

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

★ May 22, 2009 Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper Volume 5, Issue 19 ★
www.LSONews.com

King carp

Texas has a new state record carp. Or make that a new state record in the carp category. It's the same fish, caught twice. **Page 8**



INSIDE HUNTING



Desert bighorn hunt

Texas will issue its 100th permit for hunting a desert bighorn sheep soon.

Page 6

Park deer replaced

A new buck has been donated to the Houston park where one was killed last year.

Page 6

Laws in the making

Legislators are ironing out the details on several bills that affect the outdoors.

Page 6



Zombie-making fly

A parasitic fly turns its host, a red imported fire ant, into a zombie.

Page 16

FISHING



Brownwood out

Strong winds wreaked havoc on Lake Brownwood recently.

Page 8

Slow down at Padre

Surf anglers at South Padre National Seashore aren't happy about a new speed limit.

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Catfish bite still strong

One guide uses unique technique; one hits jackpot

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Although Lake Tawakoni is known as the catfish capital of Texas, techniques used there for late spring catfish work most other places. The baits and methods vary, but fishing shallow — extremely shallow — and finding where the bait produces many eating-sized channels.

INSIDE
■ **Jugline tech:** Juglines enter the new millennium.
Page 16

Jim Taylor is a banker during the week but guides customers on the lake as often as possible. Taylor has devised unique methods for pursuing shallow cats.

He uses 14-foot telescopic Crappie Stalker rods with no reel. The line is about as long as the rod.

"It just got too hard to find good cane poles," he said.

Finding a good location is key. "We anchor off of the grass along the windy shoreline," he said. "Sometimes it's difficult with all of the wind we've had."



SPRING TIME IS PRIME TIME: Techniques vary for catching spring catfish, and anglers head to lakes and rivers for shallow-water fishing from boats and along the banks. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

See **CATFISH**, Page 16

Feds considering higher ethanol content in fuel

Smaller engines, power equipment most at risk

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Ethanol groups have requested that the Environmental Protection Agency raise the percentage of ethanol in conventional fuel from 10 percent maximum (E10) to 15 percent (E15).

Those who make — and especially those who repair — gas-operated engines used in the outdoors say the proposal is a bad idea.

"We're seeing a problem now with lower-octane gas with ethanol," said Steve Rozenburg, owner of Inwood Lawn Equipment in Dallas. "Everyone should use 89 octane or higher for smaller engines."

Rozenburg said the biggest problem resulting from ethanol in fuel is the deterioration of rubber or plastic parts in mowers, generators, trimmers, edgers and especially chain saws that run at higher speeds and higher temperatures.

"And there are a lot of rubber and plastic parts on small 2-cycle or even 4-cycle engines," he said.

The cost for repairs for each fuel sys-



FUEL FEARS: Proposals for adding more ethanol to gasoline worry owners and repairmen of small engines. Photo by Lili A. Sams, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

tem starts around \$75, he said.

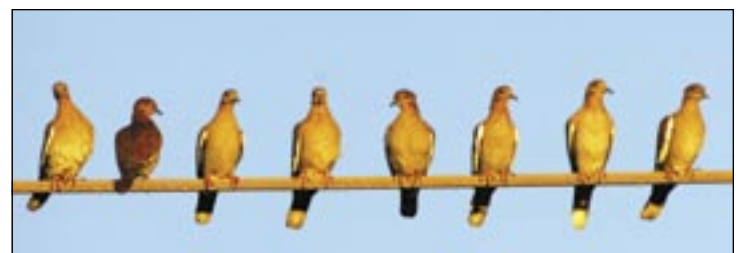
"And if the carburetor is involved, it escalates from there."

Problems worsen when the engines sit idle with fuel in the tanks.

"The fuel deteriorates in both the power tool's tank and in the gas can," Rozenburg said. "So if you drain your mower but use last fall's gas from the can — it doesn't matter."

Eddie Stevenson conducts repair training for Stihl USA and said E15 is

See **ETHANOL**, Page 20



PUBLIC MEETING: Hunters have shown support for more liberal dove bag limits, a longer dove season and license fee increases. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.

Fee, dove changes supported

By Ralph Winingham
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Support of fee increases and more liberal dove bag limits during a longer season was a common thread among those attending the last of 20 Texas Parks and Wildlife hearings seeking public input on

proposed regulation changes.

About a dozen people attended the May 15 meeting at the National Shooting Complex in western Bexar County — one of the larger turnouts for the hearings that have been held throughout the state.

See **MEETINGS**, Page 21

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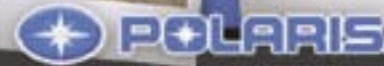


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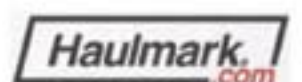
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CONSERVATION

Conservation News in Brief

CCA Texas funds offshore reef project at Freeport

The Coastal Conservation Association Texas will pay to have 150 tons of concrete and rock debris added to Texas Parks and Wildlife's Vancouver reefing area in the water near Freeport. The project will provide crucial habitat for many recreationally important species, including red snapper, kingfish and ling.

The undertaking is a joint effort between CCA Texas' Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow program, TPW and local and private businesses.

The materials, donated by Texas A&M Galveston, will be placed in an area with established reefing areas within Texas state waters.

As well as being a magnet for numerous Gulf species, the reef will also provide a prime fishing area for local anglers that is easily accessible.

"This reef is just the first of several the CCA

Texas HTFT Program plans to build up and down the Texas coast," said John Blaha of CCA Texas.

— CCA Texas report

Drug fighter named to fishing hall of fame

Paul Hinton of Hemphill has been selected as the 2009 inductee into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

Hinton was honored for his contributions as a communicator and educator for 20 years of service as the founder and director of East Texas Get Hooked on Fishing, Not Drugs.

"He was driven to make children aware of the beauty and value of fishing as a good choice to make in life rather than a bad choice like drugs," wrote nominator Kathy Magers, a 2002 inductee into the hall.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report



EXPO OUT: Texas Parks and Wildlife has canceled its annual Expo for 2009 and 2010 because it doesn't have money from sponsors to cover the show's \$400,000 annual cost. Photo by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

TPW Expo suspended

Lack of sponsor money axes annual show

A sponsorship revenue decline and increased operational costs prompted Texas Parks and Wildlife to cancel the Texas Parks and Wildlife Expo set for Oct. 3-4 in Austin, according to a press release from TPW. The agency will suspend the Austin event for at least this year and 2010 and will instead expand efforts to support similar events around the state.

"This was a difficult and painful decision, but after looking hard at the financial realities and seeking creative ways to keep the event going, we finally concluded that the economic recession is affecting sponsor support to the extent that it is not viable to stage Expo," said Carter Smith, TPW executive director.

The Expo has been free to the public since its inception in 1992. Its operating budget is

more than \$400,000 per year, with most underwritten by sponsors.

The annual Expo has been billed as America's largest free, family-oriented festival of the outdoors, drawing more than 35,000 visitors from across the state to TPW headquarters in Austin. The event allowed visitors to try activities such as fishing, shooting, birding, photography, camping, climbing and mountain biking.

"We will suspend Expo in 2009 and 2010 while we focus on expanding our outreach efforts statewide through partnerships with other organizations and through events held at our own facilities," said Ernie Gammage, TPW Urban Outdoors Programs leader and Expo director.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

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NATIONAL

Student archers take aim at Archery in Schools nationals



YOUNG ARCHER: Cody Rone draws his bow at the National Archery in the Schools Program's national shoot in Louisville, Ky. Photo by Ferris Bavousett.

Texan joins field of thousands at meet

Cody Rone of Flower Mound had only been shooting five months in February when he won the State Indoor Archery Championship in the boy's middle school division of the National Archery in the Schools Program. The win qualified him to participate in the national tournament, held the second weekend in May in Louisville, Ky. When Cody arrived with his father, Mark, what they saw caught them by surprise. Nearly 5,000 archers from 35 U.S. states and Saskatchewan participated, making it the largest indoor archery tournament ever. The middle school division had al-

most 900 archers. "Archery is a huge sport east of the Mississippi River," Mark Rone said. "The magnitude of the event was unreal. There were schools with matching team shirts, bow cases and some brought their school mascot in full uniform." Archery was introduced to Cody as part of the Outdoor Trails class at Lamar Middle School under teacher Ferris Bavousett, a former Texas A&M archery coach. Cody shot his personal best with 271 points (he scored 267 to win the state championship), placing in the top 12 percent of his division. His score was the highest of all Texas competitors. The division winner was Taylor Knott of Brandenburg, Ky., with a near-perfect score of 297.

"Considering this was Cody's second-ever tournament, and it just happened to be the nationals, I am extremely proud of his performance," Bavousett said. NASP started in 21 Kentucky schools in 2002 with an aim to teach target archery skills to students in grades 4 to 12. The program has grown to more than 5,000 schools in 46 states and five countries, with nearly 16,000 teachers involved. Kentucky schools dominated the competition, sweeping the high school team competition and taking two of the top three team spots for middle schools. In the competitions, each student shoots 10 practice and 30 scoring shots at the same target from 10 and 15 meters using identical equipment. A perfect score is 300. — Staff report



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HUNTING

New deer donated to Houston park

Buck replaces friendly deer killed in November

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The Houston park where a beloved buck was killed in November has a new deer to take Mr. Buck's place. Doc moved into his new home April 29 at Bear Creek Pioneers Park in

western Harris County.

Doc, another buck white-tailed deer, will help fill the void Mr. Buck's death created in the hearts of visitors to the park.

"That community mourned real, real hard over the loss of that deer," said Scott W. Bugai, a veterinarian and deer breeder from Seguin. "There were a lot of people who knew that deer."

For Mr. Buck's death, Brandon Eugene Gregory, 24, of Houston was charged with several wildlife violations.

Doc, like Mr. Buck, who was a star attraction at the park before his death, has violence in his past, though Doc suffered from an animal attack, not at the hands of a human.

The day he was born, a caracara ravaged Doc's eyes, mouth and hind quarters at Bugai's deer-breeding facility. Bugai moved the fawn to his vet clinic to repair the wounds inflicted by the bird.

But his efforts to save Doc's life changed his life forever in another way, too.

"Once you take him away from his

mama, you're basically obligated to raise him," Bugai said.

Doc, now 4, became gentle and lost his fear of humans, Bugai said. He became a pet.

"He likes people," Bugai said. "He enjoys being petted and fed out of your hand."

When the public began calling for a replacement for Mr. Buck, Bugai knew what to do.

"It just happened to be that I had this buck that was a perfect match for



NEW BUCK: Doc the deer has a new home at Bear Creek Pioneers Park in Houston thanks to his former owner and a rule change by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. Photo by the Texas Deer Association.

See DEER, Page 12



SUCCESS STORY: Desert bighorn sheep were once absent in Texas, but since releases began in 1983 the population has steadily increased. This season will mark the 100th permit to hunt the bighorn ram in the state. Photo by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Bighorn benchmark

State will likely issue 100th hunting permit this season

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The return of the desert bighorn sheep in Texas has been a monumental management success sto-

ry. So much so that this season will mark the 100th permit to hunt the once-absent animal on Texas soil.

Hunting of the sheep was outlawed in 1903, and by the early 1960s, the desert bighorn in Texas was believed to be gone. Then, through the efforts of what is now the Texas Bighorn Society and others, the desert bighorn sheep were released in Texas in 1983, recruited from native herds in Arizona, Nevada and Utah.

The population has steadily in-

creased.

"Ten years ago there were 200 to 250 animals in Texas," said Calvin Richardson, Texas Parks and Wildlife bighorn sheep program coordinator. "Last year we estimated 1,200. This year we believe there will be 1,500. And we think we only see about 80 percent of the sheep in our surveys."

Surveys are conducted in August and September, and the number of available permits is determined after the survey.

Ninety-eight permits have been issued since 1988, when hunting for desert bighorns resumed, so it appears certain the century mark will be eclipsed later this summer.

"It's a good benchmark," Richardson said.

Hunters have taken 77 rams through the permit program, and the first was harvested in 1990, and they have four ways to try to obtain a permit: public draw permits, the Texas Grand Slam lottery (tick-

See BIGHORN, Page 12

Some bills on hunting, fishing still in play

One signed, one DOA, many up in legislative air

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Bill season is heating up in Austin as the Legislature nears the end of its lawmaking run. Several bills affecting hunters and anglers have come before the body. Some have met their fate, and others are still being hashed out.

The following is a roundup of outdoors bills and their status as of May 18.

A bill that would implement new regulations for the taxidermy industry is to be voted on by the House. It requires Texas' 1,000 taxidermists to obtain a \$50 license and keep more records on animals they handle.

The House passed a bill that would allow feral hogs to be hunted from a helicopter.

Rollover Pass is in trouble. A bill that gives the land commissioner authority to close the coastal pass, a manmade cut in Bolivar Peninsula, has made its way through the Legislature and awaits Gov. Rick Perry's signature.

A measure that would elevate the illegal capture of deer from a misdemeanor to a felony is up for a vote in the House.

Perry's signature awaits a bill that makes it a crime for some who possess game meat to waste it, not just the hunter who harvested it.

The Legislature has to wrap up formalities on a bill that affects game processing and storage facilities before sending it to Perry. House Bill 2671 would specify that private, family-owned, noncommercial processing and cold storage facilities are not exempt from the requirement to

See BILLS, Page 12

Waterfowl callers compete for titles

Texas, region host events; crown to be decided in Nov.

It's not duck or goose season, but it is the season for calling ducks and geese. Two contests held recently granted

bragging rights to some and a trip to the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest for others.

Clint Parker Johnson of Ravenna won the Texas State Championship Sanctioned Duck Calling Contest, and Daniel Duke of Stuttgart, Ark., won the Gulf Coast Regional Sanctioned Duck Calling Contest held May 9 in Buffalo. The two champion callers will go to the World's

Championship Duck Calling Contest in Stuttgart, Ark., in November. The contest was held in conjunction with Leon County Delta Waterfowl's annual fundraiser.

In the Texas State Championships, the champion from 2004, 2005 and 2006, Ward McGee, finished second.

See CALLING, Page 12

CALLING ALL WATERFOWL:

Duck and goose calling contests brought the top callers to Conroe and Buffalo. Photo by Erik Guggenheim.



Texas Big Game Awards to recognize state's top hunters

New county claims top spot for mule deer

Gaines County in far West Texas will take center stage at the Texas Big Game Awards Sportsman's Celebration this year.

Mule deer season was opened for the first time in the county this past season, and the three top non-typical mule deer taken in the state all came from the county.

Danny Young of Seagraves took the biggest of the season, scoring 219 3/8 Boone and Crockett, and the fourth best in Texas all-time.

"We always wondered if they would open the season here," Young said. "A lot of mule deer were getting old and dying."

Young said the deer came when area lands went into the Conservation Reserve Program.

"I hunted on my dad's property," he said. "It used to be a cotton farm, and he put it in CRP. We would see 16 or 17 mule deer in a bunch pretty regular — there were no deer here when I was a kid."

Young hadn't seen the deer he harvested before, but had been hoping to get a shot at a few big typicals he had seen.

"This deer was real heavy — more than 300 pounds, and he was real old," he said.

Young also is friends with James Moore of Seagraves, who took the third best nontypical

mule deer of the season.

The top typical mule deer scored 181 4/8 B&C and was taken by Gary Shores in Oldham County. Mike Murski took the best non-typical white-tailed deer, which scored 214 5/8, in Bosque County and Terry Hall had the top typical whitetail (186 1/8), taken in Kleberg County.

Tina Buford of Harlingen took the No. 1 pronghorn in the state this year, the state's second-best ever, net scoring 87 7/8 B&C.

The Texas Big Game Awards recognize the top 15 big game animals taken in the past season. The top 15 include the top three each in the following species and categories: typical whitetail, non-typical whitetail, typical mule deer, non-typical mule deer and pronghorn antelope.

Awards will go to hunters, too. Seven men will receive the Texas Slam Award, given to hunters who harvest all three TBGA qualifying animals in the same season meeting minimum scoring requirements. They are Keith Eason, Milton Harrell, Rick Merritt, Justin Trail, Robert Williams Jr., Robert Williams Sr. and Donald Starks.

The top 15 big game animals taken this past season will be on display and recognized during the 2009 statewide TBGA Sportsman's Celebration held in conjunction with the Texas Wildlife Association's annual convention, set for June 26-27 in San Antonio at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa.

—Staff report

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FISHING

New record, same carp from Lady Bird Lake

Same fish caught 3 years earlier to become record

By Thomas Phillips

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Texas' new state-record common carp has a past.

The fish, weighing 43 pounds, 12 ounces, was the record. And now it is again.

Kc Crawford caught the fish in March while competing in a Carp Anglers Group tournament on Lady Bird Lake in Austin. Al St. Cyr caught it in 2006 at the same lake, in the same tournament, when the

fish weighed 43 pounds, 2 ounces.

"I had no idea the fish was that big," Crawford said. "It just kept taking line."

The fish fell for Crawford's cinnamon-butter-rum-maize bait in a hole about 10 feet off the bank, he said. Crawford, 32, of Breckenridge, was competing with his fishing partner, Scott Ferguson of Grand Prairie.

They did not win the tournament, though they had the biggest carp of the event. They also landed a 45.12-pound buffalo.

Carp Anglers Group officials compared photos of Crawford's and St. Cyr's fish to determine if it they were one and the same. A Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist confirmed it, said Chad Edwards, CAG's Texas director.

St. Cyr won \$250,000 for landing the new state record during the tournament. Crawford took home \$50.

"Anybody you talk to is going to tell you what a testament it is for catch and release," Edwards said.

It's also a testament to Crawford, Edwards said.

"Kc's pretty much a newcomer to this part of the game, and Carp Anglers Group's real proud of him, and the Lone Star Carp Brigade is proud of him," Edwards said.

Crawford is proud too, but not for selfish reasons. He wants his daughter to see what her father accomplished.

"I know with a little girl, it's going to take everything I can to get her to catch something slimy and smelly," he said.



UNCOMMON CARP: Kc Crawford caught this 43-pound, 12-ounce carp to claim the state record. Photo by Chad Edwards.

Storm wrecks Lake Brownwood

More than 500 docks damaged by strong winds

By Craig Nyhus

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Fishing was great at Lake Brownwood leading up to May 8, when storms with high straight-line winds hit the lake and the city. Damage prompted officials to close the lake to all recreational traffic.

At the lake, the storm damaged boat docks and boats, sheds and porches and left debris all over the lake, leaving hazardous conditions for boaters.

"We have about 200 docks that have been destroyed," said Dennis Spinks, general manager of the Brown County Water Improvement District. "There is debris floating and boats are partially sunk."

Officials with the water district, which owns the lake, said more than half of the lake's 1,000 docks were damaged or destroyed during the storm.

The lake was closed to everyone except park officials and people repairing docks. Officials said they hope to reopen the lake to recreational traffic by the Memorial Day weekend.

The fishermen understand the decision but miss their time on the water.

"The fishing was really picking up," said Randy Feight, who owns Parkway Drive-In and Randy's Liquor a few miles from the lake and fishes local tournaments. "The crappie were biting, the sand bass were really hitting and the bass were picking up. It was looking like a really good season."

Feight said he watched the storm form above his store and head to the lake.

"It built right above us," he said. "The damage is on about two-thirds of the lake."

Joey Winn, who works for the



NATURE'S POWER: Straight-line winds and debris. Officials hope to reopen the lake for fishing and recreation for the Memorial Day weekend. Photo by Joey Winn.

water district, runs the Wednesday night jackpot fishing tournaments and is working to clean up the lake and shorelines.

"The fishing was getting a lot bet-

ter," he said. "I'm having withdrawal from not being able to fish on Wednesday nights. But there is a lot of debris."

Feight had a positive outlook.

"The fish are still there — they're

just getting a reprieve at the moment," he said.

Both anglers and business owners are hoping enough work is done to open the lake for the holi-

day weekend.

"That weekend brings in a lot of revenue," Feight said, "for the businesses and parks by the lake and for the city of Brownwood."

New speed limit on Padre Island National Seashore

Authorities say turtles, nests in danger from vehicles on beach

By David Sikes

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Surf anglers who frequent Padre Island National Seashore are planning to fight a new summertime speed limit on the 60-mile stretch

of beach.

Park Superintendent Joe Escoto in April posted a 15 mph speed limit during sea turtle nesting season, from April 1 through July 31.

Previously the speed limit was 25 mph.

Park officials say the measure is meant to protect visitors and sea turtles, which include the Kemp's ridley sea turtle, the world's most endangered turtle.

No records show a sea turtle has ever been crushed by a vehicle in the park. The section of beach is restricted to four-wheel-drive vehicles.

In a meeting with high-profile surf anglers,

Escoto said part of his rationale involved guarding against a potential lawsuit from the Sierra Club. Escoto said that if beach traffic harms a turtle and the rule is not in effect, the environmental group may argue that park officials didn't do enough to prevent it.

Sierra Club officials deny having plans for a lawsuit.

Anglers say the measure constitutes a significant change in traditional use of the beach. Surf fishing mostly involves cruising the beach in search of feeding birds, baitfish activity or other signs that game fish might be in the vi-

cinity.

Anglers often travel for miles without stopping. Creeping along at 15 mph would be prohibitive, said Nick Meyer, president of Citizens for Access and Conservation, a nonprofit set up to negotiate with and inform park officials and other stakeholder groups about traditional use of the seashore.

The group would like park officials to recognize the value of surf anglers, whom it believes are being overlooked in favor of an unreasonable

GULF GETAWAY:
Cabin sites to be auction are located in the Laguna Madre in Kenedy County. Map by the Texas General Land Office.



Two cabin permits for sale in Kenedy

Auction will decide who wins right to build

By David Sikes
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Two additional Upper Laguna Madre cabin permits will be auctioned, Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson said.

The cabin sites are in Kenedy County in the Landcut south of Baffin Bay. And they come with restrictions.

For example, permit holders must build on the site within a year.

Both sites are on the east-side spoils of the Landcut, which is a narrow 20-mile section of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Signs and perimeter stakes mark each location.

One is on the south side of the 201 Channel, which leads to Nine-Mile Hole. And the other is north of the 201 Channel.

The 201 Channel is a mile or two south of the northern entrance to the Landcut. It takes about an hour to reach by boat from the Bird Island Basin boat ramp. Wheeled-vehicle access to the sites is not available.

Bidding starts at \$10,000 on each lot, and the deadline to submit a sealed bid is 5 p.m. June 12. The deadline to download a bid packet from the General Land Office Web site (www.glo.state.tx.us) is May 29. Bid packets are scheduled to be opened June 15 in Austin.

A map showing site locations is on the Web site.

Technically the high bidders will not own any land, only a permit to

See CABINS, Page 12

Flooding blamed for Lewisville fish kill

Large common carp die from lack of oxygen

By Shannon Drawe
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

A recent fish kill between Ray Roberts Lake and Lewisville Lake in North Texas highlights the trend of feast or famine when it comes to rainfall and lake levels in Texas.

While parts of Texas are still struggling with an ongoing drought and low lake levels, much of the North Texas region finds itself floating above once dusty shorelines.

The fish kill on the upper reaches of Lewisville Lake happened when a rapid rise in water levels flooded an area that had not seen water in awhile. Fish, mostly common carp, rushed into the new habitat. When the water receded just as quickly, the fish were stranded in water that lacked enough oxygen for them to survive.

"The river gauges showed a spike in flow on about May 6," said Ken Bickel at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Fort Worth Fish Hatchery. "Water went up into a tributary of the Elm Fork."

Bickel said the fish kill was relatively small.

"It's not all that uncommon during the springtime," he

See FISH KILL, Page 15



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Species	Daily Bag	Min. Size (inches)	Max. Size (inches)
Amberjack, greater	1	32	No Lim.
Bass, striped	5	18	No Lim.
Catfish, gulf/apalachian	No Lim.	14	No Lim.
Cobia	2	37	No Lim.
Drum, black*	5	14	30
Drum, red*	3	20	28*
Flounder*	10	14	No Lim.
Goliath Grouper	0	Catch and Release Only	
Mackerel, king	2	27	No Lim.
Mackerel, Spanish	15	14	No Lim.
Marlin, blue	No Lim.	131	No Lim.
Marlin, white	No Lim.	86	No Lim.
Mullet*	No Lim.	No Lim.	12*
Seafood	No Lim.	84	No Lim.
Sea trout, spotted	10*	15	25*
Sharks	1	24	No Lim.
Sheepshead	5	14	No Lim.
Snapper, lane	No Lim.	8	No Lim.
Snapper, red*	4	15	No Lim.
Snapper, vermilion	No Lim.	10	No Lim.
Snook	1	24	28
Tarpon	1	85	No Lim.
Tripterygion	3	17	No Lim.
Blue Crab*	No Lim.	5	No Lim.
Stone Crab*	No Lim.	2 1/2	No Lim.
Ghost Shrimp	20†	No Lim.	No Lim.

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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

BOAT SINKS; OWNER BOTCHES RECOVERY

A boat sank at Buffalo Springs Lake after the man buying it failed to install the drain plug. Hockley County Game Warden Jay Oyler came to help and learned the buyer had not yet changed the title from the boat's previous owner before the incident. The boat sank 50 yards off the ramp with only 3 feet of the bow above the water. Oyler called Lamb County Game Warden Lance May and Lubbock County Game Warden Quentin Terrel for assistance. The wardens tied on to the boat and moved it to shallow water out of the navigation lane. The owner did not follow Oyler's advice to turn the boat right side up, electing instead to tie on with ropes and chains and pull it out with a Hummer and a Jeep. The result was a huge crack in the hull running from bow to stern and a wrecked transom. The police chief of the water district informed the owner he couldn't leave the wrecked hull in the lake. In the end, it took a wrecker used to haul tractor-trailers to pick up what was left of the boat and put it on the trailer. The owner wasn't sure if he would stay in the recreational boating business, seeing as his tow bill would be more than the boat was worth.

COPPER'S COATING BURNED AT WMA

Three men were warned for burning insulation off copper wiring at Sam Houston National Forest Wildlife Management Area. One of the men gave San Jacinto County Game Wardens Brian Scott and Aryn Corley false identification and was arrested on outstanding warrants related to fleeing from a game warden in Polk and San Jacinto counties. The other two were written warnings for burning trash in the WMA.

BIRDS OF PREY RELEASED FROM WANTED MAN'S HOME

Two hawks and an owl were recovered from a man wanted by U.S. mar-

Alligator is fright for one, fun for another

A caller reporting an alligator sunning on her driveway refused to leave her home, despite a recommendation by Fort Bend County Game Warden Barry Eversole to

shoo the critter away. The caller said the alligator was a repeat offender over the past few years and estimated it to be about a foot in length. By the time Eversole was

about halfway there, the caller called back to let him know the little girl next door had come by and picked up the alligator, which turned out to be a plastic toy.

shals. Webb County Game Warden Colt Gaulden aided deputy U.S. marshals from Laredo who were serving a felony warrant when they noticed a hawk in the backyard of their suspect's home. At the home, Gaulden found a Harris hawk, Swainson's hawk and a pair of juvenile great-horned owls. Webb County Game Warden Michael Hummert assisted at the home. The Harris hawk was released, and the other three birds were taken to a local rehabilitator. Citations were issued, and cases are pending.

GILLNET, MARIJUANA FOUND ON FALCON

A two-day border security operation on Falcon Lake resulted in seizure of a commercial fishing vessel from Mexico with 1,500 feet of gillnet the first day. The second night, a commercial fishing vessel from Mexico and 2,297.5 pounds of marijuana were seized by game wardens. The marijuana had an estimated street value of \$1,838,000.

STORM DOOR INFO LEADS TO DUMPER'S HOME

Two pickup loads of asphalt shingles were discovered in early April near Elm Creek Reservoir. While investigating, Runnels County Warden Lane Pinckney found a storm door box at one of the locations. Through the bar code and item number he traced it to a store in Abilene. The door was purchased in February and since it was not paid for with a credit card, no name was in the transaction records. Pinckney requested a copy of the surveillance video and,

with the assistance of the Winters police chief, identified the buyer. Pinckney went to the residence and found a new roof and storm door on the home and small pieces of shingles in the man's pickup. The resident confessed and gave a written statement.

ILLEGAL NETS SEIZED ON GALVESTON BAY

Seven individuals were apprehended for using gillnets and oversized cast nets in Galveston Bay. With the use of the illegal nets, the group caught 17 speckled trout, 28 red drum, 34 black drum and numerous other fish, many of which were undersized. Galveston County Game Wardens Mack Chambers and Vu Nguyen seized four gillnets and two oversized cast nets, and numerous citations were issued.

DOG SAVED AFTER FALLING FROM BOAT

San Saba County Game Wardens Brad Reeves and Chris Wilson were patrolling Lake LBJ for water safety compliance when they saw a rat terrier dog fall out of an oncoming boat. The wardens pulled alongside the swimming dog, pulled it out of the water and returned it to its owners, who were grateful for the rescue.

UNDERSIZED CRAPPIE SEIZED AT FORT PHANTOM LAKE

Poachers keeping undersized crappie were cited at Fort Phantom Lake. Taylor County Game Wardens Steve Medford and Roy Johnson discovered the incident when they checked a man fishing from a private dock. Sev-

eral small crappie were seen floating in a fish box inside the dock. A bucket and an ice chest where another man was cleaning fish contained more undersized crappie. The wardens seized 31 undersized crappie ranging from around 3 to 9 inches. Four men were cited for possession of undersized crappie, and two of the four did not have fishing licenses.

TROTLINE THIEF ESCAPES; BROTHER ARRESTED

Brown County Game Warden Travis Allen was called to Lake Brownwood about a man who was stealing trotlines. At the boat ramp, Allen and a Brown County sheriff's deputy discovered a partially smoked marijuana cigarette in the cup holder of the man's vehicle. After four hours, the man returned to his vehicle and gave his brother's name and date of birth as his own. But his brother was wanted under a felony warrant. Allen discovered more marijuana in the boat and a stolen trotline. When the man was asked to place his hands behind his back, he ran down the riverbank. Allen pursued until the man dove into the river and swam to the other side. The man's brother was arrested the next day.

TURKEY HUNTER ACCIDENTALLY SHOT ON ATV

A man was accidentally shot while returning to camp after an afternoon turkey hunt in Stephens County. The victim and three other men were through hunting and were returning to camp in an extended-cab all-terrain vehicle. As they were traveling off

road, they hit a big bump, and a rifle in a vertical gun rack along the dash of the ATV discharged. A helicopter flew the victim to a hospital, and Stephens County Game Warden Ed Russell investigated.

ELDERLY MAN DROWNS AFTER REACHING FOR ANCHOR ROPE

On Hubbard Creek Lake in Stephens County, a 78-year-old man and his wife were fishing under a bridge when the man fell in the water and drowned. The man stumbled and fell in when he tried to untie the anchor and move to a different location. The victim's wife tried to toss him a rope, but the victim was not wearing a life jacket and never came back up to the surface. The victim's body was recovered a short time later.

BROTHERS TAG-TEAM TO TAG BIGGER BUCKS

A report was received by San Jacinto County Game Wardens Aryn Corley and Brian Scott that three men had been bragging about "tagging out" during hunting season and then obtaining replacement licenses to get more tags. The men, all brothers, confessed to obtaining the tags to kill larger bucks they saw after their original tags were used. Cases pending.

NO POLES, BUT A COOLER FULL OF FISH NONETHELESS

A group of poachers in San Patricio County swore they had no fishing poles despite the load of fish in their cooler. San Patricio County Game Warden Kevin Mitchell approached the men, who initially told him they had not caught any fish, too. But Mitchell had seen one of them carrying a fish off a pier, and an inspection of their ice chest in the back of their truck turned up undersized red drum, undersized speckled trout and an undersized snook. He did not find any fishing poles. All the fish were illegally taken with a cast net.

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Cabins

Continued from Page 9

occupy the site and permission to build a cabin up to 1,000 square feet on it.

The permits last five years, and owners have an option to renew indefinitely in five-year increments if they remain in good standing.

Cabins built on the sites will be state property. Permit holders may use the shelters indefinitely if they obey the rules.

No commercial use is allowed.

The initial cabin fee is \$325, and each five-year renewal fee is \$175.

Permit holders must also pay an annual fee based on the structure's size. The cost is 60 cents per square foot.

Locals who build fishing cabins say construction

Place your bid

Mail-in bids should be sent to Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, Attention: Ned Polk, RE: Cabin Bid, Stephen F. Austin Building, P.O. Box 12873, Austin, TX 78711-2873.

For more information, e-mail cabins@glo.state.tx.us or call Amy Nunez at (361) 825-3038.

costs for a basic structure along the Landcut start at around \$25,000.

How much will each cabin site bring?

In 2005, when the GLO issued five permits near Bird Island, the average winning bid was \$22,500. In 2007, when the GLO issued two more permits, this time in the Landcut, they went for between \$40,000 and \$50,000. Bidding was spirited during both processes.

Bills

Continued from Page 6

keep records on the animals they store 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.

Snake hunters and others who want to pursue some wildlife species in public rights of way are waiting on the House. A bill that allows individuals to capture, trap and kill reptiles, amphibians and insects along public roadsides is still under consideration in the chamber.

The Senate has passed a bill that prohibits boaters from dumping raw sewage from their watercraft on all inland waters and out 3 nautical miles into the Gulf of Mexico. The bill is under consideration in the House.

Texas residents who are 65 or older will still have to buy hunting and fishing licenses come September. A bill that would have exempted them from the requirements died in committee.

Fees and restrictions for lifetime hunting and fishing licenses are up for big changes. The House has

passed and the Senate is considering a bill that would raise the fees for the licenses and allow non-residents who were born in Texas to buy them. Fees would go from \$300 to \$800 for separate lifetime hunting or fishing licenses and from \$500 to \$1,500 for a combination lifetime hunting and fishing license.

One of the most prominent bills authored by Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin, who apparently suffered a heart attack late one night at the Capitol earlier this month, is destined for Perry's desk. The bill would allow the use of laser sights for certain hunters with disabilities.

Deer breeders are still awaiting the outcome of a bill that helps them with paperwork. Breeders are required to report information to two agencies: Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Animal Health Commission. House Bill 3560 eliminates the duplicity by setting up a shared database. It has passed the Senate and is under consideration in the House.

Deer breeders now qualify for grants from the Texas Department of Agriculture Texas Agriculture Finance Authority. Perry signed a bill that includes their

work in the definition of "agricultural business."

The Legislature is wrapping up its work on a bill allowing the use of crossbows during archery season. The bill has passed both houses, and legislators are completing formalities before sending it to the governor.

The Senate has passed a bill that extends the hunting buffer around homes and other facilities near cities. The bill, which would allow cities to prohibit hunting on certain properties nearby, is still under consideration in the House.

TPW's reauthorization under state Sunset Act guidelines is pending, though the measure is, for the most part, a formality. The bill also contains an order that TPW maintain a list of exotic aquatic plants that may be imported without a permit.

The House's deadline for picking which of its bills to vote on came May 11. It will still consider Senate bills until the end of the session.

The Senate's deadline for picking Senate bills to vote on is May 29. After that, Gov. Rick Perry has until June 21 to sign or veto any bills the Legislature sends his way.

Bighorn

Continued from Page 6

ets are \$10 each, \$9 online), landowner permits and auction permits (for 2009, the Texas Bighorn Society will auction a permit).

The majority of permits go to landowners who cooperate to help the sheep thrive.

So where will the 100th permit go?

"We're not sure yet," Richardson said. "We'll discuss that in the time leading up to the surveys, but we could do something special with that."

Whatever decision is made, some criticism from one group or another is expected, but the potential value of the 100th permit to the bighorn sheep program may well be very high.

Deer

Continued from Page 6

the situation," he said.

But moving Doc to Houston required more than coaxing him into a trailer and driving him there.

Before the Doc donation, Texas deer breeders were only allowed to sell and send deer to other breeders, Bugai said. They were not allowed to give their deer to the holder of an educational display permit.

So Bugai and the Texas Deer Association, of which Bugai is a past president, lobbied the TPW Commission for a change in the rule.

Doc has not yet made the 2,100-acre park his permanent home, however.

Shortly after he arrived, flood waters swept through, said Mike McMahan, the special activities coordinator for Harris County Precinct 3. All of the animals were evacuated.

"We were just getting him acclimated to the pen when we had to move him back out," McMahan said.

When he returns, he can begin trying to step into the big hooves he has to fill to take over for Mr. Buck.

"We have millions of vehicles pass through here every year, and everyone of those vehicles has the opportunity to see the deer," McMahan said.

Calling

Continued from Page 6

The World Waterfowl Calling Championships were held May 2 in Conroe, with goose and duck calling focused on "real" hunting situations. Events were described as "calling like you do in the field."

Winners were as follows:

Duck

Nathan Wright

Real Duck

David Sohrt

Open Duck

Jason Campbell

Team Real Duck

Jeff Larson and Bruce Risner

Snow Goose

Mike Miller

Live Snow Goose

Nathan Wright

Snow Goose Mouth

Jay Foster

Team Snow Goose

James Prince and David Pruett

Specklebelly Goose

Ken White

Live Specklebelly Goose

Nick Patin

Team Specklebelly Goose

Bill Daniels and Mike Miller

Sandhill Crane

James Prince

Greg Hubbell Jr. won the World Championship Junior Snow Goose, Junior Specklebelly and Junior Real Duck contests.

— Staff report

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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
 Driftwood, Thurman's Mansion
 (512) 858-9355

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

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

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

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

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

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 Tournament
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 Fundraiser
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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
 Port Aransas, Woody's Sports Center
 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
 Westchase Marriott Hotel
 (713) 688-2627

Lone Star Bowhunters Association
 Awards banquet
 Conroe, Lone Star Convention Center
 (409) 739-2630



IFA Redfish
 Tournament
 Corpus Christi
 (478) 836-4266

Dripping Springs National Wild Turkey Federation
 Fundraiser
 Buda, Cabela's
 (512) 262-7443
 hrui@austin.rr.com

Bass Champs Central Region
 Tournament
 Lake Travis
 (817) 439-3274
 www.basschamps.com

June 11
Dallas Woods and Waters Club
 Monthly meeting
 Sheraton North Dallas Hotel
 (214) 570-8700



McLennan County Whitetails Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Waco, The Lion's Den
 (254) 772-8224



Texas Hill Country Safari Club International
 Annual member meeting
 Kerrville, YO Hotel
 (210) 862-8392

June 13
Austin Ducks Unlimited
 Sporting Clays Fun Shoot
 TDS Exotic Game Ranch
 (512) 370-3237
 mhoover@mlrpc.com

Bass Champs East Region
 Tournament
 Sam Rayburn Reservoir
 (817) 439-3274
 www.basschamps.com

Huxley Ducks Unlimited
 Fun Night
 Robinson Lodge
 (936) 368-2211

June 16
Hays County Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Buda, Painted Horse Pavilion
 (512) 753-9448

June 18
Dallas Safari Club
 Monthly meeting
 Wilson Stout on Central Africa
 Dallas, Hotel Intercontinental
 (972) 980-9800

Alvin/Pearland Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Pearland, Knights of Columbus Hall
 (281) 924-8578

Tarrant County National Wild Turkey Federation
 Fundraiser
 Lockheed Recreation Center
 (817) 731-3402

Centex Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Waco, Heart of Texas Coliseum
 (254) 776-3411

Woodlands Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Spring, The Grand Palace
 (281) 363-4417

June 20
Dallas Safari Club
 Summer Blast sporting clays shoot
 Elm Fork Shooting Range
 (469) 484-6777
 jaimey@biggame.org



National Wild Turkey Federation
 Women in the Outdoors event
 Crockett, Houston County
 4-H Shooting Sports Facility
 (936) 544-5356

Ducks Unlimited Northwest
 Prairie Shoot
 Cypress, Hot Wells Shooting Range
 (713) 594-5359
 mkittle000@aol.com

June 25
Dallas National Wild Turkey Federation
 Fundraiser
 Brookhaven Country Club
 (972) 743-8986

Katy Coastal Conservation Association
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Texas Ducks Unlimited
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 Page 14-18

Fish kill

Continued from Page 9

said. "It happens elsewhere throughout the state, but it occurs more often on farm ponds where there is more fertilizer runoff and fewer places for oxygen-deprived fish to go."

Virtually no game fish died at the location, and Bickel said the area holds fewer game fish such as bass, hybrids and crappie. But he also gave another reason for the lack of game fish dying from the rapid water influx and outflow.

"We think the game fish and smaller game fish, including small carp, are better able to detect the drop in oxygen and get out of there," he said. "And big fish, even carp that can gulp air, require more oxygen than smaller fish."

Floods cause a drop in oxygen levels by flooding decomposing organic matter and by introducing oxygen-depleting materials into water fish inhabit.

"I measured the oxygen level at that location at .14 (parts per million), and normal range there is 7 (parts per million)," he said.

Melissa Tidmore, a member of TPW's Kills and Spills Team, also blamed oxygen depletion for the fish kill.

"We think it was simply a case where oxygen was rapidly used up, and the bigger fish who have



FISH KILL: Fish dying between Lewisville Lake and Lake Ray Roberts was caused by oxygen depletion in flooded areas. Officials say anglers should not be concerned. Photo by Shannon Drawe, for LSON.

higher oxygen demands died," she said.

Anglers and recreational users of the lake need not be concerned, although the inconvenience of the smell of decaying carp may linger.

Spring rains bring plenty of opportunities to catch fish. Rising lake levels flood timber and vegetation on gradually sloping shoreline and entice largemouth bass into the flats for new feeding opportunities. The revived habitat also becomes a temporary home to spawning carp and gar that can be seen slowly cruising the flats pursued by interested males.

Speed

Continued from Page 8

rule. Meyer said Escoto and his policy seem to discount the anglers' conservation benefit to the park and their economic impact on the region.

Regarding economics, Meyer cites a study from the University of Delaware titled "Valuing Beach Closures on Padre Island National Seashore." The study suggests that during peak visitation in July, a closed national seashore would result in an estimated \$171,000 in tourism revenue lost for the area.

About the conservation benefit of anglers, Meyer said that by the park's own admission nearly half of nesting sea turtles are spotted by park visitors. Meyer argues that beach anglers represent a substantial number of park ambassadors. Some of the anglers are shark taggers, spotters of sea turtles, scouts for stranded marine mammals, reporters of suspicious activity and, in many cases, qualified interpreters for the longest stretch of undeveloped barrier island in the world. Meyer said he expects few-

er anglers will venture to the south end of the park because of the lower speed limit.

"This is going to hurt the turtle program," Meyer said. "Alienating us would be environmentally irresponsible. But that's exactly the attitude we're seeing from this administration."

CAC Vice President Charlie Golla said some anglers view the new speed limit as a betrayal, in part, because Superintendent Escoto did not call a public meeting to explain the rule or his rationale to the park's most loyal and responsible stewards.

CAC officials also believe park officials are legally bound to post in the Federal Register any rule changes that would significantly alter traditional use. They believe this action would have triggered a public meeting along with a process that includes a published justification for the change and an explanation of why less restrictive measures will not suffice.

Jim Lindsay, PINS chief of science and resources management, who recently filled the position, said public outreach and better communication will be priorities during his tenure.

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photos by David J. Stevens

Today's technologically advanced juglines

Rigs not simple contraptions anymore

By Bob Hood

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Just as there is more than one way to skin a cat, there also is more than one way to catch catfish.

Juglining is gaining in popularity. In principle, juglining is using a large free-floating or weighted contraption with hook, line and sinker to trick Mr. Whiskers. That's a general explanation because jugliners are not short on ingenuity.

Catfish jugs have been made from empty plastic bleach bottles, two-liter soft drink bottles filled with canned foam (to add a firmness to the bottle and for increased buoyancy), 2-inch PVC pipe cut to about 12 inches long and capped (loosely at one end to hold the terminal tack-



JUGGING FOR CATS: The ingenuity of catfish anglers comes out with different types of jugs used to pursue the fish. Photo by Bob Hood, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

le), and just about anything else that will float.

Numerous commercially produced catfish jugs also are on the market at costs of \$4 to \$5 or more each, including the popular Strike King Catfish Jug, a white plastic con-

tainer with a handle that can hold the line, hook and weight when not in use.

One of the most innovative designs of a catfish jug was made by Mike Pace of Montgomery. Pace's version of a catfish jug has resulted

in numerous catches of blue catfish weighing from 15 to 65 pounds on Lake Conroe.

"I use a piece of 1/2-inch PVC pipe 2 feet long and put a 6-inch piece of rebar inside it," Pace said. "Then I slide an 8-inch-long foam swimmers' noodle over the PVC pipe. I put a PVC T on each end of the pipe, slide the foam to one end (the top) and put a piece of red reflective tape on the T. I also put white reflective tape on the top end of the foam noodle."

In the water, more ingenuity shows.

"When I set it in the water, I let the rebar slide toward the end with the white tape, and that way it lays flat on the water," Pace said. "When a fish is caught, the rebar will slide back down to the other end and the jug will stand upright."

The invention helps most for fishing at night, a favorite time for Pace and his friends.

"When you shine a flashlight or spotlight on it at night from upwind and nothing is on, you will only see

the reflective red," he said. "But if a fish is on and it is standing upright, it will shine a bright white."

Pace's jugs are weightless free-floaters and rigged to catch big blue catfish. He has made his best catches in shallow flats on Conroe. The jugs are rigged with braided line and a single circle hook baited with shad.

Many other jugliners who go after big bluecats on Lake Texoma and other large reservoirs anchor their jugs with weights in deeper water, especially during February and March. Those after smaller channel catfish use lighter line, 4/0 treble hooks or smaller single hooks and either anchor or free-float their jugs with a variety of baits, including minnows, chicken livers, shrimp, earthworms and chunks of blood bait.

Jugging for catfish can bring lots of rewards: good fellowship with friends, exciting action and great filets for the deep fryer.

And during the "off" times, catfish anglers can devise new designs for a better catfish jug.

Fly turns fire ants into brainless zombies

South American insect being introduced in East Texas

A new type of tiny parasitic fly that only preys on red imported fire ants may help fend off the damage-causing pests for Texas landowners.

Dr. Scott Ludwig, integrated pest management specialist for AgriLife, released fire ants infected with the phorid flies April 29 on the grounds of the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Overton.

The tiny flies inhabit the ant and lay eggs inside. The maggot hatches and eats the ant's brain. And the infected ant soon exhibits bizarre behavior.

"First they become zombies, their movements under the control of the parasite," Ludwig said. "Then their heads fall off and the parasite emerges."

The "zombified" fire ant is made to wander about 55 yards away from the mound to die.

"The parasite does this so it can complete development without being detected and attacked by the fire ant colony," Ludwig said. "By making their hosts wander away, the parasite is insuring its survival."

The species only attacks red imported fire ants.

Other phorid flies have been released as early as 1995, but those only preyed on ants in disturbed mounds. In contrast, the new species is attracted



HELPFUL FLY: A new type of phorid fly may help control fire ants in much of Texas. Photo by Sanford Porter, USDA.

to foraging fire ants and not disturbed mounds.

Ludwig said this is better because attacks of ants are not dependent upon the mounds being disturbed.

It was hoped that earlier releases of phorid flies, once established, would spread beyond the original release sites, and evidence indicates they have, Ludwig said.

The first of four species was released near Austin in 1995.

"From 2003 to 2006, it spread over

10,000 square miles," Ludwig said. "The second species, *P. curvatis*, was established in 2004 and is beginning its spread."

"We're hoping the new parasite will reduce the foraging of fire ants and thereby allow our native ants to regain some footing," he said.

The new species was released in 2007 in South Texas, where it became established but did not spread.

"It may not have spread because of the drought," Ludwig said.

Ludwig's release was the first in East Texas. In 2010, he plans to set out traps baited with live red imported fire ants to determine if and how rapidly the phorid fly has spread.

"Earlier data suggests they can spread 25 miles a year through wind-assisted dispersion," he said.

Fire ants have been estimated to cost the Texas economy about \$1 billion annually by damaging circuit breakers and other electrical equipment, according to a Texas A&M study.

Whether the South American flies control the fire ants remains to be seen, and results may not be known for a decade. But finding volunteer landowners has not been difficult for the researchers.

—Texas AgriLife Extension Service report

Catfish

Continued from Page 1

Taylor finds the fish tend to bite best in the early morning.

"You don't catch a whole lot of big ones, but you catch a lot," he said. "And most of the customers like to catch bigger numbers of fish."

The Crappie Stalker rod is equipped with a slip bobber above a treble hook. Affixed to the treble hook is a sponge. The sponge is dipped into Taylor's homemade cheese bait.

"It's a secret family recipe," he said.

What's not so secret is the smell.

"I use a stick to push the sponge down into the cheese," he said. "It's tough not to get some of it on you, though."

When it's on you — you know.

The bite on the runny cheesebait is typically more subtle than with other baits, and the fish often don't take the cork down quickly.

"They kind of mouth the bait," Taylor said. "If you see that bobber doing anything unusual, set the hook."

Guide Weldon Kirk uses different techniques but with similar success. He had the channel catfish trip of a lifetime May 9 at Gibbons Creek Res-

ervoir near College Station.

"I had three regular customers with me," he said. "We wet the first hook at 7:15 a.m.; we had 50 fish in the cooler by 8 a.m.; by 10:30 we had 74 fish in the cooler and had caught and released 75 fish."

The group kept fishing. "By 12:45 the day ended with a total of 251 legal-sized fish caught," he said. "All were released except the 75 taken to the cleaning table."

Kirk said the only downside was he never had time to wet his hook.

"That was the best day I ever had, but the fishing has stayed real good," he said. "A few days later we caught 126 by 10 in the morning."

Kirk has been fishing in 1- to 2-feet of water using CJ's Punch Bait.

"We just go to where the fish are feeding," he said. "Right now it's on the bank on the windy side. We use a cork when the wind will allow the fish should stay shallow through the end of May; then they move out."

Kirk said anglers on nearby Lake Somerville are doing well, and the techniques should work well on most catfish lakes this time of year.

Kirk prefers punchbait to the runner dipbait but said both have distinct odors.

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JACOB FLORES caught this gag grouper while fishing 20 miles off the Texas coast.



KHRISTOPHER PRUITT, 8, of Pearland caught five catfish and a bass on a rod and reel in Alvin.



FORD KROCKE, 6, shot this buck, his first deer, while hunting with his grandfather, **MIKE WHITFIELD**, on the family ranch in Jim Wells County.



WILL HARPER, left, of Carrollton shot this 150-class white-tailed deer buck, which his father, **ROB**, right, rattled in. Also pictured is his grandfather, **BOB HARPER**.



ELISA FARIAS shot this axis during the second week of a hunt near Rocksprings.

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



This Month's Youth

SnapShot

Winner

A contest sponsored by



Win these binoculars!



10x42 Monarch ATB



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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Garland, TX 75043
972-226-1816

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Dallas, TX 75212
214-747-7916

WEATHER

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Moon Phases



Solunar Table Major/Minor periods:

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
5/20	8:40a/2:29a	6:19p/---	8:46a/2:35a	6:25p/---
5/21	9:03p/2:51p	6:43a/12:32a	9:09p/2:57p	6:49a/12:38a
5/22	9:21a/3:09a	7:06p/12:55p	9:27a/3:15a	7:12p/1:01p
5/23	9:46p/3:33p	7:27a/1:16a	9:52p/3:39p	7:33a/1:22a
5/24	10:07a/3:53a	7:49p/1:38p	10:13a/3:59a	7:55p/1:44p
5/25	10:34p/4:20p	8:08a/1:56a	10:40p/4:26p	8:14a/2:02a
5/26	10:58a/4:44a	8:30p/2:19p	11:04a/4:50a	8:36p/2:25p
5/27	11:28p/5:13p	8:47a/2:36a	11:34p/5:19p	8:53a/2:42a
5/28	11:58a/5:42a	9:10p/2:59p	12:04p/5:48a	9:16p/3:05p
5/29	12:29p/6:13p	9:28a/3:16a	12:35p/6:19p	9:34a/3:22a
5/30	12:30a/6:46a	9:52p/3:40p	12:36a/6:52a	12:30a/3:46p
5/31	1:03p/7:19p	10:12a/4:00a	1:09p/7:25p	1:03p/4:06a
6/1	1:39p/7:55a	10:37p/4:24p	1:45a/8:01a	1:39a/4:30p
6/2	2:12p/8:28p	10:58a/4:46a	2:18p/8:34p	2:12p/4:52a
6/3	2:50a/9:05a	11:24p/5:11p	2:56a/9:11a	2:50a/5:17p
6/4	3:20p/9:36p	11:48a/5:35a	3:26p/9:42p	3:20p/5:41a
6/5	3:57a/10:12a	---/6:01p	4:03a/10:18a	3:57a/6:07p
6/6	4:26p/10:40p	12:13a/6:27a	4:32p/10:46p	4:26p/6:33a
6/7	4:59a/11:13a	12:39p/6:52p	5:05a/11:19a	4:59a/6:58p
6/8	5:26p/11:39p	1:07a/7:20a	5:32p/11:45p	5:26p/7:26a
6/9	5:55a/12:07p	1:32p/7:45p	6:01a/12:13p	5:55a/7:51p

Tides

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

Sun and Moon

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
5/20	6:25a/8:11p	6:26a/8:24p	6:39a/8:22p	6:39a/8:48p
5/21	6:25a/8:12p	6:25a/8:25p	6:38a/8:23p	6:39a/8:49p
5/22	6:24a/8:12p	6:25a/8:25p	6:38a/8:24p	6:38a/8:49p
5/23	6:24a/8:13p	6:24a/8:26p	6:37a/8:24p	6:37a/8:50p
5/24	6:23a/8:13p	6:24a/8:27p	6:37a/8:25p	6:37a/8:51p
5/25	6:23a/8:14p	6:23a/8:27p	6:36a/8:25p	6:36a/8:51p
5/26	6:23a/8:15p	6:23a/8:28p	6:36a/8:26p	6:36a/8:52p
5/27	6:22a/8:15p	6:22a/8:28p	6:36a/8:27p	6:35a/8:53p
5/28	6:22a/8:16p	6:22a/8:29p	6:35a/8:27p	6:35a/8:54p
5/29	6:22a/8:16p	6:22a/8:30p	6:35a/8:28p	6:35a/8:54p
5/30	6:21a/8:17p	6:21a/8:30p	6:35a/8:28p	6:34a/8:55p
5/31	6:21a/8:17p	6:21a/8:31p	6:35a/8:2	

FISHING REPORT

HOT BITES LARGEMOUTH BASS



BELTON: Excellent on Rat-L-Traps, spinnerbaits, minnows and white riversides.
BROWNWOOD: Excellent on Grande Bass Rattle Snakes, Bass Hogg spinnerbaits and craw colored crankbaits in 4-5 feet.
WALTER E. LONG: Very good on shad.

WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



BRAUNIG: Striped bass are excellent on liver and perch off points near the pier and down rigging spoons near the dam and jetty.
RAY ROBERTS: White bass are excellent on spoons and Super Spots with topwater schooling continuing on the main lake.
BRIDGEPORT: White bass are good on Rooster Tails and topwaters.
RAY HUBBARD: Hybrid striper are good on Rat-L-Traps in the shallows early, later switching to 4" Sassy Shad. Catfish are fair on cut shad and nightcrawlers.
WRIGHT PATMAN: White bass are good on Rooster Tails and topwaters.

CATFISH



CALAVERAS: Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheesebait and shad.
FALCON: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on cut bait and stinkbait in the river.
BASTROP: Channel and blue catfish are very good on live bait, frozen shrimp and stinkbait.
SAM RAYBURN: Good on trotlines baited with live bait.
SOMERVILLE: Channel and blue catfish are good on Sure Shot punchbait in 2 feet.

CRAPPIE



HOUSTON COUNTY: Very good on live minnows around piers, in the creek channels and near brush tops at the pump station in 14 feet.
LBJ: Very good on minnows and white crappie jigs over brush piles in 10 feet.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 66 degrees; 1.01' low. Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits along creek channels tree lines and on black/blue soft plastics and jigs worked in trees and brush. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on live and cut bait.

AMISTAD: Water clear; 72 degrees; 0.68' high. Black bass are good on soft plastics and on topwaters in the trees. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on jigging spoons. Crappie are slow. Catfish are good on cheesebait and live bait in 25-40 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch.

ARROWHEAD: Water moderately stained; 67 degrees; 4.53' low. Black bass are fair on crankbaits or black/blue jigs off rocky points and riprap. Crappie are good on minnows fished at the east side bridges and state park piers in the early morning, with active spawning shallow. White bass are fair trolling and casting to rocky points near Pawnee Point boat ramp. Blue catfish are good drifting cut shad or cheesebait on flats in 12-15 feet.

BASTROP: Water clear. Black bass are fair on minnows and watermelon red soft plastics. Crappie are good on minnows and chartreuse tube jigs.

BELTON: Water lightly stained; 70 degrees; 0.37' low. Hybrid striper are good on minnows and jigs in 10 feet. White bass are good on minnows and jigs in 10 feet at night. Crappie are good on jigs and white riversides. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs and stinkbait.

BOB SANDLIN: Water stained; 68-74 degrees; 0.07' high. Black bass are fair to good on Texas rigs, wacky rigs and jerkbaits. White bass are fair to good on slabs. 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; 70 degrees. Black bass are fair on crankbaits and dark soft plastics in reeds and near the dam. Redfish are good on perch, shad and silver spoons. Channel and blue catfish are excellent on shrimp, cheesebait, cut bait and liver near the dam.

BRIDGEPORT: Water fairly clear; 68-75 degrees; 8.29' low. Black bass are fair on shad pattern crankbaits, white/chartreuse spinnerbaits and watermelon seed lizards. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 73 degrees; 6.01' low. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass to 2.5 pounds are excellent on L'il Fishies, small Rat-L-Traps and shad colored crankbaits. Crappie are excellent on L'il Fishies and tube jigs along shorelines in the Pecan Bayou and Mountain View areas and along the 279 bridge in 1-3 feet. Channel catfish are good in baited holes in 5-10 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with perch.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 72 degrees; 15.89' low. Black bass are good on Daiquiri Skip-N-Pop topwaters, Bleeding Shad Rat-L-Traps and weightless wacky-rigged green pumpkin Whacky Sticks with chartreuse tails along break lines of creek bluffs early in 4-12 feet and areas with submerged brush in pockets of creeks. Striped bass are good on topwaters, Rat-L-Traps, bucktail jigs and live bait. White bass are slow to fair trolling. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Channel catfish are good on live bait and cut bait. Yellow and blue catfish are good on juglines and trotlines baited with live bait.

CADDO: Water off-color; 70-74 degrees; 2.98' high. Black bass are good on Texas-rigged 10" worms, Senkos and wacky rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on trotlines with live bait. Bream are good on red wigglers and crickets.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 70 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 good on spoons and striper jigs near the dam and the crappie wall and on chicken livers and shad

near the dam and power lines. Redfish are excellent down-rigging silver and gold spoons in 10-20 feet, on live perch, tilapia and crawfish near the power lines and on live bait along the crappie wall. Crappie are slow. Blue catfish are good on cut bait and liver near 181 Cove and the railroad bridge.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear; 69 degrees; 12.17' low. Black bass are good on soft plastics, topwaters and jigs in 6-12 feet along bluff ledges. Striped bass are slow to fair trolling crankbaits and vertically jigging white striper jigs. White bass are fair on Road Runners upriver. Smallmouth bass are good on soft plastics. Crappie are fair to good on crappie jigs and live minnows. Channel catfish are fair in the upper end of the lake. Yellow and blue catfish are fair on juglines and trotlines in creeks.

CEDAR CREEK: Water lightly stained; 69-75 degrees; 0.05' high. Black bass are fair on Senkos over grass and lizards along the outside of deeper grass beds — also on Carolina rigs and medium

shrimp and liver.

GRANBURY: Water clear; 1.65' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and chartreuse soft plastics, crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Striped bass are fair on white bucktail jigs. White bass are fair on minnows and watermelon spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and chartreuse tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, liver and frozen shrimp.

GRANGER: Water murky; 72 degrees; 2.56' low. Black bass are fair on buzzbaits in 2-3 feet. White bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps around points and shallow roadbeds. Crappie are good on black and yellow jigs in 4-12 feet. Blue catfish are good on shad near Willis Creek. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water lightly stained; 78 degrees; 0.56' high. Black bass are good on watermelon soft plastics, flukes and Brush Hogs on the south side of the lake near the dam. White bass are good along the northeast shore. Bream are good on live worms off piers and grass

good on shad colored chatterbaits or spinnerbaits and green pumpkin or black/blue soft plastics in brush, with topwaters producing along grass lines. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait and silver crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are good on gold/black crankbaits and live bait. Channel catfish are good on live and stink bait.

OAK CREEK: Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 5.05' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits and live bait. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on live bait.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 71 degrees; 4' low. Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits, red and black soft plastic baits and silver Rat-L-Traps in the back of creeks. Crappie are fair on minnows and yellow jigs in Rock, Caddo and Cedar creeks. White bass are good on silver Rat-L-Traps in Hell's Gate and Neely's Slough. Striped bass are good on silver spoons and crankbaits in Hell's Gate and Neely's Slough. Catfish are good on live shad and cut liver.

RAY HUBBARD: Water stained; 68-71 degrees; 0.02' high. 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 slabs in 18-24 feet and on Rat-L-Traps in 1-7 feet early.

RAY ROBERTS: Water muddy in the upper lake-lightly stained on the main lake; 67-71 degrees; 1.23' high. Black bass are good on Yum Dingers and Carolina-rigged Ring Frys. Crappie are good on minnows and Road Runners over brush piles. Catfish are good in the new water around the shore (created by rising water).

SAM RAYBURN: Water murky; 69 degrees; 1.18' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red and pumpkinseed soft plastics and Brush Hogs. White bass are fair on minnows, hellbenders and silver spoons. Crappie are fair on minnows and tube jigs over brush piles. Bream are fair on nightcrawlers.

SOMERVILLE: Water murky; 78 degrees; 0.71' low. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps and minnows. Hybrid striper are good on crawfish and super spoons. White bass are good on crawfish and super spoons. Crappie are good on minnows, black/chartreuse jigs with red heads and super shad jigs.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear; 79 degrees; 1.44' low. Black bass are fair on minnows. White bass are good on minnows. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on chicken livers and hot dogs.

TAWAKONI: Water stained; 67-70 degrees; 0.25' high. Black bass are fair on 10" worms, lizards and watermelon/red Brush Hogs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on white or chartreuse slabs and Humdingers. Striped bass and hybrid striper are slow on slabs and live shad. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait and nightcrawlers.

TOLEDO BEND: Water murky; 68 degrees; 0.18' low. Black bass are good on soft plastic worms and crankbaits. Striped bass are fair on bucktail jigs. White bass are fair on silver spoons and slabs in the river. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over baited holes in 12 feet. Bream are good on crickets and nightcrawlers. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait.

TRAVIS: Water stained; 71 degrees; 27.10' low. Black bass are good on chrome topwaters, June bug worms and grubs in 5-18 feet. Striped bass are fair on chrome topwaters and smoke grubs in 10-20 feet. White bass are good on chrome topwaters, smoke grubs and white shad raps in 8-25 feet. Crappie are fair on blue/white tube jigs and road-runners. Channel and blue catfish are fair on fresh cut bait and nightcrawlers in 15-25 feet.

WALTER E. LONG: Water clear; 73 degrees. Hybrid striper are fair on shad and crankbaits. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on nightcrawlers, frozen shad and frozen shrimp.

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Trout are fair to good on the Louisiana shoreline on topwaters and Corkies. Flounder are fair on jigs tipped with shrimp around marsh drains.

SOUTH SABINE: Sheepshead and black drum are good at the jetty on live shrimp. Trout are fair to good around Lighthouse Cove on topwaters.

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: Trout are good for drifters working pods of shad and mullet on Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels. Waders have taken better trout on the shell along the east shoreline.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are good on the south shoreline on Catch 5s, MirrOures and Catch 2000s. Whiting and sand trout are good on the edge of the Intracoastal on fresh shrimp.

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: Trout are fair to good on the reefs on live shrimp and croakers. Redfish are fair in Moses Lake on mullet and shrimp.

FREEPORT: Trout are fair to good at San Luis Pass on shrimp. Sand trout and sheepshead are good on live shrimp on the reefs in Christmas Bay. Black drum are good at the jetties on cracked blue crabs.

EAST MATAGORDA: Trout are fair for drifters on live shrimp over mounds and scattered shell. Winds have made it tough. Redfish are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on crabs and mullet.

MATAGORDA: Redfish are fair to good on the edge of Oyster Lake on shrimp and crabs. Trout are fair on shell and grass on soft plastics. Black drum are fair to good at the jetty on crabs.

ROCKPORT: Trout are fair to good in Morris-Cummings Cut on free-lined shrimp. Black drum are good in the Lydia Ann Channel on crabs. Trout are fair over grass while drifting with live shrimp.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish are fair to good at East Flats on shrimp. Redfish and sheepshead are fair to good at the jetty on shrimp.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Trout are fair to good on the edge of the spoils on Gulps and live shrimp. Redfish are good in the potholes on shrimp.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout are fair in the grass on Corkies and topwaters. Black drum are good in the Land Cut on crabs. Trout are fair to good in the Land Cut on live shrimp.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout are good on topwaters around sand and grass at Green Island and the Saucer. Redfish are fair to good while drifting pot holes.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout are good around the spoil islands, channel edges and color changes on DOA Shrimp and live shrimp. Trout, black drum, redfish and jack crevalle have been taken at the jetty.

PORT ISABEL: Trout and redfish are fair to good on the flats on live shrimp. Redfish are fair at Laguna Vista small topwaters and soft plastics under rattling corks.

Hot Spot

Hubbard Creek
Water lightly stained; 62 degrees; 5.51' low. Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits and pumpkin soft plastics worked along edges of reeds. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass and hybrid striper are good on live bait. Catfish are good on live bait.

running crankbaits. White bass are good on slabs over humps and topwater when surface schooling is occurring. Hybrid stripers are good on Sassy Shad. Crappie are good on jigs around bathhouses and over brush piles. Catfish are good on cut shad and chicken liver drifted over points.

CHOKO CANYON: Water clear; 71 degrees; 6.97' low. Black bass are good on blue/white deep crankbaits and watermelon red Carolina-rigged soft plastic worms and lizards. Crappie are fair on minnow-tipped jigs. Channel catfish are fair to good on live bait. Blue and yellow catfish are good on cheesebait in 5-10 feet.

COLEMAN: Water clear; 70 degrees; 6.98' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red soft plastic lizards, crankbaits and electric blue worms. Hybrid striper are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on live bait.

CONROE: Water murky; 0.06' high. Black bass are good on watermelon red and pumpkinseed Texas- and Carolina-rigged soft plastics and spinnerbaits. Striped bass are good on minnows and chartreuse striper jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are good on stinkbait, frozen shrimp and nightcrawlers.

FALCON: Water stained; 73 degrees. Black bass are good on deep running crankbaits and fair on Carolina-rigged soft plastics. Striped bass are slow.

FORK: Water lightly stained; 69-74 degrees; 0.54' high. Black bass are fair to good on Carolina rigs, Yellow Magics and Senkos. 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 watermelon/green soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows and white/blue tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, bait

beds. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with perch and shad.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 69-74 degrees; 7.61' high. Black bass are fair on buzzbaits, spinnerbaits and drop-shot-rigged finesse baits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs in coves and around structure. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

LBJ: Water stained; 72 degrees; 0.13' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red flukes, watermelon topwaters, Bleeding Shad Rat-L-Traps and weightless green pumpkin wacky-rigged Whacky Sticks. White bass are slow to fair trolling Shad Raps. Yellow and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch and carp.

LEWISVILLE: Water off-color; 68-74 degrees; 0.18' high. Black bass are good on chatterbaits, Texas rigs, crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; 71 degrees; 0.14' high. Black bass are fair to good on spinnerbaits and soft plastics. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on hellbenders, pet spoons and slabs. Crappie are fair on minnows. Blue catfish are good on shad.

MEREDITH: Water stained; 61 degrees; 71.82' low. Black bass are good on minnows, watermelon soft plastics and black neon jigs and white spinnerbaits around rocky points with some topwater action along grass lines. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live bait and black/white inline spinners. Smallmouth bass are good on live bait and crankbaits. Walleye are good on live bait along north end of lake and outside the Marina. Channel catfish are good on live bait.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 66 degrees; 12.80' low. Black bass are

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www.basspro.com



Ethanol

Continued from Page 1

an issue for any carbureted engine, including those on all-terrain vehicles.

"It isn't the ethanol itself that is always the problem," he said. "But in a tank or old gas can that had sludge on the bottom — non-ethanol fuel would ignore it but the ethanol breaks it up and sends it to the carburetor."

Stevenson recommends an octane of 89 in all fuel for carbureted engines. "It has better additives," he said.

But an even bigger step is to use a stabilizer in the fuel.

"The shelf life of fuel is not what it used to be because of the ethanol," he said. "I add stabilizer when I fill the gas can, and then I mix my 2-stroke fuel with gas out of that 5-gallon can. I haven't had any problems since I started doing that."

The industry trade association for power equipment is concerned about the proposal to raise the ethanol con-

Tips for using fuel containing ethanol

- Use a fuel stabilizer in your large gas container
- Mix 2-stroke fuel using gas from the large container
- Don't use fiberglass containers for gasoline
- Discard old containers that held non-ethanol gas

centration in fuel.

"We need to acknowledge that current equipment — including boats, chainsaws, lawn mowers, snow mobiles, motorcycles, generators and other small engine equipment — may be permanently damaged and pose a safety risk if E15 fuel is used," said Kris Kiser, executive vice president of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute. "Current equipment is neither designed, built or warranted for mid-level blends."

Boaters were the first to respond as outboard motor repair shops began seeing an increase in clogged fuel

lines, crumbling fiberglass gas tanks and stalled engines with the 10 percent mix.

According to the National Marine Manufacturers Association, ethanol prefers water over gasoline. When ethanol-blended fuels sit in a gas tank for a long time, the ethanol begins to separate from the gasoline. If water is in the boat's gas tank, the ethanol will separate from the gasoline and bond with the water.

Repairs are expensive — and warranties often won't cover them.

They say E10 is acceptable in most boat engines — as long as the engines

are used regularly — and some outboard motor manufacturers have designed special filters to deal with the ethanol.

Cars and trucks are better equipped to handle ethanol. Used frequently, the ethanol is not usually given a chance to separate from the gasoline, and computers in newer vehicles recognize bad gas. But problems have been reported — especially in older vehicles — where fuel intakes have dissolved or pumps have been destroyed.

The EPA is expected to decide before year's end whether to grant the ethanol industry's request.

The marine industry is urging the EPA to test the effectiveness of E15.

Neither EPA nor the Department of Energy has conducted any testing of mid-level ethanol on marine engines or equipment, despite NMMA's submission of a formal test plan to DOE nearly a year ago, wrote Mathew P. Dunn, legislative director for NMMA.

The ethanol industry claims etha-

nol helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"The EPA's own calculations, based on the direct comparison with gasoline, shows ethanol alone reduces greenhouse gas emissions by more than 60 percent," wrote Bob Dinneen, president of Renewable Fuels Association.

And the group believes ethanol is receiving undue blame for unrelated problems.

"Ethanol has become a convenient scapegoat for any issue relating to marine engines of late," said Matt Hartwig of the Renewable Fuels Association. "The fact is that most boats on the water can handle ethanol blends, especially when marinas and owners take the proper precautions."

But those with their hands in the engines — repair shops — are telling a different story.

"A switch to E15 would be a disaster," Rozenburg said. "It would cause an exponential increase in repairs."

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Meetings

Continued from Page 1

"The hearings are not what they use to be, but there seems to be a fair amount of interest," said Vernon Bevell, TPW's program director for small game and habitat assessment.

He said about 26 people attended the hearing in Hebronville for the highest participation, and El Paso came in last with no members of the public in attendance.

"People seem to be getting more of their information from the internet — response on our site has been pretty good," Bevell said.

The public hearings were conducted April 27 to May 15 seeking comment on plans to increase most license and registration fees by more than 5 percent. The increase would become effective Sept. 1 if approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at its May 28 meeting.

Bevell said he has been surprised at the level of public support for the first hike in fees since 2004.

Ken Kurzawski, regulations and information programs director of TPW's Inland Fisheries Division, who was conducting the meeting, said TPW needs the additional revenue.

"We need an increase of about 10 percent (to cover increased costs), but with the economy the way it is, we did not want to put an additional burden on hunters," Kurzawski said. "In the past two years, seven states have increased their fees by 20 to 60 percent. Our increase will be from \$2 to \$5 for most licenses. We expect to generate about \$3.8 million."

Paul Johnson of Vinegaroon Wildlife Inc., one of the people offering public comment at the hearing, said he represented a group of area outfitters who agreed with the fee increases as long as the money stayed in the TPW coffers.

"There is going to be a reduction in the number of hunters," he said. "Most people are just unsure right now (about the economy)."

For dove hunting, TPW is considering moving to a 70-day season and 15-bird daily bag limit statewide, pending adoption of federal guidelines, in 2009-10. Department officials are recommending that the South Zone opener be moved to the Friday nearest Sept. 20, but no earlier than Sept. 17, which means it will open on Sept. 18 this year if approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in late June.

Commenting on the dove proposal, Johnson recommended the department consider limiting hunting to afternoons only to give birds a resting period in hunting areas and possibly increasing the daily bag limit.

"We are in the entertainment business," he said. "Most of the hunters are dealing with outfitters because most of the hunting fields are booked up by outfitters. The average hunter will not kill 20 to 22 birds in an afternoon."

Bevell said the department has been studying afternoon-only hunting, based on recent hunter surveys. But he said the bag limit is strictly controlled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"We can be more restrictive than the feds, but we can't be more liberal," he said. "Right now, we are looking at a 70-day season and a 15-bird limit for three years."

He added that in every hunter survey since 1979, about 80 percent of the respondents have favored the all-day hunting that started in 1980, and most of the comments submitted on the Internet support a 15-bird daily limit.

Greg Nelson of Uvalde Hunting Services said many hunters travel far to find good dove hunting fields and could use a break on the bag limits.

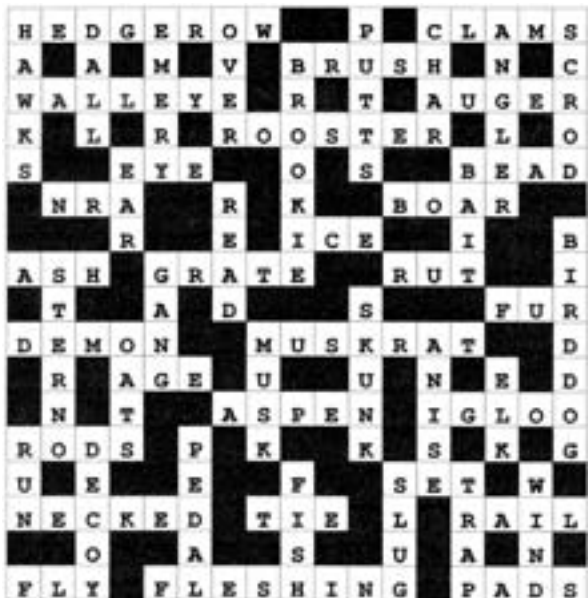
"Why not allow a three-day possession limit?" he asked. "For the majority of (guided) hunters, that is their only trip, and a three-day bag limit would be better for them."

Bevell said that adding a day to the possession limit is under consideration.

"We have a more mobile society than we had 20 years ago," he said. "We are looking for our hunters to guide us with our regulations so that the next generation has the hunting opportunities that you have."

Puzzle solution

from Page 18



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