

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

★ February 22, 2008

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

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www.lonestaroutdoornews.com

## Speckled strike



Hooking up  
for a fight

Page 16

### INSIDE HUNTING



Handler Dave Rorem captured two of the first four places in the open division of the Coastal Bend Retriever Club field trials.

Page 6



Archers using portable ground blinds are discovering that shoot-through mesh aids in concealment and doesn't deflect the arrow's flight.

Page 6

### FISHING



Fishing for speckled trout this time of year usually means fishing deeper water, and some top anglers share their favorite lures.

Page 8

Flounder populations are declining from Maine to Texas, and officials may be faced with some tough decisions on regulating the species.

Page 8

### CONSERVATION

The federal duck stamp may increase from \$15 to \$25 next year, according to budget proposals.

Page 5

### NATIONAL

A sanctioned high school bass fishing tournament has been adopted in Illinois.

Page 25

### INDEX

Classifieds	Page 22
Crossword	Page 19
Game Warden Blotter	Page 10
Fishing Report	Page 20
Heroes	Page 24
Outdoor Datebook	Page 22
Products	Page 23
Weather	Page 19
Wild in the Kitchen	Page 19

## Trout take to mud bottoms

On winter days, deeper mud flats are often overlooked

By KYLE TOMEK



**MUDDY BOTTOMS:** Big early-season trout can come from unusual places, and deep, barren mud flats can hold some giants. Photo by Scott Sommerlatte.

The waters of the Texas coast cover some of the best wintertime fishing structure. Trout anglers flock to scattered shell, deep holes, reefs, and underwater rocks — major bait attractors up and down the coast. But relatively few fishermen take advantage of what barren mud bottoms hold in store.

In winter and into early spring, trophy speckled trout anglers usually favor wadefishing muddy shorelines. Known to attract big fish, the muddy shallows serve as a warming insulator in cold temperatures.

But the often-overlooked expanses of mud lying in deeper depths also entice the frequent visits of speckled trout, said veteran tournament angler and guide Capt. Charlie Paradoski.

Deep mud flats are bleak and, at times, seem to lack any sign of life. While guiding in Galveston and Matagorda Bays, Paradoski invests most of his fishing efforts over deep mud in winter.

Paying close attention to a GPS and sonar to locate edges, drop-offs, and humps, he sets drifts according to where fish may be hanging or awaiting passing bait-fish.

"On winter days, mud flats in the middle of the bay can be mag-

See MUD, Page 18

## Catfish action heats up in warm water



**CHURNING CATS:** Shawn Reese spreads sour grain over one of his hot spots to help put cold-weather fishermen on catfish at Calaveras Lake. Photo by Ralph Wingham.

## Power plant lakes keep anglers busy

By RALPH WININGHAM

Don't look for them at your neighborhood sporting goods store, but hot-water catfish can make pretty fair handwarmers during the cold winter months.

"That's one of the benefits of catching catfish out here this time of year — they keep my hands warm," said guide Shawn

Reese during an early February, cold-weather trip at Calaveras Lake.

Air temperatures were hovering just above freezing, but the water temperature at the cooling reservoir for San Antonio's City Public Service coal-fired power plant was a relatively toasty 63 degrees.

"We have pretty good catfish

See WARM, Page 18

## Burglars make off with trophy deer mounts

By BILL MILLER

Their names were memorable enough — names like Lumpy, Big Tex and Twisty — but their Boone & Crockett scores were all more than 200.

And now they are missing.

Eight whitetail trophy mounts belonging to Texas deer breeder Bill Martindale of Dallas were reported stolen Jan. 19 from his ranch house in Bosque County.

Martindale has worked 18 years at his Snuff City Ranch, near Iredell, to develop a line of 200-class breeder bucks, and a successful high-fence hunting operation.

See BURGLARY, Page 17



**STOLEN MOUNT:** The mount of Twisty, a 253 B&C breeder buck owned by Bill Martindale, was one of several mounts stolen from his ranch in January.

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## CONSERVATION

# Partners lend support to restore Texas' native forests

Representatives from Dell and Travelocity joined The Conservation Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Environmental Synergy, Inc. to announce the restoration of 158 acres of forestland at Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge in East Texas.

Private support for the initiative was made possible via a mix of customer and corporate donations from Dell, Travelocity, Universal Studios, NBC Universal and individual donors to The Conservation Fund's Go ZeroSM program.

Like much of East Texas, large areas of forestland surrounding (and some within) the boundary of the Trinity River NWR refuge are for sale. Once the region's largest economic driver, the forest industry has put millions of acres on the market. To help protect

and restore these lands, the Fund has engaged leaders in the public and private sectors to calculate and then offset carbon dioxide emissions by planting trees.

The land was planted by ESI and will be managed by the USFWS.

Located just 45 miles east of Houston, the 22,500-acre Trinity River NWR safeguards a remnant of the bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem that once dominated the eastern Texas landscape.

— Conservation Fund report.

## TTHA supports outdoor adventures programs

Texas Trophy Hunters Association will reward those who provide outdoor adventures to Texas teens, military veterans and critically ill and disabled youth.

These nonprofit organizations help build the fellowship of the great outdoors by granting the outdoor adventure wishes of disabled youth, providing hunting adventures to wounded heroes of our Armed Forces and educating teen-agers on the importance of wildlife conservation and stewardship.

Three organizations received a

donation from TTHA at their San Antonio Headquarters on Feb. 18.

"We are pleased to recognize the efforts of United Special Sportsman Alliance, Show of Support and Buckskin Brigade," said TTHA Chief Operating Officer Joe Betar.

In 2007, TTHA allowed members to designate a portion of their membership towards one of these outdoor-related service organizations.

United Special Sportsman Alliance is a nonprofit "dream wish" granting charity. USSA

adventures give youths something to look forward to while sustaining them in their time of need.

The purpose of Show of Support is to demonstrate public support for the men and women of our military by providing outdoor opportunities to those injured in service.

Buckskin Brigade teaches Texas teen-agers wildlife-focused leadership and habitat management.

— Texas Trophy Hunters Association report.

## Duck stamp price increase proposed

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to increase the cost of the federal duck stamp.

The stamp now costs \$15, but the 2009 budget proposal asks Congress to raise it to \$25.

Hunters must purchase one of the stamps, along with a state hunting license, to legally shoot ducks and geese.

Last year, the Fish and Wildlife Service raised \$24.2 million from the sale of more than 1.6 million duck stamps. With the price increase, an additional \$14 million could be raised.

— U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report.

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## HUNTING

# CONCEALED IN MESH

## Bowhunters can shoot through fabric of portable blind



**HUNTERS MESH WITH BLIND:** Lori Ford practices with her new bow in a Cabela's shoot-through mesh blind at the Rio Rojo Rancho in Red River county. "I got the Diamond bow for Christmas, and I have practiced a lot and am ready to shoot a doe," she said. "We have to shoot 10 doe this year under our Managed Land Deer permit, and I want to do it with the bow." Photo by David J. Sams.

By BILL MILLER

Jack Fleming is a big fan of ground blinds with shoot-through mesh. Fleming, who owns Precision Archery in Bridge City and guides hunters across South and West Texas, said he and his guiding partners have seen more than 400 animals shot out of the blinds.

"I absolutely love it. It's the ultimate concealment," he said. "And it's a great thing for children. It keeps down the movement and dulls the glare when the sun is rising in the hunter's face."

The portable blinds are practically an industry unto themselves.

Companies like Ameristep, Avery, Double Bull and Eastman Outfitters are competing for a niche market of bowhunters who like the ease and portability of the tent-like structures.

And they're affordable, ranging from \$100 to \$300 — depending on whether they're outfitted with amenities like scent control.

Bob Wright of Dallas, president of Lone Star Bowhunters Association, said these blinds are quite popular among the organization's members in South Texas, where few trees are tall enough for elevated blinds.

The efficiency of the blinds is enhanced by windows made of shoot-through mesh, which allows archers to draw down on an animal at ground level, and with total concealment.

Broadheads, launched at full  
See MESH, Page 15

## Trials and tests



**TOP DOG:** Dave Rorem prepares to cast Two Rivers Lucky Willie on a retrieve. The dog finished in first place in the open division of the Coastal Bend Retriever Club of Texas field trials finale. Retrievers, handlers and dog owners came from dozens of states and as far north as Canada to compete in the event. Rorem's dogs captured two of the top four spots. Photos by John Eriksson.

## Competition draws retrievers, handlers from across the country

By CRAIG NYHUS

The close of duck-hunting season on Jan. 27 didn't provide the usual break for Jeff Kucera and the staff at Port Bay Club in Rockport.

After the decoys and boats were put away, the club hosted the Coastal Bend Retriever Club of Texas AKC Licensed Field Trials a little more than a week later.

The trials used the grounds and

marshes of Port Bay Club, the oldest continuously-running hunting and fishing club in Texas.

"The judges came in from across the country and set the courses on the marsh," said Port Bay's Manager Jeff Kucera. "They even used some of the duck blinds to hide the bird boys when they threw the birds."

Kucera, who has entered field trial competitions in the past, was well aware of the effort needed to

put on such an event. "The field trial circuit pretty much starts down here and slowly moves north up the country," he said. "Some of the handlers have as many as 10 dogs."

Jim Rumley and Pat Kenny of Rockport founded the Coastal Bend Retriever Club about six years ago. "We started it because of our interests in retrievers, field trials and hunt tests," Rumley said. "Our field

See TRIALS, Page 15



## Texas' nature tourism operators to be inventoried

A list of nature tourism operations in Texas is being compiled in order to help develop assistance for owners and awareness programs for users.

"This is being done in order to assess the growth and demand of the

industry," said Miles Phillips, Texas AgriLife Extension Service nature tourism leader. "It will also help the traveling public find nature tourism businesses to enjoy."

The list will be an ongoing effort,

he said, so that businesses can add information at any time.

An online form is available to encourage all nature tourism businesses operators to get their companies listed. The form is at:

<http://naturetourism.tamu.edu>.

"In addition to the traditional hunting and fishing places," Phillips said, "nature tourism businesses might include agricultural tours such as hayrides and pick-your-own

produce, or adventure tour operations, including biking, paddling, canoeing, ATV trails and lodging facilities that cater to these markets."

—Texas Agricultural Extension report.

# McBride named OGT board chairman

Austin sporting goods retailer Joe McBride has been named board chairman for Operation Game Thief.

McBride will serve a one-year term as chair of the state's wildlife crime-stopper program, succeeding Ray Bailey, who will remain on the OGT board of directors.

Begun in 1981 as a result of laws passed by the 67th Legislature to help curtail poaching, the program offers rewards of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of an individual committing a wildlife crime.

OGT, a function of Texas Parks and Wildlife's Law Enforcement Division, has paid more than \$200,000 in rewards and been responsible for the assessment of more than \$1 million in assessed fines.

Privately funded, the program is dependent on financial support from the public through the purchase of OGT merchandise and memberships, donations, sponsorships and gifts.

The program also hosts annual fundraising events, including the Claystoppers Shootout near Austin April 25 and the Bandana Ball in Houston May 31.

Through his career as a firearms dealer, McBride has built a network of support for Texas game wardens and OGT. He has been recognized by numerous groups, including conservation organizations, law enforcement and the firearms industry for his achievements.

—Texas Parks and Wildlife report.



**OGT CHAIRMAN:** Joe McBride will serve a one-year term as board chairman of the state's wildlife crime-stopper program. Photo by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

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## FISHING

# Falling Flounder

## Options explored to curb species' downward trend

By BRANDON D. SHULER

Flounder populations from Maine to Texas are experiencing downward trends. Anglers and biologists are noticing an absence of flounder in iceboxes, tournaments and gill net surveys. National conservation organizations such as the Pew Trust and state natural resource departments are also witnessing the phenomenon.

The Texas southern flounder is commonly a youngster's first introduction to saltwater fishing. But in last summer's Port Mansfield Fishing Tournament, only one lonely flounder made it to the weigh-in.

In fall, flounder make their mass exodus seaward to spawn in the shallow waters of the Gulf with the first downward dip of the thermometer. The smaller of the species, the male, starts the migration when water temperatures drop between five to eight degrees.

Males typically only reach 14 inches in length and live four or five years. The female, whose dropping numbers are most responsible for the population decline, typically reach 7 to 8 years of age and top out at 24-inches, making them the legal target for harvest.

Flounder bury themselves in the sand and wait in ambush for unsuspecting shrimp and baitfish to approach — making them perfect targets for gigging.

Currently, Texas regulations treat flounder as a non-gamefish, maintain a recreational limit of 10 fish per day, 60 for a small commercial gigging industry, and have a minimum length restriction of 14 inches.

Some anglers and biologists feel that since the males are the smaller of the species and anglers usually target the largest fish they

see on a gigging expedition, a large part of the breeding population is being killed.

Texas Parks and Wildlife is actively seeking methods to stem the downward trend. In 1988, nets were banned coastwide, a 12-inch minimum size limit was imposed with a bag limit of 20 fish. In 1996, the minimum length was dropped to 10-inches and the bag limit reduced to 20 for recreational anglers and a 60-fish commercial limit was instituted.

The commercial fishing buyback program, which has reduced inshore shrimping by 50 percent, has also helped stem some of the downward trend.

Although overfishing is believed to be the leading problem reducing flounder populations, Fernando Martinez-Andrade, TPW Fisheries data analyst, and biologist Shane Bonnot of Sea Center Texas, along with leading biologists along the eastern seaboard, consider warmer winter temperatures, rising ocean levels, and overall warming to be the largest negative factors affecting the American flounder populations. Larry McKinney, TPW head of Coastal Fisheries, told the *Valley Morning Star*, "Our winter low temperatures have been increasing. When flounder go out into the Gulf to spawn they may be suffering greater predation of their eggs in the warming waters. The underlying factor may also be flounder as a species are moving north."

The steady downward trend has TPW looking inward for ways to stem the falling populations. Robin Riecher, TPW's science and policy director, outlined the methods being explored to CCA Texas members, each having pros and cons.

The most appealing method is to create gamefish status for the flounder, she wrote.



**DWINDLING NUMBERS:** Flounder populations are declining according to state officials and will be the subject of discussion for possible size-limit changes or temporary season closures.

But then flounder could only be harvested through hook and line methods, eliminating a valuable part of the recreational and commercial fishery and destroying a part of the Texas saltwater culture by eliminating gigging.

Other options being explored include changing the size limits, or seasonal or area

closures. However, Riecher wrote, this could eliminate anglers' access to the fabled fall flounder runs.

What will be done to alleviate pressure on the flounder remains to be seen. "The condition of the flounder population is a very high priority for action in next year's regulatory process," McKinney said.

## Trout tackle arsenal varies among anglers

By DAVID SIKES

Each generation of big trout anglers has its favorite tools.

Legendary lures such as the King and Queen Bingo, Hump and the Plugging Shorty Shrimp Bull now sit in shadow boxes to make room for newer models. Today's coastal practitioners fall into a category that is as elite as the upper-class specks they seek. And the lure types in their arsenal are few.

Odds are that several or all of the following lures occupy space in the tackle boxes of most Texas big-trout hunters. And if there is a favorite among trout waders, it surely is the standard Corky plug. Arguably it held this top spot even before Jim Wallace caught his then-state record 13-pound, 11-ounce trout in 1996.

Wallace's was chartreuse, but lately pink seems to be the rage. Cliff Webb, notable Upper Laguna Madre/Baffin Bay guide and big-trout master, uses these soft pliable plugs almost exclusively, especially in winter. The original Corky, created and still made by Houston-area resident Paul Brown, is a slow-sinking or suspending lure. In Baffin Bay's high salinity it's even more buoyant, making it fall even



**LURING THEM IN:** The pink Corky plug is becoming a favorite winter trout lure this season in Texas, while other hot lures and colors also will bring in big winter specks. Photo by Kyle Tomek.

slower than in other bays.

The standard Corky mullet imitation is 4-inches long and weighs 5/8 ounce. They come in more than a dozen colors with endless combinations.

Most of today's Corky plugs have a rattle inside with two dangling treble hooks. Brown makes three models of his standard plug. Each sinks at a different rate. And Brown now offers

a smaller plug with a rear spinner, a broader profile Corky Fat Boy and the long-tailed Corky Devil.

The accepted best technique for retrieval is easy to explain,

but difficult to employ or master. Most anglers must force themselves to resist retrieving this rubbery plug too quickly. Arguably a winter bait that works equally well in all seasons, the Corky is designed to imitate a lazy baitfish.

The slightest twitch of a rod tip will result in a complimentary juke of this plug. The action is natural if done right. Work it more quickly and the lure remains just below the surface. Bring it in faster still and it becomes a surface plug. There are many imitations, but most elite trout hunters wouldn't have any of them. The Corky's reputation is Brown's greatest marketing asset.

If you see them in a store, buy several. Most Corky plugs are sold online or from Brown's garage.

This next lure is from the same family. Paul Brown's grandsons, Jake and Jason Brown, have created a firm, soft-plastic bait called a Devil Eye. The smaller version is called a Sea Devil.

Both resemble a traditional soft jerk bait with a weight problem, but only the Devil Eye has bulging eyes.

Baffin Bay guide Aubrey  
See TACKLE, Page 12



# White bass run

Some anglers busy, others in a waiting game

Anglers mark their calendars, watch the fishing forums, and look for vehicles parked along rivers and bridges to make sure they don't miss Texas' fabled white bass runs in late February and early March.

Dry weather has delayed the run in some areas, with others finding the run in full swing.

On the Nueces River flowing into Lake Corpus Christi, reports of limits are common toward Mathis. Internet forum reports indicate limits being caught trolling black and chrome Rat-L-Traps, while live bait and sassy shads also are producing.

The Sabine River is known for producing limits of whites up to 3 pounds, and the run is on and improving. "It's getting better every day," said guide Greg Crafts. "We have plenty of water and that gets the fish on the move."

Success has also been reported on the Angelina River above Sam Rayburn Reservoir, and the first-to-move males are being caught on the Trinity River above Lake Livingston.

Farther north and west, anglers are watching and waiting. At a popular weekend and spring break spot, Colorado Bend State Park, white bass chasers are hoping for rain followed by sunshine to trigger the run, and anglers are optimistic following a tough year last year due to low water.

Other hotspots waiting for the run to begin include the tributaries of North Texas lakes Grapevine, Lewisville and Richland Chambers, and Central Texas lakes Belton and Stillhouse.



**ON THE RUN:** Some South and East Texas spring anglers are finding a banner white bass run, while North and Central Texas fishermen are at the ready.

— Staff report.

# Giant salvinia found on lakes Palestine and Sam Rayburn

Giant salvinia was found for the first time January 28 in Sam Rayburn Reservoir in the back of Coleman Creek.

On Lake Palestine, a citizen reported giant salvinia and water hyacinth in the vicinity of the Kickapoo Creek boat ramp on February 5.

Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are moving quickly to control small infestations of giant salvinia on Palestine and Sam Rayburn.

The Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority has temporarily closed the Lake Palestine Kickapoo Creek boat ramp, which is on F.M. 315 south of Chandler. The closure is expected to last at least a month.

TPW Inland Fisheries Division personnel immediately investigated both areas and worked with the controlling authorities to install floating booms that will prevent wind from spreading the plants to other parts of the lakes.

"We will clean the areas up by hand if possible," said Howard Elder of Jasper, TPW's aquatic habitat biologist. The areas involved are about 0.1 acre on Lake Palestine and 0.2 acre on Sam Rayburn. Elder has prepared proposals for emergency chemical treatment of the areas if necessary. Those proposals have to be approved by the controlling authorities, and treatment could not begin for at least two weeks.

"We will continue to search

**'Boaters should remove all plant material from their boats and trailers before leaving the ramp every time they go to the lake.'**

— HOWARD ELDER

more areas on both lakes," said Rick Ott, a fisheries biologist in Tyler. "We ask that people look for the plant and call us if they see it. Boaters should remove all plant material from their boats and trailers before leaving the ramp every time they go to the lake. Place any plants in trash cans or dumpsters so they cannot be washed back into the lake."

It is illegal to possess or transport giant salvinia. Possession or transport of giant salvinia or other prohibited aquatic vegetation in Texas is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500 per plant.

Giant salvinia is a highly invasive exotic floating fern that can spread very quickly. Dense mats of floating vegetation block sunlight and can result in the death of all other life beneath it.

Anyone finding suspected giant salvinia in a public water body should contact Howard Elder at (409) 384-9965 or Rick Ott at (903) 566-2161.

— Staff report.

# Reyes wins, 25 headed for Toyota Texas Bass Classic

Jason Reyes of Humble held on to his first-day lead to win the overall title at the inaugural Toyota Texas Bass Classic Qualifier, held on Choke Canyon Lake.

Reyes finished the two-day contest with 10 bass weighing 48 pounds, 3 ounces.

Reyes pulled into a backwater pond mid-morning the first day of the tournament and started casting a Senko.

"The first fish I hooked on the Senko I ended up losing, but it clued me in," he said. "By the bush where it bit, there was a bare spot and I saw the fish swim back into it. I pitched in a white Zoom Speed Craw, and in two casts I caught that same fish."

After that, he began to comb the banks and proceeded to cull out his smaller earlier limit. "I found a 10-pounder paired up with a three-and-a-half," he said. "I caught the male and then on my next flip I caught the female."

He led after Day 1 with 31-08, and even though James Niggemeyer and Byron Velvick were tied for second at 26-15, he

knew that on Choke Canyon, that's nothing more than a single bite. Additionally, Reyes was concerned that pressure would harm his fragile area. His fears were realized when "four or five boats joined (him) in there." He managed to scrape out a 16-11 limit, stout elsewhere, but sub-par on a hot lake like Choke Canyon.

Reyes leads the top 25 finishers from the tournament who will be invited to compete in the \$750,000 Toyota Texas Bass Classic, an event sanctioned by the Professional Anglers Association. Each of the anglers from this event complete the four-angler teams fishing in the TTBC at Lake Fork, April 18-20.

Other qualifiers include Lake Fork residents Lance Vick and Elite Series pro James Niggemeyer, Byron Velvick of Del Rio, and Trevor Knight, last year's Boat U.S. National Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship winner.

— Professional Anglers Association report.

# Warren wins Wal-Mart Bass Fishing League event on Lake Whitney

Fishing with finesse worms on clear-water Lake Whitney, Ryan Warren of Gatesville won the Wal-Mart Bass Fishing League Cowboy Division tournament with a five-bass catch weighing 19 pounds, 10 ounces. The victory earned Warren \$2,171 plus a \$383 Ranger contingency bonus and placed him one step closer to qualifying for the Lake Ouachita Regional Championship in October.

"I feel great after winning my first BFL tournament," Warren said. "I practiced one day last week and found my key areas. I focused on two places, the Katy Bridge area and Cedron Creek area."

Rounding out the top five boaters were Tommy Mackey of Bryan; Dean Jones of Cedar Park; John Cox of Austin; and Mike Arnold of China Springs.

Mackey took home the Big Bass award with a 6-pound, 4-ounce bass he caught on an Omega football-head jig.

Cody Cox of Lufkin won the co-angler division with five bass weighing 16 pounds, 9 ounces that he caught near Lake Whitney State Park on a Gambler Giggy Head finesse jig.

— FLW Outdoors report.

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# GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

## TWO BURGLARS CAUGHT IN THE ACT

•While heading to an area where he had received complaints about illegal hunting, Lubbock County Game Warden Quentin Terrel met a DPS trooper on the road. A call came in to the sheriff's office about someone burglarizing a building 50 yards from where Terrel was parked. The building was obscured from view by tall weeds. Two burglars were caught in the act by Terrel and the trooper.

## ILLEGAL HUNTERS STEAL GAME CAMERA AFTER PICTURE TAKEN

•Blanco County Game Warden Don Jackson cited two individuals who had killed several white-tails and exotics while hunting from a roadway. After the wardens interviewed the individuals and their parents, the two confessed to the illegal activity and to taking a game camera from a ranch where they had killed an exotic. After crossing the fence to retrieve the illegal game, one of the violators noticed a game camera that had taken a picture of them and decided they had no choice but to take the camera. Several cases are pending as a result of the illegal activity. One of the violators was cited last year by Jackson concerning the placing of a road-killed deer in the school bus of a rival school during a volleyball playoff game.

## TWO CITED HUNTING UNDER LICENSE OF ANOTHER

•Gillespie County Game Warden Scott Krueger cited two individuals for exceeding the bag limit of whitetail and hunting under the license of another. A landowner had invited a hunter to his ranch to get some venison for his freezer. On the way out to the ranch, the hunter hit a deer with his vehicle and missed the hunt. Several days later, the landowner

## ANGLERS STEAL BOAT MOTOR TO FISH IN TOURNEY

•Zavala County Game Warden Chris Stautzenberger received information about a stolen boat motor in Zavala County being used in a bass fishing tournament.

Stautzenberger made contact with the tournament fishermen upon their departure from the lake. Dimmit County Game Warden Mike Bradshaw assisted. The wardens were able to

obtain confessions from two fishermen. The fishermen stole the boat motor in order to be able to fish in the local lake fishing tournament. They finished second.

called the hunter and advised him he had just killed a buck and if he still wanted some venison to come out and tag the buck. The hunter tagged the buck and took it to a local processor. Within two days, the landowner called the hunter once again and asked if he wanted another buck he had shot. The hunter once again traveled to the ranch and tagged the buck and took it to the local processor. Cases pending.

## DUCK HUNTERS EXCEEDING BAG LIMIT SURPRISED BY WARDEN

•Panola County Game Warden Tom Gallenbach heard shooting coming from one of his favorite duck hunting areas. He witnessed three men shooting ducks with eight already lying behind them. They continued shooting until they ran out of ammo. The three were surprised when they turned around and saw the warden. Citations were issued to three men for exceeding the bag limit for ducks. Cases pending.

## ANGLER CAUGHT WITH WITH 147 TOO MANY FLOUNDER

•Jefferson County Game Warden Vu Nguyen checked an individual with 147 flounder over his possession limit, with many of the flounder also being undersized. A total of 30 citations were issued; cases pending.

## TWO ADMIT TO HUNTING WITHOUT CONSENT OF LANDOWNER

•Grimes County Game Warden Johnny Heaton responded to an

abandoned vehicle call. Upon arrival, he noticed a red pickup in front of a ranch. Heaton walked a heavily wooded area of the property and observed two men standing in a wooded area next to a clearing. The men said they were looking for property that was for sale. After a search of the area, Heaton located a 270-caliber rifle and a 30.06-caliber rifle. Both rifles were on the ground covered in pine straw. Both men admitted to deer hunting on the property without permission. The men were arrested for hunting without landowner consent and their weapons were seized. They received citations for hunting deer during closed season and hunting without a hunting license. Cases pending.

## STOLEN COPPER LEADS TO SEVERAL FELONY CHARGES

•Young County Game Warden Brent Isom received a call from a hunter who observed two ATVs in the road with one loaded down with copper tubing. Young County deputies and Isom responded to the scene. When the ATV operators spotted the warden and deputies, they ran on foot until reaching their vehicle, and a chase ensued. During the investigation, it was determined that both ATVs were stolen and the copper tubing was stolen from a nearby ranch house. Isom remained in the area until 11 p.m., when he observed a vehicle leaving a pasture near the area. Isom requested backup, and a

felony vehicle stop was made. Four individuals were arrested without incident. Upon returning to the property with search warrants, they recovered more than 100 items, including stolen hunting equipment, commercial tools, TVs, and guns. Several felony charges including possession of drug items, evading arrest, deadly conduct, and stolen property up to \$20,000 were filed.

## GAME WARDEN NABS ANGLER SELLING FISH ILLEGALLY

•Calhoun County Game Warden Robert Dominguez investigated a county resident reported to be fishing and selling illegally for several months. Dominguez apprehended the individual with 178 blue and channel catfish, weighing approximately 300 pounds. Charges and restitution are pending.

## HUNTER HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE

•Potter County Game Warden Steve Urban received a call from a city clean-up crew concerning eight deer heads in a shed behind a house. Urban and Randall County Game Warden Frank Niemiec proceeded to the house and noticed that the heads looked fresh, and deer season had been over for over two months. After being invited inside by an occupant of the home, the occupant showed a freezer full of fresh deer meat and said the last deer was brought home two days before. A hunting rifle was pro-

duced that had been stolen 10 years earlier. Another man arrived home shortly and confessed to killing eight mule deer over the last seven or eight months. He said he was hunting to feed his large family and appeared to have no working knowledge of the Parks and Wildlife Code. He was updated on game laws through a translator. Cases pending.

## INVESTIGATION CLEARS UP 13 COUNTY BURGLARIES

•Stephens County Game Warden Ed Russell recently assisted the Stephens County Sheriff's Office with completion of a 15-month investigation centered on a series of deer camp burglaries. Three men were charged with engaging in organized criminal activity and burglary of a habitation. The investigation cleared up 13 Stephens County burglaries and one Shackelford County burglary. One stolen vehicle and more than \$15,000 worth of stolen property has been recovered to date. Cases pending.

## MAN PICKS UP CARCASSES INSTEAD UP BEING ARRESTED

•A complainant called the Abilene office advising of 17 fox, 1 coyote, and 5 raccoons that had been dumped alongside a county road. Taylor County Warden Roy Johnson contacted one of the local outdoor shops that kept up with the area predator hunts. An employee at the shop knew of a man who had killed that specific number of animals. The man was contacted, admitted to the dumping and was given the option of being arrested for Class B illegal dumping or immediately returning to the location, picking up the carcasses and properly disposing of them. He chose the latter option and apologized.

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# Tackle

*Continued from Page 8*

Black uses them almost exclusively on 16-ounce Hogie spring-head jigheads year round for trout. For big winter trout, Black lowers his lure slowly to the bay bottom upon casting and then tries to short-hop it two, three or four times about 6 inches off the bottom, maintaining a taut line.

For fishing around rocks, Black said the Devil Eye seems to avoid hang-ups better than traditional soft plastics. Black believes the fat head may be the reason it bounces off Baffin's submerged rocks without getting snagged.

These next favorites are throwbacks to the previous generation. The 51M MirroLure and the more modern Catch 5 and Catch 2000 are waders' plugs with a long history of success. Port Mansfield's Mike McBride said the 51M has earned his confidence as a shallow-water trout plug. But it also serves as a wintertime slow-sinker in the super salty Laguna Madre, where anglers twitch it like they would a Corky near the bottom.

This cigar-shaped hard plastic plug sinks at the rate of about one foot per second, McBride said, adding that it's not too noisy, casts like a bullet even into a breeze, and yet enters the water unobtrusively. In skilled

hands, it can negotiate structure and can be retrieved quickly or manipulated to control its depth. In a word, it is versatile, McBride said.

Straying from conventional wisdom is Rockport guide Jay Watkins, who catches more than his share of big trout using a 5-inch shad Bass Assassin regardless of conditions. Watkins prefers a plum or plum/chartreuse Bass Assassin on a 16-ounce No. 2 chartreuse Screw-lock jighead.

Watkins said this staple soft jerkbait is best worked with a medium-action rod over shallow scattered oyster shell, but also is effective in deeper water during winter. A lightweight jighead with a shore-shank

hook makes it versatile in most all situations, Watkins said.

When conditions make fishing tough, Watkins switches to the Bass Assassin Blurp, a scented version of the original soft plastic, which also comes in a paddle-tail model. Probably a dozen manufacturers make several versions of a soft plastic jerk-bait. And, generally, preference is what sets them apart.

For pure enjoyment, the top-water plug makes this list. Corpus Christi's David Rowsey said while nearly every trout angler has a favorite surface plug, he allows conditions to dictate his choice.

Often dismissed as a warm-water lure exclusively, many trout stalkers have found suc-

cess with topwater plugs in cooler bays. They say the surface commotion excites lethargic trout, and some anglers use them to locate fish. After getting the fish's attention, they might switch to their favorite subsurface lure for the catch.

The MirroLure line of Top Dog plugs, which include She Dog, He Dog, Top Pup and several more, is a good all-around plug. There's a size weight and rattle tone for nearly every condition. For a slightly different look and sound, the Rapala Skitter Walk may have recently surpassed the Top Dog series in popularity.

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# Largemouth bass seminar targets pond management

Texas AgriLife Extension, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, in cooperation with Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Henderson County Wildlife Committee, will present a seminar at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens entitled "The Largemouth

Bass: Better Fishing Through Private Water Management," on Mar. 28-29.

"The program is designed primarily for landowners who manage their own impoundments for bass fishing," said conference organizer Billy Higginbotham, a professor at Texas A&M University.

Program topics will include basic pond management such as water quality, controlling exotic vegetation, bass diseases and parasites, fertilization, feeding and stocking strategies.

There will also be sessions on cutting-edge bass management techniques.

Barry Smith of the American Sport Fish Hatchery in Alabama will report on his efforts to use selective breeding to grow bigger bass that are easier to catch.

Bassmaster Elite angler Alton Jones will speak on how to catch bass. There will also be a session on how to age

bass using otoliths, a necessary component of successful management of a fishery.

Attendees also will receive a behind-the-scenes tour of TFFC's ShareLinker spawning and rearing facility.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

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## Two limits top 30 pounds at Rayburn

Twenty-four limits of more than 20 pounds were weighed in at the Bass Champs East Region tournament at Sam Rayburn, with two limits topping 30 pounds.

Kris Wilson and David Harvey topped the event with a five-bass limit weighing 30.62 pounds, including a 9.48-pound bass, winning \$20,000.

Wilson and Harvey were throwing Rat-L traps in 5-foot drains. "We threw them every direction," Wilson said. "The fish were everywhere."

Chris Clemens and Dallas Cole won second place with 30.02 pounds. The team targeted grassy points in the mid-lake area. "We were using crankbaits, throwing parallel to the shoreline in water about 10-feet deep," Cole said. Their 10.32-pound fish won Big Bass honors. It hit a crankbait at 11 a.m.

In third place with 27.62 pounds was the team of Greg Christian and Bill Wilcox with 27.62 pounds, while Jerry McMullen and Randy Turner finished fourth with 23.34 pounds.

Out of 256 teams, 174 brought limits to the scales.

—Bass Champs report.

## Mesh

Continued from Page 6

poundage, penetrate the mesh as if it wasn't even there, Wright said.

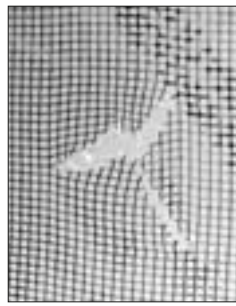
"Mosquito netting is all it is," he explained. "At typical archery ranges, it doesn't seem to have any affect on the arrow at all."

Fleming agreed. "I've never seen one of them deviate an arrow," he said.

Not all archers are believers in the shoot-through mesh, though. Jeff Birmingham guides archery hunters in Bee County. "I tried it, and I didn't like it," he said. "Plus, any time you touch an arrow with anything, it's going to affect how the arrow flies."

The mesh does carry a few limitations, according to bow-hunters.

For example, Wright said, the



mesh can only take a few penetrations and then it has to be replaced.

That's because the breaches caused by fast-flying arrows will cause a mesh panel to sag, and an arrow can be deflected by the fabric if it isn't stretched tightly.

Therefore, companies like Ameristep sell replacement kits

with new panels for about \$13.

Ameristep officials also warn archers not to shoot mechanical or expanding broadheads through the mesh.

"The broadhead will deploy in the mesh before hitting the animal," said Tony Tenor, an Ameristep customer service representative.

Fleming disagreed. "I've shot through them with expandable broadheads and even the Rage broadheads," he said. "They go right through without expanding if you use O-rings."

Tenor also warned hunters not to shoot guns through the mesh because muzzle blast can ignite the fabric.

"And then you have a fire on your hands," he said.

Wright also offered some general tips for hunting out of portable blinds.

He said that many of them have dark interiors to help conceal a hunter's profile. Therefore, he added, hunters

can blend in better if they wear black or very dark clothes inside the blind.

And although the exteriors of the blinds are camouflage, deer will notice them after their initial set-up, Wright said.

"It can spook the deer, unless you thoroughly brush in the thing," he said. "Then it doesn't bother them at all, and it doesn't bother hogs at all; antelope either."

Fleming said his hunters typically get shots within 15 yards. "And my 10-year-old shot bucks at 15 yards this year," he said.

During the early bow season in Texas, Wright said, ground blinds can become stifling, even with mesh windows. Bring plenty of water to prevent dehydration.

On balance, however, Wright said the ground blinds are "just really great inventions because of their portability."

"And, after all," he said, "you can't fall out of one."

## Trials

Continued from Page 6

trials are a big deal because we start off the season, and people like to run their dogs in the coastal area—there will be five or six types of cover changes before the dog gets to the mark."

The retrievers, handlers and dog owners came from dozens of states and as far north as Canada, with 176 entries competing in four classes, including the coveted open and amateur divisions.

"In the open and amateur divisions, dogs perform double and triple marks on both water and on land," said Kenny, whose dog Icebreaker Mackinaw finished fourth in the amateur division. "And they also do blind retrieves on both water and land."

The open division, the only division that the pros are permitted to compete, had 77 entries. Handler Dave Rorem, who lives and trains retrievers near International Falls, Minn., in the summer and near Columbus in winter, captured two of the top four spots, with Two Rivers Lucky Willie, a black lab owned by Brady Oman of Marble Falls, taking the top prize.

But Rorem, who trains dogs with his wife and 29-year-old daughter Ty, was most proud of his daughter's performance. "It was only the second field trial she ever ran, and she finished second in the open with The Bear XVII, called 'Yogi.'"

Rorem, a retired Minnesota game warden, knew it was rare to have so many top finishers. "We're blessed with good athletes," he said. "We have a good string of young dogs, and we all work our tails off."

In the amateur division, all of the dogs were required to be handled by their owners. Kathy Berdan with her lab FC AFC Mizpaw Miss, took the top prize, and Alex Washburn with Coolwaters Hurricane Alley finished second out of 47 entries.

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# Speckled strike



In March, the water warms ever so slightly. The big female speckled trout begins to hang out near the oyster shells that will eventually protect her deposit of eggs.

On good days, the lucky wade-fisherman will don his gear and walk in the cold water up to his belly.

Casting and walking, casting and walking.

Topwater action is what he is after. Days with the most tidal movement are best. He casts and cranks. The lure walks from side to side three feet over the mama sow's head.

She reacts to the sound of the heavy pellets hitting the side of the plastic plug.

She strikes.

BAM!

Water goes flying.

The angler pauses — and sets the hook.

The rod bends, the line strips, the angler reels.

A short while later, a measurement for weight and length is quickly taken and the fish swims off. The wader yells the results to his partner and resumes casting and walking, casting and walking.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID J. SAMS



# Four to enter bass fishing Hall of Fame at the Classic

Four legendary figures of bass fishing who have contributed greatly to the sport through education, angling achievements, innovations and communications will join 32 previously inducted men and women in the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame.

The class of 2008 includes Nick Crème of Texas, Charlie Campbell and Virgil Ward both of Missouri, and Buck Perry of North Carolina, as the seventh group of inductees. Crème, Perry and Ward will be inducted posthumously.

Induction ceremonies took place on Feb. 21, the evening before the start of the 40th Bassmaster Classic on Lake Hartwell.

## Nick Crème

In 1949, Crème created the first rubber worms on his kitchen stove, which made a huge impact as the invention revolutionized bass fishing with artificial lures in the 1950s and '60s.

Crème's tackle company became one of the first to sponsor a pro angler when, in 1967, Nick offered John Powell of Alabama an \$18,000 contract.

## Charlie Campbell

As a Missouri educator and celebrated coach for over 15 years, Campbell would spend after-school hours and summers guiding nearby lakes. He later owned a marine dealership, developed the "Charlie Campbell CC Spinner Bait," and was instrumental in

the design of the Bass Tracker boat for Bass Pro Shops. He won a B.A.S.S. Federation National Championship, fished five Classics and won a total of 67 tournament trail events.

## Buck Perry

Perry is widely acclaimed as the "father of structure fishing." Before sonar, Perry was using his Spoonplugs and trolling tactics to catch deep water and offshore bass that others did not even know existed. Even though he passed away in 2005, his Spoonplugging school is still a serious educational institution for anglers.

## Virgil Ward

Ward had one of the most popular TV showcases of bass fishing techniques for 27 years with Virgil Ward's Championship Fishing Show. In 1955 Virgil and his son, Bill, started the Bass Buster Lure Company, designed the feather jig and patented the fiber weed guard still used today by jig manufacturers.

Four new members to the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame Board of Directors also will be inducted. They include Kathy Magers and Dick Hart of Texas, Gene Ellison of Massachusetts and Hobson Bryan Jr. of Alabama. They were named to three-year terms beginning January 1 of this year.

— BASS Communications report.

## Burglary

Continued from Page 1

He has combined genetics from robust northern whitetails and strong south Texas bloodlines to create deer like Twisty, 253 (B&C); Big Tex, 230, and Lumpy, 208.

Others missing mounts came from Little Tex, Pay Check and Terminator. All of the prized deer were prominently displayed at the ranch after their deaths.

But then someone took bolt cutters to an outside gate.

"One of my ranch hands showed up early the next morning and saw the lock was cut off," Martindale said. "They took everything that wasn't nailed to the wall. "It makes you feel like your privacy has been violated — big time."

Also stolen were a couple replica mounts, several horn mounts, and some full-body mounts of other animals, including a bobcat. Two dart guns used in the breeding operation and a .222-caliber varmint rifle were also taken, Martindale said.

"The definitely knew exactly what they wanted," he added. "It was probably someone who had been there before or someone who was hired by someone who had been there before."

Bosque County sheriff's deputies are investigating the burglary, but no arrests have been reported nearly a month later. Meanwhile, Martindale has offered a \$5,000 reward for information that could lead to a break in the case.

Martindale noted that he is a longtime member of the Texas Deer Association, and he is appealing to his fellow deer breeders to be watching for anyone trying to sell some distinctive whitetail mounts.

"I marketed my buying and selling off of those mounts," Martindale said. "They were pretty well-known around our state, so there's a good chance they will be recognized."

Images of the deer can be viewed at under the "breeding" section of the Snuff City Web site: [www.snuffcityranch.com](http://www.snuffcityranch.com).

Anyone with information about the case can call Sgt. David Pack of the Bosque County Sheriff's Office at 254-435-2363.



**ON THE LOOKOUT:** Bill Martindale hopes that someone will recognize the stolen mounts of Twisty, above, or Big Tex, below, and call authorities.



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# Mud

Continued from Page 1

nets for fish," Paradoski said. "From December through February, when temperatures drop the most, mud flats can produce some very big trout." Drifting mud in Trinity Bay resulted in a once in a lifetime outing. "It was during the '70s and was my best trip ever," he said. "We were over solid mud. Trout had jumbo shrimp hemmed up in the middle of the bay."

Paradoski claims they caught 156 magnum specks. "None were lighter than 7 pounds," he said. "They were feeding like jackfish. It was the most aggressive school of fish I have ever seen in my life."

The chances of drifting into a school of fish like that is like winning the lottery. But drifting mud packs potential and consistently produces speckled trout.

"The old trick is finding the bait," Paradoski said. "In the coldest times in winter, bait is tough to track down; this is when I rely on areas I have caught them before."

"When the sun is up and water temperatures warm to 58 degrees, I key on schools of bait or oil slicks if they exist," he said.

Paradoski prefers soft plastics, preferably Bass Assassins of all colors and Mirrolures.

"It is a matter of trial and error; you must take the time to switch and give different baits a try," he said. "If I see bait on the surface, you can bet I will be chunking a topwater."

Whether the fish are favoring mud or deep structure at a given time usually depends on water temperature. "Some days, fish

**"From December through February, when temperatures drop the most, mud flats can produce some very big trout."**

— Charlie Paradoski

are holding on the deeper outer reefs and on others, mud flats produce the most fish," he said.

Captain Russell Smith searches out water color streaks when drifting deep mud in West Galveston Bay.

"We fish the sandier mud in West Galveston during winter," he said. "During my charters, if I find decent green water with streaky water and distinct water change, there are always fish."

A trout and mullet feeding frenzy can cause these streaks in the water, Smith said. "Trout find these streaks of clear and off-color water and just get comfortable."

The warmth of a deep mud flat with streaky water can create some fantastic vantage points for trout and redfish pursuing an effortless feed.

"Using heavy leads are the best advice I can provide—3/8-ounce heads on any soft plastics work if the fish are ready to eat," Smith said.

In East Matagorda Bay, Smith also has taken advantage of fish holding over deep mud during the cold of winter.

"I found these fish after I made a blind drift over deep mud into a streaky patch of water," he said. "I instantly caught fish."

# Warm

Continued from Page 1

action from December through March because of the warm water discharge from the power plant," Reese said.

"This is more like hunting weather than fishing weather, but on the weekends, the fishermen's boats will be lined up solid along this bridge."

The morning trip across the 3,550-acre lake to the fish-attracting railroad bridge piers produced a string of 28 keeper cats in about two hours, including a 21-inch blue catfish and several 18- to 19-inch channel catfish. About twice that many undersized channel catfish were caught and released.

The minimum length for keepers at Calaveras is 12 inches and the limit is 25 fish per day for each fish-

erman.

Similar hot cat action is available at the nearby Braunig Lake, also operated by San Antonio's CPS, and at three other Texas utility cooling reservoirs: one each in Fayette County; Fairfield in East Texas; and Monticello in Northeast Texas.

"The (warm water) discharge just seems to attract catfish," said Tim Bister, a Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist whose region includes Fairfield and Monticello.

"Both of these lakes have really taken off (for catfish action) in the past few years," he said. "With the warm-water discharge, there is more for the catfish to eat and they grow faster than in other lakes."

The method used to attract winter catfish is simple and effective. Spin-casting reels loaded with 10-pound test monofilament are attached to medium- to light-action rods, with a small slip sinker placed above a No. 6 treble hook.

Using a commercially produced cheese bait (or sometimes shrimp and chicken livers), Reese dips the treble hooks into the gooeey concoction and then flips the baited hook next to one of the bridge piers about 30 feet from his anchored boat.

"Wait for a couple of taps — they don't take the bait very hard — and then set the hook," he said.

Reese and other warm water discharge catfish anglers favor depths from about 6 feet to 12 feet, and they often use sour grain to bait hot fishing spots, whether they are near the railroad bridge piers or over creek beds crossing the lake bottom.

"I've brought in channels up to six pounds from this area, but most are in the 14- to 16-inch range," Reese said.

Reese with Shawn's Guide Service can be reached at (210) 288-4972.

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# FISHING REPORT

## HOT BITES

### LARGEMOUTH BASS



**TOLEDO BEND:** Black bass are good on watermelon and June bug soft plastics, and on watermelon spinnerbaits and crankbaits.  
**FALCON:** Black bass are good on large watermelon Brush Hogs, spinnerbaits, and soft plastics.  
**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Black bass are excellent on watermelon red soft plastic lizards near the pump station in 8 feet and at mid lake.  
**TRAVIS:** Black bass are good on Brush Hogs, Senkos, and chartreuse crankbaits in 8-20 feet.

### WHITE/HYBRID/STRIPER



**WALTER E. LONG:** Hybrid stripers are good on minnows and cut bait.  
**CEDAR CREEK:** White bass are good on slabs.

### CATFISH



**BRAUNIG:** Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheesebait, and cut bait near the spillway and the discharge. Blue catfish are good on cut bait in 15-20 feet.  
**BELTON:** Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs and Spam. Yellow catfish are good on jugs and live baited with live perch and goldfish.  
**CALAVERAS:** Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, and cheesebait near the railroad trestle and 181 Cove.  
**CONROE:** Catfish are good on stinkbait, live minnows, and frozen shrimp.  
**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Catfish are good on set lines baited with shad along the river channel.

### CRAPPIE



**COLEMAN:** Crappie are good on minnows over brush piles.  
**SAM RAYBURN:** Crappie are good on minnows and green tube jigs.  
**SOMERVILLE:** Crappie are excellent on minnows, and on tube jigs with red heads and green skirts.  
**WHITNEY:** Crappie are good on minnows.

**ALAN HENRY:** Water lightly stained; 54 degrees; 0.71' low. Black bass are fair on dark jigs suspended in timber and along rocky drop-offs.

**ARROWHEAD:** Water lightly stained; 53 degrees; 2.81' low. Crappie are good on minnows off the derricks and state park docks, and east side bridge pilings suspended 7-14 feet deep. Blue Catfish are good on jugs and drift fishing using live shad in the lower part of lake.

**ATHENS:** Water lightly stained, 48-56 degrees; 0.27' high. Black bass are fair on shaky head rigs, Rat-L-Traps and crankbaits.

**BASTROP:** Water clear. Black bass are good on red/white spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and Rat-L-Traps. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, liver, shrimp, and minnows.

**BELTON:** Water clear; 52 degrees; 0.29' high. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on minnows in 20-30 feet under lights at night.

**BOB SANDLIN:** Water clear; 46-56 degrees; 0.64' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps.

**BRAUNIG:** Water stained; 61 degrees. Black bass are good on crankbaits and dark soft plastic worms in the reeds and near the jetty and dam. Striped bass are good on liver and shad at Dead Tree Point and near the pier, and down rigging silver and gold spoons and marble spinners near the jetty and dam.

**BRIDGEPORT:** Water lightly stained; 44-58 degrees; 4.36' low. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs around ledges and drop-offs. Hybrid stripers are fair to good on live shad and slabs.

**BROWNWOOD:** Water stained; 58 degrees; 2.07' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse jigs and watermelon soft plastics in 10-30 feet. Crappie are good on L/I Fishies and minnows over brush piles in 10-30 feet. Channel catfish are very good on stinkbait, minnows, and frozen shrimp.

**BUCHANAN:** Water clear; 59 degrees; 1.95' low. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles in 12-15 feet.

**CADDO:** Water stained; 48-60 degrees; 0.81' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on night-crawlers and prepared bait.

**CALAVERAS:** Water stained; 61 degrees. Black bass are good on dark soft plastic worms, spinnerbaits, and crankbaits around reed beds and near the dam. Striped bass are good on spoons and jigs near the crappie wall and the dam in 15-20 feet, and on chicken livers, shad, and minnows along the shoreline.

**CANYON LAKE:** Water clear; 60 degrees; 0.05' high. Striped bass are fair to good trolling 1/4 oz. white stripers jigs and vertically jugging Pink Minnows and Spoiler Shads. Smallmouth bass are very good on smoked/roasted flake tubes, tomato red curl tail grubs, and tomato red drop shot worms over rock piles in 12-25 feet.

**CEDAR CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 46-59 degrees; 1.12' low. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

**CHOKO CANYON:** Water lightly stained; 58 degrees; 0.80' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastic worms and lizards, and flipping jigs in the grass. White bass are good on small spinnerbaits and suspending jerkbaits from the 99 Bridge north. Channel and blue catfish are good on punchbait in 5-10 feet.

**COLEMAN:** Water clear; 57 degrees. Black bass are good on watermelon red soft plastics, spinnerbaits, and crankbaits, and on chartreuse Rat-L-Traps. Hybrid stripers are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, liver, and frozen shrimp.

**CONROE:** Water clear. Black bass are good on watermelon red and dark red soft plastics, spinnerbaits, and crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and blue tube jigs.

**FALCON:** Water stained; 58 degrees. Channel and blue catfish are excellent on frozen shrimp and stinkbait upriver.

**FAYETTE:** Water lightly stained; 64 degrees. Black bass are fair to good on Carolina rigged soft plastics off deep points, and on spinnerbaits, Rat-L-Traps, and soft plastics in shallow areas.

**FORK:** Water fairly clear; 44-56 degrees; 0.2' low. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, crankbaits, and Carolina rigs and heavy jigs.

**GRANBURY:** Water clear; 1.18' low. Black bass are good on watermelon and pumpkinseed soft plastics, and on chartreuse Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on minnows and green tube jigs. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, liver, and stinkbait.

**GRANGER:** Water murky; 48 degrees; 0.44' high. Black bass are good on jigs along shallow banks upriver.

**GRAPEVINE:** Water fairly clear; 48-59 degrees; 1.7' low. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water clear; 57 degrees; 0.57' high. Crappie are good on chartreuse tube jigs and live minnows near the dam. White bass are good along the northeast shore.

**JOE POOL:** Water off color; 44-57 degrees; 1.13' low. Black bass are

fair on drop shot rigged finesse worms, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps.

**LAKE O' THE PINES:** Water lightly stained; 42-48 degrees; 0.95' high. Black bass are fair on Texas rigged Baby Brush Hogs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

**LAVON:** Water lightly stained; 44-56 degrees; 3.21' low. Black bass are fair to good on crankbaits, Texas rigs and drop shot rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs.

**LBJ:** Water stained; 60 degrees; 5.08' low. The lake has been drawn down five feet to allow homeowners to clean up damage and debris from the flood of July 2007. It will be refilled beginning Feb. 25. Most boat ramps are unusable, and the channel is dangerous.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water off-color; 45-58 degrees; 0.92' low. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Hybrid stripers are fair on slabs and Shady Shad. Catfish are good on prepared bait and chartreuse (use Worm-Gio) nightcrawlers.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water fairly clear; 53 degrees; 0.06' high. Black bass are fair on crankbaits and soft plastics; Crappie are fair to good on minnows. Blue catfish are good on shad.

**MACKENZIE:** Water lightly stained; 46 degrees; 73.34' low. Black bass are fair on jigs and live bait. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

**MEREDITH:** Water lightly stained; 44 degrees; 73.47' low. White bass are good on live bait. Smallmouth bass are fair on lipless crankbaits and live baits.

**MONTICELLO:** Water clear; 68-82 degrees; 0.5' low. Black bass are fair to good on Rat-L-Traps, flukes and crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs.

**NAVARRO MILLS:** Water lightly stained; 49 degrees; 10.24' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored crankbaits, and Carolina-rigged live baits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

**O.H. IVIE:** Water lightly stained; 55 degrees; 10.24' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored crankbaits, and Carolina-rigged live baits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

**PALESTINE:** Water lightly stained; 45-58 degrees; 0.13' high. Black bass are fair on crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps, Carolina rigs and jigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water stained; 54 degrees; 1.78' low. White bass are fair to good on slabs and minnows.

**PROCTOR:** Water clear; 51 degrees; 0.31' low. Channel and blue catfish to 35 pounds are good on live shad and goldfish in 22-25 feet.

**RAY HUBBARD:** Water lightly stained; 46-57 degrees; 0.11' low. Black bass are fair to good on Carolina rigs, white/chartreuse spinnerbaits and crankbaits. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Hybrid stripers are fair to good on slabs and live shad.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water murky; 44-56 degrees; 0.63' low. White bass are good on slabs and Jugging Spoons.

**RICHLAND CHAMBERS:** Water off-color; 45-57 degrees; 1.67' low. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Hybrid stripers are fair on slabs and live shad.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Water stained; 63 degrees; 4.91' low. Black bass are good on tequila sunrise and pumpkinseed soft plastics. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, live minnows, and stinkbait.

**SOMERVILLE:** Water murky; 0.11' high. Channel and blue catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and minnows.

**STILLHOUSE:** Water clear; 58 degrees; 0.04' high. Channel and blue catfish are fair on hot dogs and nightcrawlers.

**TAWAKONI:** Water lightly stained; 44-58 degrees; 1.79' low. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on slabs. Striped bass and hybrid stripers are fair on live shad and slabs.

**TEXOMA:** Water stained to clear on the north end; 46-56 degrees; 1.05' low. Black bass are fair on Rat-L-Traps, drop shot rigs and crankbaits. Striped bass are fair to good live shad and large Road Runners.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water clear; 62 degrees; 3.22' low. Crappie are fair on minnows and chartreuse tube jigs.

**TRAVIS:** Water clear; 57 degrees; 1.29' high. White bass are good on minnows and silver jugging spoons in 35-48 feet.

**WALTER E. LONG:** Water clear; 60 degrees. Black bass are good on minnows and chartreuse soft plastics.

**WEATHERFORD:** Water stained; 46-56 degrees; 2.52' low. Black bass are fair on crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

**WHITNEY:** Water stained; 7.12' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and redbug soft plastics, spinnerbaits, and crankbaits. White bass are fair on minnows and white stripers jigs.

**WRIGHT PATMAN:** Water lightly stained; 45-56 degrees; 3.61' high. Black bass are fair to good on Texas rigs, shaky head rigs, Rat-L-Traps and crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

## SALTWATER SCENE

**NORTH SABINE:** Trout are fair while drifting deep shell in the middle of the lake on black/chartreuse and red shad Trout Killers, Bass Assassins, Hogies and Sand Eels. Redfish are fair on the shorelines on gold spoons and chartreuse plastics.

**SOUTH SABINE:** Trout and redfish are fair plum plastics and live shrimp off the reef on the south end of the lake. Sheepshead are good at the jetty on shrimp.

**BOLIVAR:** Redfish and black drum are fair in the surf on cut-bait. Flounder are fair at Rollover Pass on mud minnows.

**TRINITY BAY:** Sheepshead, sand trout and croaker are fair on shrimp at the Spillway. Trout are fair on the shorelines.

**EAST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are fair to good for waders around Big Pasture on suspending plugs. Redfish are fair on the shorelines on mud minnows and gold spoons.

**WEST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are fair for waders working the muddy shorelines. Black drum and sheepshead are fair to good on live shrimp or fresh dead at the jetty.

**TEXAS CITY:** Sheepshead, croaker, black drum, redfish and sand trout are fair from the pier at the end of the dike on fresh dead shrimp.

**FREESPORT:** Black drum, whiting and sand trout are fair to good in the afternoon at Oyster Creek Park. Trout and reds are fair in Christmas Bay on live shrimp.

**EAST MATAGORDA:** Trout are fair on the deep shell on red shad, morning glory and glow/chartreuse Bass Assassins, Hogies and Sand Eels and Trout Killers. Redfish are fair on the south shoreline on gold spoons and Bass Assassins. Long drifts over shell has yielded solid trout on live shrimp.

**MATAGORDA:** Trout are redfish are fair on the south shoreline on limetreuse, black and electric chicken Bass Eels, Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels.

**PORF O'CONNOR:** Trout are fair to good on the edges of the Intracoastal on pumpkinseed/chartreuse or fire tiger Trout Killers, Sand Eels and Bass Assassins. Warm temperatures have allowed for good topwater bite.

**ROCKPORT:** Trout and redfish are fair on the Estes Flats on live shrimp and red shad Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels.

**PORF ARANSAS:** Black drum and sheepshead are fair to good from the jetty on shrimp. Whiting, redfish and black drum are fair from the beachfront piers.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Trout are fair around the Causeway and in the Humble Channel on plum/white and glow/chartreuse Bass Assassins, Hogies, Trout Killers and Sand Eels.

**BAFFIN BAY:** Trout are good on mud and grass on pink Corkies and suspending plugs. Trout are good for waders working the rocks.

**PORF MANSFIELD:** Trout, redfish, and sheepshead are fair in the Ship Channel on live shrimp. Trout and redfish are fair on the flats on plum, black and glow Bass Assassins, Trout Killers, Hogies and Sand Eels. Trout are good on topwaters on the flats in the afternoon.

**SOUTH PADRE:** Black drum and redfish are fair to good off the Intracoastal on live shrimp. Trout are fair on live mullet and plum/chartreuse Trout Killers and Bass Assassins on the flats. Sheepshead are fair to good at the jetty on live shrimp.

**PORF ISABEL:** Sheepshead are fair to good around rock groins and piers on live shrimp. Trout are fair at Holly Beach and Airport Cove on Corkies and Crazy Croakers.



**Amistad**  
 Water clear; 56 degrees; 7.04' low. Black bass are good on jerkbaits, Revenge spinnerbaits, Lucky Craft DD-100's, and Senkos. Striped bass are good on slabs and small crankbaits. White bass are good on slabs and small crankbaits. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch. Mexican fishing licenses are required to fish Mexican waters. Everyone in the boat must have a Mexican fishing license whether fishing or not. Mexican boat permits are no longer required.

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# HRCH Blay Day's Blue Boy 'Blue'

Nov. 24, 1997-Dec. 29, 2007

By DAMRON HENSON

Our lives changed on Dec. 29, 2007, when we lost our friend, companion, and champion retriever due to a very short battle with cancer.

We hunted on December 27 and everything was just fine and normal. We killed a bunch of geese and Blue picked up most of them. His last retrieve was a blind retrieve where he had to swim about 100 yards and then break ice for another 80 yards into an open hole where there was a crippled goose.

As he always did, he got there and started the chase — it lasted about 20 minutes with several dives and he finally caught the goose and returned back to the blind to the cheers of all of the hunters.

The rest of that day was just fine and he ate and drank with no problems. The next morning I went to let him out at 5 a.m. to go duck hunting and he didn't want to eat and just walked off into the dark. I grabbed my flashlight and followed him. I shined the light on him and he just fell over.

When looking him over I found a huge knot to the left of his tail on his hip. I could tell it bothered him, so I loaded him up in the truck and headed for the closest vet clinic.

The vet right initially thought Blue had some sort of hernia, but later determined the problem was more serious and should receive immediate attention.

We hunted with a veterinarian several years ago who runs an internal medicine clinic for animals in Dallas. He always told me to call him if I thought I really needed help with Blue.

It only took these guys about five minutes to tell us what was wrong.

Blue had a large tumor that extended from his left hip through his pelvis into his chest. The vet wanted me to know one thing — it was fatal and it might be two hours or two months, but he would never be the same. And to think less than 24 hours earlier we were hunting.

My wife, Dana, and I discussed what to do and we decided to bring him home, make him comfortable, and say our good-byes. They gave him a shot for the pain, and we took Blue home.

By late evening, the tumor continued to grow at such a rapid rate it dislocated his hips. We stayed up all night with him, and it was really tough watching him go through this — so we called our vet and asked her to come out to the house and put him down.

The doctors at the internal medicine clinic were confident that he had an anal gland carcinoma. These are very aggressive and most always fatal. We are thankful that Blue was strong until the finish and he did not have a long and drawn-out illness.

Blue had a great 10 years. He hunted whitewings on the Mexico border, pheasants in South Dakota, snows and mallards in Saskatchewan, plus all of the duck and goose hunts here in Texas. Blue ended up with a little more than 6,000 retrieves during his career.

A special thank you to all of those that helped us train Blue during the early years. We didn't know much at all about training, but Blue made it easy for us to keep up. And thanks to all of you that shared time in the field or blind with us — those are memories we will treasure forever.



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# OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

**HAVE AN EVENT?**  
E-mail it to  
editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com

**Feb. 27:** The Lake Grapevine DU Texas Hold'em Poker tournament will be held at Stacy's Furniture and Grapevine. Contact Rudy Boyd at (972) 768-1682 or r.boyd@verizon.net for information.

**Feb. 28:** The Corpus Christi NWTFF banquet will be held at the Ortiz Center. Contact Kyle Albrecht at (361) 906-2151 or kalbrechtctx@aol.com for information.

**Feb. 28:** The Sabine-Neches CCA dinner will be held at Harvest Club in Beaumont. Call (800) 626-4242 for information.

**Feb. 28:** The San Bernard CCA banquet will be held at Riverside Hall in East Bernard. Call (800) 626-4242 for information.

**Feb. 28:** The TCU CCA dinner will be held at the Stockyards in Fort Worth. Call (800) 626-4242 for information.

**Feb. 28:** The Montgomery County NWTFF dinner will be held at the Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe. For information, contact James Alpha at (936) 756-1707 or jalpha640@yahoo.com.

**Feb. 28:** The South Texas RMEF Big Game banquet will be held in San Antonio. Call Dennis Harwell at (210) 889-8332 for location and information.

**Feb. 29-Mar.16:** Bass Pro Shops in Katy will hold its Spring Fishing Classic. Visit basspro.com or call (281) 644-

2200 for information.

**Feb. 29:** The Gulf Coast NWTFF banquet will be held at the Charles T. Doyle Convention Center in Texas City. Contact Troy Alexander at (281) 534-2890 or talexander@alexair.com for information.

**Feb. 29:** The Hunt County DU dinner will be held at the Texas National Guard Armory in Greenville. For information, call James Handley at (903) 455-1631.

**Feb. 29:** The Cross Timbers NWTFF dinner will be held at the Decatur Civic Center. Contact Jennifer Barrow at (940) 627-5475 or jbarrow@urnet.net for information.

**Feb. 29:** The Gulf Coast NWTFF dinner will be held at Charles T. Doyle Convention Center in Texas City. For information, contact Troy Alexander at (281) 534-2890 or talexander@alexair.com.

**Mar. 1-2:** A bowhunter education course will be held in Farmersville. Call (214) 358-0174 for information.

**Mar. 1:** First Shots will hold a Free Introduction to Shooting course at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio. Pre-registration is required. For information, contact Dan Moseley at (210) 254-1525 or dmoseley@nssa-nasca.com.

**Mar. 1:** The Casting for Recovery Women's Fly Fishing Clinic will be held at Tail Waters Fly Fishing Co. in Dallas, including a casting clinic and in-store seminars. Call (214) 219-2500 or visit castingforrecovery.org for information.

**Mar. 1:** The Henderson County NWTFF dinner will be held at the Cain Center in Athens. Contact Bubba Matthews at (903) 489-2408 or bubbasabrina@earthlink.net.

**Mar. 1:** The Bosque County DU dinner will be held at the Clifton Armory. Contact Jay Hutchins at (254) 597-7756 or brenda.hutchins@clifton.k12.tx.us for information.

**Mar. 1:** The Red River Valley DU banquet will be held at the Gainesville Civic Center. Call Phil Bellows at (940) 665-0581 for information.

**Mar. 1:** A Women in the Outdoors NWTFF event will be held at Cuthand United Methodist Church in Bogata. Call Julie at (903) 737-7080 for information.

**Mar. 5-9:** The Houston Fishing Show will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. Visit houstonfishingshow.com for information.

**Mar. 6:** The Brazos Valley CCA banquet will be held at the Brazos Center in Bryan. Call (800) 626-4242 for information.

**Mar. 6:** The Alamo NWTFF banquet will be held at the Alzafar Shrine Center in San Antonio. Call Charlie Klein at (210) 344-7982 for information.

**Mar. 6:** The Corpus Christi CCA dinner will be held at Bay Front Plaza. Call (800) 626-4242 for information.

**Mar. 6:** The Dallas NWTFF banquet will be held at the Brookhaven Country Club. Call Marc Edwards at (972) 743-8986 for information.

**Mar. 6:** The Tri-County NWTFF dinner will be held at Seaton Star Hall in Temple. Contact Jeff Cowan at (254) 780-3068 or jcowen@vmm.com for information.

**Mar. 6:** The Highland Lakes NWTFF banquet will be held at the Burnet Community Center. Contact Robert Linder at (830) 693-9515 or dlinderhaus@aol.com for information.

**Mar. 7-9:** Cabela's in Buda will offer free whitetail scoring by certified measurers and a SCI Measuring Certification course. Call (512) 295-1100 for information.

**Mar. 8:** The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens will host Fly Fish Texas 2008 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with fly-tying and casting, fishing for rainbow trout, and seminars. For information, call (903) 676-2277.

**Mar. 8:** The Hondo Bird Dog Challenge presented by NAGDA will be held at Geronimo Creek Ranch in Hondo. Call (830) 426-4384 or visit nagdog.com for information.

**Mar. 8:** The Heart of the Hills NWTFF dinner will be held at the Hill Country Youth Exhibit Center in Kerrville. Contact Tamrah Smith at (940) 257-0312 or t.smith@dailytimes.com for information.

**Mar. 8:** The Rockport Rio's NWTFF banquet will be held at Rockport Beach Park Pavilion. Contact Henry Harris at (361) 729-8130 or henryharris@charter.net for information.

**Mar. 13:** The Lake Lavon DU dinner will be held at Swingin' D Party Connection in Parker. Contact Paul Romano at (972) 442-5106 or paul.romano@e-hps.com for information.

**Mar. 14-16:** The Lost Pines NWTFF chapter will host a Women in the Outdoors trail ride and classes at Watterson Ranch in Bastrop County. Call Trevor Lent at (512) 917-9034 for information.

**Mar. 14:** The Tri-County CCA banquet will be held at the Show Barn in Pleasanton. Call (800) 626-4242 for information.

**Mar. 15-16:** The Lone Star Hunting Retriever Club annual HRC hunt test will be held in Bowie. For information, call Patty Collins at (972) 980-3278 or visit lonestahrcc.com.

**Mar. 15:** The North Texas Chapter of Safari Club International 14th Annual Banquet will be held at Embassy Suites Outdoor World in Grapevine. Call Jack Walker at (972) 342-8229 or visit scinorthtexas.com for information.

**Mar. 15:** The Dallas Woods and Waters Club benefit dinner will be held at the Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel. Call (214) 570-8700 for information and registration.

**Mar. 20:** The Dallas Safari Club annual meeting will be held at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel. Call (972) 980-9800 for information.

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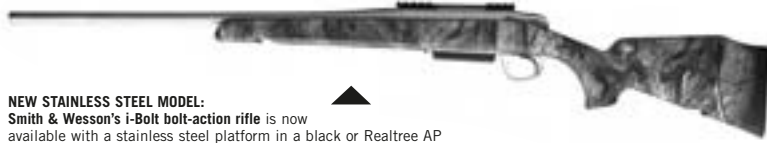
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designed to run at 3 to 5 feet. The crankbait features a silent weight transfer system that utilizes soft tungsten for long casts, even in windy conditions. A computer chip board was used for its lip for feel and durability. The 1/2-ounce, 50mm crankbait has a Gamakatsu treble hook and comes in 12 color combinations. It sells for \$12.60 at [www.spro.com](http://www.spro.com).



**INTERCHANGEABLE LENSES:** **Smith Optics' new Interlock Trace** sunglasses allow anglers to easily change out the lenses. Features include polarized carbonic lenses that block reflective glare, megol temple pads for a secure fit, and a durable frame. Available in four frame colors and a polarized gray (for true color definition) or brown (for increased depth perception) lens, the sunglasses sell for about \$150. For dealers, call (208) 726-4477.



**"1001 FLY FISHING TIPS":** This 192-page book (\$19.95; Headwater Books) offers practical advice and shortcuts for fresh and saltwater fishing from more than 25 experts. Topics include casting with Lefty Kreh, matching the hatch with Charlie Meck, mastering mayflies with John Barr, and more. Edited by Jay Nichols, the book features 160 illustrations by Dave Hall. To order, visit [www.stackpolebooks.com](http://www.stackpolebooks.com) or call (800) 732-3669.

**WALKING STICK AND MORE:**

The **Sportsman Staff** by **Outdoor Creations** gives outdoorsmen a little extra support. Made of sturdy aluminum, the lightweight staff features a soft rubber handgrip that can be removed and replaced with a gun mount (or camera mount) for steady shooting. Halfway down the staff, a wing-shaped durable plastic attachment inserts to the staff for use as a lower gun mount or fishing rod holder. The staff includes a spike attachment and Velcro straps. Plus, it has a 41-inch ruler etched on one side. Available in various colors, it costs about \$55. For information, call (608) 831-1224, Ext. 111.



**ULTIMATE TROUT TAPER:** **3M Scientific Anglers' new Mastery Series Sharkskin** precision textured fly lines are designed with features that mimic nature, such as the ability of insects to walk on water. The fly line's texture is achieved through a "microreplication" process that applies a structured pattern surface on the circumference of the line. Some benefits of the new fly line, says co-developer Jeff Wieringa, include improved floatation, decreased line flash and less line friction through the guides and on the water (which means easier mending, easier roll casting, easier pick-ups and longer casting distances). Offered in chartreuse and blue, the line (available in WF3-F through WF8-F) costs about \$100. For retailers, visit [www.scientificanglers.com](http://www.scientificanglers.com), or call (800) 430-5000.



**FUNCTIONAL AND FLATTERING:** The **Sherpa Jacket** by **Prois Hunting Apparel** boasts a flattering and comfortable cut for women hunters.

With plenty of room for movement and layering, this lined jacket is made from a plush sherpa fleece that is warm and quiet. Features include a spacious lumbar compartment with easy access, tapered wrist cuffs with thumb holes for warmth, and deep pockets. It's available for \$105 in the Realtree AP HD and Realtree Advantage Max 1 camo patterns. For information, call (970) 641-3355.



# HEROES



**GARY FULLER** and his son, **KENNY**, show a hog that Kenny shot at Johnstown. This was his first hog.



**DAVE FLORANCE**, right, of Carlisle, Pa., took this 12-point drop-tine whitetail while hunting in South Texas with **BUCKY BONNER**, owner of B&B Outfitters.



**CANON OWEN** of Friendswood shot his first turkey in Crockett County.



**HUGO FLORES**, 10, of Laredo, shot this 9-point buck at the Rancho Loma Linda in Webb County. The deer dressed at 160 pounds.

## SHARE AN ADVENTURE

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



**JACOB LIVESAY**, 6, of Oklahoma City, killed his first deer on the family ranch in Freestone County with his grandad, **BOB PETERS**.

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## NATIONAL

# Gun safety program reaches 21 millionth child

The Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program, NRA's gun accident prevention program for children, has reached its 21 millionth child since 1988.

Created by past NRA President Marion P. Hammer, in consultation with child psychologists, elementary school teachers and law enforcement officers, the program gives children in pre-K

through the third grade a simple, effective action to take should they encounter a firearm in an unsupervised setting: "If you see a gun: STOP! Don't Touch. Leave the Area. Tell an Adult."

"The steady decline in the number of firearm-related accidents among young children since the launch of the Eddie Eagle program is a testament to

the program's effectiveness, and to the 21 million children we've been able to reach," said Kayne Robinson, executive director of NRA General Operations. "The history of this program is filled with stories of children who have avoided firearm accidents because they were exposed to Eddie Eagle's live-saving message."

Volunteers for the Eddie Eagle program include NRA members, schoolteachers, law enforcement officers, and community activists who teach the program, plus private donors and Friends of NRA participants who raise funds to pay for the program's educational materials.

More than 26,000 educators, law enforcement agencies and

civic organizations have taught the program since 1988.

In the last year, NRA offered free Eddie Eagle materials to more than 1,000 law enforcement agencies, resulting in enough materials being requested to reach more than 670,000 children.

—NRA report.

## Illinois adds bass tourney at high school level

Illinois will become the first state to have a statewide bass fishing tournament at the high school level.

The Illinois High School Association Board of Directors approved a recommendation to add a bass fishing tournament as an IHSA activity beginning in the spring of 2009, provided that adequate sponsorships are secured in advance for the tournament.

"The level of support for a bass fishing tournament, from both our membership

and from other non-school groups, has demonstrated clearly to our board that this event is one with potential tremendous value to our schools," said Executive Director Marty Hickman. "Implementing such an activity will enable our schools to provide another opportunity for students that will enrich their educational experience and keep with the association's mission."

—IHSA report.

## NWTF volunteers celebrate 35 years

The National Wild Turkey Federation is celebrating its 35th Anniversary this year.

In 1973, the national nonprofit conservation organization was formed to help restore wild turkey populations nationwide.

"Back then, only about 1.3 million wild turkeys existed in North America and wildlife agencies were working diligently to improve those numbers," said James Earl Kenamer, senior vice president for conser-

vation programs. "But they lacked money and a network that would allow them to move birds from one state to the next."

The NWTF helped bridge those gaps by building partnerships with state and federal wildlife agencies. Today, through the works of state wildlife agencies and dedicated volunteers, more than 7 million wild turkeys live in North America.

—NWTF report.

## State collects child support payments from parents seeking hunting, fishing license

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services' Division of Child Support Enforcement has collected \$109,000 in outstanding child support payments in the first three months of a new program that uses the sale of hunting/fishing licenses to help identify deadbeat parents.

The funds were collected from 171 individuals throughout the state. The cooperation between the child support office and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources cross-references individuals who apply for fishing/hunting licenses with the deadbeat parent list. Deadbeat parents are denied the licenses until child support payments are made.

The Division of Child Support Enforcement expects that collections through this new enforcement method will increase in the coming weeks, as the 2007 licenses expire on March 31, 2008.

—Illinois Division of Child Support Enforcement report.

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**Casting Contest**  
 Feb. 23-24

**Buda**



**Mark Maus**  
 Cabela's Pro Staff  
 Feb. 23-24



**Deep Fork Retrievers**  
 Dog Handling  
 Demonstrations/Training  
 Techniques  
 Feb. 23-24

**Cabela's**  
**Scouting Challenge**

**Challenge List**

- Tent Raising
- Knot Tying Relay
- Compass Orienteering
- GPS Reading
- Casting Competition
- Archery Skills
- Outdoor Knowledge



1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams in individual challenges will receive points to add to their overall score. The team with the most overall points will be named the Cabela's 2008 Scout Challenge Winner and will receive a \$300 Cabela's Gift Card. See Store for Details and Registration.

**Seminar/Event Schedule**

**Saturday, Feb. 23 and  
 Sunday, Feb. 24**

Contact stores for exact times

- Turkey Calling Seminar
- Youth Fishing Seminar
- Camo for Spring Turkey
- Youth Turkey Seminar
- Youth Bowhunting
- Youth Camo Clothing

**IN-STORE PICK UP**

**FREE SHIPPING ON SHIP TO STORE ORDERS**

See store for more details

**FREE YAKER** combo  
 in the first 50 yards through the door on Saturday, Feb. 23



For youth 12 and under. Limit one per household. See store for details.

**Anglers' Legacy**

**FREE \$10 GIFT CARD**  
 in the first 100 customers through the door on Sunday, Feb. 24



Limit one per household. See store for details.

**FREE GAMMA**  
 Line Spooling  
 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22nd



Limit 50 yards per customer. See store for details.

**FREE \$10 GIFT CARD**  
 in the first 100 customers through the door on Sunday, Feb. 24



Limit one per household. See store for details.



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