

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

February 26, 2010

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 6, Issue 13



**A spike in sales**  
Two Dallas companies are turning shed antlers into dog chew toys. **Page 6**

## Inside



### ■ HUNTING Calorie count

Theories vary on how many deer feeders to place at a ranch or near a single blind.

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### When oaks fail

Oak wilt, or blight, causes heartache for homeowners, but wildlife will survive.

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### ■ FISHING Texoma licenses

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### Guitars gone

Dozens of autographed guitars to be raffled for charity were stolen in Garland.

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# High hopes for Texas trout

## Specks are deep, still waiting to move in shallow

By **Scott Sommerlatte**  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Speckled trout anglers statewide are optimistic about the days to come despite a wet, brutally cold winter.

This fall the Texas coast began to get the rain that it so desperately needed, but once it started, it never seemed to stop. As winter approached, the rains continued to fall, and so did the temperatures. Not only did the weather keep anglers off the water, but the frigid temperatures drove the trout deep. They are also a little late moving into the shallows, though that may be beginning to change after a run of

### INSIDE

■ **Trout angles:** One makes coveted lures. Another catches coveted fish. **Page 8**



**MAKING A SPLASH:** Texas speckled trout anglers are excited about fishing this winter and spring. Conditions have been tough lately, but many are looking forward to what's to come. Photo by Scott Sommerlatte, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

See **TROUT**, Page 19

# Texans finish near top at 2010 Classic

## VanDam takes title again; 3 from Texas near top

By **Alan Clemons**  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Todd Faircloth of Jasper graciously accepted the well-wishes of fans after the 40th Bassmaster Classic ended Feb. 21 on Lay Lake, but it wasn't exactly the ones he'd hoped to receive.

Faircloth finished third in his eighth Classic with a three-day total of 44 pounds, 3 ounces. That's nearly a 3-pound average and is pretty good on the Coosa River impoundment in central Alabama. Yet it wasn't enough.

Kevin VanDam of Michigan won his third Classic with 51 pounds, 6 ounces, and Jeff Kriet of Oklahoma was second with 46 pounds, 6 ounces. They along with Faircloth stayed at the top of the leaderboard all three days of the Feb. 19-21 tournament with only 3 ounces separating them going into the last day.

Three guys, 3 ounces and two attitudes. One guy wins and is happy. Everyone else tries to figure out what they did right or wrong to build for the future.

"It's a good finish but not where I wanted to be," Faircloth said. "People say that's great ... that's not what I came here for."

Faircloth fished in Beeswax Creek, one of the main mid-lake tributaries and a consistent performer during the Classic. At least eight contend-



**TROPHY ANGLER:** Kevin VanDam hoists his third Bassmaster Classic trophy Feb. 21 in Alabama. Photo by Chris Brown, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

ers started out there on the first day, with VanDam, Faircloth and Kriet establishing their areas while the others worked in different portions. The creek had deep water with coontail grass and other types of cover, shallow flats and some minor creeks flowing in.

See **CLASSIC**, Page 20



**STILL EMPLOYED:** Texas Parks and Wildlife would not cut any jobs under a proposed plan to trim its budget. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

# No jobs cut in TPW budget-cutting plan

## Department identifies places it will trim if state gives order

By **Mark England**  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Texas Parks and Wildlife would not cut any jobs or close any parks in a new contingency plan to cut 5 percent from its budget, as requested by Gov. Rick Perry and the Legislature.

The plan would shave almost \$25 million off TPW's \$468 million budget, which is set over two years.

Slumping sales tax revenues led state leaders to request agencies to

have a plan in place to trim their budgets. State Comptroller Susan Combs said budget cuts might not be needed if sales tax revenues pick up in the spring and summer.

No jobs would be terminated under TPW's plan, which has been submitted to the Legislative Budget Board. But the remaining money in a merit-pay program that rewards outstanding employees would be eliminated — saving the agency \$3,780,000. More than

See **CUTS**, Page 18



# Let The Good Times Roll



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## CONSERVATION

# Public mute at TPW hearing

More people speaking out online, state says

By Ralph Wingham  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

When someone throws a party and no one shows up, some might call it a social disaster.

When Texas Parks and Wildlife officials arrange a public hearing on proposed changes to the state's hunting and fishing regulations and nobody shows up, they just move on to the next hearing.

"Having nobody attend the public hearings is happening pretty frequently, especially since more people are using the Internet," said Robert Macdonald, regulations coordinator for TPW. "We feel like we still need to have the public hearings because we don't want to appear to be forcing people to rely on the Internet to offer their comments."

"We use to arrange to have public hearings in every county in the early '90s. That took a lot of time and even then attendance was normally low."

Depending upon the issues under consideration, and with a goal of covering major population areas, a smaller number of hearings are organized during the public comment period under the current hearing scheduling.

"If there is not anything on the agenda to punch anyone's button, we really don't expect a big turnout," he said.

The main issue on the agenda of the San Antonio hearing, held Feb. 15 as the first of 13 hearings scheduled across the state through March



**HAVE YOUR SAY:** Mule deer hunting is one topic Texas Parks and Wildlife is taking comments on ahead of a decision by the TPW Commission in April. Photo by USFWS.

4, concerned the expansion of mule deer hunting opportunities in the Trans Pecos region. There, hunters in Dawson and Wheeler counties might be allowed to hunt mule deer.

Hearing officials in San Antonio waited 20 minutes for any member of the public to walk through the door of the National Shooting Sports Complex Clubhouse in western Bexar County. When no one did, they packed their equipment and left.

"Unless there is a big argument about an issue, it is a lot easier and more efficient for people to go online and make their comments," said Steve Lightfoot, who handles media relations for wildlife and fisheries topics for TPW.

"There has been a big shift in how we receive comments, with a lot more coming in online," he said.

Lightfoot added that all of the hearings are well publicized, with TPW issuing press releases to news media.

"The local media will usually publish the notices as a public service," he said.

Lightfoot said that providing the opportunity for the public to make comments at the hearings can be challenging in some cases.

"From time to time, we turn out a crowd at the hearings and sometimes they can get pretty hostile," he said.

Macdonald said that if 10 to 20 people attend a public hearing, that is considered a good turnout.

"We are pretty sensitive to hearing from the public because our revenue comes from the hunting and fishing community," he said. "Having the public hearings is what we feel we need to do to go that extra mile."

The TPW Commission will vote on the proposed changes at the commission's April 1 public hearing in Austin. The Web site for comments is [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us), and comments will be taken by phone at (800) 792-1112.

## Outdoor News in Brief

### Ozarka gives to DU for Texas work

Long known for quenching the thirst of parched drinkers, one of the country's largest water bottlers recently donated money to help keep Texas ducks wet, too.

Ozarka Brand Natural Spring Water donated \$30,000 to Ducks Unlimited for wetland conservation efforts in Texas. The partnership is designed to benefit wetlands throughout Texas and around Ozarka's facility in Hawkins.

"Ozarka fully recognizes the importance of wetlands to protecting clean water as well as to waterfowl and wildlife habitat," Sean Stone, DU director of development said. "They practice sustainable water management, utilizing the resource responsibly while ensuring an ample supply is available to support a healthy wetlands environment. Expanding on that environmental stewardship, Ozarka's generous grant will not only improve wetlands surrounding their own facility, but will also support wetland restoration efforts along the Texas Gulf Coast."

Ozarka's bottling facility is located on a 2,500-acre site containing an abundance of high quality springs and spring-fed forested wetlands.

"Our bottling operations in Hawkins only use a small portion of water for bottling, leaving the majority to supply the wetlands downstream," said David Feckley, senior natural resource manager for Ozarka. "It is our goal through this partnership to ensure these waters are managed in a way that

sustains wetlands and their associated species, and to support important wetlands conservation initiatives throughout the Lone Star State."

In Hawkins, management will improve wetland areas that provide critical habitat for migratory and wintering waterfowl and benefit breeding wood ducks and other resident waterbirds and wildlife species. Ducks Unlimited biologists and engineers expect this partnership and the associated projects to continue through 2010.

— Ducks Unlimited report

### Fly Fish Texas coming to TFFC

Many shows bring the latest in fly-fishing techniques and products to learned fly-anglers. But Fly Fish Texas, set for March 13 at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, seeks to teach neophytes the basics of casting flies to fish.

"Other shows cater to people who are already fly-fishers, but we try to introduce people to fly-fishing," said Walter McLendon of Lufkin, who has organized the show since its inception.

Fly Fish Texas emphasizes hands-on learning and application of newly acquired skills. Speakers will detail where fish are and how to fish for them. The program will include presentations on fly-fishing locations such as Caddo Lake and the Hill Country.

Participants will be able to fish in the center's waters to try out their new skills.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

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# NATIONAL

## USFWS director dies in Colorado on trip

The director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sam D. Hamilton, died suddenly Feb. 20 in Colorado while on a ski trip. He was 54.

The cause was reportedly heart trouble.

"We are all saddened by the loss of our dear friend and colleague Sam Hamilton," said Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Thomas Strickland in a press release. "A dedicated Fish and Wildlife Service employee for more than 30 years, Sam brought more than just a wealth of experience to the job, he brought courage and outstanding leadership."

Hamilton worked in Texas earlier in his career. He led the USFWS's Austin office during the early 1990s, when hot issues included endangered species and preserving Barton Springs, according to the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Hamilton is survived by his wife, Becky, his sons Sam Jr. and Clay, and a grandson, Davis, all of Atlanta, Ga.

— Staff report

## S.D. minor league team trades canary

Who knows why the minor league baseball team in Sioux Falls, S.D., picked the canary to be its mascot in the first place. It's a popular bird, for sure, but fans could have been legitimately asking whether its appropriate for the area, one of the most popular regions in the country for hunting pheasants.

So the Sioux Falls Canaries Baseball Club recently dropped the yellow mascot in favor of their ring-necked cousins. Now the field are the Fighting

Pheasants. The ring-necked pheasant is also the state bird.

"We felt the time was right to give the franchise a new identity," said Gary Weckwerth, CEO and managing partner of Sioux Falls Sports, on the team's Web site. "Naming the club the 'Fighting Pheasants' brings more identity to our state for obvious reasons. The Canaries have historical baseball value in Sioux Falls, but it really didn't show an identity of our state, where the popularity of pheasant hunting does. It also keeps the baseball lore in place because of the Aberdeen Pheasants, the former Baltimore Orioles minor league affiliate. We also felt it is one of the great sports names that didn't exist and something the people of Sioux Falls and the state of South Dakota can identify with ... plus the pheasant is just a lot tougher and meaner bird."

— Staff report

## Man climbs fences, kills penned deer

An Oklahoma man recently lost his hunting license forever and was ordered to pay restitution for killing a breeder buck in a pen, according to NewsOK.com.

Justin Ray McDaniel, a 25-year-old from Newalla, Okla., told the judge he climbed fences about 3 a.m. one morning in November 2008 to reach the deer, called Pretty Boy. He shot it with his bow.

Pretty Boy's owner and breeder, Mark Kwitowski and Mike Chain, said the trophy deer, could have generated from about \$500,000 to \$1.2 million in income for them had it not been killed. The news site did not give the deer's antler score. A photo on the site shows the atypical antlers with heavy mass and multiple points.

The restitution ordered to be paid by McDaniel comes to \$33,000. He will also be on probation for 10

years and have to spend 10 days, non-consecutively, incarcerated.

"People like you really shouldn't be hunters," NewsOK quoted Judge Jerry Bass as telling McDaniel.

— Staff report

## Average 14.19-lbs. sack in Oklahoma

The average winning weight at Oklahoma bass fishing tournaments in 2009 was 14.19 pounds, the highest average on record according to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Reports were received from 439 tournaments in 2009, which is up from the 405 submitted in 2008 but still down from the average of more than 700 before 2005.

The all-time high average winning weight of 14.19 pounds for tournaments in 2009 surpasses last year's record by more than a pound.

According to the 2009 report, the heaviest one-day, five-bass limit weighed 31.78 pounds, caught at Arbuckle Lake, up from last year's heaviest haul of 28.73 pounds, also from Arbuckle. The largest bass reported from tournaments was 12.18 pounds from McGee Creek. Arbuckle, however, reported the most bass weighing more than 8 pounds. This south-central lake produced 15 bass better than 8 pounds in tournaments that sent in reports.

— Oklahoma Wildlife Department report

## Record number of bear taken in Ark.

Arkansas hunters took more bears during the 2009-10 season than ever before in the state's recent history.

More than 530 bears were harvested, 130 more bears than the second highest total, taken during the 2007-08 season.

Bear program coordinator Myron Means said the main reason for the record harvest was the low availability of natural foods.

"Baiting for bears is very effective where there's not a lot of available food in their natural habitat," Means said.

The 2009 ice storms destroyed most of the mast crop in the northern parts of Arkansas, forcing bears to look for other food sources, Means said.

Johnson and Van Buren counties were the two top counties for bear hunters. In Johnson County, 64 bears were harvested, and 51 bears were taken in Van Buren County. Archery was the favorite method for hunters who harvested a bear.

— Arkansas Game and Fish Commission report

## New blue cat record caught in Georgia

Angler Earnest Timpson of Edison, Ga., reeled in the new state record blue catfish from Lake Walter F. George on Feb. 2, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

The fish weighed 80 pounds, 4 ounces, beating the former state record by more than 5 pounds. The previous record weighed in at 75 pounds and was caught in 2008 from a private pond near Carrollton, Ga., by Tyler Dodson.

"It is always exciting for anyone to reel in a state record catch as it reminds us that Georgia is such a fantastic place for anglers because there are numerous fishing opportunities and resources available, from big rivers and reservoirs to small neighborhood lakes," said Division Fisheries Chief John Biagi. "The two most recent anglers to have held this blue catfish record also show that age is not a factor in landing a state record — Dodson was 15 years old, and Timpson is 67."

— Georgia Department of Natural Resources report

### LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

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# Outdoor Texas Camp

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## HUNTING



**SALES WITH A POINT:** Mike Thomas buys shed antlers from ranches and turns them into chew toys for dogs. The antlers do not splinter when chewed. Photo by Jayme Rutledge, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

# Forget the fat, chew on these

Texas makers turn shed antlers into long-lasting dog chews

By Jayme Rutledge  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Mike Thomas was at a buddy's house watching football and enjoying a beer a few years back when he was hit by a bullet of inspiration. He watched, fascinated, as his buddy's Labrador retriever chewed on a discarded deer antler.

"I just kinda went, 'holy moly!'" said Thomas, 48, who co-owns QT Dogs, one of two pet supply businesses in Dallas that package and sell antlers as dog chews.

Thomas began hunting down sources of antlers for what soon developed into Antlerz, the company's most popular product, which is sold wholesale to distributors and retailers nationwide.

Another Dallas-based brand, Lucky Buck Antler Chews and Wafers, was launched at Odyssey Pets, a pet boutique in North Dallas owned by the Redwine family — Sherry, JoAnn and Bill — and Mike Doan, 47.

The chews are naturally shed antlers from white-tailed deer and elk. They are gathered on ranches all over the U.S., including Texas.

Texas hunters know that antlers are hard bone and designed for self-defense and challenging other bucks during the autumn mating season. Hormonal changes in late winter prompt bucks to shed their antlers once a year and begin regrowing a new rack.

But hunters might not know the racks don't go to waste in the wild. Beavers, mice, nutria and other woodland creatures often gobble up them up, absorbing the calcium, phosphorous, protein and vitamins stored inside. The dense bone also helps groom teeth.

The attraction is the same for dogs.

"They smell something we don't," said 26-year-old Sherry Redwine.

That smell triggers an instinctual reaction, Thomas said.

"Antler has been in the canine culinary palate in the past," Thomas said. "But it hasn't been there for so long that when they smell it, and they lick it, they taste it, I think it unlocks something primal in the back of their little brains."

But a few breeds prefer to gnaw on a tried-and-true soft toy.

"I'd say 80 percent of dogs get into the antlers," Doan said.

Redwine agreed.

"Your toy poodle may not go for it, but your dachshunds and Labs love 'em," she said.

The chews don't break or splinter, and dogs whittle them down over time.

"It's a great pacifier," Thomas said.

Lucky Buck chews are craft-grade, the same high-quality antlers used to make chandeliers, furniture, handgun grips and knife handles. They are shipped pre-cut and cleaned from the Northwest. Antlerz are weathered and have a more "desic-

See **ANTLERS**, Page 20



**COME AND GET IT:** Ranch managers have different strategies for placing feeders. Some use several on their spreads, sometimes more than one at the same blind, while others opt for a few. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

# Too many feeders?

Formulas for how many per acre vary from ranch to ranch

By Ralph Winingham  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Putting on the feed bag for white-tailed deer in Texas, particularly when using feeders filled with corn, has some wildlife biologists worried about hunters offering deer too much of a bad thing.

Hunting ranches in some areas have deer feeders that sprout up like weeds along every fence row and senders or spread out like the spokes of a wheel from deer blinds.

These corn dispensers are meant to attract deer within shooting or viewing range, but they are instead provid-

See **FEEDERS**, Page 24

# Oak wilt not the end for wildlife

Trees may suffer, but game animals find other food

By Bill Miller  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The official climatologist of Texas has declared the state's drought is officially over, giving hunters the hope of seeing lush landscapes when they start filling their feeders this summer.

But if among the green canopies they notice leaves with dull yellows and browns more suited for the fall of the year, they'll be looking at a fatal disease.

Oak wilt is a scourge that afflicts various species of oak, including live oak, from North Central Texas to the Hill Country. Cases have also been confirmed in Southeast Texas, West Texas and the Panhandle.

Infected trees lose their leaves and die in about one to six months, victims of a fungus that clogs the xylem, which conducts water throughout a tree.

"If water doesn't get to her leaves, she starves to death," said Renee Burks of Meridian, a staff forester for the Texas Forest Service.

"It has been here," she added, "since God knows when — way before the turn of the last century — but it has been more active in Central Texas over the last 20 years."

Rampant oak wilt can put a dent in property values, and fewer trees also



**WITHERING:** Lighter-colored leaves at right indicate a red oak suffering from oak wilt, or blight, a fungus causing problems in Texas. Photo by the Texas Forest Service.

means less cover for wildlife such as white-tailed deer, Burks said.

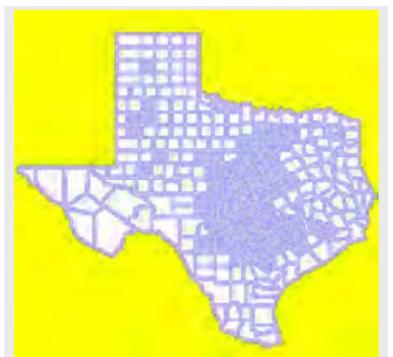
But there is more at stake than aesthetics when oak wilt strikes, said Mike Miller, a Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist in Stephenville.

"I've been on some properties that have been devastated by oak wilt, and the landowners were pretty distraught about it," Miller said. "You're losing, mainly, your mast crop production — the acorns that deer rely on."

### Replacements

It is not the end of the world if trees are lost to oak wilt.

See **OAK WILT**, Page 24



Texas counties with confirmed cases of oak wilt are shown in gray. Source: U.S. Forest Service.

## Outdoor News in Brief

### Dallas archery club's property lease revoked

The Texins Archery Club in Dallas is losing its shooting range property.

The club, which began as a program for employees of Texas Instruments, will have to relocate from its 8-acre site, which is owned by the electronics manufacturer, according to a letter to members from club president Bob Barnette.

"This was a total, complete surprise," Barnette wrote. "I had no inkling whatsoever that this was coming."

Barnette said in his letter that a TI representative did not say why the company wants the property back. The company declined to comment because the appropriate representative was not available.

The wooded site, which the club has used rent-free since the 1960s, sits near the company headquarters at the intersection of the Interstate 635 and U.S. 75 freeways in northern Dallas.

"I spoke several times today with TI's Manager of North American Real Estate (who sent the notice)," Barnette wrote. "She explained that TI is re-evaluating all of its real estate holdings and how they are used."

It is bound on one side by train tracks of a Dallas Area Rapid Transit light rail line, by the I-635 freeway on another and a cemetery on another.

"I asked about extending the lease, paying higher rent, buying the land from them, basically is anything possible to allow us to stay," Barnette wrote. "Didn't get anywhere — their decision is final and not reversible."

The club's deadline for leaving the property is March 17. Barnette indicated the club, which has 250 members, will look for a new home.

"Hopefully we can make a new arrangement quickly such that we minimize the club's 'down time'," he wrote. "Who knows, maybe we will end up with an even better setup."

— Thomas Phillips



**HOME WANTED:** The Texins Archery Club is set to vacate its range site in Dallas by March 17. The property's owner, Texas Instruments, which leased the property to the club for free, told TAC it must leave and has not announced its plans for the site. Photo by LSON.

provide access to the great outdoors for anyone," according to a press release from the organization.

The Red River Longbeards Chapter of Burkburnett and the Pease River Chapter of Crowell received the Best Special Event Award at NWTF's 34th annual National Convention and Sport Show for their work with the group's Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF program.

"We've been involved with Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF for about five years," said Gibby Gibson, volunteer with the Red River Longbeards Chapter. "We have a passion for helping disabled military veterans, and this year we were able to host nine at our event."

Kimberly Foster, volunteer with the Pease River Chapter, added, "Winning the award was kind of overwhelming for me; I'm not sure it's really sunk in. The award is great, but the time we got to spend outdoors with the disabled veterans was just awesome."

Wheelin' Sportsmen helps people with disabilities spend time outdoors. In 2009, Wheelin' Sportsmen hosted 378 events nationwide that helped more than 8,000 participants enjoy a day of fun in the outdoors.

"Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF emphasizes all the abilities that our members possess, not their disabilities," said Illana Burkhart, Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF program coordinator. "The Red River Longbeards and Pease River chapters have taken the lead in their area for helping outdoor enthusiasts with disabilities enjoy being outside."

— National Wild Turkey Federation report

### Texas chapters receive national NWTF award

Two of the National Wild Turkey Federation's Texas chapters recently received an award from the national office "for going the extra mile to

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## FISHING

# Any given Thursday — is trout day

## Doctor takes one day a week for fish medicine

By Aaron Reed

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Any given Thursday, Corpus Christi physician Bill Albarado trades in his doctor's coat and stethoscope for wading boots and a handmade, basswood plug. It's a schedule he's kept more than half his life, since 1978.

The odd Sunday, too, will find him stalking trout on the shores of the fabled King Ranch along the Upper Laguna Madre. Clear water, abundant sea grass and scattered potholes often add up to multiple shots at what Albarado calls "the big girls."

Ask him about his experiences chasing trout on the middle Texas coast over the last three decades, and the 63-year-old doctor's voice warms noticeably.

"You never know what you're going to come up on," he said. "There's always the thought that you're going to come across one that's going to make 35-plus inches.

"It's just neat to see that big fish either sunning itself on top of the water or laying down there in that grass bed. It's always fun to see how she responds to that lure. And I do like to eat fish."

On a Sunday in late February, a fishing Sunday, Albarado said, he caught "a fair number of trout,"



**FISHING DOCTOR:** Bill Albarado, a physician, loves to catch speckled trout on the Texas Coast.

then adds that he's catching fish up to 28 inches.

"It's beginning to improve," he said. "The fish are beginning to move up to the shallows."

He averages a couple of trout 30 inches or better most years; a 30-inch spotted seatrout is considered a fish of a lifetime for most Texas anglers.

And with all that time on the water, he's

formed some notions about what's happening in his favorite fishery.

"There have been certain years that I would consider banner years; 1996 was one of those," he said. "You could literally get into large groups of fish, and many of them would be 28 (inches long) or better. We've had years that weren't that too."

Weather, bait, the number of fish in those year classes ... weigh that against salinity, red tide, brown tide, how well forage species such as shrimp or mullet or menhaden are doing; a lot of factors go into the making of a "banner year."

Albarado is one of about 30 anglers who claim membership in something called the Ananias Trout and Redfish Club. Named after a Biblical teller of tall tales, the association of sightcasting enthusiasts got its start in 1946, when artificial lures were still an oddity on the Texas coast. Because there were so few offered then, many members made their own — a tradition that persists to this day.

"We've got people like Mike Blackwood, who, regardless of what we try to catch, he's going to make the lure to catch it," Albarado said with a laugh. "Mike makes a fly that he uses as a fly but he casts on a regular baitcasting rod. It's specifically for drum."

With emeritus members now in their eighth decade and still wade fishing, the Ananias Club — and members like Albarado — pack a lot of

See **TROUT DOC**, Page 25

## Still stolen

Guitars that were stolen from the Friends of Purtil Creek that have not been recovered carry some big names in entertainment:

- Willie Nelson
- David Allan Coe
- Buddy Guy
- Dan Aykroyd
- Jim Belushi
- Trace Adkins
- Randy Travis
- Tony Stewart

# Guitars stolen from fish friends

## Instruments raffled to raise funds for nonprofit

By Thomas Phillips

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Brian Hughes has been singing the blues a cappella-style since Christmas.

The radio host and outdoorsman had 87 guitars stolen Christmas Eve from a Garland storage facility. The guitars were not part of his personal collection. Sixty-nine of them were autographed by famous guitarists, and they were raffled to raise money for the Friends of Purtil Creek.

The nonprofit uses the money — \$1,000 per guitar — to help introduce people to fishing.

"It was a one-stop shop for the guys who broke in," Hughes said.

Stolen guitars that have not been recovered had notable signatures on them: Willie Nelson and David Allan Coe signed one together, as did the Blues Brothers, Jim Belushi and Dan Aykroyd, and individual guitars were signed by Randy Travis, Buddy Guy, Trace Adkins and Tony Stewart, among others.

"Still haven't seen those; probably won't," Hughes said.

One man has been arrested. Another is still at large.

Jason Bruce, 31, of Dallas was arrested during a traffic stop Feb. 3 and charged with burglary of a building, failure to identify as a fugitive and for warrants from Dallas police.

Police are still searching for Robert Allison Davis.

Garland police have recovered 66 guitars. Three or four more guitars were turned in after news broke about the burglary. Apparently some were given away as Christmas gifts, and some recipients might not know they are in possession of stolen property.

"We really thought that we were very lucky to get that many recovered like we did," said Joe Harn, a spokesman for the Garland Police Department.

Hughes said 69 of the stolen guitars had autographs, collected by Hughes when the musicians visited the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Artists who have signed guitars for him include Brad Paisley, Al Di Meola and Dave Mason.

The autographs were collected one at a time over the last five years. To obtain them, Hughes starts with a concert schedule to see what musicians are coming to town.

Some sign gladly.

"You can tell they genuinely want

# Hot, handmade trout lures

## Corpus Christi man makes lures he loves

By Thomas Phillips

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

It's the hottest lure in Corpus Christi that nobody fishes.

Ernie Butler, a one-time outlaw commercial fisherman — by his own admission — makes a speckled trout lure so prized by folks who know him that many never touch the water.

"Everybody I give one, they hoard them, and (they're) hanging them up in their house," said Butler, 56, who owns Snoopy's Pier, a landmark restaurant in Corpus Christi.

Maybe people are reluctant to fish them because they are hard to come by. Maybe it's because they're a beautiful throwback to the days before mass production.

Mass produced Butler's lures are not. Each one takes about a week or a week and a half of work. Butler can make two or three of the twitch baits in a couple of weeks, he said.

Butler's lures, named Ol' Madre Lures, though they are not for sale commercially, are similar to the Vamp lures made by Heddon.

Ol' Madres are handmade of maple, each turned on a lathe by Butler.

After the lathe, he carves the eye sockets and nose and countersinks a lead weight.

Balancing the lure was one of the hardest parts of lure making to learn.

The weight must properly balanced for the lure to swim correctly.

After that comes the painting: six coats of primer and six coats of color, usually white and stoplight metallic red.

Then he hangs the hooks, sets the eyes and attaches any other hardware.

"It's a tedious, tedious process," Butler said.

At that point the lure is assembled, but, like any other production facility — which in Butler's case is a small shop on the Intracoastal Waterway — the lure must pass inspection.

For Butler, that means casting it in for a test run.

"I get to tank test them right here on the Intracoastal," he said.



**CRAFTED COLLECTION:** Ernie Butler gives away many of the twitch baits he carves for catching speckled trout. Photo by David Sikes, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

See **LURES**, Page 21

See **GUITARS**, Page 21

**For the records**



**CATFISH AND TILAPIA:** Texas anglers recently landed two new state records.

Above, **Colton Austin**, a seventh-grader from Hutto, landed the junior state catch and release record blue catfish Jan. 29 at Lake Tawakoni. The fish bottomed out a 50-pound scale, and its length was recorded at 48.375 inches.

Photo by Ray Austin.



Right, **Michael Sample** of Humble caught a 7-pound, 12-ounce blue tilapia Jan. 31 at Lake Houston to take the record for the species.

The previous record weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces. Sample caught the record fish using a pink and chartreuse jig.

Photo by Donna Sample.

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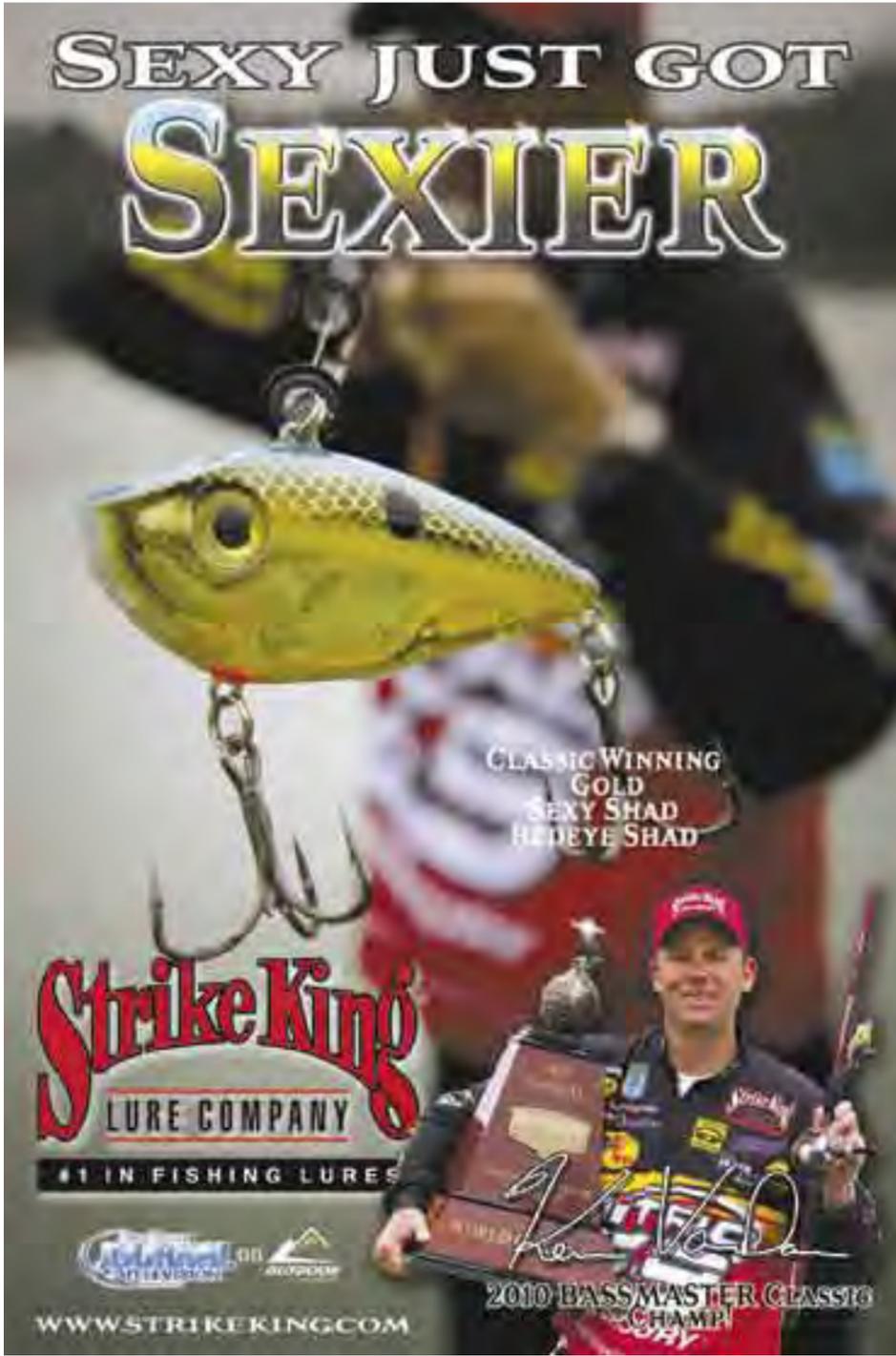
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# The other Classic fishing tournament

## One Bass Pro store hosts a tournament to go with annual event

By Thomas Phillips  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

If any competitor forgets a certain lure, line, rod or reel at the bass tournament March 13 on Lake Ray Hubbard, all is not lost. He or she can check with the host — and probably score a good deal.

The “host” in this case will be Bass Pro Shops in Garland, which is located on the water at Ray Hubbard. The store is organizing the tournament to cap its Spring Fishing Classic annual sale and celebration.

“Bass Pro Shops in Garland is very excited this year not only for the Spring Fishing Classic that we have every year, but this will also be the first year we are having a bass tournament during the event,” said Bill Megelich, the store’s manager. “What makes the tournament so special and sets (it) aside from our other stores is that we are located on top of Lake Ray Hubbard in Garland and will be the only Bass Pro having this event during their Classic.”

The tournament is open to anyone in individual and team categories in two divisions — prizes and cash.

Five prize packages will be awarded, including one for the biggest bass of the day. The top five anglers in the cash division will receive checks.

To enter the prize division, anglers must bring a Bass Pro Shops receipt totaling a minimum of \$50 dated from Feb. 26 through March 12 to the reel counter in the fishing department. To enter the cash payout division, anglers must pay \$100 at the reel counter in the fishing department.

The deadline for registration is March 12. The Spring Fishing Classic is held at every



**FISH FINDERS:** Attendees watch a demonstration at a Bass Pro Shops store. The outdoor retailer will offer similar demonstrations during its Spring Fishing Classic, which begins Feb. 26. Photo by Bass Pro Shops.

Bass Pro Shops store around the country, though the Garland store will be the only one hosting a fishing tournament. In addition to sale prices on merchandise, each store hosts seminars and demonstrations.

BASS will host Bassmaster University seminars, with instruction by pro anglers. Schedules vary by store, but some anglers set to appear in Texas include Takahiro Omori, Brent Chapman, Tommy Martin, Gary Klein and Cheryl Bowden.

Topics include flipping and pitching, fishing around the spawn, how to rig soft plastics and fishing heavy cover.

Fly anglers will also find something at the Classic.

Demonstrations will be given in the stores’ aquariums.

This year’s Classic dates are Feb. 26 through March 14.

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# TEXAS FISHING REPORT

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## HOT BITES

### LARGEMOUTH BASS



**BASTROP:** Good on red/white spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps.  
**COLEMAN:** Good on watermelon red soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits and on chartreuse Rat-L-Traps.  
**LIVINGSTON:** Good on crankbaits in the creeks.  
**WHITNEY:** Good on watermelon red and redbug soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits.

### WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



**CEDAR CREEK:** White bass are good on slabs.  
**FORT PHANTOM HILL:** White bass are good on live bait and shad-colored crankbaits.  
**POSSUM KINGDOM:** White bass are good on silver jiggling spoons and live bait. Stripers are good on silver spoons and shad-colored crankbaits along southern lake points.  
**AMISTAD:** Striped bass are good on slabs, white grubs and jiggling spoons up the Rio Grande. White bass are good on slabs, white grubs and jiggling spoons up the Rio Grande.

### CATFISH



**BRAUNIG:** Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheesebait and cut bait near the spillway and the discharge.  
**CALAVERAS:** Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp and cheesebait near the railroad trestle and 181 Cove.  
**FALCON:** Channel and blue catfish are excellent on shrimp, nightcrawlers, stinkbait, liver and cut bait under cormorant roosts.  
**BROWNWOOD:** Channel catfish are very good on stinkbait, minnows and frozen shrimp.  
**GRANBURY:** Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, liver and stinkbait.  
**LEWISVILLE:** Catfish are good on prepared bait and chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers.

### CRAPPIE



**BELTON:** Excellent on minnows under lights at night.  
**SWEETWATER:** Good on minnows and jigs.

**ALAN HENRY:** Water lightly stained; 45 degrees; 1.35' low. Black bass are fair on live bait and black/blue jigs and soft plastics suspended in trees. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on live bait.

**AMISTAD:** Water clear; 51 degrees; 1.76' low. Black bass are good on jigs, crankbaits, jiggling spoons and soft plastics. Catfish are good on shrimp, nightcrawlers and cheesebait over baited holes in 80-130 feet.

**ARROWHEAD:** Water lightly stained; 45 degrees; 6.03' low. Black bass are slow on crankbaits or black/blue jigs off rocky points. Crappie are fair on black and green tube jigs off the derricks in 20-30 feet. White bass are fair in shallows — watch for birds. Blue catfish are fair on cheese bait while drift fishing or anchored in 8-10 feet depth.

**BASTROP:** Water stained. Crappie are fair on minnows and green tube jigs over brush piles. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, liver, shrimp and minnows.

**BELTON:** Water stained; 49 degrees; 10.62' high. Black bass are good on minnows, spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are good on light blue jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on nightcrawlers and hot dogs.

**BOB SANDLIN:** Water stained; 42-45 degrees; 0.05' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on live minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on slabs and jiggling spoons. Catfish are fair on prepared bait.

**BRAUNIG:** Water clear; 53 degrees. Black bass are good on crankbaits and dark soft plastic worms in the reeds and near the jetty and dam. Striped bass are good on liver and shad at Dead Tree Point and near the pier and down-rigging silver and gold spoons and marble spinners near the jetty and dam. Redfish are slow. Blue catfish are good on cut bait in 15-20 feet.

**BROWNWOOD:** Water stained; 50 degrees; 6.75' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse jigs and watermelon soft plastics. Hybrid striper are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on L'il Fishies and minnows over brush piles in 10-25 feet.

**BUCHANAN:** Water murky; 51 degrees; 15.65' low. Black bass are fair suspending Rattlin' Rogues, Carolina-rigged black lizards and black/chartreuse hair jigs along ledges in 12-20 feet. Striped bass are fair. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

**CADDO:** Water murky; 40-45 degrees; 2.23' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and jigs. White bass are fair on Road Runners and minnows. Yellow bass are fair on jigs and shrimp. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and prepared bait.

**CALAVERAS:** Water clear; 53 degrees. Black bass are good on dark soft plastic worms, spinnerbaits and crankbaits around reed beds and near the dam. Striped bass are good on spoons and jigs near the crappie wall and the dam. Redfish are slow. Crappie are slow.

**CANYON LAKE:** Water murky; 49 degrees; 0.54' low. Black bass are fair on 1/8 oz. black/chartreuse hair jigs in 15-25 feet and Texas-rigged black worms on shaky jigheads along break lines and ledges. Striped bass are fair. White bass fair. Crappie are fair. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

**CEDAR CREEK:** Water stained; 41-45 degrees; 0.49' high. Black bass are fair on crankbaits, jigs and Texas rigs. Hybrid striper are fair on live bait, Sassy Shad and slabs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on prepared bait and chartreuse nightcrawlers (use Worm-Glo).

**CHOKE CANYON:** Water stained; 51 degrees; 8.61' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastic worms and lizards. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Drum are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on stinkbait in 5-10 feet. Yellow catfish are fair on live perch.

**COLETO CREEK:** Water stained; 52 degrees (71 degrees at discharge); 0.06'

high. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and red tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are fair on perch, stinkbait and frozen shrimp in 18-25 feet. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live perch in 18-25 feet.

**COLORADO CITY:** Water clear; 53 degrees; 11.89' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. Catfish are slow.

**CONROE:** Water fairly clear; 0.49' high. Black bass are fair on watermelon red and dark red soft plastics, crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Striped bass are fair on minnows and chartreuse striper jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and blue tube jigs. Catfish are fair on stinkbait, live minnows and frozen shrimp.

**COOPER:** Water off-color; 40-44 degrees; 3.19' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs, crankbaits and shaky head rigs. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows.

slow on live bait. Smallmouth bass are slow on live bait. Walleye are slow on live bait. Catfish are slow on live and prepared bait.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water stained; 50 degrees; 0.90' high. Black bass to 4 pounds are good on watermelon French Fries near the dam in 8 feet. Crappie are fair on live minnows near the dam. Bream are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on stinkbait.

**HUBBARD CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 51 degrees; 7.48' low. Black bass are fair on live bait and black/blue jigs worked along grass lines and timber. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. White bass are fair on live bait. Catfish are fair on live bait.

**JOE POOL:** Water off-color; 41-44 degrees; 2.58' high. Black bass are fair on drop-shot-rigged finesse worms, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White

## HOT SPOT



### TRINITY BAY

Trout are good for drifters working pods of shad and mullet on Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels. Redfish are good at the spillway on crabs and mullet.

White bass are fair to good on slabs. Hybrid striper are fair on slabs, live shad and Sassy Shad. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and prepared bait.

**FALCON:** Water clear; 54 degrees. Black bass are good on jigs, small soft plastics and slow rolling spinnerbaits off ledges in 17-25 feet and in pockets in 7-10 feet. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are slow.

**FAYETTE:** Water stained; 50 degrees. Black bass are fair on watermelon red, green pumpkin and redbug Carolina-rigged soft plastics off deep points. Channel and blue catfish are fair on jugslines baited with shad.

**FORK:** Water stained; 41-44 degrees; 0.15' high. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, crankbaits, Carolina rigs and heavy jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and stinkbait.

**FORT PHANTOM HILL:** Water clear; 53 degrees; 5.31' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on live bait.

**GRANBURY:** Water clear; 0.30' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon and pumpkinseed soft plastics and on chartreuse Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and green tube jigs.

**GRAPEVINE:** Water stained; 42-45 degrees; 5.59' high. Black bass are slow to fair on crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps and drop-shot rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Catfish are fair on stink bait and chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers.

**GREENBELT:** Water stained; 31 degrees; 33.01' low. Black bass are slow on Carolina-rigged green pumpkin soft plastics and live bait. Crappie are slow on jigs and minnows. White bass are

bass are fair to good on minnows and slabs. Catfish are fair on cheese bait and nightcrawlers.

**LBJ:** Water stained; 51 degrees; 0.50' low. Black bass are very good on 1/8 oz. buzz baits, Bleeding Shad Rat-L-Traps and wacky-rigged green pumpkin Whacky Sticks in 2-6 feet. White bass are fair vertically jiggling artificial minnows under birds. Crappie are good on crappie jigs and live minnows over brush piles in 12-15 feet. Channel catfish are fair on minnows under crappie docks.

**LAKE O' THE PINES:** Water stained; 41-45 degrees; 3.92' high. Black bass are fair on Texas-rigged soft plastics and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on stink bait and chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers.

**LAVON:** Water stained; 40-45 degrees; 4.36' high. Black bass are fair to good on crankbaits, Texas rigs and drop-shot rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on prepared bait.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water stained; 41-45 degrees; 1.9' high. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, medium diving crankbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Hybrid striper are fair on slabs and Sassy Shad.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water murky; 50 degrees; 1.50' high. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps and spec rigs upriver and in the north end of the lake. Crappie are good on minnows in the creeks. Blue catfish are good on shad.

**MACKENZIE:** Water lightly stained; 32 degrees; 79.42' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass and striped bass are slow on live bait. Smallmouth bass are slow.

Walleye are slow on live bait. Catfish are slow on live bait.

**MONTICELLO:** Water fairly clear; 51-85 degrees; 0.62' high. Black bass are fair to good on Rat-L-Traps, flukes and crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on prepared bait.

**O.H. IVIE:** Water lightly stained; 51 degrees; 21.78' low. Black bass are fair on slow-rolled white/blue spinnerbaits and live bait worked along channels. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on live bait. Smallmouth bass are fair on live bait. Channel catfish are good on live and cut bait.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water stained; 51 degrees; 5.37' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red soft plastics and shad-colored crankbaits off points in the Long Hollow and Caddo areas. Crappie are slow on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on live shad on points.

**PROCTOR:** Water murky; 50 degrees; 3.30' low. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows in 15-18 feet. Channel and blue catfish to 11 pounds are fair on jugslines baited with shad.

**RAY HUBBARD:** Water fairly clear; 42-45 degrees; 0.08' high. Black bass are slow on red Rattle Baits and Yum lizards. No reports on crappie. White bass are good on slabs and CC Jiggling Spoons. No reports on catfish.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water muddy; 38-41 degrees; 2.38' high. Black bass are slow. No report on crappie. White bass are slow. Catfish are slow. Buck Creek ramp closed due to high water.

**RICHLAND CHAMBERS:** Water off-color; 42-46 degrees; 0.83' high. Black bass are slow. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Hybrid striper are fair on slabs and live shad. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Water stained; 52 degrees; 0.56' low. Black bass are fair on tequila sunrise and pumpkinseed soft plastics. White bass are fair on live minnows and watermelon spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows and green tube jigs. Bream are fair on worms. Catfish are fair on frozen shrimp, live minnows and stinkbait.

**TAWAKONI:** Water fairly clear; 41-45 degrees; 0.21' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on slabs. Striped bass and hybrid striper are fair on live shad and slabs. Catfish are fair on stink bait.

**TEXOMA:** Water off-color; 40-44 degrees; 3.06' low. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, drop shot rigs and crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Striped bass are fair to good live shad and large Road Runners. Catfish are fair on cut and live shad.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water stained; 50 degrees; 1.59' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon and June bug soft plastics and on watermelon spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and chartreuse tube jigs. Bream are fair on worms. Channel and blue catfish are fair on live minnows, frozen shrimp, liver and stinkbait.

**TRAVIS:** Water murky; 52 degrees; 6.88' low. Black bass are fair on green pumpkin worms and crawfish crankbaits in 12-30 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on minnows and chrome/white jiggling spoons in 28-40 feet. Crappie are fair on minnows and blue/white tube jigs in 22-38 feet. Channel and blue catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and cut shad in 35-48 feet.

**WALTER E. LONG:** Water stained; 51 degrees. Black bass are fair on minnows and chartreuse soft plastics. Hybrid striper are fair on minnows and cut bait. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

**WHITNEY:** Water murky; 0.38' high. Striped bass are fair on minnows and white striper jigs. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are fair on frozen shrimp and stinkbait.

## SALTWATER SCENE

**NORTH SABINE:** Trout and redfish are fair while drifting mud and shell. Waders have taken better trout on the Louisiana shoreline on slow-sinking plugs.



**SOUTH SABINE:** Redfish are fair on the edge of the channel on mullet. Sheepshead and black drum are good at the jetty on live shrimp.

**BOLIVAR:** Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline on slow-sinking plugs. Black drum and redfish are good at Rollover Pass.

**EAST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline. Whiting and sand trout are good on the edge of the Intracoastal on fresh shrimp.

**WEST GALVESTON BAY:** Waders have taken trout in the mud and shell. Sheepshead, redfish and black drum are good at the jetty on shrimp and crabs.

**TEXAS CITY:** Sheepshead are fair around rock groins on live shrimp. Mangrove snapper and whiting are fair from the piers.

**FREEPORT:** Sand trout and sheepshead are good on live shrimp on the reefs. Redfish are fair to good at San Luis pass on cracked blue crabs.

**EAST MATAGORDA BAY:** Trout are fair for drifters on live shrimp over humps and scattered shell.



Redfish are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on crabs and mullet.

**WEST MATAGORDA BAY:** Redfish are fair to good on the south shoreline in the guts and bayous. Trout are fair on shell on soft plastics.

**PORT O'CONNOR:** Trout and redfish are fair on Corkies over soft mud in waist-deep water in San Antonio Bay. Redfish are fair to good at the mouths of drains on soft plastics and slow-sinking plugs.

**ROCKPORT:** Trout are fair on the edge of the ICW on glow DOA Shrimp. Redfish are fair to good on the Estes Flats and in California Hole on mullet and shrimp.



**PORT ARANSAS:** Redfish are fair to good on the East Flats on Gulps and mullet. Sand trout are good on shrimp in the channel.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Redfish are good in the Humble Channel on crabs and table shrimp. Trout are best on the edge of the flats on live shrimp and DOA Shrimp.

**BAFFIN BAY:** Trout are fair to good in mud and grass on Corkies and Catch 2000s. Trout are fair to good in the guts along the King Ranch shoreline. Redfish are fair to good in the Land Cut on natural baits.

**PORT MANSFIELD:** Redfish are fair to good on DOA Shrimp under a popping cork around grass holes. Trout are fair to good on mud along the edge of the ICW. Muddy bottoms with grass has been best for trout.



**SOUTH PADRE:** Trout and redfish are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on DOA Shrimp. Redfish, black drum and mangrove snapper are fair to good in the channel on shrimp.

**PORT ISABEL:** Snook and mangrove snapper are fair in the channel on shrimp. Trout are fair on the edge of the flats.

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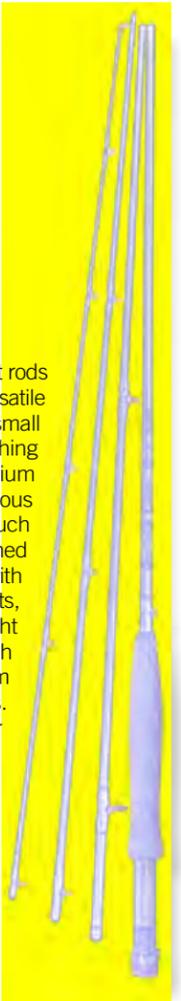
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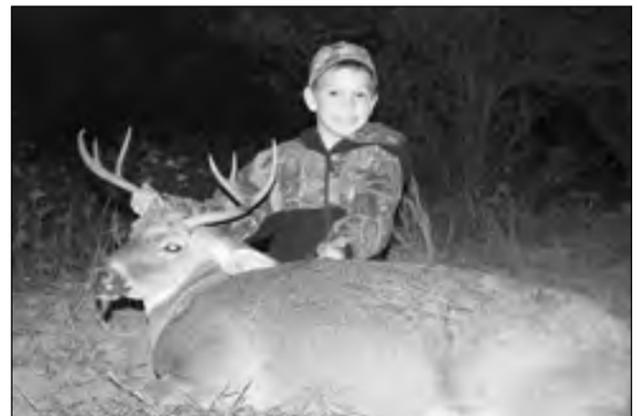
# HEROES



TREY RIGBY harvested this American bison at a ranch in Wise County using a bow.



TINA MARIE HINOJOSA, 8, of Alice harvested her first buck with a .222 while hunting with her father in South Texas. A month earlier, she also shot her first doe. Both shots were taken from more than 100 yards.



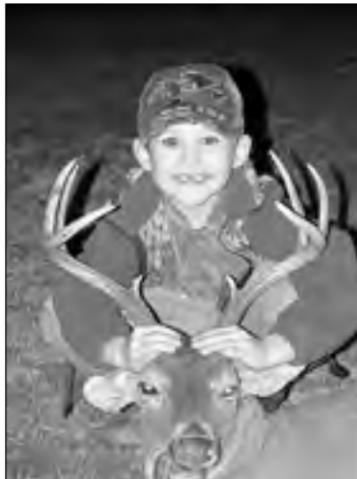
Two brothers from Lucas harvested their first bucks on the same ranch this year. COLEMAN MCKINNEY, 18, top photo, and JACK MCKINNEY, 7, were hunting in Stonewall County in November.



BRADEN FUNDERBURG, 11, of Justin harvested this 10-point buck on his family ranch near Rockwood.



SETH WILLIAMS, 8, of Laveria harvested his first hog at 70 yards using his new .17 HMR.



GARRETT HICKS, 7, took his first buck, which had eight points, near Llano on Thanksgiving night.

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Want to share hunting and fishing photos with other Lone Star Outdoor News readers? Send them to us with contact and caption information.  
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AUSTIN WHITE, 9, of South Padre Island shot his first deer, a 12-point buck, with a .243 at a ranch in southern Jim Hogg County one day before the season closed.

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## Feb. 26

**YMCA**  
Sporting clays fundraiser  
Dallas Gun Club  
(972) 393-5121, ext. 207

## Franklin County Beard Busters National Wild Turkey Federation

Fundraiser  
Purley Gates Retreat  
(903) 588-4355  
jhammond@neto.com



## Sherman-Denison Ducks Unlimited

Couples Raffle Night  
Sherman Municipal Building  
(903) 271-3299  
petelski@gmail.com

## March 3-7

**Houston Fishing Show**  
George R. Brown Convention Center  
(281) 350-2741  
www.houstonfishingshow.com

## March 3

**Houston Safari Club**  
Monthly meeting  
featuring Butch King  
HESS Club  
(713) 623-8844



## March 4

**Alamo Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation**  
Fundraiser  
Alzafar Shrine, San Antonio  
(210) 213-5339 or (210) 838-7585

## March 5-6

**Texas Deer Association**  
Spring Gala Banquet and  
Superior Genetics Deer Auction  
Embassy Suites Outdoor World,  
Grapevine  
(940) 390-9723  
www.texasdeerassociation.com



## March 5

**Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute**  
Deer Associates Meeting  
Hyatt Regency Hill Country, San Antonio  
www.ckwri.tamuk.edu

## Hunt County Ducks Unlimited

Fundraiser  
Texas National Guard Armory, Greenville  
(903) 455-1631  
bush\_man70@hotmail.com

## March 6

**Arlington Ducks Unlimited**  
Casino Night fundraiser  
Celebrations  
(817) 368-1070  
or (817) 832-8078



## March 11

**Park Cities Quail**  
Fundraiser  
Frontiers of Flight Museum, Dallas  
www.parkcitiesquail.org

## Lake Lavon Ducks Unlimited

Fundraiser  
Swingin' D Ranch, Parker  
(214) 207-9325 or (972) 922-8665  
paul.romano@e-hps.com

## March 13

**Texas Parks and Wildlife**  
Fly Fish Texas  
Introduction to fly-fishing  
Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Athens  
(903) 676-2277

## March 19-21

**North Texas Chapter Safari Club International**  
Outdoor Expo  
Bass Pro Shops, Grapevine  
(940) 612-1928  
info@scinorthtexas.com

## March 27-28

**Bowhunter education**  
Farmersville  
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## Cuts

Continued from Page 1

\$7 million has already been spent on the program, designed to put employee salaries on a par with those of wildlife agencies in other states, said Gene McCarty, deputy executive director for administration.

TPW's biggest cut, however, would come in the Capital Construction Fund. TPW uses the fund to build and repair facilities such as law enforcement offices and facilities at wildlife management areas and fish hatcheries. McCarty said \$8,399,902, or 95 percent of the fund, would be axed if the plan is put into effect.

"Keeping people like game wardens and wildlife biologists in the field and meeting our management responsibilities is our priority," McCarty said. "We will make the cuts if needed and hopefully get them restored at a later date."

An outdoors advocate called the cuts "deep," but he said they won't affect construction of the John D. Parker East Texas Fish Hatchery below Sam Rayburn Reservoir. The hatchery, which replaces the Jasper Fish Hatchery, is scheduled to open this year and provide 45 acres of fish production ponds capable of delivering up to 4.5 million fish annually for stocking in Texas' waters.

Other projects, though, will feel the impact, said Kirby Brown, vice president of public policy for the Texas Wildlife Association.

"Texas Parks and Wildlife had the authority to do some things, particularly involving combating golden algae," Brown said. "We'll just have to see what happens over the next couple of years."

Although no parks would close under TPW's proposed budget cuts, an authorized off-road park in the Panhandle along the Canadian River would bite the dust.

The move would save TPW \$495,713. "Why open a new park if you're not going to have the funds to maintain and operate it?" McCarty asked.

Brown supports the cut, saying the off-road park amounts to an unfunded mandate.

"That project was not completely funded by the Legislature," Brown said. "It would be a drain on the agency. It needs to come off the projects list."

In TPW's contingency plan, nonprofit conservation groups working with the agency

## Possible cuts

Texas Parks and Wildlife might have to cut its budget if Gov. Rick Perry gives the word. Under TPW's plan, a couple categories would be cut the most.

# \$8,399,902

**Capital Construction Fund**  
Pays for: construction and repair at TPW facilities, such as law enforcement offices.

# \$3,780,000

**Merit-pay program**  
Pays for: extra compensation for employees.

would see a reduction in available funds raised through the sale of specialty license plates. For example, two Ducks Unlimited license plates (Blue Heron and Classic) are sold for \$30, with \$22 going through TPW to support the group's efforts to conserve and restore wetlands.

Under the planned cuts, though, \$15,000 would be withheld from Ducks Unlimited — as part of a proposed savings to TPW of \$131,000.

A Ducks Unlimited spokesman said TPW was merely cutting the funding authority for DU's license plate fund from \$68,000 to \$53,000. The move won't affect DU projects since the group only takes about \$25,000 annually from the fund.

"It's not built up to the extent that it can carry a project," said Todd Merendino, manager of conservation programs for Texas Ducks Unlimited. "But if a bid comes in a tad high, say for a water control project, it's nice to be able to draw into the state license plate fund to get us over the hump."

Dick Davis, executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, said his nonprofit organization doesn't plan to "make up" any TPW cuts.

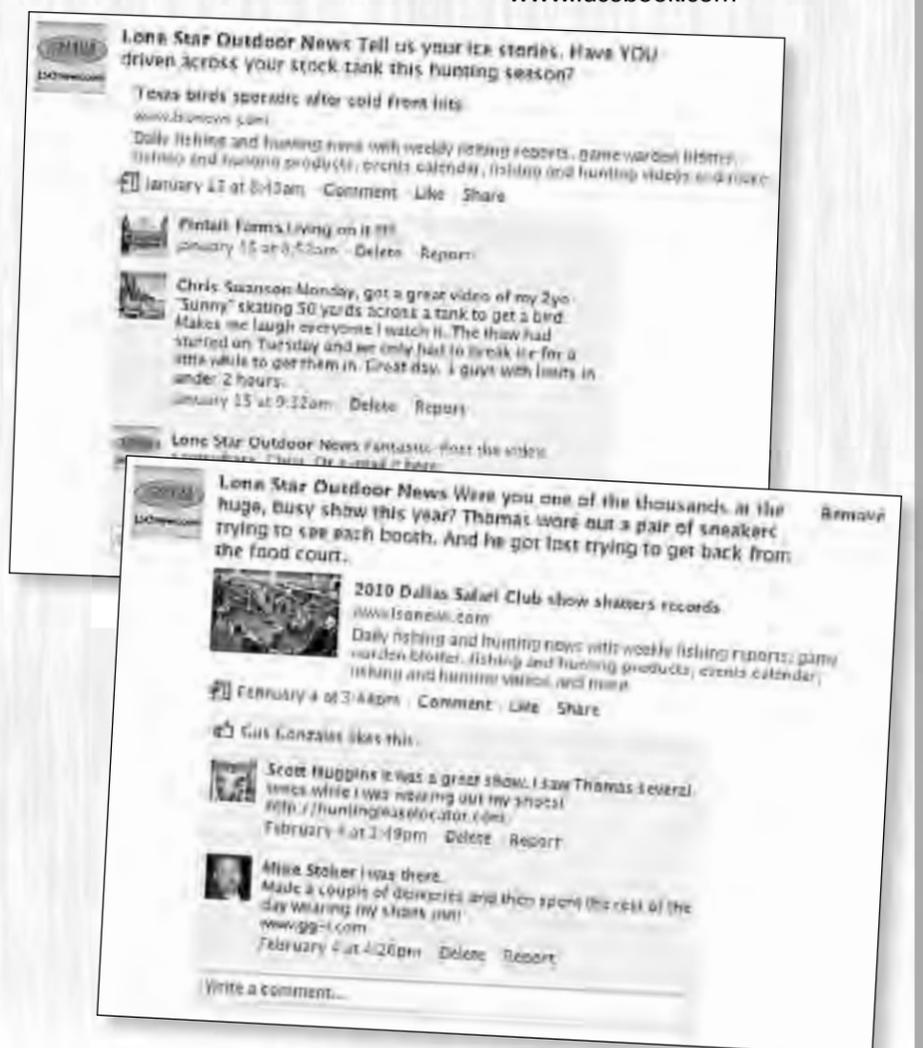
"The department faces cuts on an almost annual basis," Davis said. "If we were to try to address it this year, we'd just have to repeat our efforts next year. I don't think we could raise \$25 million in 12 months anyway. It took us almost three years to raise \$10 million for the new game warden center."

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# Texoma fishing guides in limbo over license regulation

Coast Guard still allowing guides to voluntarily comply

By Shannon Drawe  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Many Lake Texoma fishing guides are adrift over when the Coast Guard will begin enforcing new regulations on the lake.

Texoma came under scrutiny after a death there in early 2009. The Coast Guard discovered after the incident that "some commercial vessels were not inspected as required by U.S. law," according to the Coast Guard.

They immediately began a program to voluntarily bring fishing guides into compliance. Guides and other commercial boat operators could stay on the water as long as they weren't considered extremely substandard.

But the Coast Guard has not begun widespread enforcement of the regulations. The agency initially said it would have a grace period until the end of 2009 and begin more strict enforcement in early 2010.

"We're still going through the education portion because there's so many people out there who need to come into compliance," said Chief Warrant Officer Lionel Bryant in Houston.

The Coast Guard does not have a date set for when aggressive enforcement will begin. Rumors of enforcement beginning this spring are not true, Bryant said.

When heightened enforcement begins, Bryant said, the Coast Guard will notify guides.

"We don't want to stop commerce,"



**HOLDING PATTERN:** Fishing guides at Lake Texoma are waiting for the Coast Guard to begin widespread enforcement of license rules. Photo by Lone Star Outdoor News.

Bryant said. "We don't want to upset their lifestyle or their income, but it's a federally regulated waterway, and there are certain things we're obligated to do."

"For those of us who have gone to all the trouble to get into compliance, we want to see enforcement," said Texoma guide James Allen. "If the Coast Guard stopped 50 or 60 people the first holiday weekend, I think that would show they are serious about enforcement on Texoma, and the word would get out quickly — to those who are waiting to see."

To be in compliance, a guide must have a Merchant Mariner Credential, a Transportation Workers Identification Credential, Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels Coast Guard License and have passed the Oklahoma Boating Safety Exam.

Some of the requirements for these credentials include drug testing, CPR and first-aid training, a physical and state fishing licenses for both Texas and Oklahoma.

Allen sums it up this way: "I'm legal,

but I don't like it. The basic attitude of the majority of guides here is wait and see. For those of us who have gone to the trouble to get all the necessary certifications, we'll be upset if the Coast Guard does nothing to enforce these standards, and the guides who are waiting to see will be upset when they do start writing tickets."

About mid-year, U.S. Reps. Dan Boren and Tom Cole and Sens. Jim Inhofe and Tom Coburn, all of Oklahoma, began discussions with the Coast Guard over licensing and the best way to implement regulations.

Allen said he received three phone calls from weekend guides who are selling their gear and calling it quits.

"I think it ended up costing me \$1,000, so the cost really isn't too bad for a full-time guide," he said.

"The biggest problem for some of the guides is the physical. Some of the older guys have high blood pressure, may be color blind or can't hear well enough, so they're out. And I know the drug testing will knock a few out as well."

## Trout

Continued from Page 1

nice weather recently.

"This is prime time for me," said upper coast angler Allen Williams. "If you want to catch the bigger spawning females, you better be willing to brave the elements."

And braving the elements is exactly what Williams has done as of late, fishing waters that are still in the 40s and low 50s. Despite the cold, he has been catching good numbers of fish but reporting no real size as of yet. He said bigger fish might start biting with a couple more days of pleasant weather.

Williams said, "I would normally be spending a lot of time in West Galveston and in Christmas (bays) this time of year, but the run-off is way too bad this year so I am spending quite a bit of time in East Matagorda. Don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining. We needed the rain in the worst way, and I am really hoping it is going to help set us up for a great summer."

Like Williams, many are hoping that the soggy winter is going to help bring bays and estuaries back into balance and allow bait, both finfish and crustaceans, to begin to replenish after severe drought conditions seemed to have had dramatic effects on production.

Mid-coast angler Brett Blanchard is sharing the same optimism as many other anglers after reporting a slower than normal year last year.

"The rains should help," he said. "We just need the weather to straighten up so we can get out there and find out."

The hopes of all Texas trout anglers seem universal. That refrain has been echoed up and down the coast. But even more optimism is being displayed by some lower coast anglers in regards to the effects that the reduction in the trout limit from 10 to five in the Lower Laguna Madre a couple of years back will have on the fishing in the months to come.

## Trout reports

**NORTH SABINE:** Fair while drifting mud and shell. Waders have taken better trout on the Louisiana shoreline on slow-sinking plugs.

**BOLIVAR:** Fair to good on the south shoreline on slow-sinking plugs.

**TRINITY BAY:** Good for drifters working pods of shad and mullet.

**EAST GALVESTON BAY:** Fair to good on the south shoreline on Corkies and MirrOlures.

**WEST GALVESTON BAY:** Waders have taken trout in the mud and shell on MirrOlures and Corkies.

**EAST MATAGORDA BAY:** Fair for drifters on live shrimp over humps and scattered shell.

**WEST MATAGORDA BAY:** Fair on shell on soft plastics.

**PORT O'CONNOR:** Fair on Corkies over soft mud in waist-deep water in San Antonio Bay.

**ROCKPORT:** Fair on the edge of the Intracoastal Waterway on glow DOA Shrimp.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Best on the edge of the flats on live shrimp and DOA Shrimp.

**BAFFIN BAY:** Fair to good in mud and grass on Corkies and Catch 2000s.

**PORT MANSFIELD:** Fair to good on mud along the edge of the ICW on Corkies and MirrOlures. Muddy bottoms with grass has been best for trout.

**SOUTH PADRE:** Fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on DOA Shrimp.

**PORT ISABEL:** Fair on the edge of the flats on Corkies, Catch 5s and Catch 2000s.

"The pattern is about a month late this year because the water is still way too cold, and it is hard to find the bait," said Jimmy Burns, a lower coast angler and owner of Waterloo Rod Co. "We are catching a few solid fish in Baffin right now, but when that water starts to warm and the baitfish start moving, things are going to come alive."

Burns said, "I think this year is going to be good. The drought seems to be over, and the five-fish limit has been around for a while now, which I think is going to boost the fish population."

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# Classic

Continued from Page 1

Coontail is a main attractor for bass, along with other species of fish and baitfish.

VanDam stayed in his area the entire tournament. Faircloth and Kriet were within eyesight of each other and could hear cheers from fans watching everyone whenever a fish was caught.

All three used lipless crankbaits around the vegetation, ticking the grass and snatching out the bait to trigger reaction strikes. Cold temperatures the week before the tournament and water temperatures ranging from a high 30s to upper 40s during the event injured or killed shad, so the lipless baits mimicked them perfectly.

VanDam caught every bass he weighed on a 1/2-ounce Strike King Red Eye Shad in plain gold along with a new color, gold Sexy Shad.

Faircloth used a Sebile Flatt Shad in a natural Holy Greenie color as his primary bait.

### Omori shifted gears

Takahiro Omori of Emory, the 2004 Classic champ, finished 10th with 32 pounds, 10 ounces in his best showing since 2004.

On the first day, Omori eased into Beeswax where VanDam was fishing, worked an area for a short time and then left. VanDam said Omori never came into the area "but had every right to do so," and then Omori told him the next morning he wouldn't come back in there again.

"That's the class of anglers that we have on the Elite Series, and that's one of things that makes it special to compete with these guys," VanDam said.

Omori added that he thought VanDam might be working the area for a morning bite and then leave, "but after he stayed in there I didn't go back because I didn't want to mess him up."

Omori fished upriver on the Coosa River channel, working deeper structure and some shallow pockets with a Texas-rigged creature



**NO. 3:** Todd Faircloth of Jasper had the highest finish of any Texan in this year's Bassmaster Classic, taking third place behind the winner, Kevin VanDam, and runner-up, Jeff Kriet. Photo by BASS.

bait. He fished it on a smaller hook with tungsten weights, trying to minimize the size for the typically finicky spotted bass.

Alabama Power had shut floodgates on the upriver Logan Martin Dam, though, so the current was not as strong as the first day when Omori was fourth in the standings.

Omori also threw a lipless crankbait in Spring Creek, another significant tributary, along with the creature bait but had little success.

"I tried a Lucky Craft Slender Pointer 97 in practice but it was just too muddy for that," he said. "I also tried an RC 1.5 crankbait but couldn't get anything on it. This was the coldest

water temperature I've ever fished in my career, more than 300 tournaments."

### Niggemeyer rebounded

After battling walking pneumonia the week before the tournament, James Niggemeyer of Van rebounded well to make the final-day cut. He finished 18th with 26-12. He missed two of the four practice days and was offered a spot to fish by fellow Texan Alton Jones.

"I appreciated that a lot and the quality wasn't there, but it gave me a few fish in the livewell, and we all fish better after you get one or two in the box," Niggemeyer said. "I was starting out with a Strike King finesse worm on 7-pound Sunline split-shot rig in current for spots in the morning, and then flipping a Strike King Rodent in the Bama Bug color in the afternoon for big bites in thick vegetation."

Niggemeyer said he didn't let the illness get him down mentally despite its draining effect on him physically.

"I couldn't let being sick and missing practice days affect me in a tournament against the best guys in the world, and that could have been a big deal," he said.



**FIRST LADY:** Pam Martin-Wells became the first woman to make the Classic cut. Photo by BASS.

## Lady angler Martin-Wells makes cut at Classic

Pam Martin-Wells of Bainbridge, Ga., the 2009 Toyota Tundra Women's Bassmaster Tour Angler of the Year, made history Feb. 20 as the first woman to make the cut into the top 25 in Classic history.

Martin-Wells, 47, weighed in a third five-fish limit Sunday for 25 pounds overall and a 22nd-place finish.

On stage, Martin-Wells told the crowd of 58,478 fans that her Classic experience had been indescribable.

"I tried to prepare myself coming into this so that I wouldn't be overwhelmed, so I could come and fish," Martin-Wells said. "Now probably tonight, tomorrow or the next day, I might fall to pieces — or tonight, when I watch it on TV, because every time I see it I get goose bumps. It has been incredible, the guys have been wonderful. There are really no words to describe this whole feeling."

Martin-Wells will continue to compete with the guys as she participates in the 2010 Bassmaster Southern Open and Central Open circuits. Up next is the April 8-10 Central Open on Lake Amistad in Del Rio, Texas.

On Saturday, Martin-Wells was pumped about making the cut.

"I'm extremely proud of myself if for no other reason than it's been tough, and I've been able to grind out a limit both days," she said then.

She not only put a limit in the boat each day by 8 a.m., Martin-Wells had the first limit of the 51-angler field both days.

—BASS report

## Texans' Classic finishes

Angler	Hometown	Fish	Total weight	Winnings
3. Todd Faircloth	Jasper	15	44-03	\$40,000
10. Takahiro Omori	Emory	13	32-10	\$20,000
18. James Niggemeyer	Van	14	26-12	\$12,800
27. Alton Jones	Waco	7	14-01	
30. Bryan Schmidt	Olney	5	12-10	
32. Gary Klein	Weatherford	4	10-07	
34. Byron Velvick	Del Rio	5	10-00	
35. Kelly Jordon	Mineola	4	9-12	

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## Antlers

Continued from Page 6

cated flavor," like a salt lick, Thomas said.

He often hitches a trailer to his F-150 truck and heads to West Texas or Oklahoma to buy batches of antlers from ranchers, landowners and hunters. He declined to say how much he pays for them.

The antlers are cut at QT Dog's 10,000-square-foot warehouse in South Dallas before they are sent off to be sterilized.

The quality of pet care has risen over the

years, evolving into a multibillion-dollar industry that's seemingly impervious to the recession. Last year, Americans spent more than \$45 billion on their pets, according to the non-profit trade organization American Pet Products Association. That number is expected to increase this year, particularly for earth-friendly pet products. That's welcome news to Lucky Buck and Antlerz.

"Dog spending is one of the last places people will really cut back," Thomas said. "They get so much satisfaction out of taking care of Rex, Fido (and) Spot."

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# Lures

Continued from Page 8

Much of the crafting Butler learned by doing. He took no classes, but he built on his experience as a boat builder.

For a while, it showed.

"The first several years, they were pretty bad looking," he said. "I mean terrible looking."

He began making lures in 1980, not long after giving up commercial fishing full time.

Butler grew up fishing commercially on the Texas coast. He would run trotlines as a child, starting in about the first or second grade.

After setting his lines in the morning, he and his friends would return to the fish house about 9 or 10 a.m. and grab their fishing rods.

He could only afford one or two lures, and he said he would "cuss" a 6- or 7-pound trout if he caught one because he didn't want the big fish to break the lure off.

Nowadays, Butler fishes when he can. Using one of his lures he has caught a trout weighing 11 pounds, 4 ounces, and a couple days before speaking with *Lone Star Outdoor News* he caught a fish weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces.

He did not seem worried about breaking off a lure on a big fish these days. But with a successful restaurant keeping him afloat, he can now afford to buy a new one. Or make one.



**HISTORICAL REFERENCE:** Ernie Butler's lures are handmade the way they used to be along the Texas coast. Photo by David Sikes, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

Scott Murray of Riviera Beach might be one of the only anglers to use Butler's lures. But Murray said they catch lots of fish.

"It looks just like a mullet darting along," he said. "It's amazing."

Part of the magic of Ol' Madre Lures, Murray said, is Butler's insight into their intended target.

"To me what's special about them is he developed them on site to catch on-site trout," Murray said.

Butler sold his commercial fishing licenses in 2005, ending an era of his family fishing the Texas coast for pay.

He keeps some history of the old ways alive by making lures, with

techniques he learned from men who were old-timers when he first started.

Butler, too, would like to leave a legacy in lure making. His daughters — one a nurse, the other a saleswoman, both raised on a houseboat — probably won't pick up the hobby.

Maybe his grandson will learn the family business. He has talked about recording his techniques on video or writing them down.

Maybe all that will remain are the shiny red and white twitch lures under glass on other anglers' desks.

"Our way of life has passed by," he said. "It's gone."

# Guitars

Continued from Page 8

to help," Hughes said. "You'd be surprised how many of them love to fish."

Others decline to participate.

"There's a small percentage that are hard to get through," Hughes said, saying some artists' managers do not allow it.

"They're just doing their job," Hughes said. "Their job is to limit the number of hangers-on and grabbers at each event."

Some artists do not sign because they only work with

certain charities, Hughes said.

Artists who participate are signing instruments similar to what they typically play. But instead of spending thousands of dollars on the same model, Hughes buys a similar, less expensive version for signing.

The unsigned guitars that were stolen were being stored for later signing.

The Friends of Purits Creek raffle eight to 10 of the instruments every year. The group is not "destitute," Hughes said, but it is fighting back against its loss of income.

"In the end, we ended up losing about \$20,000 on the deal."

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# Sun | Moon | Tides

## Texas Coast Tides

### Sabine Pass, jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 26	6:37 a.m.	-1.1 L	2:31 p.m.	2.0 H	6:38 p.m.	1.4 L
Feb 27	12:01 a.m.	2.1 H	7:31 a.m.	-0.9 L	2:50 p.m.	1.8 H
Feb 28	1:22 a.m.	2.1 H	8:23 a.m.	-0.5 L	3:09 p.m.	1.8 H
Mar 1	2:41 a.m.	2.1 H	9:13 a.m.	0.0 L	3:28 p.m.	1.6 H
Mar 2	3:59 a.m.	2.1 H	10:04 a.m.	0.5 L	3:47 p.m.	1.6 H
Mar 3	5:20 a.m.	2.1 H	10:58 a.m.	1.1 L	4:04 p.m.	1.6 H
Mar 4	6:45 a.m.	2.1 H	12:01 p.m.	1.4 L	4:16 p.m.	1.8 H
Mar 5	08:19 a.m.	2.1 H	1:51 p.m.	1.6 L	4:07 p.m.	1.8 H
Mar 6	12:55 a.m.	-0.5 L	10:11 a.m.	2.1 H		
Mar 7	2:05 a.m.	-0.5 L	12:10 p.m.	2.1 H		
Mar 8	3:19 a.m.	-0.4 L	1:23 p.m.	2.1 H		
Mar 9	4:31 a.m.	-0.4 L	2:07 p.m.	2.1 H		
Mar 10	5:31 a.m.	-0.2 L	2:26 p.m.	2.0 H	7:22 p.m.	1.6 L
Mar 11	6:19 a.m.	-0.2 L	2:25 p.m.	2.0 H	7:14 p.m.	1.6 L
Mar 12	6:57 a.m.	0.0 L	2:22 p.m.	1.8 H	7:16 p.m.	1.4 L

### Galveston Bay entrance, south jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 26	7:03 a.m.	-0.9 L	3:18 p.m.	1.6 H	7:04 p.m.	1.1 L
Feb 27	12:48 a.m.	1.7 H	7:57 a.m.	-0.7 L	3:37 p.m.	1.4 H
Feb 28	2:09 a.m.	1.7 H	8:49 a.m.	-0.4 L	3:56 p.m.	1.4 H
Mar 1	3:28 a.m.	1.7 H	9:39 a.m.	0.0 L	4:15 p.m.	1.3 H
Mar 2	4:46 a.m.	1.7 H	10:30 a.m.	0.4 L	4:34 p.m.	1.3 H
Mar 3	6:07 a.m.	1.7 H	11:24 a.m.	0.9 L	4:51 p.m.	1.3 H
Mar 4	7:32 a.m.	1.7 H	12:27 p.m.	1.1 L	5:03 p.m.	1.4 H
Mar 5	12:19 a.m.	-0.4 L	09:06 a.m.	1.7 H	2:17 p.m.	1.3 L
Mar 6	1:21 a.m.	-0.4 L	10:58 a.m.	1.7 H		
Mar 7	2:31 a.m.	-0.4 L	12:57 p.m.	1.7 H		
Mar 8	3:45 a.m.	-0.3 L	2:10 p.m.	1.7 H		
Mar 9	4:57 a.m.	-0.3 L	2:54 p.m.	1.7 H		
Mar 10	5:57 a.m.	-0.1 L	3:13 p.m.	1.6 H	7:48 p.m.	1.3 L
Mar 11	6:45 a.m.	-0.1 L	3:12 p.m.	1.6 H	7:40 p.m.	1.3 L
Mar 12	12:00 a.m.	1.6 H	7:23 a.m.	0.0 L	3:09 p.m.	1.4 H

### San Luis Pass

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 26	7:59 a.m.	-0.5 L	3:48 p.m.	0.9 H	8:00 p.m.	0.7 L
Feb 27	1:18 a.m.	1.0 H	8:53 a.m.	-0.4 L	4:07 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 28	2:39 a.m.	1.0 H	9:45 a.m.	-0.3 L	4:26 p.m.	0.9 H
Mar 1	3:58 a.m.	1.0 H	10:35 a.m.	0.0 L	4:45 p.m.	0.8 H
Mar 2	5:16 a.m.	1.0 H	11:26 a.m.	0.3 L	5:04 p.m.	0.8 H
Mar 3	6:37 a.m.	1.0 H	12:20 p.m.	0.5 L	5:21 p.m.	0.8 H
Mar 4	12:18 a.m.	-0.3 L	08:02 a.m.	1.0 H	1:23 p.m.	0.7 L
Mar 5	1:15 a.m.	-0.3 L	09:36 a.m.	1.0 H	3:13 p.m.	0.8 L
Mar 6	2:17 a.m.	-0.3 L	11:28 a.m.	1.0 H		
Mar 7	3:27 a.m.	-0.3 L	1:27 p.m.	1.0 H		
Mar 8	4:41 a.m.	-0.2 L	2:40 p.m.	1.0 H		
Mar 9	5:53 a.m.	-0.2 L	3:24 p.m.	1.0 H		
Mar 10	6:53 a.m.	-0.1 L	3:43 p.m.	0.9 H	8:44 p.m.	0.8 L
Mar 11	7:41 a.m.	-0.1 L	3:42 p.m.	0.9 H	8:36 p.m.	0.8 L
Mar 12	12:30 a.m.	0.9 H	8:19 a.m.	0.0 L	3:39 p.m.	0.9 H

### Freeport Harbor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 26	7:00 a.m.	-0.5 L	2:40 p.m.	1.4 H	7:01 p.m.	0.7 L
Feb 27	12:10 a.m.	1.5 H	7:54 a.m.	-0.5 L	2:59 p.m.	1.2 H
Feb 28	1:31 a.m.	1.5 H	8:46 a.m.	-0.3 L	3:18 p.m.	1.2 H
Mar 1	2:50 a.m.	1.5 H	9:36 a.m.	0.0 L	3:37 p.m.	1.1 H
Mar 2	4:08 a.m.	1.5 H	10:27 a.m.	0.3 L	3:56 p.m.	1.1 H
Mar 3	5:29 a.m.	1.5 H	11:21 a.m.	0.5 L	4:13 p.m.	1.1 H
Mar 4	6:54 a.m.	1.5 H	12:24 p.m.	0.7 L	4:25 p.m.	1.2 H
Mar 5	12:16 a.m.	-0.3 L	08:28 a.m.	1.5 H	2:14 p.m.	0.8 L
Mar 6	1:18 a.m.	-0.3 L	10:20 a.m.	1.5 H		
Mar 7	2:28 a.m.	-0.3 L	12:19 p.m.	1.5 H		
Mar 8	3:42 a.m.	-0.2 L	1:32 p.m.	1.5 H		
Mar 9	4:54 a.m.	-0.2 L	2:16 p.m.	1.5 H		
Mar 10	5:54 a.m.	-0.1 L	2:35 p.m.	1.4 H	7:45 p.m.	0.8 L
Mar 11	6:42 a.m.	-0.1 L	2:34 p.m.	1.4 H	7:37 p.m.	0.8 L
Mar 12	7:20 a.m.	0.0 L	2:31 p.m.	1.2 H	7:39 p.m.	0.7 L

## Moon Phases



### Port O'Connor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 26	10:22 a.m.	-0.5 L	11:55 p.m.	0.6 H		
Feb 27	11:12 a.m.	-0.4 L				
Feb 28	2:57 a.m.	0.5 H	11:55 a.m.	-0.2 L	7:35 p.m.	0.2 H
Mar 1	5:07 a.m.	0.5 H	12:33 p.m.	0.0 L	6:17 p.m.	0.2 H
Mar 2	7:00 a.m.	0.4 H	1:00 p.m.	0.2 L	5:39 p.m.	0.3 H
Mar 3	12:52 a.m.	-0.1 L	09:00 a.m.	0.4 H	1:04 p.m.	0.3 L
Mar 4	1:50 a.m.	-0.3 L	5:17 p.m.	0.6 H		
Mar 5	2:48 a.m.	-0.3 L	5:30 p.m.	0.7 H		
Mar 6	3:52 a.m.	-0.3 L	5:55 p.m.	0.7 H		
Mar 7	5:05 a.m.	-0.3 L	6:26 p.m.	0.7 H		
Mar 8	6:28 a.m.	-0.3 L	7:00 p.m.	0.7 H		
Mar 9	7:52 a.m.	-0.2 L	7:34 p.m.	0.7 H		
Mar 10	09:04 a.m.	-0.2 L	08:07 p.m.	0.7 H		
Mar 11	10:04 a.m.	-0.2 L	08:36 p.m.	0.6 H		
Mar 12	10:54 a.m.	-0.1 L	08:51 p.m.	0.5 H	11:26 p.m.	0.4 L

### Rockport

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 26	12:34 a.m.	0.04 H	11:09 a.m.	-0.35 L		
Feb 27	1:42 a.m.	0.02 H	11:55 a.m.	-0.30 L		
Feb 28	3:04 a.m.	-0.01 H	12:30 p.m.	-0.23 L		
Mar 1	5:01 a.m.	-0.06 H	12:43 p.m.	-0.15 L	5:49 p.m.	-0.12 H
Mar 2	8:15 a.m.	-0.08 H	11:50 a.m.	-0.09 L	4:57 p.m.	-0.06 H
Mar 3	1:41 a.m.	-0.22 L	5:01 p.m.	-0.00 H		
Mar 4	2:53 a.m.	-0.25 L	5:36 p.m.	0.04 H		
Mar 5	3:55 a.m.	-0.26 L	6:29 p.m.	0.07 H		
Mar 6	4:56 a.m.	-0.26 L	7:36 p.m.	0.09 H		
Mar 7	6:02 a.m.	-0.24 L	8:51 p.m.	0.10 H		
Mar 8	7:11 a.m.	-0.22 L	10:07 p.m.	0.11 H		
Mar 9	8:22 a.m.	-0.20 L	11:16 p.m.	0.12 H		
Mar 10	9:26 a.m.	-0.18 L				
Mar 11	12:18 a.m.	0.12 H	10:18 a.m.	-0.16 L		
Mar 12	1:14 a.m.	0.12 H	10:56 a.m.	-0.13 L		

### Port Aransas, H. Caldwell Pier

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 26	6:42 a.m.	-0.5 L	3:11 p.m.	1.3 H	6:43 p.m.	0.6 L
Feb 27	12:41 a.m.	1.4 H	7:36 a.m.	-0.4 L	3:30 p.m.	1.1 H
Feb 28	2:02 a.m.	1.4 H	8:28 a.m.	-0.2 L	3:49 p.m.	1.1 H
Mar 1	3:21 a.m.	1.4 H	9:18 a.m.	0.0 L	4:08 p.m.	1.0 H
Mar 2	4:39 a.m.	1.4 H	10:09 a.m.	0.2 L	4:27 p.m.	1.0 H
Mar 3	6:00 a.m.	1.4 H	11:03 a.m.	0.5 L	4:44 p.m.	1.0 H
Mar 4	7:25 a.m.	1.4 H	12:06 p.m.	0.6 L	4:56 p.m.	1.1 H
Mar 5	08:59 a.m.	1.4 H	1:56 p.m.	0.7 L	4:47 p.m.	1.1 H
Mar 6	1:00 a.m.	-0.2 L	10:51 a.m.	1.4 H		
Mar 7	2:10 a.m.	-0.2 L	12:50 p.m.	1.4 H		
Mar 8	3:24 a.m.	-0.2 L	2:03 p.m.	1.4 H		
Mar 9	4:36 a.m.	-0.2 L	2:47 p.m.	1.4 H		
Mar 10	5:36 a.m.	-0.1 L	3:06 p.m.	1.3 H	7:27 p.m.	0.7 L
Mar 11	6:24 a.m.	-0.1 L	3:05 p.m.	1.3 H	7:19 p.m.	0.7 L
Mar 12	7:02 a.m.	0.0 L	3:02 p.m.	1.1 H	7:21 p.m.	0.6 L

### South Padre Island

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Feb 26	6:46 a.m.	-0.6 L	3:38 p.m.	1.4 H	7:59 p.m.	1.2 L
Feb 27	7:44 a.m.	-0.4 L	3:41 p.m.	1.2 H	8:07 p.m.	0.9 L
Feb 28	1:00 a.m.	1.2 H	8:39 a.m.	-0.2 L	3:38 p.m.	1.0 H
Mar 1	2:37 a.m.	1.2 H	9:34 a.m.	0.1 L	3:31 p.m.	0.8 H
Mar 2	4:08 a.m.	1.2 H	10:29 a.m.	0.4 L	3:21 p.m.	0.8 H
Mar 3	5:41 a.m.	1.2 H	11:28 a.m.	0.7 L	3:06 p.m.	0.9 H
Mar 4	7:23 a.m.	1.2 H	11:48 p.m.	-0.5 L		
Mar 5	09:22 a.m.	1.2 H				
Mar 6	12:48 a.m.	-0.5 L	11:33 a.m.	1.3 H		
Mar 7	1:55 a.m.	-0.5 L	1:03 p.m.	1.4 H		
Mar 8	3:07 a.m.	-0.4 L	1:58 p.m.	1.4 H		
Mar 9	4:19 a.m.	-0.3 L	2:35 p.m.	1.4 H		
Mar 10	5:24 a.m.	-0.1 L	3:00 p.m.	1.4 H		
Mar 11	6:19 a.m.	0.0 L	3:13 p.m.	1.3 H	7:50 p.m.	1.1 L
Mar 12	7:06 a.m.	0.1 L	3:16 p.m.	1.3 H	7:45 p.m.	1.1 L

## Solunar | Sun times | Moon times

Legend: Major=2 hours, Minor=1 hour, Times centered on the major-minor window. F=Full Moon, N=New Moon, Q=Quarter => = Peak Activity. For other locations, subtract 1 minute per 12 miles east of a location, and add 1 minute per 12 miles west of a location.

### Houston

2010	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Feb-Mar	Minor Major	Minor Major	Rises Sets	Rises Sets
26 Fri	2:53 9:07	3:22 9:36	6:50 6:18	4:24p 5:12a
27 Sat >	3:45 9:59	4:13 10:26	6:49 6:18	5:34p 5:54a
28 Sun >	4:37 10:50	5:04 11:17	6:48 6:19	6:43p 6:32a
01 Mon F	5:30 11:43	5:56 ----	6:47 6:20	7:50p 7:08a
02 Tue >	6:26 12:13	6:51 12:38	6:45 6:20	8:57p 7:44a
03 Wed >	7:23 1:10	7:49 1:36	6:44 6:21	10:03p 8:22a
04 Thu	8:22 2:09	8:48 2:35	6:43 6:22	11:08p 9:01a
05 Fri	9:21 3:07	9:48 3:34	6:42 6:22	NoMoon 9:45a
06 Sat	10:18 4:05	10:45 4:32	6:41 6:23	12:11a 10:32a
07 Sun Q	11:13 5:00	11:40 5:26	6:40 6:24	1:09a 11:23a
08 Mon Q	---- 5:52	12:05 6:17	6:39 6:24	2:01a 12:16p
09 Tue	12:28 6:40	12:52 7:05	6:38 6:25	2:48a 1:11p
10 Wed	1:13 7:24	1:36 7:48	6:36 6:26	3:30a 2:06p
11 Thu	1:54 8:06	2:17 8:28	6:35 6:26	4:07a 3:02p
12 Fri	2:34 8:45	2:55 9:06	6:34 6:27	4:41a 3:56p
13 Sat >	3:12 9:22	3:33 9:43	6:33 6:27	5:11a 4:50p
14 Sun >	4:50 11:00	5:10 11:20	7:32 7:28	6:40a 6:43p
15 Mon N	5:29 11:39	5:49 11:59	7:31 7:29	7:08a 7:36p
16 Tue >	6:10 12:00	6:31 12:20	7:29 7:29	7:37a 8:30p
17 Wed >	6:54 12:44	7:16 1:05	7:28 7:30	8:07a 9:26p

### Dallas

2010	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Feb-Mar	Minor Major	Minor Major	Rises Sets	Rises Sets
26 Fri	2:58 9:13	3:27 9:42	6:58 6:20	4:25p 5:23a
27 Sat >	3:51 10:04	4:18 10:32	6:57 6:21	5:37p 6:03a
28 Sun >	4:43 10:56	5:09 11:22	6:56 6:22	6:48p 6:39a
01 Mon F	5:36 11:49	6:02 ----	6:54 6:23	7:57p 7:14a
02 Tue >	6:31 12:18	6:57 12:44	6:53 6:24	9:06p 7:48a
03 Wed >	7:28 1:15	7:55 1:41	6:52 6:24	10:14p 8:23a
04 Thu	8:27 2:14	8:54 2:41	6:51 6:25	11:21p 9:01a
05 Fri	9:26 3:13	9:53 3:40	6:50 6:26	NoMoon 9:43a



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### Oak wilt

Continued from Page 6

Miller said other woody species naturally move in, and some of them are great food for deer, including elbow bush, green ash and red bud.

Burks suggested replacing the dead trees with members of the white oak family, which are resistant to wilt, including post oaks and bur oaks.

Sawtooth oaks, she said, are popular with turkey because their smaller acorns are easier to chomp, and they're sweeter.

"Diversity is the key to dealing with trees across the board," Burks said. "That way, not every oak will get the disease; at least you're going to have a mast crop available."

But achieving that diversity requires patience.

Burks said it takes a new oak about nine to 10 years to begin producing acorns, and another four years to achieve reliable crops.

#### Prevention

The disease can't be eradicated, Burks said.

"The only way to do that is to move every red oak out of the state, and that's not going to happen," she said. "(Oak wilt) has been here and it always will be here.

"We're strictly in a management mode."

First, don't prune from February through June, because that's when the fungus spreads best.

But, when you do get around to pruning, be sure to shield a wound from ranging spores by covering it with a latex paint or Elmer's glue, Burks said.

Also, remove infected trees as soon as possible.

Cutting them up into firewood is common, but don't worry about burning the logs. Burks said that won't spread the fungus, but an

uncovered woodpile will allow spores to rise and float toward new "hosts."

Cover woodpiles with a clear plastic tarp with edges anchored to the ground.

An effective yet more difficult task involves digging deep trenches around dying trees to keep the roots from sharing the fungus with healthy trees.

Finally, a special fungicide injected into healthy oaks can help ward off the disease, but it's costly and not guaranteed to save every tree, Burks said.

#### Pathology

Species of red oaks are especially vulnerable to the fungus that causes wilt. Its spores can be spread by sap-feeding beetles, Burks said.

Fungal spores also come from logs, stumps or fresh-cut firewood from diseased oaks. Relocate those logs to your woodpile, and you endanger healthy oaks nearby, Burks said.

Infections develop on open "wounds" where limbs have been cut through pruning or knocked down by severe weather. These exposed areas are where beetles like to get their sap.

But, Burks said, the fungus also moves beneath the surface as the roots of trees mingle.

You'll know a tree has oak wilt if the veins on the leaves turn yellow and then brown; also leaf edges can appear scorched with "tip burn."

If you peel back the bark and see a mass that reeks like spoiled fruit, you're probably looking at a "fungal mat" — a reliable indicator of oak wilt.

Fifty percent of infected trees "will die flat out," Burks said. "The other 50 percent will make it, but they may not be the ones you want in your front yard.

"They're rarely picture perfect after the fact."

### Feeders

Continued from Page 6

ing the nutritional equivalent of giving candy bars to children.

"Our rule of thumb for protein feeders is to have one feeder per 400 acres, but there is no set standard for corn feeders," said Trey Moore, a manager at Los Cazadores Hunting Headquarters in Pearsall.

"Corn is not really good for the deer at all, so you don't want overkill," he said. "It is kind of hard to say how many feeders are too many."

Biologists said corn is a poor substitute for quality feed for deer and other wildlife.

Protein pellets contain necessary minerals and at least 15 percent protein — vital for antler development and maintaining body weights. But deer corn contains less than 8 percent protein.

With the cost of quality corn feeders ranging from about \$400 for a basic device that will hold 300 pounds to \$1,500 or more for feeders that will hold 3,000 pounds of corn — plus the price of the corn — wallet impact is also a major factor in answering the question of "how many is too many?"

Lance Cote, wildlife specialist with Mumme's Inc. in Hondo, said hunters should be aware of the message they are sending with large amounts of corn on the ground.

"You should try to put enough feed out that the deer will come in, clean it up and go on.

Then they will be interested in coming back for more. If you are putting out so much corn that there is grain on the ground all the time, the deer will start coming out at night when you are gone.

"Just like you want to be comfortable when you go into your kitchen to get something to eat, a deer wants to be comfortable when it is feeding. They prefer to eat when someone is not watching them or when bullets are whizzing by their ears," he said. "If given the opportunity, they will only come out at night."

Although officials at Mumme's are happy to provide an ample supply of corn and feed to landowners and hunters — the company is one of the largest feed and supply retailers in Texas — excessive feeding will

hurt, rather than help, hunting prospects, Cote said.

In addition to urging hunters to limit corn feeding, Cote also recommends that protein feeders be placed in areas that are not hunted.

The purpose of protein feeders is not to serve as a deer attractant like corn, but to improve the antler growth, body weights and overall health of the deer herd.

"I recommend that protein feeders be put out about every 250 acres in good habitat areas and not near a blind or where the deer will be hunted," he said.

One veteran South Texas hunter, Murray Denton of San Antonio, has been working since 1992 on developing the right mix of protein and corn feeders around his blind at the 9,230-acre Herbert M. Oppenheimer Ranch near Pearsall.

Denton is among a group of about 30 to 40 hunters who hunt each weekend of deer season from blinds at the ranch.

He and the other regular hunters maintain and upgrade the hunting areas, including feeders, throughout the year.

"My feeders are set up to complement the existing trails," Denton said.

He has one protein feeder about 40 yards in front of his blind and three corn feeders set up at 80, 85 and 110 yards spread out in the shape of a fan.

"The deer will go from feeder to feeder, but the feral hogs are even

worse," he said. "They will run off from one feeder that just dropped some corn to the next one when it goes off."

Denton distributes no more than 12 pounds of corn per day from the three feeders and provides about 500 pounds of protein feed a year from his continuously operating protein feeder.

The setup seems to have resulted in a winning combination at Denton's hunting spot.

"It is nothing for us to see 12 to 20 deer per sitting in a normal year," he said. "This past year was a little different because of all the natural forage produced by late rains. We were lucky to see one or two deer per sitting.

"I have been able to take a lot of pictures of a lot of good deer over the years, so my Aggie ingenuity seems to be working," Denton added.

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### Puzzle solution from Page 22

B	O	W	Y	E	R	C	O	B	R	A	N	R					
U	A	W	E	E	S	H	O	V	E	L							
T	T	U	R	K	E	Y	D	A	H	V	A						
T							O	R	A	N	G	E	F	I	E	L	D
O	S	U	R	L	B	E	C	T									
N	E	S	T	I	N	G	B	E	D	B	E	A	R	S			
A	A	G	R	A	E												
A	G	I	N	G	W	O	O	L	A	N	D	E					
L	D	A	W	L	D	O	E	P									
H	E	N	T	F	W	I											
A	O	S	C	E	N	T	M	O	R	N	I	N	G				
B	U	C	K	R	R	R											
I	K	B	H	A	B	I	T	S	K	I	N						
T	S	H	E	D	I	Y	E	W	I								
R	L	E	L	M	I	G											
U	L	Y	A	M	H												
R	U	N	W	A	Y	E	P	H	E	A	S	A	N	T			



## Trout doc

Continued from Page 8

institutional memory.

“Our fisheries have changed; there’s a lot more pressure on our fisheries than there ever have been. This time of year in the ‘80s I could go down to Baffin and be the only boat there,” Albarado said. “Now we have days were there may be 20 boats in there or 30 boats in Nine-Mile Hole. We’re putting a lot more pressure on our resources than we’ve ever had.”

The redbird these days, he said, are “unbelievable.” On the other hand, there seemed to be a lot more trout in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s that approached the 34-inch class.

In the years after a big freeze, the biggest trout Ananias Club members would see would be 25 to 27 inches.

It’s clear, talking to the fishing physician, that it’s not all about numbers. Sure, his personal best trout taped at 32.5 inches — a trophy by anyone’s standard; but it’s the time on the water that really counts.

“I don’t know how many people have said they’ve been on the Tide Gauge bar and just seen trout after trout after trout. That’s the joy of going — you see things you’d never expect to see,” he said. “It’s kind of like deer hunting. If you don’t get excited seeing a 14- or 15-point deer, it’s time for you to hang it up.”

The only thing Bill Albarado is likely to hang any time soon is another big trout. Just to keep the sport going, he’ll load nieces and nephews — sometimes even his patients — on his skiff and run them over to a clear, secluded shoreline.

“It’s always a thrill to watch someone who’s never seen a fish in knee-deep water see a fish and cast at it and catch it,” he said. “And if it doesn’t happen this year, there’s always next year to look forward to.”

## Outdoor News in Brief

### Court lets ruling on Dallas’ proposed new lake stand

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Feb. 22 it will not hear a the lawsuit between the city of Dallas and opponents of a new lake in Southeast Texas, according to the Texas Conservation Alliance.

The court’s refusal means the city cannot build Fastrill Reservoir, which would have provided drinking water for the city but drowned thousands of acres of land.

Instead, the land is set to become the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge.

The city planned to draw about 3 percent of its water from the lake.

Supporters of the refuge said the refuge could grow up to 25,000 acres under long-term plans.

— Staff report

### TDA seeking suggestions for 2011 legislative goals

The Texas Deer Association is asking for public input for setting its legislative priorities in 2011, the next year when the Legislature meets.

The TDA Legislative Committee will review suggestions for the nonprofit’s legislative platform and decide whether to pursue them.

TDA has listed four questions on a questionnaire sent out to supporters and available to the public:

- What are the major challenges or obstacles you believe the deer industry faces?
- How do you believe the challenges or obstacles could be changed or eliminated?
- Is there any legislation that you would like for TDA to pursue during the 2011 legislative session pertaining to our industry?
- How could regulations and/or laws related to our industry be changed in a way that could improve the way you personally do business?

The questionnaire also has space for respondents to give any other suggestions for the committee.

Issues likely to be on the front burner of the next session include water policy, property rights, transportation/toll roads, education and higher education, border violence, energy, disaster response and redistricting.

Responses may be e-mailed to Gilbert Adams, TDA Legislative Committee chairman, at gilbert@gta-law.com.

They may be mailed to Texas Deer Association, 403 E. Ramsey, #204, San Antonio, TX 78216 or faxed to (210) 767-8401.

— Texas Deer Association report

### Sheep group gives money to help Mongolia animals

Mongolia recently asked for emergency aid for a critical winter wildlife feeding program, and the Wild Sheep Foundation responded.

The foundation gave \$25,000 toward the effort, which aims to protect one of sheep hunting’s prize species.

Mongolia is known as one of the premier wild sheep countries in the world, and a hunt in Mongolia has been considered the top achievement of sheep hunting for the past 55 years.

Mongolia’s wildlife is in crisis with extreme cold and uncharacteristically high snow levels. Mongolia’s wildlife in many areas is starving and it appears it will get worse before it gets better, WSF said in a press release.

The Mongolian Hunting Association, Ministry of Nature and the Mongolian outfitters are working together to feed the Argali, Ibex and other wild ungulates in the country.

Thirty-two feeding areas have been established, though accessing them in the primitive country is difficult.

With no fixed wing airplanes currently in Mongolia, camels are being loaded up with hay and led to the wildlife feeding areas to supply them.

— Wild Sheep Foundation report



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# Safari club sets records at show

## Dallas group has high attendance at new location

The Dallas Safari Club's 2010 Convention and Sporting Expo concluded with several confirmed and pending new records for expo exhibits, total attendance, gate revenue and auction proceeds — all of which translates to record funding for the DSC mission in the coming year.

"We blew the doors off some previous records, most notably our fundraising totals for conservation and education projects worldwide," said Ben Carter, executive director of DSC. "The economy may be down, but it didn't appear so at our convention."

Expo traffic was heavy for much of the show.

"People who have money are still booking safaris and buying a lot of things, which is great," said Hans Vermaak of South Africa's Coenraad Vermaak Safaris, the longest-operating safari outfit in Africa.

"It's almost as though they're buying even more safaris right now because there are so many deals to be had as a result of a decline in less expensive package hunts."

Thormahlen and Cochrane Safaris' Anso Thormahlen, also of South Africa, echoed that.

"We had a very good show after traffic picked up on the first day," Thormahlen said. "We booked several safaris and, as always, thank DSC for the opportunity to be here."

The convention, held Jan. 7-10, was at the Dallas Convention Center for the first time.

"This was our first year in a big, new facility that gave us room to grow, and I couldn't be more pleased with the end result," Carter said. "We'll be at the Dallas Convention Center at least through 2015 so there's also room to grow our event experience and proficiency in our new home. I expect our show to get better and better."

Carter added that the DSC event will continue to be the first major sporting expo each year, annually offering hunters their first opportunity to shop and book dates with top outfitters.

- DSC convention highlights:**
- **\$400,000** — Gain in auction proceeds over 2009 (estimate, pending new record)
  - **300,000** — Square feet of exhibit space (new record)
  - **\$40,000** — Top bid for an elephant hunt with African outfitter Coenraad Vermaak Safaris
  - **\$40,000** — Top bid for an Arizona commissioner's elk tag
  - **26,000** — Attendance based on sales of day passes (estimate, pending new record)
  - **1,100** — Show exhibits (new record)

- Attending celebrities:**
- Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas
  - Actress Anne Lockhart
  - NRA Executive Vice President and CEO Wayne LaPierre
  - Actor Gerald McRaney
  - U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions, Texas
  - Sgt. 1st Class Greg Stube
  - Actor Marshall Teague
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  - U.S. Rep. Don Young, Alaska
- Dallas Safari Club report

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