

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Near and far

Lodges have much to offer south of the border and closer to home in the Hill country.
Pages 14-15



★ May 8, 2009 Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper Volume 5, Issue 18 ★

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INSIDE HUNTING



Art, outdoors collide

Sam Langford pours his heart and hunting soul into his artwork.

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Private ownership

Landowners take command of their landscape through associations.

Page 6

Swine flu facts

Hog hunters have little to worry about with swine flu. But brucellosis ...

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FISHING



Choke Canyon bass

Choke Canyon Lake has become the go-to spot for anglers around the country.

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CONSERVATION Aggieland rocks

Texas A&M students boosted Ducks Unlimited at a concert fundraiser.

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Black drum booming on coast

Factors vary for rise in popularity among anglers

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Reports are still flowing from the Coastal Bend of banner black drum catches in the bays. The reasons for the upbeat in drum catches puzzle some, while others believe a decrease in commercial harvest of the fish may be the reason.

The smaller drum have been eager to take shrimp and cut bait most of the spring. "They're still biting, too," said Jeff Kucera of Rockport. "The black drum are still good in St. Charles and Copano Bays."

Although black drum aren't historically a target of coastal anglers, those who like to eat some of their catch list the fish as a favorite. Bottom feeders, the fish tend to hit live or cut bait but will occasionally take a fly or spoon.

Perry Trial, a Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist in Corpus Christi, said the drum are very plentiful and have been for some time.

"In general, we've seen a pretty steady increase in black drum numbers — they're becoming more and more abundant," he said. "It could go way back to the banning of gillnets."



RELIABLE CATCH: Black drum have been caught consistently in the bays along the Texas coast, especially in the Coastal Bend area. Paul Brown holds a 5-pound drum caught near Rockport. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Trial said that despite reports, survey numbers show anglers aren't targeting the fish.

"Our surveys haven't shown an inordinate number of black drum landed," he said. "And most of the drum come from the Upper Laguna Madre."

Trial said the black drum are extremely abundant — much more so than redfish or speckled trout.

"In our gillnet surveys, we catch

them at the rate of five fish per hour," he said. "If you catch anything like redfish or trout at the rate of one fish per hour, that's considered a lot."

Kucera, a former commercial fishermen, thinks the shrimp buyback program has been a factor in the seemingly increased numbers of black drum.

"And restaurants have other choices like tilapia and farm-raised fish — there's just less of a market for black

drum," he said.

Trial said the commercial price for the fish has been generally low.

"The market price of drum is not as high as it once was," he said. "Though it is holding steady."

Page Campbell at TPW's Region 2 office in Rockport said commercial landings have declined slightly.

"Over the last five years the prices

See **BLACK DRUM**, Page 12



HEADING SOUTH: Mexican tourism officials and outfitters are encouraging outdoorsmen to make the trip this year, emphasizing safety and lower prices to places like El Salto, where this bass was one of Josh Ward's many catches. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.

Mexico said to be safe away from border, cities

Hunting, fishing lodges promote easy access, offer incentives

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Travel alerts, border drug battles and now H1N1 virus, aka swine flu. Recent activities have taken a major toll on Mexican hunting and fishing outfitters. And both the tourism officials and outfitters feel the fear of coming and the cancellations from those who

scheduled trips are unwarranted, as long as simple precautions are taken.

Jeri Booth at The Detail Company Adventures represents outfitters throughout Mexico and said groups are canceling trips in large numbers.

"We've had groups cancel that have been going for the last 15 years," she

See **MEXICO**, Page 22

Several bills affect outdoors

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

More than 20 bills moving through the Texas Legislature have implications for hunters and anglers. They cover many topics, some major (increasing the hunting buffer around cities), some mundane (changing record-keeping require-

ments for game processors). The following are a few proposals working their way through the Capitol.

House Bill 4214
Author: Rep. Mark Homer, D-Paris

The bill implements new regulations for the taxidermy industry. It requires

See **BILLS**, Page 23

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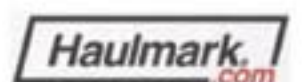
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CONSERVATION

Aggieland jams for DU

Duck group spurs next generation with concert, fun

By Craig Nyhus

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

More than 7,000 young people came together April 25 at the fourth annual Budweiser Duck Jam at Wolf Pen Amphitheatre in College Station for fun, music and more.

The festival was the brainchild of Ducks Unlimited Texas staffer Jason McKey. McKey, now a regional director for Central and South Texas, was previously the director of university programs. He said the event was designed to fill a void in waterfowl hunters and Ducks Unlimited members.

"We wanted to bring young people to DU," he said. "There is a huge population gap in duck hunters and volunteers — and this is the age group we are missing."

The new director of university programs, Cody Roberts, has taken the helm to help grow the event.

"He's running around like a chicken with his head cut off," McKey said with a smile.

Attractions included jumping dogs at the DockDogs Big Air Competition, loads of boiled crawfish, Monster Truck rides, a kid's zone and barbecue team cook-offs with "expert" judges.

But the crowd-bringing attraction was the music, led by country music stars Kevin Fowler and Clay Walker, and for the older folks, Bad Company.

After battling weather issues the past few years that hampered attendance, the warm, breezy day brought in the crowds to the liking of the orga-



DUCK FUN: Top, Kevin Fowler performs for the crowd at the Budweiser Duck Jam in College Station. Below, fans wait for the performance of Kevin Fowler, and DU volunteer Doug Jones consumes one of many crawfish. Top photo by Breca Tracy. Bottom photos by Craig Nyhus, Lone Star Outdoor News.

nizers, especially since the ticket price for each included a DU membership.

"Look at this crowd," said David Schuessler, DU's director of fundrais-

ing and volunteer relations, who also was involved in the event's origin as a Texas regional director. "This is what I envisioned three years ago."

Conservation News in Brief

Crappie drawing wins art contest

Margaret Sone's drawing of a crappie won her the top prize in the 2009 State-Fish Art Contest, judged recently at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

Sone, who attends Highland Park High School in Dallas, took home \$1,000 for placing first among students in grades 10 through 12. Second place in the age bracket went to Hailey Sowden of Dallas, and third went to Bethany Berg of Dallas.

Winners in grades four through six were Christian Hernandezgoda of Killeen, first place; Samuel Bickham of Shiner, second; and Julie Ybarra of Brownsville, third.

Winners in seventh through ninth grade were Brady King of Livingston, first place; Katya Lopatko of Grapevine, second; and Mary Campbell of Fort Worth, third.

"Together, we are using art to empower a new generation of conservationists," said Douglas H. Grann, president and CEO of Wild-

life Forever, which organizes the contest. "By sharing their fish art with family, friends and the general public, our young people are becoming ambassadors for good stewardship of fish and wildlife habitat."

Prizes were awarded to first through third places in each grade level. In grades four through six, savings bonds worth \$100, \$75 and \$50 were awarded to the winners. Winners in grades seven through nine received \$100 cash, \$75 and \$50.

Winners in grades 10 through 12 received cash prizes of \$1,000, \$750 and \$500.

Every entrant received a certificate and a fishing lure from Strike King Lure Co. The Texas division of the contest is sponsored by the Toyota Texas Bass Classic.

The 624 entries received was the largest number ever entered from a single state in the nationwide contest.

The winning entries from across the country will next be judged at the State-Fish Art Expo in August in Minneapolis.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report



WINNER: Margaret Sone of Dallas placed first in grades 10 through 12 at the Texas State-Fish Art Contest with this drawing of a crappie. Photo by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

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Outdoor Hall of Fame picks 4 from Arkansas

ESPN's Sanders among 2009 inductees

Four Arkansas residents with many years of varied activities to improve and expand Arkansas' outdoor resources and the enjoyment of hunting, fishing and the outdoors have been selected as the 2009 inductees for the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame.

Bert and Cheryl Haralson of Augusta are a husband and wife team involved in the development of Arkansas elk on both the hunting and the tourism scenes. The Haralsons have been key figures in the cooperative planning and implementation of elk habitat programs in the Buffalo River country of north Arkansas.

Tommy Sanders of Little Rock followed his graduation from Hendrix College with energy and enthusiasm that led to outdoors television. His clear and straightforward announcing has become a fixture on many hunting and fishing programs on the cable network ESPN.

As director of state parks, Greg Butts was a key figure in the successful 1996 campaign in which voters approved the 1/8th-Cent Conservation Sales Tax. The revenue from this tax provides the means to oversee the renovation and expansion of Arkansas' parks.



OUTSTANDING: Clockwise from top left, Bert and Cheryl Haralson, Greg Butts and Tommy Sanders will be inducted into the Outdoor Hall of Fame for their work in conservation and the outdoors industry.

Past inductees of the Outdoor Hall of Fame include Forrest Wood, Larry Nixon, Jerry McKinnis, George Cochran, Bill Norman, Cotton Cordell, former Gov. Mike Huckabee and his wife, Janet.

The inductees will be recognized at the 2009 Outdoor Hall of Fame banquet in September.

— *Arkansas Game and Fish Commission report*

NATIONAL

National News in Brief

Girl's wood duck wins stamp contest

A single wood duck painted by 16-year-old Lily Spang of Toledo, Ohio, was selected to appear on the 2009-10 federal junior duck stamp.

A panel of judges chose the design April 22 at the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest, held at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. The acrylic entry, which previously won the Ohio State Junior Duck Stamp Contest, was judged the winner among the Best-of-Show entries from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Spang said she worked on the winning painting for about a month and a half. The suggestion to paint the colorful woody came from her mentor, wildlife artist Greg Clair, who died in January.

The 2009-10 federal junior duck stamp, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sells for \$5 to stamp collectors, conservationists and the general public, will be released June 26. Proceeds from sales of the stamp support environmental education and awards for contest winners.

Abraham Hunter, 15, of Vienna, Ill., took second place with an acrylic painting depicting a pair of common goldeneyes.

Third place went to Rebekah Nastav, 18, of Amoret, Mo., for her rendition of common goldeneyes.

— *U.S. Fish and Wildlife report*



BEST OF SHOW: Lily Spang's painting of a wood duck received high honors and will be the image on the 2009-10 federal junior duck stamp. Photo by U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

antlers May 2 to raise funds for its Oak Creek Wildlife Area winter elk feeding program.

WDFW Wildlife Area Manager John McGowan said hundreds of pounds of antlers, shed by Rocky Mountain elk at the Oak Creek win-

ter feeding site, were available for bidding. The antlers were picked up and stored by staff and volunteers.

"We hope this auction will help us offset some of the cost of feeding these animals every winter," McGowan said before the auction. "We'll also have some shed antlers from Roosevelt elk from the Mount St. Helens Wildlife Area and possibly deer antlers from other wildlife areas."

All funds raised at the auction will go into the winter wildlife feeding program.

About 3,500 to 4,000 elk are fed each winter at several sites on the 47,200-acre Oak Creek Wildlife Area.

All shed antlers for auction were collected by WDFW from supplemental feeding sites, not from the surrounding range, McGowan said.

— *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife report*



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HUNTING

Some turkey hunters finding cooperative toms

Rains prompt some gobblers to come to the call

By Craig Nyhus

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

In some parts of Texas, the turkeys have been hot to trot. Although many hunters have struggled with quiet or henning-up toms, others have found the gobblers more than ready to come to the call.

David Deveny of Dallas hunted south of Austin on a muggy late April morning with a slight breeze.

"A bird was roosted by himself and gobbling from the roost," he said. "I got within about 150

yards and threw out a 9- or 10-yelp sequence from the box call, and he double-gobbed."

Deveny set up for the fly down.

"He landed in a clearing about 100 yards behind me," Deveny said. "I got up and ran up the path toward him using a cedar line for cover."

Deveny then hit the diaphragm call with three to five yelps and some light purrs.

"It didn't take much — he was double and triple gobbling the whole way in," Deveny said. "He walked right toward me like he was on a string. I shot him at 12 steps. My guess, he was 3 years old. It was perfect."

Hunters in Menard County reported an abundance of 2-year-old birds coming into range, but no jakes and no older birds, and Wilson County hunters also had toms coming to the calls.

In Comanche County, Bill Hutchison of Dal-

See Turkey, Page 22



GOBBLER DAYS:

The spring turkey season has brought success for some hunters despite statewide drought conditions. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Joining forces for wildlife

Neighboring landowners work together to boost habitat around state

By Bill Miller

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The bobwhite quail, being a poster child for species in decline, needed help, and people in Navarro County wanted to give it.

"We were having some meetings in Navarro County," said landowner Don Green, "and we were talking about how we had very good hunting forever, and then all it once, the quail disappeared.

"After talking about it, we learned it wasn't because of fire ants or predators — it was habitat."

Under guidance from Jay Whiteside, a Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist, they learned that landowners, individually, were ineffective in boosting quail habitat.

But by banding together, wide swaths of habitat, comprising thousands of acres, could be improved for quail.

About four years ago, they formed the Western Navarro Bobwhite Recovery Cooperative, one of nearly 200 wildlife management associations recognized by TPW.

"We help people understand the advantages of working with their neighbors," said Linda Campbell, director for TPW private lands programs.

"One landowner," she explained,

"can control what happens on his 50 acres, but when you get 100 with acres — now you're talking about a greater effect, especially if they're working with the same goals."

The first wildlife management association, or WMA, began in 1955 in Bee, Goliad and Karnes counties.

Campbell said the organizations, sometimes called "co-ops," formed to help improve deer.

But now that there are about 4 million whitetails in Texas, many of the groups are focusing on quail, she said.

In Navarro County, WNBRI began with 12 landowners who agreed to devote 15,000 acres for quail.

With Green as the group's first president, they reintroduced native clump grasses, rotated cattle grazing and burned excess brush.

The group has grown to 32 landowners with a land base of 29,000 acres, just short of its original goal to improve 30,000 acres for bobwhite habitat.

But the group's efforts to set the stage for a quail rebound in Navarro County have not gone unnoticed.

TPW will recognize WNBRI on May 27 during the Lone Star Land Steward awards program in Austin.

"We have planted a lot of the types of vegetation on a lot of acreage," Green said. "But we've also



COMMON GOALS: Landowners are banding together to manage habitat and wildlife through Wildlife Management Associations. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

decided we can manage for quail and livestock at the same time."

Green credited Whiteside, the TPW biologist, for sharing a vision

of renewed bobwhite country with the landowners.

"Jay is excited about quail," Green said, "and if anyone is the

heart and soul of our group, it's him."

A biologist, Campbell said, is who can help get a new WMA started.



PAINTER: Sam Langford takes a break from working on one of the pieces in Trinity Christian Academy's art show for Advanced Placement students. Langford, the great-great-nephew of former House Speaker Sam Rayburn, often draws from his love of hunting and fishing when working on his art. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.

Dallas teen infuses outdoor life, beliefs into artwork

Imagery may seem tragic, but messages have a bright side

By Thomas Phillips

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Sam Langford stresses the distinction between "gruesome" and "morbid" when discussing his art. The former would be a fixation on death and disease, things dying. "Gruesome" is all about gross stuff that scares people.

Or, as in Langford's case, stuff that scares people at first.

"I love the decomposition of things — old logs, fences, bones," said Langford, a senior at Trinity Christian Academy in Dallas.

For instance, he might photograph an open incision on a deer he shoots, with its blood and exposed muscle, to show the intricacies of how the parts work together. At first sight, it's a horrifying wound. Then it becomes an insight into anatomy, and then the beauty comes out.

For Langford, who attends Dallas Bible Church, it could show the fine details of Creation.

His seven-piece entry into this year's Trinity Christian Academy AP art show, however, is harder to explain.

It has a religious theme: idolatry. His subjects are again gruesome: the severed heads of a buck white-tailed deer and a hog (rendered in oil paint and collage on canvas) and a wooden plaque with dead ants — real ones glued on, and some extras painted on.

See ARTIST, Page 16

Poachers, beware: Operation Game Thief growing

Fifth sporting clays fundraiser held for crime program

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

More than 325 shooters participated in the Operation Game Thief Clay Stoppers Shootout at the Texas Waste Disposal Systems Exotic Game Ranch last month in Buda. The shootout, the brainchild of Austin gun dealer Joe McBride, has exceeded all expectations in its short five-year history.

The money raised — more than \$85,000 — is put to good use.

“The objective of OGT is to help TPW stop

poaching,” McBride said. “When people turn in someone, there are rewards available — even though most people don’t take the rewards.”

Texas Parks and Wildlife’s OGT Committee, headed by McBride, pays out rewards and provides expanded death benefits to families of fallen game wardens.

But money from the shoot helps in other ways, too.

“We buy equipment for the wardens like night vision and thermal imaging,” McBride said. “We want them to be able to have the best equipment they otherwise couldn’t afford to continue to be the best in the country.”

OGT held its fundraiser, the Bandera Ball, in Houston for several years, but McBride set his sights higher.

“We decided five years ago to start a sport-

See SHOOTOUT, Page 18



TOP SHOT: Gov. Rick Perry takes a shot during the Operation Game Thief Clay Stoppers shoot last month in Austin. Photo by Bill Honza, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

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FISHING

CCA proposes snapper solution

Plan aims for better balance of allocation

By Brandon D. Shuler

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Russell Nelson, the Coastal Conservation Association's Gulf fisheries consultant, stood in front of a room of saltwater editors and writers and proclaimed, "If things continue the way they are going in the Gulf red snapper fishery — with data collection problems, a controversial IFQ program and continuing problems with federal management of this species — the fishery will be closed." CCA President David Cummins and CCA

General Counsel Bob Hayes sat by in the informal setting somberly shaking their heads in agreement.

"CCA's No. 1 concern is conservation of the fishery, yet we have to allow equal access to the resource," Hayes said.

Recreational anglers feel they are losing out because of what they say are decades of federal mismanagement and a program that locks 51 percent of the fishery into the commercial sector. With an open Gulf snapper season this year of two months and a reduction to a two-fish bag, their complaints increased. The discord reached a pinnacle when Texas and Florida refused to go along with federal regulations for red snapper in

See SNAPPER, Page 22

SNAPPER WOES:

The red snapper season is in danger according to federal managers and CCA is proposing a solution that may allow both commercial and recreational anglers to keep pursuing the popular fish.



AQUATIC DANGER: Salvinia grows in floating mats that block sunlight underneath. Photo by Texas AgriLife Extension.

Salvinia found in Sam Rayburn after tourney

Trailer carried plant to reservoir

The battle call against giant salvinia sounded anew last month as state officials caught a boater with the invasive aquatic plant hitching a ride on his trailer at Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

The floating plant spreads prolifically and wreaks havoc underwater by choking off sunlight. Without sunlight, other plants and fish suffer.

During a recent bass fishing tournament on Sam Rayburn that attracted as many as 5,000 boats, Howard Elder, aquatic vegetation control specialist for Texas Parks and Wildlife, found evidence warnings are being ignored.

"We found giant salvinia on trailers at ramps and in the water around those ramps," he said. "People brought giant salvinia to Sam Rayburn with them. Before the tournament we had giant salvinia contained. It may not be anymore."

Salvinia is found in nine East Texas lakes: Caddo, Toledo Bend, Sheldon, Texana, Conroe, Sam Rayburn, B.A. Steinhagen, Center City and Raven. The plant has been removed from five others: Pinkston, Brandy Branch, Palestine, Cross and Lake o' the Pines.

TPW has been on an education campaign about the dangers of spreading salvinia, a native of Brazil, where it's kept in check by insects. Signs have been posted, and more publicity has been given to the plant.

Authorities might increase their war-waging on the plant further. Tickets carrying a \$500 fine — per plant — can be written to boaters transporting the plant on their rigs.

"Boat trailers are serving as the primary vector of transmission for giant salvinia," said Craig Bonds, regional director for TPW's Inland Fisheries Division. "If giant salvinia establishes colonies near boat ramps at Sam Rayburn, many other reservoirs will be threatened by this plant due to the high frequency of boat trailers leaving the reservoir for destinations all over Texas and the United States."

— Staff report

Water rises, grass grows, bass break out at Choke Canyon



BRINGING IN BASS, BASS FISHERMEN: Choke Canyon Reservoir is staking its claim as the nation's hottest bass lake, and anglers from across the country are taking notice. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Big bass bonanza

By Craig Nyhus

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Choke Canyon Reservoir just might be the hottest big bass lake in the country this year. And the word is getting out.

The numbers of giant largemouths taken from the lake topped all Texas fisheries — at least based on the fish reported to officials.

The 27-year-old, 25,670-acre reservoir in Live Oak and McMullen counties produced six ShareLunkers this season — two more than Lake Conroe and Lake Fork — and the average weight of the six was 14.21 pounds.

Brad Bookmyer of Leander set the new lake record with his 15.45-pound fish caught on Jan. 21.

Texas Parks and Wildlife officials say high water levels on the lake have held the last several years, increasing bass habitat and contributing to the explosion of big fish. Stockings of Florida largemouths and a big natural spawn in 1998 also helped.

Guide Charles Whited attributes the bass barrage to the abundance of grass.

"The hydrilla has been good the last few years," he said. "It's given the bass a chance to grow. And when the lake was down several years ago they stocked it."

Whited said the numbers of fish caught have been excellent as well.

"We're catching 25 fish per day," he said. "And 45 of them have been over 8 pounds



LATEST LUNKER: Sam Koebcke of Austin caught this 13.30-pound bass from Choke Canyon April 26. Photo by the Calliham Store.

since March."

Many of his customers travel a long way to fish the lake.

"Lots of them have been from out of state," Whited said. "I get a lot from Chicago and Minnesota, especially when it's iced over up there."

At the 18-room Choke Canyon Lodge, owner Rick Anderson brought in his mother, Hap-py Bertolett, to help.

"It's been real busy. I love it," Bertolett said. "We've been booked solid."

And the anglers have come from far and near.

"We've had them from Ontario, Canada, Apple Valley, Minnesota; Lee's Summit, Montana; Chandler, Arizona; Hauser, Idaho; Washburn and Green Bay, Wisconsin; Taylor, South Carolina; and Meridian, Kansas," she said, adding more states plus the neighboring states of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

So how did the traveling fishermen do?

"Some of them did well," she said. "But others didn't much like the wind — this is a windy, windy place. The die-hards that hung in there and fished in the wind did just fine."

The last week of April saw at least two 13-pounders, a 12-pounder and two 10s, she said.

"And one guy from Missouri caught a 13-pounder and kept it," she said. "He said it was the biggest fish he ever caught, and he was going to take it home to get it mounted."

Bertolett said she expects things to wind down as most of the out-of-staters were looking for big fish.

"I'll finally get some rest," she said. "But the fishing stays good."

Whited agreed.

"In May and June the fish get in the 12- to 18-foot range," he said. "Big crankbaits, football jigs, big Texas rigs and slow-rolled big spinnerbaits will work."

And he expects the hot trend to continue.

"There's plenty of grass — it should stay good," he said. "I predict next year we'll see 16- and 17-pounders caught."

Remember safety when towing boat, its trailer

Distractions growing in technological world

By Dan Armitage
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

May marks the traditional start of the boating season for many Texans, and the long Memorial Day weekend is a popular time to hit the road with the boat in tow for an extended weekend on the water.

Hauling a boat puts drivers in a special category — one that assumes an elevated responsibility for the rig and the road being shared with fellow drivers.

Those extra axles and the extended load make tow-boat rigs less maneuverable while at the same time creating a larger target for trouble from other drivers who may not be as skilled or attentive as they should be. Safety-wise, the last thing a boat-tower needs is a self-imposed distraction while driving.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration estimates that nearly a third of the 3 million automobile wrecks may be attributable to what is called distracted driving. Those distractions include everything from eating and reading to shaving, watching television or surfing the Internet while behind the wheel, and the most common distraction — talking or texting on a cellphone.

The added responsibility of the trailer and its load requires drivers to refer to the rearview and side mirrors more often than drivers who are not towing.

It's also important to set those mirrors properly so the rig can be seen clearly and instantly without craning necks, leaning to the side, rising in the seat or otherwise moving from a safe seating position to see what needs to be seen. The mirror adjustments should be made before you leave the driveway; attempting to adjust side mirrors while driving down the road

Road worriers

You just might be a distracted driver if you:

- Can fold a road map with one hand
- Contort your body to catch mirrored glimpses of your rig rather than pulling over and adjusting them properly
- Own one of those laptop burger, fry and soft drink tables sold at truck stops for "drivers on the go"
- Can steer with your knee

— even those remotely operated from the interior by a joystick — can be as distracting as a DVD playing on a visor-mounted screen.

So can pulling out a road map. Make sure you know where you are going and exactly how to get there before you leave home. Worrying about the next turn can cause you to lose concentration on the task ahead and draw you into attempting some erratic driving. Not only that, but the only thing more distracting than reading a road map while driving is trying to fold one back up while behind the wheel.

GPS units make good traveling tools, are easier to reference than maps, and many models can give you quick alternative routes if you do miss an exit or make a wrong turn. Some models even offer audible directions and alerts to upcoming turns. Just don't be tempted to fiddle with your GPS while you are behind the wheel; pull over or have a companion do the routing for you.

Get your directions, your conversations and your meal down before you drive off with your boat in tow, or pull over and deal with each individually. Otherwise, you may end up learning the hard way that dividing your attention between driving and anything else can be as dangerous as it is distracting.



SUPER SPECKS: Spotted seatrout fishing has been hot from Port Mansfield to Port Isabel. Anglers credit the fresh water received from last year's Hurricane Dolly and reduced bag limits for this year's success. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Trout bite booming on lower Texas coast

Credit might go to hurricane, new limit

By Danno Wise
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Although some speckled trout anglers farther north are scratching their heads to find fish, Lower Laguna Madre anglers have been enjoying some of the best speckled trout fishing in years.

Anglers from Port Isabel to Port Mansfield have been reporting excellent catches of specks for weeks, despite excessively high winds.

"Fishing has been really good," said Port Isabel angler Abel Ochoa. "It has been windy, but still — fishing's been good. We were out on Mexiquito (flats) the other day, and we had our trout in no time. And we had some really good fish."

"All of our guides are catching a lot of trout," said Jude Villarreal of White Sands Marina in Port Isabel. "The wind's been really strong, and the water's not so pretty, but everybody's been catching plenty of trout."

Although no one can say for sure the reason for this spring's outstanding trout fishing, many anglers believe it is caused by a combination of factors.

"You know, we're really one year in on our (reduced) trout limits, and look how good fishing is," said Port Mansfield guide Capt. Bruce Shuler. "Of course, we also had a lot less pressure last year because of the hurricanes. But fishing this year is as good as it used to be."

"I think there's a few reasons for it," said Port Isabel guide Capt. Carlos Garcia. "For one, our new limits seem to be working. Then, we had the Bahia Grande reflooded. Plus, the hurricanes flushed the bay and reduced the amount of fishing pressure last summer and fall."

Whatever the reason, it seems as if everyone's trying to get in on the action.

"We've been real busy lately," said Calvin Byrd of Quik Stop Bait Shop in Port Isabel. "All of our customers say they've been catching plenty of fish — and catching them close, right out front of town. It really shows that even with everything else that's going on, when the fishing's good, people are going to go fishing."

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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

CREEK ACCESS? NOT FOR THIS TURKEY POACHER

A man hunting turkeys accused of trespassing in Grayson County said he thought he had the right to access a person's property if he stayed in the creek running through it. Grayson County Game Warden Jim Ballard has a case pending against the man, who was reported by the property owner.

BARGE'S FISH TRAP NETS PROBLEMS FOR MAN

A man was arrested for running a wire basket fish trap in Cedar Creek Lake. The man was running the trap while working on a construction barge used to raise a bridge over the lake. Freestone County Game Warden John Thorne and Henderson County Game Warden Shawn Smith investigated the incident.

SAILBOAT RIGHTED IN CLEAR LAKE

Four boaters on Clear Lake were rescued after game wardens found them clinging to a capsized sailboat with its mast buried in the mud. The boaters told Harris County Game Wardens Karin Bailey and Tim Elmore that their life jackets blew away in the wind, and they had been struggling to dislodge the mast for 45 minutes. The wardens were able to dislodge the mast from the mud and the uninjured boaters and the disabled vessel were returned to the boat ramp.

CAST NET, CATFISH CONFISCATED AT CALAVERAS

Four men in a secluded cove at Calaveras Lake were seen using an oversized cast net to catch fish. Game Warden Derek Iden seized 35 channel catfish and the illegal oversized cast net. Iden issued citations for possession of an illegal fishing device on public waters and taking catfish by illegal means and methods. The fish were donated; civil restitution and cases are pending.

Ducks are catch and release only

An angler on Lake Belton caught a duck while fishing near a boat slip. Falls County Game Warden

Brandt Bernstein heard the man calling for him and a duck making a lot of commotion. The man yelled that he caught a duck and

didn't know what to do. Bernstein wrangled the duck out from under a boat slip, removed the hook and released the duck.

DEER HAIR FOUND ON BOATERS' TAILGATE

A fictitious license plate at a boat ramp on Cooper Lake drew a game warden's attention — and further investigation. When looking at the plate, Hopkins County Game Warden Jarrod Bryant observed fresh blood and deer hair on the tailgate of the truck connected to the boat trailer. Bryant launched his patrol boat and located the owners of the vehicle. Both occupants of the boat denied hunting. After being told of the blood on the tailgate of their truck they admitted to killing a pig. Bryant then explained the difference between pig hair and deer hair. Once returned to the ramp, both men admitted to killing a doe at night while hog hunting. Several cases pending.

BEAR REMOVED FROM TRAILER

Game Warden Scott Haney received a call concerning a bear in a horse trailer in a Mount Pleasant parking lot. No permit for possession of the bear could be found, so the bear and horse trailer were seized by Titus County Game Warden Jerry Ash. Arrangements were made to transport the bear to a permitted facility in San Antonio.

MAN SEVERELY INJURED IN STILLHOUSE BOATING INCIDENT

Five people were in an accident while riding in a boat on Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir that was being operated by a 17-year-old boy. A 37-year-old man fell from the boat as it was making a turn. As the operator turned around to pick up the man, he ran

over him. The man sustained major injuries from the propeller and was transported to a Temple hospital by ambulance. He is expected to recover, and the incident was investigated by Bell County Game Warden Billy Champlin.

HOG HUNTER BECOMES LOST WHILE CHASING DOGS

A hunter was hunting hogs with dogs around midnight in Coke County and became lost. Coke County Game Warden Jim Allen and Sterling County Game Warden Michael Jaramillo split up to search for the hunter, who was found later and seemed fine. He was searching for the dogs when he lost his bearings and could not be reached by his cell phone because he was in a dead zone.

ARRESTS MADE IN POACHING OF FIVE DEER

In February, Cherokee County Game Warden Brian Bearden received information involving five white-tailed deer that had been shot and found dead, four of which had been dumped completely intact. After five weeks without any leads, Bearden placed posters throughout the southern part of the county in hope someone would come forward. In April, Bearden and Cherokee County Game Warden Eric Collins interviewed a caller who had seen the posters. Based on the information received, search warrants for two residences were obtained. Bearden and Collins along with Region 3 Wardens Audie Hamm, Tim Walker, Oscar Jaimez and Capt. Gary Dugan executed both

warrants simultaneously at both residences. Blood and hair samples were obtained along with two rifles and a spotlight. The ringleader confessed and gave a written statement. Charges for hunting deer at night and waste of game have been filed with the county court. Cases and civil restitution pending.

BASS MAY NOT BE SHOT WHILE BOWFISHING

A fisherman along Falcon Lake faces charges for shooting a bass while bowfishing. Starr County Game Warden Dennis Gazaway Jr. saw the man shoot a bass and place it in an ice chest. Cases pending.

WARDEN HELPS SEARCH FOR MARIJUANA

After receiving information of marijuana being grown in a section of woods adjacent to a trailer park, Wood County Game Warden Derek Spitzer assisted the Wood County Sheriff's Office with the search. Spitzer located 37 marijuana plants, ranging from 8 to 12 inches in height, in containers. The plants were seized and the investigation continues.

TRIO CAUGHT TRYING TO UNDO FISH-POACHING WRONGS

Three people seen releasing undersized largemouth bass and crappie back into Stillhouse Hollow Lake face charges. Bell County Game Wardens Billy Champlin and Justin Valchar were patrolling the upper end of Stillhouse Hollow Lake by boat when they observed a boat occupied by two women and one man. When they ap-

proached the boat, they observed fish being thrown into the water. Valchar boarded their boat and found two of the small fish. Champlin recovered one of the fish from the water. Citations for undersized black bass, undersized crappie, failure to allow inspection and civil restitution are pending.

RETIRED WARDEN REPORTS EARLY TURKEY POACHERS

Retired Game Warden Raymond Jaramillo called Mason County Warden Cody Hatfield to Menard County to contact four individuals who started spring turkey season a week early. Three gobblers had been shot. Cases pending.

TICKETS WRITTEN FOR HUNTING WITHOUT WMA PERMIT

Anderson County Game Wardens Karen Gray and Oscar Jaimez contacted four men at Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area who claimed to be retrieving their hog hunting dogs. After interviewing the men and taking statements from each person, they issued five citations for hunting without a wildlife management area permit, use of an ATV on the wildlife management area property, and no hunter education. Cases pending.

WARDEN, POACHER MEET TO DISCUSS GATOR

A call that an alligator had been shot at a private lake was received in Victoria County. Game Warden Travis Haug was on his way to the location when the Victoria County Sheriff's Office received a phone call from an individual wanting to know if you needed a hunting license to kill alligators. Haug and the caller were patched through to each other, and the man then learned that Haug was on his way to see him. The man had shot a 7-foot 5-inch alligator. Cases pending.

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Hog hunters need not fret 'swine' flu

Officials say virus not found in feral hogs

By Bill Miller
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Hunters and trappers of wild hogs have always watched out for tusks — not viruses.

But reports of swine flu swept the planet during the last week of April, and its first U.S. death was reported in Houston — a toddler visiting from Mexico.

State and national health agencies said this strain of the disease was from a virus containing genes from hogs, birds and humans.

The name swine flu, however, has made some hunters question the safety of field dressing and eating feral hogs.

Officials responded that although swine can create serious health concerns, flu does not top the list.

"Several hunters have asked about the safety of hunting wild hogs," said Dr. Bob Hillman, head of the Texas Animal Health Commission. "We are prepared to test hogs, if a human-animal disease link is identified."

"To date, there has been no indication that swine are involved."

Texas Parks and Wildlife officials echoed Hillman.

Both agencies referred to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which reported that none of the people infected with swine flu had any contact with hogs.

Which made human-to-human contact the most likely vehicle, health officials said.

And while Texans were becoming sick with



HAVE NO FEAR: Feral hog hunters don't have to worry about the H1N1 virus, called the swine flu, according to officials. Other precautions should be taken, though, when processing or butchering the animals. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

the disease, its virus, called H1N1, had yet to be found in U.S. hog populations, according to the TAHC.

The Texas Pork Producers Association picked up that information as it scrambled to protect its markets for domestic hogs.

Fortunately for them — and feral hog hunters — H1N1 and other viruses are not spread

by eating pork, according to the CDC.

"Few reports exist supporting theories of influenza entering the bloodstream or causing systemic infection in pigs," according to a fact sheet from the pork producers.

Also at the end of April, the World Health Organization raised pandemic alert to its second highest level, meaning it believed a glob-

al outbreak of the disease was imminent.

It was too early to tell, however, if the national emergency would blunt the profits of Texans who supply gear for the feral hog industry.

Kevin Ryer of Canton specializes in "feeder lights," which allows hunters to take pigs at night.

Business at the end of April, he said, was brisk even though he had entered his traditional slow season.

"My peak season is January and February," he said. "A lot of hunters don't get serious about taking hogs until after deer season. But I'm selling more now than ever."

Ryer said it was too early to tell if swine flu would hurt his business.

"It's still in the beginning stages," he said, "so it will take awhile before I can notice if it will have an effect."

But while swine flu seemed an unlikely result of hunting, Texas health officials said feral hogs can carry other health hazards, such as swine brucellosis, which, Hillman said, is "a totally different disease that is not related in any way to the flu."

In humans, brucellosis causes intermittent chills and fever for a 24-hour period. It also causes fatigue, body aches, headaches, weight loss or flu-like malaise, the TAHC reported.

"We know from test results that about 10 percent of wild hogs carry swine brucellosis," Hillman said. "When processing or butchering, hunters should protect themselves against the blood and bodily fluids of wild hogs."

"When the wild hog meat is cooked, any swine brucellosis bacteria is destroyed by the heat."

Black drum

Continued from Page 1

have been stable (about 98 cents per pound)," she said.

"Recreational catches also have been stable over that time period," she said.

"Although in 2008, recreational landings were up a little."

Some anglers wondered if higher salinity levels helped the fishing for black drum. Indirectly, they may be correct because more may have targeted black drum this year.

"I wouldn't say black drum like

the high salinity," Trial said. "But they can certainly tolerate it — it doesn't hurt them."

Since trout were harder to find this spring with high winds and stained water, the black drum became more of an option.

"People are still fishing, and if they

can't find the trout they turn to red drum and black drum," Kucera said.

Trial, though, thinks it's a matter of numbers.

"They just aren't fished heavily enough," he said.

Whatever the reason, anglers are happy catching black drum, espe-

cially when the trout aren't cooperating.

"I would love to see more people fish for them — there's a lot of them," Trial said. "They are just a really underutilized fish — there wasn't much pressure on them to begin with."

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Classic quail hunting in old-style Mexican setting

Twenty coveys a day, luxurious nights in peaceful Tamaulipas

The sun had just poked over the Sierra Madre Mountains in Tamaulipas, Mexico, and Pewe poked her head above the thick 3-foot high grass and looked for her hunters. The English pointer was balancing on her hind feet and fell over as she craned her head around. She came right back up and the hunters laughed at the unusual point. The laughing stopped when a covey of 20 birds busted just in front of her nose.

Hunting with the best guides and dogs Rancho Ala Blanca had to of-

fer, we averaged 20-plus all-wild bobwhite quail covey rises a day. The terrain is thorny, rough and full of quail. Simon, the head guide, took us to pasture after pasture. The dogs grew tired, and the birds kept flushing.

At lunch, excellent food was served at the lodge, and time was made for a siesta, hot tub or pool lounging.

After short drives, the afternoon

hunting brings more action. We rarely chased down singles. We would bump into other coveys if we gave follow. Our hunting party chose to walk with the dogs and guides, but the Texas hunting rigs were a welcome ride when changing pastures.

Returning to the spacious lodge, the hostess is waiting with margaritas and nachos — enjoyed while viewing the Soto La Marina River

Valley at sunset.

The dinners prepared by Chef Pedro are even more classical and delicious.

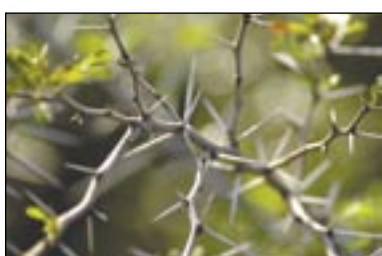
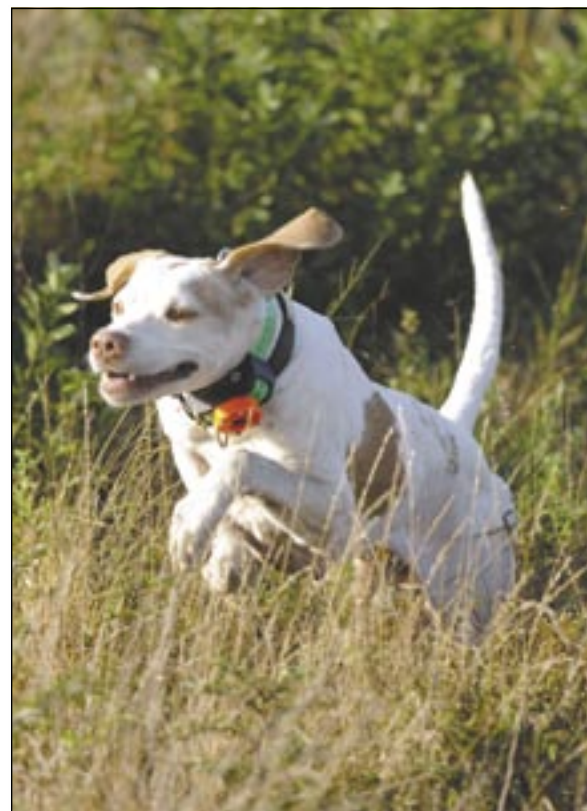
The quail hunts are offered from November through February. Rancho Ala Blanca offers white-winged dove hunting beginning in mid-August and mourning dove and duck hunting from November through February. Transportation to the lodge in air-conditioned vans is

provided from the Harlingen or McAllen airports and air charters to Ciudad Victoria, 45 minutes away, are being arranged with former Super Bowl champion tight end Russ Francis as your pilot.

And for more good news, the entire drive to the lodge is on paved roads, and if you book a whitewing hunt now, the shells are free!

Go to Rancho Ala Blanca. Enjoy!

To book a trip, call Justin Neal at 866-694-0454. www.ranchoalablanca.com



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Hunting season is now at Joshua Creek

Axis plentiful at Hill Country ranch for off-season adventures

Hunters with a trophy axis buck on their minds, not to mention the off-season itch to get out in the field, need look no further than Joshua Creek to put an end to the summertime blues.

"Our axis herd is free-ranging," said Richard Allen. "We have one and one-half miles of Guadalupe River frontage, and we're not high fenced. The axis herd ranges from 400 to 600."

Allen credits the feeding program at the ranch for keeping the herd near.

"We feed protein, corn and alfalfa," he said. "The axis love alfalfa." And the bucks are sizeable.

"Our biggest has been 37 inches, and we shoot a lot from 34 to 36 inches," Allen said. "And we don't shoot more than 20 to 25 bucks each year — it keeps the quality up."

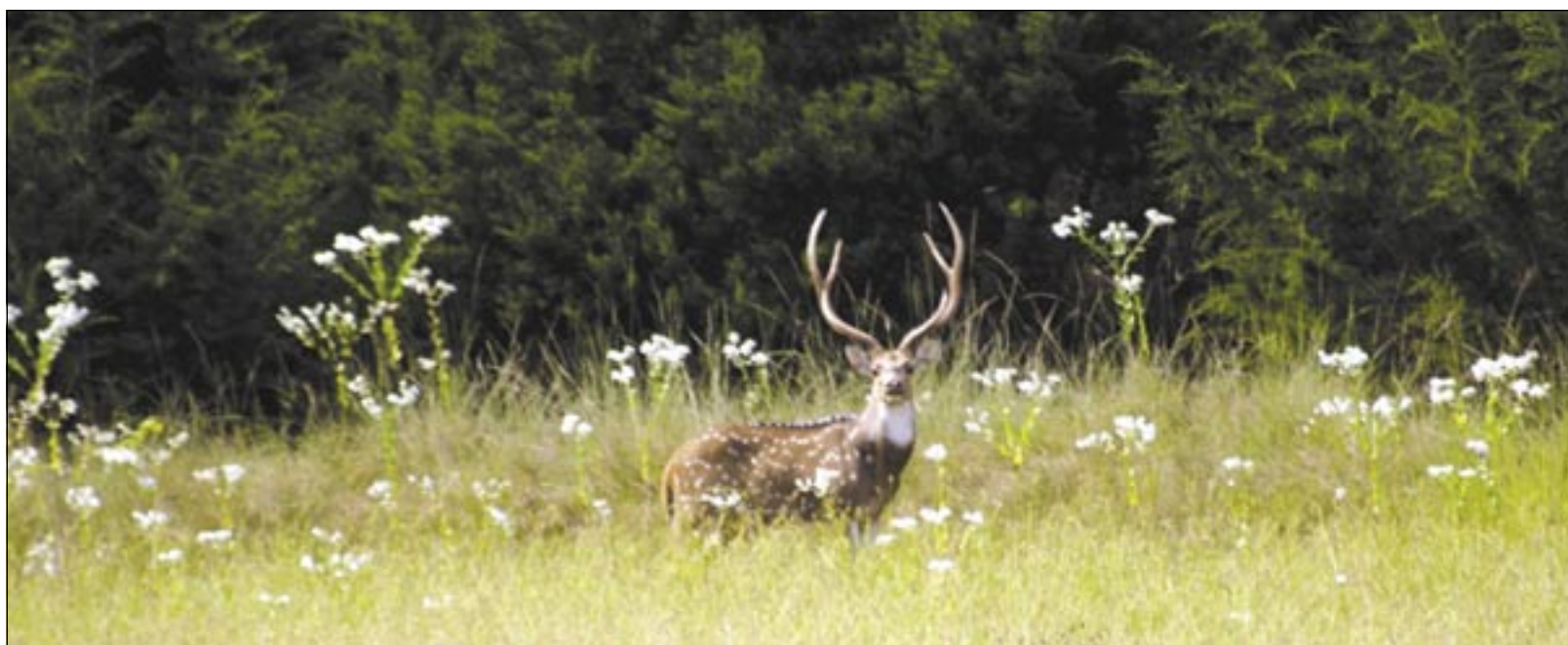
Allen said the time to come is now.

"The rut is just kicking in; you'll see bucks like crazy," he said.

Located between Boerne and Kerrville, the ranch combines Texas Hill Country beauty with large oaks, steep bluffs and the crystal clear spring-fed Joshua Creek.

Summertime guests also enjoy catch-and-release fly-fishing for rainbow trout and pursue bass — including Guadalupe bass — on the nearby Guadalupe River. While wingshooters have to wait until fall to target quail, pheasant, chukar and Hungarian partridge, the sporting clays course is open year-round.

For children, the Youth Adventure Program at Joshua Creek takes place in June and July, offering instruction to youngsters ages 8 to 15 in shotgun shooting, fly-fishing and archery.



Hiking and biking trails round

out the summer activities for the whole family, along with canoeing and kayaking.

Whether it's a family outing or a business retreat, all will appreciate the first-class lodging and dining at

the ranch. Several lodges meet the needs of groups small and large, and dining ranges from American fare, such as steaks and catfish from the creek, to four-course gourmet game dinners featuring

axis, pheasant, quail or rainbow trout.

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Youth Outdoor Adventure Program

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	Week II June 21 – 27	Ages 10-13
	Week III July 12 – 18	Ages 8-12
	Week IV July 26 – Aug 1	Ages 12-15

2009 is the 16th year that Joshua Creek Ranch will instruct youths 8 to 15 years old in **shotgun shooting, fly fishing, archery, and water sports** on the Joshua Creek and Guadalupe River. Youngsters spend a week on the ranch with other outdoor enthusiasts under the guidance of experienced sportsmen who keep them as focused on safety as on fun. They learn the life-enhancing skills of ethical hunting and fishing and the responsibility that goes with them, like good stewardship of the habitat and conservation of wildlife. The counselor to participant ratio is 1 to 4 or 5 to ensure safe handling of shotguns and rifles and responsible conduct of water activities. Hunter Education Certification is included; Axis Deer Hunting is available.





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Artist

Continued from Page 6

"The animals are crucified symbols, and they're kind of dead and decaying and worthless and kind of show the results of idolatry, and the flies, too," Rayburn said. "It kind of looks like hell."

Other painted subjects in the scene are plastic water bottles, neatly arranged in strict rows. They're meant to further symbolize the world's indulgences.

Morbid or gruesome, either way it's dark. Not to worry, though, this youngster has a lighter side, too.

Service and solitude

For his Eagle Scout project, Langford helped fix up the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum in Bonham before its 50th anniversary in 2007.

The work was a tribute to the former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"My name is Samuel Rayburn Langford," he said. "He was my great-great-uncle."

Langford spends more time at another East Texas location, his family's ranch near Tyler.

He likes to hunt for deer, hogs and birds, and he's been fishing in Canada.

"I love sitting in the blind," he said. "It's one of my favorite things."

The outdoors works its way into his art. Although his art show entry is mostly done with paint, he is beginning to work more with photography. As could be expected, nature photography is becoming a big part of his work.

Whatever the medium, the outdoors is an ingrained part of the art.

"Just like anything, it's a big part of my life," Langford said. "It just comes out in different places."

"I'm just surrounded by it so much it's comfortable."

Time will tell how much the outdoors seeps into his work life. After graduating, Langford will attend Savannah College of Art and De-



ANIMAL DEATH: Gruesome images of dead deer and insects help Sam Langford decry idolatry. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

sign in Georgia.

Beyond that, Langford's aiming for a career in graphic design, and maybe photography.

"I love the outdoors," he said. "It's just kind of a passion of mine, so anything outdoors I just love."

He must love painting, too. One of his AP art teachers, David Connolly, said Langford has a combination of talent and drive not often seen in a young artist.

"I think he's really a forward-thinking kind of a person, and he's just a bit unusual for his age: how much thought goes into his work and how much work goes into his work," Connolly said. "I think that he's got a lot of talent. He's got some skills that he could build on to perhaps really say something with his work."

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Shootout

Continued from Page 7

ing clays shoot and build it," he said. "I told them, 'Let me show you what this can do.'"

Since that time, the shoot has grown from about 100 to more than 350 shooters, and shooters such as Gov. Rick Perry, TPW commissioners and teams from the Dallas Safari Club and Houston Safari Club regularly attend. The Region 4 Cook Team, made up of wardens from Beaumont to Victoria, provided fried fish and alligator for the shooters.

The shoots also are designed to help raise awareness of the ability of Texans to report poaching 24 hours per day — anonymously if they want — by calling the number that OGT Coordinator Lt. Eric Howard hopes all hunters, anglers and landowners program into their cell phones, 800-792-GAME.

This year, shoots are being added in Laredo, on May 30, and in the Valley in the fall. The shoots will have facilities for first-time shooters where they can shoot for free, with hunter safety program instructors there to help.

"And next year we'll plan to add two more regions," McBride said. "Hopefully we'll have a shoot in all of the regions in Texas.

"It's grown and grown and grown. It has turned into a worthwhile venture."



SHOOTING SUPPORT: Above, a shooter fires at a low-flying target at the Operation Game Thief Clay Stoppers Shootout.



CONGRATULATIONS: Right, Gov. Rick Perry presents the Dallas Safari Club team with the Conservation Cup Award. From left are Mark Tipton, Allen Jacobs, Marty Markl, Perry, David Bishop and Kevin Watson. The team also won the highest team score. Photos by Bill Honza, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

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FISHING REPORT

HOT BITES

LARGEMOUTH BASS



AMISTAD: Excellent on Senkos, spinnerbaits, crankbaits, swimbaits and soft plastic worms and lizards.

TRAVIS: Excellent on watermelon Brush Hogs, chrome topwaters and grubs in 5-15 feet.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Very good on crawdad and green soft plastics in 1 foot.

NAVARRO MILLS: Very good on black soft plastic worms and Sassy Shad and good on minnows.

WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



BROWNWOOD: White bass are excellent on Li'l Fishies, small Rat-L-Traps and shad crankbaits.

RAY ROBERTS: White bass are excellent on baby Torpedoes and spoons with consistent topwater schooling under the birds.

BRAUNIG: Striped bass are very good on liver and perch and down rigging spoons near the dam and jetty.

TEXOMA: Striped bass are good on live shad.

AMISTAD: Striped bass are good on redfins.

MACKENZIE: White bass and striped bass are good on live baits and shallow white crankbaits.

CATFISH



BASTROP: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on live bait, frozen shrimp, liver and bloodbait.

CALAVERAS: Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheesebait and shad.

FALCON: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on frozen shrimp, stinkbait, nightcrawlers and cut bait under cormorants.

BRAUNIG: Channel and blue catfish are very good on shrimp, cheesebait and cut bait.

CRAPPIE



BROWNWOOD: Excellent on Li'l Fishies and tube jigs under corks along shorelines in 1-3 feet.

NAVARRO MILLS: Very good on minnows and on black/orange and red/chartreuse tube jigs with pink heads.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 59 degrees; 1.22' low. Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits and watermelon or black blue soft jerkbaits and jigs and live baits suspended in trees and brush. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on live baits.

AMISTAD: Water clear; 67 degrees; 1.79' high. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Catfish are fair on cheesebait. Yellow catfish are good on live perch near rock slides.

ARROWHEAD: Water moderately stained; 62 degrees; 7.31' low. Black bass are fair on crankbaits or black/blue jigs off rocky points and rip-rap. Crappie are good on minnows fished at the east side bridges and state park piers in the early morning with some fish moving shallow. White bass are fair trolling and casting to rocky points near Pawnee Point boat ramp. Blue Catfish are good drift fishing with cut shad or cheese baits on flats at 12-15 feet depth.

BASTROP: Water clear. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and white tube jigs.

BELTON: Water clear; 65 degrees; 1.18' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits and minnows. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are good on minnows and white riversides under lights at night. Crappie are good on minnows and white riversides. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs, shrimp, Spam and frozen shad. Yellow catfish are good on juglines baited with live perch.

BOB SANDLIN: Water stained; 68-74 degrees; 0.3' high. Black bass are fair to good on Texas rigs, wacky rigs and jerkbaits. White bass are fair to good on slabs and Humdingers. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on trotlines and juglines. Bream are good on cut nightcrawlers.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; 66 degrees. Black bass are slow. Redfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 66 degrees; 5.94' low. Black bass are good on Sexy Shad spinnerbaits, black/blue jigs, watermelon red Grande Bass Finesse worms and crankbaits in main lake coves and rock cuts. Hybrid striper are slow. Channel catfish are slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 67 degrees; 16.08' low. Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits, Bleeding Shad Traps and weightless wacky-rigged green pumpkin plastics along break lines of flats with flooded grass in creeks and pockets in 5-15 feet. Striped bass are fair trolling and jigging white bucktail jigs. White bass are fair trolling Shad Raps and casting or jigging artificial minnows. Crappie are fair on minnows and crappie jigs. Channel catfish are good on live bait and cut bait. Yellow and blue catfish are good on juglines and trotlines.

CADDO: Water off-color; 70-74 degrees; 1.4' high. Black bass are good on flukes and Senkos. Crappie are fair to good on jigs and minnows in the creek channel bends. White bass are good on Road Runners. Catfish are fair to good on prepared baits.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 66 degrees. Black bass are fair on dark soft plastic worms and crankbaits over reed beds and in the cove near the park store. Striped bass are fair on spoons and striper jigs near the dam and on chicken livers and shad. Redfish are slow. Crappie are slow. Blue catfish are good on cut bait and liver.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear; 65 degrees; 12.04' low. Black bass are good on root beer/green flake Baby Brush Hogs. Striped bass are slow to fair trolling crankbaits and Shad Raps. White bass are fair on Road Runners. Smallmouth bass are good on root beer curl tail grubs, 6" smoke/red tubes on ball jighheads and Bleeding Shad Tiny Traps. Crappie are fair to good on crappie jigs and live minnows around submerged brush piles along break lines. Channel catfish are fair in the upper end of the lake. Yellow and blue catfish are fair on juglines and trotlines in creeks.

CDAR CREEK: Water lightly stained; 69-75 degrees; 0.13' high. Black bass are fair on red Rat-L-Traps, jigs and drop shot rigs — pre-spawn are around the

first drop-off. White bass are good on slabs and minnows. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad and slabs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair drift fishing with cut shad.

CHOKE CANYON: Water clear; 67 degrees; 6.77' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse/white spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Carolina-rigged soft plastics. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnow tipped jigs. Drum are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on punchbait in 10-12 feet. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live perch.

COLEMAN: Water clear; 66 degrees; 6.84' low. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striper are fair on striper jigs and soft plastic grubs. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

CONROE: Water murky; 0.28' high. Black bass are good on watermelon red and chartreuse Carolina-rigged soft plastics and on white/green Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are fair on silver striper jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and pink/white

Catfish are fair on prepared baits.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water stained; 66 degrees; 0.74' high. Crappie are good on live minnows near the islands and the pump station. White bass are good along the northeast shore. Bream are good on live worms in 7 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live caterpillars.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 58 degrees; 5.11' low. Black bass are good on white/chartreuse spinnerbaits or live baits along grass lines and watermelon or cotton candy soft plastics along reeds and timber. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass and hybrid stripers are good on live baits. Catfish are good on live baits.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 69-74 degrees; 1.14' high. Black bass are fair on jigs, Texas-rigged Yum Dingers and jerkbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on prepared baits. Bream are slow.

LAVON: Water stained; 68-75 degrees; 3.12' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, red Rat-L-Traps and suspending

NAVARRO MILLS: Water stained; 60 degrees; 0.53' high. White bass are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on shrimp and stinkbait.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 67 degrees; 12.81' low. Black bass are good on live baits, shad-colored crankbaits or chatterbaits, watermelon red soft plastic baits in brush and along grass lines and topwater action over grass line edges. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live baits. Smallmouth bass are good on crawfish crankbaits and live baits. Channel catfish are good on cut baits.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 64 degrees; 3.70' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits, watermelon pepper or black neon soft plastic lizards and silver Rat-L-Traps in the back of creeks. Crappie are fair on minnows and yellow jigs. White bass are good on silver Rat-L-Traps. Stripers are good on silver spoons and crankbaits. Catfish are good on live shad and cut liver.

RAY HUBBARD: Water off-color; 68-72 degrees; 1.33' low. Black bass are fair to good on Texas rigs, wacky rigs and Senkos. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on 3-4" swimbaits and Rat-L-Traps in 5-20 feet and on slabs when they move deeper. Hybrid striper are good on swimbaits in 2-6 feet. Catfish are fair on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

RAY ROBERTS: Water stained; 67-72 degrees; 3.3' low. Black bass are good on Texas-rigged 6" lizards, Yum Dingers and Square A Bomber crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and Road Runners over brush piles and around isolated trees. Catfish are good on prepared baits.

SAM RAYBURN: Water murky; 67 degrees; 1.35' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red Senkos, lizards and Brush Hogs. White bass are good on spoons. Crappie are good on minnows and tube jigs over brush piles. Bream are good on nightcrawlers and crickets. Catfish are good on trotlines baited with nightcrawlers.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear; 0.70' low. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striper are good on minnows. White bass are good on minnows. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp.

STILLHOUSE: Water fairly clear; 70 degrees; 2.12' low. Black bass are good on watermelon seed Super Flukes and cotton candy soft plastics. White bass are fair on minnows in 10-20 feet. Crappie are fair on minnows in 10-20 feet. Carp are excellent on minnows, hot dogs and corn. Channel and blue catfish are good on minnows.

TEXOMA: Water off-color; 65-71 degrees; 0.62' high. Black bass are fair on lizards, red Rat-L-Traps and split-shot rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

TOLEDO BEND: Water murky; 65 degrees; 0.10' high. Black bass are good on chartreuse/blue and chartreuse/white soft plastics. Striped bass are fair on minnows and white striper jigs. White bass are fair on silver spoons and slabs in the river. Crappie are good on minnows and chartreuse jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait, cut bait and shrimp.

TRAVIS: Water clear; 67 degrees; 27.36' low. White bass are fair on chrome jigging spoons and white jigs in 5-20 feet. Crappie to 14" are good on minnows and white tube jigs in 10-20 feet. Channel and blue catfish to 10 pounds are fair on fresh cut bait in 20-30 feet.

WALTER E. LONG: Water clear; 69 degrees. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striper are good on minnows. White bass are good on soft plastic curtail minnows. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water lightly stained; 66-72 degrees; 5.58' high. Black bass are fair on Texas-rigged lizards, chatterbaits and Senkos. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on Rooster Tails and topwaters. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and prepared baits.

HOT SPOT



Port Mansfield

Trout are good on topwaters around sand and grass holes on topwaters and plastics under rattling corks. Redfish are fair to good while drifting pot holes on gold spoons and Gulps. Recreational anglers and guides are reporting the best speckled trout season in years, with the fish biting live bait or plastic shrimp-imitating lures.

tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp and liver.

FALCON: Water off-color; 72 degrees. Black bass are fair on watermelon and chartreuse soft plastics, spinnerbaits and deep running crankbaits. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are slow.

FAYETTE: Water clear; 69 degrees. Black bass are good on watermelon, watermelon red and watermelon black/green Wacky Worms and Senkos, white and white/chartreuse spinnerbaits and pumpkinseed worms along the outside edges of breaks. Channel and blue catfish are good on cut shad and shrimp over baited holes.

FORK: Water lightly stained; 69-74 degrees; 0.15' high. Black bass are fair to good on soft plastics fished in the shallows, chatterbaits and Rat-L-Traps — fish spotted on beds. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and prepared baits.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear. Black bass are good on watermelon red and plum soft plastics and on white crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and green/white tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, nightcrawlers and shrimp.

GRANBURY: Water clear; 1.64' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red soft plastics, crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Striped bass are fair on minnows and white striper jigs. White bass are fair on minnows and chartreuse spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and green tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp and liver.

GRAPEVINE: Water off-color; 69-75 degrees; 7.92' low. Black bass are fair on crankbaits, red Rat-L-Traps and Texas-rigged watermelon candy Baby Brush Hogs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on slabs around humps and points.

Rouges. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs in the shallows. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait and stinkbait.

LBJ: Water stained; 67 degrees; 0.20' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red flukes, topwaters and green pumpkin tubes. White bass are fair trolling Shad Raps and Tiny Traps. Crappie are good on minnows and white crappie jigs. Channel catfish are good on live bait and dipbait. Yellow and blue catfish are good on trotlines.

LEWISVILLE: Water off-color; 68-74 degrees; 3.91' low. Black bass are fair on chatterbaits, Texas rigs and wacky rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on jigging spoons and Humdingers. Catfish are good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; 65 degrees; 0.30' high. Black bass are good on crankbaits, spinnerbaits and soft plastics. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Blue catfish are good on shad.

MACKENZIE: Water lightly stained; 52 degrees; 79.89' low. Black bass are good on minnows and crawfish orange Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Smallmouth bass are fair on live baits and crankbaits. Walleye are good on minnows and chrome/black back jerkbaits. Catfish are good on live baits.

MEREDITH: Water stained; 57 degrees; 71.50' low. Black bass are good on minnows, watermelon red soft plastics and white/chartreuse spinnerbaits around rocky points with some topwater action along grass lines. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live baits and shallow crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are good on live baits and white/black crankbaits. Walleye are good on live baits. Channel catfish are good on live baits.

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Runoff from recent rains have swelled the river and pumped freshwater on the north end of the lake. Trout are fair where clear water is present.

SOUTH SABINE: Sheepshead and black drum are good at the jetty on live shrimp. Trout are fair around the Reef on live shrimp.

BOLIVAR: Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline on soft plastics and plugs. Black drum and redfish are good at Rollover Pass.

TRINITY BAY: Waders have taken trout on Catch 5s and topwaters.

Trout are good for drifters working pods of shad and mullet on Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels. Redfish are good at the spillway on crabs and mullet.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are good on the south shoreline on Catch 5s, MirrorLures and Catch 2000s. Whiting and sand trout are good on the edge of the Intracoastal on fresh shrimp. Sand trout, redfish and Spanish mackerel are fair to good at the jetties.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Waders have taken good trout in the mud and shell on topwaters and Corkies in the afternoon. Sheepshead, redfish and black drum are good at the jetty on shrimp and crabs.

TEXAS CITY: Black drum have been taken in the channel. Redfish are a fair to good in Moses Lake on shrimp and mullet.

FREEPORT: Sand trout and sheepshead are good on live shrimp on the reefs. Black drum are good in Cold Pass and San Luis Pass on cracked blue crabs.

PORT O'CONNOR: Redfish are fair to good along grass lines, shorelines and mud pockets.

ROCKPORT: Redfish are fair on mullet on the Estes Flats. Black drum are good in the Lydia Ann Channel on crabs. Trout are fair over grass while drifting with live shrimp.

PORT ARANSAS: Trout and redfish are fair to good at East Flats on small topwaters. Black drum are good in the Shrimptboat Channel on crabs and finger mullet. Redfish and sheepshead are fair to good at the jetty on shrimp. Trout are fair when the wind calms.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Redfish are fair to good around Sharmrock Cove on small topwaters and spoons. Trout are fair to good on the edge of the spoils on Gulps and live shrimp.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout are fair to good around rocks on plum plastics. Trout are fair to good over sand and grass on Corkies and topwaters. Black drum are good in the Land Cut on crabs. Redfish are biting on the flats despite the high winds.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout and redfish are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on DOA Shrimp and Gulps. Snook are fair to good in South Bay on DOA Shrimp.

PORT ISABEL: Trout and redfish are fair to good at Gas Well Flats on live shrimp. Redfish are fair to good while drifting sand flats on small topwaters, live shrimp and soft plastics under rattling corks.

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WEATHER

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Moon Phases

Full May 8  Last May 17  New May 24  First May 30 

Tides

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

Solar Table

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
5/6	9:55a/3:44a	6:19p/---	10:01a/3:50a	6:25p/---
5/7	10:18p/4:07p	6:41a/12:28a	10:24p/4:13p	6:47a/12:34a
5/8	10:37a/4:25a	7:03p/12:52p	10:43a/4:31a	7:09p/12:58p
5/9	11:01p/4:49p	7:22a/1:12a	11:07p/4:55p	7:28a/1:18a
5/10	11:22a/5:10a	7:43p/1:33p	11:28a/5:16a	7:49p/1:39p
5/11	11:47p/5:35p	8:01a/1:50a	11:53p/5:41p	8:07a/1:56a
5/12	12:12p/5:59a	8:23p/2:12p	12:18p/6:05a	8:29p/2:18p
5/13	---	6:24p	8:40a/2:29a	---
5/14	12:39a/6:52a	9:03p/2:51p	12:45a/6:58a	9:09p/2:57p
5/15	1:04p/7:17p	9:21a/3:09a	1:10p/7:23p	9:27a/3:15a
5/16	1:34a/7:47a	9:46p/3:33p	1:40a/7:53a	1:34a/3:39p
5/17	2:00p/8:12p	10:07a/3:53a	2:06p/8:18p	2:00p/3:59a
5/18	2:30a/8:43a	10:34p/4:20p	2:36a/8:49a	2:30a/4:26p
5/19	2:55p/9:08p	10:58a/4:44a	3:01p/9:14p	2:55p/4:50a
5/20	3:26a/9:38a	11:28p/5:12p	3:32a/9:44a	3:26a/5:19p
5/21	3:50p/10:03p	11:58a/5:42a	3:56p/10:09p	3:50p/5:48a
5/22	4:20a/10:31a	12:29p/6:13p	4:26a/10:37a	4:20a/6:19p
5/23	4:43p/10:55p	12:30a/6:46a	4:49p/11:01p	4:43p/6:52a
5/24	5:10a/11:22a	1:03p/7:19p	5:16a/11:28a	5:10a/7:25p
5/25	5:33p/11:44p	1:39a/7:55a	5:39p/11:50p	5:33p/8:01a
5/26	5:58a/12:09p	2:12p/8:28p	6:04a/12:15p	5:58a/8:34p

Sun and Moon

HEROES



Kristy Barlow, 34, of China Spring shot this 13-point buck in Jim Wells County.



Brayden Landry, 14, of New Iberia, La., shot this eight-point buck near Junction.

Share an adventure

Want to share hunting and fishing photos with the Lone Star Outdoor News family? E-mail or mail them to us with a phone number and caption information.

editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com

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



Bette Carter of Murphy shot this gobbler while hunting in Archer County with her husband, John.



Gilbert Degallado of Houston caught this redfish near Galveston.



Emily Baller shot this buck in McMullen County after having to crawl 300 yards and squat down to get a shot, which she made from 175 yards. The buck scored 140 Boone and Crockett.

This Month's Youth

SnapShot Winner

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Dylan Nelson, 12, of Rockwall shot this gobbler near Newcastle while hunting with his father, Dave Nelson, and guide Bryan Moore of Texas Hunting Company. The turkey's beard measured 9 1/2 inches, and his spurs were 1 3/8 inches long. Dylan shot the bird with his grandfather's 20-gauge shotgun.

Congratulations, Dylan! You can claim your Nikon 10x42 Monarch ATB binoculars at one of these Nikon Sport Optics dealers near you:

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Outdoor News in Brief

Ark. pro is youngest ever to win FLW event

Stetson Blaylock of Benton, Ark., caught a final-round total of 10 bass weighing 23 pounds, 15 ounces to win \$200,000 in the Walmart FLW Tour National Guard Open on North Carolina's Lake Norman. Blaylock topped his closest rival, Andy Morgan of Dayton, Tenn., by 1 pound to earn the win.

Blaylock, 21, became the youngest angler to win an FLW Tour event.

Blaylock caught eight or nine keepers during the final day of competition, including seven on Blaylock's homemade 5/16-ounce jig with a Texas Craw skirt tipped with a 3-inch green pumpkin soft plastic craw trailer.

Blaylock spent hours targeting a single female bass on the final day. Finally the fish bit, Blaylock set the hook and the fish jumped twice and came loose 5 feet from the net.

"I thought right then, 'That fish is the \$200,000 fish,'" Blaylock said. "So I went on down the bank and got to thinking, 'That fish is worth spending my remaining hour and a half on.' So I went back to her, and she was swimming around, and I pitched my bait back in the bed, and she came right over and sat on the bed. I could not believe it. It took me about 30 more minutes to catch her."

Morgan caught 10 bass weighing 22 pounds, 15 ounces in the final round to claim second.

Koby Kreiger of Okeechobee, Fla., finished third with 21 pounds, 11 ounces, followed by Greg Pugh of Cullman, Ala., with 19 pounds, 4 ounces. Sean Hoerke of The Woodlands finished fifth with 17 pounds, 14 ounces.

— FLW Outdoors report

Texas woman takes her first Bassmaster title

Janet Parker of Little Elm led each day of the Academy Sports & Outdoors Women's Bassmaster event last month on Louisiana's Ouachita River.

Parker stretched her lead over the field to almost 5 pounds after the event's first two days. Her final-day total of 11 pounds, 2 ounces brought her total weight to 32 pounds, 2 ounces, topping Sheri Glasgow of Muskogee, Okla., by more than 8 pounds.

Parker used a Texas-rigged plastic crawfish to land all of her fish.

"I felt the key was having a weight and a magnetic bead," Parker said. "I'd let the lure fall, then hop it up, and the beads would clack together. Then I'd let it rest and hop it up again."

Patti Campbell of Waxahachie finished

third with 21 pounds, 13 ounces.

It was the first WBT title for Parker, who's been competing in the women's circuit since its inception in 2005.

— Women's Bassmaster report

Scouts raise money with bass tournament

East Texas Boy Scouts held their 10th annual bass tournament fundraiser late last month at Lake Cherokee, a private lake at Clements Scout Ranch near Athens.

Storms hampered the tournament, but anglers brought in heavy sacks regardless of the weather. The first-place team of Mike Mayo and David Nichols won with 15 pounds, 12 ounces. Second place went to Donny Baker and James Robison with 15 pounds, 10 ounces, and in third place were Bob Mayo and Rusty Herrington with 14 pounds, 9 ounces. Herrington also won big bass honors for a 5-pound, 2-ounce fish.

The tournament raises money to support Scouts who need financial assistance.

Sponsors Wulf Outdoor Sports, Carter Chiropactic, Brass n' Blades Lures and Futurematrix Interventional Inc. provided prizes and raffle items.

— Boy Scouts report

Snapper

Continued from Page 8

state waters last year.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act, which was reauthorized in 2006, sets a deadline for fishery councils to end overfishing in American coastal waters by 2011. Regional fisheries councils are required by the act to establish annual quotas for all federally managed species.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council enacted an individual fish quota program for the commercial red snapper fishery. This action, in combination with ongoing claims by the National Marine Fisheries Service that recreational anglers are overfishing their quota, has drawn up a recipe for disaster for recreational anglers.

With these factors in place, CCA drafted a management plan and sent it to the Gulf Council as a means to create an open market to access the resource and remove the commercial-favoring allocation. CCA's goal is to find a system that allows better access for recreational anglers fishing for red snapper.

"CCA has presented an alternative to the Gulf Council to stimulate debate," Nelson said. "Let's face it — what they have been doing for the last 30 years hasn't worked, and the future doesn't look any brighter."

The system would work essentially like a fishery clearinghouse. Quarterly or yearly, an allotted amount of tags determined by that year's allowable catch would be distributed to recreational and commercial anglers. In this proposal, access to the fishery is opened, and recreational anglers have equal opportunity to catch snapper year-round.

The proceeds from tag sales would result in better data collection methods implemented by NMFS.

Within the tenets of the commercial IFQ system, commercial interests would receive a share of the fishery based on past catches. Commercial interests could trade them amongst themselves for cash.

To protect from monopolistic practices, however, NMFS would place a strict 6-percent cap on market share. Once a corporation reaches the 6-percent ceiling, it may no longer purchase additional shares.

The plan is a significant departure from the traditional methods of management that have worked in other fisheries, but have so far failed red snapper, Nelson said.

Turkey

Continued from Page 6

las and his family were covered with noisy toms.

"We seeded a food plot with oats in the fall, but it was so dry it didn't come up," Hutchison said. "Then we got a little rain, and it came up like a lawn. It was next to large oak stands. It turned out to be a big strutting field."

The toms roosting in the oaks would go straight to the field and

start strutting.

"We would make a couple of yelps, and they would come right to us while gobbling like crazy," Hutchison said. "Then they would stop out about 50 yards and go back and forth for 30 minutes or more, gobbling the whole time. One tom gobbled 70 times."

Hutchison would try changing calls and changing the notes on the calls.

"Then they would make the approach," he said. "I don't know what I said — but it was dirty — they came charging in."

Mexico

Continued from Page 1

said. "And other groups that say they just aren't going to book right now."

Booth said the mainstream media's coverage of border violence has been the main reason cited for the cancellations.

"They are afraid from all of the drug stuff they see on TV," she said. "And with corporations, some CEOs are not letting their people go."

The agents are taking steps to alleviate customer's fears — whether warranted or not.

"There is a good commercial airport at Ciudad Victoria," Booth said. "We're looking at charter flights to take the customers in and out for those that fear the drive."

Booth has made trips to the region as recently as a few weeks ago, and has no hesitation in going back.

"And most of the customers aren't afraid once they get to the lodges," she said. "It's traveling on the Mexican roads they are concerned about."

The Mexico Tourism Board is trying to encourage people to come south of the border

to hunt and fish.

"We understand the concerns of the travelers," said Martin Gonzalez with the board's Texas office. "But it's important to note that the flu problem is primarily in Mexico City and the surrounding areas — so far there hasn't been a single case in Tamaulipas, Chihuahua or Nuevo Leon."

Gonzalez said the issues in some of the border cities such as Nuevo Laredo, Juarez and Reynosa involve drug trafficking.

"If you exercise some precautions, you can visit the towns," he said. "Stay in areas where there are people coming and going, don't go alone, and stay away from drugs."

Tourism is down, but only slightly, Gonzalez said.

"Compared with last year we've had a slight decrease," he said. "But other factors like the economy may have something to do with that. During spring break, all of our beaches were very crowded."

George Criddle is an American Airlines pilot and also represents Mexican fishing and hunting outfitters.

"I just got back from bass fishing at Lake Ouitas in western Mexico," he said. "We were catching 80 to 100 bass per day — all on fly."

And he's ready to go back.

"I wouldn't hesitate at all to go to Mexico," he said. "The drug-related incidents are at night and in neighborhoods people shouldn't go. Otherwise, your chances of being involved in an incident are no greater than they are at home."

Criddle said Mexico's sheer size is often forgotten.

"Mexico City has 25 million people," he said. "It's a long, long way from there to the areas people are hunting and fishing, and most areas are more than two hours from the border — it's kind of like comparing the level of violence in downtown Chicago to that two hours away on a farm in Indiana."

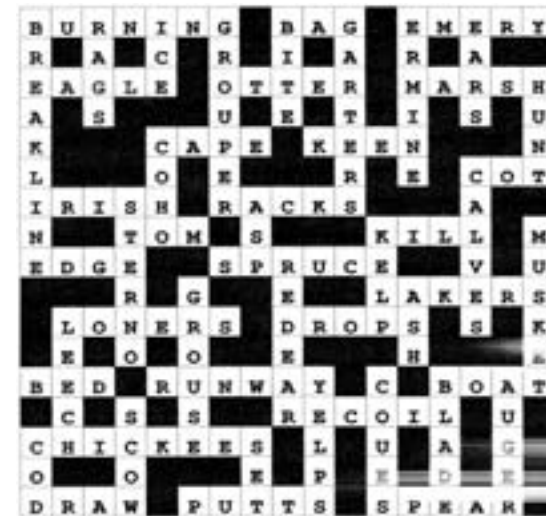
Criddle's advice to travelers?

"Drive in the daytime and use the private transportation that nearly all of the outfitters offer," he said.

Both officials and outfitters agree that for anglers and dove hunters ready, willing and able to go this summer and fall, there is good news. Plenty of openings are available, and outfitters are making deals.

"Some are offering free or cheap shells, others are cutting prices," Booth said. "There are some great deals out there."

Puzzle solution from Page 20



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Bills

Continued from Page 1

Texas' 1,000 taxidermists to obtain a \$50 license and keep more records on animals they handle. Dan McBride, a Burnet veterinarian and hobby taxidermist who is president of the Texas Taxidermy Association, said the bill would help TPW track bad taxidermists who take hunters' deposits and trophies and hit the road. But most taxidermists aren't crooks, and police and sheriff's departments already handle thefts, McBride said, and TTA opposes the legislation.

"We don't believe that we need the bill because there's already enough rules in place," he said. "Really, the guy who's a real crook is not going to get a permit anyway."

Following the money: With 1,000 taxidermists at \$50 per license, the state would generate \$50,000 in revenue per year, less about \$1,800 in printing and administrative costs.

House Bill 836

Authors: Reps. Sid Miller, R-Stephenville, Wayne Christian, R-Center, Ryan Guillen, D-Laredo

In Texas, hunters may hunt only three species from a vehicle (anything that has a motor, flies or floats): alligators, frogs and turtles. House Bill 836 would add feral hogs to the list but only allow them to be hunted from a helicopter. The bill is intended to help hunters control the population of about 2 million hogs, which causes about \$400 million in damage to agriculture every year.

Following the money: The fiscal note accompanying the bill indicates the state government faces no fiscal impact from the bill, saying TPW anticipates not selling additional licenses for hunters who want to play Rambo on a hog. The bill would probably affect the state indirectly. Help in the war on pigs may reduce that \$400 million in ag damage and give native wildlife a little more room to breathe.

Who's against it: Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Pork Producers Association, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, Texas Human Legislation Network



Photo by Craig Nyhus, LSON.

Senate Bill 2043

Author: Sen. Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands

The bill is designed to allow for the

closure of Rollover Pass, a manmade cut in Bolivar Peninsula up the coast from Galveston, and it's a touchy subject with anglers. Proponents of the bill say the pass increases erosion. But it's a hot spot for anglers who have used the pass for years to catch fish as they move from East Bay to the Gulf. The bill has been propelled through the Legislature because of Rollover Pass, but it would authorize the land commissioner to close other troublesome passes. To close a pass, though, the commissioner (currently Jerry Patterson of Christmas Mountains fame) would need an appropriation from the Legislature per closing and to work with TPW and other groups to close passes that affect fishing.

Following the money: The state estimates a net loss of \$1.35 million after five years. Moving 300,000 cubic yards of sand in to close the pass would cost about \$6 million. Counter that, though, with the \$150,000 the state spends per year to keep the pass open, and the figures start to even out.

House Bill 4284

Author: Rep. Yvonne Gonzalez Tourelles, D-Alice

Trading in illegally captured deer is a misdemeanor in Texas and a felony on the federal level. The bill would make it a felony in Texas, too, to trap, transport or transplant white-tailed deer and mule deer without the required permit or for violating permit terms.

Who's for it: Texas Deer Association

Who's against it: American Civil Liberties Union

House Bill 2680

Author: Kristi Thibaut, D-Houston

Wasting game has meant, generally, killing a game animal and not keeping the meat and keeping it in an edible condition. The bill would make wasting game a crime for whoever possesses wasted game meat, not just the hunter who harvested it.

Who's for it: Texas Wildlife Association

House Bill 2671

Author: Kristi Thibaut, D-Houston

Private, family-owned, noncommercial processing and cold storage facilities are exempt from the requirement to keep records on the animals they store. The bill would specify that these facilities are not exempt if they are on a hunting lease and used by paying clients — anyone other than the landowner, the landowner's nonpaying family members or the landowner's nonpaying guests.

Who's for it: Texas Wildlife Association

House Bill 1500

Author: Rep. Joe Farias, D-San Antonio

Hunting in public rights of way and along roads is generally prohibited. The bill would allow individuals to capture, trap and kill reptiles, amphibians and insects in the areas. Technically, though, the bill gives TPW the authority to make rules for it. It doesn't allow it outright.

Who's for it: Snake hunters, mostly:

Nonprofits rallying around bill to let them hold raffles

A host of conservation groups are supporting a bill that would allow wildlife conservation associations and their local chapters to hold two raffles per year to raise money for charitable and wildlife educational activities.

Currently, certain nonprofit groups are permitted two raffles per year. But it's the definition of the qualifying nonprofits that concerns the groups.

The primary area of concern is with conservation groups that have local volunteer chapters or regions.

Under current law, the local volunteer chapters and regions are not able to legally hold their own raffles unless they are a separate qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

"With our group, the local chapters aren't official 501(c)(3) orga-

nizations," said Lisa Barton, Texas Deer Association director of governmental affairs. "Raffles would help them support their activities and raise money for scholarships and activities in their own community. The bill clarifies what we can do."

The bill sailed through the House unopposed, but the Senate version, SB 1999, is stalled in committee.

Wildlife conservation associations supporting the bill have sent a joint letter saying the raffles would provide an avenue for these groups and their local volunteer affiliates to raise funds, provided the group does not use the proceeds of such raffles for any political purpose, pointing out that many of the affiliate groups are located in rural areas.

The groups signing are:

■ Coastal Conservation Association

- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Texas BASS Federation Nation
- Texas Organization of Wildlife Management Associations
- Texas State Council of Quail Unlimited Chapters
- Texas Trophy Hunters Association
- Texas Deer Association
- Texas Wildlife Association
- Texas Association of Bass Clubs
- Metropolitan Bass Clubs of San Antonio
- Kayak Anglers Society of America
- Texas Black Bass Unlimited
- Exotic Wildlife Association
- Texas Sportsman's Association
- Recreational Fishing Alliance
- Texas Gulf Coast Stewards
- Quality Deer Management Association

— Staff report

Texas Herpetological Society, Outback Oasis Motel, San Angelo Nature Center, West Texas Herpetological Society. **Who's against it:** Texas Humane Legislation Network

Senate Bill 2445

Author: Sen. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio

Boats would no longer be allowed to dump raw sewage on all but 25 Texas lakes that provide freshwater to cities and Clear Lake. This bill would outlaw the practice on all inland waters and out 3 nautical miles into the Gulf of Mexico.

House Bill 918

Author: Harold Dutton Jr., D-Houston

If approved, Texas residents who are 65 or older would be set free from the fishing license ball and chain. They would no longer have to purchase the permits. No similar proposal for hunting licenses has been entertained, and you can probably figure out why. Read on.

Following the money: The state estimates it will lose about \$1.9 million per year if the bill is passed. Licenses for seniors cost about half as much for other adults. But seniors bought about 142,000 fishing licenses last year.

House Bill 2321

Author: Rep. Mark Homer, D-Paris

The bill would allow non-residents who were born in Texas to buy lifetime hunting and fishing licenses, and it increases the fees for lifetime licenses.

Under current law, only Texas residents may purchase lifetime hunting and fishing licenses. The prices for the licenses would increase from \$300 to \$800 for a lifetime fishing license, from \$300 to \$800 for a lifetime hunting license and from \$500 to \$1,500 for a lifetime combination hunting and fishing license.

Following the money: The state stands to lose money if the bill passes. Revenue from sales of lifetime licenses goes into the Lifetime License Endow-

ment Fund and not into the state's general fund. Money from the endowment is intended for use by Texas Parks and Wildlife, though the department has not accessed it since the fund's inception.

The general fund stands to lose \$114,526 per year for the next five years as some hunters and anglers stop buying annual licenses.

House Bill 1805

Author: Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin

Laser sights paint a dot on their target so the user doesn't have to look through a scope or open sights. They make aiming at game easier, and are generally not allowed for able-bodied hunters. Hunters who are at least 13 years old and have a permanent physical disability — and a doctor's note to back it up — would be allowed to use laser sights under this bill.

Who's for it: Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Governors Committee on People with Disabilities and the Texas Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America.

House Bill 3560

Author: Rep. Larry Phillips, R-Sherman

Deer breeders must report information to two agencies: TPW and the Texas Animal Health Commission. House Bill 3560 eliminates the duplicity by setting up a shared database.

Following the money: TAHC estimates it can absorb costs associated with the new database and that they would be minor. TPW, however, estimates spending about \$600,000 to compile the information (\$575,000 for three programmers for about a year and the remainder in computer costs). As a reward for participating, deer breeders would receive lower permit fees and longer permit duration. Estimates on the permit price were not available.

Senate Bill 948

Author: Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls

The bill would make deer breeders

eligible for agricultural grants from the Texas Department of Agriculture Texas Agriculture Finance Authority. The bill would include deer breeders in the definition of "agricultural business."

Who's for it: Texas Deer Association, Texas Wildlife Association

House Bill 968

Author: Mark Homer, D-Paris

The bill would allow the use of crossbows during archery season.

House Bill 3766

Author: Rep. Ken Paxton, R-McKinney

The bill would extend the hunting buffer around homes and other facilities near cities.

House Bill 3391

Authors: Reps. Linda Harper-Brown, R-Irving, Mark Homer, D-Paris, Patrick Rose, D-Dripping Springs

The main purpose of the bill is to reauthorize Texas Parks and Wildlife to continue operating, because it's up for re-approval under the state's Sunset Act guidelines. But the bill also requires the department to maintain a list of exotic aquatic plants that may be imported without a permit.

Following the money: First, the plants. The state estimates spending \$50,000 the first year to pay a consultant to compile the list of legal plants. Some of that could be made back in fees paid for permits to possess plants not on the list.

Second, TPW's re-authorization. It's standard for a state agency to be re-approved as its Sunset Act deadline approaches. The act essentially says that without re-approval, the department would cease to exist and is meant to give the state an easy way out of something that is either no longer needed or has lost favor politically. Quantifying a department's fiscal impact is tricky, if not practically impossible. But TPW anticipates a budget of \$462 million in fiscal year 2009, according to the *Austin America-Statesman*.

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www.billwhitfield.com

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SmartWool offers men's and women's merino wool T-shirts for those muggy days on the water. Made from a microweight, no-itch, no-odor wool, the T-shirt transfers perspiration away from the body, making it a good choice on hot summer days. But this T-shirt would also be a good option for layering on those chilly early morning fall hunts. The shirt sells for about \$55.

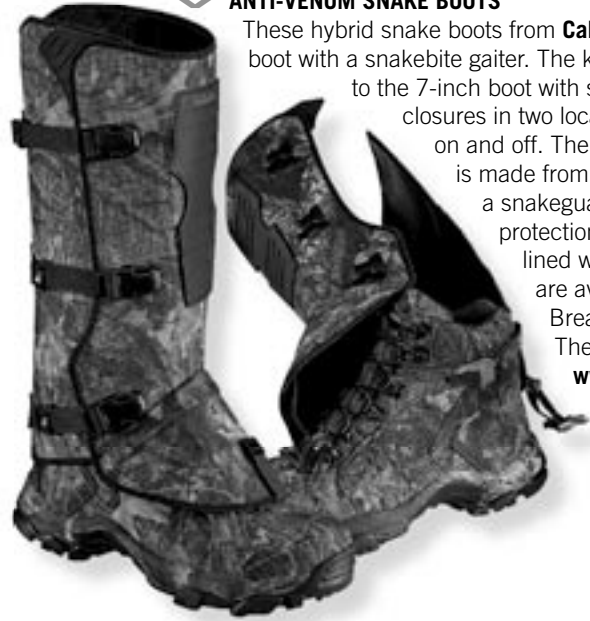
www.smartwool.com
(888) 550-9665



ANTI-VENOM SNAKE BOOTS

These hybrid snake boots from **Cabela's** combine a low-rise boot with a snakebite gaiter. The knee-high gaiter attaches to the 7-inch boot with sturdy buckles and Velcro closures in two locations for ease in taking on and off. The boot-gaiter combination is made from a 900-denier nylon with a snakeguard backing for snakebite protection. The boots, which are lined with a waterproof barrier, are available in Mossy Oak Break-Up camo pattern. They sell for about \$130.

www.cabelas.com



EU3000I HANDI GENERATOR

Honda Power Equipment's newest portable generator is a lightweight, user-friendly power source for the outdoorsman. This fuel-efficient generator operates quietly and can deliver 3,000 watts of power, thanks to its Eco-Throttle technology and high-efficiency inverter design. Featuring Honda's four-cycle GX160 engine and specially designed housing, the generator weighs about 77 pounds and has two built-in wheels, two fixed handles and a foldable handle. It will operate on one tank of fuel for about four hours. The easy-to-tote generator will cost about \$2,200, and will be available this month.

www.hondapowerequipment.com
(770) 497-6400



JAVA DRIP COFFEE MAKER

It doesn't get easier than this. From **GSI Outdoors** is this extremely portable drip coffee maker. Just lock the silicone drip cone to the lid, tuck in the reusable cloth filter, add your favorite coffee and hot water, and wait for the drip, drip, drip. The double-walled, insulated lid and insulating sleeve on the shatter-proof carafe keeps the java hot while it's brewing and for a good while afterward. For travel, the cone collapses and nests within the carafe. The 30-ounce model sells for about \$25.

www.gsioutdoors.com
(800) 704-4474



SUMMIT RIFLESCOPE

Schmidt & Bender's new 2.5-10 x 40 rifle scope is the company's first to be built on a one-inch tube. It was designed for hunters with one-inch rings on their magnum or large-caliber rifles. The 40mm objective lens allows for a compact, low-profile scope that provides ample light transmission. The rifle scope offers a reticle in the second focal plane so that the viewed reticle size remains consistent across the whole magnification range. The 16.8-ounce Summit also offers almost four inches of eye relief and an excellent field of view (from 40.4 to 10.8 feet at 100 yards). It is expected to sell for about \$1,400.

www.schmidtbender.com
(800) 468-3450 or visit

TREK SOLID TERRAIN SHIRT

Anglers might want to give **Wrangler Rugged Wear's** newest technical shirt a try. Made from 100 percent cotton ripstop fabric, the shirt has side mesh gussets for coolness and five front pockets for extra storage. What anglers might appreciate about this fabric is that if they puncture it — with a hook, for example — the fabric will only rip to the next weave intersection. Available in blue, birch (shown) or moss, it sells for about \$30 and is offered in sizes medium to 4X.

www.wrangleruggedwear.com
(888) 784-8571



CRAYFISH WAND

This is one of **BioEdge Fishing Product's** fish-attracting wands. The wands contain a concentrated oil with a solidifying agent to make it easier and less messy to apply. BioEdge offers more than 20 attractants. When added to lures, they impart strong, natural scents and tastes to mask unwanted odors and stimulate fish to strike.

The all-natural products are made from a variety of popular baits and contain pheromones, amino acids and a number of feeding stimulants. The Crayfish Wand is particularly effective on bass.

It sells for about \$9.
www.BioEdgeFishing.com
(800) 783-7002



RECON 200X

NightForce Optics' newest handheld computer is a handy little gizmo that will help technology-addicted hunters in the field.

The Recon can organize information and run programs using Microsoft Windows Mobile, and it has up to 128 MB of memory and Bluetooth and 802.11g wireless capabilities. The 17-ounce rugged little Recon meets military standards for drops, vibration, humidity, altitude and extreme temperatures. It also offers CompactFlash slots so users can add GPS, a digital camera and other electronic devices; a touch screen; a built-in microphone; and a battery that will run all day without a recharge. It sells for about \$1,000 (with software pre-installed).

www.nightforceoptics.com
(208) 476-9814



DATEBOOK

May 9-10
Avery Sporting Dog Training Camp
 Paige
 (605) 280-2065
 www.averysportingdog.com



May 13
Dallas Safari Club
 Fort Worth Regional Meeting
 Joe T. Garcia's
 (972) 980-9800
 bkimmel@biggame.org

May 9
Leon County Delta Waterfowl
 Fundraiser and Texas State Duck Calling Contest
 Tuma Building, Buffalo
 (903) 388-4705



May 14
North Texas Whitetails Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Myers Event Center, McKinney
 (214) 551-1530
 www.northtexaswhitetails.org



Chisholm Trail Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 Fundraiser
 Fort Worth
 (817) 517-7520



Austin Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Palmer Events Center
 (512) 468-6490
 smcguire@austin.rr.com

Bass Champs East Region
 Tournament
 Cypress Bend Park, Toledo Bend
 (817) 439-3274

Golden Triangle Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Beaumont Civic Center
 (409) 454-8198

Hurricane Creek Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Lone Star Party Barn, Anna
 (903) 712-0099



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



IFLY Angler's Edge
 Texas Home Waters Celebration
 Houston
 (713) 993-9981
 www.ifly.org

Tomball/Magnolia Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Tomball VFW
 (832) 566-6492

Clear Creek Ducks Unlimited
 Golf Tournament
 Beacon Lakes Golf Course, Dickinson
 (281) 993-1811

Wood County Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Mineola Civic Center
 (903) 569-3050

May 12
Houston Ducks Unlimited
 Golf Tournament
 Wildcat Golf Club
 (703) 945-4838

San Antonio Ducks Unlimited
 Sportsman's Night Out Fundraiser
 McAllister Park Pavilion
 (210) 616-6876

May 15
CASA of Denton County Pulling For Kids
 Sporting clay shoot
 Dallas Gun Club
 (940) 243-2272

Corpus Christi Ducks Unlimited
 Sportsman's Night Out Fundraiser
 R. Briscoe King Pavilion
 (361) 885-6209

May 16-25
Go Outdoors
 Bass Pro Shops
 All stores
 www.basspro.com



May 16
Pioneer National Wild Turkey Federation
 Women in the Outdoors
 Rusty Lowe Ranch, Clarksville
 (903) 244-5256

Wheeler County National Wild Turkey Federation
 Fundraiser
 Shamrock Community Center
 (806) 664-3583



Bass Champs South Region
 Tournament
 Choke Canyon Reservoir, Calliham Park
 (817) 439-3274
 www.basschamps.com

May 18
Tyler Ducks Unlimited
 Sportsman's Night Out Fundraiser
 Cedars of Lebanon
 (903) 714-6971

May 21
Dallas Safari Club
 Monthly meeting
 Bob Anderson on sheep hunting
 (972) 980-9800
 bkimmel@biggame.org



Laredo Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Laredo Civic Center
 (956) 286-6282

May 28
Metrocrest Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Addison Convention Center
 (972) 234-3933
 rob@triplebfoods.com

Navarro County National Wild Turkey Federation
 Fundraiser
 Corsicana, Star Hall
 (903) 654-8000
 cobb4@airmail.net

Dripping Springs Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Thurman's Mansion, Driftwood
 (512) 858-9355

May 29
Lufkin Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Lufkin Civic Center
 (936) 639-8182

Operation Game Thief Pulling for Wildlife Sporting Clay Shoot
 South Texas Shooting Complex, Laredo
 (512) 389-8801
 eric.howard@tpwd.state.tx.us



May 30
Texas Redfish Series
 Tournament
 Matagorda
 www.redfishseries.com

International Bowhunter Education
 Bowhunting education class
 Rangers Station, Pottsboro
 (903) 564-5068

May 30
Bass Champs North Region
 Tournament
 Lewisville Lake, Copperas Branch Park
 (817) 439-3274
 www.basschamps.com

May 30
National Wild Turkey Federation
 Women in the Outdoors
 Sweeney Ranch, Weatherford
 (817) 594-0291

June 3
Houston Safari Club
 Monthly meeting
 Omni Hotel
 (713) 623-8844



June 4
Fort Worth Ducks Unlimited
 Fun Shoot/Raffle Night fundraiser
 Alpine Gun Range
 (817) 832-8694
 aric.head@c-b.com

June 4
Dallas Ducks Unlimited Raffle Night
 Fundraiser
 Frontiers of Flight Museum
 (972) 663-7232
 michael.belvin@nmfn.com

June 5-6
Coastal Conservation Association
 Take a Kid Fishing Tournament
 Woody's Sports Center, Port Aransas
 www.woodysonline.com

June 5
The Samaritan Inn Sporting Clay Shoot
 Dallas Gun Club
 (972) 542-5302

June 6
Houston Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Big Game Banquet
 Fundraiser
 Westchase Marriott Hotel
 (713) 688-2627

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HUNTING II July 26 - August 1
SALTWATER I August 2 - 8
SALTWATER II August 9 - 15
HILL COUNTRY RIVER FISH June 7 - 13
DEER July 12 - 18

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FISHING II & HUNTING II July 19 - August 1

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10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Pop-up Shoot begins at 9 a.m.

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Raffle, silent auction and auction

Presale meal tickets (prior to May 22, 2009)
Adult: \$25; Couple Discount: \$45; Child, 10 and under: \$5. Meal Tickets after May 22, 2009 and at the door: Adult: \$35; Child, 10 and under: \$10.

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