

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Tuna run



Finding shrimpers key  
Page 10

★ October 24, 2008

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 5, Issue 5 ★

www.lonestaroutdoornews.com

## INSIDE FISHING



Dr. E. Stanton Shoemaker of Corpus Christi landed a 39.125-pound red drum on a fly rod, a pending state record.

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A quality boat cover protects the craft from the elements above and the critters below.

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## HUNTING



Cockleburs, stickers and sand burrs, spurred by summer rains, are everywhere in some areas of Texas. In addition to the pain, they can lead to infections in dogs.

Page 8

Quail surveys showed encouraging numbers in the Gulf Prairies and the Panhandle, while other areas saw average to below-average production.

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## CONSERVATION

Game Warden George Whatley, 45, died in Fort Stockton after participating in a training exercise.

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## NATIONAL

Two cougars were sighted and confirmed in Louisiana, a rare occurrence. The cats are thought to be young animals dispersed from West Texas.

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**PRIME TIME:** November's first weekend brings ample opportunities for Texas hunters, with several seasons open. Deer gun season opens Nov. 1. Photo by David J. Sams.

# Big weekend

Variety of species open

BY CRAIG NYHUS

Get all of your chores done — now. Mow the grass (hopefully for the last time until spring). November is just around the corner, and the plethora of hunting opportunities that arrive with it.

For most Texas hunters it's their favorite month. Here, football weather means hunting weather.

In South Texas alone, a hunter could pursue white-tailed deer, dove, turkey, quail, ducks and, of course, the always available feral hog — all on the first November weekend. Farther north and west, dove season will close, but that's OK, most hunters put away their dove buckets weeks ago.

So hurry and take your wife or girlfriend, or, for the encouraging and rapidly increasing numbers of women hunters, your husband or boyfriend, on a date. Finish that paint job that's been hanging over your head for months. There's not much time.

The deer will take center stage, of course. This is Texas, home of 3 million whitetails (more than any other state) and more than half a million deer hunters. Last year's excellent range conditions and fawn production translates to lots of deer, even in areas with poorer production this year. Photos from the trail cameras and reports from the archery and managed lands hunters who got off to an earlier start have the adrenaline pumping. Forecasts with varying reliability have been read. Friends, apart since last season's January ending, are ready to reunite and share tales — some of them true.

Try something new. Don't worry so much about the acorns. The earlier they fall, the quicker they get eaten or spoil. Consider making the acorns your friends and try setting up where the deer are feeding.

Be grateful for better deer management and even antler restrictions. The days of wall-hangers only coming from the South Texas brush country are over, although the odds of a brute are lower.

Don't forget the fishing poles. Cooler water tempera-

See WEEKEND, Page 22

## Anglers favor seagrass protection

Most prefer voluntary compliance

BY MARK ENGLAND

Surveys by Texas Parks and Wildlife show anglers support taking steps to preserve seagrass in coastal areas such as Redfish Bay and Nine-Mile Hole.

A majority, 56 percent, said they believe that boating through

“shallow bays, estuaries or grass flats has a significant negative impact on these environments.” And 52 percent favored restricting boating in seagrass beds.

Anglers' actions spoke even louder, said Jeremy Leitz, a human dimensions resource specialist for TPW.

See SEAGRASS, Page 22



**ENTER WITH CARE:** Texas anglers support seagrass protection in coastal areas but some shy from mandatory requirements due to the fear of stiff fines.

## Pedal power

Bikes quietly reach target areas

BY CRAIG NYHUS

Silence means success. That's the mantra of two McCulloch County hunters who use mountain bikes to travel from camp to their favorite hunting spots.

“When we were younger, we got dropped off (at the blind) with a truck all of the time,” said Richard

McCarter of Garland. “We felt like it was spooking the deer.”

McCarter's observations in the field on the 350-acre lease got him thinking about entering quietly. “When a truck drives down the county road, the deer know it and don't move,” he said. “But when we would drive on the property to pull or check cameras, they knew

See PEDAL POWER, Page 29

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## CONSERVATION

# Texas Game Warden dies after training exercise



GEORGE WHATLEY

Texas Game Warden George Whatley, 45, died in Fort Stockton after collapsing following a training exercise. Whatley was participating in a physical agility test along with 10 other West Texas wardens when he was stricken.

All game wardens are in the process of completing a physical agility test that will determine their baseline level of fitness as required for a mandatory standard passed into law during the 80th Legislative session.

The wardens were participating in a physical agility test at Fort Stockton High School

and performed push-ups, sit-ups, a 300-meter sprint, bench presses, a vertical leap and an agility course.

The wardens took a rest break before a 1.5-mile run, and during that time Whatley said he was not feeling well. He did not participate in the run but sat down in the shade to rest. After the other wardens had completed their run, Whatley was found slumped over, but still breathing.

An EMT-trained warden worked on him until EMS transported him to Fort Stockton Hospital, where emergency personnel

worked for more than an hour trying to revive him.

Whatley, who was from Cass County in East Texas, was stationed in Van Horn and graduated from the game warden academy in 2007. He is survived by his wife, Kelly, and sons Sam, 14, and Seth, 13. A memorial fund has been established for the family. Donations may be made to the George Whatley Family Fund at Domino Federal Credit Union, 901 West Main Street, Atlanta, TX, 75551.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

### The Sheep Show returns to Reno

The Wild Sheep Foundation, formerly the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, will return The Sheep Show to Reno, Nev. for the 2010, 2011 and 2012 Wild Sheep Foundation conventions.

"Sheep and mountain hunting enthusiasts worldwide labeled the FNAWS convention The Sheep Show for years and most consider Reno, Nevada the convention's home," said Gray Thornton, the foundation's president and CEO.

WSF has entered into a three-year agreement with the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority for the 2010-2012 conventions. The 2009 convention will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Since forming in 1977, the Wild Sheep Foundation and its chapters have raised and expended more than \$70 million on programs benefiting wild sheep, other wildlife and their habitat.

— Wild Sheep Foundation report.

### Antler Restriction counties in Texas



**LEGAL**  
at least one unbranched antler



**LEGAL**  
at least one unbranched antler



**LEGAL**  
inside spread of 13 inches or greater



**ILLEGAL**  
This buck meets none of the criteria

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

A legal buck deer is defined as having a hardened antler protruding through the skin AND:

- At least one unbranched antler; or
- An inside spread measurement between main beams of 13 inches or greater; or
- Six points or more on one antler.

The following counties have

adopted the antler restriction program:

- Austin, Bastrop, Bell, Bosque, Bowie, Brazoria, Burleson, Caldwell, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Colorado, Comal, Comanche, Coryell, Delta, DeWitt, Eastland, Erath, Fannin, Fayette, Fort Bend, Franklin, Goliad, Gonzales, Gregg, Guadalupe, Hamilton,

- Harrison, Hays, Hopkins, Houston, Jackson, Karnes, Lamar, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Marion, Matagorda, Morris, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Somervell, Titus, Travis, Upshur, Victoria, Waller, Washington, Wharton, Williamson, Wilson and Wood.

### GSCO awards get SCI endorsement

Safari Club International has partnered with the sheep and goat conservation group Grand Slam Club/Ovis for the presentation of the 2009 GSCO Trophy Awards. The awards recognize hunters who have taken the highest-scoring trophies of sheep and goats from around the world and will be presented at the 5th Annual Hunter & Outfitter Convention in Las Vegas in February 2009.

Any GSCO member or member/outfitter may enter a ram or goat for consideration. Awards are presented for International Sheep, International Capra (goat), North American Sheep and North American Sheep (Archery). In the North American sheep categories, awards will be presented for Dall, Stone, Rocky Mountain bighorn, California bighorn and desert bighorn.

GSCO and SCI are partnering on a record book of mountain trophies.

— GSCO report.

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# NATIONAL

## Two cougar sightings verified in Louisiana

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has received photographic evidence of the second and third documented cougar sightings in the state in recent history.

Private citizens sent trail camera pictures from two different sites to the department in September. LDWF Large Carnivore Program Manager Maria Davidson and LDWF Natural Heritage Zoologist Beau Gregory then conducted site investigations that confirmed the authenticity of the photographs.

The first photograph was taken in Natchitoches Parish on Sept. 4, and the second was taken in Allen Parish on Sept. 29. The

sites are approximately 100 miles apart, leading to speculation that the same cougar could be in both photos.

The significant lack of physical evidence leads the department to conclude that Louisiana does not have an established, breeding population of cougars. The cougars seen in Louisiana may be young animals dispersing from existing populations in West Texas. Young males are known to disperse from their birthplace and travel hundreds of miles seeking their own territories.

— Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries report.

## Gresham gun rights defender of the year

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has named Tom Gresham Gun Rights Defender of the Year, recognizing decades of work supporting the Second Amendment. The award was presented at the Gun Rights Policy Conference in Phoenix, Ariz.

A 40-year veteran of the firearms industry, Gresham has been called a media pioneer in the firearms industry. He created and hosts the only national radio talk show about guns,

"Tom Gresham's Gun Talk," and he is the host and creator of the first television show about self-protection, "Personal Defense TV."

Gresham worked with Smith & Wesson to create the commemorative D.C. v. Heller revolver to acknowledge the landmark Supreme Court decision and help raise money for further legal action to defend the Second Amendment.

— Gun Talk report.

## Falconry regulations simplified

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced revisions to regulations governing falconry in the United States and its territories. The changes simplify the regulations and reflect current practices in the use of raptors for sport hunting.

Highlights of the new regulations: It will eliminate the federal permit in favor of state, tribal or territorial falconry permits, and dual

state/federal permitting will no longer be necessary; establish electronic reporting of the acquisition, transfer or loss of falconry raptors, to replace the current paper reporting system; and allow experienced falconers to assist federal and state-permitted wildlife rehabilitators in conditioning raptors for release to the wild.

— U.S. Fish and Wildlife report.

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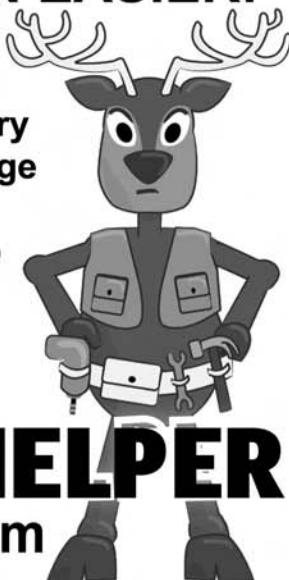
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## HUNTING

# Whitetail rut dates in Texas regions

Biologists say one of the most often-asked questions they receive is when the rut will occur in a given area. Many hunters don't know the rut dates and peak times were studied in Texas for three years. More than 2,400

deer were examined in the study that looked at the timing of the rut and at breeding success in 16 study areas.

A doe may be attractive to bucks for about five days, but may be willing to breed for a

period of only 24 hours. If the doe is not bred during her first cycle, she will generally come into heat again about 28 days later. In areas where there are few bucks, a doe may not encounter a buck when she is first receptive

and may not be bred until one of her later cycles.

The study also revealed that 92 percent of does sampled in the state were pregnant.

—Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

## BREEDING DATES AND PEAK TIMES IN TEXAS REGIONS:

	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
Gulf Prairies and Marshes	8-24	Peak North 9-30	Peak South 10-31		11-25		
Post Oak Savannah		9-30	Peak 10-10,11			1-16	
Pineywoods			10-21	Peak South 11-12	Peak North 11-22		1-5
Rolling Plains			10-8	Peak South 11-20		Peak North 12-3	12-30
Edwards Plateau			10-9	Peak East 11-7	Peak Central 11-24	Peak West 12-5	1-30
Cross Timbers			10-13	Peak North 11-15	Peak South 11-17	12-17	
Trans-Pecos				11-4	Peak 12-8		1-4
South Texas Plains				11-9	Peak East 12-16	Peak West 12-24	2-1

## Quail surveys show average production

### Numbers up in Panhandle, Gulf Prairies

Late quail production due to dry and hot range conditions has set the stage for an average hunting season, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife officials. But in some areas, especially in South Texas, summer rains spurred production and survey results were underestimated.

About this time a year ago, most of the Texas quail country was lush with vegetation after great late summer rains, but the winter that followed was one of the driest on record.

"The quail season was about average and there were plenty of birds surviving into late winter," said Robert Perez, upland game bird program director. "But the lack of moisture, combined with heavy ground cover, may have made it difficult for bobs to find late winter and early spring greens, a very important part of the diet."

Survey results from each region is summarized below:

#### Rolling Plains

This region was not as dry this past winter as some other areas of the state and scattered spring and summer rains resulted in some early production, but the bulk of the reproductive effort appears to have been later in the summer. Field reports indicate differing size classes of chicks with plenty of late hatching.

The average number of bobwhites observed per route was 18.7 compared to 21 last year and below the long-term average of 22.5. Public hunting opportunities can be found at the Matador and the Gene Howe Wildlife Management Areas.

#### Panhandle

The survival rate for adult quail appears to have been good to excellent during the mild winter, according to Danny Swepston, wildlife district leader in Amarillo. The spring

See Quail, Page 20



**BETTER LATE THAN NEVER:** Late hatches brought about by summer rains in South Texas and other areas is good news to quail hunters. Production in other areas was hampered by dry conditions.

## Sticker shock

### Burrs and stickers a pain to hunters, dogs

By BILL MILLER

They stick, prick and tick — tick you off, that is.

That's because cockleburs, stickers and sand burrs poke your skin and clothes with their tiny spines and then they prick your fingers when you try to remove them.

They are the bane of quail hunters whose season starts Oct. 25 and continues through Feb. 22, 2009.

Hunters who have been running their dogs, getting them ready for the season, complain that the burrs get stuck in the paws and coats of their beloved pointers and setters.

Even waterfowlers tangle with them because cockleburs in particular can be found near wetter areas like stock tanks.

"You got to pay attention to that stuff," said Justin Hill, who runs black Labs for Ranger Creek Goose Guide Service in Haskell County. "They can tear the pads off the paws and run them raw."

"A lot of those dogs just keep going, but you



**OUCH!:** Burrs and stickers create problems for boots and can cause infections in a dog's paw.

know when you see them hobble. You got to help them out (because) the stickers can break off and stay in the foot.

"You can get infected sores."

Some hunters who have already been out

for dove and teal have been reporting an unusual abundance of the tiny nemeses.

Increased burrs have been noticed by Robert Perez, upland game program leader for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

"This past month or so they have really started to come out," he said. "But, whether it's a cyclical thing — I don't know."

"I think it has more to do with weather — and rain late in the year."

That's probably the best explanation, said Jason Miller, of Aspermont, who is the AgriLife Extension Agent in Stonewall County. "It's not uncommon to see the burrs often, and from year to year," he said. "(But) we've had an abundant crop of those grass burrs this year."

Eradicating them, Miller added, would require chemical spraying on an "unbelievable" scale that would be too costly.

"They are troublesome to bird dogs," he said of the burrs, "(But) I haven't had producers in my office who were overly concerned about them."

Perez agreed. "If they're in your yard you can spray them or hit them with a pre-emergent," he said. "But there is nothing you can do about them on a broad level to make them go away."

Hunters, he added, can only protect themselves and their dogs, and that means they

have to "boot up."

Nylon material like Cordura, the multi-purpose fabric also used to shield clothes worn by hunters, isn't just for humans anymore.

Thick nylon is now being used to make chest guards and paw covers for hunting dogs. These boots are also made of suede leather and rubber.

There also are liquid conditioners that are designed to toughen the pads on a dog's paws.

Hill and Perez said they've dressed their dogs in the boots, but their effectiveness differs from dog to dog, depending on how well they wear them.

Perez recalled taking a shorthair on some scaled quail near Del Rio. The terrain was rough so he put the dog in boots.

"I spent money on some boots," he said, "and they lasted, oh, 30 minutes or so."

A cheaper but no less effective alternative is a tip Perez learned from some old-timers.

In his bird bag he carries strips of rubber inner tube material to wrap around the dog's paws and lower legs. Then he fastens the makeshift gaiters with duct tape.

"It's pliable and real flexible," Perez said. "It takes a while to put on, but once it's taped in place, it works pretty well."

## Fast-draw competitors take aim

### Four-time world champ wins top gun

By RALPH WININGHAM

In less time than it takes to say "Draw, you low-down sidewinder," four-time world champion fast-draw expert Bob Graham of San Antonio can clear leather and fan-fire his revolver to hit three targets up to 16 feet away.

Still going strong after more than 49 years of competitive fast-draw action, Graham claimed yet another title Oct. 18 when he walked away as the top gun in the Texas Showdown Fast Draw Competition held as part of the fourth annual Dominion Rotary Wild West Day at Enchanted Springs Ranch.

"This competition requires a lot of hand-eye coordination, but accuracy is the most important skill," Graham said before the competition.

"I still like the competition, but mostly I just have fun at it now," he said.

Started by Hollywood stunt men in the 1950s as a test to see who was the quickest on the draw, the first world championship was held in 1965 in Ohio. Graham won that title and has since claimed three other world championships; four national championships; and 15 Texas championships.

Competitors in the event — there about 500 fast-draw aficionados across the country and the national championship has attracted as many as 150 shooters — are required to master both speed and accuracy.

Using wax bullets that are sent down the barrel with the discharge of a shotgun primer, the competitors fire at three 14-inch by 24-inch steel plates set at ranges of eight, 12 and 16 feet.

A randomly triggered light in the top third of one of the three plates signals the shooter to draw and fire. After hitting the first plate, the other two must be hit to stop the timer. Only five shots are loaded in the revolver, so accuracy is often the determining factor in a win or loss.

Two shooters compete at a time in a best three-out-of-five match, and once a competitor loses three matches, he or she is eliminated.

"The random light requires you to do a little thinking when you shoot," Graham said. "A



**QUICK SHOTS:** Bob Graham, right, goes head-to-head against Steven Letsinger in the Texas Showdown Fast Draw Competition. Photo by Ralph Wingham.

good shooter can complete a good round in about one second. That first shot is often taken in less than six-tenths of a second.

"Another good part of this competition is that women compete along side the men — there is no difference in the matches."

Louise Allmon of Kerrville, one of the lady competitors, said she just picked up the fast-draw habit this summer.

"I like the competition because anybody can win, even if you are a little slow," she said. "Shooting these targets is also a good way to get rid of a little bit of your frustrations."

Graham, who is a pistol maker and gunsmith specializing in single-action handguns, said most fast-draw competitors favor a .45-caliber Ruger revolver with an extended hammer (to assist in fan-fire action). Because of the very light loads used to fire the wax bullets, aluminum barrels are a popular customized feature to reduce the weight of a competition handgun.

"We never use live (gunpowder and lead) rounds and if someone is caught with a live round at a match, it is grounds for immediate disqualification," he said. "We always stress safety and require shooting glasses just in case a piece of the wax bullet bounces back off the plates."



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## FISHING

## NO SHRIMP, NO TUNA

## Finding the boats tougher but worth the effort



**ON THE LOOKOUT:** Scott Isbell of Rockport holds a line while on a recent tuna trip out of Port Aransas. The fishing party found no shrimp boats on the trip, and no tuna. Photo by David J. Sams.

BY DANNO WISE

Typically, fall signals the start of a strong season of tuna fishing. So far this October, however, tuna reports have been spotty. In areas that have shown poor returns, the lack of shrimp boat activity has drawn most of the blame. Other portions of the coast, on the other hand, are reporting better than average tuna fishing. At this point, it really does appear the key to success is being in the right place at the right time.

"We have some tuna out there," said Freeport-based guide Capt. Mike Segall of Reel Three Charters. "But, it's been kind of off and on. For one thing, we haven't had a lot of boats going out after them. There's been plenty of blackfin — and a few yellowfin — around 60 miles out."

Part of the problem has been the conditions. "There's been a lot of days we just can't get out there. And, when you are able to get out, it's hit or miss," Segall said. "Some of the boats that have gone out have done real well. The key has been finding the shrimp boats. There definitely are not as many shrimp boats as there has been in the past."

Segall advised anglers to seek shrimper information. "The boats that are there have fish behind them," he said. "But, you've got to know where they are. So, you really need to talk to peo-

See TUNA, Page 22

## Corpus angler lands pending record red on fly

BY DIANA KUNDE

A perfect fishing day on the Upper Laguna Madre ended in a pending state record catch on a fly rod for Corpus Christi physician E. Stanton Shoemaker.

Dr. Shoemaker, an obstetrician/gynecologist, landed a 39.125-pound bull redfish on a fly rod — using an 8-weight rod and 10-pound test tippet. The fly was a polar bear slider.

"I needed a 12-weight," said Shoemaker, who fought the fish — very carefully — for about 30 minutes. The giant red was 48 inches long and had a 27.375-inch girth.

October 1 was "one of those gorgeous days," Shoemaker said. He was fishing with Capt. Fred Lynch on a skiff, in about 2 feet of water.

At about 10 a.m., they hap-

pened on a large school of redfish, the doctor said. "I'd caught about four or five and released them. Then I asked Fred what the world record was, because these fish were huge."

By then, Shoemaker had caught and released a 40-inch, a 42-inch, a 43-inch and a 46-inch fish, Lynch said. The guide thought there might be a category in the International Game Fish Association for fish caught on a fly rod with 10-pound tippet.

They had been using 14-pound test, so they switched to the lighter version.

Lynch said he tied 15 inches of 10-pound test tippet to the leader, then added an 8- or 9-inch piece of 14-pound bite tippet at the end.

Then they carefully looked for the school, which had moved on,

"Fortunately, we found the school again," Shoemaker said.

The doctor made a 25-foot sight cast to a large fish, Lynch said. The bull red that Shoemaker gradually played into the boat was more than 3 pounds heavier than the existing state record on a fly rod, held by George Paauw for a 35.81-pound, 46.5-inch red caught in February 2007.

Paauw also was a client, Lynch said.

"Sometimes I kinda know where they (schooling redfish) hang out," he said.

This is his first pending record, Shoemaker said. He's been fly-fishing for about 20 years and does it "almost exclusively." A sailfish he caught in Costa Rica may have

See RECORD, Page 29



**BIG RED:** Dr. E. Stanton Shoemaker of Corpus Christi landed this 39.125-pound red drum on a fly rod, a pending state record.

Protection from above and below  
Boat covers worth the cost

BY DAN ARMITAGE



**DUAL PURPOSE:** A quality, properly fitting cover will protect a boat from above and below, protecting it from the damaging rays of the sun and moisture while keeping critters at bay from below.

All boat surfaces suffer from exposure, whether on the water or off in storage for the season. Watercraft constructed of aluminum, fiberglass or wood, and the fabric on their seats and carpeting, deteriorate from the effects of the sun and other elements from above if not properly protected, and a physical barrier in the form of a boat cover is the best defense.

In regions like Texas where most of the damage comes from the sun's powerful UV rays, that's especially true; when combined with wet, dust and dirt, surfaces and materials start breaking down even faster. Even when the boat is in covered storage during the off-season, a tight-fitting top is recommended, as are covers designed for boats being trailered on the open road.

There are some half-dozen fabrics of various weights comprising the majority of modern boat covers, and each is suited for a particular set of needs and budgets. These include 100-percent cotton canvas; cotton/polyester blends; 100-percent polyester; coated polyester; vinyl-coated acrylic; and 100-percent acrylic.

In addition, mass-marketed tops are also available in 100-percent nylon, polyethylene and spun-bound olefin. The latter, which goes by its registered name "Tyvek," is best known as the "tear-proof" paper-like material used in Federal Express mailers, a light-weight fabric with properties that allow air to pass through, while remaining water- and vapor-proof.

The most popular covers are known by names given to them by the fabric manufacturers, such as "Sunbrella," which is acrylic; "Harbor Time," which is an acrylic-coated polyester; "Top Gun," which is polyester; and "Aqualon," which is vinyl-coated polyester. Each type of cover material, including the venerable blue plastic tarp, is capable of offer-

ing a degree of protection under certain conditions. Some are simply suited to perform better in certain circumstances.

Regardless of the material, the four most important features offered by a boat cover are strength, durability, water repellency and breathability.

Here in the Lone Star state, where the sun is more of an immediate threat to a boat's integrity than rain, a top with cotton content may not hold up for very long to the intense UV rays, especially if it has not been treated with the proper UV inhibitors. And because water repellency often isn't as much of an issue, the best cover materials may be acrylics or polyesters.

If you intend to trailer your boat at highway speeds over long distances, durability becomes important. In that case, polyester, vinyl or treated canvas will hold up better than an acrylic, because of its tendency to stretch and its lower resistance to abrasion.

Before hitting the highway with a covered boat in tow, make sure the top is designed for on-the-road use and make certain it is secured as directed. This should include anchoring the cover to both the boat and the trailer with tie-down points occurring at least every 2 to 3 feet along the entire length of the boat and cover. Alternate between straps attached to the boat that pass completely under the hull, and tie-downs to the trailer. Without securing the cover to the trailer, the top can shift, which could cause the material to tear and damage the boat if portions of the cover are allowed to rub or flap against the boat at highway speeds.

Several accessories to guard against cover wear are available as well, including rub strips to put around windshield edges and stern corners, after-market tie-down systems and spray-

See BOAT, Page 16

# Echols Jr. wins Berkley Big Bass

Ronnie Echols Jr. of Dallas caught a 9.62-pound largemouth to claim the biggest bass at the 3rd annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament hosted by Bass Champs on Lake Fork. The fish was landed on the new Berkley "Jay's Jig."

"I fished the same area all day," Echols said. "Just one stretch of grass on a tapering point. I was in about 12 feet of water. I worked the jig real slow, and was just hoping to get one big bite. As it turned out, it was the only bite I had, but it was the right one."

Echols won \$500 and took home a Skeeter ZX200/Yamaha 200 equipped with a Minnkota trolling motor and Humminbird Electronics valued at \$45,000.

More than 700 anglers tried their luck at the "amateur's only" tournament with a twist — only Berkley lures could be used. Hourly checks were awarded in the two-day event but the boats were the target. Two boats were given away — one to the angler with the

biggest bass over the 24-inch slot limit, the other to the angler with the biggest bass under the 16-inch slot.

The competition for the biggest bass under the slot was more intense. The lead changed hands more than 10 times and three times in the last hour. When the scales closed, Paul Walls of Tyler won the second boat given away with his 2.94-pound catch.

Walls, fishing with his brother, Robert, used a new 4-inch Berkley Gulp! Saltwater baitfish. Both brothers weighed in a fish the final hour. Robert's fish weighed in at 2.06 pounds. "My brother has one that is going to go close to three pounds," Robert said.

"Depending on how close to three pounds he is, you and your brother may be taking home a new boat," replied tournament emcee Chad Potts.

And they did.

—Bass Champs report.

## More Galveston Bay boat ramps open

For those anglers who have found a way onto Galveston Bay since Hurricane Ike, fishing reportedly has been better than average.

"Our gill nets are still producing good catches of spotted seatrout and red drum, and the birds are working the bait schools in the bay," said Bill Balboa, Texas Parks and Wildlife's Galveston Bay ecosystem leader.

The question is: how to get a boat on the water? Good news. After nearly all boat ramps were blocked or damaged after Hurricane Ike, now more than half are back in some semblance of working order.

"Approximately 67 of the 127 sites we have been regularly surveying are now accessible," Balboa said. "Some sites — especially bait camps — may take months to repair. We recommend that anglers check with ramp owners and operators and exercise caution when launching, running the bay and fishing."

—Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

## Crappie tips for fall fishing

Fall can be an even better time for crappie than spring. There are fewer cold fronts, and winds and temperatures are mild. Add in less competition, active crappie and the bonus of beautiful fall colors.

The cooling water puts crappie in a transition phase so they can be found at different depths. The top edge of a drop-off in 5 to 10 feet of water is usually best. Jigs or minnow or a combo of them will all work. Try letting a jig bump into cover to really get them excited.

Another way is to cast a float and jig that lets you maintain a precise depth. If you catch crappie at 8 feet the first place you try, adjust the float to 8 feet and each time you cast the bait you will be in the zone. With light tackle, crappie provide fun for all anglers. And when you get in the zone, anglers of all ages will enjoy the frenzy of the fall crappie bite.

—BassPro.com report.

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# GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

## BLOOD IN TRUCK BED BRINGS CONFESSION

• A landowner reported to Edwards County Game Warden Scott Holly that someone shot a deer on a county road. Holly followed the blood trail to a nearby camp. The landowner gave a vehicle description and partial license plate number of a pickup he had seen in the area the previous day. Holly enlisted the help of other wardens to come up with a possible owner. Galveston County Game Warden Ray Canales located the owner who denied any knowledge about the deer and said he had been at Hondo due to Hurricane Ike. Canales found blood in the bed of the vehicle. The man then confessed to shooting a deer in Edwards County and said the deer antlers were in Hondo. Four packages of meat were confiscated and a buck head and the tail were recovered in Hondo.

## DEER SHOT OUT OF SEASON, PUT ON POLICE CAR

• Grayson County Game Wardens Randolph McGee, Jim Ballard and Denton County Game Wardens Stormy McCusition and Daron Blackerby worked on a case in which a deer had been shot out of season and put on a local police car. After the investigation, two persons were apprehended. Several charges were filed including hunting deer at night. Cases pending.

## BAD LUCK OMEN BACKFIRES

• El Paso County Game Wardens Ray Spears and Dustin Barrett responded to a call concerning some burrowing owls that had been killed behind a local school. A school bus driver had shot three owls with a pellet gun and placed them on the windshield of a co-worker's vehicle. The two had an ongoing dispute, and the man wanted to bring bad luck to his enemy. The owls were illegally

## TOW SERVICE EMPLOYEE TRAPPED BY ALLIGATOR

• A man in the Seabrook area was trapped on a covered box trailer in the back bay waters with an alligator circling him. Harris County Game Warden Tim

Elmore discovered a man sitting on top of the trailer, but no alligator was visible. The man worked for a tow service and was trying to recover the trailer

when the alligator approached him while he was in the water. Elmore helped the man and found the alligator at the other end of the lake.

warden is here." The man gained access to the property from his neighborhood golf course by driving the golf cart with clubs and all of his hunting equipment down into the creek next to the adjacent property to avoid being noticed. The landowner's agent was contacted and appropriate charges were filed.

taken from an owl colony that resides on the grounds of an elementary school. The school district worked with the TPW urban biologist and created a better habitat for the birds.

## WOMAN WITH NO FISHING LICENSE HITS WARDEN WITH WATER JUG

• Cody Jones, Travis County game warden, was patrolling the Colorado River at the Austin Colony Park. Jones came across two adults and their four children fishing in the river and requested to see the adults' fishing licenses. The two adults had no fishing licenses. The male was cited and released and the female was charged with resisting arrest after she struck Jones with a plastic jug filled with water.

## INTERNET SQUIRREL SELLER STUNG

• Game Warden Jeff Benson noticed a squirrel for sale on Craig's List in Fort Worth. Tarrant County Game Warden Chelle Mount e-mailed the advertiser about purchasing the squirrel and went to the residence under the guise of purchasing the animal. Upon arrival, the animal was seized. Cases are pending.

## FISH SHOCKERS SHOCKED TO SEE WARDEN

• Jasper County Game Wardens Justin Eddins and Phillip Wood watched three Jasper County men working a shocking device on the Neches River. They recovered 14 flathead catfish, 5 blue catfish and the shocking device. One of the violators explained to the wardens

that the shocking device is a 24-volt system, and he went to try to learn how to manufacture the device. Cases are pending.

## PROSPECTIVE POLICE STUDENT WORRIES ABOUT CHARGES

• Ellis County Game Warden Jeff Powell watched a truck drive down the road with a man sitting on the roof of the truck and shooting at doves on the power lines. After initiating the stop, the shooter had an unplugged shotgun and no hunting or driver's license. Another had a marijuana pipe in his pocket and small amount of marijuana in the vehicle. While being detained, one of the men asked Powell, "Will these charges affect me getting into the police academy at the local college?" Cases pending.

## PERSONS SHOOTING AND SELLING DEER CAUGHT

• Dan Hill, Cass County game warden, finally received a call that closed a case he had been working on concerning persons shooting deer and selling them. The caller gave information including names, dates, and times the man would be home. When the man was contacted, his truck was still covered in blood from the previous night. The wardens ended up with six deer, four violators, and 18 citations and warnings.

## POACHER CAUGHT AFTER CROSSING FENCE WITH DOGS

• Travis County Game Warden Cody Jones received a call from a

landowner's agent of trespassing and poaching problems. The agent advised that two men were confronted on two separate occasions as they hunted dove without the landowner's consent and were asked to leave. Jones later observed one man cross the fence with two bird dogs and begin shooting doves. When Jones tried to approach, the man fled the area. Jones caught him in the woods behind the field. The landowner was contacted and charges were filed.

## CAUGHT CLEANING MANY FISH, MAN FINDS ABANDONED FRIENDS

• While patrolling the Port Isabel area in Cameron County for some early morning fishermen, Game Warden Santana Torres noticed many lights coming from the old causeway in Port Isabel. When he arrived, people started to move around and coolers were being abandoned. One gentleman with his back toward Torres was cleaning fish and didn't get away. In front of the man was 53 speckled trout and 48 were undersized. After being made aware of the trouble he was in, the man called his friends who had disappeared. A total of 20 cases were filed.

## GOLFER TAKES CART, CROSSBOW TO ACCESS HUNTING LAND

• A man hunting deer on property without consent was discovered by Tarrant County Game Warden Clint Borchardt. When the warden asked how he was doing, the man replied, "Not very well ... the game

## CHILD RESCUED AFTER FALLING FROM PONTOON

• While working Lake Conroe, Walker County Game Warden Stephen Ingram observed a pontoon boat approaching with three small children not wearing lifejackets. Ingram began motoring towards the pontoon boat, and the driver began to slow down. One of the small children moved through the open front door of the pontoon boat to retrieve a can of soda that was rolling towards the front edge of the pontoon boat. The small child was thrown overboard in 20 feet of water and disappeared in front of the pontoon boat. Ingram maneuvered his patrol boat to the location where the child entered the water. The child surfaced and began struggling to swim. Ingram grabbed the child's arm. Ingram instructed the driver to put lifejackets on the remaining children. Citations for children not wearing lifejackets were issued.

## RICE ON ROADS BRING BAITING CITATIONS

• Shotgun blasts were heard by La Salle County Game Warden Ryan Johnson coming from a ranch deep in the brush country and not known to have a large amount of doves. At the ranch he observed a large amount of rice scattered on the ranch roads. Violations included three unplugged shotguns, one large dead blue indigo snake and 58 doves. Cases and restitution are pending.

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Closed...4 in. (10.3 cm)  
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Handle...6061-T6 Anodized  
Aluminum w/Smoke Finish  
Blade...3 in. (7.5 cm)  
Closed...4 in. (10.3 cm)  
Assisted Opening

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**LEEK**  
Model KS1600BWCCT  
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Handle...6061-T6 Anodized  
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- Full-length hinge • #53AL, 53BK



99<sup>99</sup>

**BBK DUO 15-FT. LADDER STAND**

- Capacity: 450 lbs.
- Padded gun rest
- Removable waterproof padded seat and backrest
- Durable powder-coated finish
- Two safety harnesses included
- #BBK340005



118<sup>99</sup>

**MOULTRIE FEEDERS EASY-FILL GAME FEEDER**

- Easy to fill from ground level (5-ft., 4-in. in height)
- Built-in metal varmint guard
- Digital timer
- Includes: metal feeder feet
- #MFH-EZF30T



69<sup>99</sup>

**MEN'S GAME WINNER SYSTEM JACKETS**

- Sizes: S-3XL
- #PO357M/MOJ1016



Selection varies by store.

17<sup>49</sup> - 18<sup>99</sup>

**WINCHESTER SUPER-X CENTERFIRE AMMO**

- .243: 100 gr., .270: 130 or 150 gr., .30-06: 150 or 180 gr., .308: 150 gr.



16<sup>69</sup> - 19<sup>49</sup>

**REMINGTON CENTERFIRE AMMO**

- .243: 80 or 100 gr., .270: 130 or 150 gr., .30-06: 150, 165 or 180 gr., .308: 150 gr.



Offer ends 12/31/08  
**REBATE\***  
\$5 OFF ONE BOX OR \$10 OFF TWO BOXES  
\*See store for details.

199<sup>99</sup>

**LEUPOLD RIFLEMAN 3-9X40 RIFLE SCOPE**

- New Wide Duplex® reticle
- Matte finish
- Fully-coated lenses
- #56160



299<sup>99</sup>

**LEUPOLD VX-2 3-9X40 RIFLE SCOPE**

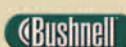
- Multi-coated 4" lens coating
- 1/4 MOA click windage and elevation adjustments
- Waterproof and fogproof
- Lockable, fast-focus eyepiece
- Matte finish



109<sup>99</sup>

**BUSHNELL 10X42 H2O BINOCULARS**

- Bak-4 prisms
- Multi-coated optics
- 100% waterproof: O-ringsealed and nitrogen purged
- Fog-free
- Fold-down or twist-up eyecups
- Large center focus knob
- Longer eye relief



149<sup>99</sup>

**BUSHNELL YARDAGE PRO SPORT 450 RANGEFINDER**

- Compact
- Weather-resistant
- Textured grip



39<sup>99</sup>



**MIDLAND CAMO TWO-WAY RADIOS**

- Up to 20-mile range
- 22 channels
- Hi/Lo power settings
- Silent operation mutes all tones when desired
- Battery life extender
- Rechargeable NiMH battery packs included with convenient drop-in charger
- Mossy Oak® camo
- #LXT345VP3



249<sup>99</sup> LOWRANCE

**LOWRANCE I FINDER HUNT GPS**

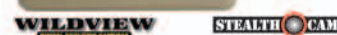
- Hunting-specific graphic icons
- Built-in electronic compass
- Barometric altimeter
- Totally sealed and waterproof
- 240x180 pixel, 3-in. diagonal display
- #112-33



69<sup>99</sup>

**STEALTH CAM WILDVIEW XTREME II DIGITAL SCOUTING CAMERA**

- Video or picture mode
- 16 MB built-in memory
- 2.0 megapixels • 15-ft. flash
- Operates on four "C" cell batteries, sold separately
- #STC-TGL2M



198<sup>99</sup>

**MOULTRIE GAME SPY 4.0 IR GAME CAMERA**

- 4.0 megapixels • 45-ft. flash
- 32 MB internal memory
- SD card supports 4 GB
- 150 day battery life
- Power source: six "D" cell batteries, sold separately
- #MHF-I-40



• MOULTRIE GAME SPY POWER PANEL...69.99

54<sup>99</sup> - 69<sup>99</sup>

**GAME WINNER CAMO TROLLEY DUFFLE BAGS**

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- Folds for easy storage
- #C330



\*Limited to stock on hand. No rain checks, please.

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- Two burners • #DJ-60LW



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- 3-million candlepower, 12-volt spotlight
- #800.2301.0



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**IGLOO 48-QUART FLAT ICE CHEST**

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- Fully-insulated lid
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# HEROES



**MIKAELA SWEET** shows a catfish she caught while fishing in The Woodlands fishing derby.



**JASON GONSALEZ AND SKY KIFF** with black drum caught in the Lower Laguna Madre on live shrimp.



**DOUG JONES** of Keller caught these bluefin tuna off San Diego, Calif.



**HAYDEN STROUP**, 8, of Irving, with his first whitetail, an 8-point West Texas buck.

## SHARE AN ADVENTURE

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



**JAMES BENNETT OF SKIDMORE** shows a 43-inch ling caught in state waters out of Corpus Christi.

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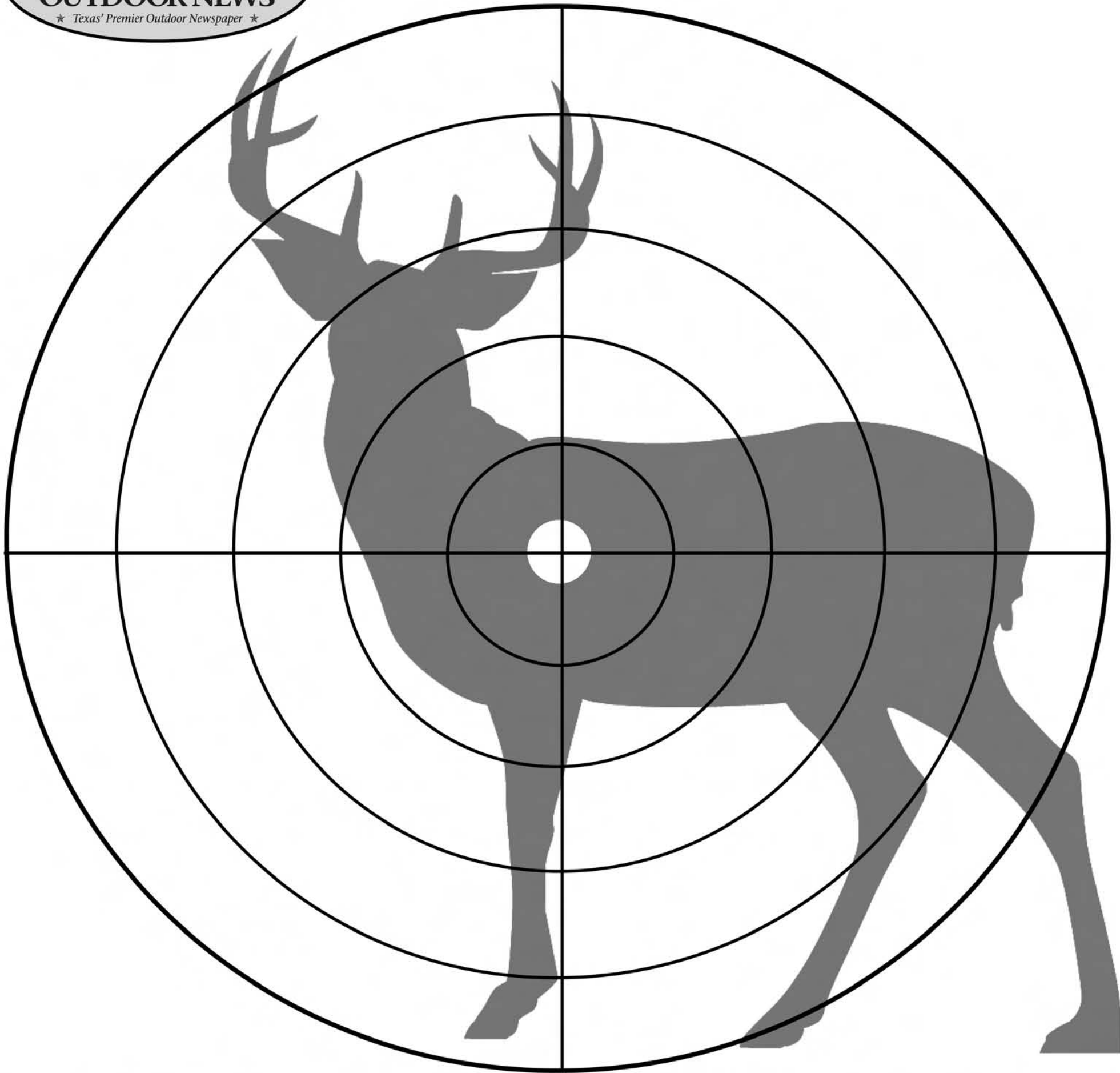
Titled "Texas Duel", Edition of 4  
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## Bronzes by - Ron Schaefer

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rifle: \_\_\_\_\_  
Load: \_\_\_\_\_

# OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

**Oct. 24-26:** The Texas Hill Country River Region Fall Fly Fishing Fest will be held on the Frio and Nueces rivers. Contact Angela at (800) 210-0380 or angela@thcrr.com for information.

**Oct. 25:** Cabela's Deer Camp will be held at the Buda and Fort Worth stores. Call (512) 295-1100 (Buda) or (817) 334-2400 (Fort Worth) for information.



**Oct. 25:** The Everything Kayak! Expo will be held at the Ransom Point Paddle Launch festival grounds in Aransas Pass. Contact Jennifer at (361) 758-0463 or earthwrk@cablone.net for information.

**Oct. 25:** Hondo's 12 Annual Bull Red Run will be held on East Matagorda beach. For information, call Scott at (281) 748-0052.

**Oct. 25:** The Flotilla Boating & Fishing Club tournament to benefit Davis-Scott YMCA will be held in Corpus Christi. Contact Alfred at (210) 532-0932 or alfredladson@yahoo.com for information.

**Oct. 28:** The Palestine DU dinner will be held at the KC Hall. Call Stewart at (903) 731-2421 for information.

**Oct. 28:** The Dallas Safari Club West Texas regional meeting will be held at the K-Bar Ranch in Odessa. For information, contact Debi at (469) 484-6776 or debi@biggame.org.

**Oct. 28:** The Canton DU dinner will be held at the Canton Country Club. Call David at (903) 275-7951 for information.

**Oct. 29:** The Sam Houston State Delta Waterfowl dinner will be held at SHSU University Camp. For information, call Richard at (713) 540-0467.

**Oct. 29:** The Kingwood/Humble DU dinner will be held at the Humble Civic Center. Call Steve at (281) 259-9638 for information.

**Oct. 30:** The Brazos Basin NWTF dinner will be held at the Waco Skeet and Trap Club. Contact James at (254) 751-9133 or jmcgregor@defensewacp.com for information.



**Oct. 31:** Trick or treat at Cabela's in Fort Worth with candy in each department for the kids. Visit cabela's.com for information.

**Nov. 1:** A Wild Game dinner will be held at the Schleicher County Civic Center in Eldorado. Call (325) 650-9559 for information.

**Nov. 5:** The Brush Country CCA dinner will be held at the KC Hall in Alice. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.

**Nov. 6:** The Texas A&M DU dinner will be held at the Bryan County EXPO Center. Call Casey at (903) 330-8240 for information.

**Nov. 8:** The Texas State University DU Waterfowler's Party will be held at the Cabana Beach Apartment Complex. Call Jake at (713) 582-6149 for information.

**Nov. 11:** The Lubbock DU dinner will be held at Danny's Fins and Wings. Call David



at (806) 783-9149 for information.

**Nov. 12:** The Midland DU dinner will be held at Green Tree Country Club. Call Clint or Kristie at (432) 694-9374 for information.

**Nov. 13:** The Dallas Woods and Waters Club monthly meeting will be held at the Sheraton North Dallas Hotel featuring Ray Sasser. Call (214) 570-8700 for information.

**Nov. 13:** The Waco DU dinner will be held at the Lion's Den. For information, call Bubba at (254) 855-7387.

**Nov. 13:** The Dallas Safari Club East Texas regional meeting will be held at Briar Lakes Ranch. Contact Jaimey at (469) 484-6777 or jaimey@biggame.org for information.



**Nov. 13:** The Texas Tech DU dinner will be held at Danny's Fins and Hens. For information, call Courtney at (409) 789-6891.

**Nov. 15:** The Cast A Lure for a Cure Bass tournament will be held at Lake Grapevine. Contact Stacey at

(972) 354-8310 or Stacey.russell@lls.org for information.

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

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



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

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

## HAVE AN EVENT?

E-mail it to editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com

## Boat

Continued from Page 10

on UV inhibitors. Used properly, these can add several seasons to the usefulness of any boat cover — and any boat cover is better than none.

### Boat Cover Costs

Here are general price ranges you can expect to pay to cover an open 18-foot boat with the various fabrics, which are listed in popularity among boat owners:

- Acrylic ("Sunbrella"): \$400-\$700
- Cotton ("Canvas"): \$100-\$450
- Polyester ("Top Gun"): \$300-\$475
- Vinyl-coated Polyester ("Aqualon"): \$300-\$475
- Vinyl-coated Acrylic ("Sea Mark"): \$400-\$700
- Polyethylene (blue plastic tarp): \$10-\$75
- Nylon (mass-produced under several names): \$20-\$125
- Spun-bound olefin ("Tyvek"): \$100-\$200

### Bighorns planned at Big Bend Ranch State Park

Plans are in motion to extend bighorn restocking efforts into Big Bend Ranch State Park and elsewhere in the region as part of a comprehensive Desert Bighorn Sheep Restoration Plan.

With the help of partners in Mexico, including Cemex Corp., and Texas partners like the Texas Bighorn Society, Wild Sheep Foundation, the Dallas Safari Club, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, and private landowners, Texas Parks and Wildlife will be working to prepare Big Bend Ranch State Park and surrounding areas for the eventual restoration of desert bighorns.

The objective is for Big Bend Ranch State Park to have a population of 100 bighorns by 2025.

Before bighorn sheep can flourish on Big Bend Ranch State Park, department officials say steps must be taken to pave the way, including reducing the numbers of exotic and feral animals to prevent disease and competition, limiting bighorn losses to predation, and developing water sources.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

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# WEATHER

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### Moon Phases

Last  Oct 21    New  Oct 28    First  Nov 5    Full  Nov 13

### Solunar Table Major/Minor periods:

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
10/22	7:12a/12:59a	2:44p/8:56p	7:18a/1:05a	2:50p/9:02p
10/23	7:38p/1:25p	3:14a/9:27a	7:44p/1:31p	3:20a/9:33a
10/24	7:59a/1:47a	3:39p/9:52p	8:05a/1:53a	3:45p/9:58p
10/25	8:23p/2:11p	3:09a/9:22a	8:29p/2:17p	3:15a/9:28a
10/26	8:41a/2:30a	3:34p/9:46p	8:47a/2:36a	3:40p/9:52p
10/27	9:03p/2:52p	4:02a/10:14a	9:09p/2:58p	4:08a/10:20a
10/28	9:19a/3:08a	4:26p/10:38p	9:25a/3:14a	4:32p/10:44p
10/29	9:41p/3:30p	4:52a/11:03a	9:47p/3:36p	4:58a/11:09a
10/30	9:57a/3:46a	5:15p/11:26p	10:03a/3:52a	5:21p/11:32p
10/31	10:18p/4:08p	5:38a/11:49a	10:24p/4:14p	5:44a/11:55a
11/1	10:36a/4:25a	6:00p/---	10:42a/4:31a	10:36a/---
11/2	10:58p/4:47p	6:21a/12:12a	11:04p/4:53p	10:58p/12:18a
11/3	11:18a/5:07a	6:43p/12:32p	11:24a/5:13a	11:18a/12:38p
11/4	11:41p/5:30p	7:01a/12:50a	11:47p/5:36p	11:41p/12:56a
11/5	12:05p/5:53a	7:23p/1:12p	12:11p/5:59a	12:05p/1:18p
11/6	12:28p/6:16p	7:41a/1:29a	12:34p/6:22p	12:28p/1:35a
11/7	12:30a/6:43a	8:03p/1:52p	12:36a/6:49a	12:30a/1:58p
11/8	12:55p/7:07p	8:21a/2:09a	1:01p/7:13p	12:55p/2:15a
11/9	1:23a/7:36a	8:46p/2:33p	1:29a/7:42p	1:23a/2:39p
11/10	1:48p/8:01p	9:06a/2:53a	1:54p/8:07p	1:48p/2:59a
11/11	2:18a/8:31a	9:32p/3:19p	2:24a/8:37a	2:18a/3:25p

### Tides

	High	Low	High	Low	Freeport	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	
10/22	12:46 a.m.	5:29 p.m.	---	---	10/22	12:47 a.m.	4:59 p.m.	---	---	10/22	12:55 a.m.	4:37 p.m.	---	---
10/23	1:03 a.m.	7:51 a.m.	10:25 a.m.	6:44 p.m.	10/23	1:04 a.m.	7:21 a.m.	10:26 a.m.	6:14 p.m.	10/23	1:12 a.m.	6:59 a.m.	10:34 a.m.	5:52 p.m.
10/24	1:16 a.m.	8:05 a.m.	12:20 p.m.	7:49 p.m.	10/24	1:17 a.m.	7:35 a.m.	12:21 p.m.	7:19 p.m.	10/24	1:25 a.m.	7:13 a.m.	12:29 p.m.	6:57 p.m.
10/25	1:27 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	1:49 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	10/25	1:28 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	1:50 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	10/25	1:36 a.m.	7:38 a.m.	1:58 p.m.	7:53 p.m.
10/26	1:36 a.m.	8:56 a.m.	3:02 p.m.	9:37 p.m.	10/26	1:37 a.m.	8:26 a.m.	3:03 p.m.	9:07 p.m.	10/26	1:45 a.m.	8:04 a.m.	3:11 p.m.	8:45 p.m.
10/27	1:43 a.m.	9:22 a.m.	4:03 p.m.	10:25 p.m.	10/27	1:44 a.m.	8:52 a.m.	4:04 p.m.	9:55 p.m.	10/27	1:52 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	4:12 p.m.	9:33 p.m.
10/28	1:48 a.m.	9:48 a.m.	4:56 p.m.	11:11 p.m.	10/28	1:49 a.m.	9:18 a.m.	4:57 p.m.	10:41 p.m.	10/28	1:57 a.m.	8:56 a.m.	5:05 p.m.	10:19 p.m.
10/29	1:48 a.m.	10:15 a.m.	5:44 p.m.	11:51 p.m.	10/29	1:49 a.m.	9:45 a.m.	5:45 p.m.	11:21 p.m.	10/29	1:57 a.m.	9:23 a.m.	5:53 p.m.	10:59 p.m.
10/30	1:39 a.m.	10:44 a.m.	6:30 p.m.	---	10/30	1:40 a.m.	10:14 a.m.	6:31 p.m.	---	10/30	1:48 a.m.	9:52 a.m.	6:39 p.m.	---
10/31	7:20 p.m.	11:17 a.m.	---	---	10/31	7:21 p.m.	10:47 a.m.	---	---	10/31	7:29 p.m.	10:25 a.m.	---	---
11/1	8:19 p.m.	11:54 a.m.	---	---	11/1	8:20 p.m.	11:24 a.m.	---	11:43 p.m.	11/1	8:28 p.m.	11:23 a.m.	---	11:21 p.m.
11/2	1:29 a.m.	12:13 a.m.	---	11:35 a.m.	11/2	1:30 a.m.	11:05 a.m.	---	---	11/2	1:38 a.m.	10:43 a.m.	---	---
11/3	12:49 a.m.	12:22 p.m.	---	---	11/3	12:50 a.m.	11:52 a.m.	---	---	11/3	12:58 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	---	---
11/4	12:54 a.m.	1:14 p.m.	11:10 p.m.	---	11/4	12:55 a.m.	12:44 p.m.	11:11 p.m.	---	11/4	1:03 a.m.	12:22 p.m.	11:19 p.m.	---
11/5	11:12 p.m.	2:11 p.m.	---	---	11/5	11:13 p.m.	1:41 p.m.	---	---	11/5	11:21 p.m.	1:19 p.m.	---	---
11/6	11:18 p.m.	3:13 p.m.	---	---	11/6	11:19 p.m.	2:43 p.m.	---	---	11/6	11:27 p.m.	2:21 p.m.	---	---
11/7	11:23 p.m.	4:19 p.m.	---	---	11/7	11:24 p.m.	3:49 p.m.	---	---	11/7	11:32 p.m.	3:27 p.m.	---	---
11/8	10:53 a.m.	6:40 a.m.	11:27 p.m.	5:26 p.m.	11/8	10:54 a.m.	6:10 a.m.	11:28 p.m.	4:56 p.m.	11/8	11:02 a.m.	5:48 a.m.	11:36 p.m.	4:34 p.m.
11/9	12:23 p.m.	6:33 a.m.	11:29 p.m.	6:33 p.m.	11/9	12:24 p.m.	6:03 a.m.	11:30 p.m.	6:03 p.m.	11/9	12:32 p.m.	5:41 a.m.	11:38 p.m.	5:41 p.m.
11/10	1:34 p.m.	6:52 a.m.	11:29 p.m.	7:37 p.m.	11/10	1:35 p.m.	6:22 a.m.	11:30 p.m.	7:07 p.m.	11/10	1:43 p.m.	6:00 a.m.	11:17 p.m.	6:45 p.m.
11/11	2:36 p.m.	7:23 a.m.	11:31 p.m.	8:37 p.m.	11/11	2:37 p.m.	6:53 a.m.	11:32 p.m.	8:07 p.m.	11/11	2:45 p.m.	6:31 a.m.	11:40 p.m.	7:45 p.m.

### Sun and Moon

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
10/22	7:28a/6:43p	7:38a/6:47p	7:40a/6:56p	7:59a/7:03p
10/23	7:29a/6:42p	7:39a/6:46p	7:41a/6:55p	8:00a/7:02p
10/24	7:30a/6:41p	7:40a/6:45p	7:42a/6:54p	8:01a/7:00p
10/25	7:30a/6:40p	7:40a/6:43p	7:42a/6:53p	8:02a/6:59p
10/26	7:31a/6:39p	7:41a/6:42p	7:43a/6:52p	8:03a/6:58p
10/27	7:32a/6:38p	7:42a/6:41p	7:44a/6:51p	8:04a/6:57p
10/28	7:32a/6:37p	7:43a/6:40p	7:44a/6:51p	8:05a/6:56p
10/29	7:33a/6:37p	7:44a/6:39p	7:45a/6:50p	8:06a/6:55p
10/30	7:34a/6:36p	7:45a/6:39p	7:46a/6:49p	8:06a/6:54p
10/31	7:35a/6:35p	7:45a/6:38p	7:47a/6:48p	8:07a/6:53p
11/1	7:35a/6:34p	7:46a/6:37p	7:47a/6:47p	8:08a/6:52p
11/2	6:36a/5:33p	6:47a/5:36p	6:48a/5:46p	7:09a/5:51p
11/3	6:37a/5:33p	6:48a/5:35p	6:49a/5:46p	7:10a/5:50p
11/4	6:38a/5:32p	6:49a/5:34p	6:50a/5:45p	7:11a/5:49p
11/5	6:39a/5:31p	6:50a/5:33p	6:50a/5:44p	7:12a/5:48p
11/6	6:39a/5:30p	6:51a/5:32p	6:51a/5:44p	7:13a/5:47p
11/7	6:40a/5:30p	6:51a/5:32p	6:52a/5:43p	7:14a/5:46p
11/8	6:41a/5:29p	6:52a/5:31p	6:53a/5:42p	7:15a/5:46p
11/9	6:42a/5:28p	6:53a/5:30p	6:53a/5:42p	7:16a/5:45p
11/10	6:43a/5:28p	6:54a/5:30p	6:54a/5:41p	7:17a/5:44p
11/11	6:43a/5:27p	6:55a/5:29p	6:55a/5:40p	7:18a/5:43p

### Moonrise/set

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
10/22	1:19a/3:08p	1:20a/3:20p	1:33a/3:20p	1:35a/3:43p
10/23	2:23a/3:42p	2:26a/3:52p	2:37a/3:54p	2:42a/4:13p
10/24	3:24a/4:13p	3:29a/4:21p	3:38a/4:25p	3:47a/4:41p
10/25	4:23a/4:42p	4:30a/4:48p	4:36a/4:55p	4:49a/5:07p
10/26	5:21a/5:11p	5:30a/5:16p	5:34a/5:24p	5:50a/5:33p
10/27	6:18a/5:41p	6:29a/5:44p	6:31a/5:55p	6:51a/6:00p
10/28	7:16a/6:14p	7:28a/6:15p	7:28a/6:27p	7:52a/6:30p
10/29	8:14a/6:50p	8:28a/6:50p	8:26a/7:04p	8:53a/7:03p
10/30	9:12a/7:30p	9:27a/7:29p	9:24a/7:44p	9:53a/7:41p
10/31	10:09a/8:15p	10:24a/8:13p	10:20a/8:29p	10:51a/8:25p
11/1	11:02a/9:05p	11:18a/9:03p	11:14a/9:19p	11:45a/9:14p
11/2	10:52a/8:58p	11:08a/8:57p	11:04a/9:12p	11:34a/9:09p
11/3	11:36a/9:53p	11:51a/9:53p	11:48a/10:08p	12:18p/10:06p
11/4	12:16p/10:51p	12:30p/10:51p	12:28p/11:05p	12:55p/11:05p
11/5	12:52p/11:48p	1:04p/11:50p	1:04p/none	1:28p/none
11/6	1:24p/none	1:35p/none	1:36p/12:02a	1:57p/12:05a
11/7	1:55p/12:46a	2:04p/12:49a	2:07p/12:59a	2:25p/1:06a
11/8	2:25p/1:44a	2:32p/1:49a	2:37p/1:57a	2:52p/2:07a
11/9	2:55p/2:43a	3:01p/2:51a	3:08p/2:56a	3:19p/3:10a
11/10	10:09a/8:15p	10:24a/8:13p	10:20a/8:29p	10:51a/8:25p
11/11	4:05p/4:51a	4:07p/5:03a	4:19p/5:04a	4:22p/5:26a

## OUTDOOR PUZZLER

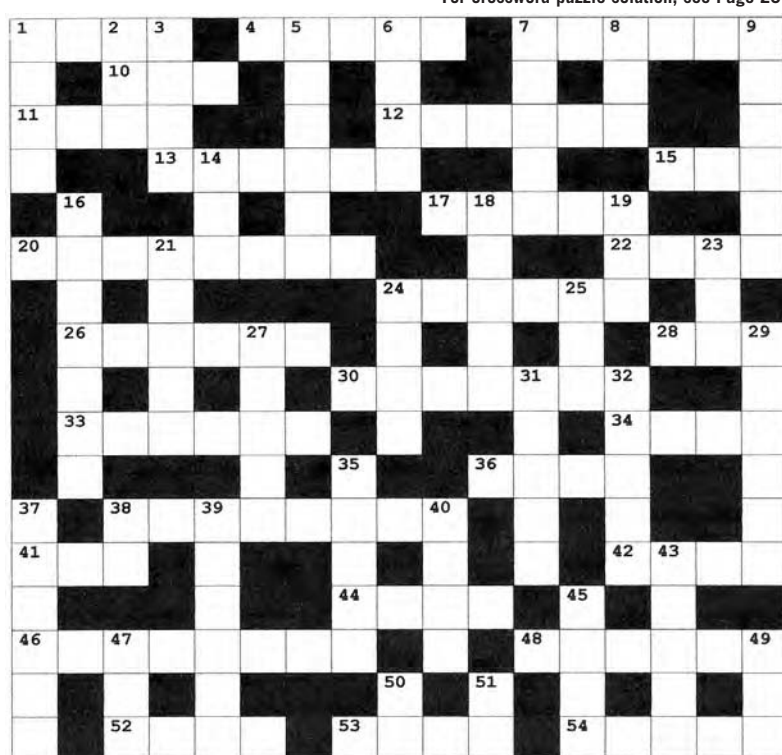
For crossword puzzle solution, see Page 20

### ACROSS

1. A young deer
4. Method of hunting or fishing
7. Brought down game
10. The slippery swimmer
11. A good bait for traps
12. The expert fisherman
13. A type of camp fireplace
15. The hunting permit
17. The skin with pelt side out
20. Searching an area for food
22. Shotgun model, \_\_\_ and under
24. There is a snowshoe, marsh and swamp
26. Arrow used for small game
28. Expert can read the \_\_\_ of game tracks
30. A common bear food source
33. A fuel for the camp stove
34. A brand of ice shelter
36. A species of large catfish
38. An adjustable aiming device
41. A grain pheasants feed on
42. A part of the antler
44. Wildfowl hatching bed
46. A deer scouting method
48. A saltwater fish
52. To shed and regrow feathers
53. The snare
54. Shooting \_\_\_ protects the fin-gers

### DOWN

1. A turkey's spur
2. A type of fly line
3. Some wildfowl build it in ground cover
5. A large gamefish
6. To shoot ahead of a moving target
7. The male elk
8. A snag-toothed fish
9. A brand of expandable broad head



14. A deer lure, scent \_\_\_
16. To fish with bow and arrow
18. Spindle of the flyreel spool
19. A reticle in a scope
21. Describes a gobbler's hearing
23. Roe or ova
24. This brings in catch
25. Should have a 34 across for this fishing
27. Term for portion of the bore
29. A white weasel
31. Home of the Eskimo fishermen
32. Game lures contain this
35. Estimating freshness of game tracks
37. A predator
38. Code for a bullet type
39. A trapper's quarry
40. Strength of a fishline
43. A quick-to-erect type tent
45. Gill is this to a fish
47. To point at a target
49. To construct a fly lure
50. Code for a grain's measurement
51. Code for a type bullet

Outdoor Puzzler,  
Wilbur "Wib" Lundeen

## WILD IN THE KITCHEN

### Rasta Pasta Clams

- Ingredients:  
Chopped Sea Clams, drained and juice reserved  
16 Ounces penne or shell pasta  
4 Cups heavy cream  
2 Cups fresh pineapple, chopped  
2 Cups fresh mango, chopped  
2 Red Peppers, diced  
2 Cups scallions, diced  
1/4 Garlic clove, chopped  
2 Tablespoons Jamaican Jerk Dry Seasoning  
1 Tablespoon ground coriander  
Salt and pepper, pinch  
Lime twist, garnish



- Instructions:  
Boil pasta until al dente and drain. Sauté garlic, mango, pineapple, and red pepper in pan. Then add clams,

heavy cream, scallions, garlic and seasonings. Heat at medium high temperature until sauce reduces and starts to thicken. Add pasta to pan and serve in large bowl. Garnish with lime twists in center.

— Recipe from The National Fisheries Institute, [aboutseafood.com](http://aboutseafood.com).

### Smothered Venison

- Ingredients:  
1 1/2-Pounds venison steaks  
Flour  
1/2 Cup oil  
1/2 Cup chopped onion  
1 Can (10 3/4 ounce) cream of mushroom soup  
8 Ounces milk  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Dash of Tabasco sauce

- Instructions:  
Lightly flour steaks. In a deep skillet, brown steaks in oil, drain and set aside. Combine all other ingredients in skillet and stir well. Return meat to pan and cover. Over medium heat, bring to a boil and reduce heat. Simmer about 30 minutes. Serve alone or over noodles.

— Recipe by Rhonda Layton, Nina's Favorite Recipes, Forrest L. Wood Outdoor Sports Gallery.

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# Quail

Continued from Page 8

of 2008 was generally hot and dry through the major nesting and brooding rearing months; however, recent reports for pheasants, quail and turkeys from staff and landowners are encouraging.

### South Texas Plains

For South Texas, surveys predict a below-average year, but at the time biologists ran these routes the bulk of hatching had not yet occurred. There will likely be a many small birds at the beginning of the season and plenty of hunter opportunity.

Spring rains were lacking over most of the range and delayed nesting attempts by the birds. Quail are very adaptable when it comes to the timing of the nesting season and waited until the rains came. July rains spurred pairing and nesting and September field reports indicate broods of small chicks.

The average number of bobwhites observed per route was 6.6

compared to 7 last year. This is well below the long-term average of 19.4. This is likely an underestimate due to late hatching. The Chaparral and the Daughtrey Wildlife Management Areas provide public quail hunting opportunities.

### Trans-Pecos

The Trans-Pecos ecological region of Texas has experienced above-average populations of scaled (blue) quail for the past five years. This year's survey along with field reports show a dramatic decrease in birds observed. Reports from the western edge of the Edwards Plateau (the Stockton Plateau) indicate slightly better production.

"Most of the Trans-Pecos suffered an extended drought that lasted through last winter, spring, and half of this summer," said Tim Bone, wildlife biologist in Alpine. "Only since July have good, widespread rains come to the Trans-Pecos."

The average number of scaled quail observed per route was 6.7 compared to 28 last year. This is well below the long-term average of 18.

Public hunter opportunities can be found at Elephant Mountain and Black Gap Wildlife Management Areas.

### Gulf Prairies

Surveys indicate bobwhite numbers in the Gulf Prairies are up considerably from last year. Hunters should focus on the central and lower coast in native prairie habitats.

"The dry spring actually benefits quail and turkey in most of my country," said David Forrester, wildlife district biologist in LaGrange. "This spring saw good turkey production and quail production seemed to be good also. Those places with good quail numbers and habitat should have good hunting opportunities."

### Cross Timbers/Edwards Plateau

The Cross Timbers and Edwards Plateau are below their respective averages. Specific areas within each region provide quail hunting opportunities. The statewide quail season runs Oct. 25-Feb. 22.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report.



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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 18**

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O	E	E	L	A	E	U	A	A						
O	A	T	S	R	A	N	G	L	E	R				G
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F	O	R	A	G	I	N	G		R		O	V	E	R
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# Head to Michigan's Kings Manor for trophy elk

Fall visitors will enjoy walking amidst the beauty of Michigan's vivid canvas of changing colors in its heavily-wooded lower peninsula. They will also appreciate the serenity of a hunt in one of the state's oldest private hunting preserves.

But, it's the trophy elk and whitetail deer that are the main draw at Kings Manor.

Outfitter Bob Northrup says hunters here will have a shot of some of the best elk in North America. "In the last three years, we've shot six animals that qualified in the Top 10 SCI record book," he said, throwing out numbers like 507 and 482.

The average hunt, he added, is for a 375-pound elk.

The Web site ([michiganelkhunting.com](http://michiganelkhunting.com)) will get big game hunters salivating, with images of some of the biggest elk any hunter has ever seen.

John Hoose, owner of Kings Manor, said Texans might also appreciate the trophy whitetail deer. "It's very common to shoot a 350-pound whitetail," he said.

Kings Manor sits on almost 400 acres of a picture-perfect hunting area rich in natural cedar, unique undergrowth and assorted swamp grasses that are home to hundreds of whitetail deer and about two dozen bull elk. The relatively remote hunting preserve is in Luther, Mich. Mid-September (with the ruts) is the busiest time, but hunters come from Labor Day to January. "People like to hunt in the snow during the holidays," Northrup said.

The three-day guided hunts using bow, muzzleloader or rifle include comfortable accommodations in a 3,000-square-foot lodge and delicious meals (think 2-inch thick steaks with all the trimmings). If requested, the guides also will field dress and deliver the meat to a processor and take the cape and antlers to a taxidermist.

Hoose also can customize hunts if people want shorter or longer stays. He also offers duck hunting and salmon fishing trips to Lake Michigan, which is about 45 minutes away, as well as other outings.

The price of the hunts averages about \$5,000, but can cost \$18,000 or more, depending on the size of the animal harvested.

"We can accommodate up to 10 hunters. We try to do single group bookings when possible," Northrup said.

"Come up. Be comfortable," Northrup said, adding the small groups they offer are preferred by most hunters. Northrup also is the owner of Amber Elk Ranch, where he breeds trophy elk.

For more information about hunting at Kings Manor, visit [www.michiganelkhunting.com](http://www.michiganelkhunting.com) or [www.kingsmanorwhitetails.com](http://www.kingsmanorwhitetails.com); to book a hunt, call Bob Northrup at (231) 357-9987 or John Hoose at (810) 602-9343.



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# Seagrass

Continued from Page 1

"We asked what anglers did when they encountered shallow waters," Leitz said. "Ninety-three percent said they used something other than motors, such as poling and drifting, to get through the area. It indicates people realize the importance of seagrass and protecting it."

Seagrass in Texas bays provides food and cover for game fish and even serves as a filter to improve water quality, said Faye Grubbs, a TPW natural resource specialist.

"It provides great habitat for juvenile game fish such as red drum and spotted seatrout," she said. "It has extensive root structure like a tree and can reduce the amount of erosion so you don't get cloudy, turbid water. And it helps filter out contaminants and excess nutrients that can lead to algae blooms."

Surveyors, however, discovered that while anglers may grasp the need to protect seagrass, most would rather accomplish that goal through means other than mandatory restrictions — such as the no-uprooting regulation in the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area near Rockport. The surveys were conducted before its adoption in 2006.

Seventy-five percent of anglers favored increasing education efforts and "monitoring

the situation" as their primary two responses. It was the only so-called management option to which anglers gave a ranking of one or two.

Leitz said TPW wasn't surprised by anglers' responses.

"Educational programs and voluntary compliance can benefit the habitat, and they have the least impact on users," Leitz said. "It's understandable that people would prefer those approaches."

TPW, however, decided neither approach was sufficient to protect the seagrass in Redfish Bay, which is the northernmost area in Texas where all five species of seagrass can be found.

**"Now there's up to a \$500 fine for uprooting the seagrass"**

— Faye Grubbs

Aerial photographs showed significant scarring in its seagrass beds.

Grubbs said officials thought the seagrass protection program there needed "a little bite."

"Now there's up to a \$500 fine for uprooting the seagrass," she said. "That's going to get people's attention. That's not to say, however, that we're not continuing to conduct an extensive educational outreach. We are."

Respondents to the TPW survey overwhelmingly said when they went into Redfish Bay

they were chasing the area's namesake — redfish. Sixty-four percent of anglers listed it as their first choice. The second most preferred species (18 percent) was the drum family. Spotted seatrout came in third with 16 percent.

Anglers surveyed fished an average of 60 days in Texas the previous year, with 47 of those days spent fishing in saltwater bays from a motorized boat.

Approximately a third of respondents had fished with a guide within the previous two years and were hunting for red drum and spotted seatrout.

Grubbs said TPW will conduct another survey on seagrass next year. That will be done in advance of reconsideration of the no-uprooting regulation in Redfish Bay.

Guide Randy Seidel wants TPW to follow previous respondents' wishes and return to a voluntary prop-up policy.

"I think the voluntary prop-up policy was better than the no-uprooting regulation," Seidel said. "It cuts places off. A lot of guides are not going places they went to before. No one wants to go in and get a ticket. You don't go out there to tear up the grass, but you're going to uproot it once in a while."

TPW officials, though, disagree that current policy limits where anglers can fish.

"We didn't want to prohibit where boaters could travel," Grubbs said. "The policy just places responsibility on boaters to know what area they're in."

# Weekend

Continued from Page 1

tures are here and the fall bite will be on at Texas reservoirs and the ever-favorite and easier-fishing farm ponds.

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# Tuna

Continued from Page 10

ple to get a general idea of where the shrimpers are before heading out."

Travis Kerr with Dolphin Dock in Port Aransas says their boats have had experiences similar to those described by Segall.

"We've had some good trips — blackfin mostly, but some yellowfin," Kerr said. "But, it's really been a matter of finding the shrimp boats. There are definitely less shrimp boats working in our area than there has been in the past. When we've located shrimp boats, we've done real well with blackfin. But, again, it's a matter of finding some shrimp boats."

Calvin Byrd, owner of Quick Stop Tackle and Seafood in Port Isabel, has been involved in the shrimping industry his entire life and says there's a very simple explanation for the lack of shrimp boats on the water.

"It's economics, plain and simple," Byrd said. "This whole season has been less activity. There were a lot of boats that weren't able to raise enough capital to go out at the beginning of the season and haven't worked at all this year. Others went out at the start, but haven't gone back."

Byrd said the (shrimp) market was pretty strong at the beginning of the season. "It's still OK, but has fallen off some — which is typical for this time of year. Another thing that has led to the shrimp market falling off a little is they were catching so many shrimp at the beginning of the season, it kind of flooded the market. But, there's still a demand for domestic shrimp. That's not the problem. The problem is a lot of these guys just can't make any money trying to supply the shrimp."

Capt. Toddy Lohry, whose boat Reel Madness regularly plies the waters off South Padre Island, said shrimpers staying closer to home have helped his fishing.

"In the past, a lot of our shrimp fleet went up north," Lohry said. "This year, there seems to be more of them staying down here. So, I'm actually finding more boats to fish around than I did last year."

Lohry said finding the boats means finding the tuna. "Even though there's not a lot of shrimpers working, we've been seeing plenty of boats — and every one of those boats has been loaded with blackfin," he said.

"Right now — fishing 30 to 35 miles out — we're loading up on blackfin and wahoo. I don't know how long these shrimpers will hang around, but as long as they do we should have plenty of tuna."



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# FISHING REPORT

## HOT BITES LARGEMOUTH BASS



**CHOKE CANYON:** Black bass are very good on watermelon red and watermelon green soft plastics in 15-25 feet.

**CONROE:** Black bass are very good on watermelon red and watermelon gold soft plastics, spinnerbaits, and topwaters in 10-20 feet.

**FALCON:** Black bass are good pitching Sweet Beavers and Brush Hogs in the upper end of the lake in 10-18 feet.

**NAVARRO MILLS:** Black bass are excellent but mostly small on minnows.

## WHITE/ HYBRID/STRIPER



**POSSUM KINGDOM:** White bass are excellent on spoons, Little George's and silver Rat-L-Traps while schooling along rocky points. Striped bass are good on live shad and large shad colored topwaters below the dam.

**STILLHOUSE:** White bass are good on watermelon red and green pumpkin soft plastics in 15 feet.

**WHITNEY:** White bass are good on minnows and hellbenders.

## CATFISH



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

**GIBBONS CREEK:** Catfish are very good on stinkbait, frozen shrimp, and live bait.

**LBJ:** Channel catfish are good on minnows and liver.

## CRAPPIE



**ARROWHEAD:** Crappie are very good on jigs fished deep off the derricks.

**LAKE O' THE PINES:** Crappie are good on minnows over brush piles.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Crappie are excellent on minnows over brush piles.

## BREAM



**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Bream are good on live worms off piers and near grass beds.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Bream are good on nightcrawlers.

**ALAN HENRY:** Water lightly stained; 72 degrees; 0.11' low. Black bass are fair on buzzbaits, shad-colored spinnerbaits and chrome jerkbaits.

**AMISTAD:** Water murky; 77 degrees; 1.10' high. Black bass are fair on topwaters, spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and soft plastics.

**ARROWHEAD:** Water lightly stained; 74 degrees; 5.07' low. White bass are good — schooling and chasing shad on the surface early and late.

**ATHENS:** Water lightly stained, 71-76 degrees; 0.72' low. Black bass are good on Zell Pops early, later switching to Rat-L-Traps and Texas rigs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs fished over brush piles.

**BASTROP:** Water clear. Black bass are very good on spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and chartreuse Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on live minnows and pink/white tube jigs.

**BELTON:** Water stained; 77 degrees; 1.23' low. Black bass are good but small on white spinnerbaits. White bass are good on white Riversides and silver/green Sassy Shad at night under lights. Crappie are good on minnows in 10-12 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on summer sausage, hot dogs, and Owens sausage.

**BOB SANDLIN:** Water fairly clear; 71-76 degrees; 0.18' low. Black bass are good on clear Zara Spooks early, midday switching to Senkos, wacky rigs and Texas rigs. White bass are good on slabs, with sporadic surface schooling. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

**BRAUNIG:** Water stained; 79 degrees. Striped bass are good on liver and shad near the pier and at Dead Tree Point, and on silver and gold spoons and marble spinnerbaits near the jetty and dam.

**BRIDGEPORT:** Water fairly clear; 70-75 degrees; 4.65' low. Black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps, Texas rigs and medium diving crankbaits.

**BROWNWOOD:** Water clear; 78 degrees; 3.75' low. Black bass are good on buzzbaits and June bug worms, frogs, torpedoes, and Pop-R's. White bass are good on Li'l Fishies off lighted docks at night. Crappie are good on Li'l Fishies and live minnows over brush piles in 10-18 feet and under lighted docks at night.

**BUCHANAN:** Water clear; 79 degrees; 13.16' low. Black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps, white spinnerbaits and white/chartreuse back crankbaits in 8-20 feet early.

Striped bass are good on Zara Spooks, plastic swim baits and live bait. Crappie are good on pink/white or chartreuse crappie jigs and live minnows in clear water. Channel catfish are good on liver, minnows, and cheesebait. Yellow and blue catfish are good on live and dead shad.

**CADDO:** Water off-color; 70-76 degrees; 0.34' high. Black bass are fair to good on Stanley Ribbits, spinnerbaits and Texas rigs. White bass are good on minnows and Rooster Tails.

**CALAVERAS:** Water stained; 79 degrees. Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheesebait, and shad near the railroad bridge and 181 Cove.

**CANYON LAKE:** Water clear; 78 degrees; 9.38' low. Black bass are fair to good on drop shot rigs, watermelon red wacky rigs, and Texas-rigged 6" pumpkin worms along main lake bluffs in 12-25 feet, and on white spinnerbaits in standing timber in 4-8 feet.

**CEDAR CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 71-76 degrees; 1.93' low. White bass are good to excellent on slabs. Hybrid striper are fair to good on large slabs jigged vertically.

**CHOKE CANYON:** Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 4.18' low. Drum are good on live worms. Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver and stinkbait in 5-5 feet.

**COLEMAN:** Water clear; 78 degrees; 4.61' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse crankbaits and watermelon red soft plastic worms. Hybrid striper are good on live minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp, and liver.

**CONROE:** Water murky; 1.35' low. Crappie are good on minnows and blue/white tube jigs.

**COOPER:** Water lightly stained; 70-76 degrees; 3.69' low. Black bass are good on Lake Fork Frogs and Zara Spooks, later switching to wacky and drop shot rigs. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows over brush piles. White bass are good on slabs.

**FALCON:** Water stained; 78 degrees. Black bass are good pitching Sweet Beavers and Brush Hogs in the upper end of the lake in 10-18 feet. Channel and blue catfish are excellent on cut bait and frozen shrimp.

**FAYETTE:** Water clear; 80 degrees. Black bass are good on shad patterned Pop-R's and Spittin' Images early. Red ear perch are good on worms in 2-8 feet.

**FORK:** Water lightly stained; 70-76 degrees; 0.53' low. Black bass are fair to good on Stanley Ribbits and Yellow Magics early, later switching to wacky rigs, Yum Dingers and chatterbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

**GIBBONS CREEK:** Water clear. Black bass are good on chartreuse blue soft plastics, spinnerbaits, and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on minnows and blue tube jigs.

**GRANBURY:** Water clear; 3.07' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse

spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and soft plastics off points. Crappie are good on minnows and green tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp, and liver.

**GRAPEVINE:** Water off-color; 71-76 degrees; 5.49' low. Black bass are fair to good on Zara Spooks early, later switching to Texas rigs, medium to shallow crankbaits and wacky rigs. White bass are good on slabs.

**GREENBELT:** Water lightly stained; 68 degrees; 25.41' low. Black bass are good on topwaters throughout the day, white spinnerbaits and black/blue jigs around grass lines and timber. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live bait. Walleye are good on live bait and crankbaits. Catfish are good on live bait.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water stained; 78 degrees; 0.36' high. Black bass are good on green and crawfish worms near the marina and the dam, and on spinnerbaits near the marina. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with shad, and on live nightcrawlers on rod and reel.

**JOE POOL:** Water off-color; 71-76 degrees; 2.16' low. Black bass are good on Texas rigs, Rat-L-Traps and shaky head jigs with a finesse soft plastic. White bass are good on slabs.

**LAKE O' THE PINES:** Water stained; 71-75 degrees; 0.83' high. Black bass are good on Zell Pops early, later switching to chatterbaits, Texas rigs, flukes and wacky rigs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

**LAVON:** Water stained; 71-76 degrees; 4.31' low. White bass are good on slabs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles.

**LBJ:** Water stained; 77 degrees; 0.25' low. Black bass are good on clear swim baits, buzzbaits and watermelon/purple flake Whacky Sticks along seawalls and creek points in 2-12 feet at daylight. Striped bass are good on Spoiler Shads and Li'l Fishies at night.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water off-color; 70-76 degrees; 3.62' low. Black bass are good on buzzbaits and Zara Spooks early, later switching to Texas rigs, chatterbaits and shady head jigs with a Berkley Power Worm. White bass and hybrid striper are good on chartreuse/white slabs. Catfish are good on cut shad, nightcrawlers and prepared baits.

**MONTICELLO:** Water fairly clear; 78-90 degrees; 0.69' low. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to wacky rigged trick worms, Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles.

**NAVARRO MILLS:** Water clear; 78 degrees; 1.96' low. Channel and blue catfish are very good on cut shad and dough-bait.

**O.H. IVIE:** Water lightly stained; 77 degrees; 12.76' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait and chrome crankbaits. Channel catfish are good on cut and live bait.

**PALESTINE:** Water lightly stained; 71-76 degrees; 0.23' high. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are good on cut shad and prepared bait. Bream are good on

worms. **POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water stained; 79 degrees; 2.01' low. Black bass are good on main lake points with red jigs, watermelon Senkos, white chatterbaits or spinnerbaits, and silver crankbaits in 3-15 feet. Catfish are excellent on live shad, cut bait, worms and liver along the river channel on the north end and below the dam.

**PROCTOR:** Water stained; 77 degrees; 3.83' low. Black bass are good on minnows. White bass are good on minnows.

**RAY HUBBARD:** Water off-color; 70-76 degrees; 0.98' low. White bass are good on slabs.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water lightly stained; 71-75 degrees; 1.39' low. Black bass are good on chrome/blue plastic worms. White bass are excellent on jigging spoons and slabs. Catfish are good to excellent on cut and prepared bait.

**RICHLAND CHAMBERS:** Water off-color; 71-76 degrees; 2.9' low. Black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps, wacky rigs, Texas rigs and crankbaits.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 7.31' low. Black bass are good on topwaters and jigs.

**STILLHOUSE:** Water clear; 77 degrees; 3.16' low. Black bass are good on tequila sunrise Power Baits. Crappie are good on minnows in 15 feet.

**TAWAKONI:** Water lightly stained; 70-76 degrees; 3.01' low. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and prepared bait.

**TEXOMA:** Water off-color; 71-76 degrees; 1.5' low. Striped bass are good on topwaters, live shad and Super-Traps.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water clear; 79 degrees; 4.32' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red soft plastic worms, spinnerbaits, and topwaters early, and later on redbug or black/blue worms off points.

**TRAVIS:** Water clear; 81 degrees; 23.57' low. Black bass are good on chrome topwaters, red shad worms, and buzzbaits in 5-15 feet. White bass are good on chrome jigging spoons and minnows in 32-40 feet.

**WHITNEY:** Water clear; 7.91' low. Crappie are good on minnows and pink tube jigs.

## SALTWATER SCENE

**NORTH SABINE:** Trout are good under birds in the middle of the lake. Flounder are fair on the Louisiana shoreline on jigs tipped with shrimp.

**SOUTH SABINE:** Redfish are good at the jetty on shrimp and mullet. Flounder are fair around Blue Buck Point on jigs tipped with shrimp. Trout are fair while drifting slicks and birds on soft plastics.

**BOLIVAR:** Bull redfish are good around the cuts and passes leading to the Intracoastal.

Flounder and redfish are fair to good around Rollover Pass on jigs tipped with shrimp on the incoming tide.

**TRINITY BAY:** Bird action has been sporadic on the north shoreline. Mostly undersized trout have been caught. Better trout have been taken around pods of bait. Redfish are fair to good at the spillway on crabs, shrimp and soft plastics.

**EAST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are fair to good while drifting slicks and reefs on soft plastics — some bird action, but mostly for undersized trout.

**WEST GALVESTON BAY:** Flounder are fair to good around the railroad bridge and causeway. Be aware of hazardous obstructions.

**TEXAS CITY:** Black drum, redfish and gafftop are fair to good around the rocks on shrimp. Bull redfish are beginning to show in the channel. Some bait camps are open.

**FREEPORT:** Bull redfish and jack crevalle are fair to good in the surf on crabs and mullet. Trout and redfish are good around shell in Christmas Bay and Chocolate Bayou on live shrimp.

**EAST MATAGORDA:** Trout are good on the south shoreline on Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels. Small topwaters have worked for redfish.

**MATAGORDA:** Trout and redfish are fair on the south shoreline grass beds. Redfish and black drum are fair to good in Crab Lake and Oyster Lake on live shrimp. Fishing at night in the Colorado River has been steady.

**PORT O'CONNOR:** Bull redfish are good at the jetty on crabs and mullet. Trout are showing under birds in San Antonio Bay. Redfish are beginning to school in large groups on the flats.

**ROCKPORT:** Bull redfish are fair to good in the Lydia Ann Channel on crabs. Flounder are hanging around the humps and points leading to the channel. Redfish are fair around the Estes Flats and East Flats on mullet and shrimp.

**PORT ARANSAS:** Trout, redfish, whiting and sand trout are fair to good at the jetty on shrimp.

Redfish are fair to good around East Flats and Dagger Island on shrimp and scented baits.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Trout are fair to good around the spoils on soft plastics. Trout and redfish are fair to good on live shrimp and Gulpers on the grass beds on the incoming tide. Redfish are good on the flats on the incoming tide.

**BAFFIN BAY:** Trout are good around the grass near the Land Cut. Trout are fair to good around rocks on soft plastics, live bait and topwaters. Redfish are beginning to school in larger groups on the flats.

**PORT MANSFIELD:** Trout are good for waders tossing topwaters along the drop-offs in waist-deep water. Redfish are good in East Cut on crabs and finger mullet. Redfish are good on the flats for sight-casters tossing to large schools.

**PORT ISABEL:** Trout are good at Laguna Vista on small Super Spooks and She Pups.



## HOT SPOT



## SOUTH PADRE

Snook are biting in South Bay on live shrimp and shrimp imitations. Trout are fair to good for waders working the grass beds on small topwaters. Redfish are good on the flats on live shrimp, DOA Shrimp and Gulpers under a popping cork.

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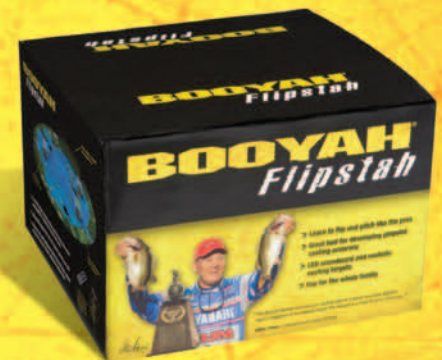
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## Pedal Power

Continued from Page 1

that too and disappeared.”

McCarter's hunting partner of 12 years, Devin Shawn of Austin, agreed. Shawn, a graduate student at Texas State University, said his buddy was the first to take the bike to the blind. “One day Richard said, ‘I’m taking the bike.’”

The strategy worked — and Shawn believes it was no coincidence. “The selling point for me was the day Richard shot an 8-pointer,” Shawn said. “He took his bike to the stand and had just set up in the ground blind. It wasn’t near a feeder but was by a game trail. It wasn’t three minutes from when he zipped up the ground blind and three bucks came out. Had he been dropped off by a truck, I think those deer would have spooked.”

The hunters carry their bows in backpacks and their other gear in a fanny pack or a rack over the rear wheel. “And we put the bike in the woods and cover it with a camo mesh and use decoy weights to hold the mesh down,” Shawn said. “I don’t think the deer have ever seen it.”

The rack comes in handy in the spring, too. “It’ll hold a turkey,” Shawn said. “But for a deer we still have to go get the truck.”

McCarter and Devin have con-



**SILENCE IS GOLDEN:** Two deer-hunting friends praise the benefits of traveling to the blind by mountain bike to avoid spooking the deer. Photo by Richard McCarter.

sidered electric 4-wheelers. “They’re a whole lot more money than a bike,” McCarter said. “You can get a good aluminum bike for \$350 or less.” For now they are sticking with the bikes.

Shawn said those considering a bike should look for a few features, though. “You want good suspension on the forks and on the seats,” he said. “Otherwise, it’s pretty hard on the hands riding in rough country.”

Does the pair have any other quirks? “We’re huge scent freaks,” Shawn said. “We package all our stuff up, wear Scent-Lock clothing, use scent-free deodorant and Deer Dander spray. Anything that might help.”

The harder work of pedaling to the blind pays off, according to the two bowhunters. But is the trend catching on? “Not likely,” McCarter said. “I haven’t heard of anyone else doing it.”

## Record

Continued from Page 10

been a record, Shoemaker said, but he didn’t realize that until after he’d released the fish.

“I’ve always liked sight-casting in this area,” he said. “The next step is to go to the fly rod. You sort

of have to decide that you’re not going to be bringing home a cooler full of fish anymore. It’s got to be more of a sporting event.”

Said Lynch: “We were sight-casting to those fish. We got to see the fish eat the fly — that’s kinda neat. That fish was probably 25 feet from the boat, and I was poling him. He’s a very good caster.”

As it turned out, IGFA has record categories for 8- and 12-pound tip-pet, Lynch said, and this red wasn’t going to beat the existing 12-pound record.

But Shoemaker has filed the paperwork for the state record.

And, Lynch said, “I’m having some 8-pound IGFA line shipped in. That was an awesome fish.”

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