

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

March 23, 2012

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 8, Issue 15



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Action up and down across Texas.  
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**SCHOOL'S OUT:** Grant Heatherly, a student at Texas State University, dashed down to the coast the first day of spring break. He launched his kayak in the waters south of Corpus Christi where he caught redfish and trout. Photo by Chase Okrasinski.

## Spring break partying continues on coast, but so does fishing

By Antonio Vindell  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Spring break couldn't come soon enough for Grant Heatherly, a student at Texas State University at San Marcos.

The 22-year-old history major from New Braunfels is also an avid saltwater angler. With a break from the books

on March 12, he joined a buddy near Bird Island, south of Corpus Christi.

"We launched our kayaks right after sunup with extremely dense fog covering the water," Grant said. "Navigation was challenging, but we managed to find some prominent mud flats."

"The redfish were tailing in skinny water adja-

cent to deep water."

Grant started throwing a 3-inch Sea Shad on a light-action rod with braided line. He blind-casted into about 3 feet of water in a muddy spot and got a huge strike.

"I knew this was a big fish because it was everything I could do not to break off on a 10-pound leader," Grant said. "He turned my kayak

a full two times before I could pull him in.

"Once I got the fish in the kayak, I was astounded to see that I had just laced into a 27-inch red that pulled 9.5 pounds on the Boga."

Grant hooked two more reds, 21 and 25 inches. Later he got a 20-inch

See *SPRING BREAK*, Page 14



**SUN RISES ON ANOTHER SEASON:** The spring turkey season in South Texas is underway. Plenty of mature birds are looking for hens this year, but don't count on seeing many jakes due to a poor hatch last season. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.

## South Zone rocking in turkey opener

By Conor Harrison  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

"It was sick, man." That was the report from one guide on a ranch near George West after the first weekend of the South Zone spring turkey season March 17-18. He said eight

hunters shot 13 gobblers in two days.

Several guides said the hunting was outstanding on opening weekend.

There was a lot of 2- and 3-year-old birds and they were separated

See *TURKEY OPENER*, Page 25

## 6-year-old boats big bass on Ray Roberts

By Conor Harrison  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Luke Underwood, his dad, Ty, and 16-year-old brother, Garrett, just wanted to get out on Lake Ray Roberts for a spring break white bass fishing trip with guide Dannie Golden.

They all got a huge shock when 6-year-old Luke, a student at Liberty Christian near their home in Lantana, pulled a 10.25-pound

See *BIG BASS*, Page 14



**ALL BY MYSELF:** Six-year-old Luke Underwood shows off the 9.9-pound bass he caught on Lake Ray Roberts with his dad, Ty, brother, Garrett, and guide Dannie Golden at left. Photo by Ty Underwood.



By Bill Miller  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Col. Pete Flores recalled his days as a newly minted game warden in Chambers

County, when wardens weren't allowed to issue warnings instead of tickets.

Now they can, yet he is not surprised some people claim that wardens write as

many tickets as possible to fund their payroll.

Flores, who oversees all Texas game wardens, said that's illegal.

"You hear that complaint in any law enforcement jurisdiction, like

**CONTACT:** A Texas game warden performs a routine license check, but officials say these contacts, and the citations that can result from them, dropped in 2011 because of the recession and drought. Photo by TPWD.

See *TICKETS*, Page 26



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## HUNTING

# New aging system more accurate for bucks

Researchers say one tooth better than the whole jaw

By **Conor Harrison**  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Any hunter who has visited a Texas deer camp has seen it.

You know, the plaque on the wall with eight lower jawbones that allows hunters to gauge a recently harvested deer's age.

According to a group of South Texas biologists, those plaques were iffy at best, and frequently downright wrong.

The group of biologists, headed by Dr. Susan Cooper of the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Uvalde, has devised a new way to age deer using one tooth instead of the whole jawbone.



**CHEW ON THIS:** Instead of looking at the entire jawbone, a new study suggests that measuring the wear on the third tooth may be more accurate in telling the age of a deer in South Texas. Photo by Texas AgriLife.

"Everyone uses the old tooth wear, but we know that is not very accurate," Cooper said. "Landowners want something better, and I had a teacher's assistant suggest looking at one tooth."

The new method examines the width of the dentine — the hard tissue located under the enamel of a tooth — in this case, the first bicuspid molar. In plain English, that's the third tooth of the lower jawbone.

"It came out that that was the only thing related to age," Cooper said.

After discussion and evaluation, the team determined the first permanent molar would be the tooth that was most likely to show age-related wear patterns.

Using digital calipers, they took accu-

rate measurements in millimeters of tooth height, as well as all ridges of white enamel and brown dentine on the tooth from jaw samples of harvested known-age bucks 2.5 to 7.5 years old.

"We wanted to see if we could go to just one location in the jaw to reduce the amount of variability of age-related wear within the jaw," said research assistant Shane Sieckenius. "This particular tooth was consistent in showing the true indication of wear."

Cooper said the original aging method, known as the Severinghaus technique, was developed using deer from New York and is inaccurate for estimating the age of deer in Texas beyond the rough categorizations of

See **ONE TOOTH**, Page 15

## Suitable habitat sought for eastern turkey stocking program

By **Conor Harrison**  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Turkeys are struggling in Eastern Texas.

The reasons are varied — drought, predators and the main culprit, lack of suitable habitat.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is developing a Habitat Suitability Index. It will measure a property's value for future stocking programs of eastern turkeys, said Jason Hardin, TPWD biologist.

In the past, TPWD has experimented with limited stockings consisting of 20 or so birds released into areas in East Texas. There was minimal success, forcing a closure of turkey hunting in some counties.

Now TPWD is considering "super stockings" — the releasing of more than 100 birds for better odds at long-term survival.

"We are looking at any property that is 10,000 acres or more that meets requirements," Hardin said. "That includes national forests and preserves. The priority area is East Texas,

specifically east of I-45.

"In East Texas, water and brood stock habitat is limited, plus the lack of prescribed burning for decades has allowed the undergrowth and midstory stuff to grow."

Hardin said a turkey's best defense is its eyes, and with such thick brush, birds will move to areas with greater visibility.

"With good habitat around it, we need a minimum of 7 percent of a property open up to about 50 percent," he said. "We are also looking at the structure and height of the grasses."

Hardin said any attempts at super stocking are still several years away.

"We are still trying to fine-tune the requirements," he said. "This will be our second year of testing (habitat) in May and June — the primary brooding period."

TPWD Oak Prairie District Biologist David Forrester agreed with Hardin's assessment.

"I think we are a long ways away (from any super stockings)," Forrester said. "In East Texas we are doing super stocking research right now, but in

the area of Washington County, any stockings would probably be done with Rios."

Forrester said Rios occurred in the area naturally, and any stockings of eastern birds would probably result in hybridization between the two sub-species.

Forrester said he would like to see landowners band together for habitat improvements to bring more turkeys, whether Rios or easterns, to the area west of Houston.

Suitable habitat includes open fields, roost trees, native bunch grasses for nesting and cover and plenty of room to roam without human interference.

"We need about 5,000 acres of continuous, suitable habitat," he said. "That is the hang-up right now. There is no need to bring birds without suitable habitat. With the eastern birds, we want to see what the study results are."

**IT WILL BE AWHILE:** Some East Texas residents hoping to hunt eastern turkeys in large numbers will have to wait several years at least before super stocking programs are finalized. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.



## Fences for fawns

New feeder designs let young in, hogs out

By **Craig Nyhus**  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Fencing or hog panels around feeders accomplish an intended purpose for many ranchers and deer hunters — they keep the hogs out.

But what about the white-tail fawns?

"Pens around feeders keep out hogs and cows," said Matt Moore, a former graduate student at Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and now a biologist at the Faith Ranch in South Texas. "But they keep the fawns out, too."

Fawns struggle for time at feeders for other reasons, since there is a hierarchy of dominance with whitetails

and fawns are at the bottom, Moore said.

But allowing feeder time for fawns is important at an early age.

"You want to supplement their diet during weaning," Moore said. "A 1-month-old fawn will start eating some dry matter. Access to feed can result in increased survival."

Studies have shown that very few fawns can reach a feeder surrounded by net wire. Attempts at designs with 8-inch gaps allowed the fawns in with great success.

"But the hogs and javelinas got in, too," Moore said.

New designs were attempted by Moore and fellow CKWRI graduate student Chase Currie.

"We compared feeders with no fence at all, a round pen with 34-inch galvanized panels and round pens where every other panel was cut to 28 inches," Moore said. "We just removed the top tiers on the panels by cutting the top 6 inches off with bolt cutters."

The pens were monitored with game cameras one week per month from August through January.

The results surprised Moore. "Of course, the best fawn access was the pen with no fence," he said. "But the pen with the cut fence provided much greater fawn access to the feed source. And they kept

the hogs and javelinas out. "I didn't think it would work — but 6 inches made a huge difference."

Currie studied an alternative fencing method designed for areas with cattle, but less feral swine due to

extreme hog control efforts. Currie found that feeder use by fawns increased.

"The panel is simply raised 26 inches from the ground," Currie said. "All the deer go under the fence, including the fawns."

Moore plans to continue the research, cutting the panel height down to 28-30 inches to increase fawn access.

"We want to find the lowest height that still keeps the hogs out," he said.



**LOWER THE JUMP:** Cutting the top tier of wire between every other post allows fawns greater access to feeder areas, while still keeping the hogs out, researchers say. Photo illustration by Darin Bliss.

# First aid techniques move from battlefield to deer lease

By Bill Miller  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The U.S. mission in Somalia was brief compared to recent conflicts, yet the harrowing deaths of nearly two dozen special operations troops are well documented in the book, and movie, "Blackhawk Down."



DR. ALAN FRANKFURT

But from that episode spawned a new doctrine in combat medical care and first aid supplies.

And what's right for the battlefield can also work on a deer lease. That's the message of Dr. Alan Frankfurt, an anesthesiologist in

Dallas who was a combat hospital physician in the Navy.

He said an accidental slice from a broadhead or a slash from a chainsaw on a hunting camp are no different from a gunshot wound caused by an AK-47 in Afghanistan.

"Anything that can cut, slice or crush — and it results in bleeding — can be addressed with these tools," Frankfurt said. "It's a preventable death."

Frankfurt recently partnered with Richardson-based Tactical Gear Now, which sells combat medical supplies, to offer seminars on modern military first aid.

Hunters are a target audience. One of the first presentations was in January at the Dallas Safari Club convention.

The doctrine they promote is Tactical Combat Casualty Care, or TCCC.

Frankfurt described it as "stuff that can be accomplished by an 18-year-old kid that will keep a casualty alive until he can get to a combat hospital."



**BLOOD STOPPER:** John Follis of Richardson-based Tactical Gear Now demonstrates how to apply a modern tourniquet with 9-year-old Indy Pence. The company offers tactical first aid seminars to hunters. Photo by Bill Miller, LSON.

Frankfurt served at a Navy field hospital in Saudi Arabia where he helped treat U.S. Marines injured during the First Gulf War.

It was a couple years later, and after Somalia, that Delta Force operators resolved that they could do more in the field to save lives. A small group of military doctors took that challenge and TCCC was born, Frankfurt said.

See **FIRST AID**, Page 25

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The burly white-tailed buck had made regular appearances on trail camera photos all summer long. When hunting season came to the 2K Poole Ranch in San Saba County, HANNAH LAURENCE, 10, of Thorndale had high expectations of tagging the eight-pointer. She closed the deal with a 64-grain bonded bullet from a .223-caliber rifle. "She hit it right behind the shoulder and it only ran about 50 yards," said her dad, Joe Moldenhour. Joe added that Hannah is especially excited that her deer's shoulder mount will be on the wall with trophies taken by the rest of the family.

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# New turkey products for spring

By **Conor Harrison**  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

It seems like every spring, several new products come out that will actually help hunters in their quests to harvest a big gobbler.

This year is no different, with several products introduced in the past few months that could make the difference in closing the deal this season.

The first product is for bowhunters who want to get maximum efficiency from the broadhead they shoot.

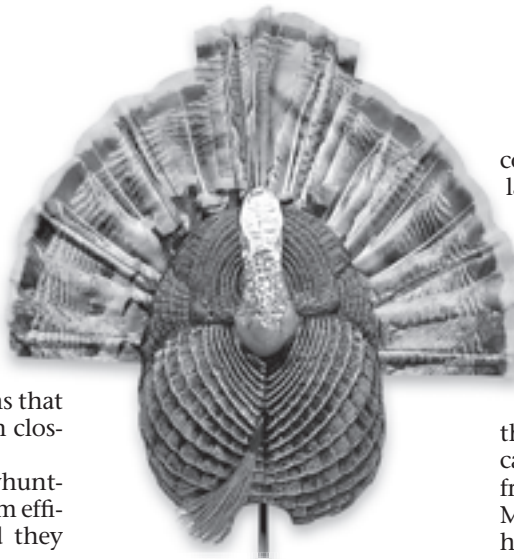
The new Rage 2-blade and 3-blade Turkey Broadheads offer a huge cutting area on an expandable head that flies like a field point.

Designed exclusively for turkey hunting, the 2-blade Turkey Broadhead has a 2.25-inch cutting diameter, and the 3-blade Turkey Broadhead has a 1.75-inch cutting diameter. Both broadheads feature 1.25-inch blade edges.

Both styles offer the ShockLock blade retention system that allows the blades to lock in place by using an O-ring that acts as a shock absorber for the blades, keeping the blades in place until impact.

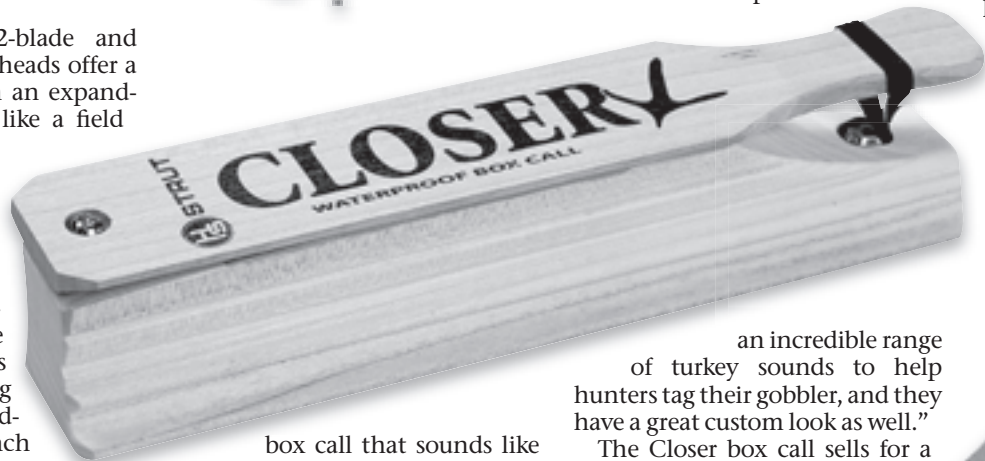
Look for the green ferrule design on the shelves this spring. A three-pack costs about \$45.

Looking for a new, inexpensive



The Closer call is waterproof, constructed with a one-piece poplar body with a cherry lid for a great custom look and feel. The lid is held in place with a screw over a spring, making it easy to tune if needed. The Closer also has an attached elastic band to silence it when walking through the woods.

"I'm really excited about the new line of H.S. Strut turkey calls for 2012," said five-time world friction calling champion Matt Morrett. "Our new custom quality handmade calls produce



an incredible range of turkey sounds to help hunters tag their gobbler, and they have a great custom look as well." The Closer box call sells for a suggested retail price of \$16.99.

Finally, no turkey hunter would head to the woods without a good decoy, and with plenty of expensive, full body decoys on the market, why not spend less and get the same results?

box call that sounds like a custom model? Check out the new H.S. Strut Closer box call from Hunter's Specialties. The Closer is a handmade, hybrid boat paddle style call that can produce a wide range of turkey sounds. The call has plenty of volume to reach gobblers on windy days, but it also has the ability to make soft yelps and clucks when the hunter has a bird working in close.

The Flextone Thunder Chicken is lightweight, portable and looks like a gobbler or jake in full strut.

For under \$40, this decoy is easy to set up and only shows the front 1/4 of the turkey, making it a breeze to transport.

Hunters can choose to use the lifelike jake fan that comes with the decoy, or they can use their own, real fan to attach for a more lifelike look.



## TCU wins rifle championship; UTEP fifth

Texas was honored at the recent NCAA Rifle Championship when one of its universities brought home the title and another placed fifth.

Texas Christian University in Fort Worth won first place at the championship tournament, held March 9-10 at Columbus, Ohio.

The University of Kentucky finished second, followed by the University of Alaska, Army, University of Texas at El Paso, West Virginia, Jacksonville State and Nevada.

It was the second NCAA rifle title in three years for the TCU Horned Frogs. All five team members subsequently earned "All-American" honors.

Juniors Sarah Scherer and Sarah Beard were named first-team All-Americans in air rifle and small-bore.

Caitlin Morrissey, also a junior, was a first-team All-American in air rifle.

Senior Mattie Brogdon earned a spot on the second team in small-bore and an honorable mention in air rifle. Sophomore Catherine Green received an honorable mention All-American in air rifle.

UTEP's fifth-place spot capped the Miners' first showing at the NCAA Rifle Championship since 2005.

Four of its team members also received All-American honors.

Senior Andrea Palafox was named first-team air rifle All-American and Alix Moncada was named to the second-team. Freshman Jennifer Armendariz received an honorable mention.

Andrea Vautrin earned second team honors for small-bore. —Staff report

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# New innovations at Leica



## Trinovid 42 brings back top performance at a lower price

Leica's updated Trinovid premium entry-level binoculars have hit the shelves — at a price nearly \$700 less than the previous model.

The first Trinovids were known for their innovative prism design and unparalleled optical performance. The latest models, available in 8x42 BR and 10x42 BR, feature a rugged design ideal for hunters everywhere.

Despite the lower price, the company created the new models without compromising quality.

"Leica has never developed products to hit a price point," said Jeff Bouton, marketing manager. "There is an easy way to do that, but Leica insists on developing products using only the best European technology."

How did they develop the new Trinovid and keep the cost down?

"We didn't have to retool any equipment," Bouton said. "The new Trinovid uses the same

chassis, so we were able to use the existing optical calculations to save money on production costs."

The result is a high-quality product at a better price. The Trinovid retails for \$1,449 for the 8x42 and \$1,499 for the 10x42.

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"We stayed true to our branding; these are still truly Leica," Bouton said. "It has been very well-received in the marketplace — it performs better than anything at that price."

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## FISHING

# Options vary on restocking recharged ponds

By Bill Miller  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Congratulations if you're a landowner whose pond dried up last summer but is now recharged with recent rainfall.

Spring is the right time to restock it with fish; it will be too late after June 1 when summertime heat puts deadly stress on fingerlings.

Conventional wisdom calls for re-establishing baitfish first — bluegills or redear sunfish — then following up next spring with game species like largemouth bass or catfish.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recommends stocking bluegills 3 inches or bigger. That's a fish old enough to spawn, said Rafe Brock, a TPWD district biologist in Fort Worth.

"The reason we stock them first is because they'll have the whole summer to hopefully get a couple spawns off by the end of the year," Brock said. "Then the following year, in the spring, you can add your largemouth bass."

One private pond consultant, however, said he respects that opinion, but frequently bends the rule.

"That's kind of the classic, 40-year-old strategy," said Bill Wingo of Magnolia Fisheries in Coppell. "But I've been doing both species simultaneously for 25 years, as long as the bass are not too big."

Wingo, a former fisheries biologist for Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, recommended stocking baitfish at 2-4 inches, catfish at 6-8 inches and bass at no more than 6 inches.

Some of the 2-inch bluegills may quickly become bass food, but there ought to be plenty of larger ones left to spawn.

Brock and Wingo agreed, however, that buying larger baitfish is more expensive.

Wingo said his formula calls for stocking "10 bluegills for every bass."

"So," he added, "if you have 50 bass per acre, stock 500 bluegills."

Brock noted that other forage species are available. Redear sunfish, he explained, provide diversity and inhabit deeper levels than bluegill.

"Usually at 500 fish per acre, you can go with 300 bluegills and 200 redears,"



**POND REVIVAL:** It's time to restock forage species, like this sunfish, in ponds that went dry or were drawn down significantly by last summer's drought. Photo by Lone Star Outdoor News.

Brock said. "Redears provide a different fishing opportunity, but you can do just fine with 500 bluegills per acre."

Wingo also urged landowners to first make sure the pond has enough water.

"The key to it is, you need to have half of the water back in the pond for 30 days or there won't be enough oxygen," he said. "I always tell people, 'If the water in that

hole has been at 50 percent for 30 days, I'll come stock your tank.'"

But what about the folks who didn't lose all their water to drought last summer?

Brock and Wingo suggested they fish their ponds now to gauge the body conditions of the bass.

If the fish are skinny, they said, it's a sign that, as the

pond levels shrank last summer, the remaining water was overcrowded with bass, which probably put a huge dent in the number of available forage fish.

Therefore, Brock said a landowner should, "put in as many sunfish as he can afford. You can never have enough."

And Wingo urged landowners to keep fishing.

"On private ponds, there are people who want to do catch and release, but you cannot do that and have a healthy bass population," he said. "You need to take out at least 20 pounds per acre per year."

"You cannot stockpile bass, just like you can't be stockpiling spikes and does and expect to have trophy bucks."

# Kayak anglers booming on coast



**YAK ATTACK:** Capt. George Young holds up a nice redfish caught from his kayak in Galveston Bay. The popularity of kayak fishing continues as more guides get into the fun. Photo by George Young.

## Fishing experience great closer to water

By Conor Harrison  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

George Young of Texas Coastal Kayak Fishing Charters has seen an explosion of kayak fishermen along the bays and beachfronts of his home waters in the Galveston Bay complex.

And he thinks that's

a great thing.

"I started doing this about eight years ago," he said, "and I have seen a tremendous amount of kayak anglers since then. You can't go anywhere without seeing them now. It makes it where the common guy can get out and have some fun, catch some fish,

and not pay a fortune."

Young charges about half of what guides who have to buy gas charge their clients for a day of fishing.

Young said for coastal outings, a stable kayak that is also fast is a great combi-

See **KAYAK**, Page 15

# White bass fishing still strong across northern portion of state

By Conor Harrison  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The white bass run might be winding to a close in South Texas lakes and rivers, but the action is still full speed ahead in many northern lakes and creeks, despite the spawn being done in some areas.

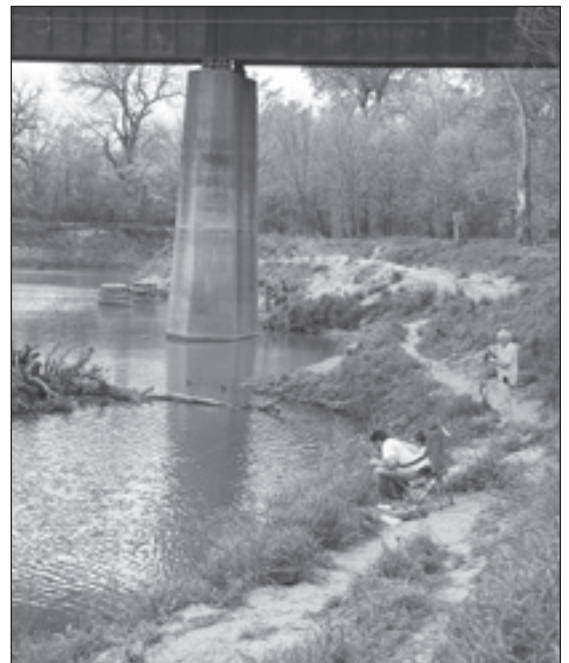
Lake Ray Hubbard guide Ron Metzger said he has been fishing and talking with other guides who've been targeting white bass with good success.

"There has been a string of good catches in certain spots," he said. "The white bass fishing seems to be getting better every day. The spawn is just about over with, and we are catching a lot of them in the main lake."

Metzger said the most popular tactic was throwing slabs and small silver spoons near points at the mouths of creeks as the fish move back down to the lakes

See **WHITE BASS**, Page 15

**TAKE IT TO THE BANK:** Anglers fish the banks under the U.S. 377 bridge spanning Denton Creek north of Grapevine Lake. The fishing was slow in mid-March, and many anglers said the white bass run hadn't started there yet. Photo by Conor Harrison, LSON.



## Live shrimp the ticket for coast anglers in mid-March

Bait dealers along the Texas Coast reported brisk sales of live shrimp in mid-March for spring break anglers, and demand frequently outstripped supply.

"It's getting harder, believe me," said Cheryl Rostetter at Bridge Bait of Freeport. "I had eight tanks of live shrimp last week. Right now, I got one partial tank."

"As soon as it comes in, they're buying it up, a couple quarts at a time."

Similar reports were made from Corpus Christi to Port Isabel.

The sellers said the availability of blue crab and croaker was about a month away, but live shrimp remained the big draw.

"A lot of people have been buying a ton of shrimp," said an employee at Marker 37 Marina in Corpus Christi. That business has a good supplier of shrimp, he said, which has allowed them to freeze some of it for later use.

Rodrigo Rodgers, manager of South Shore Bait and Tackle in Port Isabel, said shrimping has picked up, but live shrimp was still in high demand.

"Shrimp is pretty abundant if it's frozen," he said. But Rodgers, like other sellers, did report strong supplies of finger mullet, ballyhoo and squid.

Nicole Durkin of Bastrop Marina in Freeport said anglers have been making good use of artificial lures, but the shop also had some live bait.

"All we carry is mullet and shrimp," she said, "and we got plenty."

—Staff report

# Lithium-ion batteries' weight could increase boat speeds



Photo by Lithium Pros.

But some lithium-ion batteries can cost \$1,000 or more.

"The sticker shock is amazing," said Kevin Bennett, president of Lithium Pros of Knoxville, Tenn. "People ask all the time, 'Will the cost come down?'"

"I see it coming down somewhat, but not hugely, not like with personal computers."

The reason, Bennett explained, involves the availability of raw materials used to make lithium-ion batteries.

"You have a lot of aluminum, copper and some rare earth components," he said, "and I don't see the costs of those things coming down."

"As the world economy heals from all the financial meltdown, you'll have upward pressure on those commodities."

The batteries are popular in auto racing circles, but dealers are trying to reach tournament anglers.

Ott DeFoe of the Bassmaster Elite Series has signed on to help. The Tennessee angler used lithium batteries for the first time in last month's Bassmaster Classic.

DeFoe said he was excited with the performance he got from Lithium Pros batteries. As for his performance, he won fifth place.

"Cost is definitely the biggest hurdle with it," DeFoe said. "But they got some major benefits. Just the fact that you can save so much weight, you run a little shallower and float a little shallower."

"And in the tournaments, if we only have three or four hours to recharge our batteries,

See **BATTERIES**, Page 19

By **Bill Miller**  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

What's not to like?

Dealers say lithium-ion batteries outperform lead acid batteries.

Both types power the starting of an outboard engine, trolling motors and onboard electronics. But dealers say lithium-ion batteries throw more voltage and can be recharged in a third of the time it takes for the conventional batteries.

And they're a lot lighter. At around 18 to 30 pounds, they can cut at least 100 pounds from a bass boat, increasing speeds by as much as 3-5 mph — a big consideration for tournament anglers.

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# TEXAS FRESHWATER FISHING REPORT

## About to heat up

**LAKE FORK** — Well-known Lake Fork guide James Caldemeyer said fishing on the world-famous lake has been “tricky” the past week due to an influx of water that brought the lake up more than a foot. However, the bass are about ready to head to shallow water to bed, especially in clear water, if you can find it. “Secondary points and pockets with less runoff and clearer water have been good,” Caldemeyer said. “The best baits right now are a square-billed crankbait and chatterbaits — anything with chartreuse and white and darker colors like red shad in dark water.”



Caldemeyer said a lot of males are in the shallows, and he has been catching bass in

less than 2 feet of water. “The soft plastics will pick up real good (in the next 10 days),” he said. “Also a Texas-rigged craw flipping to stumps. The next few weeks could get pretty good.” The water temperature has been between mid-60s and 70 degrees. To contact James Caldemeyer, call (903) 736-9888.

## Cat's meow

**CALAVERAS LAKE** — According to guide Manny Martinez, the catfish bite on Calaveras Lake has been outstanding the past few weeks.



“We are catching channel cats between 2 and 6 pounds,” he said. “We are using my bait, Catfish Gold. Also, we are catching

blue cats up to 15 pounds in the shallows between 3 and 10 feet. Those fish are spawning right now.”

Martinez said the water temperature is between 79 and 82 degrees in discharge areas.

The redfish bite has also been good, with solid catches of running redfish caught on plastic minnow and spoons with a white or yellow trailer in depths of 7 to 20 feet using electric downriggers.

To contact Manny Martinez, call (210) 386-6695.



pening right now. Burkeen looks for hydrilla 2-3 inches below the surface and 2-4 feet off the banks.

“I am catching them right on the edge of the hydrilla,” he said. “Crankbaits in Tennessee shad color are great and I’m burning it pretty good. Also, T-rigged flukes pitched into bushes are catching a lot of fish. They are eating it like crazy.”

Burkeen said he’s had 80 bass days with no giants, but steady fish between 2 and 4 pounds.

“For deep-water guys, drop-shotting in 40 feet and throwing football jigs has produced,” he said. “Top-water hasn’t gone crazy yet, but I have caught a few.”

Burkeen said the spinner bait bite has been the only thing that hasn’t been working.

To contact James Burkeen, call (830) 734-9652

—Conor Harrison

**ARROWHEAD:** Water off-color; 52–57 degrees; 8.01’ low. Largemouth bass are fair on spinner baits, lipless crankbaits, square-billed crankbaits and jigs. White bass are good on Road Runners and minnows. Blue catfish are good on live shad.

**ATHENS:** Water clear; 56–61 degrees; 2.43’ low. Largemouth bass are good on watermelon shaky-head worms and lipless crankbaits. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. Catfish are good on prepared bait.

**BASTROP:** Water clear; 60–64 degrees. Largemouth bass are good on chartreuse soft plastic worms, crankbaits and spinner baits. Crappie are good on minnows and white tube jigs over brush piles. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp, and nightcrawlers.

**BELTON:** Water clear; 57–61 degrees; 2.12’ low. Largemouth bass are good on lipless crankbaits. Crappie are very good on minnows around structure under lights at night. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines and throwlines baited with live perch.

**BOB SANDLIN:** Water lightly stained; 56–61 degrees; 5.71’ low. Largemouth bass are fair to good on black/blue jigs, shaky heads with finesse worms and lipless crankbaits. Crappie are good on live minnows and jigs. White bass are good on Humdingers and top-waters. Catfish are fair to good on trotlines or juglines with soap.

**BRAUNIG:** Water clear. Largemouth bass are good on crankbaits and spinner baits in the reeds. Striped bass are good downrigging silver and gold spoons near the jetty and dam. Channel catfish are good on liver, shrimp and cheesebait near the dam. Blue catfish are good on cut bait.

**BRIDGEPORT:** Water lightly stained; 56–62 degrees; 6.81’ low. Largemouth bass are good on watermelon soft plastics thrown around shallow cover. Good bite reported on square-billed crankbaits in TN Shad midday along shallow points. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on slabs. Hybrid

striper are good on slabs with the best action at midday.

**BROWNWOOD:** Water lightly stained; 55–59 degrees; 10.10’ low. Largemouth bass are good on crankbaits, black/blue jigs, and 4” worms over brush piles.

**BUCHANAN:** Water clear; 57–61 degrees; 26.61’ low. Largemouth bass are good on blue/chartreuse tailed worms, white/red spinner baits, and watermelon soft jerkbaits along points and in creeks in 5–10 feet. Striped bass are fair to good vertically jigging silver spoons and on live bait in 25–35 feet. White bass are good on Li'l Fishies, watermelon lipless crankbaits and live minnows in 18–25 feet. Crappie are fair to good on live minnows.

**CADDO:** Water stained; 55–60 degrees; 1.38’ high. Largemouth bass are good on black/blue jigs around isolated cover. Shad-pattern lipless crankbaits and spinner baits in the same areas are effective. Yellow bass are good on minnows.

**CANYON LAKE:** Water clear; 58–62 degrees; 9.19’ low. Largemouth bass are good on yellow spinner baits, pumpkin worms, and watermelon jerkbaits along stickups in 5–12 feet. Smallmouth bass are good on blue/green flake curl tail grubs, smoke/red tubes, and watermelon worms over rock piles in 10–20 feet.

**CEDAR CREEK:** Water stained; 55–61 degrees; 1.59’ low. Largemouth bass are good on Texas-rigged creature baits, shaky heads and black/blue finesse jigs around docks. White bass are good on slabs. Hybrid striper are good on live shad. Crappie are fair to good on minnows.

**CHOKO CANYON:** Water clear; 60–64 degrees; 12.54’ low. Largemouth bass are good on swimbaits and jerkbaits early. Crappie are good on minnows and white tube jigs at night under lights. Channel and blue catfish are good on doughbait and nightcrawlers.

**COLEMAN:** Water clear; 57–61 degrees; 15.74’ low. Largemouth bass are fair on spinner baits, crankbaits, and lipless crankbaits. Hybrid striper are good on minnows and white striper jigs. Crappie are fair on

minnows over brush piles. Channel catfish are good on stinkbait and cut bait.

**COOPER:** Water lightly stained; 55–60 degrees; 7.12’ low. Largemouth bass are good on chartreuse shallow crankbaits and Texas-rigged craw worms later in the day. Green pumpkin soft plastics are best. Crappie are good on minnows. White bass are good on slabs. Hybrid striper are fair to good on Sassy Shad and live shad. Catfish are good on prepared bait and cut bait.

**FALCON:** Water stained; 62–66 degrees; 20.56’ low. Largemouth bass are good on watermelon red 6” worms, crankbaits and spinner baits. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp, stinkbait, and cut bait.

**FAYETTE:** Water clear. Largemouth bass are good on chartreuse Carolina-rigged soft plastics, spinner baits, and lipless crankbaits. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp, nightcrawlers, and stinkbait.

**GIBBONS CREEK:** Water clear. Largemouth bass are good on watermelon crankbaits and spinner baits. Crappie are fair on minnows and blue tube jigs. Catfish are good on shrimp, nightcrawlers, and stinkbait.

**GRANBURY:** Water clear; 57–61 degrees; 0.36’ low. Largemouth bass are good on perch-colored soft plastics and lipless crankbaits over grass. Crappie are good on minnows and green tube jigs.

**GRANGER:** Water murky; 59–63 degrees; 0.66’ low. Largemouth bass are fair on small crankbaits upriver. White bass are good on small white jigs and river minnows near Dickerson’s. Blue catfish are good on prepared baits on rod & reel, and on juglines baited with shad.

**GRAPEVINE:** Water lightly stained; 56–60 degrees; 0.61’ high. Largemouth bass are good on watermelon Texas-rigged worms, watermelon finesse jigs, lipless crankbaits, and jerkbaits along main lake points. Crappie are good on minnows. White bass are good on slabs. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water clear;

60–64 degrees; 0.73’ low. Largemouth bass to 9 pounds are excellent on watermelon red plastics near the dam and boathouses and on some lipless crankbaits and soft plastics. Crappie are good on minnows around docks and brush. Channel and blue catfish are very good on trotlines baited with chicken hearts and shad.

**JOE POOL:** Water lightly stained; 56–61 degrees; 0.26’ high. Largemouth bass are good on Texas-rigged creature baits, lipless crankbaits and smaller jigs — midday bite has been best. Deep brush piles are best later in day. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on slabs. Catfish are fair to good on prepared baits.

**LAKE O' THE PINES:** Water lightly stained; 56–62 degrees; 1.15’ low. Largemouth bass are good on Texas-rigged worms, spinner baits and shallow crankbaits along main lake points. Isolated cover is the key. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on cut shad.

**LAVON:** Water lightly stained; 56–61 degrees; 4.00’ low. Largemouth bass are good on Texas-rigged creature baits, black/brown jigs and square-billed crankbaits. White bass are good on slabs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around bridge columns. Catfish are good on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water stained; 56–60 degrees; 0.35’ low. Largemouth bass are slow on medium-running crankbaits and suspending jerkbaits along riprap near the dam. White bass are good on prepared bait.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water fairly clear; 60–64 degrees; 0.98’ high. Largemouth bass are excellent on soft plastics and spinner baits. Crappie are very good on minnows. Blue catfish are very good on shad.

**NAVARRO MILLS:** Water stained; 60–64 degrees; 0.62’ high. Largemouth bass are fair on spinner baits along the shoreline. White bass are good on minnows in the creeks. Crappie are good on minnows and blue/chartreuse and gold/chartreuse jigs tipped with crappie nibbles over brush

in 5–8 feet. Blue catfish are good on cut shad. Yellow catfish are good on live perch.

**O.H. IVIE:** Water stained; 54–59 degrees; 39.66’ low. Largemouth bass are fair to good on lipless crankbaits, Texas rigs, jigs and swim jigs. White bass are fair to good on tail spinners and live bait. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

**PALESTINE:** Water lightly stained; 56–61 degrees; 1.70’ low. Largemouth bass are good on black and blue jigs, shaky heads and bladed jigs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs and minnows. Catfish are good on prepared bait.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water fairly clear; 50–58 degrees; 6.36’ low. Largemouth bass are fair on Texas rigs, jigs and medium- or shallow-running crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on shiners and Road Runners. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers.

**RAY HUBBARD:** Water fairly clear; 56–60 degrees; 1.82’ low. Largemouth bass are good on Texas-rigged creature baits, square-billed crankbaits and lipless crankbaits. Swim jigs are good around riprap also. White bass are excellent on humps in 17–23 feet with hybrids mixed in. Catfish are good on prepared baits.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water lightly stained; 57–62 degrees; 1.61’ low. Largemouth bass are good on rattle baits in Rayburn Red and chartreuse/white chatterbaits fished around shallow grass. Crappie are good on minnows in backs of creeks. White bass are good on slabs in 25 feet of water on main lake ridges and some ridges toward the mouths of major creeks. Catfish are good around baited holes on punch bait.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Water lightly stained; 59–64 degrees; 4.48’ low. Largemouth bass are fair on Carolina-rigged chartreuse soft plastics and spinner baits. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, live minnows and stinkbait.

**STILLHOUSE:** Water stained; 58–62 degrees; 14.35’ low. Largemouth bass are fair on minnows, spinner baits and lipless crankbaits. White bass are good on minnows below Long Bridge. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and stinkbait.

**TAWAKONI:** Water stained; 56–60 degrees; 3.69’ low. Largemouth bass are good on black/blue Fire-water 1/2 oz. jigs and sun perch-colored chatter jigs. White bass are excellent on white slabs and tails — schooling on points early and late. Striped bass and hybrid striper are good on 4” to 6” white- or shad-pattern Sassy Shad in the shallows early then suspending deep during the day — drifting live bait is also producing. Catfish are excellent in deep water drifting cut bait and fresh shad.

**TEXOMA:** Water fairly clear; 55–60 degrees; 0.92’ low. The Blue-Green Algae alert has been downgraded to an advisory. Bodily contact with water is no longer prohibited. It is now just discouraged. Largemouth bass are fair on suspending jerkbaits and medium crankbaits along rocky points with larger rock. Striped bass and hybrid striper are good on slabs.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water stained; 61–64 degrees; 3.92’ low. Largemouth bass are good on watermelon and pumpkinseed soft plastics, spinner baits and crankbaits.

**TRAVIS:** Water lightly stained; 58–62 degrees; 49.03’ low. Largemouth bass are good on white grubs, Senkos, and watermelon soft plastics in 5–15 feet.

**WEATHERFORD:** Water stained; 55–61 degrees; 1.81’ low. Largemouth bass are slow on shallow crankbaits, shaky heads and Texas-rigged creature baits — target any shallow cover. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

**WRIGHT PATMAN:** Water lightly stained; 55–60 degrees; 5.24’ high. Largemouth bass are good on Texas-rigged worms, shallow crankbaits and chatterbaits along main lake points. Catfish are fair to good on cut shad and prepared bait.

—TPWD

See Saltwater fishing reports: Page 16

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# Hybrids active, but not always feeding

By **Conor Harrison**  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

## Anglers having some success in North Texas lakes

Lake Tawakoni guide Tony Parker knows how to target spring hybrids on his home lake — look for the birds early in the morning.

“Tawakoni has been really good for hybrids the past few days,” Parker said. “We are catching a lot of hybrids up to 8 or 9 pounds looking for schooling fish under birds early.”

Parker said he has pursued the chunky fish by slow rolling Sassy Shad over humps and lake points between 13 and 30 feet of water.

“They are wherever you find them,” he said. “The water temperature today (March 16) is 59.3 degrees.”

Other guides also had favorable reports for Tawakoni, proving that Parker isn't the only one having success this time of year.

Farther west on Lewisville Lake, guide Kevin McCullough said the action has been hit or miss, but more hit for him and his clients.

“We tore them up the other day,” McCullough said. “But on this lake, you can tear them up one day and be searching for them the next.”

McCullough said he has been mostly fishing for sand bass this time of year, but always



Photo by Steve Fogle.

catches a few hybrids mixed in.

“I use slabs and live bait,” he said. “The water is stained right now and between 56 and 58 degrees. I've been catching them on humps early and late.”

McCullough's fishing report on his Web site stated he has been marking a lot of fish lately but they aren't always feeding aggressively, which can be common this time of year as water temperatures and clarity fluctuate with rains and weather fronts.

Denton County Game Warden David Benoit said the hybrid fishing has been solid in certain areas of Lewisville Lake.

“Around Lake Park and the old dam, the hybrids have been biting really good,” Benoit said. “And they are really good-sized fish.”

Benoit said bank anglers were having success casting a long ways out from the bank.

“There are a lot of 20- to 22-inch fish being caught off the bank,” he added.

Guide Tony Parker, (903) 348-1619  
Guide Kevin McCullough, (817) 909-1953

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# GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

## FOILED BY FACEBOOK POST

Trinity County Game Wardens Sam Shanafelt and Randy Watts interviewed a man about information he put on Facebook. The Facebook post read, "I just found out that you can't drop a deer at 400 yards with a .22." The hunter admitted to shooting at a doe five times. Citations for hunting whitetail in closed season and no hunting license were issued.

## CHALLENGED TO PROVE IT, LAB RESULTS CONFIRM CHARGE

In September, Gillespie County Game Warden Sam Harris cited a couple for road hunting. Harris seized a rifle the night of the incident, and recovered a bullet from an axis buck. The couple refused to cooperate and told Harris to prove it. The rifle and the bullet were sent to DPS Lab in Austin for analysis. Results of the testing found the bullet recovered from the axis deer positively matched the suspects' rifle. The couple were arrested and are now facing several charges including hunting without landowner consent.

## CRAPPIE HOUSE CAPERS

During the middle of January, Wood County Game Wardens Derek Spitzer and Kurt Kelley received information of fishermen exceeding the daily bag limit for crappie at a public boat-house. Spitzer and Kelley along with Van Zandt County Game Warden Trent Hirschman set up surveillance on the boat house. Numerous citations were issued to four individuals for exceeding the daily bag limit and no fishing licenses. Cases pending.

## SAWING OFF ROADKILL ANTLERS NOT LEGAL SHED HUNTING

Last week, Gonzales County Game Warden Dan Waddell investigated several calls relating to the witnessing of two men from Louisiana sawing the antlers off a deer on a county road.

## RULES OF POACHING EXPLAINED TO WARDENS

Newton County Game Wardens Ellis Powell, Brian Srba, Landon Spacek, Bradley Smith and Jasper County Game Warden Morgan Inman executed a search warrant on a 24-year-old Louisiana resident. The warrant was a result of a four-month investigation on the subject, with warrants also being served on the subject's Facebook account for e-mails and photos. Louisiana game wardens interviewed subjects implicated from the Facebook account. The subject admitted to killing eight deer in the last few months and implicated several other subjects with numerous deer kills. None

of the four main subjects have had a hunting license since 2004, with no deer taken in daylight hours during this time. Numerous charges filed with more interviews with other subjects pending.

One suspect explained the "rules of the hunt":

- Never take a girlfriend
- Never hunt from a vehicle or paved road
- If a kill is made, do not return for two weeks
- Find entry and exit points
- Place spotters with radios at these points to watch for game warden or landowner

After a lengthy search, Waddell finally located the men and obtained a confession. Cases pending.

## BUCKETS OF FISH UNDERMINE SLOW FISHING DAY

While on patrol along the Nueces River, Game Warden Nichole Spatz made contact with two fishermen who informed her that fishing was slow and they had not caught any fish. After visiting with the two anglers for about 10 minutes, Spatz passed the fishermen's truck on the way to hers. A bucket in the bed of the truck held red and black drum. A second bucket beneath the toolbox also contained black drum. Seven undersized black drum and three undersized red drum were confiscated and citations were issued.

## NEW LOCK PLACED ON GATE BY TRESPASSERS

Trinity County Game Warden Randy Watts received a call from a landowner about hog hunters trespassing on his high-fenced ranch. The landowner found a dog with a GPS collar and a few minutes later the hog hunters showed up to get the dog. The landowner asked the hunters how they got in the ranch. They stated the gate was open and they would leave

it like they found it. After the hunters left, the landowner checked his gate. His lock was missing and a new lock was on the gate. The landowner knew the identity of one of the hunters. Watts called the hunter and met with all the individuals on the neighboring property. Citations were issued to five hunters for trespassing.

## WARDENS HAVE SKIRMISH WITH SUSPECT, PIT BULL

A man suspected of shooting a deer illegally led Red River County Game Wardens Benny Richards and Daniel Roraback on a foot pursuit along the banks of the Red River. Richards tackled the suspect, who then attempted to take Richards' weapon. Roraback used his pepper spray in an attempt to stop the suspect from fighting. All the while the suspect's pit bull dog was attacking both wardens. The suspect was finally detained and arrested. Charges pending.

## BOAT THIEVES LANDED BY WARDEN

An adult and two juveniles were apprehended while in the act of stealing a 14-foot aluminum boat. Game Warden Calvin Harbaugh observed that the boat had been chained to a tree near the river's edge. The defendants had broken the lock, loaded the

boat into the bed of a truck, and were about to drive off with it when they were apprehended.

## EGRET SHOOTER NOT DOING NEIGHBOR A FAVOR

Jasper County Game Warden Morgan Inman received a call from Game Warden Justin Eddins about someone shooting a cattle egret off his neighbor's pond. The landowner called and said his neighbor from down the road called him and said, "I just did you a favor and shot that bird eating all your perch." The landowner replied, "You did what? That was mamma's pet." Inman went to the shooter's house, and he admitted to shooting several egrets along with three deer that he didn't tag. Cases pending.

## GIVING NEW MEANING TO NETTING WHITE BASS

Houston County Game Warden Eddie Lehr observed two subjects using a dip net to catch sand bass along the bank of the Trinity River. The subjects would keep the net in the water until the bass would run into it on their way up river. The subjects landed 30 fish using this illegal method. Cases pending.

## SHRIMP SELLER ASKED THE WRONG GUY

While off duty, Galveston County Captain Edward Tanuz was pumping gas into his personal vehicle when a man approached asking if he was interested in buying shrimp. The seller stated that the shrimp was fresh and that he personally caught the shrimp that morning. After looking at the shrimp and discussing a reasonable price, Tanuz showed the seller his law enforcement identification and asked to see a commercial license. The seller possessed no commercial licenses and was selling the shrimp illegally. Case pending.

## DENIAL OF FIREARM IN VEHICLE DASHED

Delta County Game Warden Chris Fried witnessed a vehicle traveling down a county road and heard numerous shots fired from the vehicle. Contact was made and all five occupants stated that there was no firearm in the vehicle. A search revealed a dead rabbit, a 30-pack of beer, and a loaded handgun hidden under the back seat. Citations were issued for minor in possession of alcohol and hunting from a public roadway.

## MAN SPENDS MORE THAN 30 HOURS STUCK ON BOAT

At around 8 p.m., Leon County Game Warden Oscar Henson and Limestone County Game Warden Randy Harper received a missing person call on the Trinity River in Madison County. With the threat of strong thunderstorms rapidly approaching, they searched by land and then by boat. About 2 a.m., they found the man huddled under an umbrella sitting in his boat. He had hit a stump around 5 p.m. two evenings earlier and had been stuck there. Other than being cold, wet, and tired, the man was OK.

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## Spring break

Continued From Page 1

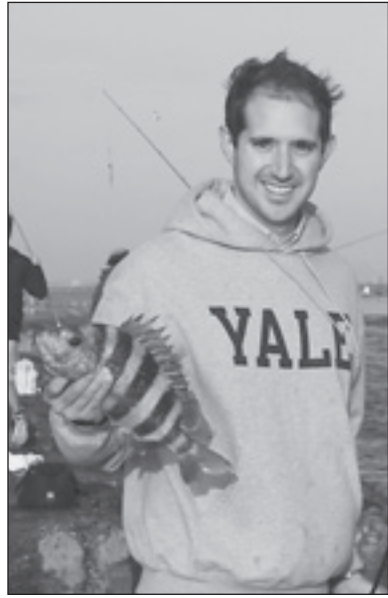
speckled trout.

Thousands of students thronged the Texas Coast in mid-March — many from out of state. As always, there was plenty of partying, but some, like Grant, took time to fish.

On South Padre Island, Mary Ellen, a senior from the University of Notre Dame, wanted to try something new. “Why not fishing?” she

said before boarding a bay fishing boat owned by Capt. Murphy Charter Services. “I always wanted to do this.”

Mary said she and five of her friends drove 28 hours from Indiana for spring break. The red-haired woman from Connecticut said they had been partying, but she got away from the group so she could learn to fish.



She took a crash course from deckhand Gilbert De La Paz who said a few spring breakers have been booking the three-hour bay fishing trips in the mornings and afternoons.

“They have been catching sheepshead, sand trout, whiting and a few black drum,” he said. “The afternoon trips have been the best.”

Borden Thongsapsin,

**SPRING BREAK BITE:** Ramses Gonzales Jr., a student from Texas A&M University, fished on the north jetties on South Padre Island in pursuit of sheepshead. Photo by Antonio Vindell for LSON.

a student at DeVry University in Irving, said he wanted to go deep-sea fishing because he preferred bigger fish.

But his hopes to catch a few red snapper withered after he was told the only boat going out was to fish in federal waters, which were closed to that fish species this time of year.

Ryan Hunka, a Canadian attending the Northeast Fire/EMS Training Academy in Sulphur Springs, said bay fishing was fine with him.

Ramses Gonzalez, a Brownsville resident attending Texas A&M University, who described himself as a fishing fanatic, went to the north jetties in pursuit of the tasty sheepshead, which have been showing up in consistent numbers since late February.

“I fish in the morning and drink beer in the afternoon,” he said, showing two sheepshead he caught with his dad, Ramses Sr. “We used live shrimp, but when we go to South Bay we like to use Sparkle Beetles and other lures. I was born to fish.”

## Big bass

Continued From Page 1

largemouth out of 30 feet of water fishing with a slab.

“We were going after sand bass and Luke had four or five sandies in the boat within the first 10 minutes,” Ty said. “He was figuring out how to hook them when something tugged on his line and he set the hook.”

Ty said the fish didn't fight much.

“I said he probably has a catfish,” Golden said. “And then when that big ole fish came up I went, ‘Oh, my gosh.’ I went to grab her and she dove straight down. I'm glad I had the drag set right on that reel. It was only 8-pound test line.”

When the fish dove, Luke held on and slowly reeled the big female back to the boat, only to get his line wrapped around the trolling motor.

“When it got hung in the trolling motor, I thought we were going to lose it,” Ty said. “I finally got it in the net and we were plenty excited.”

Golden weighed the fish on the boat and it tipped the scale at 10.25 pounds. However, the family was camping on the lake and wanted more sand bass for a fish fry, so they continued fishing for another hour before heading to the dock and a certified scale.

“She was ready to spawn, but with the cold snap, she had headed back to deeper water,” Golden said. “She had a bloody tail and was full of eggs. There were a lot of little sandies out there, and I think she may have been feeding.”



**IT WAS A 10-POUNDER!** Luke Underwood helps hold the 9.9-pound bass he caught fishing on Lake Ray Roberts. The fish weighed 10.25 pounds in the boat, but lost eggs, and weight, on the way to the dock. Photo by Cathy Underwood.

Ty said the fish was spilling eggs all over the boat and in the livewell, and when they got to a certified scale, she weighed 9.9 pounds.

“If I'd have known she was losing weight, we would have headed for the dock immediately,” Ty said. “Still, he made his daddy proud.”

The big bass was released back into the lake after it was weighed.

Young Luke was excited about his catch. “She was 10 pounds, and I did it all by myself,” he said excitedly on the phone. “My mom was really proud.”

What does the future hold for Luke now that he has caught a big female bass?

“Now I want to catch a daddy,” he said.

## Time to sign up for STAR

The STAR tournament entry fee is still \$20 for ages 18 and up. Membership to CCA is \$25 annually, for a total of \$45. For anglers ages 6-17, the “New Tide” membership is \$10 and the STAR entry is free, but the youngster still needs to be registered to win a prize or scholarship.

Signup is available at [www.ccatexas.org](http://www.ccatexas.org) or [www.startournament.org](http://www.startournament.org) or by calling (713) 626-4222.

— CCA STAR

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A total of \$675,972 for quail research was raised at the 2012 dinner and auction of Park Cities Quail in Dallas.

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— PCQ report

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## White bass

Continued From Page 8

after spawning.

On Richland Chambers, guide Craig Copeland said the white bass spawn hadn't occurred yet, but the action had still been solid.

"The water is still a little cold (for spawning)," Copeland said. "Right now it is 58.5 degrees and they are really biting a slow draw."

Copeland said he is fishing 2-ounce slabs in 25-35 feet of water.

"We limited out in about 45 minutes the other day," he said. "There were a lot of other boats around us doing really fast retrieves — just ripping it. You've got to slow down right now. The fish don't want to expend a bunch of energy."

Copeland said the spawn would start on Richland Chambers when the water hits about 62 degrees.

Torrential rains across much of Texas recently made creeks rise, many to the point of being unfishable.

A game warden on Lewisville Lake reported that the white bass anglers he checked said the fishing has been hit or miss near Hickory Creek. He said the white bass run was on several weeks ago, but, after heavy rains turned the creeks muddy, the fishing went downhill.

On Denton Creek, the fishing has not been as steady as in years past, but that could be because of rising, muddy water, or the fish haven't run all the way to the U.S. 377 bridge yet.

"If you hit it at about the right time, you can catch a bucketful," said Crum angler David Stone. "I don't think they are up here yet."

Guide Ron Metzger, (281) 910-0517  
Guide Craig Copeland, (214) 783-3801

## One tooth

Continued From Page 4



**HOW OLD?** Using calipers to measure wear on the third tooth, hunters can determine the approximate age of a harvested buck, according to researchers. Photo by AgriLife.

young, mature or old.

Many experienced hunters can tell which age class a buck falls into by looking at body characteristics alone, without looking at the old plaque or jawbone.

Cooper said over the past 10 years the wildlife team at the Uvalde center has ear-tagged more than 2,000 wild buck fawns on South Texas ranches. During that time, ranch owners and operators kept tabs on ear-tagged deer, collaborating with the center on

deer-related research.

"When these bucks are harvested, the partner ranch returns any known-age jawbones from tagged deer to us for evaluation and assessment," she said.

Cooper said when tested on a sample of jaws from 141 bucks, the formula predicted the correct age for 61 percent of young bucks aged 2.5 to 3.5 years; 53 percent of mature bucks aged 4.5 to 6.5 years, and 25 percent of old bucks aged 7.5 to 8.5 years.

All of the deer were correctly aged within a year of their actual age. Those numbers are nearly double the accuracy of the old method, Cooper said.

The new method only works with bucks, because bucks will draw calcium from their bodies to grow antlers, while does won't, thus changing the equation to find an accurate age.

"This (new method) allows those that deal with deer to get a more accurate age," Cooper said.

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**South Texas Deer Aging Chart**

Dentine width (mm)  
Right jaw, first bicuspid molar (M1)  
Front cusp on cheek side

Age	From	To
2.5 YRS	0	0.63
3.5 YRS	0.64	1.19
4.5 YRS	1.20	1.74
5.5 YRS	1.75	2.30
6.5 YRS	2.31	2.86
7.5 YRS	2.87	3.41
8.5 YRS	3.42	3.97
9.5 YRS	3.98	4.52
10.5 YRS	4.53	5.08

**LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS**

## Kayak

Continued From Page 8

nation.

"I prefer something that is stable yet fast, like the Ocean Kayak Prowler 13 or the Wilderness 140s," he said. "I can stand up in those."

Young said he has been catching trout and redfish in the Galveston

Bay area on twitch baits that mimic shad and are about 3 inches long.

"When the trout and reds get off the glass minnow bite, which they have been on the past month, that will be a hot lure," he said. "In another few weeks, they will switch over to the 2- and 3-inch shad. I think those (twitch bait) lures will be perfect. I prefer the slow-sinking ones."

Young said the primetime to fish from a kayak is during the summer months of June and July.

"When the wind settles, you have the option of fishing both the beachfront and the bays," he said. "Or both. It is easy to launch from a shoreline and work that shoreline, but I like the weather to settle down a bit."

Young had several recommen-

dations for anglers heading to the coast for the first time in a kayak.

"San Luis Pass will be up and coming in a few months," he said. "The North shore of Christmas Bay is a nice sand-and-grass bottom mix. When the weather warms up a bit, get out there in waist-deep water with a top-water bait and, man, hold on!"

Another favorite tactic for the

kayak angler is to head to a shallow reef at sunset and wait until the motorboats have headed for the docks.

"At night, on an outgoing tide, we can hammer the 24- to 26-inch trout," Young said. "You can hear the explosion (when the fish hits) but you can't see it, so you don't jerk the lure out. It can be awesome."

Capt. George Young, (713) 501-0636





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# TEXAS SALTWATER FISHING REPORT

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## Live and dead shrimp

REDFISH BAY — According to Capt. Randy Filla, the fishing has been good in Redfish Bay on days when the wind doesn't blow anglers off the water.

"We are mostly targeting redfish and drum right now, a lot more than trout," Filla said. "The trout are there, but waiting for the croaker to come in. We are catching oversized drum on cracked crab and shrimp and the redfish on pin perch and sea lice in about 18 inches of water."

Filla said he is pitching the pin perch live or as cut bait. "For trout, we are drifting with shrimp under popping corks."

Filla said the majority of fish are in shallow water, with reds hanging along sand patches and grass lines and puppy drum being caught in their normal haunts on shell.

The water temperature has been between 68-70 degrees. To contact Capt. Randy Filla, call (361) 215-2332.

## Transitions to top-water

TRINITY/EAST BAYS — The trout and redfish bite has been good recently, despite a transition from winter to spring fishing, according to Capt. Dean Muckleroy.

"It's been pretty good on protected shorelines over shell,"

Muckleroy said. "The wade fishing has been pretty decent on places like the Longbeach shoreline. It's slowly picking up."

The top-water bite has been good early, but not great later in the day, although it is getting better as the water continues to warm.

"I had a friend that caught several in East Bay up to 6 1/2 pounds," he said. "He was fishing on Spooks."

Muckleroy said he has been throwing soft plastic shrimp under a popping cork in Texas roach or chartreuse colors.

Muckleroy said the North end of the bay system has seen an influx of freshwater and water temperatures are between 70 and 73 degrees with fair clarity.

To contact Capt. Dean Muckleroy, call (281) 660-4280.

## Drums beating

COPANO BAY — Several anglers from the LSON crew headed to the Copano Bay area for spring break, and returned with reports of solid action for oversized black drum, "puppy" black drum and redfish.

According to David Sams, LSON founder, his family had a great run of big drum on an outgoing tide using cracked crabs as bait.



"The bite for big drum was on during the height of the outgoing tide about midday," Sams said.

After catching big drum, the group headed to the flats to catch smaller drum for the table.

"We caught a lot of puppy drum between 14 and 16 inches — perfect eating size," Sams said. "The small drum were moving across the flats in less than 2 feet of water."

The group was throwing dead shrimp. The water was muddy, caused by a strong wind tide and they also caught several small reds.

## Not so hot

PORT MANSFIELD — Fishing around the Port Mansfield area has been slow according to guide Shane Jones.

"It's been pretty windy and I haven't been out that much — a few trips over spring break," Jones said. "Honestly, the fishing has been mediocre. I took a couple of groups of kids and we caught trout with shrimp under popping corks."

Jones said the top-water bite has been OK. The water temperatures are in the mid 60s.

"I've been heading north, but most guides have headed south where the action has been a little better," he added.

To contact Shane Jones, call (956) 873-0453.

— Conor Harrison

**NORTH SABINE:** Trout are fair to good in the river on live shad. Redfish are good in the marsh on small top-waters and scented plastics.

**SOUTH SABINE:** Sheepshead and black drum are good at the jetty on live shrimp. Trout are fair around the Reef on live shrimp. Drifters have found good trout around mullet and shell.

**BOLIVAR:** Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline on soft plastics and plugs. Black drum and redfish are good at Rollover Pass on crabs.

**TRINITY BAY:** Trout are good for drifters working pods of shad and

mullet on soft plastics. Redfish are good at the spillway on crabs and mullet.

**EAST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are good on the south shoreline on twitch baits, soft plastics and suspending jerkbaits. Whiting and sand trout are good on the edge of the Intracoastal on fresh shrimp.

**WEST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are fair to good in the mud and shell on top-waters and Corkies in the afternoon. Sheepshead, redfish and black drum are good at the jetty on shrimp.

**TEXAS CITY:** Sheepshead and sand trout are good around the

piers on shrimp. Redfish are fair to good on shrimp and crabs in Moses Lake.

**FREEPORT:** Sand trout and sheepshead are good on live shrimp on the reefs. Black drum are good in Cold Pass and San Luis pass on cracked blue crabs. Black drum are redfish are fair to good on live shrimp over reefs.

**EAST MATAGORDA BAY:** Trout are fair to good for drifters in the afternoon 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 in Oyster Lake on shrimp. Trout are fair on shell and grass on soft plastics. Black drum are fair to good at the jetty on crabs.

**PORT O'CONNOR:** Trout and redfish are good on top-waters over soft mud in waist-deep water in San Antonio Bay. Trout and redfish are fair for drifters working the back lakes with live shrimp. Redfish are good in the back lakes for waders tossing gold spoons and scented plastics.

**ROCKPORT:** Black drum are good in the Lydia Ann Channel on crabs. Trout are fair over grass while drifting with live shrimp. Redfish are fair on the Estes Flats

on mullet and shrimp.

**PORT ARANSAS:** Black drum are good in the Shrimpboat Channel on crabs and finger mullet. Redfish and sheepshead are fair to good at the jetty on shrimp.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Trout are fair to good on the edge of the spoils on scented plastics and live shrimp. Black drum are good in the Humble Channel at night on crabs and table shrimp.

**BAFFIN BAY:** Trout are fair to good on the King Ranch shoreline on Corkies and top-waters. Black drum are good in the Land Cut on crabs.

**SOUTH PADRE:** Black drum,

redfish and sheepshead have been taken at the jetty. Trout and redfish are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on DOA Shrimp and Gulpis.

**PORT ISABEL:** Snook are fair in the Brownsville Ship Channel on free-lined shrimp. Trout and redfish are fair to good in South Bay on live shrimp. Sheepshead and mangrove snapper are fair around the causeway on shrimp.

—TPWD

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# Sun | Moon | Tides

## Moon Phases



## Texas Coast Tides

### Sabine Pass, jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 23	4:37 AM	2.3H	10:21 AM	1.3L	3:42 PM	1.9H	10:07 PM	0.3L
Mar 24	5:29 AM	2.3H	10:48 AM	1.5L	3:54 PM	2.0H	10:38 PM	0.2L
Mar 25	6:21 AM	2.3H	11:17 AM	1.7L	4:03 PM	2.0H	11:13 PM	0.1L
Mar 26	7:17 AM	2.3H	11:46 AM	1.9L	4:03 PM	2.1H	11:52 PM	0.1L
Mar 27	8:19 AM	2.3H	12:16 PM	2.0L	3:47 PM	2.1H		
Mar 28	12:37 AM	0.2L	9:32 AM	2.3H	2:50 PM	2.1L	3:30 PM	2.2H
Mar 29	1:30 AM	0.2L	10:54 AM	2.3H				
Mar 30	2:30 AM	0.3L	12:06 PM	2.3H				
Mar 31	3:38 AM	0.3L	12:47 PM	2.3H				
Apr 01	4:46 AM	0.4L	1:11 PM	2.3H	6:45 PM	2.0L	10:18 PM	2.1H
Apr 02	5:50 AM	0.5L	1:29 PM	2.2H	6:36 PM	1.7L		
Apr 03	12:01 AM	2.2H	6:48 AM	0.6L	1:45 PM	2.2H	7:03 PM	1.3L
Apr 04	1:20 AM	2.4H	7:42 AM	0.8L	2:00 PM	2.1H	7:39 PM	0.9L
Apr 05	2:31 AM	2.6H	8:35 AM	1.1L	2:16 PM	2.2H	8:20 PM	0.4L
Apr 06	3:37 AM	2.9H	9:26 AM	1.5L	2:33 PM	2.2H	9:04 PM	-0.1L

### Galveston Bay entrance, south jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 23	5:24 AM	1.8H	10:47 AM	1.0L	4:29 PM	1.6H	10:33 PM	0.3L
Mar 24	6:16 AM	1.8H	11:14 AM	1.2L	4:41 PM	1.6H	11:04 PM	0.2L
Mar 25	7:08 AM	1.8H	11:43 AM	1.4L	4:50 PM	1.6H	11:39 PM	0.1L
Mar 26	8:04 AM	1.8H	12:12 PM	1.5L	4:50 PM	1.6H		
Mar 27	12:18 AM	0.1L	9:06 AM	1.8H	12:42 PM	1.6L	4:34 PM	1.7H
Mar 28	1:03 AM	0.1L	10:19 AM	1.8H	1:16 PM	1.7L	4:17 PM	1.7H
Mar 29	1:56 AM	0.2L	11:41 AM	1.8H				
Mar 30	2:56 AM	0.2L	12:53 PM	1.8H				
Mar 31	4:04 AM	0.3L	1:34 PM	1.8H				
Apr 01	5:12 AM	0.3L	1:58 PM	1.8H	7:11 PM	1.6L	11:05 PM	1.6H
Apr 02	6:16 AM	0.4L	2:16 PM	1.8H	7:02 PM	1.4L		
Apr 03	12:48 AM	1.8H	7:14 AM	0.5L	2:32 PM	1.7H	7:29 PM	1.1L
Apr 04	2:07 AM	1.9H	8:08 AM	0.7L	2:47 PM	1.7H	8:05 PM	0.7L
Apr 05	3:18 AM	2.1H	9:01 AM	0.9L	3:03 PM	1.7H	8:46 PM	0.3L
Apr 06	4:24 AM	2.3H	9:52 AM	1.2L	3:20 PM	1.8H	9:30 PM	0.0L

### San Luis Pass

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 23	5:54 AM	1.1H	11:43 AM	0.6L	4:59 PM	0.9H	11:29 PM	0.2L
Mar 24	6:46 AM	1.1H	12:10 PM	0.7L	5:11 PM	0.9H		
Mar 25	12:00 AM	0.1L	7:38 AM	1.1H	12:39 PM	0.8L	5:20 PM	1.0H
Mar 26	12:35 AM	0.1L	8:34 AM	1.1H	1:08 PM	0.9L	5:20 PM	1.0H
Mar 27	1:14 AM	0.1L	9:36 AM	1.1H	1:38 PM	1.0L	5:04 PM	1.0H
Mar 28	1:59 AM	0.1L	10:49 AM	1.1H	2:12 PM	1.0L	4:47 PM	1.0H
Mar 29	2:52 AM	0.1L	12:11 PM	1.1H				
Mar 30	3:52 AM	0.1L	1:23 PM	1.1H				
Mar 31	5:00 AM	0.2L	2:04 PM	1.1H				
Apr 01	6:08 AM	0.2L	2:28 PM	1.1H	8:07 PM	0.9L	11:35 PM	1.0H
Apr 02	7:12 AM	0.2L	2:46 PM	1.1H	7:58 PM	0.8L		
Apr 03	1:18 AM	1.1H	8:10 AM	0.3L	3:02 PM	1.0H	8:25 PM	0.6L
Apr 04	2:37 AM	1.2H	9:04 AM	0.4L	3:17 PM	1.0H	9:01 PM	0.4L
Apr 05	3:48 AM	1.3H	9:57 AM	0.5L	3:33 PM	1.0H	9:42 PM	0.2L
Apr 06	4:54 AM	1.4H	10:48 AM	0.7L	3:50 PM	1.1H	10:26 PM	0.0L

### Freeport Harbor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 23	5:14 AM	1.5H	11:44 AM	0.8L	4:13 PM	1.1H	10:44 PM	0.2L
Mar 24	6:03 AM	1.5H	12:33 PM	0.9L	4:23 PM	1.1H	11:08 PM	0.2L
Mar 25	6:54 AM	1.5H	1:39 PM	1.0L	4:22 PM	1.1H	11:37 PM	0.1L
Mar 26	7:49 AM	1.5H						
Mar 27	12:12 AM	0.1L	8:52 AM	1.5H				
Mar 28	12:53 AM	0.1L	10:03 AM	1.5H				
Mar 29	1:44 AM	0.1L	11:18 AM	1.6H				
Mar 30	2:45 AM	0.1L	12:19 PM	1.6H				
Mar 31	3:56 AM	0.2L	1:02 PM	1.6H				
Apr 01	5:11 AM	0.2L	1:33 PM	1.6H	8:45 PM	1.1L	11:00 PM	1.1H
Apr 02	6:23 AM	0.2L	1:59 PM	1.5H	8:22 PM	1.0L		
Apr 03	12:38 AM	1.2H	7:29 AM	0.3L	2:22 PM	1.4H	8:22 PM	0.8L
Apr 04	1:55 AM	1.4H	8:33 AM	0.4L	2:42 PM	1.3H	8:38 PM	0.6L
Apr 05	3:03 AM	1.6H	9:37 AM	0.6L	3:02 PM	1.3H	9:05 PM	0.3L
Apr 06	4:07 AM	1.8H	10:41 AM	0.8L	3:19 PM	1.2H	9:40 PM	0.1L

### Port O'Connor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 23	12:25 AM	0.1L	9:09 AM	0.5H	1:18 PM	0.4L	3:56 PM	0.4H
Mar 24	12:48 AM	0.1L	10:18 AM	0.5H				
Mar 25	1:14 AM	0.1L	11:26 AM	0.6H				
Mar 26	1:47 AM	0.0L	12:40 PM	0.6H				
Mar 27	2:30 AM	0.0L	2:10 PM	0.6H				
Mar 28	3:24 AM	0.0L	3:51 PM	0.7H				
Mar 29	4:30 AM	0.1L	4:57 PM	0.7H				
Mar 30	5:47 AM	0.1L	5:47 PM	0.7H				
Mar 31	7:05 AM	0.1L	6:25 PM	0.7H				
Apr 01	8:18 AM	0.1L	6:45 PM	0.7H				
Apr 02	9:22 AM	0.2L	6:49 PM	0.6H				
Apr 03	10:21 AM	0.3L	6:44 PM	0.5H	9:54 PM	0.5L		
Apr 04	3:58 AM	0.6H	11:21 AM	0.4L	4:21 PM	0.5H	10:18 PM	0.4L
Apr 05	6:12 AM	0.7H	10:54 PM	0.2L				
Apr 06	8:12 AM	0.7H	11:36 PM	0.1L				

### Rockport

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 23	12:27 AM	0.0L	9:20 AM	0.2H	11:52 AM	0.2L	4:48 PM	0.2
Mar 24	1:32 AM	0.0L	5:06 PM	0.2H				
Mar 25	2:29 AM	0.0L	5:40 PM	0.2H				
Mar 26	3:24 AM	0.0L	6:28 PM	0.2H				
Mar 27	4:19 AM	0.0L	7:26 PM	0.3H				
Mar 28	5:17 AM	0.0L	8:29 PM	0.3H				
Mar 29	6:16 AM	0.0L	9:31 PM	0.3H				
Mar 30	7:14 AM	0.1L	10:29 PM	0.3H				
Mar 31	8:09 AM	0.1L	11:28 PM	0.3H				
Apr 01	8:59 AM	0.1L						
Apr 02	12:35 AM	0.3H	9:45 AM	0.1L				
Apr 03	1:59 AM	0.3H	10:29 AM	0.2L	5:42 PM	0.2H	8:38 PM	0.2L
Apr 04	3:54 AM	0.3H	11:08 AM	0.2L	4:25 PM	0.2H	10:32 PM	0.2L
Apr 05	6:29 AM	0.3H	11:32 AM	0.3L	3:28 PM	0.3H	11:48 PM	0.1L
Apr 06	2:50 PM	0.3H						

### Port Aransas, H. Caldwell Pier

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 23	5:00 AM	1.3H	11:12 AM	0.7L	3:27 PM	0.9H	10:12 PM	0.1L
Mar 24	5:59 AM	1.4H	12:05 PM	0.9L	3:09 PM	1.0H	10:43 PM	0.1L
Mar 25	7:01 AM	1.4H	11:18 PM	0.0L				
Mar 26	8:10 AM	1.5H	11:59 PM	0.0L				
Mar 27	9:33 AM	1.5H						
Mar 28	12:47 AM	0.0L	11:06 AM	1.4H				
Mar 29	1:43 AM	-0.1L	12:16 PM	1.4H				
Mar 30	2:46 AM	-0.1L	12:58 PM	1.4H				
Mar 31	3:53 AM	-0.1L	1:26 PM	1.4H				
Apr 01	5:00 AM	-0.1L	1:46 PM	1.4H				
Apr 02	6:04 AM	0.0L	2:01 PM	1.3H	7:44 PM	0.9L		
Apr 03	12:01 AM	1.1H	7:06 AM	0.2L	2:13 PM	1.3H	7:53 PM	0.7L
Apr 04	1:37 AM	1.3H	8:07 AM	0.4L	2:21 PM	1.2H	8:16 PM	0.5L
Apr 05	2:56 AM	1.5H	9:09 AM	0.7L	2:25 PM	1.2H	8:48 PM	0.2L
Apr 06	4:09 AM	1.7H	10:14 AM	1.0L	2:24 PM	1.3H	9:25 PM	0.0L

### South Padre Island

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Mar 23	5:06 AM	1.3H	11:15 AM	0.8L	3:08 PM	0.9H	10:15 PM	0.2L
Mar 24	6:07 AM	1.3H	12:08 PM	0.9L	2:47 PM	1.0H	10:46 PM	0.1L
Mar 25	7:10 AM	1.3H	11:19 PM	0.0L				
Mar 26	8:21 AM	1.3H	11:57 PM	0.0L				
Mar 27	9:49 AM	1.3H						
Mar 28	12:41 AM	0.0L	11:27 AM	1.4H				
Mar 29	1:32 AM	0.1L	12:35 PM	1.4H				
Mar 30	2:33 AM	0.1L	1:11 PM	1.5H				
Mar 31	3:39 AM	0.2L	1:34 PM	1.5H				
Apr 01	4:47 AM	0.2L	1:50 PM	1.5H				
Apr 02	5:54 AM	0.3L	2:00 PM	1.4H	7:33 PM	1.1L	11:33 PM	1.2H
Apr 03	7:00 AM	0.4L	2:07 PM	1.3H	7:40 PM	0.8L		
Apr 04	1:19 AM	1.3H	8:05 AM	0.5L	2:09 PM	1.1H	8:03 PM	0.5L
Apr 05	2:45 AM	1.4H	9:11 AM	0.6L	2:07 PM	1.0H	8:36 PM	0.1L
Apr 06	4:02 AM	1.5H	10:21 AM	0.8L	1:59 PM	1.0H	9:15 PM	-0.2L

## 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

2012	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON	
Mar-Apr	Minor Major	Minor Major	Rises Sets	Rises Sets	
23 Fri >	6:19 12:08	6:41 12:30	07:20 07:34	7:38a 8:47p	
24 Sat >	7:05 12:54	7:27 1:16	07:19 07:34	8:12a 9:41p	
25 Sun >	7:54 1:43	8:17 2:06	07:18 07:35	8:48a 10:35p	
26 Mon	8:45 2:34	9:09 2:57	07:17 07:35	9:27a 11:28p	
27 Tue	9:38 3:26	10:02 3:50	07:16 07:36	10:10a NoMoon	
28 Wed	10:31 4:19	10:55 4:43	07:14 07:37	10:56a 12:20a	
29 Thu	11:24 5:11	11:48 5:36	07:13 07:37	11:46a 1:10a	
30 Fri Q	-----	6:03	12:15 6:28	07:12 07:38	12:40p 1:57a
31 Sat	12:40 6:52	1:05 7:17	07:11 07:38	1:36p 2:42a	
01 Sun	1:27 7:40	1:52 8:05	07:10 07:39	2:36p 3:24a	
02 Mon	2:13 8:25	2:38 8:50	07:09		



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**TOURNAMENT BRIEFS**

**Two Ryans take Bass Champs on LBJ**

Ryan Warren and Ryan Crawford, both of Gatesville, bested 161 other teams and took home first place at the Bass Champs Central Region #2 on Lake LBJ.

The pair had narrowed fishing areas to just a few spots — sight-fishing for bass on the beds.

“We drew boat No. 12, and headed to a dead-end canal by the dam,” Crawford said. “It is a small area, only the size of a really little pond. We had caught a few good ones in practice there, and we were hoping they would move in.”

“I hooked one over 7 pounds, and got it halfway to the boat when it got off.”

The pair left the area alone to give the bass time to settle down and caught several more fish before heading back to the spot later in the day.

“We caught a lot of fish, and other boats kept coming by wanting to get in that spot,” Crawford said. “We got lucky. When we went back for them, they bit again, but this time we got them in.”

Boating two bass more than 7 pounds, the pair ended up with 23.31 pounds to take the win and \$20,000.

The father and son team of Sam and Cole Jones from Rogers took second place looking for bedded bass on Speed Craws and Gitzit baits along grassy flats.

James Millsap boated the event's biggest bass — an 8.62 pounder.

—Bass Champs

**Weekend warriors win on Bud Light Trail**

The Bud Light Trail got underway March 17-18 with three tournaments.

The events were held for the Palestine Division on Lake Tyler, the Toledo Bend/Sam Rayburn Division on Sam Rayburn Reservoir and the Fort Worth Division on Eagle Mountain Lake.

Jackie and Keith Gordon took home top honors on Lake Tyler; Tommy Rascoe and Alton Powell beat out the field on Sam Rayburn; and David and Mike Stepich won on Eagle Mountain.

—Bud Light Trail

**Jones, fellow Texans dominate St. Johns River**

Alton Jones and two other Texans swept the top three spots at the St. Johns River Showdown Bassmaster Elite Series event, which wrapped March 18 near Palatka, Fla.

Jones, of Woodway, took first with 75 pounds, 9 ounces, and won by a margin of 1 pound, 2 ounces over runner-up, fellow Texan Todd Faircloth of Jasper.

Another Texan got third, Keith Combs of Huntington, with 71-2.

Jones won \$100,000 and an instant berth in the 2013 Bassmaster Classic. He also was leading the Bassmaster Angler of the Year race following St. Johns.

He relied on sight-fishing all four days in several areas of the river's Lake George. His primary lure was a 6-inch juniebug-colored plastic stick bait.

“I have a lot of confidence in that color, and if it's working, I don't switch it,” he said.

— B.A.S.S.



**Batteries**

Continued From Page 9

that's good enough.”

But Bennett said that another appeal is the lithium-ion batteries' longevity — about 10 years or more.

He said that if an angler is replacing batteries every two to three years, “changing to lithium will help him in the long run.”

Similar advantages are reported by Lithionics of Clearwater, Fla.

“Our batteries are designed to a 20-year life,” states a company fact sheet. “In three years

we have yet to see one of our batteries simply ‘wear out.’”

The company also stated its batteries save 170 to 260 pounds on a boat.

“A bass boat will typically draft up to 2 inches higher in the water, thus allowing for a greater range of shallow water fishing capabilities,” the company said.

Both companies say their batteries maintain steady power curves right up until they're completely out of juice. So, according to Lithionics, “Your trolling motor will run 100 percent power for the entire charge curve of the batteries.”

But considering sticker shock, Bennett said he and his competitors have a lot of work ahead of them.

“I don't think lead acid manufacturing facilities are going to be shutting down tomorrow because of lithium-ion,” he said. “Entering the marine industry has potential, but it's going to take a lot of education.”

**LITHIUM-ION AT WORK:** Ott DeFoe, Bassmaster elite angler, has outfitted his boat with lithium-ion batteries, which are promoted as outperforming conventional batteries for powering engines, trolling motors and onboard electronics. That is, if you can get over the “sticker shock.” Photo by B.A.S.S.

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# HEROES



Fishing recently on Falcon International Reservoir with Outlaw Guide Service were **DAN RIDDLE** and **TOMMY REEVES**. Both fish were caught on guide Tommy Law's Outlaw Jigs in bream color.

**DARLA ROOKE** of Junction recently fished in a tournament on Falcon International Reservoir, sponsored by Couples Association of Sport Tournaments. Fishing with her husband, Kenny, she boated these two largemouths, 7.8 and 8.8 pounds.



## SHARE AN ADVENTURE

Want to share hunting and fishing photos with other Lone Star Outdoor News readers?

E-mail them with contact and caption information to editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com. High-resolution original jpegs only. Mail prints to Heroes, Lone Star Outdoor News, P.O. Box 551695, Dallas, TX 75355.



**MARSHALL PAYTON**, 11, kept his cool while hunting last October on his family's farm near Paradise. Two bucks busted from cover, but Marshall applied deadly aim with a .243-caliber Rossi. "I'm a very proud dad," said John Payton.



**GEORGI BERRY** of Austin shot two deer last season on the Crocker Ranch in Live Oak County. Georgi, who recently moved to Texas from Los Angeles, Calif., was mentored by August Crocker, who loaned her his custom Sako TRG rifle chambered in .260 Remington. "Now," said August, "if I could just get my rifle back!"



## CHRIS MAHFOUZ

(above) of Houston tagged this buck last season in Medina County. It was 203 2/8. "Not the largest I've killed," Chris said, "but certainly the prettiest!" Chris also submitted this photo of **HILARY SCHNEIDER** of Dallas (right) who, while hunting on the same ranch, got her first bow kill — a buck that measured 160 1/8.



Taking a break from deer hunting, **ROBERT LEE** and his son, **JUSTIN**, both of Katy, caught this mess of crappie on their lease in Houston County. Their baits were 3-inch swim baits.



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## TEXAS BIG BITES



**GIG 'EM:** Seth Gibson, 9, of Corpus Christi gilled the current junior state record southern flounder last December in the Aransas Channel. The flatfish weighed 7.7 pounds. It was 24 inches long. Photo by TPWD.



**PENDING RECORD BUFFALO:** Austin Anderson, 16, of Coppell competed recently in the inaugural Lake Fork Carp and Buffalo Challenge, but he got much more. His 50-pound, 6-ounce smallmouth buffalo is a pending International Game Fish Association record for junior anglers. Photo by Austin Anderson.

### Arkansas 'record bass' caught illegally

Whoops. That has to be what Paul Crowder of Forrest City, Ark., is thinking. Less than two weeks after the Arkansas largemouth bass record apparently was set by Crowder and shown in the March 9 issue of *Lone Star Outdoor News*, an investigation by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has revealed that the fish was caught illegally. Crowder landed the 16-pound, 5-ounce fish Feb. 28 on Lake Dunn near Wynne, which would have broken the record by an ounce. The AGFC discovered that a license was purchased by Crowder three hours after he claimed to have caught the bass. Crowder's fishing license expired in April 2011. Crowder has been charged with fishing without a license. He faces up to a \$1,000 fine and up to 30 days in jail.

—Staff report

### West Texas fish hatchery closes

Operations at the Dundee State Fish Hatchery near Wichita Falls have been suspended due to a lack of sufficient water, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials announced. "Although many parts of the state recently received good rains, the area west of Wichita Falls around Lakes Kemp and Diversion did not," said Todd Engeling, director of hatchery operations for TPWD. "As a result, operations at the Dundee Fish Hatchery will be temporarily suspended until conditions in Lake Kemp improve." The Dundee hatchery is one of the state's primary producers of striped bass and hybrid striped bass fingerlings for stocking into Texas public waters. "We will be adjusting normal production plans and shift efforts at other facilities away from largemouth bass to produce striped bass and hybrid striped bass fingerlings," Engeling said.

—TPWD

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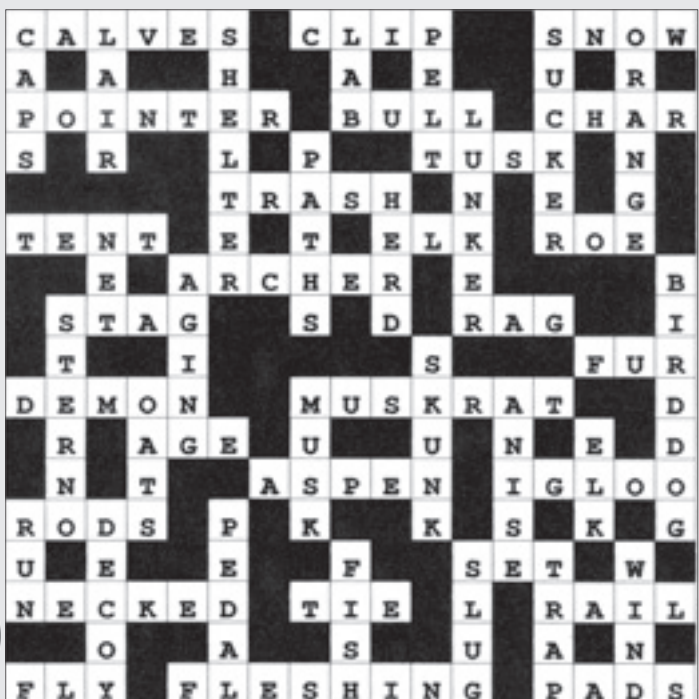
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**Cabela's Collegiate Big Bass Bash**  
Lake Lavon  
(210) 697-8081  
collegiatebasschampionship.com



**March 23-25**  
**SCI North Texas Chapter**  
Outdoor Expo Show  
Bass Pro Shops, Grapevine  
(940) 612-1928  
scinorthtexas.com

**March 24**  
**Texas Swordfish**  
2nd Annual Seminar  
Surfside Marina, Surfside Beach  
(281) 344-9083  
boobytrapfishingteam.com

**Bass Champs Tournament**  
East Region #3  
Sam Rayburn Reservoir  
(817) 439-3274  
basschamps.com

**March 25**  
**Student Angler Federation**  
Texas High School Fishing State Championship  
Lake Lavon  
(580) 765-9031  
highschoolfishing.org

**March 26**  
**Coastal Conservation Association**  
West Texas Chapter Annual Banquet  
Midland Country Club  
(432) 682-3499  
ccatexas.org

**March 29**  
**Coastal Conservation Association**  
Brazoria County Chapter Banquet  
Lake Jackson Civic Center  
(979) 266-9104  
ccatexas.org

**Coastal Conservation Association**  
34th Annual Corpus Christi Banquet  
American Bank Center  
(361) 563-2010  
ccatexas.org

**Whitetails Unlimited**  
North Texas Deer Camp  
The Cotton Mill, McKinney  
(972) 345-8265  
whitetailsunlimited.com



**March 30**  
**Ducks Unlimited**  
Lone Star Flyway Shoot  
American Shooting Center, Houston  
(713) 724-2237  
ducks.org



**April 4**  
**Hill Country Quail Coalition**  
Annual Dinner and Banquet  
The Bob Bullock Museum, Austin  
quailcoalition.org

**April 7**  
**Texas Team Trail Tournament**  
Lake Ray Roberts  
(210) 788-4143  
texassteamtrail.com

**April 12**  
**Ducks Unlimited**  
Bellaire Dinner  
Meridian Banquet Room, Bellaire  
(713) 501-1286  
ducks.org

**Texas Wildlife Association**  
1st Annual TWA Capital Classic Golf Tournament  
Hills of Lakeway Golf Course, Austin  
(210) 826-2904 ext. 114  
texas-wildlife.org



**Dallas Woods and Water Club**  
Monthly Meeting  
Sheraton Dallas North Hotel  
(214) 570-8700  
dwwcc.org



**Big Covey Quail Coalition**  
Annual banquet  
Outdoor Education Center, Wichita Falls  
quailcoalition.org

**April 13**  
**Ducks Unlimited**  
Frisco DU Texas Hold'em Tournament  
Fairy Tale Manor, Frisco  
(972) 743-5230  
ducks.org

**April 13-14**  
**Texas Deer Association**  
Greater Houston Area Banquet and Auction  
Crowne Plaza Reliant, Houston  
(210) 767-8300  
texasdeerassociation.com



**April 13-15**  
**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**  
4th Annual Women in the Wild Rockport  
(361) 790-2611  
townrockport.org

**April 14**  
**Coastal Conservation Association**  
Inland/Greater Woodlands Chapter  
Crawfish Boil  
Papa's Ice House, Spring  
(800) 626-4222  
ccatexas.org

**Bass Champs Tournament**  
North Region #3  
Lake Fork  
(817) 439-3274  
basschamps.com

**April 14-15**  
**Seven Coves Bass Club**  
1st Annual Lake Conroe Big Bass Extravaganza  
Sport Harbour Marina  
(903) 383-7748  
bigbassextravaganza.com

**April 19**  
**Dallas Safari Club**  
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(479) 782-8971, Ext. 103  
www.knightandhale.com



**KVD SEXY DAWG:**

This dog will be a pleasure to walk! B.A.S.S. Elite Series angler Kevin VanDam designed **Strike King Lure Company's** new top-water hardbait. Described as the best walking bait made, it is a far-casting lure that features 3D eyes, a loud internal rattle, and side-to-side popping action that will make fish crazy curious. It comes in two sizes and a three-hook or two-hook version. The 4 1/2-inch-long model sells for just under \$9.

(901) 853-1455  
www.strikeking.com



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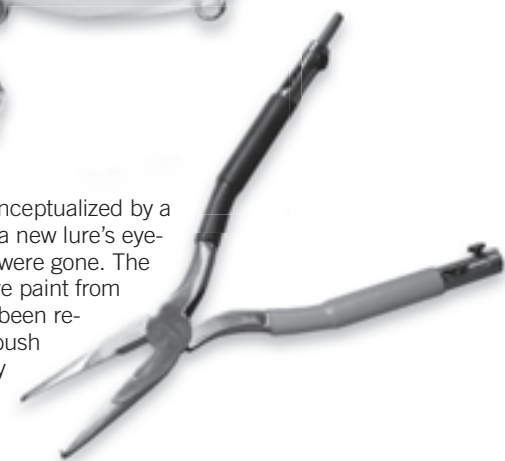
Put on this durable pack from **Precision Pak** to easily carry fishing gear. Made of durable 420D nylon, the contoured pack has three zippered pockets and a side horseshoe-zippered pocket to hold plenty of lures, line and more. It even has the capacity to accommodate a tackle box. The Venus Lumbar Pack comes in two sizes. The small measures 9 inches by 4 inches by 5.5 inches while the large measures 12 inches by 4 inches by 6.5 inches. The pack sells for about \$30 to \$40, depending on size.

www.precision-pak.com

**POPSNAGGERS:**

Essential little pliers for anglers, the **PopSnaggers** were conceptualized by a crafty angler who needed a tool to punch the paint out of a new lure's eyelet, *quickly*, so that he could thread his line before the fish were gone. The cone-shaped point on the nose of these pliers can remove paint from almost any size of lead-headed jigs. Once the paint has been removed, spin the pliers around. Then, use the threader to push through the jig's eyelet and attach it to the line. Now you're ready to tie it up and cast. The multi-purpose tool also has a hone on the other handle for sharpening dull hooks. It sells for about \$30.

www.popsnagger.com



**RUGER AMERICAN RIFLE:**

**Sturm, Ruger & Company's** new value-priced firearm is a 100-percent American-made bolt-action rifle that is offered in short- and long-action calibers. This 6 1/4-pound rifle has a user-adjustable trigger pull that can be set between 3 and 5 pounds and a "Power Bedding" system that uses stainless-steel bedding blocks that are insert-molded into the stock to positively locate the receiver and free-float the barrel. The barrel's rifling is cold hammer-forged to exacting tolerances, providing sub-MOA accuracy, long-term endurance, and a mirror-smooth finish that is easy to clean. The rifle carries easily, shoulders quickly, and shoots comfortably, thanks to the ergonomic design of its trim, lightweight stock with an ambidextrous palm swell and soft rubber recoil pad. Other features include: dual-cocking cams incorporated into the bolt assembly to provide smoother, easier bolt cycling; a 70-degree bolt throw that provides ample scope clearance and reduces cycling time; and a flush-fit rotary magazine that offers smooth and reliable feeding. The rifle's receiver is drilled and tapped for mounting the included scope bases. It sells for about \$450.

(603) 865-2442  
www.ruger.com

## First aid

Continued From Page 5

This doctrine, for example, stresses more efficient ways to control bleeding.

The modern soldier can now do that with new gauze pads impregnated with substances that promote clotting.

Also available are new tourniquets with special tensioners about the size of a ballpoint pen that put powerful constriction on a bleeding arm or leg.



**NEW AND IMPROVED:** This modern medical gauze is impregnated with substances that help promote faster blood clotting. These pads are issued to the military, but hunters can also buy them. Photo by Bill Miller, LSON.

This is key, Frankfurt said, because the tourniquet has long been misunderstood.

"People were taught that if you put someone into a tourniquet, you've committed him to an amputation," Frankfurt said. "But in the Civil War, the reason people lost their legs was because the battlefield was such that it might be a day or more before you were extracted."

"Instead of a last resort, (a tourniquet is) a first resort and you should leave it on until a doctor takes it off."

Hunting accidents are rare, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department data. There were four fatalities in 2010 in Texas, down from 37 in 1968, a few years before hunter safety education became mandatory.

But the class taught by Frankfurt also deals with other emergencies like choking on food. Instructors also stress having a plan to summon a quick medical evacuation.

"The point is, on the battlefield, you have a bunch of healthy 20-year-olds running around," he said, "but on the ranch in South Texas, it's 60-year-olds, so we teach an effective Heimlich maneuver and CPR."

John Follis of Tactical Gear Now said classes can be customized for half or full days, with possible shooting tips from professional instructors. The classes could be held on shooting ranges, and venues outside the Dallas area.

## Turkey opener

Continued From Page 1



**ALREADY SEARCHING:**

Many hens are reportedly already on nests in South Texas, meaning gobblers will be looking for willing hens, or hunters that sound like one. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.

from the hens.

Guides didn't hear many toms on the roost, but they knew where they were and once they hit the ground, they called them in easily, according to one guide. They reported no jakes, just mature birds.

A jake and hen decoy combination worked great all weekend, and lured plenty of strutting action.

One guide said he had a hunter miss four different toms with a bow before switching to a shotgun and connecting with two on one shot.

Reports of solid action also came in from Goliad,

Uvalde and Corpus Christi. Many areas had greened up nicely after good rains to produce good nesting cover for hens, many of which were already on nests.

Outside of Brackettville, Terrance Jackson of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Harris County Wildlife Group, took a large group of youngsters on their first turkey hunts.

"The birds were really responding," he said. "They gobbled a lot. We actually saw more gobblers than hens, so I assume a lot of hens were already on the nest. They were very responsive to calling."

Jackson said many birds were called in, but many of the young hunters succumbed to their excitement when it came to harvesting the toms.

"Most had the opportunity to take a bird, but we had some near misses," he said. "We did this same hunt last year and there were a lot more birds this season."

Jackson said he hunted two huge groups of toms during the weekend, with one group containing 29 birds.

"I've never seen them like this," he said. "We didn't see a single jake, but there are big groups of toms."

# Tickets

Continued From Page 1

with speed traps," he said. "But quotas are not lawful — not for us, not the sheriffs and not for the police department."

"Mainly, what we want our wardens to do is to be out in the field making contacts, educating people."

"And, in the course of contacts, they'll find violations." Flores said wardens couldn't write enough tickets to fund the Law Enforcement Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department — a budget of about \$46 million.

The limitations of ticket revenue were evident in 2011, when citations dropped drastically from the previous two years.

An analysis by *Lone Star Outdoor News* showed that

total 2011 revenue from recreational hunting and fishing violations amounted to about \$600,000.

By comparison, 2010 generated around \$1.3 million and 2009 saw about \$1.5 million in fines.

The study only looked at violations involving recreational hunting and fishing, which are how most people encounter game wardens.

Not included were violations involving commercial fishing and special permits. Water safety violations also were not considered.

Averages were developed based on the number of game wardens in the field as of March 2012 — 488.

Flores said he was authorized to deploy 532 wardens, but the remaining

personnel were cadets still in the academy.

When presented with the findings of the analysis, Flores said he wasn't surprised. He said fewer people went hunting and fishing last year because of the economy and because drought made a lot of lakes too shallow to launch boats.

Other TPWD data showed that license purchases for hunting and fishing started to fall last year, and the trend has continued into 2012. Hunting and fishing license sales are off 4.3 percent for the first six months of the current "license year," which began Sept. 1.

"Last year, for the same six-month period, we sold \$68.6 million in recreational licenses," said Tom

Newton, TPWD's manager of license revenue. "This year we're at \$65.7 million, which is \$2.9 million down."

Flores insisted, however, that wardens weren't slacking in 2011.

"Any time you see spikes, especially in fuel, it's a ripple effect to everything," he said. "Obviously we're not going to contact as many folks if there are not that many in the field."

Scott Vaca, assistant chief, said wardens, being sworn peace officers, must also enforce the state's penal code.

"Any state law, we can enforce," Vaca said. "Like a domestic violence situation; if a couple is going at it on a boat ramp, the law says you shall arrest."

Other penal code offenses

include trespassing, drugs and traffic violations, but TPWD doesn't get any revenue from that.

It can only collect revenue from violations of the Parks and Wildlife Code, but there are controls on how it can be spent, Flores said.

For example, there is "split" for Class C misdemeanors; 85 percent goes to Fund 9, which pays for all TPWD programs, while 15 percent goes to the counties where the tickets are written.

And TPWD can only spend Fund 9 allocations that are authorized by the Legislature.

Flores said that "if we were in this for money making" a lot more tickets would have to be written.

And, he added, "there would be no warnings issued."

## Did you know?

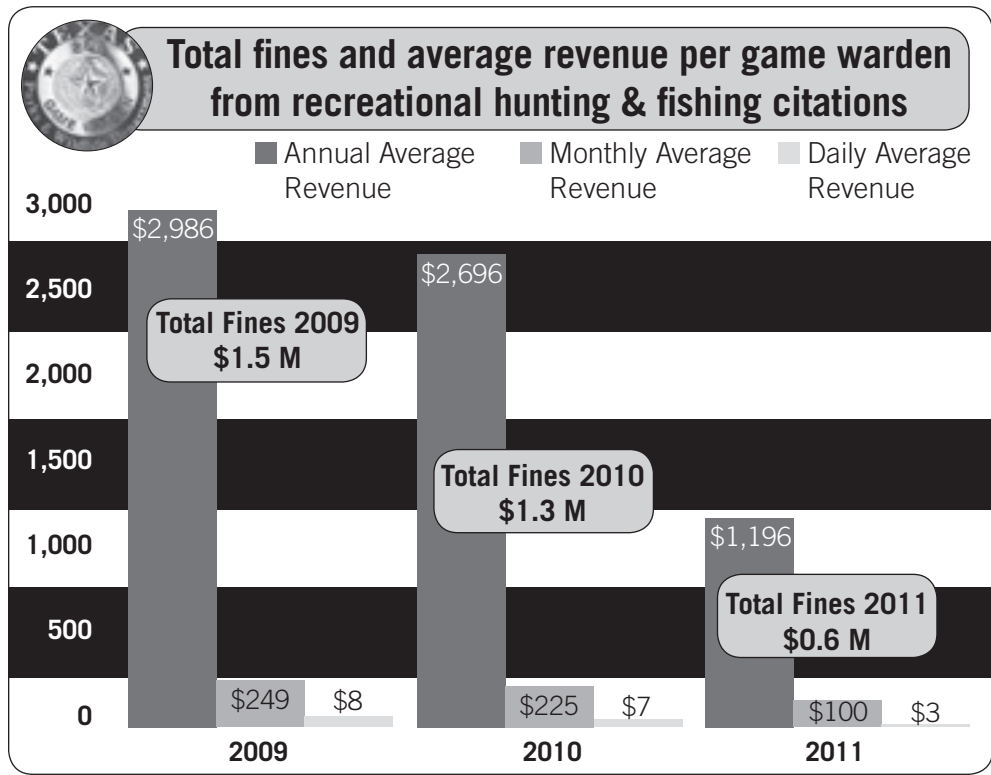
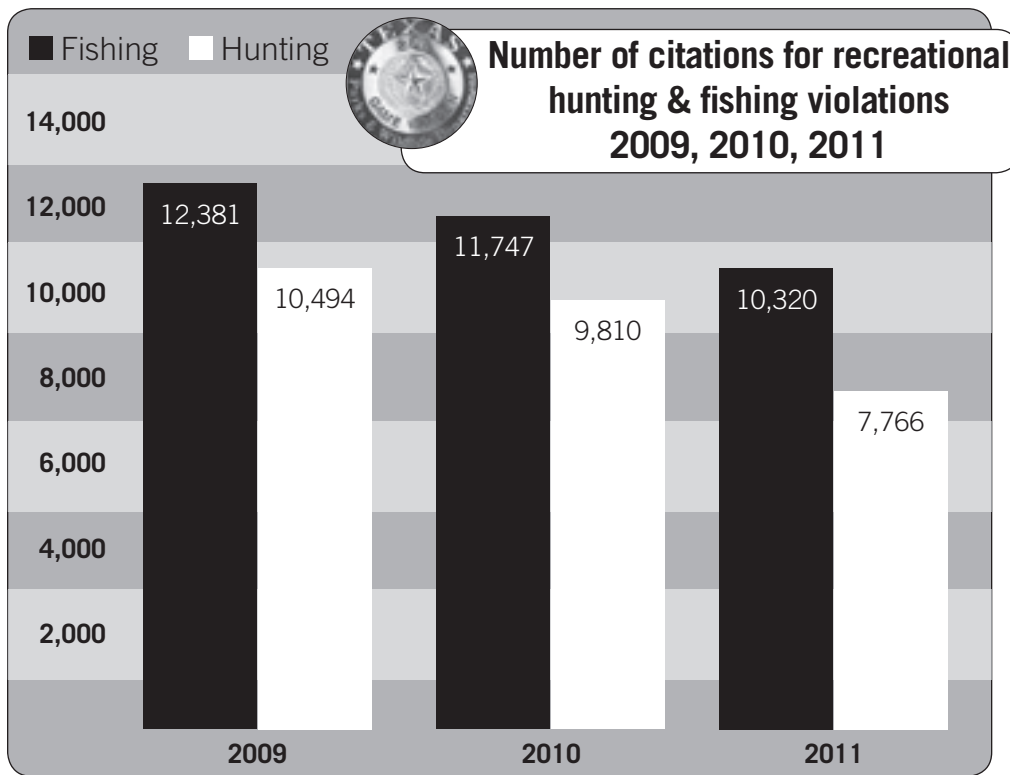
■ In 2011, Texas game wardens issued 18,086\* tickets for recreational hunting and fishing violations. That amounted to averages of:

1,507 per month  
348 per week  
50 per day  
2.06 per hour

■ By comparison, 22,875\* tickets were written in 2009, which amounted to averages of:

1,906 per month  
440 per week  
63 per day  
2.61 per hour

\*Includes only hunting and fishing violations.



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