

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

January 22, 2010

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 6, Issue 11



**Down but not out**  
How far should hunters chase a wounded deer before giving up. **Page 7**

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■ [LSONews.com](http://LSONews.com)

# Freeze kills isolated on coast



## Early results show biggest impact near Pringle Lake

By Scott Sommerlatte and Thomas Phillips  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Speckled trout dodged a big bullet earlier this month as a winter storm blasted the coast, causing only minor fish kills.

Two days after the peak of the freezing conditions, speckled trout were found dead in Pringle Lake, near Port O'Connor, and a couple of other smaller lakes on Matagorda Island. There, several hundred trout were sighted lying dead on the bottom or floating near the surface. The fish ranged in size from 16 inches up to 31 inches.

"It was sad," said angler Michael Baker. "There were thousands of pelicans and gulls in there (Pringle Lake) slurping up dead trout. But I did get a chance to have my picture taken with two of the biggest trout that I have ever seen."

Several minor fish kills were reported in East Matagorda Bay and in the Matagorda Harbor, where four snook and large numbers of mangrove snapper were said to have been floating.

Besides the potential loss of a great number of trout along the Coastal Bend, many anglers were concerned

See FREEZE, Page 23



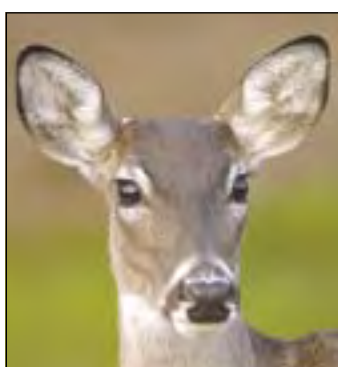
**SCATTERED KILLS:** Left, Michael Baker holds two speckled trout that succumbed to cold conditions on the coast earlier this month. Minor fish kills were reported on the coast after an Arctic cold front dropped water temperatures. Photos by Scott Sommerlatte, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

# When in drought, more bucks are born — maybe

Study, hunters say it's true; biologist wants more data

By Craig Nyhus  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Kent Robinson and his 14-year-old son, Carter, of Spring hunt on their family's 3,000-acre ranch in Concho County. And Carter, who has spent far more days in the stand than his father the past few years, no-



**TOUGH GUYS:** A study says more bucks are born during drought. LSON photo.

noticed something different. "We definitely saw more buck fawns than doe fawns the

last two years," Carter said.

Kent wasn't so sure. "I never really thought about it much," he said.

But it turns out there may be something to the youngster's observations.

"There are several theories," said David Hewitt, the Stuart W. Stedman Chair for White-tailed Deer Research at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute. "Some think that deer in poor condition are better off throwing more buck fawns; they are more likely to disperse."

See FAWNS, Page 17

# Quail Unlimited chief trying to right ship

Organization cutting back to fix finances

By Mark England  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Quail Unlimited's third president in the last year, Bill Bowles, has had a melodramatic couple of months on the job. QU's headquarters is up for sale, half its staff has departed — as well as substantial membership — and the group skirted bankruptcy.

But Bowles, a glass-half-full guy, sees better days ahead.

"For the first time in a while, our

See QUAIL, Page 23

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## CONSERVATION



**PROTECTING THE FUTURE:** Fisheries biologists from throughout Texas will meet in Athens to discuss what the future holds for Texas fish and fishing. Photo by Lone Star Outdoor News.

### Biologists to hear of fish changes

#### Climate, state's demographics to be topics

Texas fisheries biologists will meet Jan. 22-23 in Athens to discuss the future of fisheries management at the annual meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

The state climatologist, John Nielsen-Gammon, will speak about "Texas Climate: Past

Changes and Future Projections." The state demographer, Karl Eschbach, will discuss the changes taking place in the Texas population. And Scott Bonar, leader of the Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, will address the topic "An Evolving Profession: How Fisheries Management Has Changed in the Far West."

Other speakers will address subjects dealing with freshwater and saltwater fisheries, including the state of Texas bays and estuaries, invasive aquatic species, and

management of various fish species. Many of the presentations will feature the work of biologists and researchers from TPW, universities and related business such as the impact of invasive suckermouth catfish on the San Marcos river and solving the mystery of fish kills at Fairfield Lake from 2003 to 2009, while others will report on such topics as the state of the spotted seatrout in Aransas Bay and the impact of Hurricane Ike on oyster reefs in Galveston Bay.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

### Outdoor News in Brief

#### Art contest seeks entries, sponsors

State organizers are trying to attract more sponsors to the national 2010 State-Fish Art Contest expo, which will be held July 17 at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens.

With more sponsorship money, Texas Parks and Wildlife intends to put on a daylong outdoor show with hands-on activities and exhibits for the contest winners, their families and the public.

Outdoor-related businesses and organizations are invited to have a booth to display and sell merchandise or to sponsor a demonstration or hands-on activity such as outdoor cooking, camping, archery, casting, fly-fishing, making fish prints and rock climbing.

Especially wanted are artists who combine an interest in the outdoors with their art, whether it be sculpture, painting, woodcarving, pottery, jewelry-making or more.

"We want to showcase a broad range of outdoor activities and types of art to acquaint students with the variety of artistic endeavors, recreation and career opportunities available to them," said Zoe Ann Stinchcomb, coordinator of the Texas division of the contest. "The ultimate goal of the contest is to foster a life-long interest in conservation and the outdoors through art."

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

#### Crab trap removal begins Feb. 19

Almost 26,000 abandoned crab traps have been hauled from Texas bays since 2002, and the number

will grow Feb. 19-28 during the annual trap cleanup period.

All Texas bays will be closed to crabbing with crab traps during the period, and any traps left in the bay will be presumed abandoned and considered litter under state law.

Anyone make pick up the traps, and Texas Parks and Wildlife will provide drop-off sites at several locations along the coast from 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 20, weather permitting.

"The success of this program is a reflection of the keen sense of stewardship anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts have for the marine resources of this great state," said Art Morris, TPW program coordinator. "Volunteers are working themselves out of a job, as indicated by the waning number of traps removed each year, but that is a good thing."

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

#### CCA hails reporting catch-share plan

Congress recently asked that federal officials provide a report in early 2010 detailing the effect of catch-share program management on recreational fishing, according to a press release from the Coastal Conservation Association.

Language included in the Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations bill requires the agency to report "how data collection for recreational catches will improve in fisheries where the commercial sector receives catch shares; and how allocation conflicts between recreational and commercial sectors will be resolved."

The report is to be provided to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

— CCA report

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# NATIONAL

## Boat makers sold to Calif. Company

A California company is set to take over the companies that manufacture popular fishing boats, including Ranger and Stratos, according to ESPN.com.

Platinum Equity bid \$70 million for several brands built by Genmar Holdings, which filed for bankruptcy in June.

Genmar's former CEO, Irwin Jacobs, tried to hold his company together but only came away from the auction with the companies Larson and Seaswirl. Jacobs will also keep FLW Outdoors, which was not part of the auction.

Although owned by a new company, Ranger Boats will continue to sponsor FLW fishing tournaments, said President Randy Hopper.

"We just signed a new contract with the FLW a couple of weeks ago," Hopper told ESPN.com. "Obviously, it's been a very trying economic environment for everybody in the boating business, but we look forward to another season with the FLW and better times ahead for all of us."

— Staff report

## Eight bighorn sheep killed on highway

Eight bighorn sheep died the morning of Jan. 11 when a pickup truck plowed into them on a Montana highway, according to *The Montana Standard*.

The wreck happened west of Anaconda, and the driver, an Anaconda man, was not injured, law enforcement officials told the newspaper.

Included among the dead sheep were two trophy rams, state wildlife biologist Ray Vinkey said.

The driver received a ticket for ig-

noring large electronic signs that warned about sheep being on the roadway.

— Staff report

## Man turns self in for gun shells on plane

A passenger headed to Dallas realized he had shotgun shells on an airplane before it took off Jan. 11 and alerted the flight crew in Milwaukee, according to *The Associated Press*.

The passenger, whose name was not released, was onboard a Republic Airlines flight when he found the shells in his carry-on bag. He told a flight attendant, and the plane returned to the terminal.

The man turned the ammunition over to the Transportation Security Administration, which rescreened him and allowed him to continue to Dallas.

— Staff report

## Cold makes snakes easy prey in Florida

Recent cold weather in South Florida has made non-native Burmese pythons easy targets for hunters, according to the Florida Wildlife Commission.

State officials were encouraging hunters to harvest the snakes as they were out sunning themselves in an effort to stay warm.

Hunters may take Burmese pythons and all other reptiles of concern within four South Florida wildlife management areas during the small-game seasons.

"During the warm-weather months, Burmese pythons stay hidden out of the sun, but with the temperatures dipping below normal in these areas, they have to find a way to stay warm," said Jenny Tinnell, FWC biologist with the exotic species section.

"They may be out in the open more than before to find the warmth of the sun, and we hope hunters, in the normal course of hunting in these areas, will take advantage of the opportunity to help stop the spread of this non-native species."

— Florida Wildlife Commission report

## Man charged with poaching bears

A Japanese man was recently charged with poaching six black bears and attempting to smuggle their gallbladders, according to *The Seattle Times*.

Tohru Shigemura, 71, also told sellers he was a U.S. citizen when he bought the guns used to kill the bears. The investigation of the psychiatrist began in 2007, when law enforcement officers with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife received information that Shigemura was smuggling bear parts.

WDWF found 11 guns and several gallbladders, which are used in traditional medicine, in Shigemura's Seattle home during a search in June. Before that, federal investigators caught him carrying 18 gallbladders.

— Staff report

## Uninvited deer in La. crashes breakfast

A Louisiana man killed a spike buck inside his house after the deer jumped through a window and rampaged through the home, according to KTBS-TV in Shreveport.

Robert Mewborn of Mount Lebanon and his wife, Shirley, were drinking coffee on the morning of Jan. 12 when the deer entered their home in another room.

Mewborn went to see what was going on and saw the deer run into his

granddaughter's unoccupied bedroom.

He then retrieved a .22-caliber rifle and shot the deer.

"This is my castle," he joked to the TV station.

When the deer was dead, the couple sent it to a deer processor.

— Staff report

## Cold causes snook die-off in Florida

Record low temperatures took their toll on snook and other fish in Florida's coastal waters, leaving thousands of the fish dead, according to the *News-Press* of Fort Myers, Fla.

Snook are warm-water fish, and adults can die when the water temperature dips to about 53 degrees.

The water temperature on the morning of Jan. 12 dropped to 46 degrees at one measuring station on the Florida coast.

Dead and dying snook were reported in several areas.

"I've got 100 of them," Ron Downing, who lives near Blind Pass, told the newspaper. "They're just lying around. They're very, very quiet. I've never seen anything like it. They're gathered under the dock and in sunny areas all over the canal. Some are 2 to 3 feet in length. Most you'd be happy to have in your basket."

Other fish were also affected, including tarpon, hardhead catfish and gag grouper, said Loren Coen, lab director at the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Laboratory.

"There's a reason snook's general distribution doesn't go north of Tampa," said Aaron Adams, head of Mote Marine Laboratory's Charlotte Harbor Field Station. "This kind of cold can put a hurt on the snook population. A lot of people are reporting large fish, and that could affect the spawning stock."

— Staff report

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## HUNTING

# Hutchison speaks about gun rights at DSC dinner

## Senator talks about her bedside .38

By Thomas Phillips  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

U.S. Sen. and Texas gubernatorial candidate Kay Bailey Hutchison talked about her personal experiences with gun control during a speech Jan. 8 at a Dallas Safari Club convention dinner.

Hutchison told the story of how she became aware of the former handgun ban in Washington, D.C., about a year after she became a senator in 1993.

"... when I was state treasurer, my husband, Ray, gave me a .38-caliber handgun because I was going to be in Austin a lot without him, so I had it by my bed, and I knew how to shoot it," Hutchison said. "I've been shooting a long time."



Hutchison

She said she was reading a newspaper story one day about a year after arriving that said possessing handguns in the capital was illegal. She could not believe it and asked Phil Gramm, the other Texas senator at the time, what was up.

"I said, 'Phil, you know I've got a gun. Does Washington really have a handgun ban?'" Hutchison said.

At that, Gramm gasped and said, "Stop talking! You cannot own a handgun in Washington, D.C.," Hutchison said.

From there, Hutchison began a fight that

culminated with the Supreme Court overturning the D.C. handgun ban.

The court ruled against the ban in 2008 in deciding Washington, D.C. vs. Heller, where Dick Heller sued the city over its ban. Hutchison partnered with Sen. Jon Tester, D-Montana, to write a brief in support of Heller. More members of Congress signed the brief than any other until that time.

"And, fortunately, our Supreme Court came out with a great position that was right on

See HUTCHISON, Page 22

# Persistence pays in Brown County

## Big buck comes to corn in plumber's big backyard

By Kyle Carter  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

For 25 years, Hubert Todd, 52, has been running the same deer-season routine when he gets home from his plumbing job in Brownwood about 5 p.m.

He grabs his dog, a coffee can of corn and walks to a spot 300 yards from his house, which sits on 23 unfenced acres. He spreads the corn, walks back to his house, drops off the dog and picks up a gun.

Late in the season, it gives him maybe an hour of daylight to "hunt," which is typically more like observing because Todd hasn't taken a deer on his property in four years. He saves his hunting for his land in Coleman County, where he has been hunting with his older brother Johnny Todd since they were kids.

It was business as usual Dec. 21, a Monday afternoon, as he walked back down toward his seat in the woods, not far from where he dropped the corn 10 minutes earlier. The does that showed up nearly every day had beaten him back to the corn, so he took a seat and watched.

Todd saw movement and antlers in a bush about 50 yards behind the does and figured it was the six-point that shows up periodically. But the buck circled around the bush a few minutes later, and Todd realized he had a situation on his hands.

"I thought, 'That's a shooter right there,' but I didn't get a good look at him," Todd said. "I knew he was a nice buck, but I had no idea he was that nice."

He went back to looking at the does, afraid to raise his gun, spook the does and blow his cover. A few seconds later, the buck attracted the attention of all the does.

"I raised my gun up, never looked at the horns, aimed behind the shoulder, and he dropped right there," Todd said.

The buck was lying in tall weeds, so Todd didn't know what he had shot until he was on top of it.

Todd wrote the facts on a piece of cardboard he held while taking photos with his trophy: 27 points with an inside spread of 19 1/8 inches and a Boone and Crockett score of 210 6/8 — a giant of a buck.

It was the runaway victor of the Big Buck Contest at Weakley Watson Sporting Goods in Brownwood, and store manager Gerry Laing said it was the largest buck entered in the 27 years he'd been working there.

Dan Davis, the Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist for Brown County, said he wasn't surprised to hear of a free-ranging buck being taken in that area with that kind of size. Davis said the conditions have to be perfect, but habitat in that area is conducive to trophy bucks.

"It's not going to happen every year," Davis said, "but the opportunity exists. It has to be a perfect storm of conditions, but it will happen from time to time."

Todd had actually heard of the buck from his friend Tommy Cope, who knew some guys in Brownwood had taken photos of it on their game camera. Todd didn't think twice



BACKYARD BUCK: Patience and corn helped Hubert Todd bag a trophy buck at his Brown County home.

about it, figuring it would never make the long trip to his 23 acres.

As is the case with most trophy bucks, word traveled fast. Cope actually took the first photo with the deer and ended up in a local newspaper identified as Todd. Cope was also the one who sent out the e-mail with the photo and Todd's story without including Todd's name. On three different occasions, the

Todd brothers were informed by people around the country of a trophy buck taken in their area before informing the informants it was Todd's buck.

But Hubert Todd doesn't own a computer and doesn't do e-mail. He had another deer tag and finished out the season, spending week-day evenings outside his home and weekends at his land in Coleman

County. He finished the season with a 10-point mule deer he took in New Mexico and the whitetail of a lifetime he took outside his backyard.

"I'd say that's a pretty good year," Todd said, backtracking a little. "Actually, I really haven't done that much bragging on the buck. I've just let those horns speak for themselves."

# Warden uses live bait to catch deer poachers

## 15-point buck was too much for passing pickup to pass up

By Bill Miller  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Game Warden Jim Daniels has disproved the old joke that "if you want to find a cop, find a donut shop."

Because, despite frigid temperatures after midnight Dec. 5, Daniels was in the tall grass near the Brazos River in central Knox County, watching a 15-point white-tailed deer buck that he saw moments earlier while driving past a bar ditch.

Daniels figured that if he could spot the phenomenal buck from the road, another motorist might do likewise — and try to take a shot.

"I thought, 'Man, that's a nice deer, a huge deer, the biggest deer I've seen in this county,'" said Daniels, a native of the Hill Country. "My bait was standing right there on the side of the

road so I went fishing for awhile."

The warden hid his truck in a stand of trees, grabbed his night-vision monocular and walked toward the deer, which had actually moved closer to him.

"I just stayed there in some grass — some pretty tall bluestem," Daniels said. "I had been sitting there for about an hour."

A vehicle passed without stopping, but next came a pickup truck, Daniels said.

It stopped. Out of one window came the beam of a spotlight and from another was the muzzle of a .270-caliber rifle.

Both were fixed on the buck, and the rifle roared.

The deer, Daniels said, trotted across the road, cleared a fence and collapsed on the other side.

Daniels scrambled back to his pickup, pulled it around with lights flashing and stopped the other rig.

Inside were four people — two young adults and a couple of juveniles.

The warden soon determined the adults downed the deer and committed a couple of violations, such as hunting game outside of legal shooting hours and hunting with artificial light.

Daniels, however, chose not to throw the book at the men and decided only to file charges of hunting from a vehicle on a public roadway, a Class A misdemeanor. The warden on

"I thought, 'Man, that's a nice deer, a huge deer, the biggest deer I've seen in this county.'"

— Jim Daniels, Knox County game warden

Jan. 18 declined to release their names and ages because they had not yet been formally charged with the crime. The two juveniles were released with no charges.

"I don't think they are malicious people," Daniels said of the two men. "I think they made a real bad mistake."

"And they weren't trying to run or start a fight. They were very respectful."

Daniels noted, however, that if the two men are convicted they'll probably get much more

than a slap on the wrist.

Along with fines, they will have the added cost of civil restitution, which reimburses the state for the loss of a resource — in this case, a 15-point buck.

Civil restitution on a buck deer starts at about \$800, Daniels said.

But, he noted, because this one scored 170 2/8 Boone and Crockett the civil restitution is going to be between \$8,000 and \$9,000.

That's according to a formula suggested by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission and adopted by the Legislature.

Daniels, who has been a warden for about two years, said this case is memorable, to say the least.

"I would say the neatest thing is the fact that I wasn't 75 yards from them when they did it," Daniels said. "Just being able to be hidden, using the cover of darkness, and lucky enough to have a deer that size in the area — and to have someone come by and shoot it — in my mind, makes it a good case."

# After the shot, the hunt begins anew

## Wounded deer can wander hours — or days

By Ralph Winingham  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

The little eight-point buck emerged into an open field from out of nowhere, catching Tom Fiori by surprise as he hunted from his blind late one afternoon.

Through his binoculars, Fiori, of Houston, watched the buck stop and fall down, rise up and take a step, then fall to the ground in what was obviously the deer's final moment of life.

"I guess I got a deer without firing a shot," he told ranch manager Tony Floerke, who was collecting hunters from their blinds at the end of the day.

What Fiori did not know, and what Floerke was able to determine, was that another hunter in another blind more than 500 yards away had shot the little buck.

"The buck was hit in the liver," Floerke said. "The hunter who shot him got out of his blind too soon and jumped the buck twice but never got another shot at him. He tracked the buck for about 200 yards but lost the trail.

"It was just a stroke of luck that the buck fell dead in front of another hunter," Floerke said.

While luck does play a part in finding some wounded deer each season, tracking skill and a never-say-die attitude are normally the keys to locating and harvesting any animal.

"Hunting ethics are in the eye of the beholder," said Mitch Lockwood, program coordinator of

white-tailed deer for Texas Parks Wildlife's Big Game Division.

"I might think that walking a trail all night and then into the next morning is OK, where someone else may give up after a couple of hours.

"Nobody likes the feeling in their gut when they know an animal has been hit and has not been recovered."

The state does not keep statistics on the number of wounded deer that have been shot by hunters and then not found, but Lockwood said that in most cases where there is some sign such as a blood trail, an ethical hunter will stay on the track until the animal is recovered.

"You might be looking for a needle in a haystack if there is no sign, but most hunters will keep at it for a couple of hours — unless there is no indication the animal was hit," Lockwood said.

He pointed out that if a wounded animal crosses into a neighbor's property, the hunter must obtain permission from the landowner in order to continue the search.

"You can't trespass to recover an animal," Lockwood said. "There can be cases where you don't get permission from a neighbor, but that is pretty rare."

In most parts of the state, tracking dogs can be used to find wounded animals, although hunters should check with their local game warden before calling in the dogs.

But even the use of tracking dogs does not always result in finding a wounded animal.

Derrel Luce, who owns about 200 acres in Coryell County, where he has been watching deer for more than 20 years, said he re-

cently observed an 11-point buck that had been hit high in the shoulder and apparently eluded tracking dogs.

"The deer looked skinny but was eating and hanging around the feeder," Luce said. "The hunter told me that he had shot the deer, waited 30 minutes and then saw the deer run off. He tracked him with a dog for a long time but never found him."

Ethical and legal questions come up for hunters who encounter a wounded deer. Legally, a wounded deer is a deer all the same, and the hunter who sees it must tag it if he or she puts it down, said Game Warden Capt. Neal Bieler of Fort Worth.

"By law, if the hunter shoots the animal, it becomes part of his harvest and must be tagged," Bieler said. "If a hunter sees a wounded animal and does not want to shoot it, they can contact a game warden, and, when he has time, the warden will go out and take care of the deer."

In some cases, the game warden will give the hunter permission to kill the animal in order to put it out of its misery, and then the warden will handle disposition of the deer, Bieler added.

Floerke, who is a game manager at three ranches in the Hill Country and South Texas, said his experience is that any animal with a fatal wound is likely to be found.

Unless an animal is dropped in its tracks, Floerke recommends giving the deer a little time before approaching it to allow the deer's adrenaline rush — which can keep a fatally wounded animal on the move — to wear off.

"You will find them if you don't push them too hard, too soon," he said.



**DEADLY ESCAPE:** An adrenaline rush after being shot can enable deer to elude hunters. Photo by Lone Star Outdoor News.

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## FISHING

# Cancer claims 2 influential Texas anglers



### Jerry Dean started *Honey Hole*

By Bill Miller  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Jerry Dean, the avid angler, conservationist and do-it-yourself publisher of the popular bass magazine *Honey Hole*, died Jan. 3 of cancer at his home near Fort Worth. He was 63.

During its run of about 20 years, *Honey Hole*, *The Trophy Bass Magazine of Texas*, became the standard for outdoors niche publications, said Bob Hood, Dean's friend and fellow writer.

He said Dean was a self-taught publisher and a promoter of fishing in Texas, not just in the media, but through numerous bass tournaments he sponsored across the state —

**PUBLISHER:** Jerry Dean founded *Honey Hole* magazine and promoted bass fishing in Texas.

See DEAN, Page 20



### Fly-fish in Texas? Thank Chris Phillips

By Scott Sommerlatte  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Capt. Chris Phillips, the man often credited as being one of the first, if not the first, to popularize saltwater fly-fishing in Texas, died Jan. 7 of cancer. He was 62.

Throughout his guiding career, Phillips could be found working three days a week in one of the local fly shops, starting out first at Angler's Edge, then Westbank Anglers and Fishing Tackle Unlimited, where he ran the fly department. It was in this capacity that Phillips left his biggest legacy. He introduced hundreds of anglers to his love of saltwater fly-fishing.

**FLY GUY:** Chris Phillips helped bring fly-fishing to the Texas coast. Photo by Scott Sommerlatte.

See PHILLIPS, Page 18



**GO DEEP:** Cold weather recently has driven crappie from the creeks to the depths of Texas lakes. Photo by Lone Star Outdoor News.

# Crappie out in the cold

## Winter challenges anglers looking for Texas crappie

By Thomas Phillips  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Crappie anglers often change their tactics during winter, but the ferocious cold snap earlier this month might have changed the game altogether, at least temporarily.

"This is the type of super cold snap that will drive those fish out of the

creeks," said Jay Don Reeve of Gun Barrel City. "They'll stay in the creeks all winter, but they're following the shad."

And if the shad catch a chill, they'll head for warmer waters.

"I'm very interested to talk to some guys to see if that happened," said Reeve, who fishes Cedar Creek Reservoir.

Before the cold spell, Reeve was catching crappie in 20 to 25 feet of water using a spider rig or slowly trolling deep water.

"I know there's some guys catching fish in the creeks, but I pretty much try to stay on deeper structure on the main lake," Reeve said.

As a result of the cold, fishing in the

creeks might have dropped off, Reeve said, but deep-water fishing has been unaffected.

On his last trip out, Reeve boated 40 to 45 fish using minnows. Thirty were keepers.

"They're very sluggish," he said. "The bite's real light."

Some anglers hit Cedar Creek immediately after the cold front arrived and found ice covering the creeks, blocking their boating routes. That would change any angler's tactics.

"At least before this super cold weather hit, it seemed like a pretty traditional

See CRAPPIE, Page 20

# Women bid farewell to WBT, look to future

## Some Texans stunned, some say good riddance to top bass trail for woman anglers

By Thomas Phillips  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Texas woman anglers were surprised to learn earlier this month that BASS had ended the Women's Bassmaster Tour. Some were sent reeling from the abrupt end to the top competition trail for women. Some were eying their future, eagerly or cautiously, which suddenly became wide-open.

For some of the women, the writing was on the wall.

Robin Babb, who lives at Lake Livingston, said WBT anglers suspected changes might come at the end of the season, when the trail's contract with title sponsor Academy Sports & Outdoors was up.

But Academy was still supporting WBT when organizers canceled the season, Babb said. The Texas-based company had not backed out.

Anglers and organizers said WBT didn't make it because too few anglers participated.

What happens next is up in the air for the anglers.

"I don't know what I'm going to do right now," said Babb, who fished all of the WBT tournaments.

Some women will fish the Bass Opens, but Babb missed the deadline for putting deposits on entries fees. Instead she will

See WOMEN, Page 18



**MOVING FORWARD:** After a decision to cancel the Women's Bassmaster Tour, Debra Hengst of San Antonio is moving on to other tournament trails. Photo by Pete Robbins.



## Fishing News in Brief

### OU wins FLW College event at Falcon Lake

Oklahoma's Mark Johnson and Chip Porche won the National Guard FLW College Fishing Texas Division event Jan. 9 at Falcon Lake with six bass totalling 34 pounds, 8 ounces.

"This is amazing," Johnson said. "Chip and I just had an incredible day. This is a great lake. We caught all our fish using a Black Angel with a football jig; we only had nine keepers all day, but they were the ones we needed."

"Chip and I have been fishing together for about 2 1/2 years, and this is our first victory together. We have been close a couple of times, but never won. It's awesome!"

Despite the brutal cold conditions Johnson and Porche were able to maintain their composure, settle down and turn in a good sack of fish. They knocked one good fish off with the net, but were able to come back from that mistake and fish a nearly flawless day.

Rounding out the top five teams were Loui-

siana State's Blake Carrier and Logan Mount (six bass, 28-13); Louisiana State-Shreveport's Zach Caudle and Joe Landry (six bass, 23-13); Louisiana-Lafayette's Cody McCrary and Neil Arnaud (six bass, 21-5); and Oklahoma State's Nathan Gonsoulin and Tripp Elliott (five bass, 19-3).

A few anglers from Texas finished in the top 20: Angelo State's Austin Osmanski and Audwin Hall finished sixth, followed by Texas State's Brandon Hicks and Elliott Gundelach in seventh. Texas State's Howland Reich and Sean Kubiak finished ninth, and Angelo State's Wes Smith and Jacob Zachary came in 11th.

Stephen F. Austin had 12th-place finishers in Robert Platt and Ryan Watkins.

Texas A&M's Paul Manley and Andrew Shafer finished 13th and George Umphres and David Doonan finished 18th. Texas A&M-Kingsville also had two teams finish toward the top: Cody Burrell and Jerod Hawkes (14th), and Craig Waligura and Will Watson (17th). Tarleton State's Lance Robinson and Brandon Foard finished 19th.

— FLW College report

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# GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

## BUMPED GUN ON ATV DISCHARGES

A 34-year-old Dripping Springs man was traveling in an ATV in Schleicher County and stopped. Upon standing up, he hit a .22-caliber rifle, knocking it from a horizontal gun rest. The rifle discharged and struck him. Game Warden Marco Alvizo investigated the incident, and the victim was expected to recover.

## EVERY HUNTER NEEDS A LICENSE

Terrell County Game Warden Saul Aguilar stopped at a service station in Dryden while working and noticed a family traveling in an RV from Florida. He spoke with them and learned they had been hunting. One of the children had harvested two Rio Grande turkeys, and the oldest child was eager to share his experience about harvesting an 11-point buck. After speaking with the father, the full story was revealed. The unlicensed Florida resident planned on sharing one son's youth hunting license for their tags.

## CAUGHT BEFORE THE ACT

Three people exited a vehicle with rifles and a shotgun in hand as El Paso Game Warden Dustin Barrett watched. The individuals began to walk and spread out as if they were hunting. Barrett confronted them, and they admitted they were going coyote and rabbit "shootin'," but none of the hunters possessed a license or hunter education. After a short education session, the people were released.

## RIVER BOTTOM RIDERS CALLED OUT

A caller reported people riding ATVs on the Middle Bosque River in McLennan County. Game Warden Kurt Slaughter could hear the ATVs in the background approaching the caller. One person drove up to the caller and asked the caller to hand

## Sharp rancher spots beginning of blood trail

A La Salle County rancher called Game Warden Ryan Johnson when he found a blood spot under one of his feeders where no one was supposed to be hunting. Johnson followed the blood trail from the

feeder for about a quarter of a mile down to the Frio River. On the other side of the river was a dead white-tailed doe with only the backstraps removed. Footprints leaving the dead deer led Johnson to a near-

by home. He spoke with the homeowner, and her son confessed to crossing the property line, killing the doe and leaving it to waste. A written confession was obtained, and charges are pending.

ers were involved, and the investigation is continuing. Cases pending.

## WITNESS SEES LION'S LAST MOMENTS

La Salle County Game Warden Ryan Johnson heard through the grapevine of a man bragging about killing a mountain lion on his ranch near Cotulla. A rancher refuted the man's story and told Ryan the man did not kill the lion where he said he did. A witness had seen a mountain lion run across the highway and lay down in tall grass against the high fence. This witness also saw the shooter's truck in the area. Johnson located the kill site along the highway, and as he was taking samples, the shooter drove by. Johnson pulled the person over a short distance away. After several tall tales were proven false, a voluntary statement on shooting the mountain lion off the public roadway was given. A .30-30 rifle and the mountain lion were confiscated.

## ARROWHEAD HUNTERS HAD BEEN WARNED

A landowner's agent called Travis County Game Warden Christy Vales to report a pickup suspiciously parked on a vacant cul-de-sac in a newly developed subdivision. Fellow Travis County Game Warden Theron Oatman joined Vales, and they waited two hours for the occupants to return to their pickup. Both men had backpacks on, and one was in full camouflage. They said they were hiking and digging for arrowheads in the woods across the creek. They admitted not having permission to access the property. When the landowner's agent arrived, he called one of the men by name. The agent had warned him once before for trespassing. The arrowheads were seized, and photos were taken of their digging gear and digging sites. Citations were issued for criminal mischief, and the men were jailed for criminal trespassing.

him the phone. Slaughter then ordered the ATV rider not to leave the area because he wanted to talk to them. Slaughter wrote three citations to three people for operating a vehicle in a protected freshwater area.

## DEER BLIND SHOULD HAVE BEEN LOCKED

Members at a hunting lease in Jasper County called Game Warden Justin Eddins when they caught a man climbing out of one of their deer stands with a loaded rifle. When Eddins arrived, he arrested the man for hunting without landowner consent. The suspect gave a written confession and cases are pending.

## IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE; NEITHER IS LYING

Working on a tip, Leon County Game Wardens Oscar Henson and Logan Griffin found a local man in possession of a small eight-point white-tailed deer in violation of the 13-inch minimum antler restriction. After a short interview, the man admitted to killing the deer. He kept repeating to the wardens that he thought it was bigger and that he would not have shot the deer if he had known it was too small. After looking at the man's harvest log, they discovered that he had already killed one deer that was 13 inches in Leon County in November.

## BALD EAGLE APPARENTLY POACHED

A few days before Christmas, Potter County Game Warden Steve Urben

responded to a call involving a dead bald eagle in northern Potter County. The eagle was found in the middle of a pasture. Urben took the bird to a local vet for X-rays, which confirmed his suspicion that the bird had been shot. Urben is continuing his investigation, and has asked the public for help nabbing the poacher.

## BOYS FOUND DURING SEARCH THROUGH SNOW, COLD

Menard County Game Warden Clint Graham, Menard County Sheriff's Department officers and the volunteer fire department were dispatched to a ranch just west of Menard because a 13-year-old boy and an 8-year-old boy were missing. The two boys were sitting in a stand and became bored, so they decided to walk around the ranch. Menard County had just received more than an inch of snow, and the temperature was about 32 degrees. Graham called Kimble County Game Warden Lee Morrison and Concho County Game Warden Lee Dycus to assist in the search. The two boys were found more than three hours later by a Concho County sheriff's deputy walking down a highway. The two boys were very cold and scared when they were found.

## WARNING WORKED: HUNTER ONCE STOPPED REPORTS NEIGHBOR

A hunter called Gillespie County Game Warden Scott Krueger from his deer blind when he saw a trespasser dressed in camouflage carrying a rifle. The caller spooked the trespasser,

who hastily left the area. Krueger was a short distance away and arrived at the only residence in the area within a few minutes. Behind the residence was a pop-up blind about 40 yards from the caller's fence line. Krueger looked inside the blind and found a person who fit the description of the trespasser. The person was taken to the hunter, who positively identified him. The person was charged with hunting without landowner consent and not having hunter education. A month before, Krueger had issued the caller a warning and given him his business card, which enabled him to contact Krueger directly.

## POACHER DIDN'T GET FAR BEFORE BEING CAUGHT

A Houston County landowner called Game Warden Eddie Lehr about a deer that had been killed on his property. Lehr drove to the location and found the landowner's neighbor cleaning a doe. After a short investigation, Lehr gathered evidence from the complainant's property. Shortly after, the neighbor confessed to killing the deer on the complainant's property. Cases are pending for criminal trespass and taking a doe without a valid permit.

## DOGS, HOGS AND AN INVESTIGATION BEGINS

San Augustine County Game Wardens Johnny Jones and Jeff Cox arrested a man for hunting deer with dogs and hunting from a public road in San Augustine County. Several oth-

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 This 17-foot-7-inch long fishing boat from Tracker Boats has been tricked out for anglers going after crappie, perch, red ear or bluegill. Featuring a lower bow deck and choice of two aft fishing positions, the boat has dual livewells and baitwells, tackle storage trays, small-item trays and drink holders are all within reach. It comes standard with a Mercury outboard engine (with a recommended 60 horsepower maximum), a trolling motor and a Lowrance fishfinder. It sells for \$12,995 plus prep and freight.  
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# HEROES



**PATRICK HOWELL** of Mansfield shot this eight-point buck on the Snyder Ranch in Callahan County. The rack's inside spread was 18 inches.



**JOHN BOYD** of Humble caught this 20-pound flathead catfish from the shoreline near the Canyon Lake Marina using a rod and reel baited with chicken livers.



**JACOB MORTON**, 10, of Mansfield holds his first Canada goose taken while hunting with his grandfather Steve Barber near Knox City.



**J.T. "TREY" HOWARD III**, 8, harvested his first deer at family land in Waller County while sitting with his father. Trey took a 100-yard shot with a .223 rifle in a freshly planted rye grass field.



**TYLER JAMES** shot a four-by-three black-tailed deer on opening day in the rugged country of northern California.

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 Want to share hunting and fishing photos with other **Lone Star Outdoor News** readers? Send them to us with contact and caption information.  
[editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com](mailto:editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com)  
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## This Month's Youth

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**JARED HASBROOKE** of Boerne shot his first deer this fall after moving to Texas the year before from Syracuse, N.Y. Jared and his father, Ron, hunted more than 20 days throughout the season, waiting on a mature buck. His deer has split G2s on both sides of his rack and scores in the 130s. See more about Jared's hunt at [LSONews.com](http://LSONews.com).

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**Fawns**

Continued from Page 1

The sex-ratio question has been studied, albeit a long time ago and in Michigan.

“The old study in Michigan was the most thorough,” Hewitt said. “It had the highest sampling of animals. It’s the best work that has been done on this. In small sample sizes, there is too much variation year to year.”

The study, conducted by Louis T. Verme at the University of Michigan, began in the 1950s and was published in 1969 in *The Journal of Wildlife Management*. It examined the breeding seasons and productivity of penned does with varying nutrition levels, and it studied prime-age does that bore 293 young in breeding experiments beginning in 1954.

The study found a significant difference between the ratio of the sexes born to mothers on a low diet compared with those on a high diet.

“Males comprised 70 percent of the births from physically mature mothers on low diet when bred, whereas males constituted 46.7 percent of the offspring conceived by does on high diet,” Verme wrote.

Verme concluded that the carrying capacity of the land had something to do with the findings.

“The outcome of these studies led me to believe that variations in fawn sex ratios probably constitute a natural phenomenon which contributes to the self-regulation of a population,” he wrote. “As deer are polygamous, limited fawn production coupled with a disproportionate number of male births would markedly depress the herd’s annual increment when the range carrying capacity is seriously deteriorating. But if the habitat is capable of supporting a greater deer density, high productivity and more female births would result in a rapidly expanding population.”

Verme admitted his conclusion was an educated hypothesis.

And Hewitt said more than one theory exists.

“The data seem to suggest a biased sex ratio, but it’s not a consistent tendency,” he said. “It really hasn’t been conclusively shown.”

Others believe does in poor condition are more likely to produce doe fawns — those are likely to be bred and likely to produce offspring to repopulate.

“But there is nothing conclusive on this,” Hewitt said.

Kirk Webb of Chappell Hill hunts near Del Rio, and he doesn’t believe there was a significant change with the two-year drought that he is glad appears to have ended.

“But it’s hard to tell,” he said. “We have so many draws and canyons you just don’t see them all.”

Dave Roberts of San Antonio hunts on 2,000 acres near Sonora.

“I haven’t really noticed a difference with the fawns this year,” he said. “But we’re seeing a lot more young bucks than does, that’s for sure.”

Noted deer hunter Larry Weishuhn believes there is something to the theory of more buck fawns during a drought.

“We looked at it when I was at A&M,” he said. “And I have noticed it since — it’s worth looking into in deer management.”

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# DATEBOOK

**Jan. 22-24**  
**Coastal Bend Marine Dealers**  
 Boat Show & Sale  
 Corpus Christi, American Bank  
 Convention Center

**Jan. 23-24**  
**Mud Hole Rod Building Class**  
 Marriott Houston Airport  
 (866) 790-7637

**Jan. 23**  
**Eagle Lake Ducks Unlimited**  
 Fundraiser  
 Eagle Lake Community  
 Center  
 (281) 414-4597



**Feb. 4-6**  
**Wild Sheep Foundation**  
 Sheep Show  
 Reno-Sparks Convention  
 Center, Reno, Nev.  
 (307) 527-6261



**Feb. 4**  
**Tomball Ducks Unlimited**  
 Fundraiser  
 VFW Hall  
 (713) 907-9639  
 dgholden@att.net

**Feb. 5**  
**Nacogdoches Chapter National**  
**Wild Turkey Federation**  
 Fundraiser  
 VFW Hall, Nacogdoches  
 (936) 554-8421



**Feb. 6**  
**Puddle for the Ducks Bicycle Ride**  
 Sun & Ski Sports at Katy Mills Mall, Katy  
 (713) 669-9810

**Shelby County Chapter NWTF**  
 Fundraiser  
 Center Country Club, Center  
 (936) 488-1616

**Feb. 11-13**  
**Big Country Celebrity Quail Hunt**  
 Fundraiser for Disability Resources  
 (325) 677-6815

**Feb. 11**  
**Dallas Woods and Waters Club**  
 Monthly meeting, with Bob  
 Speegle speaking about  
 North American game.  
 Sheraton North Dallas Hotel  
 (214) 570-8700  
 www.dwwcc.org



**Feb. 12**  
**Cross Timbers Chapter**  
**National Wild Turkey Federation**  
 Fundraiser  
 Decatur Civic Center, Decatur  
 (940) 627-4200  
 jbarrow1994@gmail.com

**Feb. 23**  
**Dallas Coastal Conservation Association**  
 Monthly meeting  
 Collector's Covey, Dallas  
 Dick Davis with the Texas Parks and Wildlife  
 Foundation will be the speaker.  
 (214) 668-5683

**Feb. 25**  
**Corpus Christi Chapter**  
**National Wild Turkey Federation**  
 Fundraiser  
 Ortiz Center, Corpus Christi  
 (361) 548-4640  
 kalbrecht@grandecom.net

**Feb. 26**  
**YMCA**  
 Sporting clays fundraiser  
 Dallas Gun Club  
 972-393-5121, ext. 207

**Franklin County Beard Busters**  
**National Wild Turkey Federation**  
 Fundraiser  
 Purley Gates Retreat, Mount Vernon  
 (903) 588-4355  
 jhammond@neto.com

**March 6**  
**Arlington Ducks Unlimited**  
 Casino Night fundraiser  
 Celebrations  
 (817) 368-1070 or (817) 832-8078

## Phillips

Continued from Page 8

"Chris's angling skills were exceeded only by his sincere generosity," said friend and fellow angler Cory Hawryluk. "Simply put, he was a great man and those of us who called him friend forever will be richer for knowing him."

Phillips fell in love with saltwater fly-fishing in the early 1970s when he started going to the Florida Keys to chase tarpon. It was there that he learned his skills alongside such fly-fishing and light-tackle pioneers as Flip Pallot, Jimmy Albright and tarpon guru Billy Pate.

"All I did was learn from the best and brought it home," Phillips once said of his exploits.

As the first president to the Texas Fly Fishers, a chapter of the Federation of Fly Fishers in Houston, Phillips shared what he learned and told countless stories that fueled the passions of many saltwater fly-fishermen. And he

often credited his affiliation with the group in his decision to become a fly-fishing guide, a career change that prevented him from taking his annual trips to the Florida Keys yet benefited countless Texas anglers as he became available to share his love and knowledge of the sport.

Phillips was born Aug. 17, 1947, in Port Arthur to Charles and Helen Phillips. He was a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School and attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He then lived in the Houston-Galveston area, working as a homebuilder first and then as a fly-fishing guide.

Phillips is survived by his loving girlfriend and caregiver, Iva Doyle of Hitchcock; his brothers, Thomas and wife, Patricia, of Orange, Timothy and wife, Kathleen, of Groves; and other family members.

Funeral services are planned for Jan. 23 at Fishing Tackle Unlimited on the Gulf Freeway.

## Women

Continued from Page 8

fish the Big Bass Splash tournaments held at lakes Sam Rayburn, Fork and Toledo Bend.

An all-women tournament has been scheduled for early May in Paducah, Ky., which might be the catalyst for starting a new women's trail.

Babb will participate, and Cheryl Bowden of Plano is helping organize it. The event has sponsorship help from Sportsman's Edge and Moors Resort and Marina, Bowden said.

"I really feel like we will have a trail out of this," Bowden said.

Meantime, Bowden will fish Media Bass couples tournaments and Ignition team and individual tournaments. How many depends on time and finances.

"I'm definitely going to fish competitively," said Bowden, who also has a full-time job as an education consultant and guides fishing trips.

Many bass tournaments are open to women, but having an all-women tournament or trail gives the women a place of their own for camaraderie and learning.

"Most ladies don't mind fishing in the back of the boat with men," Bowden said. "But some don't have the confidence. This is a way for them to get the confidence."

Debra Hengst of San Antonio has given up

on women's tournaments, she said.

"I'm moving forward," Hengst said. "I've seen it many times now, and it continues to fall on its face.

"I'm a professional, and I'm moving on and finding a new home."

For Hengst, the WBT falls by the wayside the same as two predecessors: Bass'N'Gal and the Women's Bass Fishing Association.

Hengst will fish the Bass Central Opens and Bass Champs circuits. They should be more lucrative than WBT, she said.

Hengst's future might have been set regardless of what happened to WBT.

"It's disappointing, but in 2009, I just could see the numbers were not there," she said. "The enthusiasm for me was gone. I was going through the motions fishing in 2009."

One of the sport's top anglers is all but calling it quits.

"I was going to retire this year anyhow," said Juanita Robinson of Highlands. "So a few months wasn't any big deal."

The strain of bouncing around the country from tournament to tournament is too much, said Robinson, 60, who spent 165 days on the road in 2008 and about 150 in 2009.

"I'm ready to retire from the traveling aspect of it," she said. "I hope they do get something going for the women, because there are a lot of young girls, women out there who need something."

# Stories from the blotter

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# Sun | Moon | Tides

## Texas Coast Tides

### Sabine Pass, jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jan 23	2:19 a.m.	-0.5 L	5:04 p.m.	1.4 H		
Jan 24	3:10 a.m.	-0.9 L	4:06 p.m.	1.6 H		
Jan 25	4:04 a.m.	-1.3 L	1:42 p.m.	1.8 H		
Jan 26	4:58 a.m.	-1.4 L	2:18 p.m.	2.0 H		
Jan 27	5:53 a.m.	-1.8 L	2:52 p.m.	2.0 H	6:18 p.m.	1.8 L
Jan 28	6:46 a.m.	-1.8 L	3:23 p.m.	2.0 H	6:50 p.m.	1.6 L
Jan 29	7:38 a.m.	-1.8 L	3:50 p.m.	1.8 H	7:36 p.m.	1.4 L
Jan 30	12:38 a.m.	2.0 H	8:29 a.m.	-1.6 L	4:15 p.m.	1.6 H
Jan 31	1:56 a.m.	1.8 H	9:18 a.m.	-1.3 L	4:39 p.m.	1.4 H
Feb 1	3:18 a.m.	1.6 H	10:08 a.m.	-0.7 L	5:01 p.m.	1.4 H
Feb 2	4:48 a.m.	1.4 H	10:58 a.m.	0.0 L	5:22 p.m.	1.4 H
Feb 3	6:28 a.m.	1.4 H	11:52 a.m.	0.5 L	5:42 p.m.	1.4 H
Feb 4	12:41 a.m.	-0.5 L	08:21 a.m.	1.4 H	1:03 p.m.	1.1 L
Feb 5	1:49 a.m.	-0.9 L	10:31 a.m.	1.6 H	3:48 p.m.	1.3 L
Feb 6	2:56 a.m.	-1.1 L	12:30 p.m.	1.8 H		

### Galveston Bay entrance, south jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jan 22	1:55 a.m.	-0.1 L	10:19 a.m.	0.7 H	12:20 p.m.	0.6 L
Jan 23	2:45 a.m.	-0.4 L	5:51 p.m.	1.1 H		
Jan 24	3:36 a.m.	-0.7 L	4:53 p.m.	1.3 H		
Jan 25	4:30 a.m.	-1.0 L	2:29 p.m.	1.4 H		
Jan 26	5:24 a.m.	-1.1 L	3:05 p.m.	1.6 H		
Jan 27	6:19 a.m.	-1.4 L	3:39 p.m.	1.6 H	6:44 p.m.	1.4 L
Jan 28	7:12 a.m.	-1.4 L	4:10 p.m.	1.6 H	7:16 p.m.	1.3 L
Jan 29	12:05 a.m.	1.6 H	8:04 a.m.	-1.4 L	4:37 p.m.	1.4 H
Jan 30	1:25 a.m.	1.6 H	8:55 a.m.	-1.3 L	5:02 p.m.	1.3 H
Jan 31	2:43 a.m.	1.4 H	9:44 a.m.	-1.0 L	5:26 p.m.	1.1 H
Feb 1	4:05 a.m.	1.3 H	10:34 a.m.	-0.6 L	5:48 p.m.	1.1 H
Feb 2	5:35 a.m.	1.1 H	11:24 a.m.	0.0 L	6:09 p.m.	1.1 H
Feb 3	12:01 a.m.	-0.1 L	7:15 a.m.	1.1 H	12:18 p.m.	0.4 L
Feb 4	1:07 a.m.	-0.4 L	09:08 a.m.	1.1 H	1:29 p.m.	0.9 L
Feb 5	2:15 a.m.	-0.7 L	11:18 a.m.	1.3 H	4:14 p.m.	1.0 L

### San Luis Pass

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jan 22	2:51 a.m.	-0.1 L	10:49 a.m.	0.4 H	1:16 p.m.	0.3 L
Jan 23	3:41 a.m.	-0.3 L	6:21 p.m.	0.7 H		
Jan 24	4:32 a.m.	-0.4 L	5:23 p.m.	0.8 H		
Jan 25	5:26 a.m.	-0.6 L	2:59 p.m.	0.9 H		
Jan 26	6:20 a.m.	-0.7 L	3:35 p.m.	0.9 H		
Jan 27	7:15 a.m.	-0.9 L	4:09 p.m.	0.9 H	7:40 p.m.	0.9 L
Jan 28	8:08 a.m.	-0.9 L	4:40 p.m.	0.9 H	8:12 p.m.	0.8 L
Jan 29	12:35 a.m.	0.9 H	9:00 a.m.	-0.9 L	5:07 p.m.	0.9 H
Jan 30	1:55 a.m.	0.9 H	9:51 a.m.	-0.8 L	5:32 p.m.	0.8 H
Jan 31	3:13 a.m.	0.9 H	10:40 a.m.	-0.6 L	5:56 p.m.	0.7 H
Feb 1	4:35 a.m.	0.8 H	11:30 a.m.	-0.3 L	6:18 p.m.	0.7 H
Feb 2	6:05 a.m.	0.7 H	12:20 p.m.	0.0 L	6:39 p.m.	0.7 H
Feb 3	12:57 a.m.	-0.1 L	7:45 a.m.	0.7 H	1:14 p.m.	0.3 L
Feb 4	2:03 a.m.	-0.3 L	09:38 a.m.	0.7 H	2:25 p.m.	0.5 L
Feb 5	3:11 a.m.	-0.4 L	11:48 a.m.	0.8 H	5:10 p.m.	0.6 L

### Freeport Harbor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jan 22	1:52 a.m.	-0.1 L	09:41 a.m.	0.6 H	12:17 p.m.	0.4 L
Jan 23	2:42 a.m.	-0.3 L	5:13 p.m.	1.0 H		
Jan 24	3:33 a.m.	-0.5 L	4:15 p.m.	1.1 H		
Jan 25	4:27 a.m.	-0.6 L	1:51 p.m.	1.2 H		
Jan 26	5:21 a.m.	-0.7 L	2:27 p.m.	1.4 H		
Jan 27	6:16 a.m.	-0.9 L	3:01 p.m.	1.4 H	6:41 p.m.	0.9 L
Jan 28	7:09 a.m.	-0.9 L	3:32 p.m.	1.4 H	7:13 p.m.	0.8 L
Jan 29	08:01 a.m.	-0.9 L	3:59 p.m.	1.2 H	7:59 p.m.	0.7 L
Jan 30	12:47 a.m.	1.4 H	8:52 a.m.	-0.8 L	4:24 p.m.	1.1 H
Jan 31	2:05 a.m.	1.2 H	9:41 a.m.	-0.6 L	4:48 p.m.	1.0 H
Feb 1	3:27 a.m.	1.1 H	10:31 a.m.	-0.4 L	5:10 p.m.	1.0 H
Feb 2	4:57 a.m.	1.0 H	11:21 a.m.	0.0 L	5:31 p.m.	1.0 H
Feb 3	6:37 a.m.	1.0 H	12:15 p.m.	0.3 L	5:51 p.m.	1.0 H
Feb 4	1:04 a.m.	-0.3 L	08:30 a.m.	1.0 H	1:26 p.m.	0.5 L
Feb 5	2:12 a.m.	-0.5 L	10:40 a.m.	1.1 H	4:11 p.m.	0.6 L

## Moon Phases



### Port O'Connor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jan 22	4:21 a.m.	-0.2 L	6:41 p.m.	0.3 H		
Jan 23	5:26 a.m.	-0.3 L	6:50 p.m.	0.4 H		
Jan 24	6:34 a.m.	-0.5 L	7:21 p.m.	0.5 H		
Jan 25	7:39 a.m.	-0.6 L	08:05 p.m.	0.6 H		
Jan 26	08:42 a.m.	-0.7 L	08:57 p.m.	0.7 H		
Jan 27	09:39 a.m.	-0.8 L	09:58 p.m.	0.7 H		
Jan 28	10:32 a.m.	-0.8 L	11:10 p.m.	0.6 H		
Jan 29	11:21 a.m.	-0.8 L				
Jan 30	12:46 a.m.	0.6 H	12:05 p.m.	-0.7 L		
Jan 31	2:49 a.m.	0.4 H	12:44 p.m.	-0.5 L		
Feb 1	4:50 a.m.	0.3 H	1:16 p.m.	-0.4 L	08:30 p.m.	0.1 H
Feb 2	12:54 a.m.	0.0 L	6:48 a.m.	0.2 H	1:35 p.m.	-0.1 L
Feb 3	2:15 a.m.	-0.2 L	09:09 a.m.	0.1 H	1:25 p.m.	0.0 L
Feb 4	3:26 a.m.	-0.3 L	7:08 p.m.	0.3 H	7:17 p.m.	0.2 H
Feb 5	4:36 a.m.	-0.4 L	7:11 p.m.	0.4 H		

### Rockport

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jan 22	6:01 a.m.	-0.36 L	9:14 p.m.	-0.17 H		
Jan 23	6:45 a.m.	-0.40 L	9:21 p.m.	-0.14 H		
Jan 24	7:34 a.m.	-0.44 L	9:50 p.m.	-0.11 H		
Jan 25	8:30 a.m.	-0.48 L	10:37 p.m.	-0.09 H		
Jan 26	9:30 a.m.	-0.50 L	11:32 p.m.	-0.06 H		
Jan 27	10:32 a.m.	-0.52 L				
Jan 28	12:30 a.m.	-0.05 H	11:30 a.m.	-0.53 L		
Jan 29	1:28 a.m.	-0.05 H	12:23 p.m.	-0.52 L		
Jan 30	2:26 a.m.	-0.07 H	1:08 p.m.	-0.48 L		
Jan 31	3:27 a.m.	-0.12 H	1:41 p.m.	-0.43 L		
Feb 1	4:43 a.m.	-0.18 H	1:57 p.m.	-0.37 L	9:56 p.m.	-0.27 H
Feb 2	12:34 a.m.	-0.28 L	6:49 a.m.	-0.24 H	1:38 p.m.	-0.31 L
Feb 3	3:26 a.m.	-0.33 L	7:35 p.m.	-0.19 H		
Feb 4	4:45 a.m.	-0.39 L	7:48 p.m.	-0.15 H		
Feb 5	5:46 a.m.	-0.43 L	8:24 p.m.	-0.11 H		

### Port Aransas, H. Caldwell Pier

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jan 22	1:34 a.m.	-0.1 L	10:12 a.m.	0.6 H	11:59 a.m.	0.3 L
Jan 23	2:24 a.m.	-0.2 L	5:44 p.m.	0.9 H		
Jan 24	3:15 a.m.	-0.4 L	4:46 p.m.	1.0 H		
Jan 25	4:09 a.m.	-0.5 L	2:22 p.m.	1.1 H		
Jan 26	5:03 a.m.	-0.6 L	2:58 p.m.	1.3 H		
Jan 27	5:58 a.m.	-0.8 L	3:32 p.m.	1.3 H	6:23 p.m.	0.8 L
Jan 28	6:51 a.m.	-0.8 L	4:03 p.m.	1.3 H	6:55 p.m.	0.7 L
Jan 29	7:43 a.m.	-0.8 L	4:30 p.m.	1.1 H	7:41 p.m.	0.6 L
Jan 30	1:18 a.m.	1.3 H	8:34 a.m.	-0.7 L	4:55 p.m.	1.0 H
Jan 31	2:36 a.m.	1.1 H	9:23 a.m.	-0.5 L	5:19 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 1	3:58 a.m.	1.0 H	10:13 a.m.	-0.3 L	5:41 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 2	5:28 a.m.	0.9 H	11:03 a.m.	0.0 L	6:02 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 3	7:08 a.m.	0.9 H	11:57 a.m.	0.2 L	6:22 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 4	12:46 a.m.	-0.2 L	09:01 a.m.	0.9 H	1:08 p.m.	0.5 L
Feb 5	1:54 a.m.	-0.4 L	11:11 a.m.	1.0 H	3:53 p.m.	0.5 L

### South Padre Island

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Jan 22	1:31 a.m.	0.1 L	5:18 p.m.	0.9 H		
Jan 23	2:17 a.m.	-0.2 L	3:56 p.m.	1.0 H		
Jan 24	3:09 a.m.	-0.4 L	2:09 p.m.	1.2 H		
Jan 25	4:05 a.m.	-0.7 L	2:48 p.m.	1.4 H		
Jan 26	5:03 a.m.	-0.9 L	3:31 p.m.	1.5 H		
Jan 27	6:00 a.m.	-1.0 L	4:13 p.m.	1.6 H		
Jan 28	6:56 a.m.	-1.1 L	4:48 p.m.	1.6 H		
Jan 29	7:50 a.m.	-1.0 L	5:11 p.m.	1.4 H		
Jan 30	08:42 a.m.	-0.8 L	5:23 p.m.	1.3 H	9:43 p.m.	1.1 L
Jan 31	1:05 a.m.	1.2 H	9:33 a.m.	-0.5 L	5:25 p.m.	1.1 H
Feb 1	2:53 a.m.	1.1 H	10:22 a.m.	-0.2 L	5:21 p.m.	0.9 H
Feb 2	4:40 a.m.	1.0 H	11:11 a.m.	0.2 L	5:13 p.m.	0.8 H
Feb 3	6:36 a.m.	0.9 H	11:59 a.m.	0.5 L	5:01 p.m.	0.8 H
Feb 4	12:35 a.m.	-0.2 L	08:56 a.m.	0.9 H	12:50 p.m.	0.8 L
Feb 5	1:34 a.m.	-0.5 L	11:58 a.m.	1.1 H		

## Solunar | Sun times | Moon times

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

### Houston

2010	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Jan-Feb	Minor Major	Minor Major	Rises Sets	Rises Sets
22 Fri Q	10:21 4:09	10:43 4:32	7:15 5:48	11:02a NoMoon
23 Sat	11:08 4:56	11:33 5:21	7:15 5:49	11:38a 12:38a
24 Sun	11:58 5:45	-----	6:12 7:14	5:50 12:20p 1:40a
25 Mon	12:22 6:36	12:51 7:05	7:14 5:51	1:09p 2:44a
26 Tue	1:15 7:30	1:45 8:01	7:13 5:52	2:07p 3:48a
27 Wed	2:10 8:26	2:41 8:57	7:13 5:53	3:13p 4:50a
28 Thu >	3:07 9:23	3:38 9:54	7:12 5:54	4:24p 5:47a
29 Fri >	4:05 10:20	4:36 10:51	7:12 5:55	5:37p 6:38a
30 Sat F	5:04 11:18	5:32 11:47	7:11 5:56	6:49p 7:23a
31 Sun >	6:02 -----	6:29 12:16	7:11 5:56	7:59p 8:03a
01 Mon >	7:00 12:47	7:26 1:13	7:10 5:57	9:05p 8:40a
02 Tue	7:57 1:45	8:22 2:10	7:10 5:58	10:10p 9:15a
03 Wed	8:54 2:41	9:19 3:06	7:09 5:59	11:15p 9:50a
04 Thu	9:49 3:36	10:14 4:02	7:09 6:00	NoMoon 10:27a
05 Fri	10:43 4:30	11:09 4:56	7:08 6:01	12:19a 11:07a
06 Sat Q	11:35 5:22	-----	5:48 7:07	6:02 1:22a 11:50a
07 Sun	12:01 6:12	12:25 6:38	7:07 6:03	2:21a 12:37p
08 Mon	12:47 7:00	1:13 7:25	7:06 6:03	3:15a 1:28p
09 Tue	1:33 7:46	1:59 8:11	7:05 6:04	4:06a 2:21p
10 Wed	2:18 8:31	2:43 8:55	7:04 6:05	4:51a 3:16p

### Dallas

2010	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Jan-Feb	Minor Major	Minor Major	Rises Sets	Rises Sets
22 Fri Q	10:26 4:15	10:49 4:37	7:27 5:48	11:03a NoMoon
23 Sat	11:14 5:02	11:38 5:26	7:26 5:49	11:37a 12:49a
24 Sun	-----	5:51 12:04	6:17 7:26	5:50 12:18p 1:52a
25 Mon	12:27 6:42	12:56 7:11	7:25 5:51	1:06p 2:58a
26 Tue	1:20 7:35	1:51 8:06	7:25 5:52	2:04p 4:02a
27 Wed	2:15 8:31	2:47 9:03	7:24 5:52	3:10p 5:04a
28 Thu >	3:13 9:28	3:44 10:00	7:24 5:53	4:22p 6:01a
29 Fri >	4:11 10:26	4:41 10:56	7:23 5:54	5:37p 6:50a
30 Sat F	5:09 11:24			

# Crappie

Continued from Page 8

wintertime pattern," Reeve said. "The fish are where we expect to find them this time of year."

Although the weather might change the fishing and be a discomfort for anglers, it does wonders for keeping bait.

"This time of year is an easy time of year to fish with minnows," said Reeve, who operates Finny Tribe Tackle Shop at Cedar Creek. "You can keep them alive forever."

That is, unless the bait well they are in freezes solid. "You can go out in the morning, and the top is frozen over, but those minnows are doing fine," he said.

Minnows were not doing fine at Lake Fork during December, one angler said. They were not catching fish.

"I tried minnows without success and noticed other anglers having similar results," said Kelly Thomas of Mansfield.

Instead of live bait, Thomas opted for jigs. "Flip a 1/8-ounce tandem rig out 30 feet and let it swim down until vertical," Thomas said. "Hold still for at least 15 seconds. Sometimes I won't move mine for nearly a minute."

But even following that precise prescription doesn't always pay off. Thomas hit the water in December on three trips with three different partners. On the first trip, the partner caught seven of the day's 25 fish. On the next, the partner could only claim one of 12. On the last trip, Thomas' son caught three of 21 fish.

"I put them all in the hot seat, and they just couldn't connect," Thomas said. "I guess I had the magic wand."

Catching fish in double digits had Thomas and friends hopping from school to school, picking up one or two crappie at each stop.

"There (have) been four floodgates open, and combined with recent weather fluctuations — tough, tough, tough."

"Tough" probably wouldn't be the word Loy Deason used to describe the bite at Lake Livingston.

"It's been unusual this year," said Deason, a guide.

How unusual? For starters, the fish just aren't the same. Deason and others have been catching what they believe is a hybrid crappie, which Deason called a black-nose crappie. The fish have a bold, black stripe from nose to tail on their dorsal side.

They have caught them up a creek. The water is 17 feet deep, and Deason has been fishing from 8 to 13 feet deep, mostly using minnows and sometimes jigs.

Adding to the unusual situation, Deason said the fish also behave a little bit differently from their purebred cousins.

"A couple people have noticed, myself included, that they fight harder," Deason said.

# Dean

Continued from Page 8

events that pumped lots of money into local economies.

*Honey Hole*, which reached 26,000 circulation, was produced at Dean's home. His wife, Deb, was managing editor.

Dean's vision grew beyond the magazine and included successful television and radio programs on hunting and fishing in Texas, even though he was not educated in print or broadcast journalism.

"Oh, you don't have to be trained, honey," Deb Dean said. "All you have to have is a desire and to go for it, and that's exactly what Jerry did."

Dean may have made a quick study of journalism, but he had a lifetime of hunting and fishing skills to share with audiences.

Deb said her husband had "a real wild-Indian childhood," in Fort Worth, with countless days spent on the waters of Eagle Mountain Lake.

His nephew, retired Texas Ranger Kyle Dean of Kerrville, said Dean was only 11 years older than him, so they spent a lot of time together — with the uncle leading the way.

"He played with me and he mentored me," Kyle Dean said. "And he carried me, fishing and hunting."

Kyle Dean is son of the legendary Texas Ranger, Capt. Jack Dean, Jerry Dean's older brother.

The nephew recalled how his uncle, a few days before he died, reminisced how Kyle Dean once cast a lure into a tree by accident. Jerry Dean climbed up to get it, only to be stung repeatedly by an angry swarm of yellow jackets.

He said Jerry Dean worked a lot of jobs as a young man, including as a tavern bouncer, bodyguard and technician for Fort Worth-based Bell Helicopter.

The company sent Dean to Vietnam during the war to work on its helicopters.

Hood, a writer and the retired outdoors editor for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, said that although Dean was a civilian, he made friends with troops in Vietnam who taught him the art of camouflage.

Dean used those techniques while hunting deer and turkey, and he shared them with his television audience.

"He was so good at hiding," Hood said.

"He'd cut cedar branches and put them around him. He'd put branches in his hat and down over his face, and he'd blend in."

Kyle Dean said his uncle later became a full-time fishing guide on Lake Monticello in East Texas, but sometimes he'd go out alone and stay on the water for three days straight.

"He had a little grill and he'd cook his meals on the boat," Kyle said. "And when he was tired, he'd lay down in the boat and go to sleep. Then he'd wake up and fish some more."

"He was resilient." It was during one of these Monticello trips that Dean got the idea for *Honey Hole*, Hood said.

Hood and Dean had never met as children, even though they were both from the Fort Worth area.

But Dean had read Hood's *Star-Telegram* articles, and called him one day in 1983 to ask if he would be a contributor to the new magazine.

Hood agreed and they became friends. Hood also co-hosted Dean's "Honey Hole TV Magazine" series.

"Jerry hit it at the right time," Hood said. "Texas was boiling over with bass-fishing fever in the mid-'80s."

"You had lakes like Toledo Bend and Rayburn coming on — big time — and getting national attention. Jerry thought it would be great to have a magazine that was all bass — and all Texas bass."

"But I want to tell you off the bat, Deb was a big part of what the magazine was." And it was fun, Deb said.

"We found regular guys who fished all the time on certain lakes and got them to write for us," she said, "not just armchair writers who never went fishing themselves."

Kyle Dean recalled that his uncle and Hood in 2002 made a month-long canoe trip down the Clear Fork of the Brazos River from Abilene to Possum Kingdom Lake.

Hood said they were inspired by John Graves' classic book, "Goodbye to a River," and they intended their experience to be every bit as rustic.

"I'd shoot squirrels and bullfrogs for dinner, and we'd catch catfish," Hood said. "But Jerry read a story about how some cowboys came up on an Indian cooking a skunk on campfire and he said, 'If they can do that, we can too.'"

"I said, 'Jerry, if you shoot a skunk and

clean it, I'll cook it.'"

Dean delivered. "I cooked it in some olive oil," Hood said. "If you didn't know what it was, you'd think it was pretty good." (Dean's narrative of the trip is at [www.outdoortexasadventures.com/trek2.htm](http://www.outdoortexasadventures.com/trek2.htm).)

Hood said Dean wasn't a braggart, but he was proud to say that he "fished every lake in Texas over a 1,000 acres," and he was inspired to protect them.

Dean used *Honey Hole* to promote ideas and programs, like Texas Parks and Wildlife's ShareLunker program. It encourages anglers to donate monster bass they catch to TPW's big-fish spawning program.

"He also was a promoter of catch and release, probably one of the first and biggest," Hood said. "It helped make people more conservation-minded."

Not everyone agreed with it at first, Deb said.

"But Jerry would tell those people that if we eat all of our fish right away, we won't have any one day," she said. "Well, now, catch and release is spreading quite nicely."

Deb said her husband "was on the forefront" of a lot of issues aimed at preserving the rights of fishermen and protecting fish, "but he never did anything alone."

"He would never take credit for anything, even though he spearheaded a lot of things," she said.

Dean sought simpler things after he decided to move on from *Honey Hole*, Deb said. He even gave up bass boats.

"He just changed his rig and he slowed down," Deb said. "In his last years he was a canoeist. He saw more river-front ranchland than some ranchers see on their own property."

The Deans acquired majority interests in a small gun store and shooting range in north Fort Worth, but Dean kept returning to the Clear Fork.

The river, he wrote, "has turned into an obsession" and it "has stolen my soul."

Dean was working on a book about the Clear Fork when he diagnosed with cancer three years ago.

"He got clear of it the first time," Deb said, "but it got him the next time."

"He died peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by me and his three puppies. He left this earth knowing he was loved."

"Pretty good, huh?"

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**Puzzle solution from Page 19**

CHICKEN S R A I M S  
A N I P A T T E R N T  
S I N G L E I O F C A  
T E L A I R M L O H M A  
A R M S A P P L E O R A D  
A L S T I L L X R A G  
D R O P O U A R  
A C C E N D C O L O R A D O  
M A K E R E L K A R V  
S R E B E R R I E S  
S A R U N A O S  
U P W I N D I M E W E R  
P E T A G G O A T A  
S H E D L H A B E L T  
H P U L L S T A M I N A T  
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# FISHING REPORT

## HOT BITES

### LARGEMOUTH BASS



**BRAUNIG:** Good on spinnerbaits, dark soft plastic worms and minnows in the reeds and near the dam.

**BUCHANAN:** Good on black hair jigs, watermelon red curl tail grubs on jigheads and suspending crankbaits over deeper rock piles along ledges and points in 8-20 feet.

**CHOKO CANYON:** Good on heavy jigs and large soft plastic lizards in the grass and fair on crankbaits.

**COLEMAN:** Good on watermelon Rat-L-Traps and crankbaits.

**TRAVIS:** Good on chrome jiggging spoons, black jigs and smoke grubs in 28-45 feet.

### WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



**CEDAR CREEK:** White bass are good on slabs.

**GRAPEVINE:** White bass are good on slabs.

**HUBBARD CREEK:** White bass are good on live bait.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Striped bass are good on silver spoons and shad-colored crankbaits in 20-30 feet along southern lake points.

### CATFISH



**BRAUNIG:** Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, perch and shad in 20-30 feet.

**CALAVERAS:** Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp and nightcrawlers. Blue catfish are good on liver and nightcrawlers.

**SOMERVILLE:** Channel and blue catfish are excellent on bloodbait.

**CONROE:** Good on stinkbait, nightcrawlers and frozen shrimp.

**FALCON:** Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and cut bait.

**GIBBONS CREEK:** Good on frozen shrimp and liver.

**GRANBURY:** Good on frozen shrimp and stinkbait.

### CRAPPIE



**LIVINGSTON:** Very good on minnows. Blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with shad.

**LAVON:** Good on minnows and jigs around bridge columns.

**ALAN HENRY:** Water lightly stained; 46 degrees; 1.33' low. Black bass are fair on live baits and black/blue jigs suspended in trees. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on live bait.

**AMISTAD:** Water clear; 54 degrees; 2.04' low. Black bass are good on slabs, crankbaits and soft plastic worms. Striped bass are fair on slabs, crankbaits and grubs. White bass are fair on slabs and crankbaits. Catfish are fair on shrimp, nightcrawlers, chicken livers and cheesebait in 60-90 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines and drop lines baited with live perch.

**ARROWHEAD:** Water lightly stained; 40 degrees; 6.80' low. Black bass are fair on crankbaits or black/blue jigs in 1-4 feet off rocky points. Crappie are fair on black and green plastics off the derricks in 20-25 feet. White bass to 15 inches are good off rocky points. Blue catfish are fair on cheese bait while drift fishing or anchored in 8-10 feet.

**BASTROP:** Water clear. Black bass are fair on pumpkinseed crankbaits, spinnerbaits and soft plastics. Crappie are fair on minnows and blue/white tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

**BELTON:** Water fairly clear; 54 degrees; 1.08' low. Black bass are slow. White bass are fair on minnows in 25 feet. Crappie are good on minnows at night. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with frozen shad. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live perch.

**BRAUNIG:** Water clear; 56 degrees. Striped bass are good on liver and shad and on spoons in deeper water. Redfish are fair on perch, shad and silver spoons and on tilapia, crawfish, perch and shad near Dead Tree Point.

**BROWNWOOD:** Water clear; 51 degrees; 7.83' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse/black jigs, small crankbaits and watermelon red 4" worms over brush piles in 10-20 feet. Hybrid striped are slow. White bass are fair on L'il Fishies and watermelon red crankbaits under lighted docks at night. Crappie are good on L'il Fishies and minnows over brush piles in 10-20 feet. Channel catfish are fair on stinkbait, minnows and shrimp in 10-20 feet.

**BUCHANAN:** Water clear; 55 degrees; 24.10' low. Striped bass are good drifting live shad and jiggging swim baits and artificial minnows near Garrett Island in 28-40 feet. White bass are slow to fair jiggging Tiny Traps and artificial minnows. Crappie are slow on live minnows over brush piles. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

**CADDO:** Water murky; 38-43 degrees; 1.67' high. Black bass are slow on flukes, jigs and spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

**CALAVERAS:** Water clear; 56 degrees. Black bass are good on dark soft plastic worms, live minnows and crankbaits around reed beds and near the dam. Striped bass are good on Rat-L-Traps near the dam in 15-20 feet and on chicken livers and shad along the shoreline. Redfish are fair on live perch, shad, tilapia and crawfish. Crappie are slow.

**CANYON LAKE:** Water clear; 51 degrees; 9.55' low. Black bass are good on Texas-rigged Red Shad worms, pumpkin drop-shot worms and tubes on jigheads in stickups in 6-15 feet. Striped bass are fair jiggging artificial minnows and trolling down riggers over humps in the lower end of the lake in 40-60 feet. White bass are fair but small on blade baits along main lake bluffs. Smallmouth bass are very good on Tomato Red grubs, smoke/red flake tubes on jigheads and smoke drop shot worms along main lake points and bluff ledges. Crappie are slow. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

**CEDAR CREEK:** Water stained; 39-43 degrees; 0.05' high. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striped are fair on live shad and large slabs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows. Catfish are fair drifting cut shad.

**CHOKO CANYON:** Water clear; 54 degrees; 9.73' low. White bass are fair on minnows upriver. Crappie are slow.

Drum are fair on live worms. Channel and blue catfish are good on punchbait in 2-7 feet.

**COLEMAN:** Water clear; 53 degrees; 10.56' low. Hybrid striped are fair on minnows and white striped jigs. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait, nightcrawlers and frozen shrimp.

**COLETO CREEK:** Water stained; 57 degrees (73 degrees at discharge); 0.09' low. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows in 10-16 feet. Channel and blue catfish to 6 pounds are fair on trotlines baited with liver and nightcrawlers. Yellow catfish to 13 pounds are fair on trotlines baited with live perch.

**CONROE:** Water fairly clear; 0.02' high. Black bass are fair on tequila sunrise and pumpkinseed soft plastics, crankbaits and spinnerbaits in 15-25 feet. Striped bass are fair on minnows. Crappie are fair on minnows.

Hogs with orange and green flakes and orange brush near the dam in 25 feet. Crappie are fair on live minnows over brush near the dam in 25-30 feet. Bream are slow. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

**HUBBARD CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 49 degrees; 7.56' low. Black bass are slow on live bait and black/blue jigs worked suspended along grass lines and timber. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Catfish are fair on live and cut bait.

**JOE POOL:** Water off-color; 39-43 degrees; 0.22' high. Black bass are slow on slow-rolled spinnerbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. White bass are good on slabs. No report on catfish.

**LAVON:** Water stained; 39-44 degrees; 0.76' high. Black bass are slow. White bass are good on slabs. Catfish are fair to good on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

**LBJ:** Water stained; 55 degrees; 0.32' low. Black bass are fair to good on black/blue jigs and green pumpkin tubes

areas. Crappie are slow on live bait and jigs. White bass are good on silver jiggging spoons suspended 18-20 feet near Costello Island. Catfish to 15 pounds are good on live shad and cut liver by the public boat ramp and on points to the west in 15-25 feet.

**PROCTOR:** Water clear; 53 degrees; 7.34' low. Black bass are fair on chartreuse spinnerbaits and soft plastics. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and chartreuse tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on frozen shad and shrimp.

**RAY HUBBARD:** Water fairly clear; 39-43 degrees; 0.04' high. No report available.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water stained; iced over to 41 degrees; 0.57' high. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow — creeks are frozen. White bass are fair on jiggging spoons and slabs in 25-40 feet worked slowly on the bottom (barely move your rod tip). No report on catfish.

**RICHLAND CHAMBERS:** Water off-color; 39-44 degrees; 0.08' high. Black bass are fair on medium running shad pattern crankbaits, Texas rigs and spinnerbaits. White bass and hybrid striped are fair to good on slabs and live shad. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Water stained; 56 degrees; 1.40' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon soft plastics, crankbaits and spinnerbaits. White bass are fair on live minnows and white tube jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and white tube jigs. Bream are fair on worms. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp and nightcrawlers.

**SOMERVILLE:** Water murky; 54 degrees; 0.06' high. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striped are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and green and black tube jigs.

**SPENCE:** Water lightly stained; 48 degrees; 64.55' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. Striped bass and hybrid striped are slow. Catfish are slow.

**STAMFORD:** Water lightly stained; 47 degrees; 3.66' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White and striped bass are fair on live bait. Catfish are good on live bait.

**STILLHOUSE:** Water stained; 54 degrees; 0.06' high. Black bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

**TAWAKONI:** Water fairly clear; 38-43 degrees; 0.77' high. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, jigs and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows. White bass are fair on slabs. Striped bass and hybrid striped are fair on live shad and slabs. Catfish are fair on prepared bait.

**TEXOMA:** Water off-color; 38-44 degrees; 0.23' high. Black bass are fair on chatterbaits, spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Striped bass are fair to good on live shad and Storm WildEyes. Catfish are fair to good on chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers and cut shad.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water stained; 54 degrees; 1.64' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows over brush piles. Bream are fair on worms. Channel and blue catfish are good on liver, frozen shrimp and stinkbait.

**TRAVIS:** Water clear; 53 degrees; 25.09' low. Striped bass are fair on minnows and chrome spoons in 30-40 feet. White bass are good on minnows and chrome jiggging spoons in 35-50 feet. Crappie are good on minnows and pink and white tube jigs in 38-48 feet. Channel and blue catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and cut bait in 32-48 feet.

**WHITNEY:** Water lightly stained; 4.25' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon red spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are fair on minnows and chartreuse striper jigs. White bass are fair on minnows. Crappie are fair on minnows and blue tube jigs. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp, nightcrawlers and stinkbait.

## HOT SPOT



### South Padre Island

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

**FAIRFIELD:** Water fairly clear; 58-87 degrees. Black bass are fair on Senkos, spinnerbaits and split-shot-rigged Ring Frys. Redfish are fair to good on live bait.

**FALCON:** Water clear; 58 degrees. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are slow.

**FAYETTE:** Water clear; 52 degrees. Black bass are fair on Carolina-rigged soft plastics in 15-25 feet on points. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

**FORK:** Water stained; 39-44 degrees; 0.16' high. Black bass are slow to fair on drop-shot rigs, jigs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on cut shad and prepared bait.

**GIBBONS CREEK:** Water clear. Black bass are fair on watermelon soft plastics, spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows.

**GRANBURY:** Water clear; 0.43' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse soft plastics, spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and blue tube jigs.

**GRAPEVINE:** Water stained; 38-44 degrees; 0.75' high. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

**GREENBELT:** Water stained; 34 degrees; 33.31' low. Black bass are slow on Carolina-rigged watermelon/chartreuse soft plastics and live bait. Crappie are slow on jigs and minnows. White bass are fair on live bait. Smallmouth bass are slow on live bait. Walleye are fair on live bait. Catfish are fair on live bait.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water clear; 48 degrees; 0.55' high. Black bass to 3 pounds are fair on watermelon Brush

on docks. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair to good on silver artificial minnows in the channel near the power plant. Crappie are fair on minnows in brush piles under heated docks. Channel catfish are fair on minnows and nightcrawlers. Yellow and blue catfish are slow.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water stained; 38-43 degrees; 0.55' high. Black bass are fair on jigs, slow-rolled spinnerbaits and Texas rigs (work your baits slowly). White bass and hybrid striped are fair to good on slabs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on prepared baits.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water fairly clear; 55 degrees; 0.13' high. Black bass are fair to good on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Striped bass to 6 pounds are fair on Rat-L-Traps and Charlie slabs. White bass are slow.

**MONTICELLO:** Water fairly clear; 51-88 degrees; 0.48' high. Black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps, split-shot-rigged flukes, Texas and Carolina rigs.

**NASWORTHY:** Water lightly stained; 48 degrees. Black bass are slow on live bait. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Redfish are slow. White bass and striped bass are fair on live bait. Catfish are fair.

**O.H. IVIE:** Water lightly stained; 49 degrees; 21.85' low. Black bass are fair on slow-rolled shad-colored spinnerbaits and live bait worked along secondary points and channels. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on live bait and small white crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are fair on live bait. Channel catfish are good on live bait.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water stained; 49 degrees; 5.31' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon soft plastics and shad-colored crankbaits worked in 12-15 feet on points in the Long Hollow and Caddo

## SALTWATER SCENE

**NORTH SABINE:** Redfish are fair to good at the discharge canal on peeled shrimp. Black drum are fair around rock groins. Sand trout are good in the deep holes on shrimp. Water temperatures dipped as low as 41 degrees during the freeze.



**SOUTH SABINE:** Bull redfish are good at the jetty on crabs. Sheepshead and black drum are good at the jetty on live shrimp.

**BOLIVAR:** Sand trout are fair to good in the ICW on shrimp. Black drum and redfish are good at Rollover Pass.

**TRINITY BAY:** Redfish are fair to good in the bayous for waders tossing plastics. Redfish are good at the spillway on crabs and mullet. Water temperatures dipped to 39 degrees during the freeze.

**EAST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are fair over deep mud and structures on MirrOlures. Whiting and sand trout are good on the edge of the Intracoastal on fresh shrimp. Some baitfish, panfish and sand trout were found dead due to the freeze.

**WEST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are fair for waders in the mud and shell on MirrOlures and Corkies. Sheepshead, redfish and black drum are good at the jetty on shrimp and crabs.

**FREEPORT:** Sand trout and sheepshead are good on live shrimp on the reefs. Redfish are good in Cold Pass and San Luis pass on cracked blue crabs.

**EAST MATAGORDA BAY:** Trout are fair for drifters on live shrimp over humps and scattered shell. Redfish are fair on the edge of the Intracoastal on crabs and mullet. Panfish, croakers and sand trout were found dead due to the freeze.



**WEST MATAGORDA BAY:** Redfish are fair on the south shoreline in the guts and bayous. Sheepshead are fair around piers and rocks.

**PORT O'CONNOR:** Redfish are fair on Corkies over soft mud and drop-offs near reefs on plastics. Redfish are fair at the mouths of drains on soft plastics and gold spoons. Some large trout were found dead in the back lakes.

**ROCKPORT:** Redfish are fair to good at California Hole on shrimp. Trout are fair on the edge of the ICW on glow DOA Shrimp.



**PORT ARANSAS:** Redfish are fair to good on the edge of the channel on Gulps and mullet. Sand trout are good on shrimp.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Redfish are fair good in the Humble Channel and around Emmords Hole on crabs and shrimp. Trout are best on the edge of the flats on live shrimp and DOA Shrimp. Water temperatures dipped to 48 degrees during the freeze.

**BAFFIN BAY:** Trout are fair to good in mud and rocks on Corkies and Catch 2000s. Redfish are fair on the edge of the Land Cut on plastics tipped with shrimp.

**PORT MANSFIELD:** Trout are fair to good on DOA Shrimp around grass holes. Trout and redfish are fair on muddy shorelines and on the edge of the ICW on Corkies and soft plastics worked slowly. Water temperatures dipped to 48 degrees during the freeze.

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

**PORT ISABEL:** Trout are fair on the edge of the flats on soft plastics and imitation shrimp. Redfish are fair in the deep holes and along the edge of the channel.



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**POLITICAL BASS:** U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, center, fishes with "The Reel Guide" hosts, Ken Ford and Tommy Nelms.

## One-on-one with Kay Bailey Hutchison

**Lone Star Outdoor News' Thomas Phillips interviewed Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison on the telephone a week after Hutchison' speech to the Dallas Safari Club.**

**Thomas Phillips:** Some of our readers might not be familiar with your personal experiences with hunting and fishing. Can you tell us a little bit about your days on the water or in the field?

**Kay Bailey Hutchison:** Well, yes, I've done both. I've hunted quail and pheasant especially — love that. And I have really shot all my life a lot of clay pigeons and that kind of thing, and then hunted and then fishing — do you remember "The Reel Guide"? I was on "The Reel Guide." They were in college with me and really good friends and I did a fishing show with them and it was the most fun thing I've done in my entire life. It was a hoot and I caught the biggest fish of the day, and it was really just on an East Texas lake, and we just had a great time. It was tube fishing actually. But we also, you know, fished all our lives, and our kids fished, and we, you know, we have our fishing stories.

**Phillips:** All right. Great.

**Hutchison:** So I have shot all my life, and we've always owned the guns, and we've hunted. We've fished. And so I'm definitely an outdoorsperson.

**Phillips:** I'd like if you could tell me how are you different from Rick Perry on matters of conservation.

**Hutchison:** Well, I could just say that I have been very active in my career, and I can just state my record in conservation. I have targeted the preserves and the wildlife refuges, the Big Thicket, the Balcones Canyonlands, Lower Rio Grande Valley and also got funding for the birding center in the Valley. That is wonderful.

And I've been birding, too, which I love. I've had a wonderful experience birding on the King Ranch and really appreciate that as well. I also led the efforts, with my bill that designated the El Camino Real de la Tejas a national historic trail so we're now on the national historic map. And you know, I think that's a great preservation effort.

And the Caddo Lake, I put Texas A&M into the Caddo Lake Institute so that we could do the research to preserve the Caddo Lake. You know

it's got a giant salvinia problem, so we are working on that because it's not just Caddo Lake that's affected. This giant salvinia has actually migrated from the East Coast, all along the Southern states, and it's now going through Texas, and it could kill the Caddo Lake if we don't do something about it. So Texas A&M is working with the Caddo Lake Institute on that. We've established a center for invasive species to do that effort and to try to apply it to other lakes where we can save the lake and the ecosystems at the same time that we are eradicating invasive plants.

So I've done that and I'm very supportive of the Nature Conservancy. I've been the chairman of their fundraising event and have been the main speaker of their fundraising events because I think the Nature Conservancy is a great conservation concept where something that's voluntary and not a big government requirement. So I think that has preserved a lot of our land in the right way so I'm very strong in support of conservancy, and I will also get you, for later, one of the conservancy awards that I won from the (Center for Coastal Conservation). ... I won the Silver Ingot Award for conservancy and I'll get you that because I fought for the sport fisherman, the rights of sport fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico when the professional fishermen were trying to keep them from fishing in certain parts of the Gulf of Mexico. And we won that fight, and so I was very much the leader and I won their award for that.

**Phillips:** Last question. Again on wildlife management if you're elected what are a couple of things that you have on your agenda as far as how Texas fish and game are managed?

**Hutchison:** I would — if there are complaints about the management, I haven't heard those — but I would always want to try to keep our fishing and hunting as free and open as possible and so that would be my guiding goal, but if there are some specific complaints I'd want to deal with them.

And I think my record in the Senate of preserving the sport fisherman's rights against the businesses just encroaching and not allowing the sport fisherman to have the capability to even use our waters. I think would show that I'm going to be on the side of conservation and assuring that we have the right to use our land and waters for recreational purposes.

## Hutchison

Continued from Page 6

point: that the Second Amendment is an individual right," Hutchison said. "And that has now been settled. It is the supreme law of the land."

Hutchison, Gov. Rick Perry and Debra Medina are in a heated battle to determine who will be the Republican Party's nominee for governor

in the November election. Perry also spoke at a Dallas Safari Club event, the club's monthly meeting in October, where he was the keynote speaker.

Hutchison, Medina and Perry, who became governor in 2000 when George W. Bush resigned ahead of his inauguration as president, will face off in the party's primary March 2.

## Freeze

Continued from Page 1

about how Texas' recovering snook fishery in South Texas would fare in the event of even a minor freeze.

South Padre Island snook authority Ernest Cisneros said he toured South Bay and the Brownsville Ship Channel fearing the worst.

"I was really surprised to find only four or five dead mangrove snapper in the ship channel," Cisneros said. "I think the fish did just fine down in the depths of the channel."

"What was really great was that I decided to fish a little and managed to catch a really nice 6-pound snook."

A few days after the freeze it was apparent anglers wanted to take advantage of the frigid conditions but calm weather. Many flocked to the coast in hopes of finding gamefish concentrated in deeper holes where they would be easy targets.

"We were able to find a lot of small redfish concentrated in holes, but they were still very cold, and you had to fish for them very slowly, dragging jigs on the bottom," Baker said. "And they didn't fight very hard, but it was a lot of fun."

The last major killing freeze in Texas happened 20 years ago in February 1990.

Everett Johnson, a fishing guide and editor and publisher of *Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine*, has been researching the reported kills as well and reported similar findings.

"I think the only place that we were really hurt was in the back lakes of Matagorda Island where a significant number of trout that had been trapped by the low winter tides succumbed to the freeze."

Bill Balboa, the Galveston Bay Ecosystem team leader for Texas Parks and Wildlife, deployed a trawl net to try to catch dead fish on the bottom of the Intracoastal Waterway around West Galveston Bay. He found one: a trout with its head cut off.

On another pass he caught a few live fish. When he emptied his net, they flopped around the boat deck like it was a spring day, Balboa said.

"I put them back in the water, and they shot straight through," he said.

The situation probably was not as bad as the fish kills of the late 1980s and early 1990s because the cold temps of 2010 came on gradually. The day before one of the kills two decades ago, Balboa was on the water in a T-shirt, and the air temperature was in the 80s.

This time, several cold fronts had lowered the temperature in the weeks before the latest cold snap. Fish can handle colder temperatures as long as the mercury does not drop too rapidly, Balboa said.

## Quail

Continued from Page 1

monthly obligations will be easier to meet," Bowles said.

Bowles, managing partner of Quail Country Plantation in Georgia, was on QU's board when its president and co-founder, Rocky Evans, departed last spring. The organization's perilous finances didn't help his declining health. It was hemorrhaging money. The group's marketing director was promoted to president but subsequently fired on a close vote after clashing with several board members. The board appointed Bowles president on an interim basis.

The extent of the financial problems facing Bowles was first aired in Covey Rise.

"They were taking chapter money, which was supposed to be returned, and using it for operations," said publisher Kim N. Price. "When chapters called to get their money back, the money wasn't there."

Bowles said QU lost sight of its mission, noting the group's paid staff had grown to 24 people. It acquired an Edgefield, S.C., headquarters surrounded by 88 acres.

And a national convention for its state chapters annually lost \$50,000.

"Some things you think you have to have to operate an organization are not really necessary," Bowles said. "They add to the inefficiencies. This group's purpose is quail and quail conservation. Somewhere along the line, more emphasis was placed on administrative functions."

Even with a large staff, Bowles found QU sputtering. Three different software accounting programs kept tabs on fi-

nances. The office manager used the Peachtree accounting program, while the chapter information office used QuickBooks.

When he visited the advertising office, Bowles found it used yet a third accounting program.

"I didn't find anything fraudulent, nothing padded," Bowles said. "But an expense like office supplies might be \$50 out of balance in one program and

ized we could not afford to continue to fund them," he said.

Bowles said QU's membership is stabilizing. It was rumored the number of state chapters had dropped from more than 400 to less than 200. However, Bowles put the number at "about 300."

He's putting much of his efforts now to hosting QU's annual Conservation Celebrity Hunt in Albany, Ga.

Joe Crafton, whose group, Park Cities Quail Unlimited, left QU, questioned the strategy.

"The local quail plantations may depend on this for publicity, but what does it matter to members in Kansas, California or Texas?" asked Crafton.

Bowles said it's a matter of appearances and money.

"If it didn't take place, Joe and everyone else would say, 'Man, they couldn't even pull off their annual celebrity hunt,'" Bowles said. "That's not going to be the case."

The event is the group's largest fundraiser, Bowles said, denying reports it loses money.

A successful hunt and selling its headquarters could pay off QU's almost \$400,000 debt.

"That's an easy math problem," he said.

Bowles said members are rallying behind QU. One member offered to pay the group's office lease for two years once its headquarters sells, said Bowles, adding that QU will stay in Edgefield.

Price, who is on the board of Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever, hopes Bowles' optimism proves correct.

"There's room for more than one quail organization in this world," he said. "It's all about the birds anyway."

“Some things you think you have to have to operate an organization are not really necessary. They add to the inefficiencies. This group’s purpose is quail and quail conservation. Somewhere along the line, more emphasis was placed on administrative functions.”

— Bill Bowles, president of Quail Unlimited

balanced in another. It wasn't a clean, efficient way of doing business. It was a real issue."

While straightening that out, Bowles dealt with an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms about an accusation of firearms missing from QU's gun safe. Bowles said QU called ATF and asked for an audit to settle the issue.

The agency found no "blatant" violations, according to Bowles, "only normal issues where paperwork was not being done correctly."

"They did not pull our FLL (Federal Firearms License)," he said. "This was a story that was spun, wrongfully, so as to smear a great organization."

Around that time, QU quit funding retirement packages for its co-founders, Evans and Jerry Allen.

Again, Bowles said wrongdoing was not involved. Finances were, though.

"The board had an opportunity to review the retirement packages and real-

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