

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

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Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

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Bighorn numbers up



15 ram permits this season
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INSIDE FISHING



Swelling tides in the bays around Corpus Christi created new water for redfish and redfish anglers, breaking a low-tide summer fishing slump.

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Jerald McSchooler of Mineola died in a boating accident at Lake Fork during the Big Bass Splash tournament.

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HUNTING



The teal opener saw quick limits at some inland flooded fields along the lower coast. Big rains in the Panhandle brought lots of birds, but made access difficult for hunters.

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Deer breeders struggled with regulations on transporting animals due to the hurricane, but cooperation between groups led to an innovative solution.

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CONSERVATION

Nearly 200 game wardens assisted with the response to Hurricane Ike, including conducting search and rescue missions.

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NATIONAL

A prized breeder buck was killed and its head stolen from a Florida game farm.

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'It's total, utter devastation'



POWERFUL PUSH: Offshore fishing boats pushed up by Hurricane Ike's storm surge litter the I-45 access to Galveston Island. Photo by Erich Schlegel.

Bolivar, Galveston outdoor industries stormed by Ike

By MARK ENGLAND

Hurricane Ike packed such a staggering punch when it hit the Galveston area that the hunting and fishing industry may be a year getting back on its feet.

"There will be no hunting on the east side this year," said Will Beaty, owner of Central Flyway Outfitters. And not much fishing either.

From the Sabine River to Surfside, Ike either wiped out piers or severely damaged them. Many

boat ramps are covered with sand, and debris in the water will likely keep even operable ramps closed for weeks — if you could get to them.

"It'll be a year before they are fishing out of here," said Scott

Hickman of Circle H Outfitters, which operates fishing charters out of Galveston. "News crews weren't out here until two days after the storm. The TV footage doesn't do it justice."

See **IKE**, Page 14



TAKING AIM: Many South Zone dove hunters saw impressive numbers of mourning and white-winged dove during opening weekend, Sept. 20-21. Photo by David J. Sams.

South Zone hunters happy

Doves hit the fields in a big way

By RALPH WININGHAM

Last year's sub-par opening dove hunting weekend in the South Zone left a bad taste with many hunters. But this year things returned to normal — or maybe even better.

"The hunting was great," said Arline Harris of Harris Farms in Frio County near Dilley. "We've had an explosion

of whitewings. I'm a mile on the wrong side of I-35, so we can't hunt the special whitewing weekends — I sure wish they would move the boundaries."

Unfortunately, only four of the many scheduled hunters made the trip. "Almost all of my hunters were from Houston," she said. "Three of the

See **DOVES**, Page 23

Razorbacks top four Texas teams for national collegiate bass title

The final day of the BoatU.S. National Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship at Lewisville Lake saw four Texas teams make the final five. But it was the lone outsider, the University of Arkansas, that went home with the title. The four other finalists were Baylor, Texas Tech, Texas A&M-Kingsville and defending champion Texas A&M.

All teams started the day with a

score of zero and the equal beginning seemed to keep the anglers patient. By weigh-in, several keeper bass had found the way to livewells and the stage at Sneaky Pete's Marina.

The Arkansas team of Kazuki Kitajima and Bodie Drake claimed the championship for the Razorbacks with five bass weighing

See **COLLEGE**, Page 27

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CONSERVATION

Hurricane takes toll on wardens, WMAs

Game wardens conduct search and rescue efforts

Texas game wardens play an integral role in the overall law enforcement response to Hurricane Ike, conducting search and rescue missions, delivering supplies and assessing damage.

The damage to Texas Parks and Wildlife facilities from Hurricane Ike is still being assessed, but several Wildlife Management Areas are underwater and two state parks were destroyed.

Approximately 200 game wardens and associated boats and equipment were deployed for Hurricane Ike. While some strike teams are completing search and rescue in places like the Bolivar Peninsula, other game warden teams are conducting law enforcement missions in other affected areas across Southeast Texas and East Texas.

As part of a multi-agency response coordinated through the governor's office, game warden teams are fulfilling local government requests for enforcement and assistance in Angelina, Jasper, Grimes, and Brazoria counties and in other areas. On the Bolivar Peninsula, 15 game wardens in

seven airboats completed search and rescue and loaded airboats with food and water for people who were stranded in flooded peninsula communities, and took anyone who wished to leave to safety.

Capt. Rod Ousley of the Beaumont office and eight game wardens worked in Bridge City and Orange with airboats. They completed more than 50 rescues on the first day, plucking people from rooftops and second story windows, bringing them back to National Guard trucks.

Several southeast Texas WMAs near the coast — where the landscape normally consists of wetlands, marshes and coastal prairies — were all or partly underwater, including the Murphree, Candy Abshier, Lower Neches and Hurst WMAs.

At Murphree WMA near Port Arthur, the Jefferson County storm levee held back the storm surge, protecting WMA buildings from flooding.

Aerial overflights took place to assess ecological impacts and damage to various TPW facilities. "The Murphree area looks like the Gulf



HELPING HAND: Texas game warden Capt. Rod Ousley attempts to persuade two residents to leave their ravaged home at Crystal Beach. The women stayed to care for their dog and cat, but agreed to leave by helicopter. Photo by TPW.

of Mexico," said staff member Jim Sutherland. "Wildlife impacts to every thing that doesn't fly will be significant like it was back in the early 1960s with Hurricane Carla."

A total of 13 Texas State Parks remained closed due to Ike as of

Sept. 22, down from 37 closures at the event's height. Since the storm event began, 5,900 evacuees were provided shelter at 64 state parks outside Ike's path.

Two coastal parks, Galveston and Sea Rim, suffered catastrophic dam-

age. Facilities at Sea Rim near Port Arthur appear to be a total loss. At Galveston Island, Ike caused heavy beach erosion and swept away state park facilities.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

Assistance available to repair storm damaged watersheds

Communities that have suffered damage to watershed areas from Hurricane Ike may be eligible for assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"Areas in East Texas may have a

tremendous amount of debris blocking and/or eroding normal drainage ways," said Don Gohmert, NRCS state conservationist for Texas. "This debris, which is often from downed trees and related

debris, can create more damage from subsequent rainfall events if not removed quickly."

NRCS's Emergency Watershed Protection program is designed to reduce threats to life and property

from watershed impairment, such as erosion, debris and sediment.

These impairments can cause additional flooding, soil erosion, and damage to infrastructure. Most projects require a 25 percent

local share of the costs, and local sponsors must provide land rights and any needed permits.

— USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service report.

DU Supports 'No Child Left Inside' bill

In keeping to the commitment that Ducks Unlimited has for skies full of waterfowl now and forever, DU has joined a coalition of 730 members supporting the "No Child Left Inside" bill to improve outdoor and environmental education for school children of all ages.

"Kids today spend half as much time outside as kids 20 years ago," said Rab Cummings, DU's Youth and Education Coordinator. "It is imperative that steps be taken to introduce and re-introduce the next generation to the joys of hunting, angling and enjoying nature."

Sportsmen were the first conservationists

and contribute more than \$76 billion to the economy every year. However, with fewer young people taking up hunting and angling, the sale of licenses and hunting stamps has plummeted across the country, Cummings said. In 2001, the figure was \$81 billion.

The No Child Left Inside Act of 2008 would create new funding for training teachers in outdoor education, expand environmental education programs and help states create programs to ensure that U.S. students are environmentally literate.

— Ducks Unlimited report.

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HUNTING

Teal bring fast action, quick limits



INCOMING: Flooded inland fields provided hot blue-winged teal action for coastal hunters. Photo by Todd Steele.

By CRAIG NYHUS

Along the coast, the teal opener and Hurricane Ike arrived on the same day, leaving most hunters with more important duties at home. But a few coastal hunters did get out for brief hunts, and hunters in other areas of the state had mixed results.

Most coastal hunters stayed home

After Ike and its storm surge passed through, Mark Sepulvavo's house in Orange remained on high ground. His hunting friend wasn't so lucky, and the family was staying with them. Going stir

crazy, Sepulvavo took his friend and his friend's son to the marsh, where the three took quick limits.

In the Rockport area, outfitters had no guests, but some of the owners and guides hunted open-

ing morning. "We were going crazy, so we went," said a Rockport outfitter. "The groups were back in an hour with their limit."

But the storm hit and the birds left. "The next day, there were no

birds," the outfitter said. The birds did return a few days later and hunting has been good in inshore flooded fields.

Farther west in Wharton County, the hunting reports improved. Ronnie "Brick" Berberich of Carroll's Gun Shop said four hunters limited in 27

See **TEAL**, Page 22



COUNTING SHEEP: Helicopter surveys revealed increased numbers of desert bighorn sheep in Texas this year. TPW will issue 15 permits for mature rams this season. Photo by John Meyer.

Texas desert bighorn numbers up

More permits to be issued this season

By JOHN R. MEYER

Biologists with Texas Parks and Wildlife received good news last week as they completed their annual desert bighorn sheep survey. Overall numbers climbed again this year, with numbers high enough to issue 15 permits for the harvest of mature rams, the highest since restoration efforts began several decades ago.

Some 80 hours of helicopter time were utilized to conduct the surveys in several mountain ranges in West Texas. "We hit the ground where we know we have

sheep, then we'll go off observations from ranchers (to check on possible new areas holding sheep)," said Froylan Hernandez, assistant project leader for the Desert Bighorn Sheep Project and a TPW biologist.

Hernandez reported a healthy population and progression of an expanding population. "We're spotting them in areas that have had a historical population but are just getting some (sheep) back with the recovery," he said.

The last wild desert bighorn sheep sighting was documented

See **BIGHORN**, Page 22

Ike affects transporting of deer

Unique solution required cooperation of agencies, association

By CRAIG NYHUS

J.R. Wynne, a Quinlan deer breeder, had a problem as Hurricane Ike approached.

That problem led to a unique and innovative solution that involved the cooperation of Texas Parks and Wildlife, the governor, and a non-profit organization, The Texas Deer Association.

The problem involved a statute, Section 43.363(a) of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, requiring

that any buck deer released from deer breeding facilities would have to have had its antlers cut past the G3 tines. The deadline for deliveries under the statute was midnight, September 16th, and all movement of deer was required by the legislature to be completed by 10 days before any open season.

"I had a delivery (of deer) — it was going to be delivered to South Texas prior to the 16th," Wynne said. "I contacted the TDA wondering if there was a way to get a

variance on the rule. I thought with the storm it was going to be impossible to abide by the rules and still do it by the 16th."

After some calls, and after Karl Kinsel, the executive director of TDA received calls from other breeders in areas in the projected path of the storm with concerns for the safety of their deer, it was decided a request for an extension of the deadline should be sought.

The request asked for permitted deer breeders directly or indirectly

affected by Hurricane Ike to have more time to complete their movements without risking the health of the deer or their handlers.

A letter to Carter Smith, TPW executive director, and conversations with wildlife officials led to a quick response. But the rule, being legislative, needed the governor's approval. Smith forwarded a request to Gov. Rick Perry. The response was quick when on Sept. 8, Perry issued a proclamation

approving the request and extending the deadline to Sept. 22.

"I'm impressed with the fact that the TPW and TDA worked extremely well together," Kinsel said. "A few years ago, that wouldn't have happened."

Kinsel also had more good news. "We haven't heard of any of the deer breeders sustaining losses of deer from the storm," he said. And given losses to cattle and other livestock, he is hoping they don't.

2009 World Shotgun Championship teams selected

The 2009 World Shotgun Championship Team was decided at the 2008 USA Shooting Shotgun Fall Selection Match in Colorado Springs. The top three finishers in each category (open and junior) will represent the U.S. at the 2009 World Shotgun Championships, which will be held August 7-16 in Maribor, Slovakia.

In Double Trap, 2008 Olympic gold medalist Glenn Eller of Katy won the match with an overall score of 338 out of 350 targets. Josh Richmond of Hills Grove, Pa., the 2007 Pan American Games gold medalist, finished in second place with 336 targets, and 2008 Olympian Jeff Holguin of Yorba Linda, Calif., made the team with 334 targets.

In Men's Skeet, 2004 Olympian Shawn Dulohery of Lee's Summit, Mo., won with a total score of 267 out of 275 targets, beating 2008 Olympic gold medalist Vincent Hancock of Eatonton, Ga., who finished second with 265 targets. Earning a spot on his first world championship team was Frank Thompson of Alliance, Neb., with 262 targets.

BJ Blanchard of Vidor claimed the top spot for the junior men finishing with a total of 260

targets.

Haley Dunn of Eddyville, Iowa, coming off a bronze medal at the 2008 Beijing World Cup, took the top spot in Women's Skeet with 263 targets. 2008 Olympic silver medalist Kim Rhode of El Monte, Calif., finished second with 261, after having the Perazzi shotgun she used in all four of her Olympic competitions stolen from her truck while she and her mother were shopping. Jaiden Grinnell, 17, Port Angeles, Wash., made her first world championship team with 258 targets.

In Men's Trap, 1996 Olympic Bronze medalist Lance Bade of Vancouver, Wash., topped the field with 246 of 250 targets. Olympian Dominic Grazzoli of San Antonio finished second with 243 targets and Matthew Wallace of Stanton, Tenn., finished third with 242.

In Women's Trap, Susan Sledge of San Diego, Calif., won the match with 237 targets, beating Olympic medalist Corey Cogdell of Eagle River, Alaska with 233 targets and Theresa Dewitt of Cincinnati, Ohio, with 230. Miranda Wilder of Diana, Texas finished 14th.

— USA Shooting report.

Archery tips offered by the pros

With archery deer season just days away, pros offer these tips for better success in the field.

Back tension: When using back tension to trigger the shot, use only your draw-side rhomboid muscles to pivot your shoulder. These large, powerful muscles are located closest to your spine. This allows for "pulling" rather than a "pushing and pulling" motion, which is what you get when you use both sides of the rhomboids.

Use a thin bow grip: A thin grip minimizes surface area, which lessens the chance you'll grip the bow wrong and torque it.

Come down on target: Most experts believe drawing with your sights just above the target and then lowering the sight pin into the bull's eye is best since it requires less use of your

arm muscles.

Take long-range practice shots: Shooting a bow is largely a mental game so when you take shots at 60, 70 or 80 yards, and maintain good accuracy, you'll consider 30- or 40-yard shooting rather easy.

Hook the trigger: When using a wrist-strap release, shorten the stem or strap on the release so that your finger has a deep grip on the trigger. This will allow you to form a "hook" using your finger. The trigger should cross somewhere between the first and second knuckle. This makes trigger feel less sensitive and allows you to fire the trigger using your back, facilitating a surprise release.

— Realtree Outdoors report.

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FISHING

Boat collision kills angler in tourney

Accident on Lake Fork; other driver being treated for extensive injuries



TOURNAMENT TRAGEDY: Jerald McSchooler died after a collision involving his boat, shown, and another boat at a merger of boat lanes on Lake Fork. Photo by Clint Wright.

By BILL MILLER

A popular East Texas bass tournament turned tragic Sept. 12 when the boats of two popular anglers collided, killing one of them.

Jerald McSchooler, 49, of Mineola died later that day at a hospital in Tyler following the wreck on Lake Fork, said Game Warden Chris Green.

Accompanying him was his nephew, 22-year-old Michael McSchooler of Sulphur Springs, who survived with minor injuries, Green said.

But the angler in the other boat, Steve Hammargren, 54, of Celeste, was still being treated a week later for extensive injuries.

"It was like coming to an intersection without stop signs," Green said. "(Both) may have thought the other should have stopped first."

"Unfortunately, neither one did."

The anglers launched their boats early Friday morning to compete in the 23rd Annual McDonald's Big Bass Splash tournament at Lake Fork.

Hurricane Ike, meanwhile, was swirling in the Gulf of Mexico, gaining momentum for a roaring assault on the Coastal Bend the next morning.

Lake Fork was in the projected path of the storm, but weather was still good on Friday. The tournament drew 2,744 anglers competing for \$400,000 in cash prizes.

The accident happened around 9 a.m. near Little Mustang Creek on the west side of the lake, where two boat lanes formed a "Y," Green said.

McSchooler and Hammargren were piloting their boats down opposite sides of the "Y" and collided where the lanes merged, Green said.

Hammargren's boat drove up onto the other boat, Green said, then it flipped and swamped.

"Mr. McSchooler sustained severe head trauma and internal injuries," Green said. "There was severe impact at the driver's cockpit. The console was ripped out of the boat."

Green said he didn't know of any other

See ACCIDENT, Page 29



NEW TERRITORY: Rising waters after Hurricane Ike provided Lower Coastal Bend anglers with access to some new water, and redfish had found the new water first. Photo by David J. Sams.

Storm breaks Coastal Bend fishing slump

New water brings in redfish

By DAVID SIKES

With the exception of debris left on area beaches and a single fatality, it seems the Lower Coastal Bend received some benefits from Hurricane Ike without much of the destruction.

Before the storm, tides had been extremely low and sluggish, water temperatures were near 90 degrees and fishing patterns in some areas had settled into a summer slump. Then the water began to rise.

As the storm approached well north of Corpus Christi, the Gulf of Mexico along Mustang and Padre islands turned violent, producing waves and swells in the 20-foot range and pushing the surf up against the sand dunes. Several curiosity seekers were swept off the jetty at Packery Channel and one did not survive.

But beyond these barrier islands, the steady rise was much calmer and

less destructive. The bays around Corpus Christi swelled but the storm tide resulted in only minor flooding in some areas. And as winds calmed in Ike's aftermath, anglers eagerly took to the water. It didn't hurt that a norther came through after the storm, providing scattered rain showers to an otherwise dry event.

Guide Steven Utley took full advantage of the conditions, using a push pole to float his Ranger Banshee to an area of Corpus Christi Bay called Shamrock Cove, the fringes of which had previously been dry or barely submerged. The extreme high tides brought by Hurricane Ike allowed him extraordinary access. And Utley was rewarded handsomely.

Curiosity had drawn him beyond the mud flats and mangrove marshes of Flato, a shallow area between Shamrock Cove and East Flats on the

See REDS, Page 22

Racking up records

Texan has 45 world bests and counting

By DIANA KUNDE

It's undeniably exciting to land a pending world-record fish. But 31 — in one year, and by September?

"I get excited anytime I go fishing," said Stan Nabozny, who has 31 world records or pending world records for 2008 currently on file with the International Game Fish Association, according to Becky Wright, IGFA world records coordinator.

Texan Nabozny, whose permanent home is in The Woodlands, is a consultant who's been working with a mining company out of South Africa for the past 18 months. He's caught most of his 2008 world records in Mozambique, on a fly rod.

"I always find the time to fish. It keeps me sane."

—Stan Nabozny

Actually, said Nabozny, he has about 45 world records pending or confirmed this year. "I just got back in the country last week," he said. "I just sent in 14 or 15 more (to IGFA). They're in the mail."

"Working out of South Africa, I'm an hour and a half from Mozambique and three hours away from Gabon. It's like flying from here to

Florida," Nabozny said.

One nice thing about fishing in Africa, he said, is that there aren't many world records set there. "I just set a 41-pound record on a giant African threadfin. It's a very large fish, and they're not fished for."

"You get a fly rod and put a fly in front of them, and they've never seen a fly before," he said.

The pending world record that IGFA publicized in its August "hot catches" was a 9-pound, 12-ounce ladyfish (Elops); the record includes all subspecies, caught June 3 by Nabozny on a fly rod. He used a clouser minnow on 16-pound tippet, fishing the Bazaruto Archipelago in Mozambique.

See RECORDS, Page 29



SETTING MORE MARKS: Stan Nabozny of The Woodlands has caught 31 world records or pending world records in 2008, including this 9-pound, 12-ounce ladyfish caught in Mozambique. Photo by IGFA.

COMPASS POINTS

Don't forget the age-old boating tool

By DAN ARMITAGE

With GPS and the array of options such as sonar, VHF radios and other electronics available to clutter the dash of your boat, it may seem hard to justify the space to accommodate a device so basic that it may appear obsolete. But the first time the GPS fails — for whatever reason — or you need a quick, reliable heading reference, you'll appreciate having the simple, low-tech navigation tool known as a "compass" aboard.

Compass Types

All magnetic compasses work on the same principle, featuring a magnetized needle or metal bar that is

Compass Point to Ponder

The smaller the boat, the bigger the compass: Because small craft tend to rock, pitch and yaw more violently than larger craft, larger compasses are better choices for small craft because they are less influenced by the motion and the cards remain easier to see and read when the going gets bumpy.

free to spin on an axis to point to the earth's magnetic north pole. There

are two major types of compasses available for use on small craft, standard card and flux gate.

Standard card models use a magnetic bar on a pivoting dial — called a card — that is free to rotate and usually suspended in fluid under a clear, hemispherical dome. The card is marked "North" off the end of the bar that seeks to point in that direction, other directional points are noted, and on most marine models the card is graduated at 5- or 10-degree intervals.

Flux gate compass models offer a digital readout and rely on solid-state electronics to amplify the earth's magnetic field rather than

moving parts, and are powered by the boat's electrical system. The latter makes it vulnerable, like GPS, to power failures, which is why standard card model compasses are recommended for most small craft applications.

When ordering a new boat, most manufacturers offer a compass as standard equipment or as an option. Getting a boat pre-rigged with a compass means you can get a flush-mounted model built into the helm console. Compasses can come housed in a closed, top-mount base, called a binnacle, that may offer a shade and be illuminated for night use. Aftermarket compasses are also



COMPASS CLOSEUP: A good compass can be relied on when batteries die and all the GPS satellites in the sky can't help you find your way back to the launch ramp.

available in flush-mount styles, models that are clutched in a top-mount base that allows the compass to pivot, and gimbaled mounts.

See COMPASS, Page 29

Hill edges Bain for first WBT win

Texan Robinson makes championship

It had been eight years without one career victory for professional angler Cindy Hill. After collecting the right bites, Hill, of Smyrna, Tenn., posted a three-day total of 24 pounds, 12 ounces — enough to hold off Kim Bain of Alabaster, Ala., by 2 ounces at the final regular-season event of the 2008 Women's Bassmaster Tour presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors on Georgia's Clarks Hill Lake.

In 17th place after the first day, Hill moved up the standings through the three-day competition, climbing to fourth and eventually scoring a victory that earned her a Triton/Mercury boat package valued at \$50,000, and \$1,000 cash. She executed the same pattern throughout the tournament, flipping a crawbait to stained water up the Savannah River.

"I've struggled for eight years trying to win one of these," Hill said. "I really thought I was going to be second again."

While Bain narrowly missed out on her second WBT victory of the season, the 28-year-old native Australian retained her lead in the Toyota Tundra Women's Bassmaster Tour Angler of the Year standings. A first-year competitor on the WBT, Bain was drawn to the circuit mostly because of BASS' announcement that the WBT Angler of the Year would receive a qualifying berth into the 2009 Bassmaster Classic set for Feb. 20-22 on the Red River.

Bain and the other anglers who finished in the top 20 in the AOY standings will move on to the season-ending WBT Championship, set for Oct. 23-25 on Arkansas' Lake Hamilton.

With her victory, Hill clinched a spot in the top 20 of the AOY standings.

Bain collected her third consecutive limit on the final day, posting a three-day total of 24 pounds, 10 ounces. On the final day, Bain

See WBT, Page 27

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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

"FIXED" BAITED FIELD NOT FIXED GOOD ENOUGH

A tip led Game Warden Jared Self to a field that had been baited several days before dove season opened. On opening day, he and game warden Jim Porter arrived to find that the baited field had been "fixed" but not good enough. There was still bait in abundance. Twelve citations were given and 89 birds seized. Cases pending.

MEN SHOOT HAWK OUT OF PICKUP WINDOW

While patrolling a Pecos County road, Game Warden Chris Amthor noticed two men in a pickup shoot a red-tailed hawk out of the windows of the vehicle while driving down the public roadway approximately 20 yards from Amthor's location. Charges are pending.

MAN SHOOTING BIRDS WITH GUN STOLEN FROM WARDEN

Midland County Game Warden Brooks Yeates had his state truck broken into. A few days later, Yeates and Game Warden Chris Lasiter received a call about a young man shooting birds from his apartment balcony. When asked where he got the gun, the man admitted to stealing it from Yeates' truck a few days earlier. The man was arrested and charged, and also had a warrant out of Arizona. The stolen items were recovered.

FOUR CITED FOR HUNTING FROM PUBLIC ROADWAY

Wharton County Game Warden Chris Bird and Intern Troy Gilliam were patrolling for night hunting activity. They observed a vehicle shining a spotlight along a county road. The vehicle stopped and five shots were fired from a large caliber rifle

FRESHLY KILLED "GRILLED" DOVE A DEAD GIVEAWAY

A landowner called Ellis County Game Warden Jeff Powell reporting persons shooting dove from the backyard of their house bor-

dering his land. Powell met the homeowner in the front yard. The homeowner denied any early dove hunting. At that time one of

his friends dressed in camouflage walked around the house carrying a cold beer and a freshly killed "grilled" dove. Cases pending.

into a rice field with Bird and Gilliam no more than 20 yards behind on the roadway. Four men were cited for hunting from a public roadway.

NO LICENSE, EXCEEDING DAILY BAG LIMIT LEADS TO CITATIONS

Dawson County Game Warden Brent Tucker checked a group of dove hunters in the afternoon on opening day of dove season and observed one hunter trying to avoid detection by hiding in a creep feeder. After a short question and answer session, it was determined that the hunter had no license and the group had hunted that morning also and had exceeded the daily bag limit. Several citations were issued.

HUNTER, WIFE KILL A FEW TOO MANY DOVE

A dove hunter was checked by Taylor County Game Warden Roy Johnson on opening day in the afternoon. One man had six dove when checked. Johnson quickly asked the man if they did any good that morning and the man said that he and his wife killed 21 and he killed 12. Appropriate action was taken.

CHARGES FILED FOR ILLEGALLY TAKEN DEER

Walker County Game Warden Stephen Ingram received a call about an illegally taken deer in Elkin's Lake. Ingram arrived at the residence but nobody was home. A large deer head, still in

velvet, could be seen in the backyard near a skinning rack. The deer head and two rear legs were seized as evidence. The homeowner was located the next day and charged. Cases pending.

CITATION ISSUED FOR UNLAWFULLY POSSESSING FAWN

A report of a fawn tied up to a homeowner's front porch for nearly a week was received by Travis County Game Warden Christina Vales. Vales located the house and saw the fawn lying near the side of the porch. The fawn had a dog harness on and appeared to be treated as a pet. A citation was issued for unlawfully possessing a live game animal.

20 CHARGES FILED FOR HUNTING OVER BAITED AREA

Information of illegal dove hunting activity was received by Pecos County Game Warden Chris Amthor. Amthor and Reagan County Game Warden Matt Adams checked a group of dove hunters, and inspection of the area revealed the hunters to be hunting over a baited area. Before the discovery of the baited area, two members of the group said that they were in the Academy Sporting Goods store the day before and overheard a customer ask the salesperson if the store sold dove feeders. They promptly told the person that it was highly illegal to hunt dove over a baited area. There were 20

charges filed and 39 mourning dove seized. Charges and restitution are pending.

HUNTER FAILS TO LEARN HIS LESSON

Tarrant County Game Warden John Padgett cited a hunter for hunting dove over a baited area. The man had been cited for the same offense over the Labor Day weekend. He apparently returned to the same spot for more hunting. Cases pending.

GAME WARDEN SHOWS UP AT THE RIGHT TIME

Throckmorton County Game Warden Shea Guinn checked a morning hunter who had 13 doves. That evening Guinn noticed the hunter was hunting again, and he had Shackelford County Game Warden Brian Huckabay check the hunter. The man said he had 10 birds and that he didn't kill any that morning. Guinn then drove up. Citations issued.

CHARGES FILED FOR HUNTING FROM TRUCK BED

Hale County Warden Mark Collins observed a vehicle traveling slowly down a county road with a person in the bed of the truck holding a gun. Collins followed. When the truck went out of sight around a turn, Collins witnessed the passenger shoot at doves that had been flushed from the road ditch. Charges for hunting from the road were filed on

the occupants of the vehicle.

SIX CITED FOR HUNTING OVER BAITED FIELD

Tarrant County Game Warden John Padgett cited six men for hunting over bait. The men were using hand-scattered milo, cracked corn and wheat to attract the doves. Cases pending.

TWO MEN ADMIT TO LEAVING DEER, DOE IN CULVERT

Sutton County Game Warden Will Allison received a call about two deer found on the side of the road. Allison responded and located a 10-point buck and a doe that had been shot and placed in a culvert. Two rifle cartridges and a dirty cap also were found. The evidence led to a written confession from two men. Charges and restitution are pending, and one Browning A-bolt .260 rifle was confiscated.

MEN SHOOTING DOVE FROM ATV

Houston County Game Wardens Eddie Lehr and Zak Benge cited two men for hunting from a public road and no hunting license as they rode the county roads in an ATV shooting dove from open fields and power lines. Cases pending.

WARDEN TRACKS DOWN FISH DEALER WITH NO LICENSE

Game Warden Dustin Barrett had received reports of a group of trucks from which aquatic products were being sold without a retail fish dealers license or proper markings, but had been unable to locate them. While at the grocery store, a man approached him to buy some steaks, and, when asked, said he did have fish. Barrett went home to get more money and returned in uniform. Cases pending.

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FISHING REPORT

HOT BITES

LARGEMOUTH BASS



CONROE: Black bass are good on large soft plastic worms and lizards in 12-20 feet.

CHOKO CANYON: Black bass are very good on pumpkinseed and tequila sunrise soft plastics, senkos, crankbaits, and Rat-L-Traps.

MONTICELLO: Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to wacky rigged truck worms, Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps.

WHITE/HYBRID/STRIPER



COOPER: White bass are good on Rooster Tails and Little Georges. Hybrid stripers are good on Sassy Shad and live shad.

GRANBURY: White bass are good on perch colored spinnerbaits and minnows.

GRAPEVINE: White bass are excellent on topwaters when schooling and slabs.

CATFISH



CALAVERAS: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheese-bait, and shad near the railroad trestle, 181 Cove, and the discharge.

FORK: Catfish are very good on prepared baits along creeks.

LB: Channel catfish are good on minnows and dip bait.

CRAPPIE



GIBBONS CREEK: Crappie are good on minnows and chartreuse tube jigs.

GRANGER: Crappie are good on chartreuse and yellow jigs in 5-12 feet.

WHITNEY: Crappie are good on minnows.

BREAM



ATHENS: Bream are good on live worms.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Bream are good on live worms off piers and near grass beds, and on the south side of the islands.

SAM RAYBURN: Bream are good on nightcrawlers.

TOLEDO BEND: Bream are good on crickets and nightcrawlers.

AMISTAD: Water clear; 85 degrees; 10.95' low. Black bass are fair on zubbaitis, spoons, and Pop-R's in 4-12 feet, and on watermelon and watermelon red Carolina rigged soft plastics in 16-22 feet. Catfish are good on cheesebait, punchbait, and nightcrawlers in 40-95 feet.

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 78 degrees; 4.89' low. Crappie are good on minnows off the derricks. White bass are good schooling chasing shad on the surface early and late in day.

ATHENS: Water lightly stained; 78-83 degrees; 0.78' low. Black bass are good on Tiny Torpedoes fished near points and white spinnerbaits around vegetation.

BASTROP: Water clear. Crappie are good on minnows and blue tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp, nightcrawlers, and punchbait.

BELTON: Water clear; 78 degrees; 0.51' low. Black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits. Hybrid stripers are good but small on minnows. White bass are good on minnows under lights at night in 20 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs and steak fat.

BOB SANDLIN: Water fairly clear; 78-83 degrees; 0.41' low. Black bass are good early and late on topwaters and small shad pattern crankbaits, midday switching to Carolina rigs. White bass are good on Humdingers.

BRUNING: Water stained; 83 degrees. Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cut bait, and cheesebait near the dam and the discharge. Blue catfish are good on cut bait.

BRIDGEPORT: Water fairly clear; 78-82 degrees; 4.16' low. Black bass are good on medium diving crankbaits in baby bass color off main lake and shad head jigs with a 4" Power Worm.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 83 degrees; 9.45' low. Channel catfish are fair to good on live bait upriver. Yellow and blue catfish are good on live bait upriver.

CADD: Water off color; 78-84 degrees; 0.45' high. Crappie are fair on minnows.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 83 degrees. Redfish are good digging spoons with green grubs between the crappie wall and the dam in 15-20 feet, and on perch and tilapia along the shoreline.

CEDAR CREEK: Water lightly stained; 79-83 degrees; 1.46' low. White bass are good on slabs. Catfish are fair drifting cut shad.

CHOKO CANYON: Water lightly stained; 86 degrees; 3.48' low. Drum are good on live worms. Channel and blue catfish are excellent on punchbait in 3-10 feet.

COLEMAN: Water clear; 82 degrees; 4.26' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and soft plastics. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and minnows.

CONROE: Water clear; 82 degrees; 2.37' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and soft plastics. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and minnows.

COOPER: Water lightly stained; 78-83 degrees; 2.37' low. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to Texas rigs and senkos. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows over brush piles.

FALCON: Water stained; 81 degrees. Black bass are fair on white and chartreuse/white crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Channel and blue catfish are very good on cut bait and shad.

FAYETTE: Water clear; 88 degrees. Channel and blue catfish are good on cut shad, liver, and shrimp over baited holes under trees.

FORK: Water lightly stained; 78-83 degrees; 0.08' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red wacky rigged worms along main lake grass lines in 5-12 feet. Crappie are good on minnows and small jigs in 16-22 feet under main lake bridges and around brush piles.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear. Black bass are good on pumpkinseed and tequila sunrise Carolina rigged soft plastics, spinnerbaits, and Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp, and nightcrawlers.

GRANBURY: Water clear; 03' low. Crappie are good on minnows and pink tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp, and live bait.

GRANGER: Water murky; 81 degrees; 2.16' low. Black bass are good on black jigs upriver along the channel drop. Blue catfish are good on shad and prepared bait.

GRAPEVINE: Water off-color; 78-82 degrees; 3.93' low. Black bass are good early on topwaters, midday switching to Carolina rigs, Texas rigs and jigs.

GREENBELT: Water lightly stained; 73 degrees; 26.36' low. Black bass are good on topwater lures throughout the day, white spinnerbaits and black/green jigs around grass lines. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live baits. Catfish are good on live baits.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear; 77 degrees; 0.99' high. Black bass are good on pumpkin lizards and topwaters near the marina and on the south-east side of the lake. White bass are good on live minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with shad and perch.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 78 degrees; 2.02' low. White bass and hybrid stripers are good on live baits and crankbaits. Catfish are good on live baits.

JOE POOL: Water off-color; 78-82 degrees; 1.5' low. Black bass are good on watermelon seed light Carolina or Texas rigged soft plastics around grass lines and cover in 2-10 feet. White bass are good on Humdingers.

LAKE O' THE PINES: Water stained; 79-83 degrees; 1.58' high. Black bass are good on topwaters early, midday switching to chrome Rat-L-Traps, white spinnerbaits and Carolina-rigs. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are fair to good on shad and nightcrawlers.

LAVON: Water stained; 79-83 degrees; 3.48' low. White bass are good on shad pattern slabs and white Road Runners. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are fair to good on shad and nightcrawlers.

LB: Water stained; 83 degrees; 0.35' low. Striped bass to 24" are good on Creme Lures 2" Spoiler Shads and L'il Fishies at night. White bass are fair to good on L'il Fishies at night.

LEWISVILLE: Water off-color; 78-83 degrees; 2.51' low. Black bass are good on pet spoons, hellbenders, and slabs. Blue catfish are good on shad. White bass and hybrid stripers are good on chartreuse/white slabs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on cut shad and prepared baits.

LIVINGSTON: Water murky; 82 degrees; 0.61' high. White bass are good on pet spoons, hellbenders, and slabs. Blue catfish are good on shad.

MACKENZIE: Water lightly stained; 74 degrees; 75.53' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass and striped bass are fair on minnows.

MONTICELLO: Water fairly clear; 84-92 degrees; 0.69' high. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait.

O.H. WIE: Water lightly stained; 81 degrees; 13.21' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live baits and spinnerbaits. Channel catfish are good on live and cut baits.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 84 degrees; 3.07' low. White bass are excellent while schooling along rocky points and trolling with silver crankbaits. Small stripers are good on silver spoons while schooling in the early morning hours in the Bluff Creek area. Catfish are excellent on live shad, cut baits, worms and liver along the river channel on the North End and below the dam.

PROCTOR: Water stained; 81 degrees; 3.27' low. Channel and blue catfish are good on minnows.

RAY HUBBARD: Water off-color; 79-83 degrees; 0.68' low. White bass are good on slabs and live minnows. Hybrid stripers are fair to good on slabs.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear; 78-82 degrees; 0.66' low. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to Bomber 2A crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around isolated deep water trees. White bass are good on jigging spoons in 24-36 feet.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water off-color; 79-83 degrees; 2.11' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse pepper wacky rigged worms, crankbaits and Carolina rigs. White bass and hybrid stripers are good on white/chartreuse TalHummers and chartreuse slabs on main lake humps. Catfish are good on live perch fished off the main creek channel and flats.

SAM RAYBURN: Water lightly stained; 83 degrees; 4.74' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and tequila sunrise soft plastic worms. White bass are good on minnows and white/gold spoons. Crappie are good on live minnows. Catfish are good on live bait, shrimp, and punchbait.

SOMERVILLE: Water murky; 83 degrees; 1.90' low. Perch are good on worms. Channel and blue catfish are good on cut shad.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear; 81 degrees; 1.64' low. Black bass are good on live minnows and red soft plastic worms.

TAWAKONI: Water lightly stained; 78-82 degrees; 1.58' low. White bass are fair on slabs and pearl Sassy Shad. Striped bass and hybrid stripers are fair on live shad and slabs.

TEXOMA: Water off-color; 78-83 degrees; 1.61' low. Striped bass are fair to good on topwaters early and late, midday switching to live shad and sassy shads.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear; 82 degrees; 3.59' low. Black bass are good on watermelon/blue flake soft plastic worms. Channel and blue catfish are good but small on punchbait.

TRAVIS: Water clear; 83 degrees; 21.14' low. Black bass are good on bone topwaters, watermelon worms, and grubs in 5-15 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on nightcrawlers and fresh cut bait in 28-45 feet.

WALTER E. LONG: Water murky; 89 degrees. Black bass are good trolling Storm Thundersticks. Crappie are good on minnows and white and chartreuse tube jigs near the dam.

WHITNEY: Water clear; 7.16' low. Black bass are good on pumpkinseed/white Rat-L-Traps, spinnerbaits, and crankbaits on main lake points and flats. Striped bass are good on minnows and green gripper jigs. Catfish are good on shrimp, and stinkbait, and live bait.

HOT SPOT



Lake Brownwood

BROWNWOOD: Water clear; 82 degrees; 3.33' low. Black bass are excellent on spinnerbaits and redbug or watermelon worms with chartreuse tails on Pig Sticker Shaky Heads near the docks and over brush piles, and good on frog, torpedo, and Pop-R topwaters on main lake flats and over grass. Hybrid stripers are good trolling hellbenders near the Woodsman of the World camp. White bass are good on L'il Fishies off lighted docks at night. Crappie are good on L'il Fishies and minnows over brush piles in Rattlesnake Draw in 15-21 feet, and off lighted docks at night. Channel catfish are good on cut bait and nightcrawlers over baited holes in 12-20 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with perch in 12-20 feet.

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SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Storm surges reached over 10 feet in some areas. Few boat ramps are open.

SOUTH SABINE: Storm surges reached over 10 feet. Piers and houses were damaged significantly on the water.

BOLIWAR: The peninsula was devastated by Hurricane Ike. The storm surge was 10-15 feet in some areas. Few homes are left.

TRINITY BAY: Smith Point and Oak Island was totally under water and endured catastrophic damage.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Bait camps and marinas were destroyed.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: The mayor of Galveston is allowing only limited access to the island. The storm surge rose higher than the 16-foot sea wall. Kayakers have taken flour on the Texas coastline with 4-inch Gulp! shrimp in deeper water.

TEXAS CITY: The Texas City Dike was totally inundated from the storm.

FREEPORT: The area was on the west side of the storm but still received significant damage.

EAST MATAGORDA: Water extended from East Bay to West Bay with the storm surge. Total damage was done.

MATAGORDA: Most of the damage occurred on the lower end of the Colorado River. Low-lying areas caught large trees and debris as water flowed from bay to bay. Old Parker's Cut opened and flowed freely for a few days.

PORT O'CONNOR: Fishing has been slow. Tides are receding. Best bite has been on the leeward side of Espiritu Santo Bay on topwaters. Tailing redfish have been caught on 1/4-ounce weedless spoons and orange Skitterwalks.

ROCKPORT: Redfish have been taken in the back lakes on natural baits and topwaters. Trout have been found against the grass with the high tides.

PORT ARANSAS: A rough surf has been good for bull redfish. Best baits have been chunks of crab and finger mullet. Redfish are in the shallow oyster reefs near Island Moorings. The flats near Crabman Marina continue to produce early morning redfish and scattered trout for paddlers.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Trout are fair to good from the pier at night on live bait. High tides pushed many fish to the back reaches of the bay. Schools of redfish have been found in new water brought in by the high tides. The flats and back lakes of Shamrock Cove had redfish in shallow grass as does East Flats.

BAFFIN BAY: Good catches of trout have been taken under lights at night in the Land Cut on live shrimp and glow plastics. Redfish are good at Yarbrough on golf spoons and soft plastics under corks.

PORT MANSFIELD: Redfish are good in the surf around East Cut on mullet and other natural baits. Fish have been scattered in the bay with higher tides, but redfish are beginning to school on the flats.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout and redfish are fair to good for waders working the grass beds on small topwaters. Rising tides have pushed many redfish in the grass.

PORT ISABEL: Trout and redfish are fair to good while drifting sand and grass on soft plastics under popping corks. Tides are higher due to the storm and the Equinox tides. Redfish are schooling on the flats.

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BACK IN BUSINESS: J.C. Carroll cleans up inside Coastline Marine and Tops-N-Towers in Seabrook after Hurricane Ike's storm surge. Photo by Erich Schlegel.



PITCHING IN: Rescue workers and volunteers load up a van at the Galveston Academy parking lot to distribute emergency supplies. Residents lined up at the parking lot for water and ice.

Ike

Continued from Page 1

Hickman's airboat survived Ike. He's found work cutting off gas lines to Galveston island. The guide will need to squirrel away the money.

"It's total, utter devastation," he said. "The Main Street Pier, even the concrete pilings are gone. The road from San Luis Pass to Freeport is gone. Bolivar Peninsula is now like three islands. The bridge over Rollover Pass is broken."

Beaty can testify to the awe-inspiring damage.

When Ike came ashore Sept. 13, a deadly combination of wind and water punished the upper coast of Texas, all but wiping out everything on Bolivar Peninsula —

where Beaty's Marsh Point Lodge was located along Crystal Beach. "There's nothing left," he said. "We took a 20-foot surge."

Like Hickman, Beaty finds it hard to believe what he's seeing. "There are thousands of dead cattle," Beaty said. "The stench is horrible. Every step there is a water moccasin and they strike at everything. I think the saltwater blinded them, making them so aggressive. They strike at a truck going by."

Even Central Flyway Outfitters' farm house eight miles inland, where hunters gathered before hunts, fell to Ike. "I was building a new place at the farm," Beaty said. "Had 14-foot pylons in the ground. It knocked them down. It destroyed the farmhouse."

Looking around the farm, it's hard to believe it's fall, according to

Beaty.

"Everything looks like the dead of winter," he said. "There is not a green grain of grass."

One coastal guide service survived Ike by hitting the road — or, at least, the high seas. The Capt. John, a 75-foot catamaran operating out of Pier 19 in Galveston, cast off when weather forecasters warned the hurricane had targeted the upper coast. The Texsun II, a bay and jetty boat, also made the trip.

"John (Williams) and his daughter took the boats to Port O'Connor the day before the storm," said spokesman Patrick Lemire. "They're fine."

Lemire said the guide service hopes to be back in business soon. That will depend, though, on how fast Galveston rebounds from Hurricane Ike. City and state offi-

cials only started allowing residents who had fled to return this week.

Some boats that stayed in surprisingly weathered the storm.

"There was no damage to any customer's boats or vehicles whatsoever," said Mike Williams, shop manager at Coastline Marine, in Seabrook. "We lost one carport and (suffered) some storm surge flooding."

Ike lost little fury after slamming the coast, turning things topsy-turvy all the way from Orange to Houston.

For example, guide Chuck Uzzle, who lives in Orange, normally fishes the Sabine Lake and Calcasieu Lake area. Ike, however, brought the fish to him. Uzzle had shrimp and croaker swimming in his pool. His son, Hunter, chased large-mouth bass in the backyard. And

down the street, red drum and shad were everywhere.

Outdoorsmen in Houston also found Ike capricious.

The Houston Safari Club occupies the eighth floor in a 10-story building off Southwest Freeway. Chris Susilovich, vice president of marketing and convention affairs, found Ike had taken the roof when he arrived Sept. 15. Ceiling tiles had fallen and there was 8 inches of water on the floor.

"I don't know what we're going to do, but we will need a temporary place to work for four to five months at least," Susilovich said.

In Hurricane Ike's aftermath, Beaty spoke for all its victims: "I want to wake up from this bad dream."

— Craig Nyhus and David J. Sams contributed to this report.

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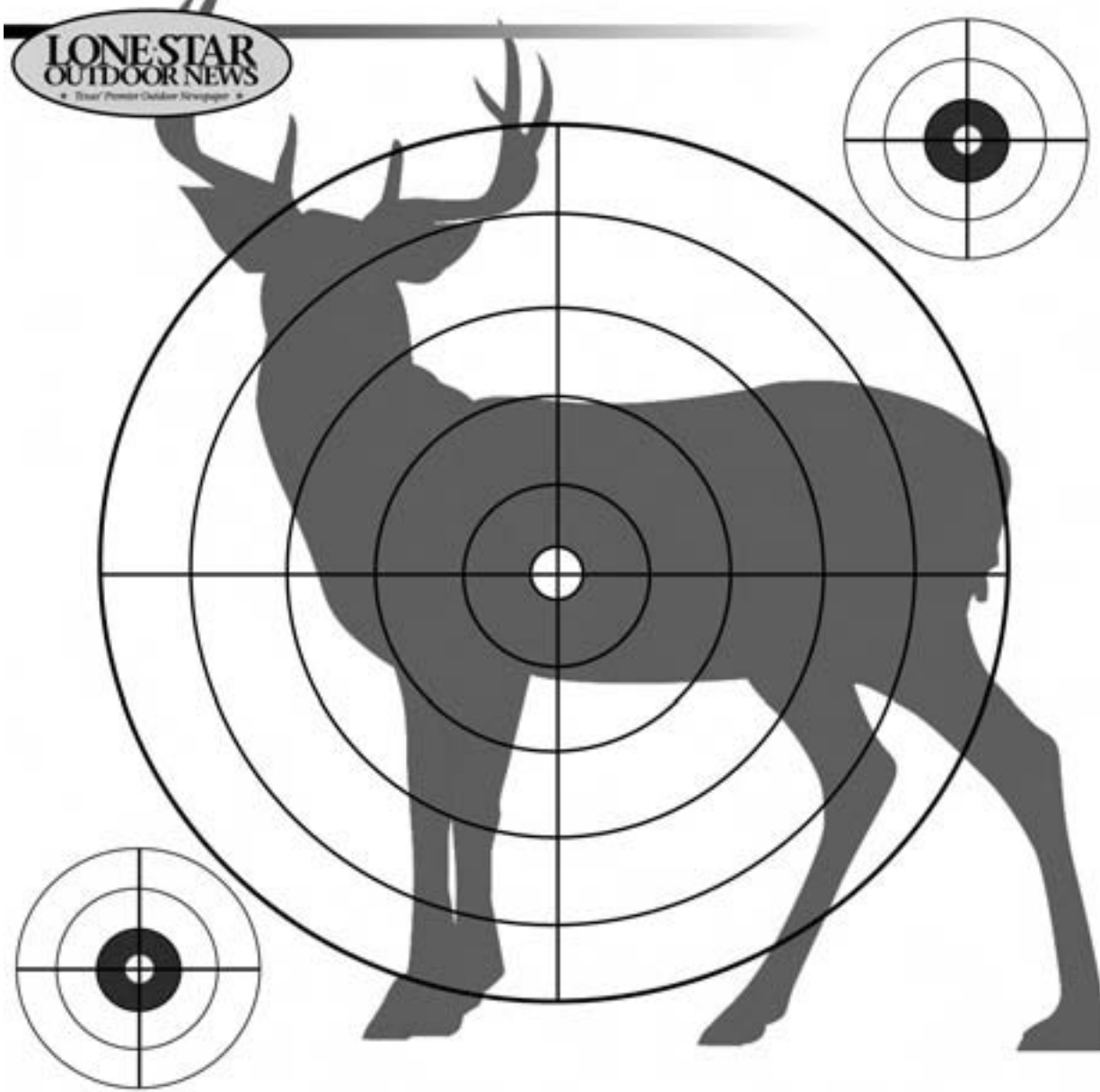
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HEROES



KATE NORDLOH of Corpus Christi with a red snapper caught in state waters out of Corpus Christi.



BLAZE BENSON and **BILL CANNAN** of Port O'Connor pose with a 10-point whitetail Cannan shot in Oklahoma.



MATTHEW ARIS, 9, of Waxahachie shows his first dove shot in Eastland County.



WHITNEY BURNS with a 107-inch white marlin that weighed 190 pounds. Burns caught the fish near Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

SHARE AN ADVENTURE

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Rockport resident **RUSSELL PAGEL** took this 184-inch whitetail in Kansas.

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PRODUCTS



THIN IS IN: Mathews has introduced its **DXT SlimLimb Bow**, which the company says gives users the ultimate combination of accuracy and speed, without the kick. At 29 3/4 inches axle-to-axle, the 3.75-pound bow is a good choice for tight quarters. And, at 322 fps, it offers plenty of power. The DXT, which boasts the company's new Lost Camo, also features a perimeter-weighted cam, parallel limb design, harmonic dampers, string suppressors, and more. It costs about \$860. For retailers, visit www.mathewsinc.com or call (608) 269-2728.



HARD BASS LURE: Lucky Craft's new **Kelly J** is a top-water bait designed by Mineola bass angler Kelly Jordan. The three-inch, 3/8-ounce hard lure has a prop in the front and back to mimic the actions of a fleeing bait fish. Available in six colors, it costs about \$15. For retailers, visit www.luckycraft.com or call (714) 241-8484.



3,000 FPS VELOCITY: The **Ballistic Tip Hunting Bullet** by Nosler is a 30-caliber 168-grain ballistic tip bullet for deer and antelope hunting. Designed for match type loads, it provides hunters with a predictable and forgiving bullet for challenging situations. The bullet features a polycarbonate tip that resists deformation in the magazine and initiates expansion upon impact. Its ballistically-engineered boat tail configuration combines with the streamlined polycarbonate tip for extreme long-range performance. The 30-caliber bullets sell for about \$18 per 50-count pack. Other calibers are available. To order or for retailers, visit www.nosler.com or call (800) 285-3701.

EASIER DEPLOYMENT: Minn Kota calls the **Traxxis** its most revolutionary transom-mount trolling motor to date. This motor is easily stowed and deployed by simply pulling up on the motor head. A new tiller steering mechanism allows the user to customize the handle to fit the way he or she fishes: The ergonomically designed tiller handle tilts up to 45 degrees while simultaneously extending from 9.25 inches up to 15.25 inches. Other features include a cam lock depth adjustment that is controlled by flipping a lever plus a redesigned steering tension collar mechanism that allows for subtle adjustments to steering tension. The Traxxis will be offered in variable and five-speed models, thrust levels of 40, 55, 70 and 80 pounds, and shaft lengths of 36 and 42 inches. Depending on model, the Traxxis will cost from about \$210 to \$550. For dealers, visit www.minnkotamotors.com; for a catalog, call (800) 661-9086.



FANG-PROOF BOOTS: Bass Pro Shop's **RedHead 13-inch Waterproof Bayou Zip Snake Boots** were designed for female hunters. The boots feature all the must-haves for comfort in the field: a Gore-Tex membrane to keep feet dry; a water-repellent leather/nylon upper; an outsole that provides traction but won't collect mud; and heel flex notches for easier stalking. The boots cost about \$130. To order, visit www.basspro.com or call (800) 227-7776.



SUPER-SIZED BAITS: The **ZOOM Bait Company** has introduced the **Magnum Ultra-Vibe Speed Worm**, a 7-inch-long soft plastic bait with extra bulk in the body and a paddle tail. Like its smaller counterpart, this bait is ideal for bass fishing, especially for Texas rigging. The Mag speed worm is available in eight colors and sells for about \$4 per pack of 15. For retailers, call (706) 548-1008.



TAKE THIS PUP HUNTING: The **Field Pup** by **SOG Specialty Knives** is just the right size for the outdoorsman. The knife has a slightly yielding molded handle that form-fits the full tang blade. Its finger grips are combined with thumb notches on the back of the blade, making those field tasks easier. Offered in a high gloss satin finish handle, the knife costs about \$60. For retailers, call (888) 405-6433.



DROPPED BUT NOT LOST: These **polarized sunglasses** by **FishGillz** will float when dropped in the water. At 1/2-ounce, these sunglasses are made from a flexible polymer blend and boast high-impact shatterproof lenses. The lens boast a polarized micro filter and anti-reflective treatment to eliminate glare and block UV rays. Sporting a sleek, stylish frame design, the sunglasses cost about \$50 to \$60. The Santa Cruz sunglasses (shown) are available in a black frame with bronze lens. For dealers, call (760) 771-9145.

FALL COMFORT: **SHE Safari's Hunter Fleece Pull Over** is a great layering piece for those chilly fall hunting outings. It combines Realtree and Advantage camo patterns with olive fleece to form an hour-glass shape. Features include two deep pockets, 1/4-zip front closure, a stand-up collar, and snaps on the sleeve cuffs to adjust length. The pullover retails for \$50 and is available in XS through XXL. For information, visit www.shesafari.com or call (281) 448-4860.



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A custom two-story cabin includes a fireplace, a covered porch with rocking chairs, and a spectacular view of the countryside, and another log cabin sports a covered porch. And the meals include a chuckwagon dinner or a Texas-sized barbecue.

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fallow deer, sika, red stag and elk.

The majority of hunts take place from elevated, warm, comfortable and dry tower stands over wheat fields and feeders, with occasional planned walk and stalk hunts if the situation requires it. All hunters are carried around the property in style on a two-seat Kawasaki Mule that carries hunters, gear and harvested animals.

The ranch provides guests with the opportunity to enjoy wildlife and the great outdoors like never before, while being treated like royalty. "Our hunts are turn-key

where you come and totally enjoy yourself and we do all of the work," Miller said. "We skin, cape, and get all animals ready to go to processor and taxidermist." Our goal at the Rocking M Ranch is for you to have 100-percent satisfaction."

For a true Texas adventure, call the Rocking M Ranch anytime at (817) 925-1854. The Web site (www.rockingmranchhunts.com) shows the cabins inside and out, the animals, and a glimpse of the Texas-sized views. Book now while supplies last for the 2008-2009 season.

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Teal

Continued from Page 6

minutes. "The norther really blew in the birds," he said. "Lots of birds hit the prairie this week."

Berberich said many areas are still dry, and outfitters that pump water are having the most luck. "We got 5 inches of rain with the recent cold front," he said. "But 15 miles away they only got one inch."

A group of Delta Waterfowl committee members from Spring shot limits near Garwood in Colorado County in a about an hour, with numerous flights of birds.

Near the Red River in Northeast Texas, hunters were disappointed. "We hunted in the Pat Mayes Lake area two days," said Jason Tharpe, a Delta Waterfowl regional director. "We got a few, but didn't see more than 50 birds. Our last three years were phenomenal."

In Haskell County, a group of 10 hunted opening weekend with Erik Guggenheim,

taking limits both days. "The cold front brought in greenwings, too," Guggenheim said.

The timing of the opener was off in Lubbock, too. "We had a huge rainstorm two days before," said DU Committee Chairman David Biddle. "Lubbock got 8 1/2 inches in 24 hours — they said it was the most ever in a day."

Biddle couldn't get to his hunting spot, and his friends had the same problems. "The roads were flooded; the county road I use is still under water," he said. "But the playa lakes are in great shape."

Toward the Panhandle, the birds are present, and so is the water. Stan Fogg hunted with a friend and two youngsters near Vega in the Panhandle. "We've had a bunch of bluewings move in near Vega and Hereford," he said. "There's so much water in the Panhandle, all the potholes are full."

Potts was able to get his limit, but said the birds had a lot of choices on where to sit. "It's hit-or-miss," he said. "But that's teal hunting."

Bighorn

Continued from Page 6

on the Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management Area north of Van Horn in October 1958. Imported brood stock from Arizona brought in sporadically over decades has been nurtured into a herd of more than 1,000 animals dispersed over several areas including the Baylor, Beach, Sierra Diablo and Van Horn Mountains, as well as the Black Gap and Elephant Mountain WMAs, all in the rugged, mountainous Trans-Pecos.

The sheep's habitat of canyons and other steep, rocky areas with sudden drop-offs necessitates the use of helicopters to conduct surveys. Ideally, the biologists fly between 50 and 100 feet above the ground at a speed of 15 to 20 knots (18 to 24 mph). "If you encounter 15 to 20 sheep, you need to be able to make it

back over quickly," Hernandez said.

The details from each sheep observed are recorded by two observers on the helicopter. Each is responsible for a given category: ewes, yearlings or rams. The rams are divided into four classes based on the amount of curl in their horns. A quarter curl is Class I, a half curl is Class II, a small three quarter curl is Class III and a large three quarter and bigger, including a full curl, is considered Class IV.

Rams deemed harvestable are those rated Class IV with an outward appearance of maturity including heavy horns often a full curl or more. "Those are the sheep that more than likely have already contributed (to the herd) what they are going to (in the form of favorable genetics and fertility)," Hernandez said.

Regardless of the number of mature rams, Hernandez pointed out that no more than 10 percent of the standing ram population is ever harvested.

Reds

Continued from Page 8

backside of Mustang Island. No doubt the school of redfish he found there was exploring too, foraging for crabs, clams and snails that typically hide in flooded vegetation. Some of the fish were upper-slot or oversized reds that Utley suspects may have ridden in on storm surges from the Gulf.

"Those redfish will be cruising around in the grass, searching for new territory and food."

— Clark Miles

along the south side of South Padre Island Drive.

The storm created expanded fishing areas for shore anglers, too. The level of the shallow bay probably had risen more than twice its normal depth over the weekend, inviting baitfish in and the predators that follow.

Later in the week, Port Aransas guide Clark Miles spent much of his time in the aftermath of Ike searching new water.

"Those redfish will be cruising around in the grass, searching for new territory and food," Miles said.

"You'll see them in schools and singles sliding through the grass up around duck blinds."

Prior to the storm, schools of redfish were beginning to gather for their fall migration. This pattern was interrupted, local anglers suggest. The incoming tide broke up schools as individual fish sought refuge. But the anglers say the reds will soon reconvene and continue their journey to the Gulf passes.

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Doves

Continued from Page 1

hunters were from Austin and one was from Canada, and all got their limits both days."

The birds were using pastures and feeding on goatweed. "It was so dry here we couldn't plant," she said. "But the fields are covered with goatweed, and the birds were full of the seeds."

Hunters who participated in the 16th annual Karnes County Lonesome Dove Fest found out that doves were far from lonesome as bird numbers were the best seen in recent years.

All of the birds coming into a pond at the bottom of an old uranium pit were mourning doves, and motorized decoys set out around the water worked like bird magnets.

Similar bag limit success was reported around a shredded 300-acre corn field at a farm owned by Zack Yanta just southwest of Karnes City, with a group of more than 30 hunters covered up with mourning doves.

"I've never seen so many doves in the air," said Benny Lyssy, who coordinated the group of hunters from the festival. "One of the hunters said that this was a hunt of a lifetime. I think we had a lot of birds move in after the

cold front pushed through."

Farther to the southwest, Sandy Oaks Ranch Owner Foard Houston said white-winged doves in good numbers were in the area feeding on crouton seeds from plants that came up after recent rains.

"The food is here and the whitewings are really coming in," said Houston, whose property is just south of Devine.

Good reports of white-winged doves were also common in South Texas, with Terry Lee of George West finding a lot of both juvenile mourning doves and white-winged doves in the Benavides and Hebbronville areas.

"I think a lot of the birds down there were the birds we had up here three weeks ago," Lee said. "We were kind of worried about the hunting (at George West) because the birds had left, but then more came in on Thursday and Friday."

"It was like they knew they should be here. The weather was good (on opening day) with a nice north wind and all of the hunters limited out in the first hour. That makes for a good hunt."

Lee said bumper crops of crouton and other dove weed are just beginning to put out seeds, which will continue to serve as bird attractors for South Texas hunters.



BONUS BIRD: A Brittany spaniel retrieves a dove for her master in a field near Brownsville.



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<p>DOVE North Zone: Sept. 1-Oct. 30 Daily Bag Limit: 15 mourning, white-winged or white-tipped doves, to include not more than two whitetips Central Zone: Sept. 1-Oct. 30 & Dec. 26-Jan. 4 Daily Bag Limit: 12 mourning, white-winged or white-tipped doves, to include not more than two whitetips South Zone: Sept. 20-Nov. 9 & Dec. 26-Jan. 13 Daily Bag Limit: 12 mourning, white-winged or white-tipped doves, to include not more than two whitetips Special South Texas Zone: Sept. 6-7, 13-14 (noon to sunset) Daily Bag Limit: 12 mourning, white-winged or white-tipped doves, to include not more than 4 mourning and two whitetips Sept. 20-Nov. 9, Dec. 26-Jan. 9 Daily Bag Limit: 12 mourning, white-winged or white-tipped doves, to include not more than two whitetips Possession Limit: (All Zones): Twice the daily bag limit</p> <p>EARLY TEAL Statewide: Sept. 13-28 Daily Bag Limit: 4; Possession Limit: 8</p> <p>ALLIGATOR 22 core counties (by permit only) Sept. 10-30 Remainder of the state Apr. 1- June 30</p> <p>PRONGHORN ANTELOPE By permit only Oct. 4-12</p> <p>WHITE-TAILED DEER Archery: Sept. 27-Oct. 31 General: *Special Youth Season: Oct. 25-26, Jan. 17-18 North Texas: Nov. 1-Jan. 4 Panhandle: Nov. 22-Dec. 7 South Texas: Nov. 1-Jan. 18 Edwards Plateau Late Antlerless and Spike: Jan. 5-18 South Texas Late Antlerless and Spike: Jan. 13-Feb. 1 Muzzleloader Late Antlerless and Spike: Jan. 10-18</p>	<p>MULE DEER Archery: Sept. 27-Oct. 31 Gun: Panhandle Nov. 22-Dec. 7 Southwestern Panhandle Nov. 22-30 Trans-Pecos Nov. 29-Dec. 15</p> <p>JAVELINA Oct. 1-Feb. 28 (approx. 43 counties) Sep. 1-Aug 31 (approx. 50 counties)</p> <p>SQUIRREL Special Youth Season: Sept. 27-28 East Texas Oct. 1-Feb. 1, May 1-31</p> <p>LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN Panhandle (by permit only): Oct. 18-19</p> <p>PHEASANT Panhandle Dec. 6-Jan. 4 Coastal (Chambers, Jefferson, Liberty) Nov. 1-Feb. 28 Daily Bag Limit: 3 cocks Possession Limit: 6 cocks</p> <p>QUAIL Statewide (all counties) Oct. 25-Feb. 28 Daily Bag Limit: 15 Possession Limit: 45</p> <p>RIO GRANDE TURKEY Archery: Sept. 27-Oct. 31 Fall Season: Special Youth Season Oct. 25-26, Jan. 17-18 North Texas Nov. 1-Jan. 4 South Texas Nov. 1-Jan. 18 Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg & Willacy Nov. 1-Feb. 28 Spring Season: North Texas Apr. 4-May 17 South Texas Mar. 21-May 3 Special Spring Youth Mar. 28-29, May 23-24</p> <p>EASTERN TURKEY Spring Season Only East Texas Apr. 1-30</p> <p>RABBITS AND HARES No closed season.</p>
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OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

Oct. 2-13: Fall Orvis Days will be held at all Texas Orvis stores (Houston, The Woodlands, Dallas, Arlington). Visit orvis.com/orvisdays for information and a list of events.



Oct. 2: The CCA STAR awards banquet will be held at the Hornberger Center in Houston. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.



Oct. 2: The Fort Worth DU dinner will be held at the Lockhead Martin Recreation Association. Contact Eric at (817) 832-8694 or eric.head@jacobs.com for information.

Oct. 2: The Dallas Safari Club 100 Meeting will be held at Eldorado Motors/Graff Chevrolet in McKinney. Call Jaimee at (469) 484-6777 for information.



Oct. 2: The San Antonio DU dinner will be held at the Alzafar Shrine Temple. Call Kevean at (210) 616-6876 for information.

Oct. 3-5: The NWTW Women in the Outdoors deer hunt will be held at the Richards Ranch in Jacksboro. Contact Dorothy at (903) 572-7179 or dorothy.mccarver@sbcglobal.net for information.



Oct. 3-4: The NWTW Women in the Outdoors will hold a shotgun clinic at the East Texas Rifle and Pistol Club in Longview. Contact Dorothy at (903) 572-7179 or dorothy.mccarver@sbcglobal.net for information.

Oct. 3: The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation EXPO Conservation Hall of Fame Banquet will be held at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort & Spa near Austin. Call Sara at (214) 720-1478 or skeleher@tpwf.org for information.



Oct. 4-5: The Texas Parks and Wildlife EXPO will be held at the TPW

headquarters in Austin. Admission is free. For information, call (800) 792-1112.

Oct. 4: The Blanco County Wild Game Dinner and auction will be held at the Blanco County Show Barn. Call Peggy at (830) 833-5335 for information.

Oct. 5-12: The Redfish Rodeo will be held on South Padre Island. Call Gina at (512) 332-9880 or visit redfishrodeotournament.com for information.

Oct. 7: The Uvalde DU dinner will be held at the Uvalde Country Club. Call Lott at (830) 278-8911 for information.



Oct. 8: The Hill Country DU dinner will be held at Johnny Fins at Lake Travis. Contact Chris at (512) 653-3718 or chris@appleleasing.com for information.

Oct. 8: A DU Sportsman's Night Out will be held at Griffin's Place in Pearland. Call Betsy at (281) 997-7351 for information.

Oct. 9: The Austin Delta Waterfowl dinner will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Call Larry at (512) 653-6267 for information.



Oct. 9: The San Marcos DU dinner will be held at Valhalla Hall. Call Travis at (512) 557-7296 for information.

Oct. 9: The Granbury DU dinner will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn. Contact Kyle at (817) 573-9836 or kslewis91@charter.net for information.

Oct. 9: The Ellis County NWTW dinner will be held at the Ennis Country Club. Contact Malcomb at (469) 245-9015 or mrglaspy@yahoo.com for information.

Oct. 9: The Denton DU dinner will be held at the KC Hall. Contact Dick at (940) 566-6717 or dfisher@cdfinc.net for information.

Oct. 9: The Northeast Tarrant County DU dinner will be held at the Colleyville Community Center. Contact David at (817) 283-6082 or dbhtx@yahoo.com

for information.

Oct. 11: The Texas Deer Association Capitol City Sportsmen's Banquet will be held at Hill's Café in Austin. Contact John at (512) 930-7100 or john@texasdeerassociation.com for information.

Oct. 14: The Texas Fishsticks Golf Tournament will be held at the Tour 18 Golf Course in Humble. Call (281) 298-4344 for information.

Oct. 14: The Sherman/Denison DU dinner will be held at the Air-1 Hanger. Contact Jim at (903) 463-1151 or jsalling@cablone.net for information.

Oct. 14: The Abilene DU dinner will be held at the Round Building at the Fairgrounds. Call Russell at (325) 669-9363 for information.

Oct. 15: The Columbus DU dinner will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Call Bill at (979) 249-6466 for information.

Oct. 16: The Dallas Safari Club monthly meeting will be held, featuring Eric Fletcher speaking on a Namibia safari. Call Debi at (469) 484-6776 for information.

Oct. 16: The Arlington DU banquet will be held at Coble's "Almost" Ranch. Contact Steve at (817) 832-8078 or deksanducks@sbcglobal.net for information.

Oct. 16: The Weatherford DU dinner will be held at the Skating Rink. Contact Troy at (817) 597-6959 or info@weatherfordducks.com for information.

Oct. 17: The Southeast Texas RMEF Big Game Banquet will be held in Beaumont. Call Mark at (409) 673-2771 for information.



Oct. 17: The Trinity Basin Conservation Foundation will hold its Annual Membership Meeting at the 7J Ranch in Crockett. Contact Jenny at (361) 279-7287 or jsanders@tw-mail.org

for information.

Oct. 17: The Dallas Safari Club Young Professionals Group Poker Night will be held at the Dallas Petroleum Club. Contact Jaimee at (469) 484-6777 or jaimie@biggame.org for information.

Oct. 18: Austin Canoe & Kayak will host the Kayak Fishing Challenge at Decker Lake in Austin. Visit austinkayak.com/catalog_trips.php for information.



Oct. 18: The NWTW Women in the Outdoors event will be held at Camp Langston Ranch in Mt. Pleasant. Contact Dorothy at (903) 572-7179 or dorothy.mccarver@sbcglobal.net for information.

Oct. 18: The Equine Angels Sporting Clays Shoot will be held at Alpine Shooting Range in Fort Worth. Call Brian at (214) 543-5706 or visit equineangels.org for information.

Oct. 18: The Rockport/Fulton DU dinner will be held at the Fulton Convention Center. Call Vernon at (361) 729-1822 for information.

Oct. 18: The Johnson County Farm Bureau will hold an Open Team Bass Tournament at Lake Whitney. Contact Don at (817) 239-4044 or farmerbrown@hughes.net for information.

Oct. 21: The Terrell/Kaufman DU dinner will be held at Maples Hall. Contact Dave at (469) 322-0137 or dave@the_edingtons.net for information.

Oct. 22-23: The 2008 Buck Fever Show will be held at the Seguin Guadalupe Center. Call Curt at (210) 710-2194 for information.

Oct. 23: The Fort Worth Quail Unlimited dinner will be held. Call Jeff at (817) 454-1774 for information.

Oct. 23: The Houston DU dinner will be held at the Edwin Hornberger Center. Contact George at (713) 444-5012 or gkoeng@helmsbriscoe.com for information.

Oct. 23: The North Texas Crime

Commission Sporting Clays Shoot will be held at Elm Fork Shooting Range. Contact Roger at (214) 978-8411 or rmartin@huntoil.com for information.

Oct. 23: The Matagorda County DU dinner will be held at the Bay City Civic Center. Call Stephen at (979) 417-1789 or (979) 245-5936 for information.

Oct. 23: The Dallas DU dinner will be held at the Frontiers of Flight Museum. Call Michael at (214) 372-3825 for information.

Oct. 23: The Cleburne Delta Waterfowl dinner will be held at the Cleburne Senior Center. Call Greg at (817) 307-4468 for information.

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@thccr.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 Fairfield Delta Waterfowl dinner will be held at the VFW. Call Russel at (903) 388-4301 for information.

Oct. 25: The Flotilla Boating & Fishing Club fishing tournament to benefit Davis-

Scott YMCA will be held in Corpus Christi. Contact Alfred at (210) 532-0932 or alfredadson@yahoo.com for information.

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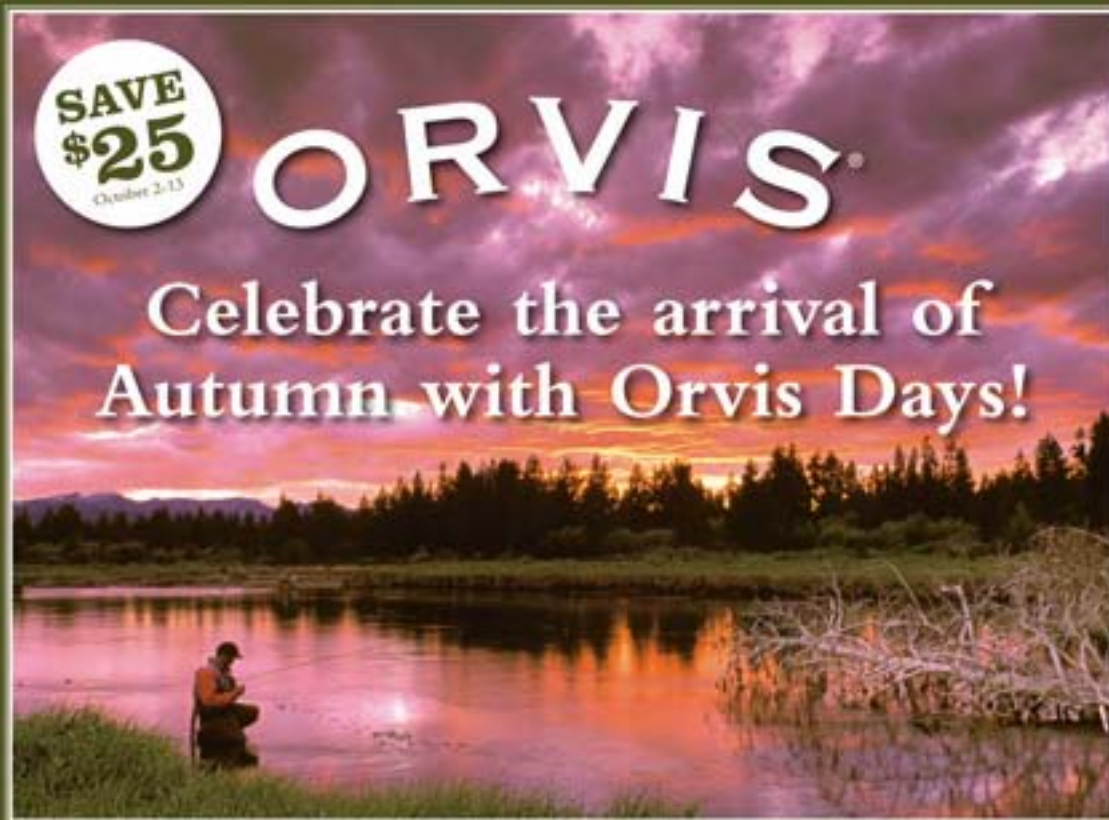
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October 2-13

NATIONAL

Hall receives award from state agencies

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director H. Dale Hall has been recognized by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for his history of working with states and other conservation partners on issues ranging from climate change to endangered species protection.

"Dale Hall has championed state-federal collaboration since he began his career more than 30 years ago, and it has defined his tenure as the Service's top executive," said AFWA Executive Director Matt Hogan. "In the face of challenges such as global climate change, urban sprawl, water management, and generations of children who are becoming disconnected from nature, he regularly has sought to leverage the efforts of the Fish and Wildlife Service by building bridges to AFWA and his state agency counterparts."

Hall was the field supervisor for the Service's Houston field office, and sought the assistance and input of Texas Parks and Wildlife and the TPW Commission on issues ranging from endangered species protection to water rights. "State and federal agencies used to wear different color patches and didn't talk to each other," Hall said.

"We still wear different color patches, but now we're working together."

— U.S. Fish and Wildlife report.



CRUEL CRIME: "Peabody," a 12-point breeder buck owned by John Shadd of Florida, was illegally killed and his head was stolen by trespassers. Photo by John Shadd.

Prized breeder buck killed, head stolen

A captive, domestic, trophy, 12-point buck was killed illegally and stolen from a Lake Butler, Fla., game farm Sept. 6, and the owner is offering a substantial reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission investigator Lt. David Lee, the suspects trespassed onto Shadd's Game Farm, which is an FWC-licensed private facility.

The white-tailed deer, named "Peabody," was killed, and the animal's head was removed.

"Some of the meat was also taken," Lee

said. Peabody was a stud deer and had an extensive lineage.

"The antlers are unique because of a drop tine behind each ear. The deer was tagged with a pinkish tag in the ear with the No. 23 on it," Lee said. "The ear will have a hole or tear mark where the tag was."

The owner of the trophy buck, John Shadd, has offered a reward of \$20,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the culprit(s).

— Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission report.

Ruling allows wildlife water development on Arizona refuge

A recent court ruling said redevelopment of existing wildlife water sources on the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge near Yuma did not violate federal environmental policy laws.

U.S. District Court Judge Mary H. Murguia ruled that a decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow redevelopment of two existing water catchments using motorized equipment did not violate the Wilderness Act and that the agency complied with the National Environmental Policy Act in allowing the work to occur.

The redevelopments were done to provide more dependable sources of water for wildlife in areas of the refuge where access to water was limited.

The ruling is a significant win for

federal and state wildlife management authorities in their ongoing efforts to improve habitat conditions that help support healthy wildlife populations on the refuge.

Wilderness Watch and several other groups had filed a lawsuit in June 2007 in an attempt to prevent the continued operation of the wildlife water tanks.

The Kofa National Wildlife Refuge consists of more than 665,000 acres, of which approximately 510,000 acres are designated as wilderness. It is home to a variety of wildlife including one of the most important desert bighorn sheep populations found in the Southwest.

— Arizona Game and Fish Department report.

Wetlands, refuge grants approved

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved more than \$26 million to protect and restore more than 135,000 acres of U.S. wetland areas under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and \$4.1 million in funding to add more than 4,400 wetland acres to seven national wildlife refuges.

The NAWCA grants will support 27 projects in 20 states. Partners in these projects will contribute an additional \$86 million in matching funds.

Among the wetlands that will be acquired in national wildlife refuges are 2,027 acres for the

Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge in St. Bernard and Orleans Parishes, La.

Other approved projects include the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge in Liberty County, where 924 acres will be acquired to protect wetland habitats benefiting migrating, over-wintering, and breeding waterfowl; and Arkansas' Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, where 24 acres will be acquired to protect wintering areas vital to the long-term conservation of migratory waterfowl.

— U.S. Fish and Wildlife report.

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College

Continued from Page 1

17.37 pounds, anchored by two near 4-pounders.

"We chased shad the whole time and were fishing a depth range of 5-14 feet," said Kitajima. "We concentrated on a short point with some foundations and rock that had a subtle break. Our key bait was a Berkley Power Finesse Worm in blue flake. We also caught a couple on a War Eagle jig, some on a deep crankbait, but caught most of our fish on a shaky head. To win this one means a lot."

The Arkansas team's total was just enough to hold off last year's winner Justin Rackley and new partner Andy Shafer, from Texas A&M. They had five bass totaling 16 pounds.

Rounding out the top five teams who advanced to the third and final day of the championship were Texas Tech's Ryan Dupriest

and Laramie Coggan with five fish weighing 11.98 pounds; Texas A&M-Kingsville's Jerod Hawkes and Daniel Brock with 5 bass weighing 11.17 pounds; and Baylor's Jay Holland and Chris Gass with two bass totaling 3.34 pounds.

The Arkansas team took home a \$14,000 scholarship check to their fishing club. Texas A&M was awarded \$8,000, Texas Tech received \$5,000, Texas A&M Kingsville took \$3,000 and Baylor won \$2,000.

The final five teams, fishing from tournament-provided Ranger boats equipped with Yamaha outboards, Garmin electronics and MotorGuide trolling motors, advanced to the championship round from the 97 teams that competed during the previous two days. The full field represented 23 states and 51 schools of all sizes.



— National Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship report. **RAZORBACK RIVALS:** The University of Arkansas team of Kasuki Kitajima and Bodie Drake topped four Texas universities to claim the National Collegiate Bass Fishing Title. Photo by National Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship.

WBT

Continued from Page 9

fished a wacky worm around deep structure, abandoning her primary pattern from the first two days, which was working a spinnerbait around stretches of bank.

Juanita Robinson of Highlands, finished seventh with 18-15. Robinson was in second place in the AOY standings coming into the tournament. Karol Whitehurst of Winnsboro finished 15th and Helen Gordon of Flower Mound finished 19th.

— Bassmaster.com report.

'Fishing mafia' tagged for illegal catches

Community-based enforcement efforts in Baja California Sur, Mexico, resulted in three recent seizures of vessels carrying tons of illegally harvested dorado. The efforts were supported by The Billfish Foundation through the Center for Marine Protection and funded by the recreational fishing license fees paid to FONMAR, the trust created in 2005 by TBF and its Mexican conservation partners.

On Aug. 13, a commercial vessel from Mazatlan was seized with nearly 1.5 tons of dorado, a species strictly relegated for sportfishing and not commercial long-lining or netting. The crew was filleting the illegal fish at sea.

Two other boats were seized and charged with illegally harvesting dorado while using a shark permit in Magdalena Bay. The vessels were carrying 14 tons of dorado along with several tons of shark.

Local news reports were critical of the illicit activities described as "the fishing mafia" and commercial "pirates," which they contend are often funded by the Mexican federal government.

Investigations are also under way by U.S. and Mexican officials regarding the transportation of hundreds of tons of the illegal dorado catches from the Port of Guaymas into Arizona through Nogales, and into California through Tijuana.

The foundation was instrumental in getting FONMAR established locally in Baja Sur in 2005 so angler's license fees go to directly assisting conservation and protection of the fish resources in the region. Small panga patrol boats have been purchased from the FONMAR money. As a result, local fishermen are reporting illegal acts to the FONMAR officials.

— The Billfish Foundation report.

Accident

Continued from Page 8

accidents at that location.

"We haven't had problems at that intersection," he said. "Those boat lanes are used by fishermen every day. If we had had a bunch of accidents out there, we'd probably stick some buoys out there."

The anglers were flown by helicopter ambulances to hospitals in Tyler.

McSchooler died later at East Texas Medical Center in Tyler. His nephew was taken to the same hospital by ground ambulance, but he was treated and released, Green said.

Hammargren, nearly a week later, was still being treated at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital for broken ribs, a punctured lung and a broken right foot.

"Lucky to be alive," is how Green described Hammargren's condi-

tion.

The wreckage of both boats was secured by game wardens and the investigation was continuing a week after the accident.

"We don't know if the sun was a factor," Green said. "We know Hurricane Ike was coming in, but we know that was not a factor."

Green was sure, however, that alcohol did not contribute to the wreck.

"It's just an unfortunate accident at this point," Green said.

McSchooler, who specialized in topwater fishing, was eulogized by scores of fellow anglers on fishing Web sites. There also were kind words for Hammargren.

McSchooler, manager of Cade Building Materials of Mineola, had been married to his wife, Melody, for 30 years, according to his obituary. Their son, Sean, is 15.

He was a member of New Hope Church and was active in numerous community groups, including the Lake Country Playhouse.

Records

Continued from Page 8

"The thing about the ladyfish in Africa," said Nabozny. "Is that they're about twice the size of the ladyfish in the United States."

Asked if he always takes his fishing gear on his traveling work assignments, Nabozny answered in the affirmative.

"I always find the time to fish. It keeps me sane," he said. "I have some records in the U.S. that are much older. But this particular year has been a great year for fishing."

"The nice thing about going to these locations," Nabozny said, "is that you don't know what you're going to catch. You go to the Texas coast and you're going to get redfish or trout. There (Africa) in one trip I'll catch a dozen different species."

"I'll be aiming for ladyfish and catch, say, a talang queenfish, just accidentally. There is such a diversity of fish there."

Compass

Continued from Page 9

Location, Location, Location

The compass should be installed in clear view of the helm, aligned with the boat's centerline and far enough away from magnetic influences such as electronic devices or metal objects.

Ideally, a magnetic compass should be located at least one foot from gauges, instruments and radios to prevent their electrical charges from interfering with the compass. It's not uncommon for skippers to suffer from temporary magnetic mishaps caused by everything from ill-placed pliers to trash cans filling with metal beverage cans over the course of a day on the water affecting the ability of the compass to

- Compass Selection Tips**
- Buy the best you can afford; with compasses, the higher the price the better the quality.
 - Make sure the compass can be mounted in the location you have selected, be it top mount, side mount, or flush.
 - Test for damping (how quickly the card stops fluctuating after a directional change). Use a small magnet or piece of metal and place it next to the magnet and move it so that the card rotates and deflects 30-45 degrees. Pull the object away quickly and watch how long it takes the card to get back on track.
 - If you intend to use it at night, make sure you select a lighted model, preferably red, so as not to affect your night vision.
 - Make sure there is an expansion chamber to compensate for temperature changes. Compasses mounted on boats can get extremely hot, expand and leak their suspension oils without such a chamber.

point to magnetic north.

Portable, hand-bearing model compasses are made specifically for boaters, and even pocket-sized hand-held models made for hikers have their place as back-up naviga-

tional aids in small craft. But if you do any boating on waters larger than a farm pond, there will come a day when you'll appreciate having a marine compass aboard and in full view.

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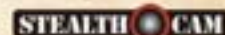
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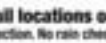
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