizo Springs beginning July 12, the camp will include small- and large-caliber rifle hunting techniques, archery techniques, rifle care and safety, aging deer, scoring antlers and field-dressing deer. Campers will also be eligible to receive a TPW Hunter Education certificate.

The Perlitz Ranch includes a deer breeding facility, and campers will learn about all aspects of raising and caring for wild and pen-raised white-tailed deer, including genetics, habitat and feed.

The fishing, hunting and Hill Country river fish camps begin in June, and the saltwater camps take place in August. For details, contact David Todd at (830) 562-3354, (512) 217-1587 or visit OutdoorTexasCamp.com.

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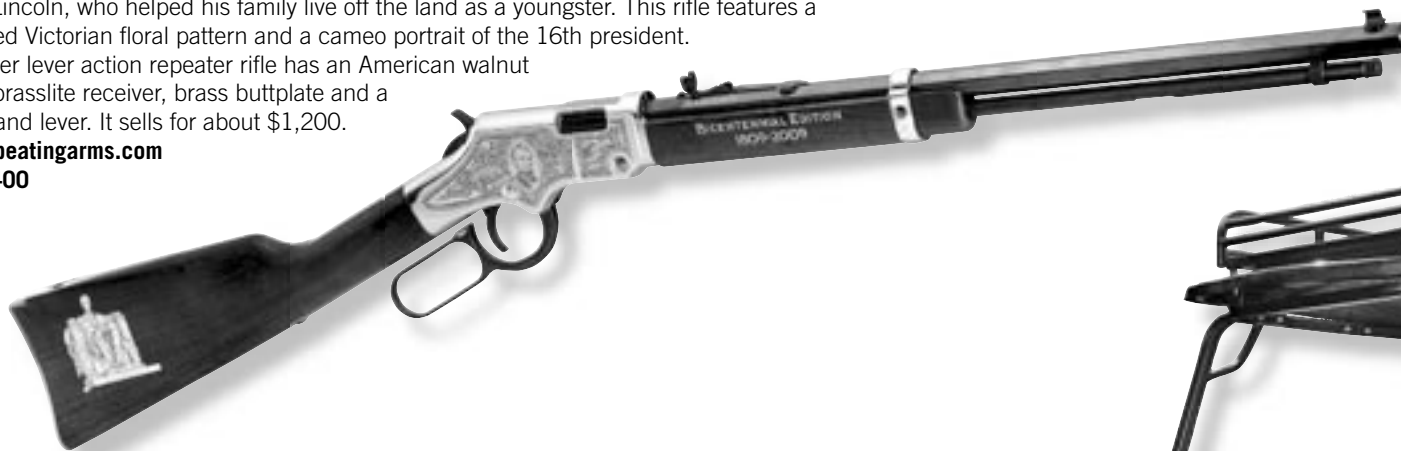
PRODUCTS

LINCOLN TRIBUTE RIFLE

The Lincoln Bicentennial Tribute Golden Boy rifle by the **Henry Repeating Arms Co.** pays homage to Abraham Lincoln, who helped his family live off the land as a youngster. This rifle features a hand-engraved Victorian floral pattern and a cameo portrait of the 16th president.

The .22-caliber lever action repeater rifle has an American walnut stock with a brasslite receiver, brass buttplate and a blued barrel and lever. It sells for about \$1,200.

www.henryrepeatingarms.com
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BAD BOY XT

The newest all-electric, off-road recreation vehicle by **Bad Boy Buggies** is the XT. The four-wheel drive vehicle has been re-engineered with a motor that boasts 25 percent more horsepower and torque, independent front and rear suspension, a four-wheel hydraulic disc and regenerative dual braking system and more. Like other Bad Boy Buggies, this vehicle was engineered for hunters concerned about the impact of gas-powered utility vehicles on their land and on the wildlife. The XT is available in green, red, black and Mossy Oak camo pattern. It sells for about \$11,500.

www.badboybuggies.com
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JOHNNY MORRIS ELITE BAITCAST ROD AND REEL

This **Bass Pro Shops** outfit pairs a fast, light and strong baitcast reel with a sleek trigger rod. The reel, says the company, is virtually effortless in its handling. It boasts a cobalt blue scratch-resistant titanium finish bonded directly to the aluminum side-plates plus super-hard, super-light gears, an 11-bearing system with 10 double-sided stainless steel ball bearings, a PowerLock instant anti-reverse plus a powerful drag system calibrated to produce up to 14 pounds of power. The rod graphite blank has a full carbon filament wrap on the inside, plus a carbon cloth butt wrap for strength and sensitivity. The lightweight rods also feature nickel-titanium alloy Recoil single-foot guides and full-contact reel seats. The combo sells for about \$370.

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Hobie Cat's newest fishing kayak is small enough for stability and maneuverability in the skinniest of water yet roomy enough to hold plenty of gear. The 138-pound, 13-foot, 8-inch kayak offers a weight capacity of up to 600 pounds. It features the company's MirageDrive pedal system that connects to two underwater flippers. The flippers facilitate turning in tight spaces for easy maneuverability. The Pro Angler's features include a wide, adjustable seat, easy steering, a large forward hatch with liner, a stern storage compartment and a center hatch with work area and cutting board, drop-in tackle bucket and lure hanger. It sells for about \$2,200.

www.hobiecat.com
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This tackle bag is made from a durable polyester, PVC backing and a soft PVC waterproof bottom. Its numerous pockets and compartments will hold all the gear anglers want. The bag is available alone (includes nine plastic utility boxes, about \$130) or as a set with a weigh bag, measuring board and QuickSlide Tournament Culling System. It sells for about \$150 and is available in a variety of camo patterns.

www.zacktack.com
(888) 600-0907

Turkey

Continued from Page 1

game warden and Primo's pro staffer. "This will jump it back pretty quick. In the areas I hunt (in South Texas near Goliad and in North Texas in Palo Pinto County), the people there are saying it's the best crop they've seen in years."

Magee thinks the toms, especially the 2-year-olds, will do their best to attract a hen whether or not she is interested.

"I expect them to gobble their butts off," he said.

Magee said the turkeys in Palo Pinto County were affected by the amount of oil and gas exploration in past seasons.

"We didn't see many birds the last few years, the exploration had them so scared," he said. "That's slowed down now."

Ross Huffman of Amarillo, a regional wildlife biologist with the National Wild Turkey Federation, said the rains have been a big help.

"It's too soon to tell whether it was enough to secure reproduction this year," he said. "But it will help, especially if we get some grass growing quickly — it's definitely a good start."

Huffman said more rains are needed in most of the state, though.

"If we get some more rains soon, it could turn into a good production year," he said.

In South Texas, where the area has experienced longer drought periods and lower rain totals from recent storms, nesting is likely to be impaired.

"If there is a severe drought, they'll cut off nesting," he said.

But despite the interest of the hens in breeding and nesting, the abundance of 2-year-old toms in Texas this season should be good news for hunters. And early season hunting could be better than in past seasons.

"They'll still gobble even if the hens aren't interested," he said. "They may even be more receptive to the calls."

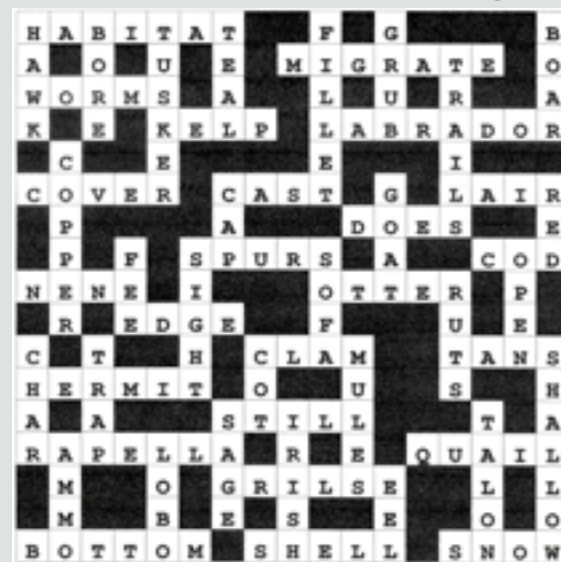
Huffman said the breeding times for turkeys are driven mostly by the length of daylight and the time of year.

"The hunting shouldn't be affected too much," he said. "There are lots of 2-year-olds that will be active and old enough to do most of the breeding."

Although last year's turkey crop was down, Huffman said that in some areas hunters will see plenty of jakes.

"Hunters scouting near Albany say they have been seeing plenty of them, too."

Puzzle solution from Page 18



Boy angler

Continued from Page 8

soon spotted a fish 20 feet away. "Make a roll cast," Polk told him.

"I put the fly about 6 inches in front of the fish, and it just engulfed it," Jakesy said.

The fish immediately dove for the bottom, heading for a cut bank.

"Put some power into it," Polk told him, hoping for a quick landing.

The fish didn't cooperate at first, but after a few moments Polk was able to get his hand on the leader and land the big largemouth.

"I was shocked," Polk said. "After eight years of fishing this river, this was the largest bass I've ever seen come out of it."

The bass measured well over 20 inches and weighed close to 6 pounds, leaving the pair with a dilemma.

"We knew the current all-tackle record for a bass on this river is 19.13 inches and 3.44 pounds," Polk said. "But making the river



ANGLER ON

THE WAY: Jakesy Jordaan, left, ties flies as Sean Polk, fly-fishing manager at the Orvis store in Dallas, looks on. Jordaan caught what would have been the Paluxy River record bass if he had kept it. Photo by Ian Harrison, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

record official would have meant killing the fish — we didn't have a way to keep the fish alive for an official weighing."

Jakesy made the call and decided to let the fish go, but his mother was on hand to photograph

the memory.

"I didn't want to kill the fish just so I could have a record," Jakesy said. "I'd rather let her go so she can keep on putting more fish in the river."

After releasing the fish, Polk

joked that they might as well call it a day since Jakesy wouldn't catch anything close to his big bass.

He was right, the potential record-breaking bass was the only fish landed that afternoon.

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Knives

Continued from Page 6

they're running a close second, and they will dull a knife pretty quick," he said.

Using a Knives of Alaska knife, Allen will have to resharpen the blade about 10 times to skin a brown bear. In one day where two brown bears were harvested, he resharpened the DiamondBlade he was using three times.

"Knives of Alaska knives are good knives, but they can't even get close to what a DiamondBlade does," he said.

Where's home?

Allen did not put his manufacturing operation at North Texas Regional Airport so he could have easy access to his airplane. He leaves it parked in Alaska for the winter.

He spends part of his summers with the plane and his fishing lodge near Cordova, Alaska.

"It's primarily a fishing operation, but I do take only a couple of people moose and bear hunting every year," Allen said. "That's just something I like to do."

He arrives at Driftwood Lodge about Aug. 1 for the silver salmon run and stays through the early fall for hunting.

"We get out of this hot Texas sun at the end of the summer every year and go up there and spend a couple of months, my wife and I do," he said. "It's very enjoyable."

When he's in Alaska, Allen field tests his products, which he also designs.

They have passed the test for Marty Markl, a life member of the Dallas Safari Club. Markl praised the company in a letter accompanying his knife when he sent it back for resharpening.

"It has gutted and skinned one leopard, one elephant and two Cape buffalo in Africa," he wrote. "Needless to say, it is the best I have. Don't (lose) it."



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Snook

Continued from Page 1

frustrating — part of the project? Catching snook to move to the institute's tanks.

"It was hard to explain a trip to South Padre to my professor when I didn't come back with any fish," said Kline, whose doctoral advisor is Joan Holt.

The fish brought to the institute came from the Brownsville area. Some of the fish in the tanks are now about 7 years old.

Spawning the fish in captivity is expected to take time.

"We've had some snook for more than a year," Kline said. "They are tuned into their cues from the wild, even with our manipulation of photoperiods (light).

"We simulate the lunar cycle as well as the photoperiod and temperature," he said. "But stress shuts the reproductive systems of the fish down. Into the

second year, the fish are more accustomed to captivity and feed easily."

Feeding them also brings problems. "They eat mullet in the wild, but they won't eat dead mullet in captivity," he said. "We feed them shrimp, then sardines. Once they become used to it, they feed readily."

For spawning, Kline is encouraged by the Australian barramundi.

"It's a similar species," he said. "Studies there had them readily spawning in six years."

But the biologist hopes the snook spawn more quickly.

"Our hope is to get the brood stock we have to spawn. At least one female released eggs last year," he said.

"We're hoping for naturally fertilized eggs in captivity. That's never been done with snook."

This year, Kline plans to turn his attention to the surf for more snook.

"We want to look in the surf zone using a large bag seine," he said. "We want to catch the larger females

spawning. It will tell us at what temperature and light period to target for captive spawning."

In Florida, snook are known to spawn in the spring and again in fall.

"But the Texas snook is a separate population with potentially different genetic qualities," Kline said.

Making the studies more complicated is the snook's sex changes.

"Snook are hermaphrodites," he said. "It was thought the smaller fish were all males and the larger were females. But some of our largest fish are males."

That raises the question: Was the large male previously a female?

"We need to spawn them in captivity so we can study that," Kline said.

At the institute, hormone manipulation is being used to mature the eggs in some fish.

"It worked in Florida," Kline said. "We use GNRH, a very similar form of the hormone given for fertility treatments in humans."

In the future he would like to put transmitters in some of the snook and track 10 to 15 of them. The transmitters have a 3-kilometer range.

Results may help determine when females move to spawn, helping the researchers tailor the conditions for their captive fish.

"We need to learn the transition period when most of the fish change sex from male to female," Kline said. "Males within the slot limit might not yet have changed sex, and there are females within the slot limit in the surf."

Also in the plans: raising snook caught up the coast, near Port Aransas.

"There are snook here, a guy caught some near Portland," he said. "And there were snook here before the big freezes in the '80s. Snook do get cold-stunned, but a study has shown that some can survive the big freezes."

Snook also have been seen by divers off the jetties, where the fish were seen among the tarpon.

"Divers have had them brush up

against them," Kline said. "And every year I've been here, snorkelers have seen big snook in late summer at the end of the South Jetty."

Kline is looking for help from anyone seeing or catching large snook in the surf or farther north, but offers a warning.

"Watch out for the gill covers, they are razor sharp," he said.

When the time comes for any potential stock enhancement efforts from TPW, Kline said the release will likely occur back in Brownsville.

"That's where these broodstock fish came from," he said. "Plus they might not have the cold tolerance to release in the Coastal Bend. We hope to catch more from around here."

The goal of having a top-level snook fishery is big, but that's the reason Kline chose to study the popular fish.

"A successful snook fishery would be a boon to the economy," he said. "People travel from all over the world to catch a big snook."

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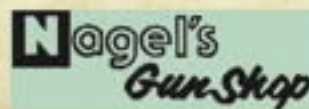
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