

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Eastland County
Buck



21-pointer harvested
opening day
Page 8

★ November 14, 2008

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 5, Issue 6



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INSIDE FISHING



Lightweight rods have been the rage, and now the reels are catching up using aircraft technology.

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Having fished in bass tournaments for two decades, Mike Burns of Plano qualified for the Bassmaster Classic by finishing at the top of the Central Opens.

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HUNTING

The legality of one-handed opening knives, popular with hunters and fishermen, has come under question after a Texas appellate court ruling.

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A Wharton County jury sentenced a man to death for the killing of Texas Game Warden Justin Hurst.

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CONSERVATION

A former Texan living in New York won the Texas Grand Slam package in Texas Parks and Wildlife's Big Time Texas Hunts.

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NATIONAL

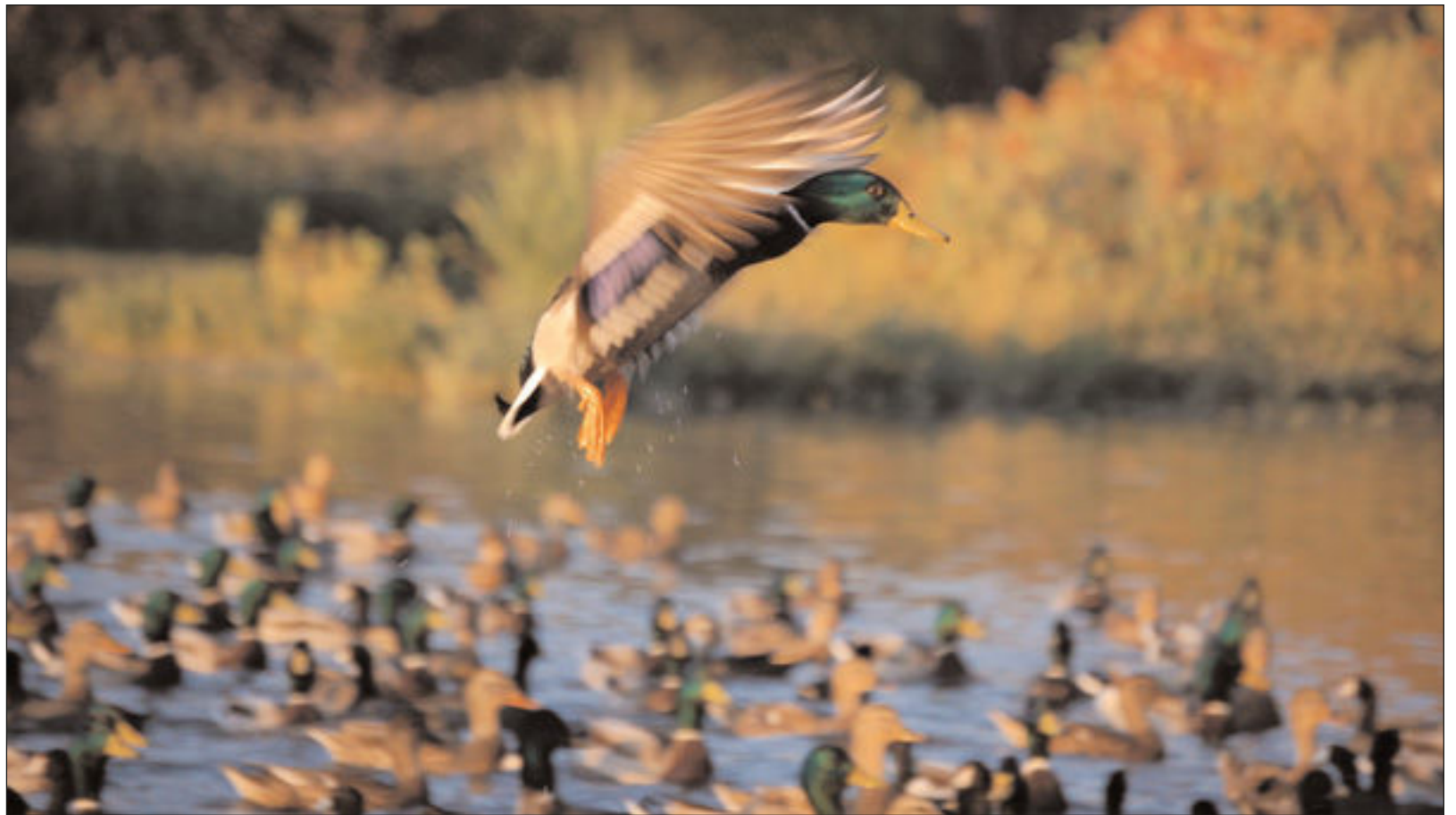


An Oklahoma archer took a giant buck during a controlled hunt at the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant. The 23-point buck, known to locals as the "Ace of Spades," had a net "green" score of 197 2/8.

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COMING DOWN: Blizzards in the Dakotas are pushing ducks and geese south, and Texas hunters are hopeful the big push reaches their hunting grounds. See related story on page 8. Photo by Lili A. Sams.

Ducks, geese arriving daily

Warm, dry start to season slows some action

By CRAIG NYHUS

Waterfowl hunters hit Texas ponds, lakes and marshes on the opening weekends. While hunters were happy in the Panhandle and some coastal areas, others faced low water conditions and a limited number of birds.

"We're bone dry," said guide Mike Beason, who hunts along the Red River and on Lake Texoma. "We're not seeing a lot of birds right now and we cover a lot of terrain. But Charlie Vaughn had hunters that killed 9 mallards."

Beason said ponds seldom low on water are way down. "The water is 15 feet off of the banks," he said. "If you have a place for one or two people, you can find them. But if you're looking to go

in a group and kill 17 to 30 birds, it's real tough."

Beason was thrilled to see the heavy rains that hit North Texas November 10-11.

Other hunters reported limits near the Red River, but farther south, birds were less plentiful. In North and Central Texas, hunters with water found some birds, but water levels are low and dropping. While one or two hunters were able to scratch out limits, not

enough birds were around for larger groups to do much better.

In the northern Panhandle, good numbers of ducks, including mallards, have arrived, along with sandhill cranes and geese. "The geese moved in with last cold front," said Terry Cook with Straight Line Outfitters. The big lake is holding about 5,000 geese, but the playas are so full of water many of them are holding as

See WATERFOWL, Page 20

Flounder changes coming

Despite declines, fishing this fall best in years

By DANNO WISE

Flounder fishing is the best it has been in years along the extreme southern Texas coast, and good reports are in from Matagorda to Sabine. But guides and anglers know changes are coming.

"This is the best I've seen it in the last three or four years," said Port Isabel guide Capt. Carlos Garcia. "But what I'd encourage people to do is — even though we have more fish right now — take only what you need. We need to use some restraint so we can continue to have these fish year after

year."

Garcia said the area has rebounded from years of drought and the red tide incident a few years back. "Plus, we've had the Bahia Grande flooded for a few years and we've had a lot less shrimping going on," he said. "I think all of this has really helped our bay system. We've got a lot more bait in the bay and are catching not only more flounder, but some really nice flounder."

Texas Parks and Wildlife is looking at ways to stem a decade-long decline in flounder gillnet survey numbers.

See FLOUNDER, Page 28



FLOUNDERING NUMBERS: Kendall Larson of Shoreacres landed a flounder at the Brownsville Ship Channel. The flounder season may close from October to December next year.

Outdoor groups debate new president's impact

Range from outright
opposition to support

By MARK ENGLAND

President-elect Barack Obama is neither a hunter nor an angler. And, of course, he's a Democrat,

bringing the fear of negative changes to many sportsmen and gun owners.

Yet, some outdoors groups believe it may be easier to find common ground with the Illinois senator when it comes to issues such as combating climate change and assuring outdoorsmen access to

See IMPACT, Page 16

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CONSERVATION

Big time travel for Big Time Texas Hunts

The winner of this year's Big Time Texas Hunts crown jewel, the Texas Grand Slam hunt package — which includes four separate guided hunts for Texas' most prized big game animals: desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope and mule deer — will be facing a significant logistical challenge. The winner, Matt Portch, lives in Hopewell Junction, New York.

"Luckily I have a lot of frequent flyer miles," said Portch, who works in Manhattan. "I lived in Texas for 10 years and have been entering the Big Time Texas Hunts since the first year of the program. I always applied with the hope, but never the intention of winning, so it was a marvelous surprise."

All told, hunters bought 79,327 Big Time Texas Hunt entries during this year's sales period generating

\$776,229 in gross revenue to support wildlife research, habitat management and public hunting.

Stephen Bauer has been entering the Big Time Texas Hunts for years. Bauer, who owns and operates two feed stores in the Kerrville area, said he puts in for every hunt category and that support paid dividends as he was drawn as this year's Big Time Bird Hunt package winner.

Bauer, along with as many as three of his hunting buddies, will enjoy a unique package of upland game bird hunts: two days of quail, two days of pheasant hunting in the Panhandle and two afternoons of dove hunting. There will also be a two-day guided spring turkey hunt for two included in the package.

The Big Time Texas Hunts winners:

Grand Slam — Matt Portch of

Hopewell Junction, N.Y.

Premium Buck Hunt — Leon Pavlock of Guy.

Exotic Safari — James Cavness of Sanger; Joshua Bellman of North Richland Hills.

Whitetail Bonanza — John Knotts of Streetman; Kevin Harris of El Campo; Dixon Presnall of Aledo; Patrick Mitchell of Pine Bluff, Ark.; Clarence Davis of Groveton; Matthew Zaiantz of San Antonio; Roddy Wade of Dallas; Neil Reichenback of Carrollton; Thomas Patrick of Houston; Kenny Ferguson of Ackerly.

Big Time Bird Hunt — Stephen Bauer of Harper.

Waterfowl Adventure — John Noland of Houston.

Gator Hunt — Mark Garrison of Houston.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report.



WORTH THE TRIP: The desert bighorn sheep is at the top of the list for applicants for the Big Time Texas Hunts. This year's winner is from New York. Photo by TPW.

Groups hope for venison donations

Meat processors across the state are welcoming hunters for their processing needs and to provide an outlet to donate extra venison through the Texas Hunters for the Hungry program.

Last hunting season, hunters donated more than 178,000 pounds of meat to the program through 98 participating meat processors in 71 counties. This season, 103 meat processors representing 74 counties await donations.

For a complete list of participating meat processors, visit taca.org/hunters.htm. Interested hunters can take legally harvested deer to a participating meat

processor that will process and package the meat for a nominal fee to help cover basic costs.

Meat processors make arrangements with local food assistance agencies to distribute the meat to people in the community who need food.

In addition the Dallas Safari Club will pay for the processing of a limited number of donated deer at these participating locations:

Big Buck City Market in Clifton, (254) 675-2825.

Brady Co-Op Locker in Brady, (325) 597-2440.

Clark's & Winford's Meat Company in Midland, (432) 686-8123.

Lee's Deer Processing in Burleson, (817) 561-1975.

M&M Deer Processing in Zephyr, (325) 642-2154.

Ray's Grocery & Market in Breckenridge, (254) 559-2341.

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Syracuse's Custom Meats in Keller, (817) 379-2230.

T.D.'s Processing in Strawn, (940) 452-1990.

Woodbury Taxidermy & Wildgame Processing in Ingram, (830) 367-5855

— Staff reports.

Wolf delisting revisited

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reopening the public comment period on its proposal to delist the gray wolf in the northern Rocky Mountains.

On July 18, the U.S. Federal District Court in Missoula, Mont., issued an order immediately reinstating Endangered Species Act protections for wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains. In September 2008, the Service requested the court vacate and remand the final delisting rule back to the Service. The court granted the Service's request on Oct. 13.

At this time, the northern

Rocky Mountain population of gray wolves remains under the protection of the Endangered Species Act. The area affected by this ruling includes all of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming and the eastern one-third of Washington and Oregon and parts of north-central Utah.

The minimum recovery goal for wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains is 30 breeding pairs and at least 300 wolves for three consecutive years, a goal that was attained in 2002 and has been exceeded every year since.

— U.S. Fish and Wildlife report.

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NATIONAL

Oklahoma archer takes giant buck at army ammunition plant

An Edmond, Okla., hunter harvested one of the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant's most sought-after bucks on Oct. 17 when he harvested the buck known as the "Ace of Spades."

After Ronny Lambeth of Edmond brought the big non-typical buck into the McAAP's check station, it was immediately recognized as one of the controlled hunt area's biggest bucks.

Although unofficial, Lambeth's buck has been "green scored" at a gross measurement of 201 4/8, with a net score of 197 2/8 after deductions. Lambeth's deer will likely meet the B&C minimum of 185 points and may meet the B&C minimum of 195 points for inclusion into the all-time records for non-typical whitetail deer.

The "Ace of Spades" buck has 23 scorable points, and the rack has an inside spread of 26 inches. He was aged at 8 1/2 years.

Lambeth said he first spotted the buck at about 40 yards away and watched the deer for about 30 minutes before getting an awkward but successful eight-yard shot with his primitive archery equipment.

"I think I probably shook all the leaves off the tree I was in," Lambeth said about his wait for just the right shot opportunity.

Lambeth drew out for this year's hunt at the "Ammunition Depot" with three friends who had never been on this type of hunt. "It's a privilege to get to hunt in that area," he said.

Each year, an average of between 25,000 to 35,000 hunters apply for at least one or often multiple controlled hunt categories. Controlled hunts are conducted on department and/or other government-owned lands where unrestricted hunting would pose safety concerns or where overharvest might occur.

— Oklahoma Department of Wildlife report.



LUCK OF THE DRAW: Ronny Lambeth of Edmond, Okla., arrowed this 23-point buck scoring 197 2/8 at the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant. Photo by Oklahoma Department of Wildlife.

Vehicle-deer collisions, deaths up

Breeding season is most dangerous

November is the peak month for vehicle-deer collisions, and a new analysis of insurance claims and federal crash data indicate the problem is growing. The Highway Loss Data Institute recently examined insurance claims for animal strikes under comprehensive coverage month by month from January 2005 through April 2008. Insurance claims for animal collisions are nearly three times higher during November than the typical month earlier in the year.

"If you're driving in areas where deer are prevalent, the caution flag is out, especially in November," said Kim Hazelbaker, HLDI senior vice president.

State Farm, the nation's largest auto insurer, estimates that there were more than 1.2 million claims for damage in crashes with animals during the last half of 2007

and the first half of 2008. The company says animal strike claims have increased 14.9 percent over the past 5 years.

Crash deaths also are increasing. In 1993, 101 people died in crashes involving animals. By 2000, the number was 150, and in 2007 it was 223.

The states with the largest number of total deaths are Texas with 227 deaths from 1993-2007, Wisconsin with 123, and Pennsylvania with 112.

The study found that 60 percent of the people killed riding in vehicles weren't using safety belts. Crashes in which people are killed are most likely to occur in rural areas and on roads with speed limits of 55 mph or higher. They're also more likely to occur in darkness, at dusk, or at dawn.

— Highway Loss Data Institute report.

Potential record elk taken in Utah

A Utah elk named "Spidey," expected to be a world record nontypical elk, was taken by an Idaho hunter Denny Austad in the Monroe Mountain public hunting unit on Sept. 30.

A select few watched Spidey grow through the years, amazed at his remarkable rack. Over time he amassed a massive web of antlers said to measure 500 1/2 inches. After the required drying period, it is expected that the elk will shatter the current nontypical world record.

Bloggers made Spidey a legend, especially after a couple of Utah hunters caught him on camera before the archery season opener.

The Boone and Crockett Club reported that from 2000 to 2006, no other state produced more record-book bulls than Utah.

"It is well-known that hunters who want the best chance of taking a big bull come here," Jim Karpowitz, director of the Utah

Division of Wildlife Resources," told *The Salt Lake Tribune*. "Thanks to some thoughtful people, we have made some good management decisions on elk programs throughout the years."

Twenty years ago, Utah's Rocky Mountain elk population numbered between 12,000 and 15,000. There are now close to 60,000 elk in the state.

Members of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation have poured money into growing Utah's herd as well, either conserving or enhancing 735,000 acres of wildlife habitat to the tune of \$21 million.

Austad bought a Utah governor's tag for elk this season, paying for the ability to hunt any open unit in the state. Austad's investment in the license will go toward elk management.

— Realtree.com report.

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HUNTING

Knife definitions under question

Court ruling expanding meaning of switchblade causes concern

By CRAIG NYHUS

The definition of a "switchblade" will be a big topic for sportsmen during the 2009 Texas Legislative session. The American Knife and Tool Institute says an appellate court decision in 2007 has the potential to impact millions of knife owners in Texas.

The San Antonio Court of Appeals decision declared that an assisted-opening knife may meet the Texas Penal Code's definition of a switchblade. The AKTI claims the decision ignored the classic federal and multi-state language test of the definition of a switchblade, i.e., the presence of an activating button on the handle, and chose to focus instead on centrifugal force as the determining criteria.

Legal advisors for the trade association are concerned the opinion might be considered "persuasive" in knife cases across the state. If an assisted-opener could be considered a

switchblade, so could virtually any one-handed opener.

The AKTI has hired Mark Seale and the Texas Advocacy Group, Inc. to help clarify the Texas knife statutes.

"There are conflicting court cases across the country," Seale said. "We need to clarify them for those coming in from out-of-state and people in Texas purchasing knives."

Seale will be reaching out to Department of Public Safety officials and legislators and will seek a sponsor to introduce legislation during the 2009 legislative session that begins in January. "A lot of law enforcement officials are probably carrying assisted-openers now," he said.

Hunters and fishermen use them too. "On our one-handed knives, you're touching the blade, not pushing a button," said Ben Overesh with Jimerson Cutlery. "That's the

difference."

Overesh said he uses the knives every day. "If you're holding anything with one hand and need to cut something with the other, you use a one-handed opening knife."

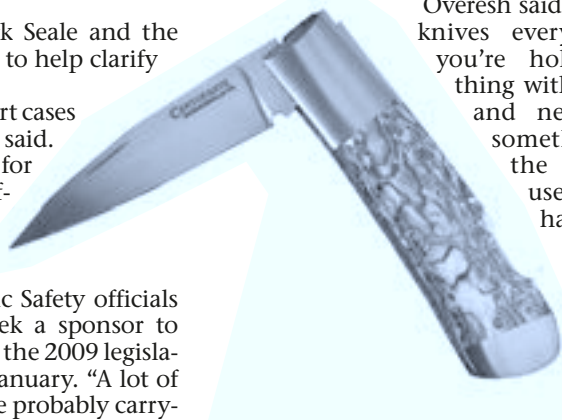
And safety can be the reason to have the knives.

"This happened to me," Overesh said. "I'm climbing up to a deer stand and my shirt snags. I grabbed the knife, cut the snag and

continued up. To have to let go with the other hand to open a knife, that would have been dangerous."

The standard definition of a switchblade approved by the AKTI is as follows:

SWITCHBLADE — A knife with a blade that is exposed in an automatic way and moved from the closed position to the open position exclusively by the release of a compressed spring. A switchblade knife does not include a knife that opens with one hand, utilizing thumb pressure applied to the blade or to a thumb stud or declivity on the blade, nor does switchblade include a knife with a blade that can be opened by means of inertia or other such force produced by hand, wrist, arm or other bodily movement, provided that the knife has a detent or other system that provides resistance which must be overcome in opening the blade, or that provides a bias or spring load toward the closed position.



The Bradley Buck

Fire, nutrition leads to success at Eastland County ranch

By CRAIG NYHUS

In March, John Bradley of Houston and his sons leased a new piece of property near Carbon in Eastland County for deer hunting and went to work. They were rewarded on opening day of the deer gun season with 30-year-old son Jeff's buck, a 6 1/2-year-old, 21-point buck with a 28.5-inch inside spread that green scored 206 B&C, a type buck almost unheard of in that area.

Jeff, a father of two, took a break from his full-time job combined with being a full-time college student to pursue an older 8-pointer the family had viewed on trail cameras.

But they had no pictures of the giant buck that appeared. After seeing the buck at 40 yards, buck fever kept him from holding steady and he didn't try the shot. Later, the buck appeared at 100 yards and his shot was true.

A memorable wildfire in 2006 burned much of the ranch, and the hunters believe the land's recovery after the fire along with good management and some hard work helped set the stage for top-level nutrition for bigger bucks.

"We leased the property from Mike Hopkins of 4J Hunting Ranches," John Bradley said. "Our plan was to get some age on the deer by only shooting bucks 4 1/2 years and older and to shoot the older 8-pointers and spikes as management deer."

Hopkins manages several properties for hunting and believes age is the key. "We want to watch the animals grow," he said.

"Our motto is 'Do not harvest a deer before its time.'"

Hopkins said the ranch benefited from areas nearby that aren't hunted along with setting aside a refuge area on the ranch where the deer are never bothered.

The group started feeding protein in March and is feeding year-round.

But it was the fire, they believe, that helped create even more nutrition.

"It cleared some of that thick cover out," John Bradley said. "Some areas were so thick you would have to hack your way through it. After the fire, we got some good ground cover and the succulents came up."

"It's all about protein, whether natural or supplemental," Hopkins agreed.

That goes for natural protein, too, like that created after the fire.

"Natural is always better," he said. "It's Mother Nature's way of feeding. Fire is a natural fertilizer. The tender stuff that comes up after a fire is the very best stuff a deer can eat."

Hopkins said a number of factors came together at the ranch, and the Bradleys are excited about what is to come. "Age, protein, genetics and refuge," Hopkins said.

"We're seeing a lot of good, young deer," John Bradley said. "I saw a young 10-pointer with only a 19-inch spread during archery season, and we have a great yearling crop."

But it's what is becoming known in the area as the "Bradley buck" that excited Hopkins. "I was tickled to death for the kid to shoot that buck. He was so excited — he couldn't function."



PLAN COMES TOGETHER: After a wildfire swept through an Eastland County ranch in 2006, new growth and a management plan led to Jeff Bradley taking this 21-point, 206 B&C buck on opening day. Photo by John Bradley.

"I called Hopkins after I saw the deer and told him 'You gotta come see this,'" John Bradley said. "He didn't outright call me a liar but I knew he didn't believe me when I told him about the size. And the taxidermist did call me a liar — until he saw it."

Central flyway conditions

Birds on the move, but will they get here

News of cold weather and blizzards to the north is catching the attention of Texas waterfowl hunters. With parts of the Dakotas blanketed with several feet of snow, that can only mean one thing. The birds will be on the move.

But did the blizzards stretch far enough north? According to John Traiforos and Shawn Nyholt, Avery Pro-staffers hunting in Saskatchewan, the answer may be "not quite yet."

Traiforos said although temperatures are slightly below freezing, most water is still at least partially open and the birds are grouping up and actively feeding, while Nyholt said in the Saskatoon area there are excellent numbers of mallards and Canadas.

It turned out the big snow accumulation didn't reach into the Canadian prairies and many ducks and geese remain — for now.

Both hunters said ample food will keep the birds north as long as possible. When the birds move, though, they are likely to travel far, hopping over much of the snow-covered Dakotas.

The snow geese were on the move according to one North Dakota observer. "They came over by the thousands for hours," he said. "It was snowing so hard they were coming over in range. They should get

there fast — it looked like they were moving 80 miles per hour."

Pro staffer Jared Shepard hunts near Bayard, Neb., and is still waiting for a push of northern birds. "There are still a few very educated locals still hanging around," he said. Shepard and Kirk Steffensen, who hunts near Clay Center, said Central Nebraska marsh conditions are excellent. "We received over 5 inches of rain a couple weeks ago and some areas got 8 inches," Steffensen said.

Kansas marsh conditions are excellent, too, but down the flyway in Oklahoma and most of Texas, hunters are praying for rain. "Water levels are down in Central Oklahoma," said David Williams of Choctaw, who is seeing fair numbers of green-winged teal, wigeon and gadwall. "We're overdue for a soaking rain."

In Texas, the Panhandle and the southern tip of Texas are unusually wet after big summer rains, but the rest of the state is painstakingly dry and welcoming the November rains. Hunters hope that by the time they read the reports more rains will come — before the majority of the late-season birds arrive.

— Staff reports.



RIDING THE WIND: Blizzards in the Dakotas and cold fronts pushing south are bringing birds to the region. Hunters hope the birds don't stop short this season. Photo by Todd Steele.

Jury sentences man to death for killing game warden

A Wharton County jury took 2 1/2 hours on Nov. 3 to return a guilty verdict in the capital murder trial of 27-year-old James Garrett Freeman, of Lissie, who shot and killed Texas Game Warden Justin Hurst on March 17, 2007.

Wharton County District Attorney Josh McCown sought the death penalty in the punishment phase of the trial that concluded on Nov. 7. The jury sentenced Freeman to the death penalty.

"We are all very relieved by the verdict that was rendered by the jury today," said Texas Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Carter

Smith. "It is a fitting decision given the horrific nature of the crime committed against our colleague, Texas Game Warden Justin Hurst. Our prayers and thoughts remain with Justin's wife and son, and with his parents and family, as they continue to cope with his loss."

Freeman was suspected of poaching, and opened fire on Hurst and other law enforcement officers following a high-speed police chase on the eve of the game warden's 34th birthday. Hurst died early the next morning at Hermann Memorial Hospital in Houston, leaving behind a wife

and infant son.

Hurst began his TPW career as a wildlife biologist and spent six years at the 15,612-acre wildlife management area formerly known as Peach Point WMA. The wildlife management area, where Hurst conducted research on mottled ducks and other wildlife, was renamed in his honor on Oct. 12, 2007.

Hurst graduated from the 48th Texas Game Warden Academy in August 2002, and after a year in Brazos County transferred to Wharton County.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

Sporting Clays championships

Matarese, Sorantino take titles

Anthony Matarese, Jr. won the Sporting Clays National Championship, beating more than 1,400 shooters and edging former champion Wendell Cherry by one target. The four-day main event was held at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio.

Matarese, who owns and operates M&M Hunting Preserve and Sporting Clays in Pennsville, N.J., also won sporting clays' other major annual event for 2008, the U.S. Open.

Diane Sorantino repeated as the Ladies Division champion for the second consecutive year. The police chief from Cape May, N.J., beat her

nearest competitor by 13 targets.

On each day, shooters faced 75 targets. In the event, each person shot four different 10-station fields.

Matarese, Jr., won with 285 of 300 targets, followed by Wendell Cherry and Brandon Powell. Scott Robertson of Dallas finished ninth.

Sorantino topped the ladies field with 269 targets, followed by DeeAnn Massey and Ashleigh Hafley.

Gary Greenway of Dublin won the Veteran Division with 270 targets.

— National Sporting Clays Association report.

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FISHING

Taking off the weight

Technology helps new reels catch up to lightweight rods

By MARY HELEN AGUIRRE

Today's reels offer plenty of power in increasingly lighter and more compact packages.

"We have graphite rods and titanium guides that weigh nothing," said pro angler Kelly Jordon, "and the new lightweight reels that have hit the market are carrying



REVO TORO

that trend forward."

Jordon favors a 7-foot Fenwick Techna AV baitcasting rod and Abu Garcia's 6.3-ounce Revo

Premier reel. "It's so light, it almost becomes an extension of your arm," said the Mineola pro-angler of his outfit. "But, even if you're just out for an hour it's a definite advantage to catching more fish."

Both professional and recreational fishermen are opting for these lighter reels, in great part because of their increased sensitivity to the subtle bite of their prey.

It's a trend that Gary Morgal, global marketing director for Pure Fishing and head of its reel development team for Abu Garcia, sees at the six reel makers under his company's umbrella as well as their competitors.

"That's what the consumers are asking for and that's what we have to deliver," Morgal said.

And, it's the availability of new materials, advanced gearing and more precise computer-assisted machining that allows them to deliver.

Bryan Yamane is an assistant

product manager for Daiwa, the maker of the new Steez line, which



DAIWA STEEZ

offers a 5.5-ounce baitcasting reel made partly from magnesium.

Yamane says it is the computer-assisted machining allows manufacturers to shave excess weight without losing the integrity and strength of the reel.

That's important because although customers want more compact and lighter equipment, they won't sacrifice durability.

Whereas the old round reel

weighed 11 to 12 ounces and generated 10 to 12 pounds of drag power, what is happening now is that these reels are half the weight and twice as powerful, Morgal said.

Keeping an eye on the aircraft and auto industries has enabled reel manufacturers to make great strides.

"The aircraft industry is quantum leaps ahead of the fishing industry. If we follow them and use their technology to advance our technology, we can deliver the same benefits to our anglers today that the aircraft industry and the automobile industry are delivering to their customers," Morgal said.

As well as introducing new products as the technology emerges, the reel companies also continuously tweak current lines.

In April, Abu Garcia will introduce a new generation Revo Premier reel.

"It will be a touch lighter, but

more powerful," Morgal said of its popular model that — like many of the company's reels — utilizes the aluminum alloy X-craftic.

"And, we're on the verge of the next quantum leap," said Morgal, saying only that they've identified a new lightweight component that is in the testing cycle. If this product performs as the company expects it to, they'll introduce it



SHIMANO CURADO

perhaps in 2010.

But, while anglers may appreciate the high-tech leaps that allow

See REELS, Page 29

Controlled Burns

Plano angler makes Classic, keeps perspective

By KYLE CARTER

It's not like Mike Burns is new to fishing bass tournaments.

He's been fishing them for almost two decades, and some of them have been big events. Burns and his older brother, Rob, have won at least four boats since 1990.

But when Burns, 39, qualified for the Bassmaster Classic last week, his fishing career moved to a whole new level.

He finished at the top of the BASS Central Open standings after finishing high in all of the series' three tournaments. Burns finished 20th on the Red River in April, fifth on Kentucky Lake in September, and third on Lake Texoma last weekend.

"I fished all the Opens this year to try and get into the Classic, but I knew it was kind of a long shot," said Burns, who works as a finance manager in Plano. "I can't believe I made it in."

While he said his wife and two young children are excited for him, he really gets to rub it in to his brother. Rob Burns also fished the Central Open events this season, but skipped the Kentucky Lake event to try and qualify for the Stren Series Championship on Table Rock Lake, which he did.

Mike Burns said his brother helped him out at Texoma, leaving the best spots for the guy who had the most on the line. But that hasn't kept Burns from lording it over the fishing family — just a little.

"Rob actually generally catches them better than I do, but I'm the one in the Classic," Burns said. "I think my father's actually the most excited out of anyone, including me."

Both of the Burns brothers grew up fishing the weekends with their father and grandfather, but none of them thought they would get to this point. His grandfather passed away in the spring at 90 years old,

but Burns is living a dream for the rest of the fishing family.

Is it too far-fetched to think that dream has a chance to finish with a Classic victory? Right behind Burns in the Central Open standings was BASS legend Rick Clunn, who has won a record four Bassmaster Classics. Three of the four anglers behind Clunn in the standings fished the Elite Series this year.

Burns said beating anglers who fish for a living, especially Clunn, has boosted his confidence, but he attributed a lot of his success to the type of fishing the three Central Open locations offered. He likes to move fast and likes to stay shallow, using topwater, spinnerbaits and crankbaits.

"They tour was really set up in my favor," Burns said. "We didn't go to any deep, clear lakes."

His position in the Open events and invitation to Classic also came with an invitation to fish the Elite Series, but Burns said the only way that would happen is if he were to win the Classic.

"It's just too much money and I can't afford to quit my job," Burns said. The Elite Series costs \$55,000 in entry fees to fish the 11 events.

"I don't want fishing to be my job. I want fishing to be fun."

The Classic in February is going to put Burns back on the Red River, a place where he's had moderate success. In two tournaments on the river, he's finished 80th and 20th. But he said both times he was on the fish to win, but there was just too much boat pressure.

He also likes the fact that he'll be a relative unknown entering the tournament, shielding him from what he called the "media circus."

"I've fished against a lot of these guys in the Opens, so I don't think I'll be star struck or anything," Burns said. "And a lot of these guys are fishing for a living. I'm fishing as a hobby, and I think that takes a lot of the pressure off."



TO THE SHOW: Mike Burns, a finance manager from Plano, qualified for the Bassmaster Classic by finishing at the top of the Central Open standings. Photo by Larry Towell.

Lake drained, but fish remain

Fishermen take advantage of lake's low water

By THOMAS PHILLIPS

Doug Hill struggled in the mud still several feet from Ingram Lake. He slipped and squished his way back from the water's edge, rod in hand, after retrieving a cast.

No bait remained on his hook, but no catfish hung from it either.

Hill, 18, from Hunt, was fishing with a friend at what is left of the 20-acre Hill Country lake in Kerr County. County workers pulled the plug on the dam Oct. 15 and released much of its water down the Guadalupe River.

The draining allows the county

to examine and repair voids in the decades-old earthen dam, and it allows property owners to remove silt along retaining walls and otherwise clean real estate that is usually under water.

Hill's friend, Rory Sullivan, 18, of Houston, a fellow student at Schreiner University in nearby Kerrville, cast worms and artificial bait alongside Hill.

Water remained in large pools above the dam, connected by the flowing Guadalupe.

Together they caught channel catfish and four black bass, two approaching 4 pounds.

"It's pretty interesting," Sullivan said.

Upstream, another group of anglers fished narrow, running water, where Hill said more bass had congregated.

"It's also fun for muddin'," said Hill, whose grandfather helped build the dam.

Draining the lake likely will not harm or aid its fisheries in the long term, said Randy Myers, district fisheries biologist in San Antonio for the Texas Parks and Wildlife.

"The fish that were impounded by that dam, they can move upstream or down," Myers said. "I expect it shouldn't have much impact on the fisheries above or below the lake."

See LAKE, Page 29



MUDDING FOR FISH: After Ingram Lake in Kerrville was drained for repairs to the dam, fishermen found ways to get to the water's edge. Photo by Thomas Phillips.

Curtis wins Stren Series Championship

David Curtis of Trinity caught a final-round total of 10 bass weighing 35 pounds, 10 ounces to win \$140,000 in the Stren Series Championship on Table Rock Lake. Curtis also earned the championship's Ranger Cup powered by Yamaha bonus of \$15,000 for a total of \$155,000. Curtis topped his closest rival, Greg Bohannon of Rogers, Ark., by 5 pounds, 4 ounces to earn the win and qualify for next year's Forrest Wood Cup in Pittsburgh, Pa.



SHINING AT STREN: David Curtis of Trinity topped the Stren Series, qualifying for the Forrest Wood Cup. Photo by FLW.

"It was an absolutely phenomenal day," Curtis said. "I caught more fish today than I caught all week long. I had two keys spots that produced the majority of my fish, and today I got lined up on it just right and hammered them."

Curtis caught his bass on three key baits: a Carolina-rigged Brush Hog, a 3/4-ounce Bass X jig and a Norman DD22. He was fishing the White River on main river breaks.

As the highest finishers from their respective Stren Series divisions, Bohannon (Central

Division), Curtis (Texas Division) will join Michael Iaconelli of Runnemede, N.J., (Northern Division), Cody Meyer of Redding, Calif., (Western Division), and Ott Defoe of Knoxville, Tenn., (Southeast Division), in the \$2 million Forrest Wood Cup.

—FLW Outdoors report.

Schmidt wins Federation Nation title

Bryan Schmidt of Olney won the 2008 BASS Federation Nation Championship with a two-day total of 9 pounds, 12 ounces to outlast a field of 55 amateur anglers and earning a berth in the 2009 Bassmaster Classic.

"It's a dream come true for me," Schmidt said. "When I joined the Federation it was something I enjoyed doing, but I never thought something like this would happen, especially being from Texas."

Schmidt won a boat motor package and an invitation to the 2009 Bassmaster Elite Series. Schmidt was one of six anglers to be awarded a Classic berth.

The Championship was shortened to a two-day event because of weather conditions.

On day two, Schmidt, a planner for Air Tractor Inc., weighed in two bass totaling 7 pounds, 14 ounces to catapult him to the title over Scott Parker of Londonderry, N.H., who finished with 6 pounds, 10 ounces. Schmidt



TOP AMATEUR: Bryan Schmidt of Olney qualified for the Bassmaster Classic with his BASS Federation Nation win. Photo by BASS.

relied upon a white or chartreuse Lucky Craft Titanium Terminator spinnerbait even after the water temperature dropped five degrees.

"I noticed the water temperature dropped so I was fishing slow," Schmidt said.

—BASS Communications report.

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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

MEN FISHING IN RESTRICTED AREA LAND CITATIONS

• Denison police officers contacted two men fishing inside the restricted area at the water intake of Randell Lake and called Grayson County Game Warden Dale Moses. When Moses arrived, he found that the two men were in a boat with an expired Louisiana registration, no PFDs, no fishing licenses, 12 sand bass, 4 undersized black bass and 3 undersized crappie. Citations were issued for the undersized fish, no fishing license, and no PFDs and a warning given on the registration. Cases pending.

MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS FOR TAKING DEER OUT OF SEASON

• Tarrant County Game Warden Chelle Mount received a complaint from a Parker County landowner about an individual taking a deer with a rifle. It was determined that a man from Oklahoma was hunting on his uncle's acreage. He was hunting without a license, archery stamp or hunter education and shot the deer with a rifle during archery season. Cases pending.

INTOXICATED MAN FALLS OUT OF CAR, ARRESTED

• Near Falcon Lake, Zapata County Game Wardens Jake Cawthon and Roy Martinez noticed a vehicle with an expired registration sticker and a defective tail lamp and decided to make a traffic stop. The driver showed signs of intoxication and had his three children with him in the car. When asked to step out of the vehicle, the driver fell and had to use the car for support. The driver admitted to drinking before leaving the

house but would not consent to any breath tests. The driver was placed under arrest and the children were released to their grandparents. Charges pending.

HEIFER MISTAKEN FOR HOG

• Kleberg County Game Warden Jason McFall while checking a hunting camp came upon five individuals in the field. The men had a freshly cut-up bull heifer calf in several ice chests. The landowner was called to the scene and was furious. One of the men finally came forth and took credit for shooting the prize heifer, saying he shot thinking it was a large hog, and did not know what else to do. The investigation and statements are still pending.

MAN THOUGHT DEER WAS NILGAI

• A man shot a white-tailed deer out of season in Kenedy County. The man and his friend told Game Wardens Jason Duke and Matt Strauss they thought the whitetail doe was a young nilgai. They then tried to hide the deer, but it was located by the wardens.

MAN SHOOTS BUCK OUT OF OFFICE WINDOW

• San Jacinto County Game Warden Aryn Corley received a call from a landowner regarding a

THINK BEFORE YOU TEXT

• Franklin County Game Warden Doyle Brown received a text message showing a picture of a trophy buck that someone had killed on Oct. 4. Brown noticed the deer did not have a visible

tag on it. The man who killed the deer did have a hunting license and archery stamp but did not purchase it until after lunch on Oct. 4. Brown located the man, who admitted to shooting the

deer in the morning and then going to buy his license. The deer had 13-points and scored 149 1/8. Citations issued for no hunting license and no archery stamp. Restitution pending.

neighbor who had shot a deer and was in process of cleaning it at his house. When Corley arrived at the location, the man had the eight-point buck deer hanging in his tree and confessed to shooting the deer out of his back office window. "I just couldn't help myself," was his only explanation. Charges of hunting during closed season, untagged deer, and civil restitution are pending.

CORN SPREAD OVER DRIED TANK EQUALS BAITING

• Terrell County Game Warden Kenneth Stannard checked a camp while two men were in the field dove hunting and noticed empty corn bags and an unusually large number of dove in the area on the power lines. Stannard watched the group for about an hour and made contact with them 30 minutes after sunset while they were still hunting. Stannard found hunters hunting over a dried tank with numerous bags of corn spread out over the tank. Citations were issued for hunting over a baited area and after legal hunting hours.

.22 USED TO BAG CANADA GOOSE OUT OF SEASON

• Orange County Game Warden Clint Caywood received a call

from a local landowner saying he witnessed a man fire multiple rounds with his .22 rifle at a group of 30 Canada geese that frequent a large pond behind the caller and shooter's home, killing one and taking it home. The neighbor admitted to the act and was filed on for hunting during a closed season and illegal means and methods. Cases pending.

ILLEGAL GIGGER CITED

• Aransas County Game Warden Danny Flores checked a boat and found a gigger redfish on the boat. The operator did not have a rod and reel or any other device to take fish other than the gig. Case pending.

SCHOOL PRANK BAD IDEA

• Two high school students shot hogs off of a public road and took them back to block the entrance to the school parking lot. The next day, Wichita County Game Warden Pat Canan issued them citations for waste of game. In addition, they will receive disciplinary action from the school. Cases pending.

KIDS SAY THE DARDEST THINGS

• Working on a tip, Lampasas County Warden Jim Lindeman checked a local locker plant and noticed an entry on the cold storage record book with a name but

no license number recorded. The processor had a courtesy cooler for hunters to fill out their own invoice and leave the animal. A man filled out some of the requirements and took the head and tag. Lindeman went to the man's residence. The wife and three kids came out, and he asked the kids who shot the deer. All three said at the same time, "Daddy shot it." The deer was tagged with the 3-year-old's tag. One of the kids said they saw their dad run into the woods behind the barn. Mom, kids and Lindeman were looking for the man with the kids hollering, "Dad, come on out, you're busted." One child asked Lindeman, "Do you want the horns? I saw dad put them behind a tree earlier." He retrieved the antlers for the warden. Lindeman went to the grandfather's home next door, who said he told his son-in-law he could not hunt on the property and wanted to file charges. Also, the deer was shot at night. Cases pending.

MAN HOPES COOKBOOK GIVES HOG-SKINNING INSTRUCTIONS

• Steve Stapleton, Van Zandt County game warden, was contacted about a man who had shot a hog from the road across from a marina at Lake Tawakoni. Stapleton was given a vehicle description of a small red truck with a white refrigerator in the back. Stapleton found a small red truck with a black refrigerator at a local residence. The owner was in the front yard with a freshly killed hog, holding a skinning knife and reading a cookbook entitled "Everyday Pork." Multiple cases filed.

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- Beneficial mineral attractant
- Time-release concentrate
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- Offers tremendous nutritional supplementation
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14⁷⁹

SHAKESPEARE LADYFISH SPINCAST COMBO

- Synergy 10 spincast reel
- 5-ft., 6-in. two-piece medium-action rod
- #LADYSCCBO



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- 5.1:1 gear ratio
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HEROES



Chad Potts of Fort Worth took this 13-point buck in Archer County.



Colby Brook, 10, of Lorena, caught a red drum weighing 13.6 pounds at Lake Fairfield, a pending junior catch and release record.



Colton Ramsey, 9, of Lindale, shot his first hog in Smith County with his father, David Ramsey.



Alex Spoonemore took this buck during archery season in Seminole County, Okla.

SHARE AN ADVENTURE

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



Denise and Allen Carter of Tyler hold this 50-pound dolphin she caught 55 miles out of Port O'Connor fishing on the "Bidnez" in October.



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FISHING REPORT

HOT BITES

LARGEMOUTH BASS



ATHENS: Black bass are good on spinnerbaits, chrome Rat-L-Traps and Texas rigs.

CHOKO CANYON: Black bass are good on watermelon red and tequila sunrise soft plastics in 15-25 feet.

WALTER E. LONG: Black bass are good on minnows and dark soft plastic worms near the dam at night.

WHITE/HYBRID/STRIPER



BUCHANAN: Striped bass are good on Spoiler Shad plastic swim baits, Red Fins, and drifting live bait along the river channel in 30 feet.

GRANBURY: Striped bass are good on live minnows and green striper jigs.

POSSUM KINGDOM: White bass are excellent on spoons, Little Georges, and Silver Rat-L-Traps while schooling along points in mid-lake coves. Stripers are good on live shad below the dam.

RAY ROBERTS: White bass are excellent on jigging spoons.

CATFISH



BRAUNIG: Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cut bait, and cheesebait near the dam and the intake.

FALCON: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on cut bait and stinkbait up the river.

LIVINGSTON: Blue catfish are good on shad.

WHITNEY: Catfish are good on shrimp, stinkbait, and nightcrawlers.

CRAPPIE



BOB SANDLIN: Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around the Hwy 21 bridge columns.

CONROE: Crappie are good on minnows.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Crappie are very good on live minnows near the dam in 35 feet.

SOMERVILLE: Crappie are very good on minnows and green/black jigs.

BREAM



TOLEDO BEND: Bream are good on nightcrawlers.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 64 degrees; 0.21' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored spinnerbaits and crankbaits, and black blue jigs.

AMISTAD: Water clear to stained; 74 degrees; 0.57' high. Black bass are fair on topwaters, spinnerbaits, crankbaits, Senkos, and super flukes. Striped bass are good on Rat-L-Traps and slabs. White bass are good on Rat-L-Traps and slabs.

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 65 degrees; 5.40' low. Crappie are very good on jigs fished deep off the derricks.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 64 degrees; 0.21' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored spinnerbaits and crankbaits, and black blue jigs.

AMISTAD: Water clear to stained; 74 degrees; 0.57' high. Black bass are fair on topwaters, spinnerbaits, crankbaits, Senkos, and super flukes. Striped bass are good on Rat-L-Traps and slabs. White bass are good on Rat-L-Traps and slabs.

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 65 degrees; 5.40' low. Crappie are very good on jigs fished deep off the derricks.

ATHENS: Water lightly stained, 63-69 degrees; 0.78' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs fished over brush piles. Catfish are good on cut and prepared bait.

BASTROP: Water stained. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on live minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs, nightcrawlers, and stinkbait.

BELTON: Water clear; 74 degrees; 1.54' low. Hybrid stripers are good on live shad. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs.

BOB SANDLIN: Water fairly clear; 64-69 degrees; 0.36' low. Black bass are good on clear topwaters early, midday switching to wacky rigs, Rat-L-Traps and Texas rigs. White bass are good on slabs and Rooster Tails.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; 76 degrees. Striped bass are good on liver and shad near the pier and at Dead Tree Point, and on silver and gold spoons and marble spinnerbaits near the jetty and dam.

BRIDGEPORT: Water fairly clear; 63-69 degrees; 6.53' low. Black bass are good on chrome Rat-L-Traps, Texas rigs and medium diving crankbaits. White bass are good on slabs and live bait.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 75 degrees; 14.09' low. Black bass are good on Bleeding Shad Rat-L-Traps, white buzzbaits and spinnerbaits, and shad flukes from Paradise Point to Applehead and in larger creeks.

CADDO: Water off-color; 64-69 degrees; 0.32' high. White bass are good on minnows and Rooster Tails. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers.

CALVERAS: Water stained; 76 degrees. Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheesebait, and shad near the railroad bridge and 181 Cove.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear; 75 degrees; 9.87' low. Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits, Fat Free Shads, and Texas rigged watermelon green Whacky Sticks in standing timber and along brush piles. Crappie are good on minnows and crappie jigs upriver.

CEDAR CREEK: Water lightly stained; 63-69 degrees; 2.39' low. White bass are good on slabs. Hybrid stripers are fair to good on large slabs jigged vertically. Crappie are good over brush piles.

CHOKO CANYON: Water lightly stained; 75 degrees; 4.53' low. Crappie are good on minnows and blue tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on nightcrawlers and stinkbait.

CONROE: Water murky; 1.51' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and watermelon green soft plastics, spinnerbaits, and crankbaits in 10-20 feet. Striped bass are good on live minnows and chartreuse stripers jigs.

COOPER: Water lightly stained; 62-68 degrees; 4.51' low. Black bass are good on Lake Fork Frogs and Zara Spooks, later switching to wacky and drop shot rigs. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows over brush piles. White bass are good on slabs.

FALCON: Water stained; 76 degrees. Black bass are fair on watermelon spinnerbaits and Brush Hogs in 5-12 feet.

FAYETTE: Water clear; 76 degrees. Black bass are good on watermelon gold, plum, and redbug Carolina rigged Finesse worms, and on topwaters and shallow running crankbaits over grass.

FORK: Water lightly stained; 64-69 degrees; 0.76' low. Black bass are fair to good shallow and deep — crankbaits shallow and Carolina rigs deep. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and prepared baits.

GRANBURY: Water clear; 2.36' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and watermelon green soft plastic worms and lizards. Catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp, and live minnows.

GRAPEVINE: Water off-color; 63-68 degrees; 6.44' low. White bass are good on slabs.

GREENBELT: Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 26.12' low. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live baits and small crankbaits.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear; 75 degrees; 0.35' high. Bream are good on live worms off piers and near grass beds. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with shad.

JOE POOL: Water off-color; 64-68 degrees; 2.43' low. Black bass are good on Texas rigs, Rat-L-Traps and shaky head jigs with a finesse soft plastic. White bass are good on slabs.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 64-69 degrees; 0.08' low. Crappie are good on minnows over brush piles. Catfish are good on night-crawlers and cut shad.

LAVON: Water stained; 63-69 degrees; 4.76' low. White bass are good on slabs and Rooster Tails. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles.

LEWISVILLE: Water-off color; 63-68 degrees; 4.12' low. White bass and hybrid stripers are fair to good on slabs, live shad and Humdingers. Catfish are good drifting cut shad.

LIVINGSTON: Water fairly clear; 76 degrees; 0.18' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass are good but small on crankbaits, pet spoons, and hellbenders. Crappie are good on minnows.

MACKENZIE: Water lightly stained; 56 degrees; 75.01' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

MONTICELLO: Water fairly clear; 78-90 degrees; 0.9' low. Black bass are good on wacky rigs, Rat-L-Traps and shallow running orange/brown crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 66 degrees; 11.81' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live baits and chrome crankbaits.

PALESTINE: Water lightly stained; 63-68 degrees; 0.56' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are good on cut shad and prepared bait.

HOT SPOT



LBJ

Water stained; 74 degrees; 0.25' low. Black bass are very good on Bleeding Shad Rat-L-Traps and plastic swimbaits along seawalls among schooling shad, and on buzzbaits and weightless watermelon red Whacky Sticks along laydowns and stumps on creek points. Striped bass are good on Spoiler Shads and Li'l Fishies at night. White bass are very good on Li'l Fishies at night. Crappie are good on crappie jigs and live minnows over brush piles in clear water. Channel catfish are fair to good on minnows and worms. Yellow and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait.

are good on cut and prepared bait.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water off-color; 64-69 degrees; 3.35' low. Black bass are good on crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps and lizards. Catfish are good on cut bait, prepared bait and nightcrawlers.

SAM RAYBURN: Water lightly stained; 75 degrees; 7.38' low. Black bass are good on topwaters and pumpkinseed soft plastic worms in 20-30 feet. White bass are good on silver spoons. Catfish are good on stinkbait and minnows.

SOMERVILLE: Water fairly clear; 2.54' low. Channel and blue catfish are very good on stinkbait, liver, and cheesebait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear; 73 degrees; 3.52' low. Black bass are very good on watermelon green, watermelon red, and green pumpkin soft plastic worms. Crappie are excellent on minnows early and late.

TAWAKONI: Water lightly stained; 64-69 degrees; 3.66' low. Catfish are good on cut and prepared bait.

TEXOMA: Water off-color; 63-68 degrees; 2.08' low. Striped bass are good on live shad. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers, prepared bait and cut shad.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear; 75 degrees; 4.42' low. Black bass are good on pumpkin green and watermelon soft plastic worms in 20 feet. Striped bass are good on spoons. White bass are good on spoons.

TRAVIS: Water clear; 73 degrees; 23.94' low. Black bass are good on bone topwaters and green pumpkin worms in 5-25 feet.

WALTER E. LONG: Water clear; 75 degrees. Hybrid stripers are good on minnows at night. White bass are good on cut shad and minnows near the power plant. Crappie are good on red wigglers. Channel and blue catfish are very good on shad and cut bait at the gravel pit.

WEATHERFORD: Water lightly stained; 64-69 degrees; 5.2' low. White bass are good on slabs.

WHITNEY: Water clear; 8.36' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red spinnerbaits and crankbaits, and on watermelon red topwaters early and late. White bass are good on minnows, pet spoons, and hellbenders. Crappie are good on minnows.

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Redfish have been taken in the marsh on small topwaters. Trout are fair to good under the birds in the middle of the lake.

SOUTH SABINE: Bull redfish are good at the jetty on crabs and shrimp. Flounder are fair to good around the cuts and bayous leading to the lake.

BOLIVAR: Trout are fair to good under birds on the north shoreline. Redfish are good at Rollover Pass.

TRINITY BAY: Redfish are fair to good around the spillway on natural baits. Trout are fair to good while drifting shell and birds on plastics.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are fair to good while drifting shell in 4-6 feet of water on soft plastics. Birds have worked on the north shoreline.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Bull redfish and sharks have been taken at the jetty on a variety of natural baits. Trout are good under birds on plastics.

TEXAS CITY: Access to the dike by vehicle is not permissible. Officials say it may be another two weeks before traffic is allowed on the dike.

FREPORT: Bull redfish are good at the jetty on shrimp and crabs. Redfish have been taken against the grass in Christmas Bay on live shrimp. Trout are good over shell on plastics.

EAST MATAGORDA: Trout are good while wading the mud on Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels. Redfish are good on the west shoreline on live shrimp.

MATAGORDA: Trout are fair to good while drifting near Shell Island on live shrimp and Gulps. Redfish are good at the mouth of Oyster Lake on a falling tide on live shrimp.

PORT O'CONNOR: Bull redfish are good at the jetty on crabs, finger mullet and live shrimp. Trout are good over shell and mud on Corkies and topwaters.

ROCKPORT: Trout are fair to good over shell and mud for waders working topwaters and soft plastics. Redfish are good near Cedar Bayou on Gulps and finger mullet.

PORT ARANSAS: Bull redfish are good in the surf on crabs, finger mullet, cut-bait and fresh table shrimp. Trout are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on DOA Shrimp and Gulps.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Trout are fair to good on Gulps around the spoil islands. Trout are fair on the reefs in Nueces Bay on live bait. Trout are fair on the reefs in Nueces Bay on live bait.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout are good on topwaters around the rocks and on sand and grass. Good catches of trout have been taken under lights at night in the Land Cut on live shrimp and glow plastics.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout are good on Gulps along the edge of the Intracoastal. Redfish are good around East Cut on mullet and other natural baits. Redfish are good for sight-casters tossing to schools of fish roaming the flats.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal. Snook are good in South Bay and around the jetties on live shrimp and DOA Shrimp.

PORT ISABEL: Redfish are schooling on the flats. Trout are good in 2-3 feet of water on Gulps and DOA Shrimp around Laguna Vista. Redfish are good around the spoils on live bait.

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OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

Nov. 18: The Sam Houston State DU dinner will be held at the Expo Center. For information, call Natalie at (936) 661-1075.

Nov. 20: The Rio Grande Valley DU dinner will be held at the Pharr Convention Center. Call Brian at (956) 369-1812 for information.

Nov. 20: The Lake Fork Delta Waterfowl dinner will be held at AJ's Fish House. For information, call Ed at (214) 478-2301.



Nov. 20: The Sweetwater DU dinner will be held at the Elks Lodge. Call Jackie at (325) 338-4681 for information.

Nov. 20: The Dallas Safari Club monthly meeting will be held at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel, featuring Cam Greig. Contact Debi at (469) 484-6776 or debi@biggame.org for information.

Nov. 20: The Brenham DU dinner will be held. For location and information, call Michael at (979) 836-2022.

Nov. 22-23: Fly-casting lessons will take place at Lone Star Lake at the Fort Worth Cabela's store. Visit cabelas.com for details.



Nov. 22: The Bear Chapter DU dinner will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Waco. Call Collin at (903) 360-4306

for information.

Nov. 25: The Austin DU dinner will be held at the Doubletree Hotel. For information, contact Mike at (512) 762-2644.

Nov. 27: Bass Pro Shops will hold its Great Turkey Campout beginning at 5 p.m. Visit basspro.com for details.



Dec. 2: The Lufkin DU dinner will be held at the Lufkin Civic Center. For information, call Shane at (936) 639-8182.

Dec. 2: The Tarleton State Waterfowl

Hunters Party will be held at Grumps Burgers in Stephenville. Call Jeremy at (817) 219-0237 for information.

Dec. 4-7: The Challenged Outdoorsmen Deer Hunt will be held at Lake Wright Patman. For information, contact Inez at (903) 671-2437 or sectco@aol.com.

Dec. 4: The Amarillo DU dinner will be held at the Khiva Shrine Temple. Call Stan at (806) 670-1229 for information.

Dec. 4: The Dallas Safari Club DSC 100 Meeting will be held at the Dallas Orvis store. For information, contact Jaimie at (469) 484-6777 or jaimie@biggame.org.



Dec. 6-7: Visit Santa at the Fort Worth Cabela's store Texas Big Game Museum. Visit cabelas.com for details.

Dec. 6: The Caddo Lake DU dinner will be held at the Caddo Lake State Park Recreation Hall. Call Mike at (903) 930-0092 for information.



Dec. 11: The Dallas Safari Club Holiday Party will be held. Contact Debi at (469) 484-6776 or debi@biggame.org for information.

HAVE AN EVENT?

E-mail it to editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com

Impact

Continued from Page 1

public lands.

"Our sense is not one of gloom and doom," said Tony Dolle, DU's director of communications. "Our country has elected a new president and we intend to work with him — it would be the same if Senator (John) McCain had been elected — to further the goals of Ducks Unlimited."

One large outdoors-related group, though, shows no signs of trying to reach an accord with the soon-to-be president.

The National Rifle Association spent \$15 million during the campaign painting Obama as a threat to the Second Amendment. NRA president Wayne LaPierre went so far as to say the organization had never seen a presidential candidate "with such a deep-rooted hatred of firearm freedoms."

Obama's campaign fought back, stating Obama "will protect the rights of hunters and other law-abiding Americans to purchase, own, transport and use guns."

But the President-elect's new Web site raised more questions than it answered when it comes to gun ownership.

It stated: "As president, Barack Obama would repeal the Tiahrt Amendment, which restricts the ability of local law enforcement to access important gun trace information, and give police officers across the nation the tools they need to solve gun crimes and fight the illegal arms trade. Obama and Biden also favor commonsense measures that respect the Second Amendment rights of gun owners, while keeping guns away from children and from criminals who shouldn't have them. They support closing the gun show loophole and making guns in this country childproof. They also sup-

port making the expired federal Assault Weapons Ban permanent, as such weapons belong on foreign battlefields and not on our streets."

The above listing, under the agenda portion of the Web site, was removed shortly after the Web

"... we intend to work with him — it would be the same if Senator McCain had been elected..."

— Tony Dolle

site was formed.

"One of the things we're hopeful about is that he'll bring some public land management issues back into balance," said Chris Wood,

CEO of Trout Unlimited. "We want to make sure that hunting and fishing opportunities are treated on a par with energy development. We've felt for some time that energy development has become the dominant use of public lands — to the point that it's even compromised hunting and fishing uses."

Several members of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission felt so strongly about what an Obama presidency could mean to outdoorsmen they formed the Montana Sportsmen for Obama Committee.

One of Commissioner Dan Vermillion's concerns is the effect of global warming on the environment.

"I'm not a scientist, but I've seen changes," he said. "They're happening and they're happening quickly. From what I've seen and read, there's a real concern the great trout rivers of the West are roiling over, forcing trout to move

farther up to the headwaters. They need cooler water. The rivers could become a small bass factory. I've got nothing against small bass, but when I fish the Yellowstone River, I want to catch trout."

Ducks Unlimited, too, is concerned about climate change. It's presented position papers to Obama's transition team on the issue as well as ones on reversing the loss of coastal wetlands and cleaning up the nation's water system.

One thing is clear — groups will keep a watchful eye on the new administration. The National Shooting Sports Foundation's president, Steve Santetti, in response to the election, said the group "will continue to be there to oppose hostile, anti-gun legislation and regulations that would harm our members' businesses and that threaten the Second Amendment and our nation's hunting and shooting sports heritage."

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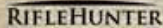
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Guy Eastman: Eastman's Hunting Journal



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WEATHER

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Moon Phases



Solunar Table

Houston		Dallas		San Antonio		Amarillo	
11/12	9:57a/3:42a	7:31p/1:21p	10:03a/3:48a	7:37p/1:27p	10:03a/3:48a	7:37p/1:27p	10:03a/3:48a
11/13	10:26p/4:11p	7:48a/1:37a	10:32p/4:17p	7:54a/1:43a	10:56a/4:01a	8:09p/1:58p	11:02a/4:06a
11/14	10:56a/4:41a	8:09p/1:58p	11:02a/4:06a	8:15p/2:04p	11:15	11:27p/5:11p	8:26a/2:15a
11/15	11:27p/5:11p	8:26a/2:15a	11:33p/5:17p	8:32a/2:21a	11/16	12:01p/5:45a	8:48p/2:37p
11/16	12:01p/5:45a	8:48p/2:37p	12:07p/5:51a	8:54p/2:43p	11/17	---6:18p	9:06a/2:54a
11/17	---6:18p	9:06a/2:54a	---6:24p	9:12a/3:00a	11/18	12:39a/6:55a	9:29p/3:18p
11/18	12:39a/6:55a	9:29p/3:18p	12:45a/7:01a	9:35p/3:24p	11/19	1:12p/7:28p	9:50a/3:38a
11/19	1:12p/7:28p	9:50a/3:38a	1:18p/7:34p	9:56a/3:44a	11/20	1:51a/8:07a	10:14p/4:02p
11/20	1:51a/8:07a	10:14p/4:02p	1:57a/8:13a	10:20p/4:08p	11/21	2:22p/8:38p	10:37a/4:25a
11/21	2:22p/8:38p	10:37a/4:25a	2:28p/8:44p	10:43a/4:31a	11/22	3:00a/9:15a	11:02p/4:50p
11/22	3:00a/9:15a	11:02p/4:50p	3:06a/9:21a	3:00a/4:56p	11/23	3:30p/9:45p	11:28a/5:16a
11/23	3:30p/9:45p	11:28a/5:16a	3:36p/9:51p	3:30p/5:22a	11/24	4:04a/10:18a	11:54a/5:41p
11/24	4:04a/10:18a	11:54a/5:41p	4:10a/10:24a	4:04a/5:47p	11/25	4:31p/10:45p	11:52a/6:09a
11/25	4:31p/10:45p	11:52a/6:09a	4:37p/10:51p	4:31p/6:15a	11/26	5:00a/11:13a	---6:34p
11/26	5:00a/11:13a	---6:34p	5:06a/11:19a	5:00a/6:40p	11/27	5:25p/11:37p	12:50a/7:03a
11/27	5:25p/11:37p	12:50a/7:03a	5:31p/11:43p	5:25p/7:09a	11/28	5:49a/12:00p	1:15p/7:28p
11/28	5:49a/12:00p	1:15p/7:28p	5:55a/12:06p	5:49a/7:34p	11/29	6:12p/---	1:45a/7:57a
11/29	6:12p/---	1:45a/7:57a	6:18p/---	6:12p/8:03a	11/30	6:31a/12:24p	2:09p/8:21p
11/30	6:31a/12:24p	2:09p/8:21p	6:37a/12:48p	6:31a/8:27p	12/1	6:53p/---	2:38a/8:50a
12/1	6:53p/---	2:38a/8:50a	6:59a/1:06p	6:53p/8:56a	12/2	7:01a/1:00a	3:01p/9:13p
12/2	7:01a/1:00a	3:01p/9:13p	7:16a/1:06p	7:10a/9:19p			

Sun and Moon

Sunrise/set		Houston		Dallas		San Antonio		Amarillo	
11/12	6:44a/5:27p	6:56a/5:28p	6:56a/5:40p	7:19a/5:43p	11/13	6:45a/5:26p	6:57a/5:28p	6:57a/5:39p	7:20a/5:42p
11/14	6:46a/5:26p	6:58a/5:27p	6:57a/5:39p	7:21a/5:41p	11/15	6:47a/5:25p	6:59a/5:26p	6:58a/5:38p	7:22a/5:41p
11/16	6:47a/5:25p	7:00a/5:26p	6:59a/5:38p	7:23a/5:40p	11/17	6:48a/5:24p	7:01a/5:25p	7:00a/5:38p	7:24a/5:39p
11/18	6:49a/5:24p	7:01a/5:25p	7:01a/5:37p	7:25a/5:39p	11/19	6:50a/5:24p	7:02a/5:24p	7:02a/5:37p	7:26a/5:38p
11/20	6:51a/5:23p	7:03a/5:24p	7:02a/5:36p	7:27a/5:38p	11/21	6:52a/5:23p	7:04a/5:24p	7:03a/5:36p	7:28a/5:37p
11/22	6:52a/5:23p	7:05a/5:23p	7:04a/5:36p	7:29a/5:37p	11/23	6:53a/5:22p	7:06a/5:23p	7:05a/5:36p	7:30a/5:37p
11/24	6:54a/5:22p	7:07a/5:23p	7:06a/5:35p	7:31a/5:36p	11/25	6:55a/5:22p	7:08a/5:22p	7:07a/5:35p	7:32a/5:36p
11/26	6:56a/5:22p	7:09a/5:22p	7:07a/5:35p	7:33a/5:36p	11/27	6:57a/5:22p	7:10a/5:22p	7:08a/5:35p	7:34a/5:35p
11/28	6:57a/5:21p	7:10a/5:22p	7:09a/5:35p	7:34a/5:35p	11/29	6:58a/5:21p	7:11a/5:22p	7:10a/5:35p	7:35a/5:35p
11/30	6:59a/5:21p	7:12a/5:21p	7:11a/5:35p	7:36a/5:35p	12/1	7:00a/5:21p	7:13a/5:21p	7:11a/5:35p	7:37a/5:35p
12/2	7:01a/5:21p	7:14a/5:21p	7:12a/5:35p	7:38a/5:34p					

Moonrise/set		Houston		Dallas		San Antonio		Amarillo	
11/12	4:49p/6:01a	4:49p/6:14a	5:03p/6:14a	5:02p/6:39a	11/13	5:41p/7:14a	5:39p/7:29a	5:52p/7:55a	
11/14	6:41p/8:27a	6:39p/8:43a	6:55p/8:39a	6:51p/9:10a	11/15	7:49p/9:51a	7:47p/9:51a	8:03p/9:47a	
11/16	9:00p/10:35a	8:59p/10:51a	9:14p/10:47a	9:12p/11:17a	11/17	10:10p/11:26a	10:10p/11:39a	10:23p/11:38a	
11/19	11:16p/12:08p	11:19p/12:20p	11:30p/12:20p	11:35p/12:05p	11/21	none/12:44p	none/12:54p	none/1:16p	
11/20	12:39a/1:16p	12:24a/1:24p	12:32a/1:28p	12:41a/1:44p	11/22	1:19a/1:45p	1:25a/1:52p	1:32a/1:58p	
11/23	2:17a/2:44p	2:25a/2:49p	2:29a/2:27p	2:45a/2:37p	11/24	3:13a/2:44p	3:23a/2:47p	3:26a/2:57p	
11/25	4:10a/3:15p	4:22a/3:17p	4:23a/3:29p	4:45a/3:32p	11/26	5:08a/3:50p	5:20a/3:50p	5:20a/4:04p	
11/27	6:05a/4:28p	6:19a/4:28p	6:17a/4:42p	6:45a/4:40p	11/29	7:02a/5:12p	7:17a/5:10p	7:14a/5:26p	
12/1	8:47a/6:00p	8:12a/5:58p	8:08a/6:14p	8:39a/6:10p	12/2	10:51a/9:40p	11:04a/9:42p	11:03a/9:54p	

Tides

Sabine Pass		High		Low		Freepoint		High		Low		Corpus Christi		High		Low																																																																																																																																																																																																											
11/12	3:34 p.m.	8:01 a.m.	11:36 p.m.	9:31 p.m.	11/12	3:35 p.m.	7:31 a.m.	11:37 p.m.	9:01 p.m.	11/12	3:43 p.m.	7:09 a.m.	11:45 p.m.	8:39 p.m.	11/13	4:32 p.m.	8:44 a.m.	11:52 p.m.	10:13 p.m.	11/13	4:33 p.m.	8:14 a.m.	11:53 p.m.	9:43 p.m.	11/14	5:35 p.m.	9:02 a.m.	---	10:15 p.m.	11/14	5:35 p.m.	9:02 a.m.	---	10:15 p.m.	11/15	12:21 a.m.	10:24 a.m.	6:41 p.m.	11:14 p.m.	11/15	12:22 a.m.	9:54 a.m.	6:42 p.m.	10:44 p.m.	11/16	1:25 a.m.	10:51 a.m.	7:55 p.m.	11:29 p.m.	11/16	1:25 a.m.	10:51 a.m.	7:55 p.m.	11:29 p.m.	11/17	1:25 a.m.	11:53 a.m.	9:05 p.m.	---	11/17	1:25 a.m.	11:53 a.m.	9:05 p.m.	---	11/18	9:51 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	9:04 p.m.	---	11/18	9:52 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	9:05 p.m.	---	11/19	10:19 p.m.	2:46 p.m.	---	---	11/19	10:20 p.m.	2:16 p.m.	---	---	11/20	8:11 a.m.	5:42 a.m.	10:37 p.m.	4:08 p.m.	11/20	8:12 a.m.	5:12 a.m.	10:38 p.m.	3:38 p.m.	11/21	10:36 a.m.	6:04 a.m.	10:51 p.m.	5:32 p.m.	11/21	10:37 a.m.	5:34 a.m.	10:52 p.m.	5:02 p.m.	11/22	12:25 p.m.	6:33 a.m.	11:02 p.m.	6:50 p.m.	11/22	12:26 p.m.	6:03 a.m.	11:03 p.m.	6:20 p.m.	11/23	1:45 p.m.	7:02 a.m.	11:09 p.m.	8:01 p.m.	11/23	1:46 p.m.	6:32 a.m.	11:10 p.m.	7:31 p.m.	11/24	2:44 p.m.	7:29 a.m.	11:11 p.m.	9:08 p.m.	11/24	2:45 p.m.	6:59 a.m.	11:12 p.m.	8:38 p.m.	11/25	3:31 p.m.	7:55 a.m.	---	---	11/25	3:32 p.m.	7:25 a.m.	---	---	11/26	4:09 p.m.	8:21 a.m.	---	---	11/26	4:10 p.m.	7:51 a.m.	---	---	11/27	4:45 p.m.	8:49 a.m.	---	---	11/27	4:46 p.m.	8:19 a.m.	---	---	11/28	5:22 p.m.	9:19 a.m.	---	---	11/28	5:23 p.m.	8:49 a.m.	---	---	11/29	6:04 p.m.	9:53 a.m.	---	10:09 p.m.	11/29	6:05 p.m.	9:23 a.m.	---	9:39 p.m.	11/29	6:06 p.m.	9:23 a.m.	---	9:39 p.m.	11/30	12:04 a.m.	10:29 a.m.	10:23 p.m.	---	11/30	12:05 a.m.	9:59 a.m.	6:55 p.m.	9:53 p.m.	12/1	12:28 a.m.	11:06 a.m.	7:48 p.m.	11:01 p.m.	12/1	12:29 a.m.	10:36 a.m.	7:49 p.m.	10:31 p.m.	12/2	12:38 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	8:34 p.m.	---	12/2	12:38 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	8:34 p.m.	---

OUTDOOR PUZZLER

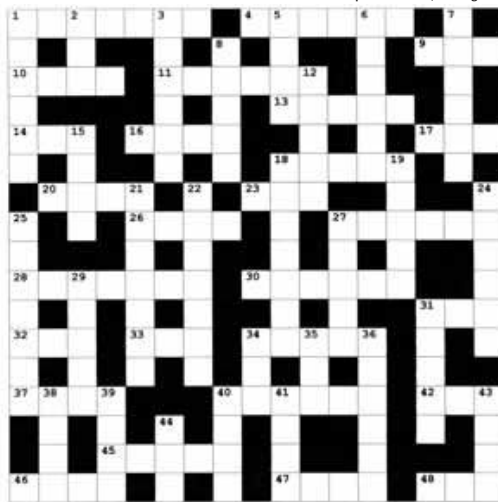
For crossword puzzle solution, see Page 22

ACROSS

- He seeks out game for the pets
- The sage is one
- A female elk
- Marsh grass perch for some game birds
- A breed of retriever
- Number of game or fish allowed
- A very large deer
- Describe a wild turkey's vision
- The cost of a license
- Species are bighorn and dall
- Term for a very large sturgeon
- A buck's mating period
- To analyze game tracks
- A breed of gundog
- To seek out game with arrows
- A species of bass
- Rings on stripper's tail reveal this
- The male turkey
- Large appendage on the muley
- The ermine is a _____ weasel
- A home to the outdoorsman
- Swimming mammals trapped for the fur
- A female bear
- A game bird
- Name for a Hawaiian goose
- A diving bird
- Failure of a firearm to function

DOWN

- The gobbler
- A deer's teeth will tell this
- Predators that pursue wild-turkeys
- It brings in a catch
- Fish action hitting a bait
- Part of a fishline



- The hunter's cover
- A buck's usual feeding time
- A name for the sea bass
- A popular fisherman's catch
- A wild turkey's calling sounds
- A saltwater fish
- A habit a game tends to follow
- Deer could be termed as this
- A favorite area for wildlife
- A lure used to attract game
- They are getting more into shooting sports
- A good bear scent lure
- A type of fly lure
- The rugged method of fishing
- A brand of bow
- A favorite habitat for quail
- A type of gunshot
- A good food bait for traps
- A species of duck
- Carp migrate in _____ waters
- Handy to have along in a kit

Outdoor Puzzler,
Wilbur "Wilb" Lundeen

WILD IN THE KITCHEN

Shrimp Ceviche

- Ingredients:
- 1 Pound cooked, peeled and deveined shrimp
 - 3 Lemons, juiced
 - 3 Limes, juiced
 - 1/2 Cup cucumber, peeled, seeded and diced into 1/4-inch pieces
 - 1/2 Cup red onion, finely chopped
 - 1 Serrano chile, seeded and finely chopped
 - 1 Cup seeded and diced tomatoes
 - 1 Avocado, peeled, seeded, and chopped into 1/2-inch pieces
 - 1/2 Bunch cilantro roughly chopped, plus leaves for garnish



Instructions:

Defrost and drain shrimp. Transfer to a bowl. Add lime and lemon juices. Stir in cucumber, red onion and Serrano chile. Refrigerate for 1 hour. Stir in tomato, avocado and chopped cilantro. Mix gently,

taste and season with salt. Allow to sit at room temperature for about 20 minutes before serving. To serve, spoon ceviche into martini glasses or small bowls. Garnish with sprigs of cilantro and slices of lime.

-Recipe from The National Fisheries Institute, eatshrimp.com.

Venison Crock Pot Barbeque

- Ingredients:
- 3 Pounds venison stew meat
 - 1 Cup onion, diced
 - 4 Garlic cloves, chopped
 - 1 Cup red wine vinegar
 - 1/2 Cup Worcestershire sauce
 - 2 Teaspoons favorite meat seasoning
 - 2 Teaspoons seasoned salt
 - 1 Pound seasoned bacon
 - 2 Cups ketchup
 - 1/2 Cup molasses
 - 1/2 Cup brown sugar

Place venison, onion, garlic, vinegar, Worcestershire sauce and seasoning in crock pot. Cook on high for 1 to 2 hours until meat is cooked. Cook bacon and crumble or chop. Add bacon, ketchup, molasses and brown sugar. Turn crock pot on low and heat for the rest of the day. Serve over rice, potatoes or toast.

-Recipe from cabelas.com.



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TAKING OFF: Emma, a golden retriever owned by David Carroum, starts after a retrieve on a Central Texas pond. Photo by David J. Sams.

Waterfowl

Continued from Page 1

many birds as the big lake. Put all the numbers and it's good, but they're all scattered out.

Cook said the goose numbers are better east of Amarillo.

Along the coast, freshwater marshes fried by Hurricane Ike's tidal surge weren't washed out with rain, so hunting is sporadic at best. But farther inland, areas holding water and especially fields filled with pumped-in water produced. "It's all good and we're getting some rain today," said Scott Hickman of Circle H Outfitters. "Our opening weekend was great and the second weekend was pretty fair. There are lots of birds from Port O'Connor south."

Hickman said the marshes near Rockport produced limits of pintail, redhead, wigeon and gray ducks, and there are big numbers of

teal north of Winnie. South of Winnie, though, Hurricane Ike's tidal surge burned up the marsh.

Near Matagorda, the results were spotty. "The problem we had was the drought," said Paul McDonald of Thunderbird Hunting Club. "The rice ponds didn't get pumped up as full as we would like and we had cracks develop in our levees from the drought and had to fix them."

McDonald said that while the typical opener would allow for 8 to 10 blinds with four hunters shooting limits, so far this season it's more like 4 or 5. "There is an amazing number of geese down already, including snow geese," he said. "I've even seen good numbers of sandhills."

As for the duck ponds, it's hit or miss. "Some are wall-to-wall ducks," he said. "Others might only have a few."

SEPTEMBER 08		OCTOBER 08		NOVEMBER 08		DECEMBER 08		JANUARY 09		FEBRUARY 09							
DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET
01	7:08 AM	7:53 PM	01	7:25 AM	7:16 PM	01	7:46 AM	6:43 PM	01	7:10 AM	5:30 PM	01	7:28 AM	5:42 PM	01	7:21 AM	6:08 PM
02	7:09 AM	7:52 PM	02	7:25 AM	7:14 PM	02	6:46 AM	5:42 PM	02	7:11 AM	5:30 PM	02	7:28 AM	5:43 PM	02	7:21 AM	6:09 PM
03	7:09 AM	7:51 PM	03	7:26 AM	7:13 PM	03	6:47 AM	5:41 PM	03	7:12 AM	5:30 PM	03	7:28 AM	5:43 PM	03	7:20 AM	6:10 PM
04	7:10 AM	7:49 PM	04	7:26 AM	7:12 PM	04	6:48 AM	5:41 PM	04	7:13 AM	5:30 PM	04	7:28 AM	5:44 PM	04	7:20 AM	6:11 PM
05	7:10 AM	7:48 PM	05	7:27 AM	7:11 PM	05	6:49 AM	5:40 PM	05	7:13 AM	5:30 PM	05	7:28 AM	5:45 PM	05	7:19 AM	6:11 PM
06	7:11 AM	7:47 PM	06	7:28 AM	7:10 PM	06	6:50 AM	5:39 PM	06	7:14 AM	5:30 PM	06	7:28 AM	5:46 PM	06	7:18 AM	6:12 PM
07	7:11 AM	7:46 PM	07	7:28 AM	7:08 PM	07	6:50 AM	5:39 PM	07	7:15 AM	5:30 PM	07	7:28 AM	5:47 PM	07	7:17 AM	6:13 PM
08	7:12 AM	7:44 PM	08	7:29 AM	7:07 PM	08	6:51 AM	5:38 PM	08	7:16 AM	5:31 PM	08	7:29 AM	5:47 PM	08	7:17 AM	6:14 PM
09	7:12 AM	7:43 PM	09	7:30 AM	7:06 PM	09	6:52 AM	5:37 PM	09	7:16 AM	5:31 PM	09	7:29 AM	5:48 PM	09	7:16 AM	6:15 PM
10	7:13 AM	7:42 PM	10	7:30 AM	7:05 PM	10	6:53 AM	5:37 PM	10	7:17 AM	5:31 PM	10	7:29 AM	5:49 PM	10	7:15 AM	6:16 PM
11	7:13 AM	7:41 PM	11	7:31 AM	7:04 PM	11	6:54 AM	5:36 PM	11	7:18 AM	5:31 PM	11	7:29 AM	5:50 PM	11	7:14 AM	6:16 PM
12	7:14 AM	7:39 PM	12	7:31 AM	7:03 PM	12	6:54 AM	5:36 PM	12	7:18 AM	5:32 PM	12	7:28 AM	5:51 PM	12	7:13 AM	6:17 PM
13	7:15 AM	7:38 PM	13	7:32 AM	7:02 PM	13	6:55 AM	5:35 PM	13	7:19 AM	5:32 PM	13	7:28 AM	5:51 PM	13	7:13 AM	6:18 PM
14	7:15 AM	7:37 PM	14	7:33 AM	7:00 PM	14	6:56 AM	5:35 PM	14	7:20 AM	5:32 PM	14	7:28 AM	5:52 PM	14	7:12 AM	6:19 PM
15	7:16 AM	7:36 PM	15	7:33 AM	6:59 PM	15	6:57 AM	5:34 PM	15	7:20 AM	5:32 PM	15	7:28 AM	5:53 PM	15	7:11 AM	6:20 PM
16	7:16 AM	7:34 PM	16	7:34 AM	6:58 PM	16	6:58 AM	5:34 PM	16	7:21 AM	5:33 PM	16	7:28 AM	5:54 PM	16	7:10 AM	6:20 PM
17	7:17 AM	7:33 PM	17	7:35 AM	6:57 PM	17	6:59 AM	5:33 PM	17	7:21 AM	5:33 PM	17	7:28 AM	5:55 PM	17	7:09 AM	6:21 PM
18	7:17 AM	7:32 PM	18	7:35 AM	6:56 PM	18	6:59 AM	5:33 PM	18	7:22 AM	5:34 PM	18	7:28 AM	5:56 PM	18	7:08 AM	6:22 PM
19	7:18 AM	7:31 PM	19	7:36 AM	6:55 PM	19	7:00 AM	5:32 PM	19	7:23 AM	5:34 PM	19	7:27 AM	5:57 PM	19	7:07 AM	6:23 PM
20	7:18 AM	7:29 PM	20	7:37 AM	6:54 PM	20	7:01 AM	5:32 PM	20	7:23 AM	5:35 PM	20	7:27 AM	5:57 PM	20	7:06 AM	6:23 PM
21	7:19 AM	7:28 PM	21	7:37 AM	6:53 PM	21	7:02 AM	5:32 PM	21	7:24 AM	5:35 PM	21	7:27 AM	5:58 PM	21	7:05 AM	6:24 PM
22	7:19 AM	7:27 PM	22	7:38 AM	6:52 PM	22	7:03 AM	5:31 PM	22	7:24 AM	5:36 PM	22	7:26 AM	5:59 PM	22	7:04 AM	6:25 PM
23	7:20 AM	7:26 PM	23	7:39 AM	6:51 PM	23	7:04 AM	5:31 PM	23	7:25 AM	5:36 PM	23	7:26 AM	6:00 PM	23	7:03 AM	6:26 PM
24	7:21 AM	7:24 PM	24	7:40 AM	6:50 PM	24	7:04 AM	5:31 PM	24	7:25 AM	5:37 PM	24	7:26 AM	6:01 PM	24	7:02 AM	6:26 PM
25	7:21 AM	7:23 PM	25	7:40 AM	6:49 PM	25	7:05 AM	5:31 PM	25	7:25 AM	5:37 PM	25	7:25 AM	6:02 PM	25	7:01 AM	6:27 PM
26	7:22 AM	7:22 PM	26	7:41 AM	6:48 PM	26	7:06 AM	5:31 PM	26	7:26 AM	5:38 PM	26	7:25 AM	6:03 PM	26	7:00 AM	6:28 PM
27	7:22 AM	7:21 PM	27	7:42 AM	6:47 PM	27	7:07 AM	5:30 PM	27	7:26 AM	5:39 PM	27	7:24 AM	6:04 PM	27	6:59 AM	6:29 PM
28	7:23 AM	7:19 PM	28	7:43 AM	6:46 PM	28	7:08 AM	5:30 PM	28	7:26 AM	5:39 PM	28	7:24 AM	6:04 PM	28	6:58 AM	6:29 PM
29	7:23 AM	7:18 PM	29	7:43 AM	6:46 PM	29	7:09 AM	5:30 PM	29	7:27 AM	5:40 PM	29	7:23 AM	6:05 PM			
30	7:24 AM	7:17 PM	30	7:44 AM	6:45 PM	30	7:09 AM	5:30 PM	30	7:27 AM	5:41 PM	30	7:23 AM	6:06 PM			
31			31	7:45 AM	6:44 PM	31	7:09 AM	5:30 PM	31	7:27 AM	5:41 PM	31	7:22 AM	6:07 PM			

Austin, Texas times shown. Determine the actual sunrise/sunset in your area at www.usno.navy.mil

* Sunrise/Sunset table is available for downloading on your cellphone at www.lsonews.com.

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510, 512	Nighthunter XP 10x50 & 12x56	\$40	210	Military/Marine 10x50	\$25
250, 252	Predator C5 10x42 & 12x42	\$30	326, 328, 332	Wildlife Pro 8.5x26, 10.5x28 & 12x30	\$25
266, 268	Predator 10x50 & 12x50	\$25	242	Predator Pro 12x40	\$25
645, 650	10x42 R Tactical & Police	\$30	353, 685	Navigator Pro 7x30 C, 7x50 C Observer	\$25
415, 420	15x80 & 20x80 Military	\$40			

Terms and Conditions

Main certificate must be postmarked on or before 01/31/09 and received by 02/15/09. This offer is good only with the purchase of an eligible Steiner binocular purchased in the USA through an authorized Steiner dealer through December 31, 2008. As proof of purchase, send completed mail-in certificate, original UPC barcode and an original copy of your sales receipt. No photocopies or mechanical reproductions of UPC barcode will be accepted. Steiner binocular cannot be returned once mail-in certificate has been submitted. Limit one mail-in rebate per household. Any mail-in certificates lost or misdirected by the U.S. Postal Service or other delivery service is not the responsibility of Steiner binoculars or its distributors or dealers. Illegible or incomplete rebate forms will be considered invalid and not eligible for rebate. Steiner Optics and its agents reserve the right to review and approve all submissions and modify or withdraw this offer at any time for any reason. This offer supersedes any other rebates offer received and cannot be combined with any other offer. Mail-in rebate will be mailed via U.S. Postal Service 10-12 weeks after receipt of claim. Rebate checks will be issued in U.S. dollars only. Rebate checks outstanding within 90 days of issuance are void and cannot be reissued. This rebate form has no cash value. Reproduction, purchase, sale, or trade of this rebate form or proof of purchase is prohibited. Materials received become property of Steiner Optics and Pioneer Research and cannot be returned. Offer valid only in the United States. Certain restrictions apply. (It is suggested you keep a photocopy of all submitted materials for your records.) Fraudulent submissions could result in prosecution under U.S. Mail Fraud Statute (18 USC Section 1341-1342).

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Take your winter getaway at Full Stringer Lodge

Sportsmen and women of the Texas coast have a multitude of options when searching for a lodge to suit an outdoors getaway. In Matagorda, anglers and duck hunters can narrow down the search to the Full Stringer Lodge if accommodations, dining, and the pursuit of game stand at the top of the priority list.

Three miles from the Gulf, the lodge sits on the bank of the lower Colorado River. Directly between East and West Matagorda Bays, the lodge provides a sunrise and sunset that is always over the bay.

For the past few years, David Sams of *Lone Star Outdoor News* has put Full Stringer Lodge on his family's spring break plan. "It's a great place for the family and I've had one of my best wade-fishing days with Captian Kyle Tomek," he said. "My girls had their first flounder trip and loved it."

The Full Stringer Lodge is spacious and accommodates up to 18 guests. Surrounding the great room are six sleeping quarters and four bathrooms. Six sleeping quarters and four bathrooms adjoin the "great room" where satellite television, a wet bar, and wall mounts of trophy speckled trout and redfish make guests feel right at home.

The lodge does well to harness a very relaxing atmosphere. Outside, guests have full access of a lighted 78-foot lighted fishing pier, cleaning tables, screened porches, two decks and boat lifts.

Lodge packages can include meals, guides, and corporate spe-

cial. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are available. Past meal selections have included boiled crawfish, steak, jambalaya, grilled tripletail, flounder and fresh snapper. Combining 40 years of experience in the food service industry, owners and operators Jody and David Cassidy can certainly prepare an array of wonderful meals.

"The first-class service that Jody and David Cassidy provide is unparalleled," said Jode Shupe, an avid angler and frequent guest to the Full Stringer Lodge. "The lodge is a great place and the food is exceptional."

What surely draws folks to the lodge is its proximity to fantastic speckled trout fishing. "Fishing in East Matagorda, in the wintertime, can produce some of the best stringers of fish on the entire Gulf Coast — and it's not too bad in summer either!"

Hopes of a 30-inch trout are always on the minds of Texas anglers. Wading with artificial lures proves itself as a productive method for the biggest specks when cold temperatures draw them to the shallows. Although trout in the range of 23 to 27 inches are a pleasing catch, a true trophy exists for most anglers above the 28-inch mark. And Matagorda produces its fair share.

Drifters and novices to saltwater fishing can receive plenty of action for numbers of trout and redfish using live bait or artificial baits over deep mud and shell in East Matagorda Bay. The Colorado River

is another winter hot spot that combines its deep water and wind protection to be an ideal cold weather location.

Duck hunters discover equal entertainment in the marshlands, backwaters, and miles of saltgrass shoreline in East and West Matagorda. Accessible by four-wheel drive vehicle, the entire south shoreline of East Matagorda is fine ground for waterfowl.

Full Stringer Lodge's Web site (www.fullstringerlodge.com) gives corporate rates with the addition of meals, bay, offshore and hunting guides. For more information, call David and Jody Cassidy at (979) 863-1143 or (979) 479-5455.



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PRODUCTS

PRE-RIGGED RODS: Beginners will appreciate **3M Scientific Anglers' "Ready-to-Fish"** fly-fishing outfits, which includes the Youth Outfit (shown). Included are a four-piece fly rod, a Scientific Anglers Concept disc drag fly reel, a species-specific fly line, leader, three flies, and instructional DVDs. The youth combo is offered in a 5/6 weight and is designed for panfish. The kits range from about \$95 to \$110. For retailers, visit www.solutions.3m.com.



MAGNUM MUZZLELOADER: Thompson/Center Arm's **Triumph** features a .50 caliber barrel with a solid aluminum rod. Among the firearm's features are a lightweight alloy receiver; a Sims Limbsaver recoil pad; and a toggle lock with tip-up barrel design for greater access to breach area. The breach plug, which can be removed by hand, offers gas compression rings that minimize corrosive fouling plus locking lugs that help prevent seizing. The barrel is treated with Weather Shield to protect against corrosion. The Triumph sells for about \$585. For dealers, visit www.tcarms.com or call (603) 330-5659.



MAXIMUM SOUND TRANSMISSION: The **Nite Stalker** by **Western Rivers** is an MP3 game caller that offers a 2 GB memory capacity. This advanced digital device offers a feature that allows the user to recall 10 sounds at a time (up to five will show up on the illuminated LCD screen). The company's Mark IV sound library contains about 200 calls, allowing hunters to attract any species of wild game. The Nite Stalker comes with two speakers and a remote control. The unit will operate 10 to 12 hours on eight AA batteries. It sells for about \$500. For retailers, call (800) 967-0998 or visit www.western-rivers.com.



THE RIGHT SIZE: Nikon's **ProStaff Laser 550** range finder is a pocket-sized, waterproof optic that will accurately measure distance from 11 yards to 550 yards. Its high-contrast LCD display, single-button control and a continuous tracking feature that allows for ranging of multiple or moving targets make it easy to use in the field. The unit features a six-power monocular with precisely ground and polished lens glass that is multicoated with anti-reflective compounds to improve light transmission, clarity, and color rendition. The 6.3-ounce (without batteries) range finder is powered by a CR-2 lithium camera battery that is included. It sells for about \$200. Call (800) 248-6846 or visit www.nikonportoptics.com for retailers.

READY, SET, RETRIEVE!: The **Dummy Launcher** by **Remington Sporting Dog** is a device that shoots out a canvas dummy (sold separately) for your sporting dog to retrieve. Its one-handed operation allows the user to have a free hand for working an e-collar transmitter or controlling the dog. The launcher can be broken down into two pieces to transport and store. It sells for about \$150. For retailers, visit www.remingtonsportingdog.com.



FOUR-STROKE POWER: Yamaha's **F225TLR** model is a high-power V6, sports-style four-stroke outboard with a 20-inch shaft. The motor gives bay boat, pontoon boat or fish and ski boats designed with a large horsepower 20-shaft engines the option of four-stroke power. The F225TLR is built on a compact 60-degree, 3.3-liter block and equipped with variable camshaft timing, which increases low and mid-range torque. The outboard motor also features a redesigned air intake system, coupled with multi-point electronic fuel injection, for easy starts, fast acceleration and maximum top-end speed. It costs about \$2,500. For additional specs or dealers, visit www.yamaha-motor.com; or, call (800) 889-2624 for more information.

BALLISTIC POWER: Hornady says its new **300 Ruger Compact Magnums (RCM)** will deliver what the short fat cartridges don't — superior ballistic performance in a compact firearm platform. The RCMs feature more velocity with less powder plus longer barrel life, reduced recoil and reduced muzzle blast. These magnum cartridges can be used in rifles with 20-inch barrels (including Ruger's M77 Hawkeye). They are available in bullet weights of 150, 165 and 180 grains. A box of 20 cartridges costs about \$42. For retailers, visit www.hornady.com or call (800) 338-3220.



NIGHT LIGHTS: The **Hydro Glow Fish Lights** are designed to submerge with only the top 3 to 5 inches of the light above water level. It is the green light technology, says the company, that allows the light to penetrate farther for more effective illumination. The resulting larger lighted area attracts more bait fish as well as game fish to the targeted area. The bulbs deliver about 20,000 hours of illumination. The fish lights, which can be used in freshwater or saltwater, sell for about \$240 (including shipping) at www.hydroglow.com. Check the Web site or call (877) 895-4569 for retailers.

CORROSION SHIELD: **Nano Gun & Knife Sealant** by **386 Nanotech** protects firearms and knives against corrosion damage caused by harsh environments such as sand, high humidity, snow and saltwater. The seal is achieved through nanotechnology, which is the engineering of molecules on the atomic level to form a tight molecular bond. The easy-to-apply sealant has no harsh petroleum scent and does not peel or discolor your weapon. It also makes firearms easy to clean and maintain. A 3.4-ounce spray sells for about \$20. For information, call (888) 386-6832 or visit www.386nanotech.com.



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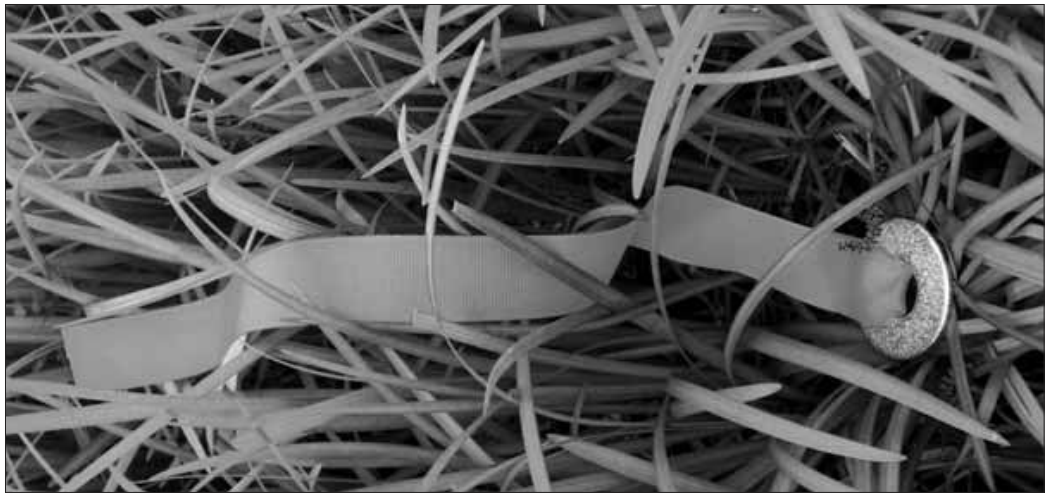
Orange marks the spot

New bird hunting product helps to increase recovery

How much time have you wasted searching for your last shot bird? How many times have you been frustrated enough to just give up? As bird hunting enthusiasts, we want to make the most of the time we have out in the field and make sure we actually take home what we shoot. A unique, new product has recently hit the market to help with this age-old problem.

Dallas-based Group Gameplan, Inc. has unveiled BirdMarker, an easy-to-use tool designed to aid bird hunters everywhere mark and recover their fallen bird. Bird hunters save time and energy from searching and support conservation with fewer wasted birds left in the field.

BirdMarker's concept is simple: after shooting, throw BirdMarker in the direction of your downed bird to mark the location, directing you and/or your hunting dog straight to it. "BirdMarker began as a solution to help my husband spend less time searching during his hunts and easing his frustration with not being able to find his downed birds," said Laina Olinger, creator of BirdMarker. "Not only does BirdMarker help save hunters valuable time, but it also



helps them to avoid missed shooting opportunities while searching through tall grasses for their last shot. More importantly, BirdMarker supports conservation efforts ensuring that game limits are recovered." BirdMarker can be used for dove, quail and pheasant hunting and has been field-tested to work on any hunting terrain. It also can be hung

from a tree or used as a trail marker. Manufactured in Garland, BirdMarker's patent-pending design consists of a 5/8" zinc disk with a 16" nylon orange tail. The product's retail price is \$2.99 for a package of two and can be ordered online at www.BirdMarker.com, or purchased at one of Academy Sports' 108 stores located throughout the South.

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High Plains Mallard Management Unit

- * Youth — Oct. 18-19, 2008
- * Regular Gun — Oct. 25-28, 2008; Oct. 31, 2008-Jan. 25, 2009

North Zone

- * Youth — Oct. 25-26, 2008
- * Regular Gun — Nov. 1-30, 2008; Dec. 13, 2008-Jan. 23, 2009
- * Falconry — Jan. 26-Feb. 9, 2009

South Zone

- * Youth — Oct. 25-26, 2008
- * Regular Gun — Nov. 1-30, 2008; Dec. 13, 2008-Jan. 23, 2009
- * Falconry — Jan. 26-Feb. 9, 2009

GEESE
Possession Limit: Twice the daily bag limit for dark geese, no possession limit for light geese.

West Zone

West Zone Daily Bag Limit: Light geese — 20 in the aggregate; Dark geese — 4 Canada and 1 white-fronted goose.

- * Light and Dark Geese — Nov. 5, 2008-Feb. 8, 2009
- * Light Geese (Conservation Order) — Feb. 9, 2009-March 29, 2009

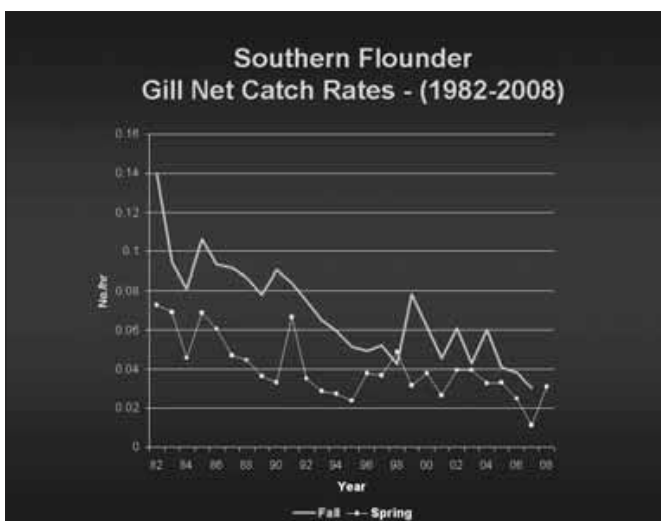
East Zone

East Zone Daily Bag Limit: Light geese — 20 in the aggregate; 3 Canada geese and 2 White-fronted geese.

- * Light Geese, White-fronted Geese, Canada Goose — Nov. 1, 2008-Jan. 25, 2009; Nov. 1, 2008-Jan. 11, 2009; Nov. 1, 2008-Jan. 25, 2009
- * Light Geese (Conservation Order) — Jan. 26-Mar. 29, 2009

SANDHILL CRANE

- * Zone A — Nov. 5, 2008-Feb. 8, 2009 — Bag Limits: 3 daily, 6 in possession
- * Zone B — Nov. 28, 2008-Feb. 8, 2009 — Bag Limits: 3 daily, 6 in possession
- * Zone C — Dec. 20, 2008-Jan. 25, 2009 — Bag Limits: 2 daily, 4 in possession



RIGHTING THE SHIP: Despite reduced limits, minimum length restrictions and reduced bycatch from shrimping operations, the southern flounder population has continued its decline along the Texas coast. Possible changes include closing the flounder season from October through December. Graph: TPW.

Flounder

Continued from Page 1

Changing minimum size requirements and the reduction in shrimping activity hasn't stemmed the slide. Scoping meetings are being held along the coast to gather the opinions of recreational and commercial fishermen.

Robin Reichers of TPW's coastal fisheries division outlined the options to the TPW Commission at its November meeting, including decreasing bag limits, increasing minimum size, area closures, and closing the season from October through December during the flounder run to protect the fish as they head to the Gulf.

With Texas Parks and Wildlife exploring possible changes to flounder regulations, a number of anglers have voiced their opin-

ions — either for or against any changes. Garcia is in favor of reduced limits. "That said, if they (TPW) come in with some changes — say they drop it to five fish, like they did with our trout — I'd be all for it. My thing is this: I want these fish to be here for my kids and grandkids. I think we've seen enough lean years with flounder to know they need to be protected. We want to have fishing like this every year."

"Both groups agree the fish need protection during the run," Reichers said, adding that it is likely the department will propose closing the season from October through December.

"Removal of the gig fishery for those months should increase the gillnet catch by 50 to 100 percent," Reichers said.

Commissioner John E. Parker of Lufkin felt it was time to act. "We need to do something, and do it quick," he said. "It may impact certain groups but it needs to be done."



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Guide to hunting National Wildlife Refuges

Many hunters don't realize that hunting opportunities are available at National Wildlife Refuges. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is out to change that perception.

Several Texas refuges allow hunting by permit or drawing, and more than 300 hunting programs exist on national wildlife refuges nationwide.

A new publication from the USFWS, "Your Guide to Hunting on National Wildlife Refuges," is a comprehensive compilation of all hunting programs on national wildlife refuges and is available for downloading for all interested hunters.

Organized by state, the guide not only gives a brief description of each hunting program, but

also indicates which species can be hunted, provides directions to refuges, and contains special stories on hunting safety and archery hunting.

The guide also provides an overview of each refuge's regulations and contact information for refuge staff for updates regarding species, hunt dates and other regulations that may have changed.

Permit requirements and fees also are listed. Refuge staff are able to provide information on fees, harvest reports and how to apply for lottery hunts.

In all cases, state hunting licenses are required.

The following Texas National Wildlife Refuges allow hunting by permit and/or drawing:

- Anahuac NWR (Waterfowl)
 - Aransas NWR (Deer, hogs, dove, waterfowl)
 - Balcones Canyonlands NWR (Dove, deer, turkey, hogs)
 - Big Boggy NWR (Waterfowl)
 - Brazoria NWR (Waterfowl)
 - Hagerman NWR (Deer, hogs - archery only)
 - Laguna Atascosa NWR (Deer, hogs, nilgai)
 - Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR (deer, hogs, nilgai)
 - McFaddin NWR (Waterfowl)
 - San Bernard NWR (Waterfowl)
 - Texas Point NWR (Waterfowl)
 - Trinity River NWR (Deer, water fowl, upland game)
- The publication is available at www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting.

— U.S. Fish and Wildlife report.

Bain's Classic dream WBT win secures Angler of Year

Kim Bain, after a victory in the Women's Bassmaster Tour Championship presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors, accomplished her biggest goal — a birth in the Bassmaster Classic.

"I had a big dream as a kid, which was to fish the Bassmaster Classic — and here I am," Bain said. "For anybody out there, in whatever sport or industry they're in, if they set a goal as a child and then there comes a day that you achieve that, it's a pretty spectacular moment."

Bain topped 19 other competitors with a three-day total of 23 pounds,

8 ounces, on Arkansas' Lake Hamilton, enough to earn the top prize of a \$55,000 boat package and \$5,000.

Bain worked pockets of grass, targeting water 3 to 4 feet deep. She primarily worked a Reactions Innovations Trixie Shark in two productive spots located during practice.

The victory secured her Women's Bassmaster Tour Angler of the Year title and the Bassmaster Classic berth — and Bain will become the first woman angler to fish the marquee event in its 39-year history.

"A lot of the ladies want me to understand it's a real honor to be fishing the event," Bain said. "Hopefully I can do us all proud."

Rounding out the top five were Audrey McQueen of Eager, Ariz., with 21 pounds, 11 ounces; Debra Petrowski of Arlington with 16 pounds, 6 ounces; Juanita Robinson of Highlands with 15 pounds, 1 ounce and 2007 WBT Championship winner Pam Martin-Wells of Bainbridge, Ga., with 14 pounds, 11 ounces.

— BASS Communications report.

Lake

Continued from Page 10

The influx of water downstream boosted fish by temporarily providing more habitat.

Fish feeding habits on either side of the dam won't change, Myers said.

Kerr County plans to replace the plug — it was a round butane tank installed after a flood in 1959 at the lake end of a drainpipe — on Feb. 1 so the lower lake level would not interfere with fish spawning. This time, the county will install a metal plate over the drain, said Bruce Oehler, the county commissioner whose precinct includes the lake.

The dam is capped with concrete but is soil underneath. Through the years, air pockets have formed, and a specialized company will find the voids and fill

them with slurry that will harden in place.

It is preventative maintenance, Oehler said, and the dam is not in danger of failing.

"It's better to do your repair work to make sure it stays where it is," he said.

In the meantime, property owners can obtain a \$55 permit from the county's floodplain administrator to take erosion control measures.

The county had fish in mind when it planned to drain the lake, Oehler said.

"We've been through it before, so we knew pretty well what would happen," he said. There are no plans to stock the lake when it refills.

The lake was last drained 12 years ago and should be drained every four or five to make sure it is still safe for its intended purpose — recreation — Oehler said.

"We knew that the fish were going to be fine," he said.

Jordan said his reel allows him to make more precise pitches and gives him more control plus a better feel of what's going on with the lure.

But mostly he appreciates the reduced fatigue a lighter outfit offers.

"It's a joy to fish all day long," he said.

Reels

Continued from Page 10

them to have better, lighter toys, for them it's all about the fishing.

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