

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS



June 27, 2008

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

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New take  
on worms



Big bass flies

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## INSIDE HUNTING



Hunting opportunities for the lesser prairie chicken are few. Only nine or 10 birds were harvested in the Panhandle last year with special landowner permits.

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SkYROCKETING corn and fuel prices are cutting trips to the hunting lease short, and feed stores are feeling the pinch.

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## FISHING



Jellyfish seem to be more abundant this year, bringing the sting to coastal anglers.

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The creation of the Mansfield Mauler by Bob Fuston was an exercise in trial and error.

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## CONSERVATION

Texas DU chapters celebrated a No. 1 ranking in revenues raised, but recent governmental policy decisions leave work to be done.

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## NATIONAL



A wildfire at Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in North Carolina has consumed more than 41,000 acres and is expected to smolder for months.

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# Summertime catfish time

## Bait choices change with the season

By CRAIG NYHUS

Summer catfishing in Texas tops the list for many anglers and families, and good numbers of eating-size fish are being landed all over the state.

The tactics and baits used to bring them to the boat, though, vary as much as lakes and fishermen.

Catfish baits range from commercial products to homemade "secret" recipes. While anglers at lakes Belton and Stillhouse Hollow swear by hot dogs, grocery stores near other lakes run out of chicken livers and hearts.

**'Right now, if you find the fish, I think they'll bite on just about anything you put down there.'**

— CLANCY TERRILL

Countless names of stinkbaits, cheesebaits, punch baits and dough baits line the shelves at tackle stores and bait shops, and every angler has his or her favorite. Throw in soaps, night-crawlers, goldfish, and crawfish and a fisherman heading out with the family could be overwhelmed with choices.

Other anglers stick with live bait year round, some cast-netting shad in the early morning, while others catch small bluegill from stock ponds or in traps.

But when catfish are active, it may be getting the bait in the water that is the key.

"Right now, if you find the fish, I think they'll bite on just about anything you put down there," guide Clancy Terrill said.

Terrill, who guides at Lake Buchanan, prefers bait that swims. "The smaller blues are real good right now on live shad," he said. "They are gathering up in deep water from 45-53 feet." Terrill usually catches

See **CATFISH**, Page 17



**CATFISH HEATING UP:** Live bluegill and shad are top catfish baits for many summer anglers, while others choose one of countless prepared or homemade baits. Photo by David J. Sams.

## Billfish, kingfish action heats up in blue water

### Seas settle down, fish cooperate

By CRAIG NYHUS

Offshore from Port Aransas, fishing took a turn for the better this month. Captains and recreational fishermen are bringing in exceptional catches, with the coveted billfish entering the mix.

Capt. Peter Young runs the 43-foot Cabo "Mo Azul," taking up to six customers on 12-hour trips offshore. And for one group, Father's Day was a day to remember. "We

were about 35 miles offshore at the rocks," he said. We caught a blue marlin, about 200 pounds. And we had 350 pounds of other fish."

The group brought in a 30-pound dolphin, kingfish and snapper limits, and a few wahoo and ling. "There are a lot of ling this year," Young said. "These were hanging out under the boat."

Young was happy to see the

See **OFFSHORE**, Page 17



**MARLIN FEVER:** Matt Richter prepares to release a blue marlin caught by his brother, Bryan, using a ballyhoo pitch bait about 40-50 miles offshore from Port Aransas. Photo by Bryan Richter.

## Study: Edwards plateau turkey population drops Growth squeezing out Rio Grandes

By MARK ENGLAND

The Edwards Plateau for years has been the mother lode when it comes to finding the Rio Grande wild turkey.

However, a study by Texas A&M

University — focusing on the plateau's southern region — raises the possibility the bird's population has declined. As much as a third of the state's estimated 600,000 Rio Grandes inhabit the

See **RIO GRANDES**, Page 12

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# CONSERVATION

## Celebration and concern

Texas DU chapters No. 1 in nation, vow to redouble efforts

By CRAIG NYHUS

Hundreds of Ducks Unlimited volunteers, staff and members joined in Frisco June 20-22 for the DU State Convention. The members were there to celebrate raising nearly \$4 million in the past year for wetland conservation, achieving the No. 1 ranking in the nation in grass-roots revenues raised and in total members.

On a national level, 1st Vice President John Pope said the Wetlands for Tomorrow campaign raised \$1.2 billion of its \$1.7 billion target in two years.

"Our mission is wetlands sufficient to fill the skies today, tomorrow and forever," Pope said. "But one policy decision like the Farm Bill can take away more wetlands than DU has protected over the years. And the Clean Water Restoration Act, if not passed, could leave millions of wetlands unconserved."

Carter Smith, the executive director of Texas Parks and Wildlife, addressed the group. "Texas leads the nation in private habitat, and in habitat lost to development," Smith said. "In the Panhandle, of 4 million acres of CRP, more than 1 million are set to expire."

And that could have a huge impact on waterfowl, lesser prairie chickens, quail and pheasants.

"In an arid state like Texas, water is our lifeblood," Smith said. "We have to make sure we have water for our wildlife. Half of our largest springs no longer flow. Bay systems aren't being recharged."

"There's a lot to do. We need the science and data to make the best decisions for waterfowl, wetlands and wildlife."

After years of near-record duck numbers, things are changing on the prairie. In the Prairie Pothole Region, the source of most ducks heading to Texas, the conditions are extremely dry, said Todd Merendino, DU's



**NATION'S BEST:** Texas DU chapters rank No. 1 in the nation in grassroots revenues raised and in total members. At the State Convention, Regional Vice President Bill Ansell, Director of Conservation Programs Scott Manley, District Chairman Oliver Aldrich and Senior Vice President Steve Marasovich celebrated the past year and discussed plans for the future. Photo by John Ritchey.

manager of conservation programs. Coupled with CRP issues, a host of problems exist, he said. Corn prices are up 54 percent, he said. "CRP pays \$35 to \$50 dollars per acre, but crop rentals are paying \$75 to \$100 per acre, at the time 3/4 million acres are set to expire in 2007, and 5 million acres by 2012."

Merendino said the consequences could be huge. "It could mean up to 1.625 million ducks lost," he said. For example, since 1997 DU has obtained conservation easements of 725,000 acres in the region, while 710,000 acres set to expire in the Dakotas alone.

Texas coastal marshes also concern biologists. Regional Biologist Greg Green said the marshes hold 14 million ducks and 1.5 million geese. But infusions of salt water to the marshes, development, rising sea levels, and the cut-off of freshwater runoff threatens the marshes, Green said.

Convention speakers stressed that the work is not done—and may never be.

## Marsh Mania restores coastal wetlands in Galveston Bay

Galveston Bay Foundation members and volunteers joined efforts to celebrate 10 years of Marsh Mania this Spring. At the first of two 2008 Marsh Mania days, 181 volunteers planted more than 112 18-gallon buckets of smooth cordgrass at Pierce Marsh, North Deer Island and Clear Creek. A second gathering was held at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Armand Bayou Nature Center, Chocolate Bay and Texas City Prairie Preserve with more than 300 volunteers. GBF's Marsh Mania is a community-based wetlands restora-

tion and education event of the Galveston Bay area. Its goal is to involve local citizens in hands-on wetlands restoration activities while increasing their awareness and appreciation of wetland habitats and functions. In the nine years since it began, Marsh Mania has involved more than 4,700 community volunteers in the restoration of more than 107 acres of wetlands at 41 coastal sites around Galveston Bay.

— Galveston Bay Foundation report.

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## HUNTING

# Summer trips to leases cut short



**BIG CASH FOR CORN:** Some hunters are buying larger-capacity feeders to cut down the number of summer trips to hunting leases. They're reacting to surging fuel costs and saving money for the upcoming hunting season. Photo by David J. Sams.

## Feed, fuel costs have hunters staying home or carpooling

By BILL MILLER

Carrie Smith doesn't plan to hunt deer this fall, and she's not happy about it.

Rising fuel costs, which appear to be boosting the price per bag on deer corn, are hampering the sweet arrangement she had with her cousin, who let her hunt on a Brown County lease as long as she brought her own feed.

Smith said she's not the only one struggling and she should know; she sells deer corn at Russell Feed & Supply in Benbrook, just west of Fort Worth.

"I ain't even buying it," she said.

Spot checks across the state in late June showed that the average 50-pound bag of corn cost about \$8. A year earlier, it fetched around \$5.25.

The price hikes are partially blamed on rising fuel costs which are making corn producers pay

more to operate farm equipment.

Meanwhile, the average price for a gallon of gas in Texas was \$3.92 on June 23, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. That's about \$1 more than what it cost a year ago.

Consequently, feed dealers across the state uniformly report that out-of-town customers are making fewer trips to their leases to replenish their feeders. And that means fewer trips to the feed store.

"Just from appearances it seems like they're not coming in as often as they did," said Richard Johnson, owner of Johnson Feed Barn in Coleman. "(And) now they're coming in one vehicle to hold down the cost of getting to the lease."

Similar changes were reported further west in the Concho Valley by Kyle Winchester, ware-

See **FUEL**, Page 25

## Lesser prairie chickens still a game bird

Habitat restoration key to bird's success, survival

By CRAIG NYHUS

Most Texas hunters don't know the lesser prairie chicken can still be hunted in the state. "Last year, we issued 15 permits in the northeast and southwestern Panhandle," said Texas Parks and Wildlife Wildlife Diversity Specialist Heather Whitlaw. "The birds harvested totaled nine or 10."

Whitlaw said the permits are issued through a Managed Lands Program for lesser prairie chickens similar to the programs for white-tailed deer. "We issue permits to the landowners that are improving the habitat and doing surveys of their birds and sharing the information with us," she said. Currently, there are about 40,000 acres under the MLP.

One of the incentives to the landowner is the permit to hunt a bird given to the landowner participating in habitat restoration. "They can use it or sell it," Whitlaw said.

The ground-nesting bird has struggled throughout its range, primarily from the loss of native shortgrass prairie to agriculture.

"The numbers of lesser prairie chickens

are poor in Texas — and in the five-state range for the bird," Whitlaw said. Based on density estimates and information from landowners, there are about 6,000 birds in the sand hills of the High Plains west of Lubbock and in the Rolling Plains region to the northeast. The lesser prairie chicken has been a candidate for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act for 10 years and certain groups are using the anniversary to push for the listing, including Santa Fe-based WildEarth Guardians.

Whitlaw believes that is a horrible idea. "The Endangered Species Act is not the place to help a species recover," she said. "It is the worst tool to help deal with concerns like habitat restoration or increasing the population of a species."

"We're working with the USFWS biologists to keep the chicken from being listed."

Whitlaw said that despite the low numbers, their efforts have been a success, and she hopes for the chance to continue with more extensive habitat restoration. "We are working with landowners, putting habitat on the ground. And we use the landowner incentive programs and part-



**BIRD ON THE BRINK:** Bringing back the lesser prairie chicken population in the Panhandle will rely on private landowner-incentive programs and habitat restoration efforts. As an incentive, landowners are issued a permit to harvest one bird in mid-October. Photo by Dick Davis.

ner with USFWS to restore lands to a native range," she said.

Whitlaw is a believer in continuing to allow the very limited hunting of the bird

through the permit process. "The information provided by the landowners helps us to tell them (Department of the Interior) that the birds are OK."

## See SPOT save a life

Satellite messaging system tells loved ones you're OK, officials you're not

By DOUG PIKE

Each of us who loves the outdoors has been having a blast somewhere, glanced down at a watch during a breather and realized we were late. Maybe just a few minutes, or maybe hours.

But late either way, which left someone, somewhere, unnecessarily concerned for our safety. SPOT, a new satellite messaging system, solves that problem whether you're hunting in the most remote Texas area, hiking through an Alaskan national park, or paddling off the coast of Australia.

Once activated, SPOT acquires coordinates from its GPS network and sends the information to the GEOS International Emergency

Response Center — which alerts the appropriate agencies worldwide.

The device, which fits in a palm, weighs only a few ounces but is built to withstand the harshest of environments. It even floats, which makes it as useful to paddlers and blue-water fishermen as to hunters.

What separates SPOT from PLBs (personal locator beacons) is price — SPOT is just \$170 — and its ability to send a quick "I'm OK" message to as many as 10 preset e-mail addresses.

In addition to its On/Off switch, the unit has only three other buttons. One launches that simple message to let folks know you are having a blast and haven't broken anything. Another lets those same

people know that you need help but are not in a life-threatening situation.

The final button, the "911" mode, alerts trained personnel should you find yourself in trouble and in need of immediate attention. Not even operational a full year, SPOT already has helped save lives in two separate incidents in Alaska as well as when a sea kayaker ran into trouble off the Tasmanian coast.

Monitoring costs about \$100 per year; without it, the unit is a paperweight. There's an additional tracking function, about \$50 more annually, that allows those e-mail recipients to see exactly where in the world you were and are.

Satellite coverage generally is excellent in most places an out-

doors enthusiast might find himself or herself. It misses the poles and much of India, which shouldn't be a deal breaker for most of us, but also fires blanks across the entirety of southern Africa. Otherwise, according to SPOT and GEOS, they have you pretty well covered.

On-line reviews of the unit sing its praises for ruggedness, long battery life (with a pair of lithium AAs) and the peace of mind it can provide loved ones.

Reviewers were less impressed by the sensitivity of SPOT's GPS receiver, which can falter except under a perfectly clear sight-line to the sky. Reception flagged to nothing or nearly so in urban areas and nearly as often went the same way under the canopy of a spring forest.

Negatives acknowledged, SPOT can be — and already has been — a real-time lifesaver. Personnel at the monitoring station are trained to react instantly to emergencies and know who to contact no matter where you are on the planet.

Additionally, since GEOS already is in the business of safeguarding executives and their families around the world, the company has its own rescue and recovery people available around the clock. For \$170 upfront, the monthly cost of a chicken salad and iced tea anywhere they're served on a white-linen tablecloth, SPOT provides comfort and security for the person sending those "OK" messages and for those who receive them.



# Game Warden Training Center gets new home

## Construction set for state-of-the-art facilities

After years of planning and fundraising, the new Texas Game Warden Training Center in Hamilton County is open for business.

"Our entire academy has made the transition," said Major Randall Odom, Chief of Training for the Texas Game Warden Academy. "We're up and running in Hamilton County."

Texas game wardens no longer have the luxury of focusing solely on game and fish violations. Now, wardens are flood rescue specialists, boating safety officers, environmental crime investigators, educators and trainers.

Since the 1970s, new cadets trained at an aging facility in Austin. But in early 2006, the Police Activities League donated more than 200 acres of the ranch it owns in Hamilton County as a potential future home of the Texas Game Warden Training Center. Fundraising efforts then began to raise money for training facilities.

"The next scheduled class of cadets begins Nov. 1," Odom said. "And we expect one of the biggest classes ever — about 55 cadets."

The facilities aren't in place, but the staff will make do with the existing barracks, meeting rooms and kitchen. "It will be pretty spartan facilities for the first class," Odom said. "But it will be functional with the existing buildings and the work we'll do before November."

The first class of cadets will travel to near-by Fort Hood and use its firing range, driving course and pool for training exercises. "We'll have to go off-campus in these areas until construction is complete," Odom said.

Construction on the Administration and Education buildings is set to begin in November, with the other facilities to follow. "We wanted to get the education areas

### Campus

The 200-acre campus will include a new education building with library, computer lab, classrooms and 100-seat auditorium; an armory to securely store firearms and house a Fire Arms Training Simulator; a gymnasium for fitness and defensive tactics training; a water rescue building with a 25-meter heated pool for aquatic survival and rescue training; an emergency vehicle operations course; a firing range and cadet cabins for lodging during each academy.

To make a donation, call the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation at (214) 720-1478.

completed first," Odom said.

Projected construction costs rise each month with current estimates at \$19 million, and fundraising efforts continue.

"With the money raised and the money from the sale of the old Austin training facility (about \$3.8 million), we have raised \$10.2 million," Odom said.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation has led the charge. "We're halfway where we need to be," said TPWF Foundation Director Dick Davis. "We plan to launch a public fundraising phase in the fall, and the center will be a major focus at the TPWF EXPO in October."

As for now, the staff is preparing for the arrival of the new cadets. "We're still unpacking boxes," Odom said.

— Staff reports.



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## FISHING

## A different breed

## Bass fly anglers shift to unconventional flies

By DIANA KUNDE

It's a fuzzy six inches long, made with purple and pink chenille, and bears more than a passing resemblance to a plastic worm. And, yes, the Gulley Worm is a fly — currently featured as a “top fly” for bass on the Web site for fly-fishing retailer Orvis.

You learn from the spinning and casting rod competition, say Texas fly-fishers who target bass in the summertime.

Sean Polk, fly-fishing manager for Orvis in Dallas, said he typically reads the conventional fishing chatter when scouting out a new lake for bass.

“I find out the colors, the type of lure that's been having success. If they're hitting worms, I try the Gulley. If they're hitting crankbaits, I'll tie Deceivers or Clausers in the same colors and sizes,” Polk said.

Jef Fair, fly-fishing manager for Orvis in Arlington, carries the Gulley and another worm imitation, as well as Enrico Puglisi's Peacock Pike fly, designed to imitate a Bass Assassin.

“I have customers who swear by them (Gulley Worms),” Fair said. “More of them are crossover bass anglers new to fly fishing.” Customers who may be more purist trout anglers “view it as kind of a novelty item.”

In fact, bass fly-fishers are a different breed, experts say — more willing to try whatever works to attract the fish, rather than limiting themselves to fur and feathers.

Fair also carries a fly that's tied to imitate a spinner bait, as well as spinner baits with hardware on them.

“They tend to be heavy and hard to cast, but I've had great success with them,” Fair said about the

See FLIES, Page 14



**UNDERWATER ILLUSION:** Fly-fishermen are using flies designed to imitate conventional bass tackle like spinnerbaits, crankbaits, jigs and worms. Sean Polk of Orvis in Dallas displays the Gulley Worm that he fishes like a Carolina rig when going after big bass. Photo by David J. Sams.



**AFTERNOON DELIGHT:** While most coastal anglers fish early and late in the day, others believe the middle of the day is the best, with reds moving onto the flats when boat traffic is low.

## Redfish afternoons

## Less boat traffic means feeding reds

By DANNO WISE

Early to bed, early to rise — that seems to be the motto of Texas coastal fishermen during the summer months. And though it seems the trout bite is an early morning affair, anglers looking for reds may be able to get a little extra shuteye — even during the dog days of summer.

“If you're looking for redfish, that 10 to 2 time period is still the best,” said Port Isabel guide Capt. Eddie Curry. “You do have to deal with the heat, but the redfish will actually be a more active later in the morning or early in the afternoon — after all the charter boats have gone in. It can actually be some of the best sight casting of the year. We have lighter winds and we still have enough water to get back into some of the better flats for holding redfish.”

Redfish become somewhat conditioned to avoiding the high traffic times — when boats are routinely buzzing over the flats. However, once the boat traffic quiets down, Curry said the fish are quick to move up on the flats and start feeding. Incidentally, this behavior isn't limited to reds on the Lower Coast.

“I'll start out really early, looking for trout,” said Aransas Pass guide Capt. Marvin Engle. “But I won't start looking for reds until a little later in the day.”

“Around midday, I'll start hitting the flats for redfish. When I'm looking for redfish, I'll throw pinperch or mullet and rig 'em the same way I do croaker. You can catch redfish on croaker, but it seems like you catch a lot more on pinperch and mullet. I'll be fishing in 1- to 3-foot of water and concentrating on the sandy pockets.”

See REDFISH, Page 16

## Ten Steps to Simple Baitcaster Maintenance

## Corroded reel can mean fishing nightmare

By BRANDON SHULER

Have you ever pulled up to the first stop of the day on your long-awaited trip to the coast, heaved back and loaded the rod, only to have the lure land ten feet in front of you?

Then, to make matters worse, you feel like a local coffee barista grinding fresh beans as you reel in a squeaking and coughing line. Most anglers have. Many do a fresh water spray down on the rods and reels as they clean the boat and remind themselves to do a ‘deep’ cleaning at home. Then, family and business calls quickly force reel maintenance out of one's mind.

Hank Kirkland of Shakes-

peare/Pflueger said, “We make reels to withstand the rigors of the harshest fresh and saltwater environments. We can stand by a few days of hardcore fishing, maybe three to five, before the reel really should be broken down and given a few basic areas of TLC.”

Reel maintenance should be an integral part of your fishing trip. “I fish from Matagorda to the lower Laguna Madre,” said Capt. Mitch Richmond. “I set aside an hour the night after a three-day trip and break down every reel and re-oil and clean every nook and cranny. The tiniest piece of salt can completely corrode any reel — even when they are advertised as non-corrosive.”

So for better reel maintenance,

follow these ten-simple steps to a cleaner casting machine.

**Step 1**

Completely disassemble reel per manufacturer's instructions. As you disassemble the reel, clean any excess grease, mud, sand and grime from the moving parts. When you remove the reel handle, pay special attention to grass or line that may have wound around the reel handle spindle.

**Step 2**

Place all parts in a bucket of warm soapy water for at least an hour. Capt. Darrin Jones says, “I am a Marine. I like order and assembly line maintenance. I get a separate bowl filled with soapy water for each part type and put

See REEL, Page 14



**DISASSEMBLY REQUIRED:** Breaking down and cleaning a baitcasting reel is a must for saltwater fishermen. The smallest particle of salt can corrode any reel. Photo by Brandon Shuler.





**THE ORIGINAL:** The Mansfield Mauler was invented by Captain Bob Fuston in 1983 and became popular on the Texas coast the next year. Since then, the popping device has spawned many imitations. Photo by David J. Sams.

# The Marvelous Mansfield Mauler



**Bob Fuston**

Popular popping device had storied start

By BRANDON SHULER

Necessity is the mother of all invention. In the case of Captain Bob and the Marvelous Mansfield Mauler, the old adage couldn't be more true.

In 1983, the year of the great freeze, Captain Bob had a 92-year-old gentleman fish with him two days a week from April to September. As the gentleman got older, the winds of South Texas made it more and more challenging to work a soft plastic effectively. Captain Bob, a retired fireman from a nuclear plant, put his ingenuity to work and created the mauler.

After a few false starts and a number of operational failures, Captain Bob created the mauler with a foot-long section of 30-pound mono and a sliding crappie cork.

"The first attempts with the mono were not so effective," Fuston said. "Casting caused the contraption to twist and foul up. I had to go back to the drawing room."

In those days, the Tacklebox in San Antonio was an Angler's Eden and an early sponsor of Captain Bob. The longtime owner and lifelong friend of Fuston's, Jim Cooper, suggested using a stiffer wire to create the shaft of the Mauler.

"That was when I had the light bulb moment."

Fuston and Cooper utilized the wire and replaced the crappie cork with a small diameter, 2- to 3-inch sliding orange cork. To

eliminate the twisting that was inherent with the mono-shaft, Fuston haywired swivels on each end of the 10-inch wire section and added two beads on each side of the cork to keep it from sliding over the swivel knots.

"The beads were the ticket," Fuston said. "They added that extra tick that really got trout looking up. The mono leader and crappie cork just did not have that pop. They need that loud popping and clicking action to get their eyes up and them out of the grass."

Now made and catching fish, the contraption still needed a name. The freeze of 1983 glazed the edges of many Texas bays with ice. Large fish kills occurred up and down the Texas coast.

The following season, catches were off and guides were struggling with the new influx of commercial fishermen entering the charter business after the 1984 gill net bans on trout and redfish. But an eccentric, red bandana-wearing guide from Port Mansfield was raising eyebrows with the fish he caught and the strange gadget he tied to his clients' rods.

Fuston said the success of the mauler came down to an early fishing trip with a journalist from Houston, when Ken Grissom, an outdoors writer, NFL-er Gerald Wilson and his wife, Marty, chartered Captain Bob for a weekend of fishing.

See MAULER, Page 25

# Jellyfish becoming a pain

Influx of stinging creatures has anglers on the lookout

By KYLE TOMEK

If spring's unending winds weren't enough of a pain for Texas anglers, an influx of jellyfish by the thousands continue to usher stings from the Galveston Bay Complex to Rockport. Folks across the coastal bend are discovering new forms of sting protection as well as treatment for the spineless attackers.

According to Kenneth W. Kizer of the Wilderness Medical Society, jellyfish populations are dramatically increasing around the world — not just on the Texas Coast.

"Although the increase may be part of a natural cycle in some areas, the overall upward trend far exceeds anything that would be naturally expected," he said.

Suspected causes range from human disruption in ecosystems, rising water temperatures, and overfishing of competitor species. However, many on the coast place blame the infiltration on extremely high salinity levels due to lack of rainfall.

A.F. "Tony" Amos, research fellow and director of Animal Rehabilitation Keep (ARK) at The University of Texas Marine Science Institute, isn't so sure. "I cannot say why (or even if) there is an increase in jellyfish this year," he said. "Sea Nettles are fresh-water tolerant and can exist in water as low as 3 parts per thousand salinity."

Nonetheless, anglers are feeling the stings. "I tell all of my clients to wear long pants when we plan to wade-fish," said Capt. Hollis Forrester of Matagorda. "Somehow the jellyfish still find their way in. That's why I keep meat tenderizer on my boat as a quick pain reliever."

Some fishermen have yet to stow away their breathable waders after winter. "I

would rather deal with the heat than get stung by all of the jellyfish," Payton Pawlosky of Bay City said.

Long wading pants are remaining a staple in summer fishing, providing a first line of defense. Compression shorts like those by UnderArmour, worn beneath long wading pants, can serve as additional protection.

Even driftfishermen are experiencing abundant jellyfish, albeit to a lesser extent. While fishing in Rockport, one angler was



**TINGLING TENTACLES:** Jellyfish, like this sea nettle, are bringing their stings to coastal fishermen this summer, and most are wading with long pants or waders and carrying sting remedies on their boats.

shocked to witness his guide unintentionally grab a jellyfish when reaching for a croaker in the bait well. When asked if it was stinging him, the guide said, "a little," saying the jellyfish likely got into the bait well when he added salt water.

Those seeking to relieve jellyfish stings are advised to pour white vinegar on the affected area and soak it if possible. If no vinegar is available, meat tenderizer applied to the skin can relieve the immediate symptoms. Soaking in salt water is fine, but don't soak the area with freshwater or apply ice or hot water on the sting. Freshwater causes nematocysts (the stinging organs found in some jellyfish) to release their toxin.

## HOT SPOT



### Lake Belton

Water murky; 83 degrees; 1.00' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits. Hybrid striper are good but small on white grubs under lights at night. White bass are very good on minnows under lights at night. Crappie are good on minnows in 20-25 feet under lights at night. Channel and blue catfish are good on jugs/lures baited with frozen shad in 30 feet. Randy Conover shows a smallmouth bass he caught at the lake. See full fishing report on Page 19.

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## GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

### WARDEN RECOVERS STOLEN BOAT, ARRESTS TWO

•Tarrant County Game Warden Clint Borchardt recovered a stolen Stratos bass boat and arrested the two occupants. The boat's operator was charged with possession of methamphetamines and unauthorized use of a vehicle; the other occupant was arrested for outstanding warrants. Borchardt approached the boat after he saw the occupants trying to flag down other boaters to help them due to mechanical problems. Cases pending.

### WATER SAFETY INSPECTION REVEALS 135 EMPTY BEER CANS

•While on patrol on Possum Kingdom Lake near Hell's Gate, Hill County Game Warden Douglas Volcik, Young County Game Warden Brent Isom and Intern Jeremiah Jones performed a water safety inspection on a boat with numerous occupants. The operator of the vessel was issued a citation for an insufficient number of PFDs and a warning for an unserviceable fire extinguisher. Boat sobriety tests were administered to the operator, followed by SFSTs at the Palo Pinto County Sub-station, and a breath sample that measured .244 and .241 on the Intoxilyzer. The operator was booked into the Palo Pinto County Jail. The boat held 135 empty beer cans and bottles, 59 full beer cans and bottles and an empty plastic bulk wine container. Cases pending.

### ANGLERS CAUGHT WITH LARGE HOOP NET, UNDERSIZED CATFISH

•Newton County Game Wardens Landon Spacek and Ellis Powell were patrolling the Sabine River and caught four local residents with a large hoop net and a cool-

## TATTOOS TURN UP MAN'S REAL IDENTITY

•Bowie County Game Warden Shawn Hervey stopped a vessel that was towing a skier not wearing a PFD. Hervey noticed the operator was intoxicated. The operator failed field sobriety tests.

While booking the man, Hervey noticed the man's name did not match the tattoos on both his arm and chest. The Sheriff's Office ran the man by the name given and found no record. They

then ran the name from the tattoo and got a return. The man had eight prior arrests for DWI, other convictions from two states, and a felony warrant out of Cass County for DWI.

er full of undersized yellow catfish. Citations issued.

### TWO STOLEN ATVS RECOVERED

•San Augustine County Game Wardens Johnny Jones and Kevin Wilkinson recovered two ATVs stolen from Harris County. The wardens had stopped the ATVs on the county road near Sam Rayburn Lake for multiple viola-

### MAN PLAYS CAT AND MOUSE WITH WARDENS

•Zavala County Game Warden Chris Stautzenberger approached four men after he saw the group in a vehicle driving in the Nueces riverbed. Stautzenberger arrested a 19-year-old male in the group for an outstanding felony burglary warrant. The man escaped from custody and fled into the brush along the river. A search of the area with assistance from District 2 game wardens, Sheriff's deputies, a local constable, U.S. Border Patrol and DPS aircraft was discontinued after information was received from a credible source that the man was safely back in town at a local residence. Later that evening, information was received that the man was seen at a residence in La Pryor. County and game warden units responded and searched two residences but came away empty-

handed. The following day, authorities received a report the man was at another residence in La Pryor. Stautzenberger, Mike Morse and Eugene Fernandez and county deputies arrested the man on the felony warrant. Charges of felony escape from custody were filed.

### FEATHERS STICKING OUT FROM ICE CHEST TIP OFF WARDEN

•Gillespie County Game Warden Scott Krueger stopped at the Fredericksburg H-E-B to get supplies for the day. While walking through the parking lot, he noticed on the back of a pickup truck an ice chest with feathers sticking out from under the lid. The feathers were attached to the wing of a red-shouldered hawk. The owner of the vehicle soon returned and was cited for possession of protected bird parts.

### MAN CAUGHT WITH LIVE WILD TURKEY IN TRUNK

•Atascosa County Game Warden Derek Iden was patrolling Calaveras Lake when a fisherman told him a group of men drinking beer next to him by the bank had wrestled with a big bird in the brush and put it in their car. Iden later approached 15 men. The men began to disperse but the owners of the three vehicles remained. Iden looked in the

backseat of one vehicle with his flashlight and observed turkey feathers and saw more turkey feathers on the ground near the trunk of the car. He asked the owner to open the trunk and found a live Rio Grande turkey hen tied up by its feet. The car owner was cited for possession of a live game bird. The turkey was untied by Iden and quickly took off for the brush.

### MEN DIDN'T HAVE CONSENT TO "BORROW" TRACTOR

•At approximately 10 p.m., Van Zandt County Game Warden Steve Stapleton found two men driving a tractor without any lights on a farm road. When stopped, the driver said, "I know this doesn't look good." The father and son both had criminal histories for theft. The two said they had tried to help a buddy who was stuck in a ditch. When asked the name of their buddy, they were unable to recall his name. Stapleton discovered the tractor had been hotwired. Rains County Game Warden Roland Fuentes and Rains County deputies joined the investigation, which led them to a deer camp in Rains County. Another man was found passed out in his truck, which was stuck in a flooded creek. Contact with the owner of the property and tractor showed

none of the men had permission to be on the ranch or consent to "borrow" the ranch tractor. Cases pending.

### ANGLERS SAY UNDERSIZED FISH CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

•Montgomery County Game Warden Alan Biggerstaff checked two men at the FM 830 boat ramp on Lake Conroe after an all-night fishing trip. The two men had 40 legal catfish, 12 legal white and hybrid bass, and 12 bream. They also were in possession of 17 undersized white bass and hybrids. Biggerstaff asked the fishermen with all the legal fish they had why they kept the undersized ones. They said they thought the undersized fish were yellow bass. Citations pending.

### MAN WHO NEARLY DROWNS WINDS UP WITH CHARGES

•Freestone County Game Warden John Thorne and his brother, David, were patrolling on Cedar Creek Lake when they observed a man on the bank waving his arms frantically. He told the wardens that his friend had drowned and was out in the lake. Thorne spotted a man floating face down in the water. Thorne jumped into the water and rolled the man onto his back and began swimming towards the boat. After about 10 seconds, the man began to cough and started breathing on his own. After they loaded the 300-plus pound man into the boat, they took him to shore and called for EMS. The subject was then transported by EMS to Athens. He was later transported to the Henderson County Sheriff's Office and charged with public intoxication.

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## Rio Grandes

Continued from Page 1

Edwards Plateau.

Bret Collier, an A&M research ecologist, said the Rio Grandes' population there may have dropped as much as 50 percent since the 1970s.

"The reason that's important is that the Edwards Plateau is the historic stronghold for Rio Grandes," Collier said. "Most of the birds that have been used to stock the rest of the United States came from birds in Edwards."

Not everyone agrees with the study's conclusion.

A Texas Parks and Wildlife technician working in the research area — Kerr, Bandera and Real counties — expressed his doubts about a long-term decline.

"I see it more as the same old cycle: good years and bad years, depending on the rainfall," said Ray Aguirre.

What everyone agrees on, however, is that Rio Grandes face more enemies today than 30 years ago — chiefly urbanization, leading to shrinking grasslands, and predators whose numbers are growing.

"The Rio Grande turkey is getting squeezed out," said Macy Ledbetter, a San Saba wildlife biologist who has a consulting business, Spring Creek Outdoors.

"Turkey hunting in the hot spots seems to be holding its own," he said. "The classic big ranch with a big river bottom. But in those areas with marginal turkey habitat, there certainly has been a decrease in numbers."

Like everywhere else, urbanization is fragmenting the Edwards Plateau.

To illustrate the change, Collier notes that the research area used to be "a couple of hours outside San Antonio. Now it's about 45 minutes."

"What it comes down to is that there's been a reduction in the amount of land available for breeding," he said.

Dividing a thousand-acre ranch into 20-acre ranchettes also has resulted in fields once home to cattle or hay now lying fallow, putting out the welcome mat for prickly pear and huisache, a subtropical shrub that forces out the grasses that provide food, in the way of insects, and cover

for turkeys.

"The turkey's escape mechanism is its eyesight," Ledbetter said. "It goes into fields to escape danger. It rarely goes into brush. It knows there are things in there that want to eat it. Turkeys like open savannahs."

If that's not bad enough news for turkeys, these are boom days for its predators.

Ledbetter noted that counties in the Edwards Plateau once hired trappers to protect the area's sheep and goats. The collapse of that industry and the waning of the fur industry has swelled the ranks of the wild turkey's predators.

"There's never been a better time to be a raccoon with all the deer feeders out there," Ledbetter said. "And the area is covered up with gray fox, too, as well as red fox. They're both formidable predators of turkeys."

The A&M study, funded by the migratory bird and upland bird stamps, began in 2001 and is concluding. Collier said the Rio Grandes' population appears to have stabilized in the mid-1990s. The study hopes looking at the past will enable state officials to make better administrative decisions in the future.

One of the study's suggestions will be to foster the creation of co-operatives where landowners make decisions with an eye toward wildlife, Collier said, adding it could help sustain the turkey population even with land fragmentation.

"The idea is to get blocks of land back," Collier said.

He doesn't think landowners will prove a hard sale.

"What's good for turkeys is also good for quail, other small birds and even endangered species like the Golden-cheeked Warbler," Collier said. "Good habitat management is good for everything."

Ledbetter, however, wonders if the approach may be bucking history.

"I don't see urbanization turning around," he said. "There's talk the population of Texas could double in the next 25 years. That doesn't bode well for turkeys. At some point, turkeys may only be found in the hot spots. If so, their preservation will be critical for the survival of the Rio Grandes."

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# Reel

Continued from Page 8

each spring with every other spring and each cover with each cover." Capt. Ted Spring, however, says, "I throw 'em all in the same bucket and hope I don't have any pieces left over when I finish my last reel."

**Step 3**

Remove all your parts and dry them carefully and completely. Place them on a white towel or background so you can easily see them.

**Step 4**

Start with the reel casing and lube each moving part with the manufacturer's recommended lubricant. A number of reel makers forfeit your warranty if you use a lubricant they don't approve — buyer beware. Hit the wind guide heavy with lube and drop a number of drops into the exposed reel gearing that you should be able to see through the opening left by the barrel brake.

Dry all excess lube off the outer casing. Rods and reels can get slippery, and you may have a cast that takes rod, reel and lure.

**Step 5**

Replace the barrel brake and spring. The WD-40 No-Mess pen is great to lube and doctor the threads on the fitting and protects the brake adjustment from stripping or freezing in the future.

**Step 6**

Reassemble the reel handle. Lubricate all threaded parts for protection. Add a small amount of the recommended grease between the drag knob and the washers. Also, do not be afraid to douse the area in a deep lube bath. This is the part of the reel that will receive the most abuse.

**Step 7**

Take the line spindle and wipe thoroughly with your already greasy rag. Add a few more drops of lubricant into the gear casing and insert the spindle.

**Step 8**

Clean the reel casing cover and add a healthy dose of lubricant to the spindle contact point and the clasp that locks the cover to the casing. Don't be stingy. It's frustrating when the cover freezes on the reel and you cannot get to your prescribed maintenance.

**Step 9**

Wipe all exterior parts of you reel with a lubricated rag and then a dry clean rag. The reel should look like new at this point. Store your reel in a dry area without line.

**Step 10**

The night before your trip, reline with your favorite braid or mono and have fun. When you get home, repeat steps 1 through 10.



**KEEP IT UP:** Regular lubrication of all of the reel parts with the recommended lubricant can help avoid a ruined fishing trip. Photo by Brandon Shuler.



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A Koontz McCombs Development

# Flies

Continued from Page 8

spinner baits. "Pistol Pete is an example."

Fair said he likes to stroll the aisles of the local sporting goods stores, check out the newest conventional lures, then "go home to my desk, sit down and try to replicate them out of fly-tying materials."

"Most recently, I've been working on a lot of worm flies. I'm also tying bass jigs."

Arlington angler Ron Knight is an expert on spinner baits for fly-fishing and has authored a book on the subject ("Fly Rod Spinner Baits," Frank Amato Publications, 2006).

Knight says that fly-fishers in the South were using spinner baits to

'A bass will only hit a certain lure once. He's seen the conventional lure; the fly is something new.'

— SEAN POLK

land bass in the 1920s. There were huge advances in conventional rods after World War II and bass fishing shifted away from the fly rod. Bass fishing legend Tom Nixon helped revive fly-fishing for bass with a book published in the '60s and reissued in the '70s.

"He fished with jelly worms and anything," Knight says. "He wasn't a purist at all."

Knight says he goes with surface flies, such as poppers, when the bass are hitting on top. But when they go deeper, he'll go for his spinner baits. "It'll catch them when something else won't," he said.

Plano fly-tier and designer Richard Komar always carries his special worm fly in the arsenal of five bass flies that he always has with him.

"It's a pretty simple fly, very effective," he said. Unlike the Gully Worm, Komar's Hard Hackle Worm is made of feathers. He ties it five inches long, and sometimes longer, "purple, maybe red — a worm brown would be my third color."

Polk said the fly-fisher has an advantage as an imitator of conventional lures in heavy use. "A bass will only hit a certain lure once. He's seen the conventional lure; the fly is something new."



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## OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

**July 3-6:** The 73rd Annual Deep Sea Roundup will be held in Port Aransas. For information, visit [paboatmen.org](http://paboatmen.org) or call the Chamber of Commerce at (800) 45-COAST.

**July 6:** Bass Pro Shops in Pearland will host a Fletching Workshop at 9 a.m., teaching how to build your own arrows. Call (713) 770-5100 for information.

**July 8:** The Dallas Safari Club DSC 100 meeting will be held at Bass Pro Shops in Garland. Contact Jaimey at (469) 484-6777 for information.

**July 8:** The Fort Worth Chapter of Legacy Outfitters monthly dinner meeting will be held at Lockheed Martin Recreation Association in Fort Worth, featuring guest speaker 2008 Bassmaster Classic Champion Alton Jones. For information, call (817) 946-8543 or visit [legacyoutfitters.org](http://legacyoutfitters.org).

**July 10:** The Dallas Woods and Waters Club meeting will be held at the

Sheraton North Dallas Hotel, featuring Paul and Gay Martin speaking on turkey hunting. Call (214) 570-8700 for information.

**July 11-13:** The TTHA Hunter's Extravaganza will be held at the Alamodome in San Antonio. Call (800) 800-3207 or visit [ttha.com](http://ttha.com) for information.

**July 11-12:** The Pond Boss Annual Pond Management Conference and Expo will be held at the Arlington Convention Center, featuring Ray Scott and Dale Hall, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For information, call (800) 687-6075 or visit [pondboss.com](http://pondboss.com).

**July 12-13:** Cabela's in Fort Worth will hold a bowfishing basics seminar at Lone Star Lake in front of the store at noon. Call (817) 337-2400 for information.

**July 12:** The Pineywoods Texas Big Game Awards banquet will be held at the Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches. For

information, call (210) 826-2904 or visit [texasbiggameawards.com](http://texasbiggameawards.com).

**July 17:** The Dallas Safari Club monthly meeting will be held at Gleneagles Country Club in Plano, featuring John Lo Monaco on hunting in Pakistan. Call (972) 980-9800 or e-mail [debi@biggame.org](mailto:debi@biggame.org) for information.

**July 18-20:** The 18th Annual Texas Hunters & Sportsman's Expo will be held at the McAllen Convention Center. For information, call (956) 664-2884 or visit [texashunterassociation.com](http://texashunterassociation.com).

**July 19:** The Los Cazadores Deer Contest Awards will be held at the Los Cazadores Hunting Headquarters in Pearsall. For information, call (830) 334-5959 or visit [loscazadores.com](http://loscazadores.com).

**July 19:** The South Plains RMEF Big Game banquet will be held in Lubbock. Call Ron at (806) 787-6225 for information and location.

**July 24:** The Tomball/Magnolia CCA

dinner will be held at the VFW Hall in Tomball. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.

**July 25-26:** The 1st Annual Deer Breeders Co-op Auction/Expo will be held at the Waco Convention Center. Contact Cory at (504) 952-8363 or visit [deerbreedersco-op.com](http://deerbreedersco-op.com) for information.

**July 25-27:** The Laredo Hunting & Fishing Show will be held at the Laredo Entertainment Center. Call (956) 686-3718 or (800) 532-3976 or visit [smc-events.com](http://smc-events.com) for information.

**July 25:** The Dallas Safari Club Wine Pairing dinner will be held at Ill Forks. Call (972) 980-9800 or e-mail [debi@biggame.org](mailto:debi@biggame.org) for information.

**July 26:** The Deep East Texas NWTF dinner will be held at The Event Center in Jasper. Contact Cindy at (409) 382-5752 or [cmdans@yahoo.com](mailto:cmdans@yahoo.com) for information.

**Aug. 1-3:** The TTHA Hunter's Extravaganza will be held at the Reliant Center in Houston. Call (800) 800-3207 or visit [ttha.com](http://ttha.com) for information.

**Aug. 1:** The Brazos Basin NWTF dinner will be held at the Waco Skeet and Trap Club. Contact James at (254) 399-7266 or [jbrooks@cnbwaco.com](mailto:jbrooks@cnbwaco.com) for information.

**Aug. 7:** The San Gabriel CCA banquet will be held at Dell Diamond in Round Rock. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.

**Aug. 9:** The North Texas RMEF Big Game Banquet will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel at Bass Pro in Grapevine. Call (972) 257-0001 or (972) 964-5292 for information.

**Aug. 9:** The Aransas Bay CCA banquet will be held at Paws N' Taws in Rockport. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.

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## Texan Havens top co-angler in WBT event

Elizabeth "Liz" Havens, a high-school math teacher from Austin fishing in her first Women's Bassmaster Tour presented by Academy Sports & Outdoors event at Tennessee's Old Hickory Lake, won the co-angler division with 21 pounds, 4 ounces of fish to win a boat and motor rig valued at \$25,000.

Dianna Clark, the 2006 Toyota Women's Bassmaster Tour Angler of the Year, landed her third career victory at the event.

The Bumpus Mills, Tenn., pro brought in 36 pounds, 5 ounces, using a 1/2-ounce, camo-colored skirted jig tipped with a green-pumpkin Flipper.

Angie Douthit of Clewiston, Fla., finished second with a three-day total of 28 pounds, 8 ounces, and Juanita Robinson of Highlands ended in third place with 27 pounds, 13 ounces.

Finishing fourth with 27 pounds, 2 ounces was Tammy Richardson of Glenwood, Ark., the only other WBT pro with three career wins. Patti Campbell of Waxahachie was fifth with 26 pounds, 5 ounces.

— BASS Communications report.

## Redfish

Continued from Page 8

Fellow Aransas Pass guide Capt. Tom Hall also saves his spot tail efforts for the heat of the day.

"I'll fish for trout at first light," said Hall. "But, later in the day, I'll head back in the flats for redfish. We'll use both natural and artificial baits for reds. I'll use shad — both live and dead. If I have artificial lure fishermen, we'll be using spoons and Bass Assassins. That Texas roach-colored Bass Assassin has just been dynamite for our redfish."

Besides the time period, these guides also agree that lighter traffic and light winds can lead to excellent opportunities for those willing to deal with high heat.

"It always helps to let the sun get a little higher to help you see the fish better," Curry said. "But, besides that, the fish are just a lot easier to catch in the afternoons. They seem a lot more comfortable that time of the day.

"You do need to make sure you have plenty of water and sunblock, because it is hot, especially on those calm afternoons. But, if you're willing to take the heat, you can have some of the best sight casting of the year by fishing that 10 to 2 time frame during the summer months."



# Offshore

Continued from Page 1

winds settle down. "We had pretty crappy weather earlier," he said. "But Sunday everybody in the main areas caught fish, everything was right."

"It was a killer day for us — the rocks are hot," he said.

Flags were flying on "The Blues Bros." when Bryan Richter was fishing about 40-50 miles out in 500 feet of water with his father, brother and a friend. "We caught two blues and a sailfish," he said. "The blues weighed about 125 and 300 pounds — we got them to the side of the boat and released them."

The group also had a good dolphin and wahoo bite. "It was the first good day," he said. "It finally calmed down."

Richter said another boat nearby caught a blue marlin and a sailfish, while

yet another landed a 78- and a 60-pound wahoo.

"And the summer's just getting started," he said.

Capt. Tony Casias of Port Aransas fished on the "Let it Ride" 52 miles offshore in 450 feet of water. "We're strictly recreational fishermen," he said. "And it was fabulous. We went 1 for 3 on blue marlin — Jennifer Squire, a first-time lady angler caught the marlin."

Casias' group also caught a 79-pound wahoo and a 27-pound dorado. "We caught some smaller wahoo and dolphin, too," he said. "But we were targeting billfish."

Casias said while the rough weather earlier this year kept them off the water, the calmer seas and abundance of bait was the key. "We saw a lot of skipjack and tuna," he said. "We're ready to go out again; they are still biting from here up to east of Galveston."

# Catfish

Continued from Page 1

shad for the trips, although he'll occasionally use cut bait or live shrimp.

"When flathead fishing, I'll use perch," he said. "We float it under a bobber close to the rocks or deep off the bottom for yellow cats or big blues."

When summer starts, many cat chasers make the switch to prepared baits. Brett Radabaugh guides at Lake Conroe, and switches to Sure Shot stinkbait for the smaller channel cats. On the same lake, guide Darrell Taylor sticks with his creation, Catfish Killer Cheese Bait. "We've been fishing baited brush piles in 20-25 feet and it's been good," Radabaugh said. "The stinkbait stays on the hook better. It's nasty, though."

Jason Barber of Kings Creek Adventures guides at Cedar Creek and Richland Chambers reservoirs. "We've been wearing out the blue cats on Cedar Creek," he said. "Most of them are in the 1- to 5-pound range, but we pick up a 10-pound or bigger fish every now and then."

Barber uses live, whole or cut shad, and small live perch when the cast net brings them in. "The catfish have been in 15- to 22-feet of water running with the white bass," he said. "They are usually over humps and main lake points. When fishing for whites and hybrids you'll pick some up with slabs, too."







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# FISHING REPORT

## HOT BITES

### LARGEMOUTH BASS



**COLEMAN:** Black bass are very good on Rat-L-Traps, spinnerbaits, and chartreuse soft plastics.  
**CHOKO CANYON:** Black bass are very good on crankbaits and large soft plastic lizards and worms.  
**LIVINGSTON:** Black bass are good on soft plastics and crankbaits.

### WHITE/HYBRID/STRIPER



**BROWNWOOD:** Hybrid striped are good trolling white/chartreuse stripers. White bass are very good on L'il Fishies and minnows off lighted docks at night.  
**PROCTOR:** White bass are excellent on minnows.  
**RAY ROBERTS:** White bass are excellent on Jiggings Spoons in 18-36 feet.

### CATFISH



**BUCHANAN:** Channel catfish are good on live bait and dip bait. Yellow and blue catfish are very good on jugs and trotlines baited with goldfish and perch.  
**CALAVERAS:** Channel catfish are excellent on liver, cheesebait, and shad. Blue catfish are excellent on liver and cut bait.  
**CONROE:** Catfish are good on stinkbait, liver, and bait shrimp.

### CRAPPIE



**BOB SANDLIN:** Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles.  
**CADDO:** Crappie are good on jigs and minnows and jigs.  
**RAY ROBERTS:** Crappie are excellent around isolated trees on jigs and minnows.

### BREAM



**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Bream are good on live worms off piers and near grass beds.  
**TOLEDO BEND:** Bream are good on nightcrawlers and crickets in 2-8 feet.

**ALAN HENRY:** Water lightly stained; 82 degrees; 2.17' low. Black bass are good on white buzzbaits or spinnerbaits, black/blue jigs and dark soft plastics along timber lines. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.  
**AMISTAD:** Water clear; 86 degrees; 17.47' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse Senkos, topwaters, Flukes, and Carolina rigged 10' soft plastic worms in 16-28 feet. Catfish are good on cheesebait and punchbait in 16-22 feet.

**ARROWHEAD:** Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 3.29' low. Black bass are good on swim-blade baits and spinnerbaits along rocky points and vegetation. White bass are good shallow while chasing shad. Catfish are good on soft plastic frogs and buzzbaits early, later switching to Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

**BASTROP:** Water lightly stained. Channel and blue catfish are very good on shrimp and stinkbait.  
**BOB SANDLIN:** Water off-color; 79-86 degrees; 0.28' high. Catfish are good on prepared bait.  
**BRAUNIG:** Water stained; 80 degrees. Striped bass are good on liver and perch off points near the pier. Redfish are excellent on perch, shad, and silver spoons. Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cut bait, ants, and cheesebait near the dam.

**BRIDGEPORT:** Water lightly stained; 79-85 degrees; 0.29' low. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to chatterbaits and Texas rigs. White bass are good on Humdingers and topwaters.  
**BROWNWOOD:** Water lightly stained; 81 degrees; 2.88' low. Black bass are good on watermelon flukes, buzzbaits, and spinnerbaits off grass flats, and on redbug and watermelon red worms with chartreuse tails near the rocks.

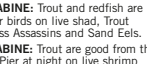
**BUCHANAN:** Water clear; 80 degrees; 3.40' low. Black bass are good on white buzzbaits and jigs, watermelon topwaters, in creeks in 5-15 feet at first light. Crappie are good on minnows and crappie jigs over brush piles.  
**CADDO:** Water stained; 80-87 degrees; 0.72' high. Black bass are good on frogs, Senkos and Texas rigs. White bass are good on Little Georges.  
**CALAVERAS:** Water stained; 80 degrees. Redfish are excellent down rigging silver and gold spoons in 10-20 feet, on live perch and tilapia along the shoreline, and on live bait.

**CANYON LAKE:** Water clear; 79 degrees; 2.32' low. Smallmouth bass are good on root beer grubs and craws and watermelon red tubes. Yellow and blue catfish are very good on jugs and trotlines upriver.  
**CEDAR CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 79-86 degrees; 0.26' low. Black bass are good on buzzbaits, jigs and Texas rigs. White bass are good on Humdingers and topwaters. Hybrid striped are good on swim baits.

**CHOKO CANYON:** Water lightly stained; 91 degrees; 2.29' low. Channel and blue catfish are very good on stinkbait in 5-10 feet.  
**COLEMAN:** Water clear; 79 degrees; 2.72' low. Crappie are good on minnows and L'il Fishies at night. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch and chicken livers.  
**CONROE:** Water clear; 0.37' low. Striped bass are good on silver/gold striped jigs.  
**COOPER:** Water lightly stained; 79-85 degrees; 0.02' low. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to Texas rigs and Senkos. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows over brush piles. White bass are good on Rooster Tails and Little Georges. Hybrid striped are good on Sassy Shad and live shad.  
**FALCON:** Water clear; 81 degrees. Black bass are good on Carolina rigged large soft plastic worms and crankbaits. Channel and blue catfish are good on cut bait and stinkbait.  
**FAYETTE:** Water clear; 90 degrees. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and cut shad in 8-12 feet.  
**FORK:** Water lightly stained; 80-86 degrees; 0.6' high. Black bass are fair to good soft plastic frogs, Rat-L-Traps, Senkos and Texas rigs. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows around the bridges and over brush piles.  
**GIBBONS CREEK:** Water clear. Catfish are very good on stinkbait, cut bait, and frozen shrimp.  
**GRANBURY:** Water clear; 0.59' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and watermelon gold Carolina rigged soft plastics, crankbaits, and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on minnows and green tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, chicken livers, and frozen shrimp.  
**GRANGER:** Water murky; 81 degrees; 0.05' high. Black bass are good on jigs and soft plastic worms. Crappie are good on chartreuse jigs in 6-15 feet. Blue catfish are good on jugs and lizards baited with shad.  
**GRAPEVINE:** Water off-color; 81-86 degrees; 0.16' high. Black bass are good on crankbaits, Texas rigs and wacky rigs. White bass are good on Rooster Tails, topwaters and Humdingers. Catfish are good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.  
**GREENBELT:** Water lightly stained; 76 degrees; 26.44' low. Crappie are

good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live baits, topwater lures, and shad-colored crankbaits along riprap. Smallmouth bass are good on live baits, white spinnerbaits or crankbaits along riprap.  
**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water clear; 87 degrees; 0.20' high. White bass are good along the northeast shore.  
**HUBBARD CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 78 degrees; 1.17' low. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass and hybrid striped are good on live baits and baby bass crankbaits along humps and rocky points.  
**JOE POOL:** Water off-color; 79-86 degrees; 0.05' low. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to Texas rigs and crankbaits. White bass are good on Humdingers.  
**LAKE O' THE PINES:** Water stained; 79-86 degrees; 2.21' high. Crappie are good on minnows over brush piles.  
**LAVON:** Water stained; 79-86 degrees; 0.18' low. Black bass are good on crankbaits, Senkos and Texas rigs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Cats are good on cut shad and prepared bait.  
**LBJ:** Water stained; 81 degrees; 0.58' low. Crappie are fair on minnows and white crappie jigs over brush piles in 12 feet.  
**LEWISVILLE:** Water off-color; 79-87 degrees; 0.05' high. White bass are good on Humdingers and Rooster Tails. Catfish are good on prepared bait and cut shad.  
**LIVINGSTON:** Water fairly clear; 85 degrees; 0.07' high. White bass are good on spoons and slabs. Blue catfish are good on shad.  
**MEREDETH:** Water lightly stained; 76 degrees; 77.50' low. White bass are good on live bait and shad-colored crankbaits. Channel catfish are good on live baits.  
**MONTICELLO:** Water fairly clear; 81-89 degrees; 0.09' low. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to Texas rigs, spinnerbaits and chrome Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on minnows.  
**NASWORTHY:** Water lightly stained; 78 degrees. White bass and striped bass are good on shad-colored crankbaits and live baits.  
**NAVARRO MILLS:** Water stained; 85 degrees; 0.01' low. Black bass are good on soft plastic worms. Crappie are good on minnows off piers in 12-15 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on doughbait, shrimp, and shad.  
**O.H. IVIE:** Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 11.76' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live baits and crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are good on live baits and shad-colored crankbaits along points. Channel catfish are good on live baits.  
**PROCTOR:** Water stained; 81 degrees; 1.23' low. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with goldfish.  
**RAY HUBBARD:** Water stained; 79-86 degrees; 0.04' high. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around the bridges and in the marinas. White bass are excellent on topwaters and Humdingers.  
**RAY ROBERTS:** Water clear to lightly stained; 78-85 degrees; 0.07' high. Black bass are good on XCalibur Jimmys early, later switching to Booyah

## SALTWATER SCENE



**NORTH SABINE:** Trout and redfish are good under birds on live shad. Trout Killers, Bass Assassins and Sand Eels.

**SOUTH SABINE:** Trout are good from the Causeway Pier at night on live shrimp and tandem-rigged plastics. Redfish are good at the jetty and in the middle of the lake on live shad and shrimp. Trout are good around the rocks on topwaters.

**BOLIVAR:** Trout are fair to good on MirOlures at the pass. Redfish are good in the surf on fender bait. Gafftop, sand trout and flounder are good at the Pass on live bait.

**TRINITY BAY:** Waters are clearing in the bay. Trout are fair while drifting slicks on plastics.

**EAST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are fair while drifting shell on plastics and live shrimp. Trout are fair to good on croakers along the Ship Channel.

**WEST GALVESTON BAY:** Gafftop, sand trout and whiting are good from the beachfront piers on live bait. Redfish are fair to good on the shell on live shrimp under a popping cork.  
**TEXAS CITY:** Trout are fair to good on croaker on the Dollar Flats. Redfish are good in Moses Lake on live shrimp. Trout are fair off the end of the dike on DOA Shrimp.  
**FREEPORT:** Trout are fair at San Luis Pass on shrimp. Trout and redfish are fair in Christmas Bay while drifting with live shrimp. High tides have pushed fish into the back lakes.  
**EAST MATAGORDA:** Trout are fair to good while drifting scattered shell with live shrimp. Redfish are fair in Lake Austin on live shrimp.  
**MATAGORDA:** Trout are fair to good in the surf on Bass Assassins. Redfish and black drum are fair in Oyster Lake on live shrimp under a popping cork.  
**PORT O'CONNOR:** Trout are fair while drifting the flats on live shrimp under a popping cork. Redfish and sharks are good on live shrimp and mullet at the jetty and in the surf.  
**ROCKPORT:** Trout are fair to good on the outside of Traylor Island and in the surf on the Estes Flats on croaker and live shrimp. Trout are fair to good around Mud Island and Super Flats on Super Spoons and She Dogs.  
**PORT ARANSAS:** Sharks are good around the jetty and on the beachfront on finger mullet and shad. Redfish are fair to good around Pelican Island on live shrimp. Offshore is good for snapper, ling, wahoo, kingfish and bilfish.  
**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Trout and redfish are fair to good on live shrimp and croaker around the reefs in Nueces Bay. Trout and redfish are good around the causeway on live shrimp and pumpkinseed plastics.  
**BAFFIN BAY:** Trout are fair to good over sand and grass on plastics and topwaters. Drop-offs around the spoil islands have held trout on topwaters and soft plastics. Trout are good at night in the Land Cut on DOA Shrimp and glow plastics.  
**PORT MANSFIELD:** Trout and redfish are good while wading flats adjacent to East Cut on Super Spoons and Pop-Rs. Trout and redfish are good on topwaters while drifting the east shoreline.  
**SOUTH PADRE:** Trout and redfish are fair to good while drifting the flats and bars on limetreuse and plium plastics. Snook are fair to good on shrimp and DOA Shrimp in South Bay.  
**PORT ISABEL:** Trout are good while drifting sand and grass on soft plastics under rattling corks. Redfish on the flats are good on small topwaters.

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**RICHLAND CHAMBERS:** Water off-color; 79-86 degrees; 0.3' low. Black bass are fair to good on Senkos, Texas rigs and jigs. White bass are good on tail spinners and topwaters.  
**SAM RAYBURN:** Water lightly stained; 81 degrees; 1.60' low. Catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait, liver, and cut bait.  
**SOMERVILLE:** Water murky; 80 degrees; 0.43' low. Channel and blue catfish are excellent on nightcrawlers, minnows, and shad.  
**STILLHOUSE:** Water clear; 80 degrees; 0.11' low. Black bass are good on minnows, perch, and crawfish. Channel and blue catfish are good on chicken livers and shrimp.  
**TAWANKON:** Water lightly stained; 79-86 degrees; 0.31' high. White bass are good on Humdingers and minnows.  
**TEXOMA:** Water off-color; 77-82 degrees; 0.79' low. Black bass are fair to good on Texas rigs, crankbaits and Carolina jigs. Striped bass are good on topwaters, swim baits and live shad.  
**TOLEDO BEND:** Water clear; 81 degrees; 0.49' low. Black bass are good but small on redbug and watermelon red soft plastic worms and crankbaits in the boating lanes. Crappie are good on minnows and blue/green tube jigs over baited holes in 20 feet.  
**TRAVIS:** Water clear; 82 degrees; 8.97' low. Black bass are good on bone topwaters, red shad worms, and smoke grubs in 12-28 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on nightcrawlers and fresh cut perch in 20-35 feet.  
**WEATHERFORD:** Water stained; 80-86 degrees; 0.65' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on Humdingers and minnows.  
**WHITNEY:** Water clear; 2.85' low. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, stinkbait, and live bait.

See Hot Spot on Page 9.

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# WEATHER

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### Moon Phases

Last June 26 New July 2 First July 9 Full July 18

### Tides

Subsidiary Port	High	Low	High	Low	Forecast
6223	8:58 a.m.	1:01 a.m.	9:34 p.m.	4:58 p.m.	6:25
6226	9:00 a.m.	2:28 a.m.	—	5:02 p.m.	6:26
6227	12:00 a.m.	3:37 a.m.	8:53 a.m.	3:39 p.m.	6:27
6228	1:36 a.m.	5:51 a.m.	8:24 a.m.	6:22 p.m.	6:28
6229	2:39 a.m.	7:30 p.m.	—	—	6:29
6300	3:51 a.m.	8:01 p.m.	—	—	6:30
701	4:20 a.m.	8:53 p.m.	—	—	7:01
702	5:08 a.m.	9:47 p.m.	—	—	7:02
703	5:54 a.m.	10:03 a.m.	12:54 p.m.	10:40 a.m.	7:03
704	6:57 a.m.	11:32 a.m.	2:06 p.m.	11:52 p.m.	7:04
705	7:15 a.m.	12:54 p.m.	3:24 p.m.	—	7:05
706	7:45 a.m.	1:22 a.m.	4:37 p.m.	1:55 p.m.	7:06
707	8:10 a.m.	1:08 a.m.	8:35 p.m.	3:13 p.m.	7:07
708	8:29 a.m.	1:58 a.m.	9:15 p.m.	4:14 p.m.	7:08
709	8:43 a.m.	2:50 a.m.	11:59 p.m.	5:05 p.m.	7:09
710	8:48 a.m.	4:27 a.m.	—	—	7:10
711	2:50 p.m.	6:13 p.m.	—	—	7:11
712	3:14 a.m.	6:57 p.m.	—	—	7:12
713	3:51 a.m.	7:32 p.m.	—	—	7:13
714	4:27 a.m.	8:08 p.m.	—	—	7:14
715	4:50 a.m.	8:43 p.m.	—	—	7:15

Cape Canaveral				South Padre Island			
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
6225	8:59 a.m.	1:11 a.m.	9:35 p.m.	4:08 p.m.	6:25	9:07 a.m.	12:49 p.m.
6226	9:01 a.m.	1:58 a.m.	—	4:52 p.m.	6:26	9:09 a.m.	1:36 a.m.
6227	12:01 a.m.	3:07 a.m.	8:54 a.m.	3:09 p.m.	6:27	12:09 a.m.	2:45 a.m.
6228	1:37 a.m.	5:21 a.m.	8:25 a.m.	5:52 p.m.	6:28	1:43 a.m.	4:39 a.m.
6229	2:40 a.m.	6:40 p.m.	—	—	6:29	2:48 a.m.	6:38 p.m.
6300	3:52 a.m.	7:51 p.m.	—	—	6:30	3:40 a.m.	7:09 p.m.
701	4:21 a.m.	8:23 p.m.	—	—	7:01	4:29 a.m.	8:01 p.m.
702	5:09 a.m.	9:17 p.m.	—	—	7:02	5:17 a.m.	8:51 p.m.
703	5:53 a.m.	10:23 a.m.	12:55 p.m.	10:18 p.m.	7:03	6:03 a.m.	1:03 p.m.
704	6:46 a.m.	11:02 a.m.	2:09 p.m.	11:02 p.m.	7:04	6:46 a.m.	1:40 p.m.
705	7:16 a.m.	12:04 p.m.	3:25 p.m.	11:52 p.m.	7:05	7:24 a.m.	12:03 p.m.
706	7:46 a.m.	1:29 p.m.	4:58 p.m.	—	7:06	7:54 a.m.	1:03 p.m.
707	8:11 a.m.	12:40 a.m.	6:56 p.m.	2:43 p.m.	7:07	8:19 a.m.	12:18 a.m.
708	8:30 a.m.	1:28 a.m.	9:16 p.m.	3:44 p.m.	7:08	8:38 a.m.	1:06 a.m.
709	8:44 a.m.	2:20 a.m.	—	4:33 p.m.	7:09	8:52 a.m.	1:58 a.m.
710	12:00 a.m.	3:39 a.m.	8:49 a.m.	5:14 p.m.	7:10	12:08 a.m.	3:17 a.m.
711	2:31 a.m.	5:51 p.m.	—	—	7:11	2:29 a.m.	5:29 p.m.
712	3:15 a.m.	6:27 p.m.	—	—	7:12	3:23 a.m.	6:05 p.m.
713	3:52 a.m.	7:02 p.m.	—	—	7:13	4:00 a.m.	6:40 p.m.
714	4:24 a.m.	7:38 p.m.	—	—	7:14	4:32 a.m.	7:38 p.m.
715	4:51 a.m.	8:13 p.m.	—	—	7:15	4:59 a.m.	7:51 p.m.

### Solar Table

Major/Mean	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
6225	9:27/10:34	2:38/6:51	3:57/11:44	2:44/8:57
6226	5:49/—	3:36/9:23	5:51/—	3:36/9:26
6227	6:13/12:00	3:36/9:46	6:19/12:06	3:40/9:52
6228	6:39/12:29	4:04/10:15	6:42/12:11	4:08/10:21
6229	6:59/12:45	4:26/10:57	7:05/12:51	4:32/10:30
701	7:24/1:11	4:53/11:04	7:30/1:17	4:58/1:16
702	7:46/1:29	5:19/11:20	7:52/1:36	5:20/1:30
703	8:13/1:57	5:38/11:46	8:19/2:09	5:44/1:51
704	8:36/2:21	5:59/—	8:42/2:27	6:09/—
705	9:05/2:51	6:21/1:11	9:11/2:51	6:21/1:11
706	9:30/3:14	6:43/1:32	9:36/3:26	6:43/1:32
707	10:02/3:49	7:04/1:52	10:09/3:52	7:04/1:52
708	10:26/4:12	7:25/1:14	10:25/4:16	7:25/1:14
709	11:02/4:49	7:44/1:33	11:09/4:51	7:44/1:33
710	11:31/5:14	8:03/1:50	11:37/5:26	8:03/1:50
711	—	8:28/2:14	—	—
712	12:04/6:19	8:51/2:31	12:10/6:26	8:51/2:31
713	1:08/6:59	9:10/2:50	1:14/7:06	9:10/2:50
714	1:37/7:52	9:36/3:43	1:47/8:31	9:36/3:43
715	2:11/8:24	10:11/4:09	2:15/8:30	2:11/4:14

### Sun and Moon

Sunrise/set				Moonrise/set			
Hour	Minute	Hour	Minute	Hour	Minute	Hour	Minute
6225	6:22/8:29	6:21/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
6226	6:22/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
6227	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
6228	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
6229	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
6300	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
701	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
702	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
703	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
704	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
705	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
706	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
707	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
708	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
709	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
710	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
711	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
712	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
713	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
714	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			
715	6:23/8:29	6:22/8:40	6:26/8:33	6:34/9:05			

## OUTDOOR PUZZLER

For crossword puzzle solution, see Page 23

**ACROSS**

- A shooting sport in a stream
- Another name for the large mouth
- An excellent breed of birddog
- A species of salmon
- Perch are classified as this
- A family of sunfish
- Woodies are apt to do this
- Deer will seek out this when wounded
- An icefishing catch
- A bait used in fishtraps
- The handgun
- A type of sight
- A trait of many animals
- A buck's markings on grass
- Important item in a hunting kit
- The slippery swimmer
- The hunter's concealment wear
- Anything that will attract wildlife
- A brand of ice shelter, Sno
- Usually a stream fisherman's gear
- Package that holds the essentials
- A deer species
- Bird hunter is a \_\_\_\_ shooter
- Important to consider when fishing
- Device on a reel to tire a fish
- Type of bobber
- A quick-to-erect type tent
- Trapper's gear

**DOWN**

- A cold weather tent
- This affects an arrow in flight
- A type of ice auger
- A method of stream fishing
- The hunter's quarry
- Small boat that can be folded up
- Name for the Arizona whittail
- A game bird
- Icelfishing gear
- Permits change to small caliber ammo
- A Rocky Mountain game
- A top predator fish
- The loop in a bowstring
- Term for a type sight
- A marksman's contest
- To analyze a game trail
- A fly-fisherman's game fish
- A most valuable fur bearer
- Term for shoulder hide on a deer
30. Venison
- The wingshooter's helper
- Accurate marksmen pull this slowly
- The claybird
- Feral hog meat
- The thrill of the \_\_\_\_
- A type fishing lure
- Loner turkeys are usually \_\_\_\_
- Important to have in unfamiliar areas

Outdoor Puzzler,  
Wilbur 'Wib' Lundeen

## WILD IN THE KITCHEN

### Grilled Shrimp Salad

2 servings

**Ingredients:**

- 6 Large shrimp
- 1/2 Red bell pepper
- 1/2 Green bell pepper
- 1/2 Yellow bell pepper
- 2 Slices red onion
- 1/4 Cup olive oil
- 1/2 Lemon
- 1/2 Cup chick peas
- 10 Parsley leaves
- Chili flakes

**Instructions:**

Ingredients, season with salt. Serve in a small round bowl, garnish with onion slice.

— Recipe from *The Shrimp Council*, [eatshrimp.com](http://eatshrimp.com)

### Venison with Green Peppercorns

**Ingredients:**

- 4 Venison fillets (6 ounces each)
- 1 Tablespoon green peppercorns
- 3 Ounces bourbon whiskey
- Salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 1 Chopped shallot
- 1/4 Cup red wine
- 1/4 Cup heavy cream
- 2 Tablespoons butter
- 1 Tablespoon chopped fresh chives, Thyme or parsley

**Instructions:**

Soak green peppercorns in bourbon for 30 minutes or longer. Heat

— Recipe from *Cabela's staff*



## PRODUCTS

**FIT FOR FISHING:** Teva's **Karnali Wraptor** features "drain frame" technology that allows water to drain through its compression-molded midsole, while its "fit" technology wraps the foot for a stable, secure fit. Its Microban zinc-based antimicrobial protection fends off odors. Features include an easy-to-release buckle, integrated toe protection, multiple drainage ports on the topsole and outsole, and a non-marking "Spider Rubber" outer sole that performs well on wet or dry terrain. Available in three colors in sizes 7 to 14, the sandal costs \$100 at [www.teva.com](http://www.teva.com). For information, call (800) 367-8382.



**OUTDOORMEN'S TENT:** Big Agnes's **Big House 4** is a three-season base camp tent that provides 65 square feet of space, with 68 inches of headroom. Pair it with the vestibule for an additional 52 square feet for more than enough room for everyone's fishing or hunting gear. The tent body is a lightweight polyester mesh with polyester rip-stop. It features two doors, reflective guyline for nighttime visibility, a poly-vinyl skylight and 12 mesh floor pockets. Also includes gear loft loops (the gear loft sold separately). The tent, which sleeps four, costs about \$300; the vestibule about \$100; gear loft about \$20; footprint is \$50. For retailers or to order, visit [www.bigagnes.com](http://www.bigagnes.com). For information, call (877) 554-8975.



**LOAD. RELEASE. FIRE!** The **VersaStand Fireaction Target System** allows nine moving targets to be released and shot by successfully hitting the release plate. The Rapid 22 model is designed for .22/.17 rimfire calibers. It is easy to assemble and easy to use. The durable system features powder-coated or zinc-plated metal parts. It sells for about \$445. For retailers, call (877) 216-4362.



**TWO-PIECE DESIGN:** MTM Case-Gard's new **Shooting Range Box** will store and transport rifle cleaning kits. The toolbox top is divided into compartments for organizing jags, brushes and solvents. The base or maintenance center offers ample deep storage for supplies and ammo. The two adjustable gun forks — featuring soft, overmolded rubber padding — offer easy positioning of a firearm with a firm, non-marring hold. The Shooting Range Box sells for about \$50. For retailers, call (937) 890-7461.

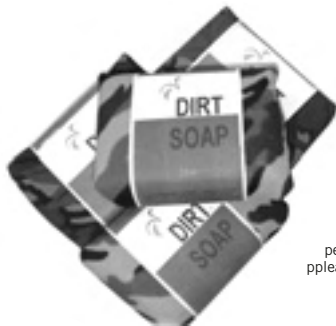
**IT FLOATS, IT SINKS SLOWLY, IT SINKS QUICKLY:** The **Bill Siemantel Signature BBZI Swimbait** by **SPRO** is a realistic swimbait available in floating, slow-sinking and fast-fall models. According to SPRO, this bait does things that no other swimbait on the market does, in terms of action, color and quality. The 8-inch bait is available in Silver Fish, Rainbow Trout and Flat Rainbow in each category. It costs about \$45. For retailers, call (770) 919-1722.



**LONG-LASTING FLY BOX:** The new **Blue Ribbon Fly Box** by **Flambeau** offers a removable, swing-leaf design that provides four storage surfaces. The waterproof box is made from impact-resistant plastic with rubber external bumpers. But, what anglers will especially appreciate are the rows of vertically slit foam that securely holds flies between the foam pads using friction without allowing the hook to pierce the foam. Flambeau says its vertical friction foam (VFF) is durable and easier to use than any other fly foam on the market. The fly boxes are available in various sizes, including the 8-inch by 4.5-inch by 1.6-inch model (shown), which sells for about \$43. For retailers, visit [www.flambeauoutdoors.com](http://www.flambeauoutdoors.com) or call (800) 457-5252.



**AN EARTHY SCENT:** Add another product to the list of scent-masking soaps. **Dirt Soap** made by **Pure Pleasures**, uses chunks of soap melted with fragrances to make the hunter smell like dirt and get clean at the same time. Created by a North Dakota kindergarten teacher who started making her own soaps because her daughter couldn't use commercial soaps due to allergies, the dirt soap process was patented 3 years ago. The soap is available for \$4.50 per 2.5-ounce bar at (701) 698-2317 or [purepleasures.com](http://purepleasures.com).



**STORE WET WADERS:** Cabela's **Pocket Wader Bag** by **Fishpond** — with separate compartments for wet and dry gear — is designed especially for fly-fishermen. The tarpaulin bottom compartment has mesh venting so that wet waders and boots can dry properly. A 24-inch by 27-inch pull-out changing mat attaches to the bottom compartment using buckles. Three zippered side pockets, a zippered top compartment and a 9-inch by 12-inch hanging internal pocket maximize storage versatility. The 26.25-inch by 15.5-inch by 16-inch bag costs about \$120. To order, visit [www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com) or call (800) 237-4444.



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**CCA State of Texas Angler's Rodeo (STAR)**

LEADERS AS OF: 6-23-08

The CCA STAR summer-long tournament is in full swing, with prizes and scholarships up for grabs. Ten anglers have caught tagged redfish, but none has qualified for the truck-boat package.

**STAR KIDS DIVISION (AGES 6-10)**  
Flounder

John Riley III, 8, of Dickinson  
4 lbs. 0 ozs.  
**Sheepshead**  
Callen Gawlik, 8, of San Antonio  
6 lbs. 5 ozs.  
**Gafftop**

Grant Davis, 8, of Beaumont  
6 lbs. 2 ozs.

**STARTEENS TROUT & INSHORE DIVISIONS (AGES 11-17)**

**Middle Coast Speckled Trout**  
Wade Brown, 17, of Brazoria  
6 lbs. 11 oz.

**Lower Coast Speckled Trout**  
Danielle Frerich, 16, of Bulverde  
7 lbs. 5 oz.  
**Sheepshead**  
Brett Green, 16, of Baytown  
9 lbs. 5 ozs.

**Gafftop**  
Chip Linahan, 17, of San Antonio  
5 lbs. 14 ozs.

**Flounder**  
Brandon Simons, 16, of Bay City  
4 lbs. 8 ozs.

**STAR LEADERBOARD**  
Middle Coast Speckled Trout

Helen K. Mele of Spring  
8 lbs. 1 oz.  
**Lower Coast Speckled Trout**  
Kristopher Anderson of Port Mansfield  
8 lbs. 10 ozs.

**Flounder**  
Ryan Presley of Sour Lake  
6 lbs. 14 ozs.

**Sheepshead**  
Carlos Garza of Deer Park  
9 lbs. 9 ozs.

**Kingfish**  
Heather Dusek of Missouri City  
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**Dorado**  
Ryan David Foster of Harlingen  
65 lbs. 7 ozs.  
**Ling**  
Rachel Adams of Pinehurst  
74 lbs. 2 ozs.

**Gafftop**  
Tina Guernsey of Beaumont  
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# HEROES



**BRADEN DORNBURG**, 4, shows off his big bass caught on Canyon Lake while fishing with dad, **BLAKE**.



**JOSEPH HABEN** of Flower Mound with his first javelina taken in Ozona.



**JONATHAN CANTU** of San Antonio caught this 21-pound red drum onboard the "Dolphin Express" out of Port Aransas.



**STEPHEN STINKAMP** of Plano caught this 25-pound roosterfish in Costa Rica.

## 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@lonestaru.com, or mail to: Heroes, Lone Star Outdoor News, 9304 Forest Lane, Suite 114 South, Dallas, TX, 75243.



**KELLI GOSSETT** of Bedford used a 12-gauge shotgun while deer hunting on the LBJ Grasslands. This 3-point buck was her first deer ever.

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**NATIONAL**

# NOAA proposes national saltwater angler registry

## Texas saltwater license may provide exemption from federal rule

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration published proposed rules to create nationwide, mandatory registration of recreational anglers who fish in federally controlled marine waters by 2009.

The rule would also require registration by those who catch anadromous species anywhere, including striped bass, salmon and shad that spawn in rivers and streams and spend their adult lives

in estuaries and the ocean.

The proposed rule seeks to meet the National Academy of Science National Research Council recommendations to establish a national database of saltwater anglers, and the initiative of NOAA Fisheries Service to improve the quality and accuracy of data on marine recreational fishing and catches.

Anticipating this rule, Texas Parks and Wildlife changed its regulations, requiring that any angler

returning to Texas waters with fish caught from outside state waters possess a state saltwater fishing license, and the state will maintain a database of the licensed saltwater anglers. The state license requirement likely will exempt Texas anglers from the federal registration.

But states along the east coast from New Jersey to Maine have never had state saltwater licenses, and anglers will be faced with their

first-ever fee to fish along the coast or offshore.

Under the new rules, fishermen would be required to be registered annually. NOAA will not charge a registration fee in the first two years. Beginning in 2011, the annual fee will be an estimated \$15 to \$25 per angler over the age of 16.

Anglers who fish only on licensed party, charter, or guide boats would be exempt, as these vessels are surveyed separately.

For the last 28 years, NOAA Fisheries Service has conducted recreational fishing surveys through random telephone interviews with residents living in coastal counties.

The national saltwater registry will enable surveyors to interview only those people who fish, and will reach all anglers, not only those who live near the coast.

— Staff reports.

# Wildfire consumes 41,000 acres of refuge

A wildfire resulting from a lightning strike started on June 1 on private land in eastern North Carolina, several miles south of Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Two days later, the fire, named the Evans Road Fire, broke from containment and entered the refuge.

By June 6, the fire grew to 28,895 acres. The fire was 70 percent contained on June 18 and had consumed 41,060 acres of the refuge. The Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is temporarily closed due to the fire.

Officials felt most wildlife survived the blaze. "It would be unrealistic not to say there will be some animal mortality," said Wendy Stanton, wildlife biologist for the refuge. "I think we can safely say that most wildlife have been able

to escape the blaze."

Firefighters from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of North Carolina and other local and county agencies fought the fire. Helicopters and airtankers aided in their fire suppression efforts.

Crews used existing roads and improving fuel breaks to contain the fire. Tractor plows built firelines where possible. There were more than 500 people assigned to the fire.

The Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is approximately 93,000-acres and is home to the endangered red wolf, black bear, hundreds of species of migratory birds and a variety of other native wildlife.

— Staff reports.



**BIG BLAZE:** Fire retardant is dropped by air to help contain the Pocosin NWR fire. The fire has burned more than 41,000 acres and is expected to burn for months. Photo by N.C. Wildlife Commission.

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# Boats collide in tournament

Three North Carolina tournament anglers were sent to the hospital after two fishing boats collided during a fishing tournament on High Rock Lake.

Two bass boats ran into each other at 12:30 p.m. in the main channel of the lake, said Sgt. Anthony Sharum of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

Four fishermen participating in the Wal-Mart Bass Fishing League tournament were involved.

The accident happened with few

other boats around, Sharum said.

Boat owner/operator David Redman was injured and taken to Rowan Regional with non-life threatening injuries. His passenger, Darrell McManus, was airlifted to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte with unknown injuries.

The other boat/owner, Tony Stafford, was not injured. His passenger, Kenneth Hutchins, was transported to a local hospital. Hutchins was treated and released.

The boats were meeting in a head-

on situation at speeds higher than 50 mph. Both operators reportedly made a series of high-speed turns attempting to avoid one another before the collision, Sharum said.

The accidents is under investigation.

According to Sharum, speed and failure to observe the "rules of the road" were factors that caused the accident. No charges have been filed.

—Shavonne Potts, salisburypost.com.

## Mauler

Continued from Page 9

"Marty had never fished," Fuston said. "I was under pressure to get Grissom a story and Marty a fish in a slow fishery left over from the freeze. But on her second or third cast, boom, she caught her first redfish."

Grissom's story launched the Mansfield Mauler from crazy contradiction to coastwide fame. Grissom coined it the Marvelous Mansfield

Mauler.

"I really didn't feel comfortable with the 'marvelous' so I dropped it and named it the Original Mansfield Mauler," Fuston said.

The name stuck. Imitation, however, is the highest form of flattery. Now every tackle company in Texas and many national tackle makers build some version of the Original Mansfield Mauler.

Captain Bob retired from guiding in 2004. "My eyes were getting where I couldn't see the fish and

wading damn near became impossible." Fran, his wife, and he retired to Glen Rose and he still builds each and every Original Mansfield Mauler found in tackle shops. He has slowed down production somewhat.

"The old fingers and eyes aren't what they used to be. I only make about a thousand a year now."

So look for the bright, nuclear-yellow packing with a bearded caricature and Fuston's signature beard and you have the "Real Deal."

## Fuel

Continued from Page 6

house manager at the Double K Country Store in San Angelo.

"And they're buying bigger feeders so that it lasts longer," he added.

Winchester said the typical 55-gallon feeder contains 350 pounds of corn.

"And now we've seen them buy the bigger feeder that holds 2,000 pounds," he said.

Winchester said dealers expect to see even more hikes in corn prices,

and not just because of the rising fuel costs for corn producers. He said flooding in the Midwestern states will limit supplies and, consequently, boost costs.

"It's fixing to skyrocket to \$9 a bag," he said. "At that price they can almost buy protein feed as cheap as they can buy corn."

"We've seen a little bit of that already — people mixing half and half, regular corn with protein."

Russell Meyer, president of Hondo-based Mummie's Inc., said other reasons for high feed costs include worldwide cuts in corn production and the use of corn to

make ethanol.

"What's going to happen from this point forward, we don't know," he said. "Maybe guys will be buying more corn when they come — I just don't know. But the cost of corn will be quite a bit higher."

But some of the dealer said hunters who are committed to management programs won't give up because of rising costs.

"If they're in a program right now, with protein, it takes three years to see any results," Winchester said. "They're still going to feed them."

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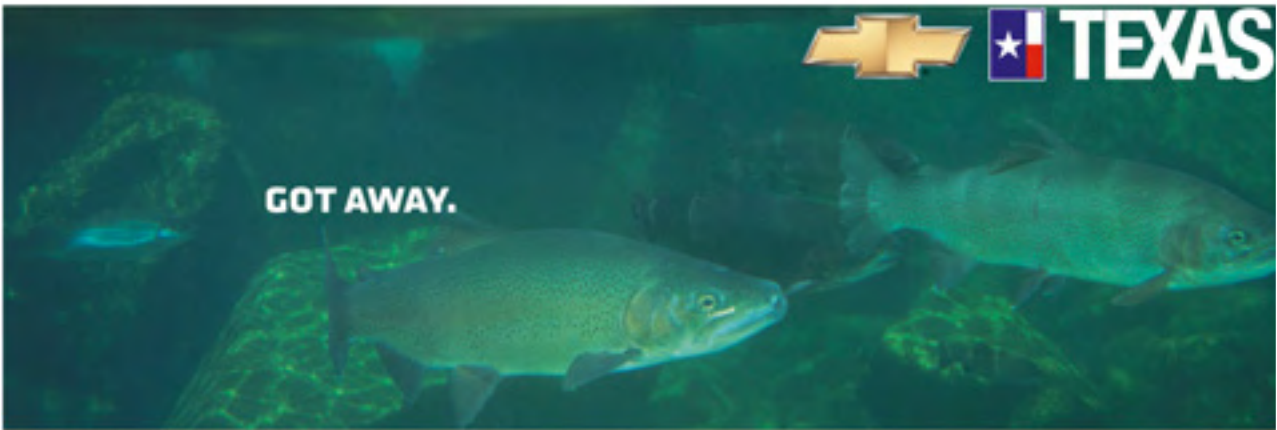
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**GOT AWAY.**



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**ACTIVE FUEL MANAGEMENT\***  
8 CYLINDERS WHEN YOU NEED THEM  
4 CYLINDERS WHEN YOU DON'T

**MAKE MUDDY TRACKS. CHEVY SILVERADO** arms you with the power you need without sacrificing fuel economy. With an available 315-hp Vortec® engine and an EPA est. MPG 20 highway,

Silverado® delivers the best V8 fuel economy of any full-size pickup.\* All backed by the Chevy™ 100,000 mile/5-year Transferable Powertrain Limited Warranty†. Ford doesn't back you like this. Neither does Toyota. To see more, check out [chevy.com/thetruck](http://chevy.com/thetruck). And to explore more articles about the great outdoors and Chevy Trucks, visit [ChevySportingJournal.com](http://ChevySportingJournal.com)

**AN AMERICAN R-EVOLUTION** 

\*Based on 2008 GM Large Pickup segment and Silverado 2500 with EPA est. MPG 15 city/20 hwy. Excludes other GM vehicles. †Whichever comes first. See dealer for details. ©2008 GM Corp. Buckle up, America!



# Cabela's

## 4TH OF JULY SALE

Sale Prices  
June 26-July 6

**\$7.95**  
Was \$12.95  
**Graphic T-Shirt**  
• 100% cotton  
96-5059

Columbia  
Sportswear

**Your Choice \$14.95**  
Was \$29.95-\$24.95  
**Women's Polo's**

- Choose from the Tessa Polo, the Sport Polo or the Seabell Polo
- Great colors and fabrics to fit any style
- Machine washable

Columbia  
Sportswear

**FREE \$5 Gift Card**

to the first 200 customers through the door on Saturday, June 28

Limit one per household. Must be 18 years or older.

**\$49.99**  
Was \$79.99

**Waterpro Ultra Watershoes**

- Lightweight, quick-dry material
- Air cushion midsole
- Vibram® Blowermaster outsole

82-4316

**MERRELL**

**SAVE \$30**

Limited Quantity On Hand

**\$169.99**  
Was \$299.99

**nüvi 200W GPS**

- 4.3" wide touch screen display
- Preadloaded lower 48 state maps with 3D view

02549-722

**GARMIN**

**SAVE \$130**

**\$9.99**  
Was \$17.99

**Flag Chairs**

- Show your patriotic spirit
- Collapsible for easy transport
- Carry bag included

81-4198

**SAVE 45%**

**\$49.99**  
Was \$99.99

**Stove/Lantern Combo**

- Two-burner stove
- 24,000 total BTU output
- Two-mantle propane lantern

51-4555

**1-lb Propane Bottle**

51-4556—~~\$2.49~~ Was \$3.49

**BRUNTON**

**SAVE 50%**



Prices good June 26-July 6, 2008, at our Texas retail locations only. Cabela's reserves the right to limit quantities. Typos do occur and are subject to correction. No rain checks. Items not available by phone order or Internet.

Exit 65 just off I-35W.  
**FORT WORTH, TEXAS**  
**(817) 337-2400**  
Store Hours:  
Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Exit 220 just off I-35.  
**BUDA, TEXAS**  
**(512) 295-1100**  
Store Hours:  
Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m.-7 p.m.