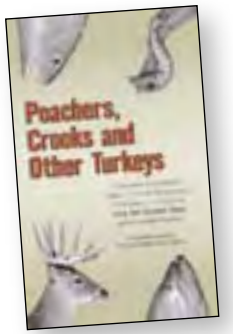


LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS



Blotter book is out
Lone Star Outdoor News' new book has all the favorite **Game Warden Blotter** stories. It makes a great Christmas gift for any hunter or angler. For details, see Page 4.

November 27, 2009

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 6, Issue 7

Inside



■ FISHING Speck rig revisited

A South Texas fishing guide and his friend sell an updated version of the speck rig. **Page 8**

Floating for flounder

Kayak anglers take on high water during 2009's November flounder run. **Page 8**



■ HUNTING 38-pointer taken

Texan Wes O'Brien of Lexington recently harvested a 38-point whitetail in Nebraska. **Page 5**

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Hunters ready for ringnecks

Pheasant numbers booming in parts of Panhandle

By **Craig Nyhus**
 LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Texas pheasant hunters are fired up. Good reports from the Panhandle have them counting the days to the Dec. 5 opener. Parts of the Panhandle have received ample rains, and other areas received enough to provide food and cover for the tough birds. Farmer reports of pheasants busting out in front of the combines have hunters excited.

Tim Ballinger, an agronomist in the Panhandle, spends hundreds of days in the field. He guides pheasant hunters with his two German short-hairs.

"I'm out there every day — it's my job — so I probably see more than anyone else," he said. "But as far as predicting the numbers, I think it will be better than last year."

Ballinger is used to seeing lots of pheasants, but some areas even caught him by surprise this year.

"We counted 100 birds in one field walking from the wheat stubble to the milo one evening," he said. "And you know that means there are a lot more."

Ballinger primarily hunts wheat and maize stubble and prefers to hunt over his dogs and take the shots only after the dogs point the birds.

Kicking up multiple hens, which are illegal to shoot, might mean changing your plan, he said.

"The roosters are starting to separate from the hens," he said. "Where



BUSTING OUT: Pheasant numbers in Texas are strong ahead of opening day. The Panhandle season begins Dec. 5 and ends Jan. 3, with a daily bag limit of three roosters. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

you find one, you'll find more."

He expects good numbers in the areas he hunts near Dumas, Sunray and Spearman, and credits the good weather and his relationships with landowners.

"We work with the farmers to leave some cover and seed after the

harvest," he said.

Jeff Bonner, a biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife in Pampa, said the numbers look good but, as always, will be spotty in some areas.

"We have a good mix of CRP and food," said Bonner, who is also a pheasant hunter. "It looks like

the hot spots will be around Hartley County, Ochiltree County and around Groom. It was green there from mid-April to September."

Although some parts of the Panhandle are almost too wet, other ar-

See **PHEASANT**, Page 22

40 years of busting bad guys

Warden honored for his decades on coastal patrol

By **Bill Miller**
 FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The Gulf of Mexico was choppy one day last October — "rough as a cob."

That's how Capt. Nick Harmon described the emergency facing the game warden he has assigned to Matagorda County.

Arthur Lawrence peered through binoculars at two men struggling in the water, but then he saw that four men were in trouble. He launched a rescue boat.

Lawrence reached the men, but waves capsized his boat.

But, Harmon said, "Arthur stayed calm. He kept everybody together — tied them together in a group. They all paddled parallel to the beach and eventually made it to shore."

"If there's not anyone to help, he goes off and does it by himself. See, Arthur still thinks he's 30."

— **Nick Harmon, game warden captain**

Lawrence, of Bay City, will likely receive a commendation for the Gulf rescue, said Col. Pete Flores, direc-



YEARS OF SERVICE: Arthur Lawrence has helped tear down gill nets on the Texas coast for 40 years. Photo by Scott Sommerlatte, for Lone Star Outdoor News.



FUNNY FACE: Quail can take on a purple hue after eating cactus fruit. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Fruit fine for quail, funny for hunters

Cactus a favorite food during fall

By **Thomas Phillips**
 LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

A covey of bobwhites flushed, and the hunters raised their guns. When the shooting ended, a dog brought back one bird that stood out.

The hunter eyed the quail's peculiar coloration and showed it to his fellow hunters. Everyone laughed.

The quail had a bright purple face

See **QUAIL**, Page 22

See **WARDEN**, Page 18



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CONSERVATION

CRP losses in Prairie Pothole Region add up

Fewer contracts being renewed for program

The Prairie Pothole Region of North America is on the verge of losing more of its capacity, according to Ducks Unlimited.

Conservation Reserve Program contracts on more than 500,000 acres expired and were not renewed in North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana in 2009, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That means another half a million acres of grass will be turned back into cropland and no longer available as nesting habitat for ducks. It also means half a million acres of grass is no longer available as an occasional forage source for ranchers.

"The cumulative impacts of grassland loss in the Prairie Pothole Region, both CRP and native

prairie, at this magnitude, will eventually have significant impacts on waterfowl populations and the number of ducks that hunters see in their decoy spreads," said Scott McLeod, DU government affairs representative.

This fall's losses of CRP grassland are in addition to the more than 960,000 acres lost in the Dakotas and Montana in 2007 and 335,000 acres lost in 2008. Nearly 70 percent of the acres that have expired in the Dakotas and Montana since 2007 have been in the Prairie Pothole Region, and during the next three years, another 3.4 million acres will expire in the Dakotas and Montana.

South Dakota has slipped from 1.8 million acres of CRP down to 1.07 million acres since 2007. McLeod says the acreage total will fall to the 600,000 to 650,000 range by 2012. Likewise, North Dakota has slipped from 3.4 million acres in 2007 to 2.7 million acres and will drop to 1.2 million acres by 2012.

"In 2012 alone, North Dakota will lose more

than 846,000 acres of CRP," said McLeod.

Nationwide, some 2.7 million acres of CRP, freed from contracts, are already being converted into farmland. Enough acres exited the program this year to fall below the nationwide enrollment cap, which was reduced from 39.2 million acres to 32 million acres in the 2008 farm bill.

To get below 32 million acres by October 2010, as mandated in the 2008 Farm Bill, USDA offered three- or five-year contract extensions, and 70 percent of the producers accepted.

"However, the result was still a significant loss of CRP nationwide and in the Dakotas and Montana," said McLeod.

USDA is conducting a CRP Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, which is expected to be completed sometime during the fall of 2010. A general CRP sign-up cannot be held until the impact statement is completed.

— Ducks Unlimited report

Conservation News in Brief

Federal grant to expand Texas reefs

A \$1.5 million federal grant will fund creation or enhancement of seven reef sites off the Texas coast in coming years.

Artificial reefs provide a home for many fish species and barnacles, corals, sponges, clams, bryozoans and hydroids. They function like an oasis in the desert for many species that otherwise would not flourish. Artificial reefs form the foundation of food chains that ultimately support popular game fish, and they provide new opportunities for scuba divers and anglers.

The new federal grant of \$1.5 million is coming from the Coast-

al Impact Assistance Program administered by the federal Minerals Management Service, a grant program operated in Texas by the General Land Office. It will fund the construction and improvements on seven reef sites. For four projects, which had already been completed when the grant was awarded, the funds will reimburse the Artificial Reef Program.

The grant will also fund the creation of three new reef construction projects and the improvement of several other pre-existing reef sites. This includes reefing of concrete and 1-ton quarry blocks at new reef sites at Port Arthur, Matagorda County and in the Corpus Christi-Port Aransas area.

In addition to the grant, several groups such as the Coastal Conservation Association and the Saltwater

Fisheries Enhancement Association will provide additional funding and assistance in reefing projects.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

Wolf named TPW wildlife director

Clayton Wolf has been selected to lead the Wildlife Division at Texas Parks and Wildlife. Wolf brings 20 years of experience as a wildlife biologist in Texas, the last six leading the state's big game program.

"Clayton has demonstrated strong leadership skills and an inherent ability to develop consensus among diverse groups for the greater good of Texas wildlife," said TPW Executive Director Carter Smith. "He is a consummate conservation professional."

Since 2003, Wolf has overseen management of Texas' white-tailed

deer herd.

During his tenure, Wolf guided expansion of buck antler restrictions designed to improve deer age class structure across more than 100 counties.

"With the continued increase in the state's human population and urban sprawl, we have quite a challenge ahead of us," Wolf said. "It is my goal as wildlife division director to help ensure our resources are focused on the things we do best — working with private landowners and land managers to help them manage and conserve wildlife habitat."

Wolf began his career with TPW in 1993 as a district biologist for the Pineywoods, where he helped implement a new habitat-driven permitting process for managing antlerless deer on private lands and assisted in the restoration effort for eastern wild turkey.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

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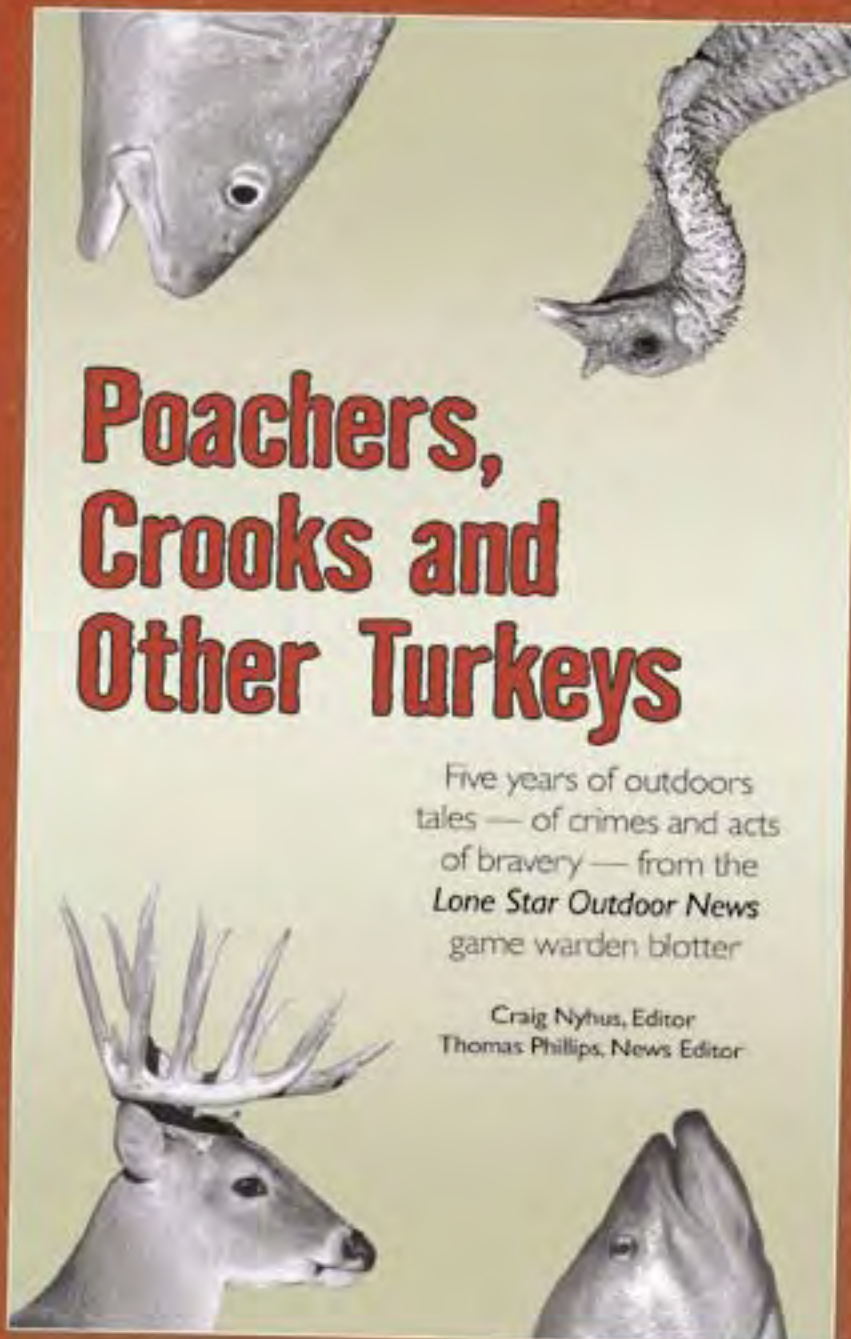
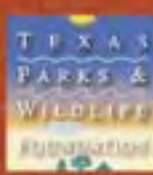
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Five years of outdoors tales — of crimes and acts of bravery — from the *Lone Star Outdoor News* game warden blotter

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NATIONAL

Texas hunter takes 38-point buck in Neb.

Lexington man says he was hunting on private land

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

A hunter from Texas recently harvested a 38-point buck white-tailed deer in Nebraska, according to the *Lincoln Star Journal*.

Wes O'Brien of Lexington was hunting on private land in Richardson County when he shot the deer with a rifle. The buck had a gross score of 281 Boone and Crockett.

"I don't care if he doesn't get any records," O'Brien, a 24-year-old meat cutter, told the newspaper. "He's amazing to me."

O'Brien's deer will be compared with the Nebraska state record, taken in Hall County in 1962 by a bowhunter. The record, harvested by Del Austin of Hastings, scored 279 7/8. It's the top deer taken in Nebraska, and it is the world record for archery, according to the newspaper.

O'Brien declined to discuss the hunt with *Lone Star Outdoor News*. A man identifying himself as O'Brien's father, Andy, returned a phone call to *Lone Star Outdoor News* and said his son would not speak to the media again for weeks.

"It's bigger than we are, so we're slowing the process down," Andy O'Brien said.

The father said his son is looking for an agent to help handle the media onslaught. As of midday Nov. 23, 15 different news outlets had contacted Wes O'Brien for an interview, Andy O'Brien said.

The father and son are also intent on making sure their story is told correctly, Andy O'Brien said. False rumors were flying about



38 POINTS: Wes O'Brien holds the 38-point buck white-tailed deer he recently harvested in Nebraska. Photo by NEBRASKAland Magazine/Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

how Wes O'Brien took the deer, with some saying he harvested it illegally or that it was released so he could shoot it, he said.

"A lot of jealousy out there," he said.

Wes O'Brien told the *Star Journal* he did not pay to hunt for the deer. He said a friend knew the landowner, and they asked permission to hunt there.

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HUNTING

Mule deer numbers up, antlers average this season



BIG BUCKS: Mule deer have higher numbers but average antler size this year, biologist Calvin Richardson said. Photo by Morgan Tyler, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

Rainfall contributes to boost in population

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Mule deer season in West Texas has an improved outlook because of 2009's increased rainfall, experts said earlier this month.

"Given that we did not have a drought this year, especially this summer, and that deer numbers are above average, it should be a promising hunting season," said Calvin Richardson, a Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist, in an e-mail. "I would be surprised if anyone reported lots of big bucks, but there are always a few observed/taken by the good hunters and the lucky hunters."

Richardson, who until recently oversaw the state's Desert Big Game Program, said the state's deer numbers are above average. Texas Parks and Wildlife estimates the number at 200,000 animals on the conservative end, Richardson said. About 60 percent live in the Trans-Pecos and western Hill

Country regions, and 40 percent live in the Panhandle.

West Texas received more rain this year, but it might not have come in time to boost antler growth, Richardson said. The spring was abnormally dry.

"But bucks should have made up a bit of ground this summer on antler growth," he said. "Overall, antler development should be above average."

"In the drier areas to the southwest, it was an average year and hunters should expect average antler development."

Farther west, however, racks should be bigger, Richardson said. Some areas in the Trans-Pecos received average or above-average rainfall during the summer.

"Antler production should be average or above average, depending on where one is hunting in the Trans-Pecos," he said.

On the hunt

Hunters who visit one of the state's three wildlife management areas in the Trans-Pecos can expect a decent season, but not a great one, said Mike Pittman, the project leader for the Trans-Pecos Wildlife

Management Areas Project.

"Antler quality is going to be average at best" because of drought the conditions that broke in August, Pittman said.

"Don't anticipate any monsters, but you never know," Pittman said.

WMAs under Pittman's authority are Black Gap, Elephant Mountain and Sierra Diablo. Hunting for mule deer at these areas is by permit drawing only.

Bowhunters took few deer earlier this fall, Pittman said, but that is to be expected.

"A lot of it is open country, so they're not real successful," he said.

Hunting there is primarily spot and stalk, he said.

"It's a tougher hunt," he said. "The country's way more open. You've got deep canyons. Topography makes it more of a challenge out here than it does in other parts of the state."

In Gaines County, where hunters took the top three mule deer in the state last season, the outlook is good, said Tony Fitzgerald, a hunter who lives in Seminole, the county seat.

See MULE DEER, Page 24

Geese finally arriving in West Texas

Water situation varies across the High Plains

By Bink Grimes
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Terry Cooke of Straightline Outfitters in Amarillo said hunting had been good, but not great, during the first half of November, probably because of the late arrival of geese, not only on the High Plains but in all of Texas.

A mid-November front deposited more birds to the Dumas, Amarillo and Etter areas, and Cooke said they are crammed with Canada geese now.

"They (geese) finally showed up, and Lake Etter is full of Canadas and snows," he said.

Water is the key to successful waterfowl hunting. Too much of it and hunting suffers. Too little and birds find another winter home. Both are the cases in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit.

Steady summer and autumn rains have given the Panhandle excellent habitat conditions. That bodes well for waterfowl, but makes it a bit tougher on waterfowlers.

"Too much water is certainly better than not enough," Cooke said.

The eastern side of the Panhandle — areas near Spearman — has more than enough water, while the western side near Dumas has a good number of dry playa lakes, but geese are still feeding in the fields and traveling back to water.

Amarillo-area goose hunters have enjoyed a boon in the snow goose population during the past decade.

What once were frowned on as "un-decoyable" birds have now become part of the daily bag for goose hunters.

"They (outfitters) have figured out how to decoy them," said James Prince, a former



HONKERS HERE: Canada geese can be found on West Texas' numerous playa lakes this season. Many of the seasonal lakes are full of water, though some are dry because of spotty rainfall. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Katy prairie goose guide and world champion snow goose caller. "The Panhandle has more snow geese than people think, and it is fabulous hunting when the weather cooper-

ates."

Prince frequents the High Plains every year during the South Zone duck split.

"It is worth the trip to decoy big bunches

of Canadas and hunt ducks on playa lakes," he said. "It is totally different compared to

See GEESE, Page 14

To help Hill Country, mid-coast might see tighter water rules

Highland Lakes area needs it more, LCRA says

By Mark England
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Duck hunting next fall on the Texas mid-coast could come down to a water fight early next year in Austin.

Board members of the Lower Colorado River Authority approved opening the spigot in 2010 to enable farmers to raise a first rice crop in Colorado, Matagorda and Wharton counties. But they postponed guaranteeing water for a vital second crop.

"The sky-is-falling attitude has gone away," said Todd Merendino, manager of conservation programs for Ducks Unlimited. "At least things are going in the right direction."

A drought in the Highland Lakes area of the Hill Country rivaling the infamous drought of the 1950s led to fears the LCRA would refuse to release water into the canals that are the lifeblood of about 350 rice farmers along the coast.

Still, rice farmers won't know until Feb. 1 whether the LCRA board will supply them water for a second rice crop.

A denial would dampen pros-



COASTAL THREAT: If the Lower Colorado River Authority cuts the amount of water it sends to Texas rice farmers, waterfowl numbers could suffer. Photo by LSON.

See WATER, Page 14

2009 Hunting Season Dates



DOVE			
North Zone and Central Zone		Sept. 1-Oct. 25, Dec. 26-Jan. 9	
South Zone		Sept. 18-Nov. 3, Dec. 26-Jan. 17	
Bag limit: 15 birds and not more than two white-tipped doves.			
Special White-winged Dove Area		Sept. 5, 6, 12-13, Sept. 18-Nov. 3, Dec. 26-Jan. 13	
The daily bag limit in the SWWDA is 15 birds, not more than four mourning doves during the first two weekend splits and two white-tipped doves. Once the general season opens, the aggregate bag limit will be 15.			
WHITE-TAILED DEER			
Archery-Only Season	Oct. 3-Nov. 6		
Special Youth Season*	Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Jan. 4-17		
General Season			
North Texas (206 counties)	Nov. 7-Jan. 3		
South Texas (30 counties)	Nov. 7-Jan. 17		
Late Antlerless and Spike			
Edwards Plateau (39 counties)	Jan. 4-17		
South Texas (30 counties)	Jan. 18-31		
Muzzleloader (57 counties)	Jan. 4-17		
PHEASANT			
Panhandle (37 counties)	Dec. 5-Jan. 3		
Chambers, Jefferson and Liberty	Oct. 31-Feb. 28		
SQUIRREL			
Special Youth Season**	Sept. 26-27		
East Texas (51 counties)	Oct. 1-Feb. 7, May 1-31		
Other Open counties	Sept. 1-Aug. 31		
MULE DEER			
Archery-Only Season	Oct. 3-Nov. 6		
General Season			
Panhandle (38 counties)	Nov. 21-Dec. 6		
SW Panhandle (10 counties)	Nov. 21-29		
Trans-Pecos (19 counties)	Nov. 28-Dec. 13		
QUAIL			
Statewide (all counties)	Oct. 31-Feb. 28		
RIO GRANDE TURKEY			
Archery-Only Season	Oct. 3-Nov. 6		
Fall Season			
Youth Season*	Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Jan. 16-17		
North Zone (122 counties)	Nov. 7-Jan. 3		
South Zone (26 counties)	Nov. 7-Jan. 17		
Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg, Willacy	Nov. 7-Feb. 28		

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FISHING

Slack water, few flatties on early float



FLOUNDER FLOAT: Fishing for flounder in the Coastal Bend region was hindered earlier this month by high tides, but anglers still found fish. Some have found kayaks to be easy craft for accessing the fish's migration routes out of coastal bays. Photo by Kendal Larson, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

Fishing during flounder run interrupted by high tide, little current

By Kendal Larson
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The bay waters have been pushed high by Hurricane Ida. Though it slid well east of Texas, the storm's effect is obvious in the Coastal Bend area. Its surge is inundating land that's normally dry. The weather is warm — warmer than normal for mid-November — and the tide is slack. Little showing in the way of bait along the channels.

It's Nov. 11 in Aransas Pass. Historically November is one of the best times for flounder fishing, but this party of kayak anglers is unlikely to find much today. The conditions couldn't be worse.

They had looked forward to nonstop action, but instead they spent the morning sightseeing the waters along the edge of the shrimp boat channel that runs from Aransas Pass to Port Aransas. The scenery didn't disappoint, but for this group, the score was lopsided: Weather and Tides, 1, and Anglers, 0.

Flounder like to lie in wait to strike their prey, so finding bait is essential. Shallow water where cordgrass grows sparse is good habitat.

"Flounder will sit up in the grass along the shorelines, especially if the cordgrass is loose — somewhat broken up," said Kaylin Barlow of Bayou Vista. "The bait hides there, and so

See FLOUNDER, Page 20

Fishing friends revisit tested rig for new lure

Swivel brings new life to SPI Lures' bait system

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Two childhood friends have modernized the speck rig and waded into the fishing tackle industry.

Allen Salinas and Branden Trollan recently formed SPI Lures to sell their rigs. The company manufactures and markets a tandem and a single rig with a twist — literally.

Their Texas Twister has a swivel attached to the eye of the hook to allow greater range of motion.

"Because of the swivels, these things will dart around all over the place," Salinas said.

The tandem rig combines two hooks and separates them with a 1/16-ounce weight and a 1/32-ounce clacker bead. The weight and bead give the lure a snap of fish-attracting noise and cause the baits on the separate hooks to move in different directions.

"The way it swims it looks like a school of fish," Salinas said.

Salinas, a fishing guide in Port



ON THE WATER: Guide Allen Salinas drives his boat on South Bay near Port Isabel. Salinas and a friend, Branden Trollan, recently formed SPI Lures. Photo by Thomas Phillips, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Isabel, knows what it takes to catch fish and fine-tune the product. Trollan, though no slouch with a rod and reel, handles the business side.

"Even though we both love to fish, I can never whoop him," Trollan said.

Trollan, who lives in Florida, and Salinas became friends while growing up in Harlingen.

Their primary lure innovation is selling a hook pre-rigged with a swivel at the eye.

Their lure ideas developed "a

few years ago, and it's just kind of evolved," Trollan said.

"Realistically, not one person is fully responsible," he said.

Seeking to lower costs, the men employ a person over the border from Harlingen in Matamoros, Mexico, to manufacture their lures. Having the "maquiladora" so close allows Salinas to oversee quality control.

"It's easy for us to get hands on when it comes down to checking the product," he said. "I don't want anybody losing a fish to a slipped knot."

With manufacturing handled in Mexico, prices also stay down, Salinas said.

"For the most part, the average tandem is sold for just under \$3," he said. "That's where the maquiladora and the pricing come into play.

Bass bite is on at Falcon Reservoir

Largemouths not being picky about lures, anglers say

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Fish are biting at Falcon Lake, and anglers say they will take anything.

"I don't think there's much you can throw that you won't catch fish on," said Tom Walls of Humble, who fished there earlier this month.

His biggest fish from the trip weighed 10 pounds, and he caught 70-100 fish per day, he said.

And what's better?

"None were small," he said.

Walls was casting a small crankbait on ledges that drop about 6 to 8 feet in 10 to 20 feet of water. The crankbait hangs often on trees in the lake, he said, and using it was out of the ordinary because of that.

He would try to find ledges with rocks.

"If you could find one with rocks, then it was a gold mine," he said.

It was his third trip of the year, following visits in September and February. He boated a fish weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces in September.

The winter trip was not as productive, Walls said. The water was about 7 feet high, so accessing the bank from a boat was difficult. The water had risen past trees.

"And it was awful, dude," Walls said. "I mean, it was a struggle."

Despite difficult conditions,



FALCON FATTY: Tom Walls holds the 10-pound bass he recently caught at Falcon Lake. The Rio Grande reservoir has been hot this fall, Walls said.

Walls came away without complaints.

"The amazing thing about that lake," he said, "in three trips that I went, I caught two that weren't keepers. I don't know where the small ones are or if I'm just lucky."

Richard Ball of San Antonio also left Falcon in a state of awe.

"It's absolutely amazing," Ball said. "Basically last month you could do anything you want. They would take anything."

Ball fished Carolina rigs in 20 to 25 feet of water on points with rocks and trees.

"Those deep, hard-bottom points are the best," he said, "with structure on them."

Ball recommended that anglers fish their strengths when visiting the lake.

"Whatever you're comfortable with, go fish it," he said.

Anglers at the recent Metropolitan City Tournament found something the bass were comfortable with, too. Competitors

See FALCON, Page 24



TRIED AND TRUE: SPI Lures' version of the speck rig incorporates swivels attached to the hooks and a clacker bead in between both lures. Graphic by SPI Lures.

See LURES, Page 21



URBAN FISHERY: Waco's famed Suspension Bridge crosses Lake Brazos downtown. Texas Parks and Wildlife and the city of Waco are working to improve the lake, an impoundment on the Brazos River, for fishing and nearby recreational uses. Photo by Craig Nyhus, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Downtown lake being improved in Waco

New dam on Brazos, stocking helping fish

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

For 42 years, Lake Brazos in Waco was a lake in name only. Or maybe it was a lake only some of the time.

Until 2007, the dam never functioned well. Water levels changed drastically and constantly. And the lake had a current noticeable to anglers.

It also did not look like a lake. It was as wide

as the riverbanks and several miles long, lacking the proportions generally associated with a reservoir. The Brazos River impoundment begins upstream of the city and flows through downtown to southeast of the Baylor University campus.

But after all these years, Lake Brazos is starting to grow up. The city of Waco and Texas Parks and Wildlife are working to improve the fishery and its use.

The city installed a new dam in 2007. It kept the water level stable (two previous dams never worked properly). And the current was lowered.

See LAKE BRAZOS, Page 21

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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

THAT'S A LOT OF BASS YOU'VE GOT THERE

Grayson County Game Warden Randolph McGee is investigating four people who were caught with 118 striped bass at the Lake Texoma Dam.

DEER'S IN THE DOG HOUSE

When Atascosa County Game Warden Derek Iden went to Charlotte to donate some seized dove, he noticed a fawn deer in a dog kennel surrounded by hog dogs at a residence. Iden made contact with the homeowner, wrote a citation, seized the fawn deer, took it to a licensed deer rehabber and then continued with his donation.

BIRD'S A BOBWHITE NOT A DOVE

A group of hunters checked by Wharton County Game Warden Chris Bird and Matagorda County Game Warden Aaron Koenig said they shot only one dove. After checking the hunters for hunting licenses and shotgun plugs, the wardens found the hunters in possession of bobwhite quail. Cases pending.

MULEY LEFT FOR DEAD; CASE BUILDING AGAINST POACHER

A caller reported that a mule deer on a local ranch had been caped out and the meat wasted in Pecos County. Game Wardens Chris Amthor and Michael Dushay located the deer and discovered that it had been shot with a bow and left a short distance from a feeder. They then began to investigate and develop possible poachers who were in the area at the time of the occurrence. A few days later, they located several of the possible poachers at a deer camp. The wardens narrowed the search to one individual, and after a lengthy interrogation obtained a full confession of not only that

Gill-netter rams wardens' boat

Zapata County Game Warden Roy Martinez received a phone call from off-duty Zapata County Game Warden Jake Cawthon, who was duck hunting on the north end of Falcon Lake. Cawthon told Martinez that he had seen numerous gill nets in one of the coves in which he was hunting. Martinez and Starr County Game Warden Drew Spencer launched a patrol boat in Zapata and, aided by the shroud of fog on the lake that

morning, were able to approach a Mexican commercial fishing vessel picking up gill net on the U.S. side of the lake.

The vessel was cut off from escape, but that did not stop the two illegal netters from ramming their boat into the wardens' boat. Martinez quickly repositioned his boat to once again cut off the fleeing commercial vessel. Once close enough, instead of boarding the Mexican boat, Spencer yanked

the operator from his vessel onto the wardens' boat and handcuffed him, ending the chase.

The second man was arrested; the vessel and about 6,000 feet of gill net on the commercial boat were seized. An additional 5,400 feet of gill net was later pulled from the lake by Martinez and Spencer.

Both men had previously been arrested for illegal commercial fishing activity.

particular mule deer buck but another that had been unknown. Cases are pending for waste of game, exceeding the bag limit on mule deer bucks and hunting under the license of another.

SUSPECT SOUGHT FOR RICOCHETING

The Foard County sheriff called Game Warden Matt Thompson and said he had received a call of a hunting accident. Thompson and the sheriff arrived on the scene and discovered that road hunting might have taken place. Someone had shot at wild hogs from the county road, and one of the bullets ricocheted and traveled to the adjoining property. The bullet struck a person who was working in a tool shed. The bullet traveled more than 1,200 yards, went through tin and plywood, and struck the victim. Other than a big whelp, the victim was fine. The bullet was a 7.62X39. The investigation is ongoing.

WARDEN HELPS BORDER PATROL FIND DRUG RUNNER

Hudspeth County Game Warden Chad West was patrolling the Fort Hancock area when he noticed an increase in Border Patrol units in a

concentrated area along the border. West offered assistance and was given a description of a possible illegal courier vehicle. Being familiar with the area, West contacted one of his local ranchers. The rancher said a vehicle matching the description was purchasing hay from him, and the driver appeared nervous. West immediately told Border Patrol and assisted in locating the vehicle. The suspect had 375.32 pounds of marijuana concealed in the toolbox and beneath the newly purchased alfalfa. Cases pending.

ONE'S ON PAROLE; THE OTHER IS SILENT

Two people were shooting rifles across a property line in Grayson County, and one had numerous felony convictions, including aggravated assault on a peace officer. The convictions were deferred, but the person was still on probation. The person told Grayson County Game Warden Dale Moses that his parole officer said that he could target shoot as long as he was with someone. Moses was going to contact the parole officer to confirm the person's allegation. The second person had a .22-caliber pistol with a silencer on it. The owner claimed

it was a fake, but when fired the sound was suppressed. The weapon was seized pending examination by ATF.

FATHER PAYS FOR HELPING BOY WITH WASTED BUCK

Sabine County Game Wardens Chad Gartman and Randy Button made contact with a 14-year-old who was out of breath and acting nervous. Shortly after the contact, the boy's father showed up and took the boy with him after saying he was finished hunting. Both wardens located where the juvenile had been hunting and found a small six-point buck that had been field dressed and thrown into a creek. The father was located and issued charges for criminal responsibility of another for aiding in his son's action. Case pending.

HUNTER HIDES BUCK THAT'S CLOSE TO RESTRICTION

A hunter hid a buck deer from Anderson County Game Warden Karen Gray and Capt. Gary Dugan when he thought it was an illegal spike. The hunter thought the deer was illegal because it had what appeared to be an additional point forking off the back of the spiked side of the ant-

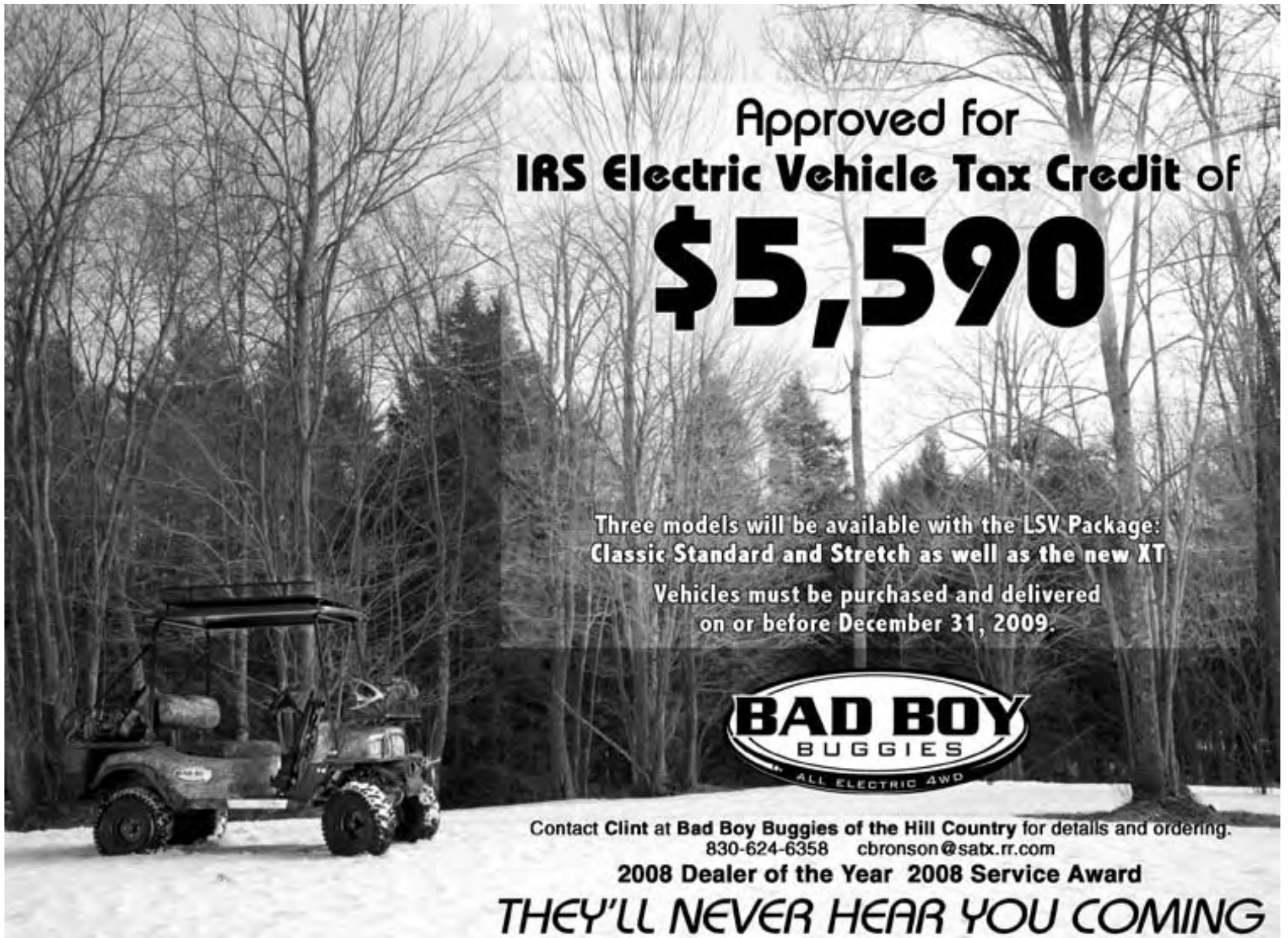
lers. The wardens determined that the additional point was shorter than 1 inch and should not be counted as a point. The spike would have been legal after all. Case pending.

LOADS OF MEAT, TOO FEW LICENSES

A Louisiana man and a Houston man were charged with possession of deer beyond quartering and no proof of sex for the deer. Houston County Game Warden Zak Bengel located the Louisiana resident exiting the woods, and when he asked about the man's luck, the man said a buddy had killed a deer. After showing the hunter the fresh blood on his boot, a trip to the camp revealed 1 1/2 deep freezers full of deer meat already processed and bagged into gallon freezer bags. The men said only three deer were killed and that one had already gone back to Houston. The hunters could only produce one eight-point buck head and one resident hunting license. The investigation continues. Cases pending.

END DATE DOESN'T STOP DOVE POACHER

Matagorda County Game Warden David Janssen was investigating gunshots when he was directed to a dove hunter by a fisherman. Janssen went to where the hunter was supposed to be but was informed by oil field workers that the hunter left in a hurry when he saw the warden's patrol truck. Janssen contacted the person, who was found to have a limit of mourning dove hidden inside a barbecue pit inside a barn. The person was cited for hunting dove during closed season. Janssen then returned to where the hunter had been hunting and, after a thorough search of the area, 18 more mourning dove were found hidden inside cattle pens. Additional charges were added.



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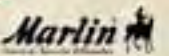
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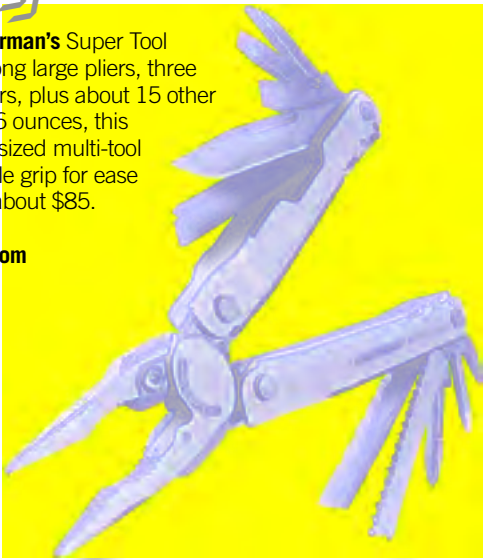
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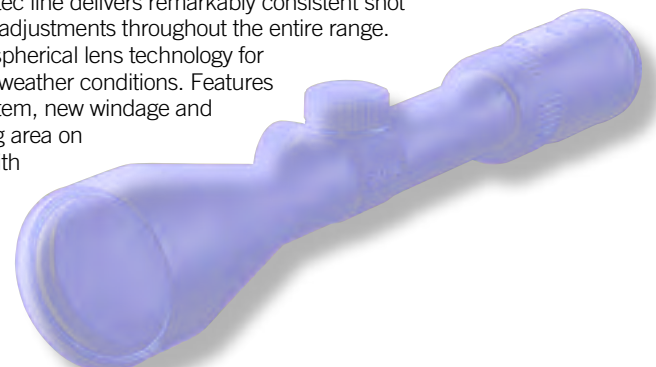


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Aggies win FLW College regional

Team comes from behind to win on Louisiana lake

The Texas A&M team of Paul Manley of Orange and Andrew Shafer of Chatfield stunned the crowd Monday by winning the National Guard FLW College Fishing Texas Regional Championship on Sibley Lake in Louisiana.

The anglers brought in a bag of six bass totaling 17 pounds, 2 ounces to win with a three-day total of 16 bass weighing 30 pounds, 7 ounces.

"We told you we were going to come out and open a can, and we did," said Shafer, a junior in wildlife and fisheries sciences. "I hooked my two big ones early today, around 8:30, both within 5 minutes of each other. Sibley Lake is a beautiful fishery, and today it really showed itself. We were a little surprised at today's weight; we thought we had about 12 or 13 pounds."

"Andy has been giving me a hard time all week," Manley said. "So I had to step up my game. After we caught those two big fish early, we actually thought we might be in contention, we just stayed calm and confident. We were in the right spots at the right time when the big ones started biting."

The Texas Regional was originally scheduled to take place on the Red River, but because of unsafe water conditions the tournament was moved to Sibley Lake. The lake was under a lot of pressure all weekend, and the bite was tough throughout the tournament. Despite what some swore wasn't there, a 5-pounder, Shafer and Manley were able to come up big. They fished around



GIG 'EM: A pair of Sibley Lake largemouths helped Andrew Shafer contribute greatly to the Aggie team's success. Photo by David A. Brown, for FLW College.

dead lily pads; Manley was flipping a green pumpkin speed craw and Shafer's success came with Chatter-Bait. They only caught seven keepers Monday, but that was more than enough to give them a solid win.

Manley and Shafer have been fishing together for about a year. This was their biggest and most exciting win. They are planning to spend spring break in Knoxville, Tenn., pre-fishing for the national championship, which will take place at the University of Tennessee next spring.

Rounding out the top five teams are the Texas State University team of Jay McCollum of Athens and David Cosner of Austin (13 bass, 27 pounds, 9 ounces); Tarleton State's Tanner Morgan of Stephenville and John Anderson of Tom Bean

(15 bass, 25-1); Northwestern State University's Aaron Sistrunk of Converse, La., and Jeffrey Rich of Alexandria, La. (15 bass, 21-11) and Baylor University's Jay Holland of Waco and Andrew McAdams of Lorena (16 bass, 20-10).

"I'm going home to ice my elbows and shoulders," said McCollum from the second place Texas State University team. "I am exhausted; we fished hard all weekend and had a blast. I'm ready to go home and get ready for Tennessee."

"We knew it was going to be a grind," said teammate Cosner. "We stuck to our game plan and hoped it would work out. We didn't get first, but we are still going to Tennessee and we are so excited."

—FLW report

Outdoor News in Brief

Lake Fork public meeting planned

The Wood County Industrial Commission and Texas Parks and Wildlife will host the "State of the Lake" meeting Feb. 4 to discuss Lake Fork.

The meeting will feature presentations by TPW biologists and Sabine River Authority representatives. Topics will include the status of the largemouth bass fishery at Lake Fork, invasive aquatic vegetation control and water pumping activities. A large portion of the meeting will be reserved for attendees to ask questions in a town hall format.

The meeting is open to the public meeting and will take place from 7-9 p.m. at the Land's End Fire Department.

—Texas Parks and Wildlife report

Conservationist to receive DSC award

The Dallas Safari Club will give its 2010 Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award to conservationist, naturalist and hunting rights advocate Hubert Thummler of Mexico City.

Thummler will be honored Jan. 9 at the DSC Convention and Sporting Expo in Dallas.

DSC and the Dallas Ecological Foundation offer the Capstick Award in recognition of exemplary leadership in conservation, education, hunting, humanitarian causes, research, permanent endowments and charitable giving.

"Hubert Thummler once said, 'Hunting and conservation are not only compatible but also inseparable,' and he has used that heartfelt philosophy to influence wildlife

policy and sporting traditions on a global scale," said Ben Carter, DSC executive director. "His sustained commitment and significant contributions benefit today's sportsmen and women as well as those of future generations."

Born of German and Latin descent in Mexico City in 1929, Thummler began hunting at age 40, launching his passion for wildlife and wild places. Today he has hunted 42 countries on six continents, collecting 325 record-book trophies, including several world records.

—DSC report

Austin warden named top officer

Chris Davis of Austin recently received the prestigious Shikar-Safari Club International's Wildlife Officer of the Year Award, given annually by the worldwide conservation organization to one wildlife law enforcement officer in each state.

Davis, a Texas Parks and Wildlife special operations sergeant, is the 30th Texan to receive the award. Davis graduated from the Texas Game Warden Training Academy in January 2001 and first was stationed in Polk County. He later transferred home to the Hill Country and worked in Burnet County before being promoted to the TPW Special Operations Unit in 2007.

Department leaders cited Davis' work with Operation Texas Shuffle, an 18-month undercover investigation of black-market white-tailed deer trading in Texas, in the decision to nominate him for the award.

Davis' investigations led to filing of felony charges for illegal importation of white-tailed deer.

—Texas Parks and Wildlife report

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Geese

Continued from Page 6

the coast.”

Around Knox and Haskell counties, rain has not been as abundant, and some ponds are low and need water to sustain birds throughout the season.

Recent rains have helped, but mild temperatures haven't.

“Our water situation is pretty good,” said

Roger Roewe of Roewe Outfitters in Haskell. “We have a lot of specks around, but the lesser Canadas are just getting here.

“We're still shooting limits, but it takes longer. What we need are some good cold fronts.”

North of Haskell, the tri-city area around Rochester, Knox City and Wienert — surrounded by peanut, milo and wheat fields — recently received the Canada goose numbers they need to enjoy solid decoying action.

Water

Continued from Page 6

pects for duck hunting next fall, Merendino said.

“A first rice harvest would not be as beneficial,” he said. “The grain on the ground, some birds will use it. But I wouldn't think it would be a large number of birds. A lot of the waste grain will already have been consumed.”

Rice is generally planted in February and harvested in July or August — followed by the cultivation of a second crop usually harvested in October.

One coastal hunting guide expressed confidence rice farmers will get their water.

“I think the chances of LCRA not doing it are remote,” said guide Randy Triplett of Third Coast Outfitters of Texas. “So I'm not too excited.

“These guys (rice farmers) have a lot of clout, plus there's the recent rains.”

Although the Highland Lakes (Lake Buchanan, Inks Lake, Lake LBJ, Lake Marble Falls, Lake Travis and Lake Austin) are about half-full, their levels are rising.

Remnants of Tropical Storm Rick brought 9 inches of rain in October and the weekend before Thanksgiving as much as 4 inches of rain fell there.

A reversal of weather patterns — leading to the LCRA denying water for a second rice crop — would imperil thousands of acres of wetlands, according to DU.

The Texas Prairie Wetlands Project it spearheaded restored 14,000 acres of wetlands in Colorado, Matagorda and Wharton counties. A third of that acreage is dependent on canal water furnished by the LCRA.

“This is a big walk-up call for rice producers and those of us producing conservation

programs,” Merendino said. “With more and more people and more and more demand for water, it's probably time for us to see how we can mold our programs to fit the circumstances — versus waiting to be slapped in the face and told, ‘Hey, there's no water for you.’”

Many rice farmers have the capability of using well water to raise their crops. However, as “interruptible” customers, whose water supply depends on lake levels, rice farmers get water from the LCRA at a significant discount, paying less than \$6 an acre-foot for water, according to Emlea Chanslor, LCRA spokeswoman.

“Firm” customers, such as cities, pay \$138 an acre-foot for water, Chanslor said. For that higher rate, the LCRA grants them first claim on the water.

The LCRA supplies more than 1 million customers with drinking water as well as providing water for industry and power plants in the Colorado River basin, according to the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Before recent rains, Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell argued that interruptible customers should expect the needs of firm customers “to take precedent” during a drought. However, Triplett noted that irrigation interests were some of the strongest proponents for the creation of LCRA, launched in 1935.

Chanslor said the LCRA was “very aware of historical relationships, which is why we're interested in studying ways to secure a water supply to meet all our customers' needs.”

DU's Merendino doesn't know if that's possible — at least in the near future.

“They're going to have to make some decisions, and it's probably not going to be win-win,” he said. “Somebody's not going to be happy.”

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MICHAEL SHANNON of Bastrop caught this 42-inch redfish while fishing on the *Island Queen II* out of Port Aransas.



Jake Sanchez of St. Louis, Mo., holds a Barbado ram his father, **SAM SANCHEZ**, shot with a bow near Alice.



RON McCALLUM of Dallas caught this tuna about 145 nautical miles out of Freeport at the Gunnison Rig.



SPENCER GRAY, right, holds his first whitetail buck. With him is his father, **Brian**. On the same trip, Spencer also shot his first axis buck.



HOLT DORRIS, 10, holds a buck pronghorn antelope he shot in West Texas. He was hunting with his father, **Hank**, right, and his mother, **Meredith**, left, also made the trip. Holt shot the buck with a .243 at 150 yards, and its horns were 14 inches long with 7-inch bases.

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DANIELLE GUTIERREZ, 12, of San Antonio shot this buck at her uncle's ranch in South Texas using a .223 rifle. For more about Danielle's hunt, visit LSONews.com.

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Warden

Continued from Page 1

tor of the state's game wardens.

Meanwhile, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission recognized Lawrence on Nov. 4 for logging 40 years on the job. But on that day, Lawrence was out on the water checking shrimp boats, Harmon said.

It's the career Lawrence always wanted, even as a little kid near the coast in Jackson County.

"I've always been around water, and I liked to fish and hunt," he said. "I remember riding up the elevator in the courthouse to buy a little exempt fishing license they used to sell to kids for 25 cents."

"It was a rite of passage."

Memories of local game warden Andrew Henderson also stuck with him.

"He was a respected man in the community," Lawrence said. "I'd see him come down to check us out, and I remember telling my buddies, 'I'm going to be a game warden some day.'"

Lawrence was a military policeman in the Army and served in Germany; after that he went straight to the game warden academy — and the altar.

He has been married to his wife, Margaret, for 43 years. They have two grown daughters and three grandchildren.

But fresh out the academy, Lawrence was gripped with frustration as commercial fishermen used gill nets to make colossal catches. Populations of redfish and trout plummeted.

"Problem was, they'd take and take and take and never put anything back," Lawrence said. "Pretty soon, you're not going to have much of a resource."

In the 1970s, however, wardens got the authority they needed to push back the declines.

Lawrence credited the TPW Commission and the Legislature for working to outlaw nets in the coastal fisheries, despite the outcries from "local politicians" worried about constituent livelihoods.

"Guys would tell me, 'I have a First, Tenth and Fifteenth amendment right to be making a living out here with this net,'" Lawrence recalled. "I said, 'I'll tell you what, boys. If you can recite the preamble of the Constitution,

I'll let you go.'

"Well, of course they flunked the test. And I arrested all of them!"

The fisheries rebounded and helped spur other revenues, Lawrence said.

"Ten years ago, we probably had three fishing guides down here in the merry town of Matagorda," he said. "But now I'll bet we have at least 40 of them, and they put a lot of money back into the community."

Lawrence, however, hasn't endured four decades on the job without some scrapes.

In February 2002 he was on patrol in Matagorda Bay when he was thrown from his boat. It then ran over him.

The propeller chopped away at his foot and ankle. He would have bled to death if his partner, Game Warden Clay Shock, hadn't reached him, Harmon said.

"Arthur was laid up for a good little while," Harmon said. "Back then, he could've hung up his pad and retired, but he went through rehab and went back to work."

When Hurricane Katrina flooded New Orleans in August 2005, Texas game wardens were enlisted to help law enforcement.

"Arthur was among the first to volunteer," Harmon said. "I got a picture of him on an air boat. It's typical Arthur; he's driving the boat with one hand and drinking a Coke with the other."

One tense moment, however, didn't involve law-breakers.

"Arthur and some others found some elderly women and took them to the nearest high ground," Harmon said. "Arthur flagged down a deuce-and-a-half National Guard truck, and he asked them to take the women to the nearest shelter."

"Well, they kind of hemmed and hawed about it, but Arthur stressed in a very serious manner that they needed to take these women. And, typical Arthur, he went to the back of that truck and told those young guys to get down and help the ladies."

"Chivalry is not dead with Arthur. Everybody on that deployment was just flabbergasted with him."

"Salty" was how Flores described Lawrence. He noted that the only warden with more time than Lawrence is Arthur McCall of Pleas-

People say, 'Why do you keep going?' But I like it. I like to go to work every day.
— Arthur Lawrence, game warden



LAWMAN: Above, Arthur Lawrence, left, and another game warden haul gill net on a Texas beach. Left, Lawrence examines a catch of red snapper. Lawrence has had many experiences during his 40 years as a game warden. Photos by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

anton, with 41 years.

"I've known both of them for my whole career, and that's 25 years," Flores said. "They're as solid as any men you'll meet. Both are the kind of guys you'd want as a friend, but also in a pinch."

For Lawrence, his "golden years" will be spent on patrol, or at least as long as he feels

able.

"People say, 'Why do you keep going?'" he said. "But I like it. I like to go to work every day."

"My wife will tell you, I'm like a fireman. I jump out of bed, pull my boots on and I'm gone. I got to be out doing something, patrolling those woods or being out on that water."

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Outdoor News in Brief

USDA pushing for full wetlands enrollment

The U.S. Department of Agriculture aims to have the Wetlands Reserve Program enrolled to its fully authorized acreage by 2012, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Ducks Unlimited has a history of working with landowners to put WRP projects on their land, including more than 250,000 acres in the lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley, and looks forward to working with the USDA and landowners to reach this goal.

"This could be great news for farmers and duck hunters," said Dan Wrinn, director of public policy for Ducks Unlimited. "Ducks Unlimited partnering with farmers and the USDA to put more habitat on the ground, while providing benefits to landowners, is always a win-win situation."

Enrollment in the program stands at about 2.2 million acres. Reaching the final goal will mean having more than 3 million acres enrolled.

"The Wetlands Reserve Program has been

and will continue to be one of our largest and most popular programs," said Dave White, NRCS chief. "The WRP has helped landowners restore and enhance over 2 million acres of wetlands — with tremendous benefits for migratory wildlife. While we've been successful, we've even more opportunities in the future. The 2008 Farm Bill added another 1 million acres to the WRP, and over the next three years we will be taking aggressive actions to meet this goal. To do so, we will be working closely with Ducks Unlimited and other wildlife conservation partners to get even more habitat and wildlife on the land."

"WRP lands provide excellent wintering habitat for migrating waterfowl and help provide certainty for farmers in the face of an unsure economy."

WRP is a popular program with farmers looking to voluntarily conserve their marginal cropland. Technical and financial assistance are available to convert marginal or unproductive croplands to waterfowl friendly habitats.

Ducks Unlimited will work with the NRCS to reach this goal, which will benefit waterfowl across the country.

— Ducks Unlimited report

Flounder

Continued from Page 8

do the flatties."

Barlow has fished the waters of those marshes for years, and knows to look in the eddies and cuts for the flounder.

"I have learned to distinguish the thump of a flounder from anything else," she said.

Reports throughout the state by kayak anglers are generally favorable, especially in the upper coast waters. The lower coast has suffered some from red tide, though it is not known if the algae bloom has affected flounder migration.

Anglers have frequently hit the state's new two-flounder November limit in the Galveston Ship Channel, with fish running in the 15- to 18-inch range.

Flatties are feisty fish when brought near the boat.

"I caught a nice 23 (inch fish) last week that about beat me to death when I got it to the

kayak," said angler "Tricky" Matt Hackworth of Houston.

Flounder limits changed this year, with a reduction in limit from 10 to five fish, and a further reduction to two for the month of November. The state also instituted a complete ban on gigging during November.

Game Warden Lt. Fred Ruiz of the La Marque office said wildlife officers have noticed an increase in illegal netting of flounder. Wardens recently pulled in an illegal gill net that contained 50 flounder.

Although some bad apples might ignore the regulations, the public is well-informed about the limit changes for flounder, Ruiz said.

"We have run public education campaigns related to the change in flounder regulations, but the online communities have been a great help in spreading the word, and most anglers are aware of the new regulations," he said.

He added that this year's flounder run has been good, though it's been hard to compare with last year because of Hurricane Ike's impact.

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Lake Brazos

Continued from Page 9

TPW stocked it in 2008 with 150,000 fish, split about evenly among Florida largemouth bass, blue catfish and bluegill. The rate is more than an established lake would receive but typical for a newly renovated lake.

Paddling trails and improvements to boat ramps are planned.

Nearby parks and trails are being improved to encourage use.

A new boat with two full-time workers will be deployed to keep the lake clean.

Native vegetation will be planted along the banks.

The city will begin a new tackle-loaner program, where bank anglers can borrow a rod, reel and tackle box.

“Waco’s kind of grown around the river, so if it was the heartbeat of our community, you need to make sure that your heart is alive and well,” said Rusty Black, the city’s parks and recreation director.

An initial task in the improvement project was assessing the situation.

TPW studied the lake to determine fish populations and to examine their habitat.

No study had been conducted on the lake before.

TPW biologists John E. Tibbs and Michael S. Baird conducted the study and found dismal numbers of fish in most cases.

Their catch rates — using electrofishing, gill nets and trap nets — were not good. For largemouth bass, the rate was the lowest in the biologists’ district, which includes Lakes Whitney, Belton, Granbury and others. Spotted bass were common, and smallmouth are common on the river upstream of Lake Brazos.

White and striped bass had low numbers during a survey this spring.

White crappie in the initial survey had a moderate population size, but none of the fish sampled met the legal length limit for keeping.

Catch rates for forage species were also low.

Catfish were a bright spot in the report. Lake Brazos supports a “strong” blue catfish population in number and fish size, according to the report.

Bank anglers can often be seen along the river watching their rod tips.

But fish life in the river seems to be turning around, Tibbs said.

Tibbs recently demonstrated electrofishing for students at McLennan Community College, which sits on the Bosque River upstream from the lake, and had surprising results.

“What we found was a big concentration of threadfin shad, and we collected a bunch of good crappie,” Tibbs said.

The survey was unofficial, but the results were encouraging. Tibbs did not take credit for it, however.

The new dam providing a constant water level plays a big part, he said.

“We’re still building the fishery,” Tibbs said.

In addition to stocking fish, TPW will begin to regularly survey the lake’s fishery. The biologists will see what fish do well.

“It’s really something we’re interested in because of its location, but we can’t do as much as we’d like to,” he said.

A challenge to boosting the fishery is flow-through on the river. When it

rains, the current can hinder spawning success for some species, such as catfish, Tibbs said.

One problem the lake does not have is poor water quality, Tibbs said. Although it flows through an urban area, the levels of contaminants were well below federal limits, he said.

“That was the first thing we did to find out are the fish safe to eat, and they are, thankfully,” he said.

Other than stocking fish, the state will also add fish-attracting structure. The structure will be placed where anglers without boats can catch the fish they hold, Tibbs said.

For now, the fishing is fair to good, said James Tucker, a fishing guide who takes trips on Lake Brazos and other lakes.

Many anglers are catching catfish, white bass are “excellent” and crappie numbers are good, though the fish are small, Tucker said.

“Everybody’s pretty excited about next year for crappie,” he said.

For black bass, anglers can catch many weighing 2 to 3 pounds, he said, and numbers are high for fish in the 6- to 8-inch range. He has caught

some weighing more than 5 pounds while targeting catfish with bait.

Few anglers target largemouth bass on the lake, Tucker said, save for a few diehards and college students from nearby Baylor and MCC.

Some, such as Black, can find them.

“I could take you out there, and I promise you’re going to have a limit in two hours,” he said.

The city has put more than \$30 million in river improvements, mostly in the peripheral areas, Black said. Cameron Park, on the lake’s northwest end, has received \$9.5 million in improvements, including a new boat ramp. Hike and bike trails and wildlife habitat are also being boosted.

For Black, the work is about taking advantage of a valuable asset across all uses. In addition to fishing, people can walk along the river in urban downtown Waco, use it to access attractions such as the Texas Ranger Museum and Baylor, catch a concert at MCC’s amphitheatre and walk the city’s picturesque suspension bridge.

“Bottom line, we’ve got to take care of what we’ve got,” Black said.

Lures

Continued from Page 8

“Our pricing is helping us sell, and also the simplicity of the lure.”

Business might become a little more complicated, though, Salinas said. But that would be by design.

The men want to allow purchasers to customize their tandems. They would be able to select the weight of line used, whether they use monofilament or fluorocarbon line, and hook size and bait.

“That’s our next thing that we’re working on,” Salinas said.

They are also working on expanding sales, as any company would. They are focusing on selling to anglers in Texas and Florida.

In Florida, anglers fish the lure over more structure, Trollan said. At outgoing tides they will hold it in the current at an inlet.

“They’re catching a ton of tarpon and snook, I mean killing the tarpon,” Trollan said.

Credit for some of the success could go to the baits SPI Lures sells with its rigs. Trollan and Salinas put DOA jerk baits on their pre-rigged packages.

The arrangement came after a day of fishing with DOA owner Mark Nichols, Salinas said.

“We swam a lot of different baits with our tandem, and that particular day I put on his baits,” Salinas said. “And there was no other bait that swam like his DOA C.A.L. jerk bait.”

No one kept count, but Salinas noted that his tandem caught as many fish as Nichols’ single rig.

“For every fish that he would catch, we were doing the same on the tandem,” Salinas said.

The men began selling their lures in early 2009 and have about 40 buyer accounts. They have been working on forming the company for about two years, said Salinas, who is 32.

“Everybody we’ve approached has really liked the concept,” Trollan said.

Seven out of 10 buyers they introduce the lure to place orders immediately, Trollan said. He did not have numbers available on how many lures they had sold, but said it’s in the thousands.

“We’re definitely moving right along,” he said.

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Pheasant

Continued from Page 1

...eas aren't, Bonner said. "We're never all wet," he said. "The playas can be pretty spotty." Farther south, the rains didn't come to some of the areas, but most hunters and outfitters feel there was enough food and cover to provide for good numbers of birds. "It started out looking thin," said Jim Stiert, who is in his 30th year of guiding pheasant hunters through Quality Hunts in Hereford. "We didn't get the rains that the northeastern Panhandle received. But west and northwest of Hereford, the boys riding combines said they are surprised how many birds they are seeing." Stiert hunts mostly east of Hereford, primarily in sorghum stubble and playa bottoms. And this year, a good number of the playa bottoms are dry, which is not all bad.

But it may be Dec. 2 before they know the real answer. "You don't really know until you get there," he said. Other areas weren't so lucky. "Some areas got hail," Stiert said. "That really hurts the birds." Stiert said he feels the opener would be good for some in the southern Panhandle, and spotty for others. "Gold is where you find it," he said. "There will be hot pockets and other areas where there will be some empty walking." He agreed the Spearman area should top the list this year. "That's the new pheasant capital of Texas," he said. And he was glad to see that the Tulia area received more rain after some down years and should see better pheasant hunting. "It's their turn," he said. "That's good; it's the first time in a long time."

Quail

Continued from Page 1

...from eating cactus fruit. It looked like a clown. People take quail seriously, but when cactus fruit ripens, it's hard for hunters to keep a straight face. The birds' heads turn purple when they eat the juicy fruit of a prickly pear. A bird will look like it stuck its head in a purple inkwell after devouring the pulp and seeds. "It's a significant, seasonally available part of their diet," said Jim Lionberger, a Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist based in Hermleigh. Prickly pear fruit ripens during late summer and early fall, and quail will switch over to it. Another cactus also on their menu is tasajillo, also called jumping cactus or pencil cactus. The birds choose the fruit, though other food might be available. They are not reverting to it because of unfavorable conditions, Lionberger said. "There may be other things out there to eat, but they're eating that," he said. The fruit does not adversely affect the birds, Lionberger said, although it is different from their usual diet of seeds. The fruit also contains seeds, which the birds eat. Quail eat prickly pear fruit and will seek cover among its pads. They also use it for nesting. But despite its usefulness to the birds, Lion-

berger does not recommend landowners encourage prickly pear's growth. "I'm not by any means saying you should go out there and promote prickly pear," Lionberger said. "But it does have its uses." The fruit can also supply much needed water to the birds, said Louis Harveson, a professor at Sul Ross State University and director of the Borderlands Research Institute. "It is a staple of their diet," Harveson said. Many quail do not need to drink water to survive — they acquire it from food they eat. So any succulent plant they eat that has lots of water "just doubled their benefit basically," Harveson said. With water in mind, quail in drought-stricken parts of the state might benefit more from cactus fruit, Harveson said, and they might seek it more often. "Quail are just like you and I," he said. "They're going to get the most benefit from the food source while expending the least amount of energy." The bright purple masks do not appear to increase predation, the biologists said. Blue quail are "so darn fast," Harveson said, and bobwhites are so good at hiding that having a purple face does not make much difference. Lionberger said avoiding predators is more a matter of cover for the birds to hide in. "That's the main concern there," he said.





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Texas study links golden algae toxin to pH

Higher pH levels lead to more fish deaths

Central Texas and Lake Granbury in North Texas.

The researchers, based at Texas A&M University, Baylor University and the University of Texas at Arlington examined the pH and toxicity of several lakes in central and north Texas known for large golden algae fish kills. They also performed laboratory experiments to confirm observations in the field and used computational models to examine properties of golden algae toxins at various pH. They found that as the pH level in the lakes increased, so did the toxicity of the algae. The potency of the algae was nearly five times greater at a pH level of 8.5 than it was at 6.5.

"These results suggest that at least some of the identified toxins released by golden algae are weak base," said Ted Valenti, a Baylor doctoral student who was lead author on the study. "Consequently, in-reservoir pH may substantially in-

Higher pH increases the toxicity of golden algae, which kills millions of fish in the southern U.S. every year, according to a recent study conducted in Texas.

Several environmental factors influence toxin production, but the study, recently published in the journal *Toxicon*, indicates that once the toxin is released into the water, its propensity to cause harm to the environment is influenced by the lake's pH level. The toxins become more potent at higher pH, which the researchers say is interesting because blooms may increase pH.

Although golden algae is primarily a coastal species, it has been found in Texas rivers and lakes, including Lake Whitney and Lake Waco in



DEADLY DISASTER: A backhoe removes fish from Lake Granbury after toxins from golden algae poisoned them to death in a previous incident. A new study indicates the algae's toxins are more potent at higher pH levels. File photo by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

See **ALGAE**, Page 24

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"I like to do no more than four, keep it a small group," Freis said.

Most of his hunts are held around Cisco, Gorman and DeLeon, but not always.

Freis recently participated in a Texas Youth Hunting Program hunt at the John Bunker Sands Wetlands Center near Seagoville and had one of the best hunts of his life. The birds were flying by the thousands.

"Just for the kids to see that many ducks and the ducks working well into the decoys was unbelievable," Freis said. "It was

one of the best duck hunts I've been on."

Taking children to the center, a vast wetlands near Dallas, is an "educational experience" for young duck hunters, Freis said.

Incoming Guide Service provides everything needed for an enjoyable hunt. "We really focus on obedient, well-trained dogs to help hunters locate their game," Freis said.

Freis also said he aims to run an honest operation, and if he has no birds, he lets his customers know in advance.

"If the birds aren't there, we're not going to book a hunt," he said.

Freis focuses on youth hunts but also accepts groups of adults. But no matter his hunters' ages, he has the same goal in mind.

"We want it to be a safe hunt and an enjoyable hunt," he said.

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Falcon

Continued from Page 8

turned in two two-day stringers weighing 60 pounds each, Ball said.

"It's amazing," he said. "Amazing."

Pro angler Alton Jones of Waco also had a jaw-dropping day at Falcon this fall. Jones, who won the Bassmaster Classic in 2008, put together the best string of five fish of his career Nov. 6.

He probably need help hoisting the sack: It

weighed 50 pounds, 8 ounces.

"I look back on it and still can't believe it," Jones wrote in a column posted at ESPN.com.

Too bad he was not fishing in a tournament. Jones was on the water with Pradco's brand manager, Andy Carroll, and Bass Pro Shops' senior tackle buyer, Ronnie Manrose.

"We caught 19 bass over 8 pounds," Jones wrote. "Nine of those were over 9 pounds, and two were over 10, with the biggest being 11-2."

"When you're catching them like that you don't even count 6s and 7s."

Algae

Continued from Page 23

fluence their availability, fate and ultimately their toxicity. The continuation of monitoring efforts coupled with further investigation of climate and land-use patterns is critical. This interdisciplinary approach may allow researchers to better understand bloom formation and pH dynamics in reservoirs, which may allow them to better predict and mitigate fish kills in the future."

Along the Brazos River in north and cen-

tral Texas, more than 6 million fish have been killed since 1988 because of high golden algae levels, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife. In 2005, more than 1 million fish died in Lake Whitney over a three-month period. Officials believe large golden algae blooms contributed to the deaths, attacking the fishes' gills and causing them to suffocate.

The Baylor researchers worked in collaboration with Dr. Daniel Roelke at Texas A&M and Drs. James Grover and Kevin Schug at the University of Texas at Arlington.

—Baylor University report

Mule deer

Continued from Page 6

Hunters took three massive bucks from Gaines County last year. Danny Young harvested the biggest, which had a gross antler score of 230. Jason Stine had one measuring 224 3/8, and James M. Moore took one that grossed 221 3/8.

Last year was the first year mule deer hunting was legal in Gaines County, which is rich farmland where cotton and peanuts are dominant crops. They are also a dominant food source for deer, Fitzgerald said. The muleys there do well as far as body weight goes.

"They're healthy," Fitzgerald said. "You're talking about 250-, 300-pound deer."

Gaines County's game warden, Shaun Bayless, predicts good hunting in 2009-10.

"It'll be good again this year, yes sir," said Bayless, who covers Gaines and Andrews counties.

Some have questioned whether Gaines County can retain its crown of mule deer king. Bayless said maintaining the quality of the herd is up to landowner and regulators.

"When people ask me that question, the only thing I can tell them is I preach management," Bayless said.

Last year, hunters harvested many young deer, Bayless said, which can hurt the population's quality.

"If you don't give those deer a chance to grow and mature, you'll have problems," he said.

Gaines County landowners are "seeing the potential and the possibility" that mule deer hunting provides, and they're acting on it. Bayless called his corner of West Texas a hidden jewel for hunting.

"I don't think people realize how much hunting is out here," he said.

Fitzgerald, however, sees the pressure on Gaines County's deer herd as a detriment.

"At the rate we're going, the quality deer (hunting) is not going to stand up to the amount of hunters," Fitzgerald said.

Mule deer season began Nov. 21 in the Panhandle and Nov. 28 in the Trans-Pecos. In a handful of counties in the southwestern Panhandle, including Gaines County, the season lasts nine days.

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FISHING REPORT

HOT BITES

LARGEMOUTH BASS



LBI: Very good on Bleeding Shad Rat-L-Traps and plastic swimbaits along seawalls among schooling shad and on Curb's buzzbaits and weightless watermelon red Whacky Sticks along lay downs and stumps on creek points.

ARROWHEAD: Good on crankbaits 1-4' depth near rocky structures and submerged vegetation.

BOB SANDLIN: Good on Carolina-rigged and Texas-rigged worms.

GRANBURY: Good on watermelon red and watermelon green soft plastic worms and lizards.

WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



COOPER: White bass are good on slabs.

GRAPEVINE: White bass are good on slabs.

GREENBELT: White bass are good on live bait.

CONROE: Striped bass are good on live minnows and chartreuse striper jigs.

TOLEDO BEND: Striped bass are good on spoons. White bass are good on spoons.

COLEMAN: Hybrid striper are good on live minnows and green striper jigs.

CATFISH



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

CALAVERAS: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheesebait and shad near the railroad bridge and 181 Cove.

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

WALTER E. LONG: Channel and blue catfish are very good on shad and cut bait at the gravel pit.

CRAPPIE



SOMERVILLE: Very good on minnows and green/black jigs.

FORK: Good on live minnows and jigs around bridge columns.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Good on live minnows near the subdivisions and on the southwest side of the lake in 20 feet.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 2.61' low. Black bass are fair on crawfish-colored crankbaits, chartreuse/white spinnerbaits and black/blue soft plastic lures suspended in trees. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on live bait.

AMISTAD: Water clear; 68 degrees; 1.95' low. Black bass are good on topwaters, frogs, crankbaits and soft plastics. Striped bass are good on slabs, spoons and small crankbaits and fair on topwaters. White bass are good on slabs, spoons and small crankbaits and fair on topwaters. Catfish are good on cheesebait, shrimp and nightcrawlers in 12-60 feet over baited holes. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines.

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 61 degrees; 6.77' low. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows suspended 14-16 feet depth off the derricks. White bass are good off rocky points with limited surface action. Blue Catfish are fair on cheese bait or on jugsline baited with shad.

BASTROP: Water clear. 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 and nightcrawlers.

BELTON: Water lightly stained; 67 degrees; 3.25' high. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps along banks and in coves. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on doughbait.

BOB SANDLIN: Water murky; 63-67 degrees; 0.08' high. White bass are fair on slabs. Catfish are good on prepared bait under cormorant roosts.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; 67 degrees. Black bass are fair on crankbaits and dark soft plastic worms in reeds and near the jetty and dam. 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. Redfish are good on bait and silver spoons and down-rigging spoons near the jetty and dam. Blue catfish are good on cut bait.

BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 65 degrees; 7.54' low. Black bass are fair on buzzbaits, Persuader crankbaits and watermelon red or pumpkinseed soft plastic worms over brush piles in 10-20 feet. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are fair on pet spoons off lighted docks at night. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel catfish are fair on cut bait and stinkbait over baited holes in 12-20 feet.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 67 degrees; 25.98' low. Black bass are good on Bleeding Shad Rat-L-Traps, white buzzbaits and spinnerbaits and 3" shad flukes from Paradise Point to Applehead and in larger creeks. Striped bass are good. White bass are fair. Crappie are good. Channel catfish are good on liver, minnows and dip bait. Yellow and blue catfish are good on live shad.

CADDO: Water murky; 62-66 degrees; 2.58' high. Black bass are fair to good on Texas rigs, Senkos and jigs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on prepared baits and shrimp.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 67 degrees. Black bass are fair on dark soft plastic worms, spinnerbaits and crankbaits around reed beds, near the dam and in Granny's Cove. Striped bass are slow. Redfish are good on live bait and down-rigging silver spoons between the crappie wall and the dam in 15-20 feet and on crawfish and tilapia near the dam and Spider Island. Crappie are slow.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear; 64 degrees; 11.04' low. Black bass are good on 1/8 oz. white spinnerbaits, Fat Free Shads and Texas-rigged watermelon green soft plastics and watermelon flukes in standing timber, stickups and along brush piles on secondary points in 4-12 feet. Striped bass are fair to good. White bass are fair on artificial minnows. Smallmouth bass are good on green pumpkin tubes. Crappie are good on minnows and crappie jigs upriver. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are good on jugsline.

CEDAR CREEK: Water stained; 63-67 degrees; 0.05' high. Black bass are good

on drop-shot rigs, jigs and Texas rigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Hybrid striper are fair on live bait and slabs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait and chartreuse nightcrawlers (use Worm-Glo).

CHOKO CANYON: Water clear; 68 degrees; 9.50' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and tequila sunrise soft plastics in 15-25 feet. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows and blue tube jigs. Drum are fair on live worms. Channel and blue catfish are good on nightcrawlers and stinkbait. Yellow catfish are fair on perch and goldfish.

COLEMAN: Water clear; 67 degrees; 10.11' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on live minnows over brush piles. Channel and blue catfish are fair on shrimp and minnows.

CONROE: Water stained; 0.08' high. Black bass are good on watermelon red and watermelon green soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits in 10-20

feet. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are fair on stinkbait and shrimp.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear; 67 degrees; 0.41' high. Black bass to 3 pounds are fair on silver and blue topwaters and Rat-L-Traps in 15-17 feet and on chuggers near the island and marina. Bream are good on live worms over grass beds. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait near the marina in 32 feet.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 7.83' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored spinnerbaits and soft jerkbaits worked along grass lines and green pumpkin soft plastics worms worked along timber. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait. Catfish are fair on live and cut bait.

JOE POOL: Water off-color; 62-67 degrees; 0.74' high. Black bass are fair to good on drop-shot rigged finesse baits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on slabs. Catfish are fair to good on

degrees; 4.72' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored spinnerbaits and live baits. Crappie are fair on live bait and jigs. White bass are good on silver jugging spoons and chrome jerkbaits. Strippers are good on topwater lures, silver spoons and Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are fair on live and cut bait.

RAY HUBBARD: Water fairly clear; 62-66 degrees; 0.02' high. Black bass are good jigs, Texas rigs, drop-shot rigs and crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on slabs. Hybrid striper are good. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

RAY ROBERTS: Water lightly stained; 61-64 degrees; 1.91' high. Black bass are fair on Bomber crankbaits and Carolina-rigged Lake Fork ring fries. No report on crappie. White bass are good but difficult to locate on jugging spoons. Catfish are good on prepared baits.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water off-color; 63-65 degrees; 0.25' high. Black bass are fair to good on jigs, medium running crankbaits, Carolina rigs and Rat-L-Traps. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Hybrid striper are fair on large slabs and live shad. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are good on prepared baits, cut shad and nightcrawlers.

SAM RAYBURN: Water stained; 68 degrees; 0.56' low. Black bass are good on topwaters and pumpkinseed soft plastic worms in 20-30 feet. White bass are good on silver spoons. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Bream are fair on worms. Catfish are good on stinkbait.

SOMERVILLE: Water murky; 65 degrees; 0.41' high. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are slow. Channel and blue catfish are very good on stinkbait, liver and cheesebait.

STILLHOUSE: Water murky; 65 degrees; 0.68' high. Black bass to 10.5 pounds are good on minnows, crankbaits and spinnerbaits. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on minnows, hot dogs and nightcrawlers. Yellow catfish to 51 pounds are good on live bait.

TAWAKONI: Water fairly clear; 63-66 degrees; 0.7' high. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits, jigs and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cheese bait. White bass are fair on Humdingers and slabs. Striped bass and hybrid striper are fair on live shad and slabs.

TEXOMA: Water off-color; 62-65 degrees; 1.99' high. Black bass are fair to good on jigs, Texas rigs, Carolina rigs and medium to deep diving crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs around bridges and over brush piles. Striped bass are fair to good on slabs and live shad. Catfish are fair to good.

TOLEDO BEND: Water stained; 68 degrees; 0.68' high. Black bass are good on pumpkin green, watermelon and redbug soft plastic worms in 20 feet. Crappie are fair on minnows. Bream are good on nightcrawlers. Channel and blue catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

TRAVIS: Water stained; 66 degrees; 33.07' low. Black bass to 3 pounds are good on bone topwaters and green pumpkin worms in 5-25 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on chrome spoons and minnows in 35-42 feet. Crappie are fair on minnows and pink tube jigs in 12-20 feet. Channel and blue catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and bloodbait in 28-45 feet.

WALTER E. LONG: Water stained; 67 degrees. Black bass are good on minnows and dark soft plastic worms near the dam at night. Hybrid striper are good on minnows at night. White bass are good. Crappie are good on red wigglers. Yellow catfish are fair.

WHITNEY: Water stained; 1.86' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red spinnerbaits and crankbaits and on watermelon red topwaters early and late. Striped bass are fair on live minnows and chartreuse striper jigs. White bass are good on minnows, pet spoons and hell-benders. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are good on shrimp, stinkbait and nightcrawlers.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 60

HOT SPOT



Rockport

Redfish are good in Redfish Bay on mullet and crabs. Bull redfish are good in the channel on shrimp and crabs.

cut and prepared baits.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 63-66 degrees; 13.98' high. No report available due to high water conditions.

LBI: Water stained; 68 degrees; 0.40' low. Striped bass are good on Curb's Spoiler Shads and L'il Fishies at night. White bass are very good on L'il Fishies at night. Crappie are good on Curb's 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.

LEWISVILLE: Water stained; 63-67 degrees; 2.06' high. Black bass are good on jigs, drop-shot rigs and Bandit 200 crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on slabs. Hybrid striper are fair on slabs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

LIVINGSTON: Water murky; 67 degrees; 0.15' high. Black bass to 4.5 pounds are good on buzzbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows. Blue catfish are good on shad, shrimp and prepared baits.

NASWORTHY: Water lightly stained; 60 degrees. Black bass are fair on green pumpkin soft plastic lures suspended in timber and live baits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Redfish are fair on live bait. White bass and striped bass are fair on live bait. Catfish are fair on live bait.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 21.12' low. Black bass are good on shad-colored crankbaits, large black/blue soft plastics lures and live bait worked around timber. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait and white crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are fair on live bait. Channel catfish are good.

GRAPEVINE: Water stained; 62-67 degrees; 2.04' high. Black bass are fair to good Texas rigs, drop-shot rigs and medium diving crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait.

GREENBELT: Water stained; 48 degrees; 32.37' low. Black bass are fair on white crankbaits, black/blue soft plastics around timber and live bait worked along trees. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. Smallmouth bass are fair on live bait and white crankbaits. Walleye are

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Trout are fair to good under birds and pods of shad on soft plastics. Redfish and flounder are good in the marsh on shrimp.

SOUTH SABINE: Trout are fair to good under birds and pods of shad. Redfish are good at the jetty on live bait and cracked crabs. Flounder are fair at the



mouths of the bayous on a falling tide.

BOLIVAR: Trout, black drum, sand trout and redfish are good at Rollover Pass. Trout are fair to good while drifting shell on plastics.

TRINITY BAY: Trout are good for drifters working pods of shad and mullet on Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels. Trout are good under birds in the upper end of the bay.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are good for waders tossing Catch 2000s and 51 Mirrolures. Trout are good for drifters working deep shell on plastics and fresh shrimp. Redfish and flounder are fair to good in the marsh around drains on shrimp.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Bull redfish and flounder are good at San Luis Pass on shrimp and shad. Sheepshead, redfish and black drum are good at the jetty on shrimp and crabs. Flounder are fair at Seawolf Park on jigs tipped with shrimp.

TEXAS CITY: Redfish are fair to good in Moses Lake on crabs and shrimp.



Gulf trout are good in the channel on fresh shrimp.

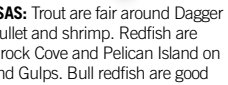
FREEPORT: Bull redfish are good around Surfside and at the

Quintana jetty on crabs, shrimp and mullet. A few birds have worked in Christmas Bay.

EAST MATAGORDA BAY: Trout are fair for drifters on live shrimp over humps and scattered shell. Trout and flounder are fair to good on muddy shorelines on soft plastics.

WEST MATAGORDA BAY: Trout are fair on sand and grass humps on soft plastics and topwaters. Redfish are fair on live shrimp at Shell Island, Mad Island and around old Parker's Cut.

PORT O'CONNOR: Redfish are best in the back lakes on shrimp and mullet. Bull redfish are good at the jetty on crabs, mullet and shad. Trout are fair to good on the reefs in San Antonio Bay.



ROCKPORT: Redfish are good in Redfish Bay on mullet and crab.

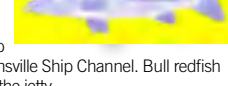
Bull redfish are good in the channel on shrimp and crabs.

PORT ARANSAS: Trout are fair around Dagger Island on mullet and shrimp. Redfish are fair at Shamrock Cove and Pelican Island on topwaters and Gulps. Bull redfish are good at the jetty and on the beachfront on natural baits. Offshore is good for tuna.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Bull redfish are good in the surf on mullet and shrimp. Trout are fair for waders working mud and grass on small topwaters. Redfish and black drum are good in the Humble Channel on live bait.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout are good over deep rocks on plum Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels. Redfish are fair to good in the Land Cut on shrimp and crabs.

PORT MANSFIELD: Redfish are fair to good while drifting pot holes on topwaters and soft plastics under a popping cork. Flounder are fair around East Cut on Gulps. Trout are good on the edge of the Intracoastal on plastics.



SOUTH PADRE: Redfish are fair to good on the Gas Well Flats on DOA Shrimp and TTF Flats Minnows. Snook are fair to good on shrimp and DOA Shrimp in the Brownsville Ship Channel. Bull redfish are good at the jetty.

PORT ISABEL: Trout are fair while drifting grass on plastics under popping corks. Redfish are fair at Airport Cove on shrimp and DOA Shrimp under popping corks.

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DATEBOOK

Nov. 28
Kimble County Wild Game Dinner
 Junction, Stevenson Memorial Center
 www.junctiontexas.net
 1-325-446-3190

Whitetails Unlimited
 Sammy Kershaw concert
 Waco
 (800) 274-5471



Dec. 2
Houston Safari Club
 Annual Christmas Party
 Cadillac Bar
 (713) 623-8844



Dec. 3
Amarillo Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Khiva Shrine Temple
 (806) 670-1229

Dec. 5
Caddo Lake Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Caddo Lake State Park Hall
 (903) 930-1940



Dec. 9
Austin Safari Club International
 Meeting with Ivan Carter,
 professional hunter
 Creedmoor, Texas Disposal
 Systems Exotic Game Ranch
 (512) 421-1300



Dec. 10
Dallas Safari Club
 Holiday Party
 Hotel Intercontinental
 (972) 980-9800



Fort Worth Delta Waterfowl
 Fundraiser
 LMRA-Brazos Banquet Hall
 (817) 475-9796



Ducks Unlimited
 The Woodlands Winter Waterfowl Gala
 Conroe, Belle Rose Maison
 (832) 364-0412
 dkoch@thewoodlands.com

Dec. 11
Dallas Woods and Waters Club
 Christmas party
 Orvis, Preston Center
 (214) 570-8700



Jan. 7-10
Dallas Safari Club
 Convention and Sporting Expo
 Dallas Convention Center
 www.biggame.org

Jan. 8
National Wild Turkey Federation
 Panhandle Leadership
 Convention and Banquet
 Amarillo, Ambassador Hotel
 (806) 353-7343
 cheai4202@aol.com

Jan. 14
Dallas Woods and Waters Club
 Monthly meeting and dinner with Richie White,
 professional fishing guide
 Sheraton North Dallas Hotel
 (214) 570-8700

Jan. 15
National Wild Turkey Federation
 Gulf Coast Chapter fundraiser
 Texas City, Charles T. Doyle
 Convention Center
 (409) 682-5103
 talexander@alexsair.com



Jan. 22-24
Coastal Bend Marine Dealers
 Boat Show & Sale
 Corpus Christi, American Bank
 Convention Center

For Texas hunting season dates, see **Page 7**

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 Steel.....Sandvik 13C26 stainless-steel with Tungsten DLC black coating
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 Liner.....410 stainless-steel
 Blade.....3-3/8 in. (8.6 cm) partially serrated Tanto blade
 Closed...4-1/2 in. (11.5 cm)
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Texas Coast Tides

Sabine Pass, jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Nov 27	5:22 a.m.	0.7L	12:24 p.m.	2.1H	5:04 p.m.	1.8L	10:18 p.m.	2.1H
Nov 28	5:36 a.m.	0.4L	1:26 p.m.	2.3H	6:24 p.m.	2.0L	10:16 p.m.	2.1H
Nov 29	6:01 a.m.	-0.2L	2:16 p.m.	2.7H	7:28 p.m.	2.1L	10:11 p.m.	2.3H
Nov 30	6:33 a.m.	-0.5L	3:03 p.m.	2.9H	8:10 p.m.	2.3L	10:16 p.m.	2.5H
Dec 1	7:11 a.m.	-0.9L	3:51 p.m.	3.0H	8:29 p.m.	2.3L	10:47 p.m.	2.5H
Dec 2	7:55 a.m.	-1.3L	4:42 p.m.	3.0H	8:43 p.m.	2.5L	11:32 p.m.	2.7H
Dec 3	8:42 a.m.	-1.3L	5:36 p.m.	2.9H	9:04 p.m.	2.5L		
Dec 4	12:22 a.m.	2.7H	9:32 a.m.	-1.3L	6:31 p.m.	2.7H	9:39 p.m.	2.5L
Dec 5	1:13 a.m.	2.7H	10:26 a.m.	-0.9L	7:22 p.m.	2.5H	10:43 p.m.	2.3L
Dec 6	2:07 a.m.	2.5H	11:21 a.m.	-0.5L	8:02 p.m.	2.3H		
Dec 7	12:47 a.m.	1.8L	3:35 a.m.	2.0H	12:21 p.m.	-0.2L	8:32 p.m.	2.1H
Dec 8	2:47 a.m.	1.4L	6:40 a.m.	1.6H	1:29 p.m.	0.5L	8:55 p.m.	2.0H
Dec 9	3:41 a.m.	0.9L	9:19 a.m.	1.6H	2:55 p.m.	1.1L	9:15 p.m.	2.0H
Dec 10	4:26 a.m.	0.4L	11:29 a.m.	1.8H	4:43 p.m.	1.4L	9:32 p.m.	2.0H
Dec 11	5:06 a.m.	-0.2L	1:02 p.m.	2.1H	6:23 p.m.	1.8L	9:46 p.m.	2.0H

Galveston Bay entrance, south jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Nov 27	5:48 a.m.	0.6L	1:11 p.m.	1.7H	5:30 p.m.	1.4L	11:05 p.m.	1.7H
Nov 28	6:02 a.m.	0.3L	2:13 p.m.	1.9H	6:50 p.m.	1.6L	11:03 p.m.	1.7H
Nov 29	6:27 a.m.	-0.1L	3:03 p.m.	2.1H	7:54 p.m.	1.7L	10:58 p.m.	1.9H
Nov 30	6:59 a.m.	-0.4L	3:50 p.m.	2.3H	8:36 p.m.	1.9L	11:03 p.m.	2.0H
Dec 1	7:37 a.m.	-0.7L	4:38 p.m.	2.4H	8:55 p.m.	1.9L	11:34 p.m.	2.0H
Dec 2	8:21 a.m.	-1.0L	5:29 p.m.	2.4H	9:09 p.m.	2.0L		
Dec 3	12:19 a.m.	2.1H	9:08 a.m.	-1.0L	6:23 p.m.	2.3H	9:30 p.m.	2.0L
Dec 4	1:09 a.m.	2.1H	9:58 a.m.	-1.0L	7:18 p.m.	2.1H	10:05 p.m.	2.0L
Dec 5	2:00 a.m.	2.1H	10:52 a.m.	-0.7L	8:09 p.m.	2.0H	11:09 p.m.	1.9L
Dec 6	2:54 a.m.	2.0H	11:47 a.m.	-0.4L	8:49 p.m.	1.9H		
Dec 7	1:13 a.m.	1.4L	4:22 a.m.	1.6H	12:47 p.m.	-0.1L	9:19 p.m.	1.7H
Dec 8	3:13 a.m.	1.1L	7:27 a.m.	1.3H	1:55 p.m.	0.4L	9:42 p.m.	1.6H
Dec 9	4:07 a.m.	0.7L	10:06 a.m.	1.3H	3:21 p.m.	0.9L	10:02 p.m.	1.6H
Dec 10	4:52 a.m.	0.3L	12:16 p.m.	1.4H	5:09 p.m.	1.1L	10:19 p.m.	1.6H
Dec 11	5:32 a.m.	-0.1L	1:49 p.m.	1.7H	6:49 p.m.	1.4L	10:33 p.m.	1.6H

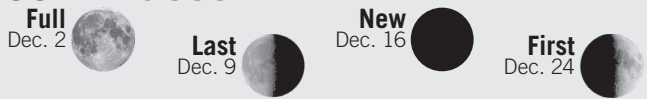
San Luis Pass

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Nov 27	6:44 a.m.	0.3L	1:41 p.m.	1.0H	6:26 p.m.	0.9L	11:35 p.m.	1.0H
Nov 28	6:58 a.m.	0.2L	2:43 p.m.	1.1H	7:46 p.m.	0.9L	11:33 p.m.	1.0H
Nov 29	7:23 a.m.	-0.1L	3:33 p.m.	1.3H	8:50 p.m.	1.0L	11:28 p.m.	1.1H
Nov 30	7:55 a.m.	-0.3L	4:20 p.m.	1.4H	9:32 p.m.	1.1L	11:33 p.m.	1.2H
Dec 1	12:04 a.m.	1.2H	9:17 a.m.	-0.6L	5:59 p.m.	1.5H	10:05 p.m.	1.2L
Dec 2	12:49 a.m.	1.3H	10:04 a.m.	-0.6L	6:53 p.m.	1.4H	10:26 p.m.	1.2L
Dec 3	1:39 a.m.	1.3H	10:54 a.m.	-0.6L	7:48 p.m.	1.3H	11:01 p.m.	1.2L
Dec 4	2:30 a.m.	1.3H	11:48 a.m.	-0.4L	8:39 p.m.	1.2H		
Dec 5	12:05 a.m.	1.1L	3:24 p.m.	1.2H	12:43 p.m.	-0.3L	9:19 p.m.	1.1H
Dec 6	2:09 a.m.	0.9L	4:52 a.m.	0.9H	1:43 p.m.	-0.1L	9:49 p.m.	1.0H
Dec 7	4:09 a.m.	0.7L	7:57 a.m.	0.8H	2:51 p.m.	0.3L	10:12 p.m.	0.9H
Dec 8	5:03 a.m.	0.4L	10:36 a.m.	0.8H	4:17 p.m.	0.5L	10:32 p.m.	0.9H
Dec 9	5:48 a.m.	0.2L	12:46 p.m.	0.9H	6:05 p.m.	0.7L	10:49 p.m.	0.9H
Dec 10	6:28 a.m.	-0.1L	2:19 p.m.	1.0H	7:45 p.m.	0.9L	11:03 p.m.	0.9H
Dec 11	7:07 a.m.	-0.3L	3:25 p.m.	1.2H	9:11 p.m.	0.9L	11:14 p.m.	0.9H

Freeport Harbor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Nov 27	5:45 a.m.	0.4L	12:33 p.m.	1.5H	5:27 p.m.	0.9L	10:27 p.m.	1.5H
Nov 28	5:59 a.m.	0.2L	1:35 p.m.	1.6H	6:47 p.m.	1.0L	10:25 p.m.	1.5H
Nov 29	6:24 a.m.	-0.1L	2:25 p.m.	1.8H	7:51 p.m.	1.1L	10:20 p.m.	1.6H
Nov 30	6:56 a.m.	-0.3L	3:12 p.m.	2.0H	8:33 p.m.	1.2L	10:25 p.m.	1.7H
Dec 1	7:34 a.m.	-0.5L	4:00 p.m.	2.1H	8:52 p.m.	1.2L	10:56 p.m.	1.7H
Dec 2	8:18 a.m.	-0.6L	4:51 p.m.	2.1H	9:06 p.m.	1.3L	11:41 p.m.	1.8H
Dec 3	9:05 a.m.	-0.6L	5:45 p.m.	2.0H	9:27 p.m.	1.3L		
Dec 4	12:31 a.m.	1.8H	9:55 a.m.	-0.6L	6:40 p.m.	1.8H	10:02 p.m.	1.3L
Dec 5	1:22 a.m.	1.8H	10:49 a.m.	-0.5L	7:31 p.m.	1.7H	11:06 p.m.	1.2L
Dec 6	2:16 a.m.	1.7H	11:44 a.m.	-0.3L	8:11 p.m.	1.6H		
Dec 7	1:10 a.m.	0.9L	3:44 a.m.	1.4H	12:44 p.m.	-0.1L	8:41 p.m.	1.5H
Dec 8	3:10 a.m.	0.7L	6:49 a.m.	1.1H	1:52 p.m.	0.3L	9:04 p.m.	1.4H
Dec 9	4:04 a.m.	0.5L	9:28 a.m.	1.1H	3:18 p.m.	0.5L	9:24 p.m.	1.4H
Dec 10	4:49 a.m.	0.2L	11:38 a.m.	1.2H	5:06 p.m.	0.7L	9:41 p.m.	1.4H
Dec 11	5:29 a.m.	-0.1L	1:11 p.m.	1.5H	6:46 p.m.	0.9L	9:55 p.m.	1.4H

Moon Phases



Port O'Connor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Nov 27	8:55 a.m.	0.5L	7:15 p.m.	0.9H				
Nov 28	9:00 a.m.	0.3L	7:53 p.m.	1.0H				
Nov 29	9:25 a.m.	0.1L	8:42 p.m.	1.1H				
Nov 30	10:00 a.m.	0.0L	9:40 p.m.	1.2H				
Dec 1	10:41 a.m.	-0.2L	10:47 p.m.	1.3H				
Dec 2	11:26 a.m.	-0.3L						
Dec 3	12:00 a.m.	1.3H	12:14 p.m.	-0.3L				
Dec 4	1:13 a.m.	1.3H	1:03 p.m.	-0.3L				
Dec 5	2:21 a.m.	1.2H	1:50 p.m.	-0.3L				
Dec 6	3:21 a.m.	1.1H	2:35 p.m.	-0.2L				
Dec 7	4:12 a.m.	0.9H	3:13 p.m.	0.0L				
Dec 8	4:03 a.m.	0.7H	3:40 p.m.	0.2L				
Dec 9	12:03 a.m.	0.6H	3:18 p.m.	0.4L	10:51 p.m.	0.6H		
Dec 10	7:29 a.m.	0.2L	9:57 p.m.	0.7H				
Dec 11	8:08 a.m.	0.0L	9:07 p.m.	0.8H				

Rockport

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Nov 27	12:29 a.m.	0.41H	9:12 a.m.	0.25L				
Nov 28	12:06 a.m.	0.43H	9:39 a.m.	0.18L	11:55 p.m.	0.45H		
Nov 29	10:12 a.m.	0.12L	11:59 p.m.	0.47H				
Nov 30	10:53 a.m.	0.07L						
Dec 01	12:24 a.m.	0.48H	11:40 a.m.	0.03L				
Dec 02	1:08 a.m.	0.49H	12:34 p.m.	-0.01L				
Dec 03	2:04 a.m.	0.49H	1:31 p.m.	-0.03L				
Dec 04	3:04 a.m.	0.48H	2:27 p.m.	-0.04L				
Dec 05	4:03 a.m.	0.46H	3:18 p.m.	-0.03L				
Dec 06	4:56 a.m.	0.42H	3:58 p.m.	-0.01L				
Dec 07	5:43 a.m.	0.35H	4:25 p.m.	0.03L				
Dec 08	6:14 a.m.	0.27H	4:30 p.m.	0.08L				
Dec 09	12:37 a.m.	0.22H	3:45 p.m.	0.13L	11:25 p.m.	0.24H		
Dec 10	8:18 a.m.	0.08L	11:01 p.m.	0.27H				
Dec 11	8:52 a.m.	-0.00L	11:05 p.m.	0.31H				

Port Aransas, H. Caldwell Pier

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Nov 27	5:27 a.m.	0.3L	1:04 p.m.	1.4H	5:09 p.m.	0.8L	10:58 p.m.	1.4H
Nov 28	5:41 a.m.	0.2L	2:06 p.m.	1.5H	6:29 p.m.	0.8L	10:56 p.m.	1.4H
Nov 29	6:06 a.m.	-0.1L	2:56 p.m.	1.7H	7:33 p.m.	0.9L	10:51 p.m.	1.5H
Nov 30	6:38 a.m.	-0.2L	3:43 p.m.	1.8H	8:15 p.m.	1.0L	10:56 p.m.	1.6H
Dec 1	7:16 a.m.	-0.4L	4:31 p.m.	2.0H	8:34 p.m.	1.0L	11:27 p.m.	1.6H
Dec 2	8:00 a.m.	-0.5L	5:22 p.m.	2.0H	8:48 p.m.	1.1L		
Dec 3	12:12 a.m.	1.7H	8:47 a.m.	-0.5L	6:16 p.m.	1.8H	9:09 p.m.	1.1L
Dec 4	1:02 a.m.	1.7H	9:37 a.m.	-0.5L	7:11 p.m.	1.7H	9:44 p.m.	1.1L
Dec 5	1:53 a.m.	1.7H	10:31 a.m.	-0.4L	8:02 p.m.	1.6H	10:48 p.m.	1.0L
Dec 6	2:47 a.m.	1.6H	11:26 a.m.	-0.2L	8:42 p.m.	1.5H		
Dec 7	12:52 a.m.	0.8L	4:15 a.m.	1.3H	12:26 p.m.	-0.1L	9:12 p.m.	1.4H
Dec 8	2:52 a.m.	0.6L	7:20 a.m.	1.0H	1:34 p.m.	0.2L	9:35 p.m.	1.3H
Dec 9	3:46 a.m.	0.4L	9:59 a.m.	1.0H	3:00 p.m.	0.5L	9:55 p.m.	1.3H
Dec 10	4:31 a.m.	0.2L	12:09 p.m.	1.1H	4:48 p.m.	0.6L	10:12 p.m.	1.3H
Dec 11	5:11 a.m.	-0.1L	1:42 p.m.	1.4H	6:28 p.m.	0.8L	10:26 p.m.	1.3H

South Padre Island

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Nov 27	5:11 a.m.	0.7L	1:12 p.m.	1.5H	5:12 p.m.	1.4L	8:53 p.m.	1.5H
Nov 28	5:31 a.m.	0.4L	2:18 p.m.	1.7H				
Nov 29	5:59 a.m.	0.1L	3:13 p.m.	1.8H				
Nov 30	6:35 a.m.	-0.3L	4:07 p.m.	1.9H				
Dec 1	7:16 a.m.	-0.5L	5:03 p.m.	2.1H				
Dec 2	8:02 a.m.	-0.7L	6:01 p.m.	2.1H				
Dec 3	8:51 a.m.	-0.8L	6:59 p.m.	2.2H				
Dec 4	9:42 a.m.	-0.7L	7:50 p.m.	2.1H				
Dec 5	10:34 a.m.	-0.5L	8:28 p.m.	2.0H				
Dec 6	11:27 a.m.	-0.2L	8:48 p.m.	1.9H				
Dec 7	12:20 p.m.	0.1L	8:53 p.m.	1.7H				
Dec 8	1:16 p.m.	0.5L	8:47 p.m.	1.5H				
Dec 9	3:32 a.m.	0.8L	9:10 a.m.	1.2H	2:21 p.m.	0.9L	8:33 p.m.	1.4H
Dec 10	4:04 a.m.	0.4L	12:05 p.m.	1.3H	3:55 p.m.	1.2L	8:04 p.m.	1.4H
Dec 11	4:43 a.m.	0.0L	1:58 p.m.	1.6H				

Solar | Sun times | Moon times

Houston

2009	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Nov-Dec	Minor Major	Minor Major	Rises Sets	Rises Sets
27 Fri	12:37 6:48	12:59 7:10	6:55 5:21	2:00p 2:08a
28 Sat	1:15 7:27	1:39 7:50	6:56 5:21	2:33p 3:06a
29 Sun	1:56 8:09	2:22 8:34	6:57 5:21</	

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2009

Dec. 12-13	Amarillo	Civic Center
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2010

January 9-10	Abilene	Civic Center
February 20-21	Fredericksburg	Gillespie County Fairgrounds
March 20-21	Amarillo	Civic Center
March 27-28	Abilene	Civic Center
April 24-25	Kerrville	Youth Exhibition Center
May 15-16	Abilene	Civic Center
July 17-18	Amarillo	Civic Center
July 31-August 1	Abilene	Civic Center
September 11-12	Kerrville	Youth Exhibition Center
October 9-10	Abilene	Civic Center

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With nearly a decade of experience in land clearing, Cedar Eaters' mission is to protect the environment and has been since before "going green" was in style. Texas has experienced extensive droughts over the last several years, and many are concerned about soil and water conservation for future generations. Cedar Eaters' focus is on cedar clearing in the Texas Hill Country, as cedar trees can collect an estimated 70 percent of rainfall, and they are extremely drought tolerant. But don't let the Cedar Eater name fool you — they are not only concerned about cedar but also



A piece of Cedar Eater heavy equipment clears land. The company uses specialized tools for cutting down cedar, mesquite and other trees.

with mesquite, huisache, yaupon and a variety of other vegetations that are viewed as water-wasting nuisances to those living in Texas.

Cedar Eaters of Texas has expanded to not only include cedar and brush mulching, but also mesquite grubbing, skid steer shearing, hand crew cutting and chipping. Depending on the size and scope of each landowner's project, their professional sales team will meet with each customer to design a clearing plan that best fits within clients' budgets to help them achieve their goals. Cedar Eaters of Texas prides itself on maintaining a good reputation within the industry by providing prompt, professional service at a reasonable price to its customers. To learn more about the services that Cedar Eaters of Texas provides or to get a free estimate, you can call (877) 404-8141 or visit www.cedareater.com.

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Puzzle solution from Page 27

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E	H	C	O	P	P	E	R	I	T	O	
C	L	A	M	S	L	T	U	S	K	E	R
O	R	G	E	A	R	T	E	I	A		
I	O	N	S				S	P	U	R	
L	S	T	A	N	D	T	O	M	S	E	
A	O	T	A	H	R	A	G				
S	C	S	E	T	L	I	M	I	T	A	
C	H	O	K	E	R	K	N	T	R	A	M
		S	T	R	E	A	M	S	E		
	C	H	P	A	C	O	R	N	S		
W	O	D	I	E	P	A		U	N		
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T	I	N	E	S	C	R	A	P	P	I	E
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Texas trout releases begin soon

Guadalupe River, other waterways to receive fish

The state will begin stocking more than 270,000 hatchery-raised rainbow trout across the state in December. Many of the fish stockings will be conducted at small community fishing lakes, state park lakes and popular river tailraces that offer easy angling access.

Popular fishing holes, such as the Guadalupe River below the Canyon Lake Dam, receive multiple stockings from December into March. As the only fishable place in Texas where rainbow trout can survive during the summer months, the Guadalupe River will be stocked with more than 19,000 trout this winter.

One public access point along the Guadalupe River, Camp Hueco Springs, has been leased by the state specifically for trout fishing.

Special harvest restrictions are in place along a 10-mile stretch of the Guadalupe River below the Canyon Lake tailrace. In this area, anglers may keep only one trout per day, which must be at least 18 inches in length, and any trout harvested must be caught on artificial lures.

The special regulations zone does not include the area immediately below Canyon Lake Dam. There, as in other Texas waters, the daily bag limit is five trout, with no minimum length.

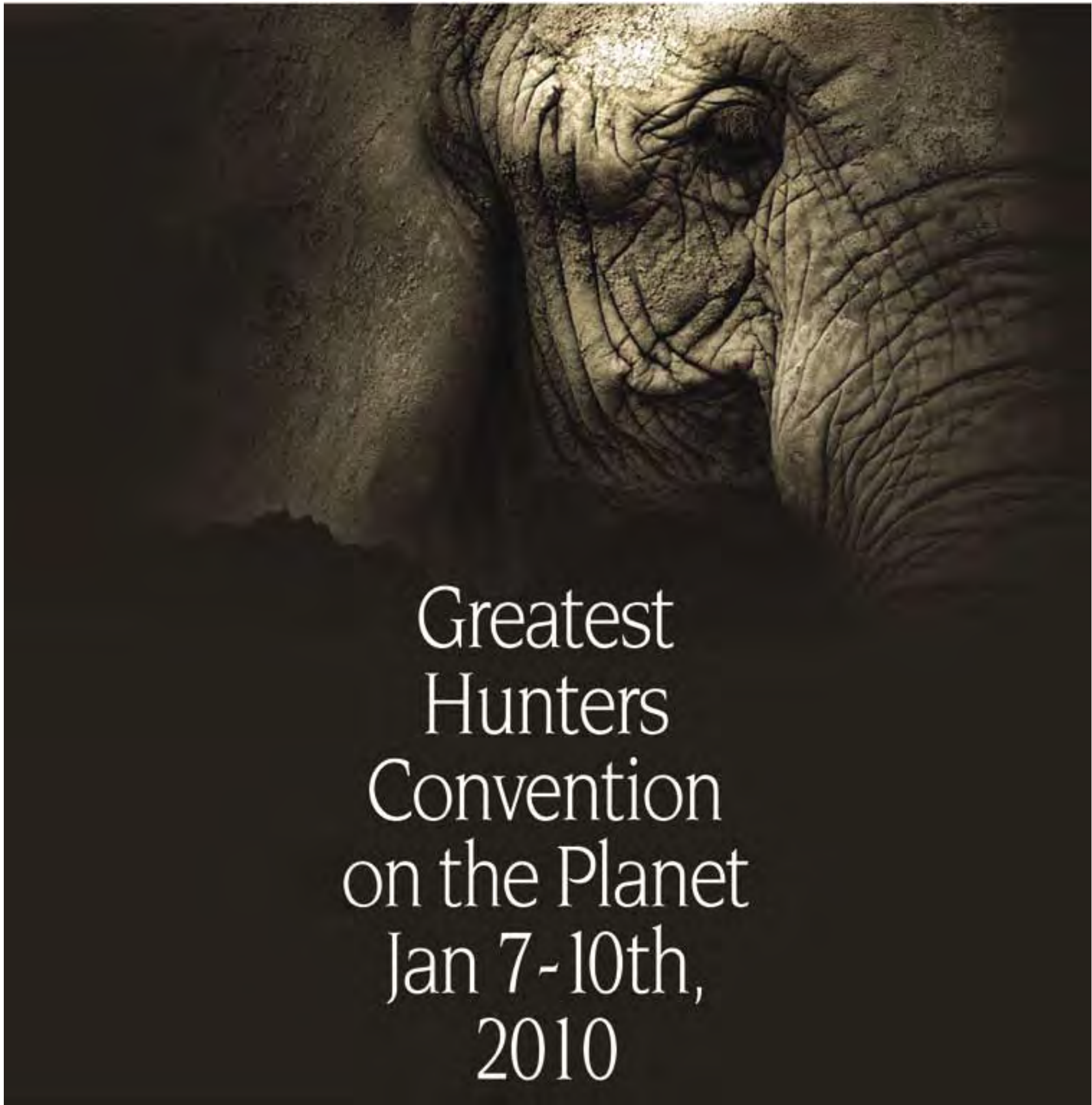
Most sites receive an annual dose of more than 1,000 trout, and the fish will begin to bite almost immediately after stocking. They typically will take a variety of baits, from whole-kernel canned corn or commercial soft bait to artificial flies and small spinner baits.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

Popular release sites

- Blanco State Park #4**
Dec. 11, Dec. 28, Jan. 15, Feb. 24
- Blue Hole Park Lake, Georgetown**
Dec. 9, Jan. 13
- Bob Sandlin State Park**
Dec. 15, Jan. 31
- Brackenridge Park, San Antonio**
Jan. 13, Feb. 10
- Canyon Tailrace, New Braunfels**
Dec. 4, Dec. 11, Dec. 18, Dec. 31, Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb. 28
- Fort Boggy State Park, Centerville**
Jan. 26
- Fort Richardson State Park, Jacksboro**
Dec. 20, Jan. 17, 14
- Garner State Park (Frio River), Leakey**
Dec. 30, Jan. 20
- L.B.J. State Park, Stonewall**
Jan. 20
- Lake Lewisville Tailrace**
Dec. 14, Jan. 12, Feb. 23
- Llano River (Grenwelge Park), Llano**
Dec. 3
- Lost Maples State Park, Vanderpool**
Jan. 19
- Louise Hays Park, Kerrville**
Dec. 15, Jan. 27
- Lake Meredith Stilling Basin**
Dec. 2, Feb. 4
- Meridian State Park**
Dec. 6
- Possum Kingdom Lake Tailrace**
Dec. 8, Dec. 29, Jan. 12, Feb. 4, March 2
- South Llano River State Park**
Jan. 5, Feb. 3





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