

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

★ May 9, 2008 Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper Volume 4, Issue 18 ★  
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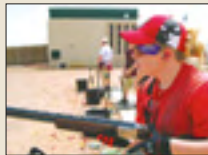
Praise from some,  
concerns from others  
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## INSIDE HUNTING



Estimates show the eastern turkey results were down this year after a poor hatch in 2007.

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Littlefield HS won the state Clays in Schools championship, a program to introduce competitive shotgun shooting to youngsters in grades 6 through 12.

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## FISHING



Picking the winners from the 393 entries in the Texas State-Fish Art Contest proved to be quite a challenge for the judges. The winners will head to Minneapolis for the national competition.

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On her 53rd birthday and first guided fishing trip to the coast, Carol Watson of San Antonio landed a 31-inch trout at Baffin Bay.

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## CONSERVATION

Canadian province Prince Edward Island has adopted Alternative Land Use Services as provincial farm policy, paying farmers for protecting waterfowl habitat.

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## NATIONAL

Two senior executives terminated by the National Wild Turkey Federation have filed suit against the organization.

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# Go west for crappie

### Hot spots dot the landscape in West Texas

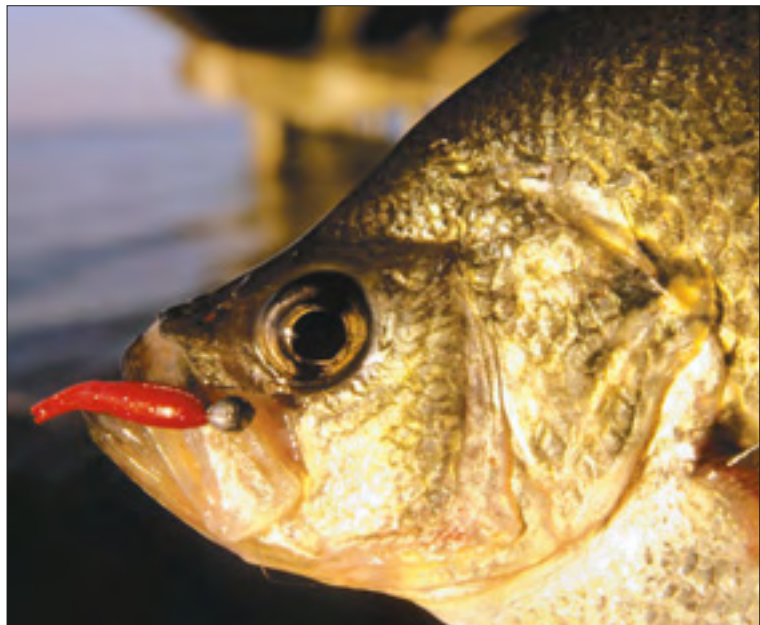
More and more crappie anglers are heading west in search of good numbers of big slabs. While many believe East Texas lakes like Toledo Bend, Sam Rayburn and Lake O' the Pines are the places to go, lakes in the other direction are producing as the cooler water temperatures extend the prime crappie season.

Lake Alan Henry has become famous for its big bass in recent years, but it's the crappie that bring in a good number of the anglers.

Mike Stafford with Chuck's Guide Service said the crappie are still spawning, and have been hitting bigger minnows. "We use the bigger bass-fishing minnows," he said. "The people at the bait shop look at me like I'm crazy, but the crappies have been ignoring the smaller crappie minnows. We really don't need to use crappie minnows anyway; we have jigs for that."

Stafford said limits of good-sized crappie have been the norm. "Two customers have brought in fish that could have been water body records," he said. "One was caught at night and the lady didn't want to

See CRAPPIE, Page 15



SEARCHING FOR SLABS: West Texas lakes have been producing big crappie, and some little-known lakes provide the best action. Photo by David J. Sams.

# Cena Sin Nombre

### It's not your parent's supper club

BY CRAIG NYHUS

This supper club has gone wild.

Cena Sin Nombre (Supper Without Name) is the brainchild of two outdoorsmen who decided to combine their love of the outdoors and good food.

"Liz Foster and Murray Stacy grew up together," group member Tom Haddock said. "Liz said, 'Let's start a supper club — wild game only.'" The members agreed to swap hosting the events, where the hosts would cook and the others bring new and unusual wines.

But they couldn't come up with a name for the group.

"We talked about some French names," Murray Stacy said. "But that didn't fit us — we're pretty casual. No one could come up with a good name, so we chose Cena Sin Nombre."

Tom and LeAnn Haddock, Nelson and Christi Litrell, Murray and Charlyn Stacy and Liz Foster make up the current group.

"We had one other couple for a while," Tom Haddock said. "But the girlfriend was a vegetarian and neither of them liked to cook — or host, so that didn't work out. No hard feelings though."

See SUPPER, Page 15



TOASTING SUCCESS: The members of Cena Sin Nombre, a wild game supper club, celebrate their successes in the field and on the water. Photo by David J. Sams.

# Texas saltwater licenses up

## Huge rise despite nationwide trend of declining saltwater anglers

BY MARK ENGLAND

The numbers of anglers nationwide fell from 35 million to 30 million over the last 10 years, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Texas, though, is bucking the tide

— at least when it comes to saltwater fishing. During that same time period, it saw the number of saltwater licenses sold jump 25 percent.

"Part of it is there are more people moving to Texas," said Larry McKinney, director of the Coastal

See LICENSES, Page 14

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# CONSERVATION

## Groups improve wildlife habitat on public lands

The National Wild Turkey Federation, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service have united to complete projects that will potentially improve more than 550,000 acres of Texas' national forests and grasslands and wildlife management areas through the Master Challenge Cost Share Agreement.

Throughout the five-year agreement, each partner committed \$125,000 to create a shared biologist position and oversee the completion of projects that will improve habitat for wild turkeys and other wildlife.

A project on the Pat Mayse Wildlife Management Area in Paris will improve more than 1,000 acres of prairie lands, home to native warm-season grasses that provide much-needed nesting and brood-rearing habitat for wild turkeys and other ground-nesting birds.

"The availability of quality nesting and brood-rearing habitat is the single most limiting factor influencing ground-nesting bird populations," said NWF's East Texas Regional Biologist Scotty Parsons. "Native warm-season grasses on this management area had been choked out by eastern red cedar trees that absorb huge amounts of water. In this case, removing the cedar trees and conducting prescribed burns was essential to restoring vital habitat."

Additional projects will take place at Alabama Creek WMA in Apple Springs, Sam Houston National Forest, Alazan Bayou WMA in Nacogdoches, Caddo National Grasslands in Fannin County, Matador WMA in Paducah and Gene Howe WMA in Canadian.

— NWF report.

## Grants awarded for sewage pumpout facilities for boaters

More than \$13.6 million in grants will be awarded to 27 states under the Clean Vessel Act grant program in 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced.

The grants will be used to fund the construction and installation of sewage pumpout facilities and floating restrooms, to purchase pumpout boats and for educational programs for recreational boaters.

In Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife will receive \$356,250 to

install 20 sewage pumpout stations for inland waters.

Since the program's inception in the early 1990s, the program has awarded nearly \$150 million to states to install thousands of sewage pumpout stations.

Funding comes from the Sport Fishing and Boating Trust Fund, which is supported by excise taxes on certain fishing and boating equipment and boat fuels.

— USFWS report.

## Prince Edward Island adopts provincial farm policy

Prince Edward Island has adopted Alternative Land Use Services as provincial farm policy.

The new ALUS program will compensate farmers for providing ecological goods and services, including waterfowl habitat, on their working agricultural lands.

PEI is the first Canadian province to make ALUS an official government program.

"Without a CRP-type program like ALUS happening at a landscape level across Canada to protect grasslands and wetlands, the future of waterfowl hunting in America as we know it is unsustain-

able," said Delta Waterfowl President Rob Olson. "It's always been our vision to have ALUS adopted as national farm policy in Canada, and today's announcement in PEI is a giant step toward that ultimate goal."

— Delta Waterfowl report.

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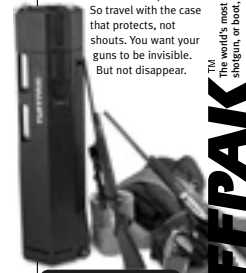
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## HUNTING

# Draw weights lowered for bows



**TAKING AIM:** Younger and smaller bowhunters can take to the field with bows with lower draw weights this season, but experts advise hunters should be confident their shot can be on the mark with enough force to make the kill.

### Minimum 40-pound rule dropped, wounding losses concern some

BY BILL MILLER

If a 40-pound draw weight is too stout for the budding bowhunter in your household, the state of Texas has a solution.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission dropped the 40-pound minimum peak draw weight requirement during its meeting in March.

Good idea? Some hunters and archery dealers aren't so sure.

"I think it was a mistake," said Stan Gertz of Smithfield Archery in Fort Worth. "When animals start being wounded and animal activist groups get a hold of that, it just gives them some more ammo against hunting in Texas."

Lower draw weights are certainly easier to pull for grade school kids or someone with a slight upper body.

But the concerned archers say that less than 40 pounds might not deliver enough arrow trajectory and penetration to kill a deer outright.

The consequence, they say, might be a lot more wounded game animals.

TPW was approached about the idea in November, which prompted a public comment period that began in January, said Mike Berger, director of the agency's Wildlife Division.

Going into the commission's March meeting, there were 179 comments favoring the elimination of the 40-pound rule and 123 comments from people against the change.

"The public comment wasn't unanimous, obviously," Berger said on May 2. "Some people had some concerns about wounding loss."

Berger reported to the commission that 11 states have no rules on minimum draw

weights. He said that he discussed the issue with his counterparts in a few of those states.

"Those I have heard from, or heard indirectly from, are not having a problem with the elimination of that draw weight requirement," he said.

Berger recommended dropping the 40-pound rule for the benefit of youth and other small hunters; the commission agreed to do so.

But Berger said that archers should not attempt to hunt with any bow — heavy or light — unless they can competently put a broadhead in the kill zone.

This ethic, he said, is stressed during the state's hunter education programs.

"I don't care what equipment you use — you need to practice, practice, practice," he said. "You just don't take something right out of the box and start throwing arrows."

He noted, however, that most members of the archery community already work hard to sharpen their skills.

"What I've seen out of archers is that they only take those shots that they're confident of getting," he said.

The change could lead to more youngsters getting involved in archery, said Gary Hicks, who handles archery sales for the Outdoorsman in San Angelo.

"I really don't see where it will hurt anything, as long as people will be ethical about what they're doing," Hicks said.

It will be up to parents to assess the skill levels of young hunters, he said, adding that many are already doing that.

"I got some customers who won't let their kids hunt now," he said, "because they think 40 pounds is not enough."

## Eastern turkey harvest numbers down

### Mature birds present, but fewer young birds after poor hatch

BY BILL MILLER

The eastern turkey harvest data was trickling into state officials when the season closed April 30, but they weren't expecting 2008 would be a banner year.

"It's a gut feeling from hearsay reports of what people have been telling me," said Jason Hardin of Texas Parks and Wildlife.

"We just didn't have much of a good hatch with good poult survival," he said of

the eastern birds. "There are quite a few mature birds out there, but on the public land especially, where there's lots of pressure, they get smart real quick."

Mandatory check stations for eastern turkeys have reported "OK" hunter success rates, but TPW officials say they will have better information once small game surveys are completed.

The diminished hunter success was confirmed by Patrick Savage, who runs a check station at his deer processing business in



**EASTERN STRUTS:** Some Texas hunters had success hunting the eastern turkey this season, but most mandatory check stations and state officials believe hunter success was down from previous years.

Hooks.

"One bird," he said. "All season long we checked in one turkey and that's unusual. "Usually we do anything from three to eight."

One bird was also checked in at Maud Bait & Tackle at Maud, said Rhonda Havins, who runs the store.

Havins' shop and Savage's shop near

See TURKEYS, Page 16

## Littlefield HS on target at trap shooting championship

### Inaugural competition brings in 11 teams

BY RALPH WININGHAM

The 6,000 residents of Littlefield — hometown of Country & Western singer Waylon Jennings — have picked up a new claim to fame courtesy of five students from Littlefield High School.

Under the watchful eyes of "Grandma" Nelda Blackwell, the team dominated the first Agriculture 381 "Clay Sports in Schools" statewide trap shooting championship held April 26 at the Hill Country Shooting Sports Complex in Kerrville.

"The kids come and shoot with me at my range, so when the ag teacher could not come to the shoot, I volunteered to be with the

team," Blackwell said.

"They have worked hard and the whole community is behind them," she added, pointing out that three members of the award-winning team are her grandchildren.

Taking the top trophy at the inaugural trap competition was the team of Jake Blackwell, Shelby White, Rance Nicholson, Kylon Blackwell and Tyler Moss, who shot a score of 228 out of 250.

The team from Victoria Memorial won the Mixed (three boys and two girls) Team class with a score of 176 out of 250 and the Girl's Team trophy went to the team from Whitharral with a score of 82 out of 250.

There were a total of 11 teams participating in the competition.

"This is a pilot program and we are working through the hitches to make this an even better event next year," said Charlie Wilson, who is coordinating the program and is head of the Texas Parks and Wildlife's mobile five-stand sporting clays system.

The Clay Sports in Schools program introduces competitive shotgun clay target shooting to youngsters as part of the Wildlife Management and Recreation curriculum for students in grades 6 through 12.

Since the program was launched last year, 13 schools have joined in

See TRAP, Page 15



**LOADED FOR CLAY:** Shelby White, a 14-year-old freshman from Littlefield High School, prepares to smash a trap target as she participates in the Agriculture 381 "Clay Sports in Schools" championship. Photo by Ralph Winingham.

# Making the best of it

Struggling turkey hunters find other fun in the field

By CRAIG NYHUS

Whether it's because of too many hens, too many jakes, dry weather or a late spring, many turkey hunters have had a tough time getting their gobbler this spring. The die-hards keep after it. But many hunters look for another outdoor opportunity.

Some turn to hog hunting. Lance Vick and wife Lori hunted in Crockett County a week before Lance fished on the winning team at the Toyota Texas Bass Classic. "The turkeys weren't coming in at all," Lori said. "So we decided to go hog hunting. Lance wanted to try

to get one with his bow."

The couple had hogs all around them. "I shot some great video," Lori said. "Just when Lance was getting ready to take a shot, some whistling ducks flew over and spooked the whole group."

The Vicks will definitely be going again. "Now I'm hooked on hog hunting, too," Lance said.

Another avid turkey hunter became simply too bored with the lack of activity but was determined to stick it out. "I was bowhunting near Archer City and had a gobbler guillotine broadhead," Liz Foster of Dallas said. "I had been out all day and just had

to see how it worked — so I took a head of lettuce and made a salad. It worked great."

Some hunters use the opportunity for a long outdoor nap, while others hit the golf course.

And some just enjoy the time in the field. Justin Ruiz of Austin hunts with his 8-year-old son Corbin near Bracketville and along the Brazos River near Granbury. "A lot of it is just having him out there," Justin said. "He doesn't know when the turkey hunting is bad — we've sat and called for six hours to turkeys

See BEST, Page 16



**SWITCHING GEARS:** When the turkeys don't cooperate, many hunters are grateful there is a fishing hole nearby. Photo by Craig Nyhus.

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## FISHING

## Artistic flair

## Judges of State-Fish Art contest had challenge

BY MARY HELEN AGUIRRE

How do you choose the best from among almost 400 original pieces of art submitted by students who have poured their talent and possibly their hearts into their work?

For the five judges of the 2008 Texas State-Fish Art Contest — hosted by the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center of Athens and sponsored by Wildlife Forever — it was both a joy and a challenge.

Contest organizer Zoe Ann Stinchcomb, who chose the judges, invited a group who share a love of fishing and an appreciation for the outdoors. Some were professional or amateur photographers, two had a background in art, another was a “renaissance man.”

But, all appreciated the subject matter: renditions in a variety of mediums — mostly acrylics, oils and watercolors — that depicted any state fish in its natural setting.

The judges were Richard M. Hart of Dallas, an inductee in the TFFC's Hall of Fame; Ben Barrera of Gun Barrel City, who has painted oil landscapes and taught painting; Ron Gard of Dallas, a consultant

See ART, Page 14



**EYEING ENTRIES:** Judges Dick Hart, Ron Gard and Ben Barrera place poker chips on their favorite entries in the Texas State-Fish Art contest, while organizer Zoe Ann Stinchcomb observes. Photo by Earl Nottingham, TPW.



**KEVIN HOPPER**, a senior at Athens High School, won first place in grades 10-12 for his prismacolor of a Guadalupe bass.



**MADLINE AGUILAR** of Murphy, a ninth-grader at Wylie East High School, won first place in grades 7-9 for her rendering of a largemouth bass.



**RAMA IMAD** of Houston, a fifth-grader at Falcon Pass Elementary School, won first place in grades 4-6 for his depiction of a Garibaldi damselfish.

## And the winners are ...

This year's Texas State-Fish Art Contest drew 393 entries from artistic students across the state.

Students, who were judged in three grade categories, submitted essays and their renditions of any officially recognized state fish in its environment.

Many of the young artists chose to pay homage to the state fish of Texas: the Guadalupe bass.

At the end of the judging, these winners emerged:

Grades 4-6: Rama Imad of Houston, a

fifth-grader at Falcon Pass Elementary School, placed first with his depiction of a Garibaldi damselfish. Dominic Nedzelskyi of Keller finished second and August McBride from New Diana came in third.

Grades 7-9: Madeline Aguilar of Murphy, a ninth-grader at Wylie East High School, took first place with her rendering of a largemouth bass. Bonnie Leung of Austin came in second place and Trent Kelley of Quitman finished third.

Grades 10-12: Kevin Hopper of Athens, a senior at Athens High School, placed first

with his prismacolor of a Guadalupe bass. Cali Stewart of Athens finished second and third place went to Kaitlin Andress of Athens.

The three first-place Texas winners, as well as other state winners, will advance to the national Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art competition held July 19-20 in Minneapolis.

Scholarships and savings bonds were provided winners by the Toyota Texas Bass Classic. Each entrant also received a fishing lure from Strike King Lure Company.

## Big birthday trout

## San Antonio woman lands 31-inch speckled trout

BY CRAIG NYHUS

For her 53rd birthday, Carol Watson's husband, Andrew, took her fishing at Baffin Bay, and she landed the fish of a lifetime.

"We went with guide Michael Angell," Andrew said. "We had fished some of the bays together, but this was her first trip with a guide."

The group fished live shrimp behind a popping cork, and quickly began catching good numbers of smaller trout. "It seemed to raise the fish," Andrew said. "The water was pretty murky."

Carol struggled with the guide's spinning rig. "I hadn't fished a spinning rig before, and I was a little erratic with my casting," she said. "They had to duck

'I felt like I got to dance with this magnificent fish for a few minutes.'

— CAROL WATSON

every time I got ready to cast. Of course, they had me in the middle of the boat."

At around 10:30 a.m., both husband and guide wished they had given her their spot in the boat. "It was a big strike," Andrew said. "The line started stripping out fast. When the fish rolled, Michael said 'did you see that?'"

"I could barely reel," Carol said. "Then the guide got really excited. After he finally netted it, he said, 'Oh, my God, people

fish all their lives and don't catch a fish like that.'"

Angell measured the trout at 31 inches. "It was heavy, too," Angell said. "It weighed a little more than 11 pounds. And I didn't throw it for her, either."

"Michael asked if we wanted to mount the fish," Carol said. "But we decided to release it. Of course we forgot our camera, but Michael had his in the boat. We took a quick picture and Michael revived the fish and let it go."

Her husband said Carol is the lucky one when it comes to fishing. "She caught 80 percent of the fish that day," he said. "She does that to me all the time."

"It was so much fun," Carol said. "I felt like I got to dance with this magnificent fish for a few minutes."



**BIRTHDAY BASH:** Carol Watson holds the 31-inch trout she landed and released on her 53rd birthday. Photo by Michael Angell.

## Oyster-bed restoration project to create new habitat

## Shells deposited into Copano Bay



**RESTORING THE REEF:** Oyster shells are blown into Copano Bay from a barge in The Nature Conservancy's oyster-reef restoration pilot project. Photo by Mark Dumesnil, The Nature Conservancy.

The Nature Conservancy deposited 200 cubic yards of oyster shell into Copano Bay as part of a pilot project to restore oyster beds that are in decline in the Gulf of Mexico. The shells were carried into the bay on a 30-foot barge and blown into shallow water within a one-acre patch where an oyster bed previously existed.

"Oysters have been in serious decline since the 1980s in Texas, in part due to pressure from commercial fishing but also because of shell dredging for use as roadbed material and in making concrete," said Rafael

Calderon, director of The Nature Conservancy's Gulf of Mexico Program.

Oyster beds provide important habitat for many other species, from invertebrates to juvenile fish, including many sportfish, Calderon said.

Oysters filter up to six gallons of salt water each hour. They consume plankton and play an important role in maintaining water quality in bays and estuaries.

"Any kind of restoration project like this helps both commercial and recreational fishing," said Rockport fishing guide James Fox.

"Whenever you create new habitat, it helps in the long run. I'd like to see more projects like this that enhance the habitat, including oyster bed restoration and seagrass restoration."

The Nature Conservancy's oyster-reef restoration project is funded by grants from NOAA, the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program and BP America. Project partners include Texas Parks and Wildlife and the University of Texas Marine Science Institute.

— Nature Conservancy report.



# Hoernke wins on Lake Norman

Sean Hoernke of Magnolia pocketed \$150,000 in the FLW National Guard Open on Lake Norman with a final-round, two-day total of 10 bass weighing 27 pounds. He earned the victory over runner-up Jim Moynagh of Carver, Minn., with 10 bass weighing 22-09.

"The tournament has really been a grind," Hoernke said. "Every single day I woke up with literally no place to start fishing. The bass were just so scattered, I would put the trolling motor on high and just burn the batteries looking for fish with some size."

Hoernke's sight-fishing pattern held up through the weekend. He used a shaky-head worm to catch the majority of his sight fish until Sunday, when he switched to a wacky worm in watermelon candy color.

"The cloud cover we had today really loosened the bass up, and the wacky worm seemed to work a lot better than the shaky head," Hoernke said.



**BIG WINNER:** Sean Hoernke of Magnolia used a shaky-head worm to take most of his fish in winning on Lake Norman, N.C. Photo by FLW Outdoors.

Bud Pruitt of Houston finished seventh with 10 bass totaling 18 pounds, 4 ounces.

— FLW Outdoors report.

## HOT SPOT



### Greenbelt

Water lightly stained, 56 degrees, 26.79' low. Black bass are good on shad-colored crankbaits, white spinnerbaits and black/blue jigs worked along timber line, points and humps, and Carolina-rigged pumpkin lizards over sandy humps and along grass lines. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live bait and jerkbaits along riprap. Smallmouth bass are good on live bait and chrome black back jerkbaits along riprap and drop-offs. Walleye are good on crankbaits and live bait. Catfish are good on live bait and cut shad. Guide Richard Baiott (806) 282-9897 said the smaller male bass are shallow in 1-5 feet of water, and the bigger females are off the points near spawning flats in 5-15 feet, with bass up to 7 pounds being landed on black and blue jigs and stickbaits. See full fishing report on Page 17.

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# GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

## MEN CAUGHT HUNTING ON GAME WARDEN'S LAND

**MEN HAD NO IDEA THEY WERE ON PROPERTY ILLEGALLY**  
 •Trinity County Game Warden Donald Norred was called by the sheriff's office regarding a landowner who had hunters trespassing on his property. Upon investigating, Norred found three trucks and horse trailers parked on the county road. He also found the party entered the property within 10 feet of a 3' x 3' posted sign. Six men on horseback, along with a dozen dogs, returned to the vehicles. They advised they entered the property to retrieve a couple of dogs that had strayed and they had no idea they were on property illegally. Citations for trespassing were issued.

**GPS INSTRUCTIONS GET STUDENTS LOST**  
 •Cherokee County Game Warden Brian Bearden received a call from the sheriff's office requesting assistance locating three college students who were lost and had stuck their vehicle in a hunting club southwest of Alto. After two hours of searching, Bearden and several sheriff's deputies located the three students. The students had been traveling from College Station to Kilgore when the GPS unit they were using instructed them to turn into one of the largest hunting clubs in the county.

**SEVERAL MINOR IN POSSESSION CHARGES FILED**  
 •Hays County Game Warden James Michael was patrolling the Blanco River for fishing violations when he came across several youth who had

•Game Warden James Cummings was getting into his patrol vehicle when he heard rifle shots from his southern pasture. He observed two individuals shooting at prairie dogs from the

county road, back toward Cummings' house and livestock. Cummings stopped the vehicle and found a man from New Mexico and his grandson. The man asked, "Do you even know who

owns this?" Cummings responded, "Yeah, the landowner is standing in front of you." The man was surprised to learn he was caught hunting on the game warden's ranch.

alcohol and who were not identifying themselves. In conjunction with San Marcos police, Michael filed several charges of minor in possession of alcohol and obtained statements about the store that sold the youth the alcohol. Michael contacted TABC and learned they had been investigating the store for that same violation in other instances. Cases pending.

process of purchasing it. The other man agreed. An inspection of the boat found the HIN removed. The boat had a fuel tank and a gallon jug of outboard motor oil, but was being operated with an electric trolling motor. Both men were arrested.

sent, fish without license and untagged trotline.

**TOO MANY HYBRIDS IN THE BAG**  
 •Cherokee County Game Warden Brian Bearden observed several individuals violating the bag limit for hybrid striped bass below the spillway on Lake Palestine. Civil restitution and cases pending.

**GROUP RECEIVES NUMEROUS CITATIONS**  
 •Montgomery County Game Warden Brannon Meinkowsky was patrolling a Boy Scout camp near Conroe when he noticed a man with a firearm. When the man saw the warden, he ran into the woods. Meinkowsky contacted wardens Dean Fitzpatrick and Dornell Crist for assistance. While waiting, Meinkowsky encountered another man who claimed he and his buddies were camping on the river. The wardens were able to round up the entire group. Three bags of marijuana were found along with a switchblade knife, .357 pistol, sawed-off .22 rifle, fishing poles and trotlines. Citations included hunt without consent, evading, trespassing, possession of illegal weapon, unlawful carry, possession of marijuana, paraphernalia, fish without con-

**MEN ADMIT TO HUNTING WITHOUT PERMISSION**  
 •Grimes County Game Warden Jonny Heaton received a call from Grimes County Dispatch that a landowner had seen some hog hunters on his property on horseback. Heaton responded to the ranch and met with the landowner at the entrance gate to the property. While talking to the landowner, a truck and horse trailer pulled out of a gate to the east of the landowner's property, leaving the gate wide open. Heaton stopped the vehicle, and both occupants admitted to hunting without landowner consent and one admitted to cutting the landowner's fence to get the horses through. Cases pending.

cases of possession of oversized fish were issued to his accomplice.

**ANGLER FLEES WARDEN, BUT LATER CAUGHT**  
 •Randall County Game Warden Frank Niemiec was checking for violations at Southeast Park when a man walked toward the parking lot. When the man saw Niemiec, he dropped his backpack and ran to an overgrown area of the park. Niemiec pursued him and then came back and checked his bag, which contained eight fish. Niemiec called the Randall County Sheriff's Office for help, and the man was later caught and cited that evening.

**WARDEN HELPS CATCH RECKLESS DRIVER**  
 •Palo Pinto County Game Warden Cliff Swofford responded to back up a deputy who was on a call concerning a reckless driver. The driver had driven through a fence, across a pasture, into a tree, and then into a pond. Swofford, who was familiar with the ranch, was able to get to the driver before she got away. The trooper took the woman into custody while Swofford helped the landowner with driving T-posts and rewiring the fence.

**WARDEN ARRESTS MAN WITH OUTSTANDING WARRANTS**  
 •Aransas County Game Warden Scott McLeod responded to a call concerning some men in possession of several oversized redfish. McLeod located one man, who failed to ID himself and turned out to be a fugitive with outstanding warrants. The man was arrested and placed in the Aransas County Jail, and five

**'GATOR INVOLVED IN ACCIDENT WITH SEMI**  
 •Game Warden Brian Scott was called at midnight to the scene of an accident involving a semi-truck and trailer and a 13-foot male alligator. The gator expired and the semi jackknifed and nearly flipped. The driver was transported to a local hospital for a minor leg injury.



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# YAMAHA

**NATIONAL****Fired executives sue NWTf**

Two former employees say termination based on false claims

Two senior National Wild Turkey Federation executives terminated in late March sued the organization, alleging their termination was the result of a smear campaign involving lies and defamation.

Carl Brown, the group's chief operating officer and a 27-year employee, and Vice President Dick Rosenlieb, a 19-year employee, filed separate complaints claiming their firings were based on false accusations leveled by unnamed members of NWTf's 18-person board.

According to Rosenlieb's complaint, board members falsely claimed that he accepted a free or discounted African safari trip from an outfitter the federation does business

with, in violation of NWTf's rules.

Brown's complaint alleges the board, using an outside consultant, also claimed that Brown fraudulently manipulated membership records, which Brown denies.

Although the NWTf claims 550,000 members, it was a longstanding practice to assign donated memberships to names of expired members, the suit contends.

"The donated memberships are received during NWTf fundraising banquets held at 2,300 towns across America," the complaint said.

Each attendee who buys a banquet ticket receives an adult membership, but sometimes people buy multiple tickets, leaving "memberships" for

which no names are available.

The federation routinely takes the "donated memberships" and assigns them to names of expired members or to those who signed up at special events for youths and disabled sportsmen, the lawsuit said.

"This process started years ago and resulted in a youth membership of over 225,000 kids and 20,000 disabled memberships," Brown's complaint said.

According to the complaint, the federation's former CEO, Rob Keck, was opposed to the firings.

The federation has 30 days to file its response to the suit.

— Staff reports.

**Groups challenge wolf delisting**

Suit attempts to reinstate Endangered Species Act

A coalition of animal rights groups brought suit in federal court in an attempt to reinstate Endangered Species Act protections to the gray wolf. The request for an injunction was filed with a lawsuit challenging the federal government's wolf delisting decision.

In their request for a preliminary injunction reinstating Endangered Species Act protections, the 12 groups argued that "the killing of wolves that have been removed unlawfully from the endangered species list is sufficient to demonstrate irreparable harm."

The lawsuit says scientists have determined wolf populations are

still too fragmented and a minimum population of 2,000 to 5,000 animals is needed to ensure enough genetic diversity for the animals' long-term survival. At the time of delisting there were about 1,500 wolves in the region.

Caroline Sime, Montana's wolf recovery coordinator, told the Northwest Montana Daily Inter Lake that the state of Montana will seek to intervene in the case.

"They have to take a second step to seek an injunction and we're not sure when they are going to do that," Sime said. "We're prepared to vigorously defend the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's] decision to

delist wolves."

"This lawsuit is just another example of anti-hunting groups using the courts to reverse decisions made by qualified wildlife biologists," said Susan Recce, NRA's Director of Conservation, Natural Resources and Wildlife Management. "The lawsuit isn't about conservation. It's about hunting — these groups don't want wolves hunted for any reason."

Groups bringing the suit include, Defenders of Wildlife, Sierra Club, and The Humane Society of the United States.

— Staff reports.



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# Licenses

Continued from Page 1

Fisheries Division for Texas Parks and Wildlife, who will soon leave to become executive director of the Harte Institute at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. "But the two big reasons, I think, are access and catchability. On the coast, there are lots of bays and piers to fish from. And you'll always catch something. It may not be a bass, but even if it's a hardhead it will be good fishing."

How bad is the nationwide decline in anglers?

Even Florida saw a drop in the number of saltwater anglers, according to the American Sportfishing Association. An ASA survey showed that from 2001 to 2006 the number of saltwater anglers in Florida fell from 2,436,720 to 2,002,000.

In Texas, however, the number of saltwater anglers rose from 860,356 in 2001 to 1,147,000 in 2006.

A few smaller states like Delaware

**'You never know what's going to bite your hook. And if you go deep sea, you really don't know what you're going to get.'**

— LARRY ROBINSON

and Maryland also saw gains.

"When I looked at the numbers, I couldn't believe it — how well we're doing when other states aren't," McKinney said. "Florida and California are down 18 percent. Compared to them, we're up more than 40 percent. That's astounding, especially when you consider Florida, where you can fish almost anywhere."

Rob Southwick, who puts together

data for ASA, thinks improving fisheries play a major role in the states hauling in anglers.

"There's been better management and, of course, Texas is famous for that," Southwick said. McKinney adds, "We must be doing something right."

"Our fishery is the best it's been in 30 years," he said. "Just look at the numbers for redfish and spotted seatrout, which are the big draws."

Biologist Josh Harper, who works for TPW at Matagorda Bay, agrees.

"They tell me that catching red drum in a gill net used to be a noteworthy occasion," he said. "Now we have gill nets full of red drum. The fish are here, and we've got the size. It's a great fishery."

Texas' anglers deserve kudos for the upgraded fishery, McKinney said.

He noted Texas anglers supported funding hatcheries for redfish and spotted seatrout after their numbers dropped in the 1980s due to severe winters and overharvesting. Anglers also "taxed" themselves to buy out commercial shrimpers

when it was determined they were harming Texas' coastal fishery, McKinney said.

Capt. Larry Robinson of Shallow Water Guide Service, who fishes the Rockport area, credits the fishery's health to TPW putting size limits on fish as well as its stopping the practice of guides letting customers piggyback on their daily catch limits.

"Stop and think how many guides are out there," Robinson said. "People don't need that many fish."

Robinson also attributes the boom in Texas' coastal fishing to its being "family oriented."

"The wives, if they want, can go shop, the kids can go to the beach, all while the dad's fishing," he said.

Robinson said he's seeing more inland anglers searching for a challenge.

"You never know what's going to bite your hook," he said. "And if you go deep sea, you really don't know what you're going to get. You'll get something good, though. It's that type of fishing."

# Art

Continued from Page 8

for Sotheby's folk art division; David J. Sams of Dallas, founder and CEO of *Lone Star Outdoor News*; and Earl Nottingham of Temple, the chief photographer for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

"We wanted to get someone within that mix with an art background. But, we also wanted someone who didn't have that background... someone who would just appreciate the art," Stinchcomb said.

Hart, a retired banker who has fished across the globe, says the judging process itself took about two hours and was pretty straightforward: The entries were separated in three categories (grades 4-6, grades 7-9, and grades 10-12) and displayed on tables.

The judges were each given 10 poker chips per category. They were instructed to place a poker chip on 10 different pieces, but were not allowed to place a chip on a submission someone else had already chosen.

The entries that weren't chipped were eliminated.

They were then handed fewer poker chips and repeated the process round after round until only 10 finalists per category remained.

The group was asked not to comment on the artwork or discuss it during the initial stages.

The most difficult thing about judging the contest, Nottingham said, is that there was such a diverse look to the images.

"Each student has a unique eye. They're all great in their own way," he said, who compared the artwork to children. "You have to see the beauty in each one."

And what made for a winning submission?

Many of the judges looked at such factors as color values and how those colors interacted, composition and balance, the ability to reflect the fish in its environment and creativity.

And then there was the ineffable. "There are some things that you can't quantify..." Nottingham said.

Barrera's question to himself as he looked through the entries was: "Is this pleasing to the eye?"

Gard summed it up: "You're looking for what you like the best. That's up to each individual's taste."

Sams, the only first-time judge on the panel, said he valued the diversity of the judges' tastes because it allowed him to look at pieces he had originally overlooked with a fresh and more appreciative eye.

Once down to 10 entries per category, the panel had to revisit the finalists and rank them to get the winners.

At that point it got both easier and harder.

"Some groups had obvious winners while other groups we had to discuss and revisit," said Nottingham.

"Some of these kids are exceptional. The second age category was superb. It was quite hard to judge those," said Barrera, who recently retired from General Motors.

But, at the end of the day, the judges enjoyed the process and appreciated the intent of the contest.

"I enjoy doing it. When you appreciate art, you don't tire of looking at it," Gard said.

The contest, part of a conservation education program, is designed to spark the imaginations of students while providing valuable lessons about fish and the importance of conserving Texas' aquatic resources.

Nottingham says, "We're always concerned about getting the next generation involved in conservation and the outdoors. This contest is a great venue for that."

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## Supper

Continued from Page 1

The first meeting in January 2004 was potluck and included venison sausage, crab claws and pheasant. Since then, nearly every type of game and fish has been served, from Montana elk tenderloins to grilled Texas quail and from stuffed golden trout to Carolina shrimp.

Some meetings have a theme. In February 2007, the "Thai One On" theme featured spicy tom yum redfish in Thai herb soup and red curry wild duck.

"It's still the best way to make wild duck," Foster said.

Others were more unusual. "We had Snipe en Brochette," Murray said. "It was really good, just as good as dove. One of the ladies thought it was a joke, though. But the snipe really is a real game bird, some of the most fun I've ever had bird hunting."

The group continues to meet every so often to share their bounty from both land and sea.

The group met again on May 1 at the Stacy's home in Flower Mound, and shared a menu of redfish ceviche (caught a few days earlier by Murray in Louisiana), wild turkey enchiladas, and duck tamales. The new wine, "Ball Busters," was a hit for both connoisseurs and humorists.

But it's the conversation that makes the group unique. Stories of turkey hunting adventures, big game trips to other states and countries and even the backyard antics of a problematic squirrel filled the air.

"We have lots of medical humor, too," Foster said. "Both of the Haddocks and the Litrells are doctors, and the wives are both gynecologists."

Foster maintains an elaborate scrapbook outlining each get-together, and the group has advanced to the occasional outing to hunt, fish or just have fun.

As the scrapbook reads, for the "group of hunters and friends who gather to cook the bounty from hunting and fishing adventures that fill our freezers," Cena Sin Nombre has brought this group of friends even closer together.

## Crappie

Continued from Page 1

wait for the marina to open, and the other lady said she wanted to eat hers."

At O.H. Ivie Reservoir near Ballinger, Jerry Hunter at Elm Creek Marina said the fishermen are bringing in good catches of crappie, but mostly at night on the main lake. "They are in deeper water," he said. "But it's still pretty much a nighttime thing here. Our water temperatures are still 67 to 68 degrees."

On the other side of the lake, Charlotte at Concho Park agreed that nighttime is crappie time. "They're chasing whites during the day and crappie at night," she said.

Some anglers head for little-known Lake J.B. Thomas near Snyder for good numbers mixed with some big crappies. "It's a flat, turbid lake with low vegetation and most of the population

is small," said Charles Munger, TPW field biologist. "They grow real slow on the lake — it takes four years for a fish to reach 10 inches. But once they get there, they really seem to take off. Guys that work any hard structure like docks, stumps and rocks are doing well."

In the San Angelo area, the best bites are coming from Twin Buttes Reservoir and Lake Nasworthy. Joe at Field & Stream Sporting Goods in San Angelo said the anglers are tight-lipped on their favorite spots. "They're catching them though," he said. "Nasworthy has been good, although it's tougher on the weekends because there are so many skiers. But we're sure selling lots of minnows."

Other lakes reporting good crappie catches include Lake Arrowhead south of Wichita Falls, Lake Brownwood and Greenbelt Reservoir near Clarendon, all on minnows and jigs.

— Staff reports.



## Trap

Continued from Page 6

the effort and there are plans to expand to many more locations in the future, Wilson said.

"A lot of schools said they wanted to see what we did in the first year. I think this program will grow and get bigger.

"We are showing the kids what is available in a grass roots effort that is getting a lot of kids involved in organized sports for the first time. This is just a good way to funnel more people into the shooting sports," he said.

The 14-year-old White, a freshman on the Littlefield team, said the seven-hour drive from her hometown to Kerrville was worth the trip to bring back a first-place trophy to her school of 400.

"I had surgery on my knee just a week ago, but I didn't want to miss this," she said. White only dropped one target out of her 50, tying Jake Blackwell and Nicholson as the top scorers on the team.

Brazosport School District Agriculture Instructor Mike Firkins said his school brought one team to the event this year, but expects to field a larger contingent in 2009.

"This is a snowball that is just going to roll," he said.

Hoping to be on the receiving end of the high school top guns and assisting with the competition was Bill Thomas, shooting coach at Schreiner College in Kerrville.

"We are hoping these kids develop into the collegiate ranks," he said. "You really can't take a raw (college) freshman who has never shot and make him a competitor, but if you have someone who has come up through the ranks as a shooter, that is a different story."

Other organizations that are hoping to fill their ranks with the upcoming trap shooters include the Texas Cooperative Extension Service 4H Shooting Sports program — the largest program of its kind in the nation — and the National Shooting Sports Foundation Scholastic Clay Target Program.

The Clays in Schools effort is a spin-off of the Archery in Schools effort started by the TPW Education Department more than two years ago.

Trophies for the first statewide championship were provided by the Texas Hunters Education Instructor's Program.

Schools interested in participating in the program may obtain further information from the TPW Hunter Education Department at (800) 792-1112, extension 4999.

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# OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

**May 8-26:** Go Outdoors! Event at Bass Pro Shops in Katy and Pearland. Learn about camping, kayaking, canoeing and more. For information, call (281) 644-2200 or (713) 770-5100 or visit [basspro.com](http://basspro.com).



**May 11:** A Lone Star Bowhunters Association tournament will be held at Banana Bend Archery Club in Baytown. Contact James Fontenot at (713) 826-9155 or [james@bananabendarchery.net](mailto:james@bananabendarchery.net) for information.

**May 15:** The Dallas CCA banquet will be held at the Frontiers of Flight Museum at Love Field. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.

**May 15:** The Dallas Safari Club monthly meeting will be held at Bent Tree Country Club, featuring Bruce Moon on Northwest Territories Dall Sheep hunting. Contact Debi at (972) 980-9800 or [debi@biggame.org](mailto:debi@biggame.org) for information.



**May 15:** The Austin CCA dinner will be held at the Palmer Events Center. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.

**May 15:** The Galveston DU Spring dinner will be held at Moody Gardens Convention Center. Contact Frank McKeg at (409) 945-7430 or [dmcckeg@comcast.net](mailto:dmcckeg@comcast.net) for information.



**May 15:** The Katy CCA banquet will be held at Bass Pro Shops in Katy. Call (713) 626-4222 for information.

**May 16-17:** The Aransas Bay CCA Babes on the Bay fishing tournament will be held in Rockport. Contact Karol Scardino at (361) 729-5353 or [rktptmail@earthlink.net](mailto:rktptmail@earthlink.net) for information.

**May 16:** The Caldwell County DU dinner will be held at Cedar Hall in Lockhart. Contact Jason McKey at (830) 629-0594 or [jmckey@ducks.org](mailto:jmckey@ducks.org) for information.

**May 16:** The Hood County NWTf dinner will be held at De Cordova Bend in Granbury. Contact Lee Overstreet at

(817) 573-7700 or [lee@overstreettreaty.com](mailto:lee@overstreettreaty.com) for information.

**May 17-18:** Bowhunter Education courses will be offered in Arlington. Call (214) 358-0174 for information.

**May 17:** The Cabela's Scout Challenge will be held at both the Buda and Fort Worth stores. Contact Stephanie at (817) 337-2400 (Fort Worth) or (512) 295-1100 (Buda) for information.



**May 17:** The Dallas Safari Club Young Professionals Group crawfish boil will be held at the Barley House. Contact Jaimey at (469) 484-6777 or [jaimey@biggame.org](mailto:jaimey@biggame.org) for information.

**May 17:** Delta Waterfowl will host the 2008 Texas State and Gulf Coast Regional Duck Calling Contests will be held at the Jewett Community Center in Jewett. Contact Newell



Cheatheam at (281) 392-3034 or [ncheathea@comcast.net](mailto:ncheathea@comcast.net) for information.

**May 17:** The Texas Trout Series tournament will be held in Ingleside. For information, call (210) 385-3333 or visit [saltwaterseries.com](http://saltwaterseries.com).

**May 17:** The Texas Big Game Awards banquet (Hill Country) will be held at the Galloway Hammond Recreation Center in Burnet. For information, call David Brimager at (800) 839-9453, ext. 114.

**May 17:** A NWTf Women in the Outdoors event will be held at the Rusty Lowe Ranch in Clarksville. For information, call Sherry Rice at (903) 244-5256.



**May 22:** The Navarro County NWTf dinner will be held at Star Hall in Corsicana. For information, contact Ray Cobb at (903) 872-8434 or [cobb4@airmail.net](mailto:cobb4@airmail.net).

**May 22:** The 8th Annual Saltwater-fisheries Enhancement Association

banquet will be held at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi. For information, call (361) 886-1100 or e-mail [seaccadm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seaccadm@sbcglobal.net).

**May 23-24:** The Willacy County Young Farmers annual fishing tournament will be held at Port Mansfield. For information, call J.C. Blackwell at (956) 689-2943 or visit [wcyf.org](http://wcyf.org).



**May 23:** The Best Southwest DU dinner will be held at the MCM Hotel in DeSoto. Contact Bonnie Espree at (972) 230-0000 or [bonnie@govrep.com](mailto:bonnie@govrep.com) for information.

**May 31-June 1:** The World's Largest Waterfowl Calling Contest will be held at the Spring Gander Mountain store. For information, contact David Pruett at (979) 732-2097 or [igooemaster@sbcglobal.net](mailto:igooemaster@sbcglobal.net).

## HAVE AN EVENT?

E-mail it to [editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com](mailto:editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com)

## Turkeys

*Continued from Page 6*

Hooks are both in Bowie County, in the state's far northeast corner. But not every station in that county checked in single toms. On a lease bordering Red River and Bowie counties, three members of a hunting party reported success.

And four birds were brought to West Bowie Supply, 12 miles south of DeKalb.

All four toms were shot near the Red River, said Jerry Morton, owner of the store. He said he knew about a lot of hunters along the Sulphur River south of De Kalb, "but they did not have a successful hunt."

Morton said 2008 was the first year his store was a check station, and he was excited about what hunters brought to be recorded.

He said DNA samples were taken to help state biologists determine if the birds came from longtime local flocks, or if they had migrated into the area.

"They were all good toms — healthy birds with lots of plumage," Morton said. "They had 9-to-10-inch beards and spurs were an inch to an inch-and-a-quarter."

The harvests of recent years show a different extreme of hunter success rates.

Hardin, the agency's turkey program leader, said the Eastern harvest — usually around 300 birds — is always much lower compared to the Rio Grande turkey batch, which can exceed 20,000.

But while the Rio population exploded last year with abundant rainfall — the Eastern birds did not hatch well at all.

The population of turkeys in that region has been around 10,000 birds. Hardin noted, however, that the Easter weekend snowstorm of 2007 rattled nesting activity in East Texas.

By comparison, 323 Eastern birds were bagged last year, but 2005 was the best of recent years, Hardin said. That's when 448 birds were harvested.

## Best

*Continued from Page 7*

almost a mile away."

The father-son duo finds other activities, too. "We're never more than 30 minutes from a good fishing hole and we never forget our poles," he said. "And the ranch we hunt on near Bracketville has a skeet range so we still get to shoot the guns."

The pair has made the switch to bowhunting for turkeys, and they make the best of the slow times. "There's always something to shoot at," Justin said. "Corbin got two rabbits last year."

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# FISHING REPORT

## HOT BITES

### LARGEMOUTH BASS



**AMISTAD:** Black bass are excellent on Senkos, spinnerbaits, crankbaits, swimbaits, and soft plastic worms and lizards.

**ATHENS:** Black bass are good on buzzbaits early, midday switching to Carolina rigs and crankbaits.

**LBJ:** Black bass are good on watermelon red flukes, topwaters, and green pumpkin tubes along docks and break lines of flats with stumps or laydowns in 4-10 feet.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Black bass are good on watermelon red Senkos, lizards, and Brush Hogs.

### WHITE/HYBRID/STRIPER



**BROWNWOOD:** White bass are excellent on L1 Fishies and crankbaits from lighted docks and off points at night.

**WALTER E. LONG:** Hybrid striper are excellent on Rooster Tails, pet spoons, and sluggos. White bass are good on minnows.

**PROCTOR:** Striped bass are good on live shad. White bass are good on live shad.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** White bass are good along the northeast shore.

### CATFISH



**CALAVERAS:** Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheesebait, and shad. Blue catfish are good on cut bait and liver near 181 Cove and the railroad bridge.

**BASTROP:** Channel and blue catfish are very good on live bait, frozen shrimp, and stinkbait.

**CONROE:** Catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp, and liver.

**GRANBURY:** Catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp, and liver.

### CRAPPIE



**GRANGER:** Crappie are good on jigs in 1-12 feet.

**NAVARRO MILLS:** Crappie are very good on minnows, and on black/orange and red/chartreuse tube jigs with pink heads.

**ARROWHEAD:** Crappie are good on minnows and jigs at state park, Deer Creek Bridge, and shallow areas around flooded willows and mesquites with active spawning.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Crappie are good on minnows and chartreuse jigs.

**ALAN HENRY:** Water lightly stained; 67 degrees; 0.95' high. Black bass are good on black/chartreuse jigs, white spinnerbaits and watermelon red soft plastics fished shallow along timber. Crappie are good on live minnows and jigs.

**AMISTAD:** Water clear; 69 degrees; 13.33' low. Striped bass are good on RedFins. Yellow catfish are good on live perch near rockslides.

**ARROWHEAD:** Water lightly stained; 64 degrees; 2.66' low. Black bass are good on swim-blade baits and crankbaits along rocky points. White bass are good and are schooling in the lower part of lake. Catfish are good on jugs and are fishing with shad or punch bait.

**ATHENS:** Water stained; 69-76 degrees; 0.37' high. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

**BASTROP:** Water clear. Black bass are good on crankbaits, spinnerbaits, and soft plastic worms and lizards. Crappie are good on minnows.

**BELTON:** Water clear; 72 degrees; 0.26' high. White bass are good on minnows and white riversides under lights at night. Crappie are good on minnows and white riversides. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs, shrimp, Spam, and frozen shad.

**BOB SANDLIN:** Water off-color; 70-77 degrees; 0.21' high. Black bass are fair to good on frogs, buzzbaits and topwaters early, and throughout the day on Texas rigs, Senkos and jigs. Crappie are good on live minnows and jigs — some shallow and some moving to deeper water.

**BRAUNING:** Water stained; 71 degrees. Striped bass are very good on liver and perch, and down rigging spoons near the dam and jetty. Channel and blue catfish are very good on shrimp, cheesebait, and cut bait.

**BRIDGEPORT:** Water lightly stained; 66-73 degrees; 0.41' high. White bass are good on slabs and Humdingers. Hybrid striper are fair to good on live bait and Sassy Shad. Catfish are good on cut and prepared bait.

**BROWNWOOD:** Water stained; 69 degrees; 1.46' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse spinnerbaits, craw jigs, crankbaits, and watermelon red worms along the shoreline, among rocks, and near dead grass in 1-5 feet. Crappie are excellent on L1 Fishies and jigs along the shoreline in 1-5 feet and over brush piles in 12-15 feet.

**BUCHANAN:** Water clear; 70 degrees; 2.57' low. Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits. Bleeding Shad 'Traps, and wacky rigged green pumpkin Whacky Sticks along flats with flooded grass in 5-15 feet. Channel catfish are good on live bait and cut bait.

**CADDO:** Water stained; 69-74 degrees; 0.83' high. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on Humdingers and Road Runners.

**CANYON LAKE:** Water clear; 70 degrees; 0.25' low. Black bass are good on root beer/green flake Baby Brush Hogs along creek in 5-15 feet. Smallmouth bass are good on root beer curl tail grubs, smoke/red tubes on ball jighheads, and Bleeding Shad Tiny Traps along main lake points and ledges in 5-15 feet.

**CDAR CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 69-74 degrees; 0.08' low. White bass are good on slabs and Humdingers. Hybrid striper are fair to good on Sassy Shad and slabs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

**CHOKE CANYON:** Water lightly stained; 73 degrees; 1.40' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse/white large spinnerbaits and Texas rigged lizards and large worms.

**COLETO CREEK:** Water clear; 76 degrees (84 degrees at discharge); 0.61' low. Crappie are good on minnows in 9-12 feet.

**CONROE:** Water clear; 0.09' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and chartreuse Carolina rigged soft plastics, and on white/green Rat-L-Traps.

**COOPER:** Water lightly stained; 68-73 degrees; 0.11' high. Black bass are good on Spro Frogs, wacky rigged 4' Senkos and Texas rigs. White bass are good on slabs and Humdingers.

**FALCON:** Water stained; 74-77 degrees. Black bass are good on 7' Senkos, chartreuse deep diving crankbaits, Carolina rigged (large) soft plastics and Texas rigged (large) soft plastics. Channel and blue catfish are very good on shrimp and stinkbait upriver.

**FAYETTE:** Water lightly stained; 75 degrees. Black bass are good on shallow running shad colored crankbaits over grass, and on watermelon, Carolina rigged soft plastic worms along the outside edges of grass in 6-8 feet.

**FORK:** Water lightly stained; 68-74 degrees; 0.17' low. Black bass are fair to good on topwaters early, and throughout the day on Carolina rigs, swimbaits and wacky rigs. Crappie are fair to good on jigs and minnows around the bridges and over brush piles.

**GIBBONS CREEK:** Water clear. Black bass are good on watermelon red and plum soft plastics, and on white crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and green/white tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, nightcrawlers, and shrimp.

**GRANBURY:** Water clear; 0.40' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red soft plastics, crankbaits, and spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and green tube jigs.

**GRANGER:** Water murky; 69 degrees; 0.60' high. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and jigs in shallow areas. Yellow catfish are good on troutlines baited with goldfish and live perch in the river.

**GRAPEVINE:** Water off-color; 68-74 degrees; 3.61' high. White bass are good

on slabs and Humdingers.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water clear; 71 degrees; 0.63' high. Black bass are very good on crawdad and green soft plastics in 1 foot. Crappie are good on live minnows near the islands and the pump station. Bream are good on live worms in 7 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live caterpillars.

**HUBBARD CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 65 degrees; 2.78' low. White bass and hybrid striper are good on live baits and crankbaits along humps and points. Catfish are good on live baits.

**JOE POOL:** Water off-color; 68-74 degrees; 1.7' high. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. White bass are good on Humdingers and Rooster Tails.

**LAKE OF THE PINES:** Water stained; 68-73 degrees; 0.31' high. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs over brush piles.

**LAVON:** Water stained; 69-74 degrees; 1.8' high. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs — moving to deeper water. Catfish are good on cut shad and prepared bait.

**LBJ:** Water stained; 69 degrees; 0.32' low. Crappie are good on minnows and white Curb's crappie jigs over brush piles in 8-12 feet. Channel catfish are good on live bait and dipbait. Yellow and blue catfish are good on trotlines.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water off-color; 68-74 degrees; 1.02' high. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Catfish are good on prepared bait and cut shad.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water murky; 70 degrees; 0.13' high. Black bass are good on crankbaits, spinnerbaits, and soft plastics. Blue catfish are good on shad.

**MACKENZIE:** Water lightly stained; 52 degrees; 73.44' low. White bass and striped bass are good on minnows and red lipless crankbaits.

**MEREDITH:** Water lightly stained; 56 degrees; 76.01' low. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live bait and jerkbaits. Walleye are good on crankbaits and live baits along riprap and drop-offs. Channel catfish are good on live baits.

**MONTICELLO:** Water fairly clear; 74-88 degrees; 0.23' low. Black bass are good topwaters early, and throughout the day on Rat-L-Traps, Texas rigs and spinnerbaits.

## SALTWATER SCENE

**NORTH SABINE:** Redfish and are good in the marsh with the high tides. Trout are fair to good on She Dags and red shad plastics on the shorelines and flats.

**SOUTH SABINE:** Trout and redfish are good on the Reef on live shrimp and red shad and pumpkinseed plastics. Flounder are good around the causeway on live shrimp and Gulp.

**BOLIVAR:** Trout and redfish are fair on the Bolivar shoreline on Corkies, topwaters and red shad and glow/chartreuse plastics. Bull redfish are good on the beachfront.

**TRINITY BAY:** Trout are fair to good along the east ridge on live shrimp under a popping cork and red shad plastics. Trout are good while drifting shell in six feet of water.

**EAST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are good on live shrimp under a popping cork on the deep reefs when the wind allows.

**WEST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout and redfish are fair on the south shoreline on topwaters and red shad Bass Assassins and Sand Eels. Bull redfish are fair to good on the jetty on crabs and cut bait. Gafftop, sand trout, redfish and whiting are good on the beachfront on fresh shrimp and mullet.

**TEXAS LIGHTS:** Trout are fair to good at night under the lights from the dike on live shrimp and glow/chartreuse plastics. Sand trout, whiting and redfish are fair to good on fresh dead shrimp.

**FREPORT:** Trout are fair at night under the lights from the piers. Redfish are good at San Luis Pass on shrimp.

**EAST MATAGORDA:** Trout are fair to good on the shorelines and around the back bays on Corkies and She Dags. Redfish are fair to good on live shrimp around Brown Cedar Flats and in Lake Austin.

**MATAGORDA:** Trout and redfish are fair to good on the south shoreline on pepper/chartreuse, and red shad plastics. Best bite has been in the afternoon. Redfish are good on topwaters and live shrimp under a popping cork in Oyster Lake and Crab Lake.

**PORT O'CONNOR:** Trout and redfish are good on live shrimp under a popping cork in the back lakes and around Grass Island. Trout are beginning to show on sand and grass.

**ROCKPORT:** Trout and redfish are fair to good on live shrimp and croakers in the holes around Estes Flats, Mud Island and Traylor Island. Trout and redfish are good on the shoreline of St. Joe Island and Copano Bay on Corkies, topwaters and live shrimp.

**PORT ARANSAS:** Gafftop and black drum are good from the piers at night on fresh dead shrimp. Redfish are fair to good at Shamrock Cove on plum plastics and Gulp.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Sand trout, whiting and black drum are fair to good off the piers and around the rocks on live shrimp. Trout and redfish are fair to good on the East Flats on live shrimp and topwaters.

**BAFFIN BAY:** Trout and black drum are good in the Land Cut on live shrimp under a popping cork, topwaters and Gulp.

**PORT MANSFIELD:** Sheepshead, whiting and sand trout are good at the jetty on shrimp. Trout and redfish are fair to good while drifting the Saucer on live shrimp and topwaters. Dolphin, kingfish and snapper are good offshore.

**SOUTH PADRE:** Trout and redfish are good in South Bay on live shrimp and Gulp. Trout are fair to good on topwaters and plastics under Mansfield Maulers at Holly Beach. Mangrove snapper and black drum are good in the Ship Channel on live shrimp.

**PORT ISABEL:** Redfish are fair to good on live shrimp at Airport Cove. Trout, redfish and black drum are fair to good while drifting sand and grass on live shrimp and plum Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels.



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**RAY ROBERTS:** Water stained to murky; 68-72 degrees; 0.3' high. Crappie are excellent on Road Runners and minnows over brush piles. White bass are excellent on Torpedos and Super Spots.

**RICHLAND CHAMBERS:** Water off-color; 69-74 degrees; 0.57' high. Black bass are fair to good on Frogs, wacky rigs, Texas rigs and medium running shad pattern crankbaits. White bass are good on Humdingers and slabs.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Water lightly stained; 71 degrees; 0.57' low. White bass are good on spoons. Crappie are good on minnows and tube jigs over brush piles. Bream are good on nightcrawlers and crickets. Catfish are good on trotlines baited with nightcrawlers.

**STILLHOUSE:** Water clear; 71 degrees; 0.28' high. White bass are good on watermelon soft plastics and minnows. Crappie are fair on minnows.

**TAWAKONI:** Water lightly stained; 68-74 degrees; 0.34' high. White bass are good on topwaters, live shad and Sassy Shad.

**TEXOMA:** Water off-color; 67-72 degrees; 3.19' high. Striped bass are good on topwaters, Sassy Shad and live shad.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water clear; 71 degrees; 0.02' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse/blue and chartreuse/white soft plastics. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait, cut bait, and shrimp.

**TRAVIS:** Water clear; 70 degrees; 2.98' low. Black bass are good on chrome topwaters, white flukes, and shad crankbaits in 5-18 feet.

**WALTER E. LONG:** Water clear; 71 degrees. Black bass are good on watermelon soft plastic worms and minnows. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait and shrimp.

**WEATHERFORD:** Water stained; 68-74 degrees; 0.05' low. White bass are good on Humdingers and slabs.

**WHITNEY:** Water clear; 0.66' high. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are good on shrimp and cheesebait.

See Hot Spot on Page 9.

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# HEROES



**MARK WENGLER** caught this black drum on a live blue crab at the Indianola Marina pier. The fish measured 48" long.



**MAX WESTHEIMER** shot this 8-point deer in Atascosa County with his dad, **MICHAEL**.



**SAM STONE, 8**, shows one of two bass he caught back-to-back on the Nueces River while fishing with his father, **JASON**.



**TOM BROWN** of Port Isabel shot this bull neigai at a friend's ranch near Bayview.

## SHARE AN ADVENTURE

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



Twins sisters, 15, **MICHAELA GRANCHELLI** (8 point) and **VICTORIA GRANCHELLI** (10 point) had success on the same day. Both bucks were taken at Gunsmoke Ranch in South Texas.

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