

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

September 25, 2009

Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 6, Issue 3

## Inside



**FISHING**  
**Guides' enemy: GPS**  
Marking others' spots has never been easier thanks to the satellite-based technology.  
**Page 8**

**Easier in Matagorda**  
A new project will improve passage out to sea for Matagorda anglers.  
**Page 8**



**HUNTING**  
**Owl pellet rainmaker**  
A Washington business buys remains for students to use in the classroom.  
**Page 6**

**Teal hunting strong**  
Hunters are reporting solid numbers and several limits of teal in certain areas.  
**Page 6**

**CONTENTS**

Classifieds	Page 30
Crossword	Page 18
Fishing Report	Page 23
For the Table	Page 18
Game Warden Blotter	Page 10
Heroes	Page 15
Outdoor Datebook	Page 22
Outfitters	Page 28
Products	Page 20
Sun, Moon and Tide Data	Page 18

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**South Zone opens**  
Reports were mixed for the opening of dove season in South Texas. **Page 6**



**TAKING AIM:** Several Texas public hunting areas only allow bowhunting, and hunters are advised to get there early and know where other hunters enter to give themselves the best shot at a quality buck. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

## Bowhunting only on public land

At some areas, arrows are all that's allowed

By Thomas Phillips  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Jesse Barnett has taken bucks that any hunter would be proud of. Two of his best have scored above 130.

He shot them on public land — public land where bowhunting is the rule, not the exception.

"I've taken some good, quality animals that would rank right up there on private land," Barnett said.

Texas has many locations where public hunting is available for deer. Some are set aside for archery only.

Barnett, who lives in Leroy in northern McLennan County, shot his big bucks on land managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers around Lake Whitney and Lake Aquilla. Whitney and Aquilla, located west of Hillsboro, have "exceptional quality for our area," Barnett said. Often, hunting there is better than on private lands that are not heavily man-

aged, he said.

When hunting the areas for deer, Barnett scouts extensively. That can mean more than spending time in the field looking for deer and learning their patterns.

"Hunt the hunters just as much as you do the deer," Barnett said.

Barnett will pay attention to where and when other hunters enter an area. If they generally enter at the same time and place, he will be in the woods well before them. When they arrive, they push the deer his way.

"If you dedicate the time and put in the work, you can pull out some very good animals," Barnett said.

Many hunters, often hoping to at least fill a tag, will settle for lesser bucks because they are easier to take, Barnett said. Older, wariest bucks can survive the season.

"That's the other thing that you'll run into in

**INSIDE**  
**Bowhunting:** More than practice, practice, practice: insider tips for archery success.  
**Page 14**

See **BOW ONLY**, Page 24

## A rookie warden at age 61

Banker not ready for retirement picks up badge

By Craig Nyhus  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Jim Schmidt was at a crossroads. Nudged into retirement from banking at age 61, he wasn't ready to give up working, but he was ready to give up banking.

So he became the oldest ever graduate of the Texas Game Warden Academy.

His journey to the academy surprises even him.

"I was a banker for 35 years with increasing responsibilities," he said. "I went to Granbury in 1988 and was fortunate enough to have some stock in a bank and become president."

The bank was bought out in 2005. "And then the bank that bought

**INSIDE**  
**Blotter:** See more on-the-job tales from Texas game wardens.  
**Page 10**

See **ROOKIE**, Page 27



**NEW BEGINNING:** At 61, Jim Schmidt is the oldest person to attend Texas' Game Warden Academy. Photo by Thomas Phillips, LSON.

## Lights out for snook in deep South Texas

Sometimes the bite begins at sundown for structure-loving fish

By Aaron Reed  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Texas anglers are discovering a new way to hook a snook: Work the night shift.

Bobby Albin of Rockport found that out almost by accident last October when he ventured up the Brownsville Ship Channel in search of snook. He and three fishing buddies ended up with a

limit of four fish. Each released several that exceeded the top end of Texas' tight slot limit of 24 to 28 inches.

"We were going with the same soft plastics we had been using during the daylight hours," Albin said. "The bite started as the sun was going down, and it seemed to just carry over and continue

See **SNOOK**, Page 16

**NIGHT FISHING:** John Kowalik of Wharton shows off his first snook, caught on a soft plastic lure near Port Isabel. Photo by Erich Schlegel, for Lone Star Outdoor News.



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# CONSERVATION

## Government Canyon property growing

### State natural area might be opened to hunting

Government Canyon State Natural Area recently expanded by almost 3,000 acres, and state officials are considering allowing public hunting there.

"We will be investigating a range of biologically appropriate and compatible public use opportunities, including and up to public hunts," said Carter Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife's executive director.

Almost 90 percent of the area's 11,576-acre Government Canyon watershed rests atop the recharge zone for the Edwards Aquifer, a primary source of drinking water for millions of San Antonio-area residents. The eight new tracts, transferred in ownership to the state

from the city of San Antonio, that make up the addition fall into the ecologically sensitive watershed and represent the majority of undeveloped lands adjacent to Government Canyon in a rapidly growing area, where in some spots subdivisions about the state natural area.

Smith did not set a timetable for when changes in use will be discussed. For now, TPW will work with the city to develop a public use plan that protects all natural resources, said SNA Superintendent Deirdre Hisler, including the endangered golden-cheeked warbler that nests in the area.

For visitors now, the rugged Hill Country property has 40 miles of hiking trails and 15 recently built picnic sites.

Plans include providing limited camping opportunities. The area is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday through Monday.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report



**HILL COUNTRY PRESERVE:** The 11,576-acre Government Canyon State Natural Area recently grew by 3,000 acres. Photo by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

### Outdoor News in Brief

#### Worker for pheasants, quail bags a Heron

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently presented Pheasants Forever's Dave Nomsen with a National Great Blue Heron Award — in recognition of his wetland and waterfowl conservation work.

Nomsen, who is Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever's vice president of government affairs, received the award at the Waterfowl Working Group meeting of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies gathering in Austin. The National Great Blue Heron Award recognizes participants whose activities with the

North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee results in substantial benefits to waterfowl and other wetland-associated migratory bird populations of North America over a long period of time. Nomsen has been a conservation leader on a national scale for nearly two decades, with his work extending beyond pheasants, quail and other upland birds to a wide array of wildlife.

Nomsen helped shape the last three federal farm bills — in 1996, 2002 and 2008 — and he became one of the nation's loudest voices in support of the Conservation Reserve Program. CRP land in the Prairie Pothole Region of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota is some of the most



Nomsen

productive waterfowl habitat in the world, contributing more than 2 million ducks annually.

Most recently, Nomsen helped with the creation of a new CRP practice called Conservation Practice 38, better known as State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement, also known as SAFE, which has allowed many states to create new wildlife and wetland conservation initiatives. Through his leadership, Pheasants Forever chapters have restored 60,000 acres of wetlands across America.

Nomsen has also served on North American Wetlands Conservation Act Council since 1999.

Past recipients of the National Great Blue Heron recognition include former Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Chairman Jim Range, Sen. Patrick J. Leahy and the Delta Waterfowl Foundation.

— Pheasants Forever report

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## HUNTING

# South opens with mixed results

### Birds still mostly local; drought impact felt



**DOVE DAYS:** Despite recent rains, several areas are still dry in South Texas, making hunting waterholes an option in addition to traditional food sources. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Hunt success was spotty for the opening weekend of dove season in the South Zone, hunters said.

At Harris Farms in Dilley, hunters saw plenty of birds on opening day after the area received 8 inches of rain.

"They were all local birds," said Arline Harris. "We haven't seen any migrating birds yet."

Harris was hoping a cold front the first full week of the season would bring in new numbers from the north.

Near George West, Mark Katzfey of Katzfey Ranches said the drought's effects are showing during dove season.

The drought has been especially bad there, Katzfey said, and fields have suffered.

"It was spotty," he said. "There were areas with goatweed and sunflowers in areas that caught some rain."

Still, Katzfey had 61 hunters each day on opening weekend, and all but a few shot limits.

"Normally I take about 100 hunters each day," he said. "But I was concerned there wasn't enough food."

Will Rountree shot a limit in less than an hour opening morning in Live Oak County. Success didn't stick around,

though.

"Saturday morning was considerably slower, with three of us taking a total of 22 birds," Rountree said. "Saturday evening the hunting was very slow. We had eight hunters and maybe three or four birds apiece average."

Rountree's opening-day hunt was over sunflowers. Finding water worked for others, he said.

"I heard that hunts over water were outstanding all weekend in McMullen (County), with limits taken each day," Rountree said.

— Staff report

# Profits from pellets

## Company will buy owl fur balls from hunters

By Craig Nyhus

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Texas deer hunters may be missing a chance to help pay for all or part of their lease, at least according to a Washington businessman who sells a product found in most open box blinds.

Bret Gaussoin of Pellets Inc. said the key is the barn owls that like to call a deer hunter's box blind home.

"Most hunters like to lock their blinds tight to keep them out," he said. "But there is an opportunity there."

The market is for owl pellets, a term unfamiliar to many Texans but a sight that many have seen.

"The barn owl will feed on small creatures, typically mice or small birds," he said. "Then they spit up a hairball with the skeleton of the prey perfectly intact."

So where is the market for a coughed-up fur ball from a barn owl?

Schools.

"We buy the pellets from collectors, sterilize and wrap them in foil in our lab and sell

them to elementary schools," Gaussoin said. "The kids get a chance to study the prey and learn about the predator-prey relationship — plus they never know what they are going to get when the open the pellet."

It's not just a few schools. Last year the lab sold 500,000 owl pellets in the U.S. Gaussoin has trouble acquiring enough pellets to meet the demand.

How did he find his way into the business?

"By pure luck," Gaussoin said. "I was a falconer and found some pellets in the woods. A professor at my college was collecting them to sell and gave me \$30 for a bag full. After that I tromped from farm to farm, and I was his biggest collector by the time I got out of college."

Then Gaussoin married, and driving hundreds of miles to collect \$40,000 worth of pellets didn't seem as lucrative.

"I married a smart businesswoman," he said. "We ended up buying the business from the professor, and it took off from there."

Texas has been a largely untapped market for the business, although he has one collector in the Panhandle who helps supply him.

"Everyone I talk with, mostly large ranch managers, can't seem to stop laughing," he said. "They think I'm joking or something."

But when it comes time to pay for the pellets, the joke may be on them.

"We pay up to \$1 for a whole, firm pellet that is 1 1/2 inches or larger," he said. "And for one between 1 and 1 1/2



**MYSTERY PACKAGES:** Schools dissect owl pellets to learn about the birds' diet and digestion. The pellets contain the remains of small animals. Photo by Brett Gaussoin.

inches we pay up to 50 cents."

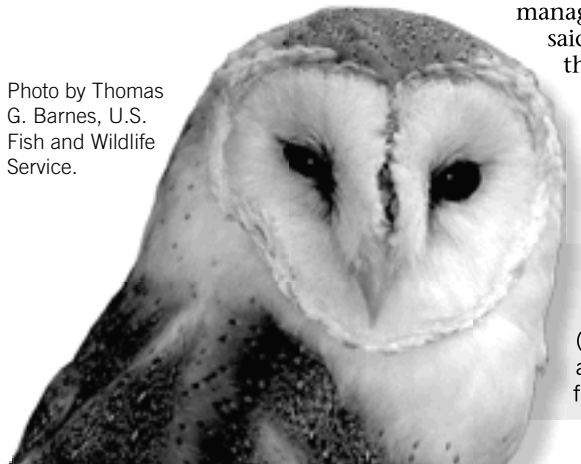
Doing the math, some Texans may want to stop laughing and start collecting.

"February is the start of their nesting season, so you'll see a big hit of the pellets in June — there could be hundreds of them at each

site," Gaussoin said. "You have to pick them up at least quarterly or the bugs will eat them, but you could pay for your lease. I put myself through college doing it."

For more information, call Gaussoin at (888) 466-6957.

Photo by Thomas G. Barnes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



### Besieged by barn owls

Barn owls love to roost in buildings (hence the name), and deer blinds are among their favorite haunts. Here are a few tips for identifying them.

- Length: 14 inches; wingspan: 44 inches
- Large, nocturnal, predatory bird
- Large, rounded head
- Pale facial disks with dark frame
- Tawny and gray upper parts with spots
- White underparts with scattered spots

- Sexes similar
- Sometimes found in silos

**Similar species:** Easily distinguished from other owls by its face pattern. In flight, it lacks dark wrist marks found in Long-eared and Short-eared Owls.

# Teal pouring through north

## Hunters down south seeing many as well

By Thomas Phillips

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Gaylon Wilmeth intended to spend the opening day of teal season Sept. 12 working with her 1-year-old Labrador retriever. The dog got a workout as Wilmeth and her boyfriend wore out the diminutive ducks.

"It was actually wonderful,"

said Wilmeth, who was hunting on public land near San Angelo's Lake Nasworthy.

The hunters returned for the Sunday hunt of the opener, and Wilmeth shot two in the morning and two in the afternoon.

Hunting was better in the morning, when more birds were seen, and it tapered off for the afternoon hunt, Wilmeth said.

On Sunday, a group of 10 to 15 cinnamon teal came to the hunters, who shot one each. Their other birds taken were all blue-winged teal. While hunting, Wilmeth saw a pair of pintails and a few gadwalls.

The birds were flying well, and the weather was behaving in a way only a duck hunter could love: lots of rain.

In Central Texas, Patrick Owens shot a limit in 20 minutes on Saturday at Cedar Creek Reservoir.

"It was fast and furious as teal hunting typically goes," said Owens, who lives in Kaufman.

The teal — all bluewings for Owens — were back again Sunday, this time in larger groups, Owens said. The groups made shot selection more difficult, he said.

"Our aim wasn't as true on Sun-



**EARLY BIRDS:** Teal hunters weathered the rains in several Texas areas and had good numbers of birds, while others were left hoping for more arrivals. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.

See **TEAL**, Page 16

# Texas hunter earns Weatherby award

Honor recognizes life of harvest success

By **Conor Harrison**  
KERRVILLE DAILY TIMES

A Texan who has traveled the world hunting recently learned he will receive one of the most prestigious awards in the outdoors.

Bruce Keller of Kerrville will be honored with the 53rd annual Weatherby Hunting and Conservation Award.

Founded by Roy Weatherby of Weatherby Rifles, the Weatherby Award was created to honor the world's greatest hunters. Former winners include Jack O'Connor, Herb Klein, Bob Speegle, Watson T. Yoshimoto, Rex Baker, Hubert Thummler and many others ranked among the most successful big game hunters in the world.

Through the years, the Weatherby Award, which is awarded by a selection committee assembled by the Weatherby Foundation International, has evolved not only to honor those who have collected the most animals but those who have equally contributed to wildlife conservation and who have a reputation for ethical sport hunting.

Award nominees are evaluated in terms of their membership in conservation organizations and their involvement in wildlife conservation activities.

Keller has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to conservation organizations, founded youth hunter apprentice programs and sat on the boards of directors of many hunting organizations that not only protect hunters' rights but also the game they pursue.

"I've never hunted for awards," Keller said. "I've always hunted a lot because I love to hunt, especially unique species in unique areas. I like seeing places like Chad, Romania and Ghana.

"A large part is the people you meet and the



**ALL-AROUND HUNTER:** Bruce Keller of Kerrville stands in front of one of his trophy animals at his home. Keller won the prestigious Weatherby Award, created to honor hunters who have contributed to wildlife conservation and have a reputation for ethical sport hunting. Photo by Tom Holden, Kerrville Daily Times.

places you see. I love that aspect. The Weatherby is such an honor for me because of the past winners. It's just a huge honor, and it is surreal to be mentioned with the past winners."

Throughout his hunting career, Keller harvested many species that pushed him into consideration for the Weatherby Award, he said. When his mentors, including Bob Speegle, told

See **AWARD**, Page 25

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## FISHING

# New jetty to help Matagorda passage

Channel is tricky, dangerous maze of sandbars

By Mike Price  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

After a day of catching king mackerel, ling and red snapper offshore from Matagorda, Capt. Brian Tulloch prepares to take his 24-foot Grady White through the jetties. He retrieves an anchor with 150 feet of line from the anchor locker and has one of his crew stand by. Should the

boat run aground, the deck hand is supposed to enter the water with a life jacket on and swim or walk (depending on depth) the anchor out and firmly embed it into the bottom. Then people on the boat can pull on the anchor line and pull the boat off the sand bar before the waves can slam it into the jetty.

Tulloch, the grandson of a sea captain who owned three square riggers, was taught to plan for the worst to avoid becoming bad news.

"I anticipate trouble before it hits," he said. "If both engines are stalled by hitting the sand between waves, I only have a few precious minutes before the hull is driven sideways onto

the rocks.

"I can't afford to spend those precious minutes digging the anchor out from underneath all the stuff in the anchor locker."

The passage between the Matagorda jetties at the mouth of the Colorado River (not to be confused with the Matagorda Ship Channel jetties near Port O'Connor) has been almost completely filled in with sand for about 18 months. To pass through the jetties, boaters have to know the locations of the openings in the continually shifting sand bars and time their entries or exits with high tide.

See **JETTIES**, Page 22



**SHALLOW RUN:** The Matagorda east jetty is angled, and silt has collected in the basin west of this jetty. A new jetty will be built parallel to the west jetty. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.



**X MARKS THE SPOT:** GPS, a worthwhile tool, has been misused by some fishermen to mark the spots of guides and tournament anglers, frustrating them after hours searching for underwater hot spots. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

# Spot spies

Guides, pros frustrated with losing locations to GPS-armed anglers

By Craig Nyhus  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Electronic equipment such as GPS provides immeasurable help to anglers trying to find underwater structure, especially away from the shore. But some anglers are taking the tools to secure spots located by others, a practice that annoys guides and tournament anglers and raises ethical fishing questions.

"Man, I could tell you so many stories," said Lance Vick, a Lake Fork guide and tournament angler, noting that his wrapped boat probably attracts spot-seekers. "I was with my best customer — we were strolling and I had a buoy out. This older guy comes and parks his boat between us and the buoy."

Vick said he always tries to be courteous when other anglers intrude, so they moved to another spot.

"The guy did it again," he said. "My customer was hot; we just set our rods down and looked at the man fishing. I have a radio on my boat, and I had Metallica on my iPod. We cranked it up — it was acoustic warfare."

The older fisherman finally had enough and left.

Vick said he often experiences people stopping right on his buoy, marking the spot on their GPS, and leaving.

The questionable practices extend to South

and East Texas.

"Driving a wrapped boat, it happens a lot," said Charles Whited, a guide at Choke Canyon Reservoir and Falcon Lake. "They go to one side of you, mark it, then go to the other side and mark it again, and you're history — they think everywhere there's a wrapped boat, there are fish."

Whited's problem with the practice stems from the time and effort put in to locate the offshore fishing spots.

"It's frustrating, especially on the offshore spots," he said. "You lose

a lot of spots that way. You take a lot of time finding rockpiles and other underwater spots, and in 5 minutes it's over. They circle you like a bunch of Indians."

Daryl Lyons, who guides at Toledo Bend Reservoir, said the activity of other anglers is becoming worse.

"It's become sort of an epidemic," he said. "Courtesy has kind of gone out the window." Lyons said his ears usually tell the story.

"You see them coming by and then you hear a beep," he said. "You know what just happened."

Since courtesy on the water is a personal is-

sue, Whited said, he doesn't expect the situation to improve.

"You can't do much about it," he said.

Mike Kernan, a weekend tournament angler and winner of several Bass Champs events and others, said the practice doesn't only involve

offenses by weekend anglers. Tournament competitors are guilty too, he said. And although most tournament anglers relish the thought of having a sponsored and wrapped boat, Kernan looks to be more inconspicuous.

"I'm not even running a wrap this year because of

it," Kernan said. "It's not worth it, I just run the wrap on the van."

Kernan said that in practice for a tournament, the ethics of some anglers suffers.

"They pull up and circle you," he said. "And I see people that see me and don't think I noticed them. On game day, they are fishing the same area."

Kernan hopes ethics would be stronger on the tournament scene, but problems can surface where money is involved.

"Ethics is an unwritten code," he said. "And some people choose to play dumb when it comes to ethics."

You take a lot of time finding rockpiles and other underwater spots, and in 5 minutes it's over.  
— Charles Whited, fishing guide

## Fall crappie bite building steam in Texas

Shad going shallow; anglers waiting for temp to drop

The fall crappie season is still young, but Texas anglers are catching plenty.

At Lake Bob Sandlin, Steve Bennett of Westboro has been averaging 35 to 40 fish per morning.

"It's been doing real good," Bennett said. "It's starting to pick up."

He catches them at brush piles, break lines and points in 12 to 20 feet of water.

The tasty fish are biting his hand-tied, 1/16-ounce jigs with blue tails and green bodies.

Not all of the fish are keepers, though. Not yet, at least, Bennett said.

"It's going to really get right after the first of the month," he said.

Bigger fish are biting at night, Bennett said. On his morning outings, he has been catching about three throwbacks to one keeper.

"But that's going to change," Bennett said.

The fishing should improve as the water cools. Recent rains have helped lower the temperature at Bob Sandlin, Bennett said. But it has not fallen consistently into the 70s, he said.

Next month he will keep 20 fish over the 10-inch minimum size limit to every throwback, he said.

Anglers at Lake Lewisville are in a similar situation.

"On Tuesday we caught 76, but only 26 were keepers," said Ernest Paty of Carrollton. "They were in 5 feet of water by the willow stumps."

See **CRAPPIE**, Page 30



**FALL FUN:** Cooling water temperatures bring on the crappie bite as the fish follow shad into the shallows.



# Rigging for rough water

Anglers should be prepared for high seas

By Dan Armitage  
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

On inland lakes, rivers and bays, when the wind and waves kick up, protected waters are never too far away. When the open waters of a large lake or the Gulf of Mexico separate angler from launch ramp, running for cover is not always an option. The boater and the boat need to be up to tackling the situation.

The most important point to keep in mind when fishing big, wide-open waters is that storms and the waves they push build quickly. A sharp weather eye is mandatory this time of year — the height of hurricane season.

When the weather turns, begin heading in. But be prepared — i.e., have the right gear — for a rough ride.

It's a given to have all the required safety items aboard any boat, but when fishing offshore or on large expanses of water, it's important to regularly check flares and fire extinguishers to make sure they are going to work when needed.

To summon emergency assistance, have a portable VHF radio aboard, with extra batteries. Program a fully charged cell phone with the number of the local Coast Guard station and sea-tow service.

The boat should be equipped with a large enough anchor and enough line to hold a position in the worst conditions and deepest water to be fished. A good rule of



**FISHING FORECAST:** Mark Fisher kept his eyes on this storm and left in time before becoming soaked and having to ride over dangerous waves. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

thumb is to use the 7:1 ratio for determining how much line is needed to securely hold bottom: seven times the water's depth in anchor line (70 feet of line in 10 feet of water, for example) to allow the anchor the correct angle relative to the boat to do its job when the conditions sour.

A handy device to have aboard is a portable 750 or 1,000 gallon per hour electric bilge pump. The pump should be fitted with a 6-foot length of flexible hose. The pump can be quickly hooked up to a power source and placed anywhere water is collecting and serve

as a welcome backup to built-in bilge pumps.

If cold weather is anticipated, have a dry bag aboard, containing a spare set of wool clothing, including socks, hat and gloves. Consider investing in a foul-weather suit designed for offshore sailors. The PVC-lined raingear should stay on-board all year. The suit is crucial during the cold-weather fishing season, and cool, rainy weather can pop up year-round.

**Bow mount care**

Gear in the bow of a boat pounding across waves takes the worst

punishment, and that puts bow-mounted electric trolling motors at particular risk when boating in rough conditions.

Consider adding an after-market stabilizer, called a "bounce buster," if the motor doesn't come equipped with one. R-A-M makes a good aftermarket stabilizer that'll fit most bow-mount motors, and Minn Kota offers a bow-mount stabilizer kit for its motors.

If conditions may get really rough, lash the motor down with two or three tie-down straps, at the

See **ROUGH**, Page 14

# Angler catches new state record swordfish

Former record bested by 9 pounds

By Thomas Phillips  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Shayne Babich's friends joked that they were out to catch a new state record swordfish.

They wanted to, and that's what they were going after. But the joke turned into reality Sept. 6.

The first night of their trip, about 100 miles out of Freeport, they hooked one swordfish and lost it. The next night they caught one estimated at 216 pounds.

See **WORDFISH**, Page 14



**MIGHTY SWORD:** Shayne Babich of Hempstead holds the state record swordfish, which he caught earlier this month.



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# GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

## SUCCESSFUL HUNT ALMOST SPARKS WAR

Nervous residents of San Elizario, a small border town in El Paso County, called 911 on the evening of Sept. 1 to report a large barrage of shots that seemed to be coming from Mexico with some pellets falling on their property and hitting at least one female. Officers from the sheriff's office, Border Patrol, Department of Public Safety and game wardens (who were in the general area) along with helicopters, SWAT officers, mobile command post, etc. arrived in the area to find a large party of dove hunters who were on a good flyway and really enjoying their evening hunt.

## DISCOURTEOUS DOVE POACHERS BUSTED FOR BAIT

On Sept. 1, Edwards County Game Warden Scott Holly received a call from a concerned citizen about shot raining down on his house and carport. Holly spoke with the dove hunters about the complaint and noticed that the field they were hunting was baited with corn and maize. Citations were issued to two hunters for hunting a baited area, and 26 doves confiscated.

## WALLET DROPPED AT TROOPER'S HOUSE

A state trooper called Williamson County Game Warden Turk Jones to report he was holding a man who admitted to shooting a deer the same morning. The man and two others were riding around in a pickup at 3:30 a.m. and had shot a doe with a .357 magnum. They loaded the deer in the truck and, when leaving the property, drove through the trooper's front yard without knowing who lived in the house. They then ran from the trooper and onto another ranch to field dress the deer. When they stopped the truck, the gut-shot deer jumped out and ran away.

Hill County Game Warden Mark Hammonds and Capt. Jim Ranft made contact with a man on his lease. It was obvious to both officers that some sort of hunting show was being filmed. The hunting show host began asking Hammonds questions.

## Lights! Camera! Bait!

After a few minutes, the officers left the scene and resumed their patrol. Once in the area, the wardens observed several parked vehicles. Further investigation revealed various types of maize, sunflower seeds, corn, etc. Hammonds called Game Warden

Doug Volcik to the scene for assistance. The lease holder was contacted again, but without the film crew. After a brief discussion, the lease holder took responsibility for distributing the grain and for the subsequent hunt. Cases pending.

men were 24 birds over their limit. Cases pending.

## OLD-TIMERS NOT EXEMPT FROM SEASON DATES

Hardeman County Game Warden Matt Thompson was patrolling Hardeman County looking for early dove hunters. His suspicions were correct when he ended up stopping two men for hunting dove from the road. The driver was 80 years old and passenger who was going and retrieving the birds was 78.

It was then the shooter realized he had lost his wallet near the trooper's house. The trio went to another town to switch vehicles before going back, but the trooper was waiting for them. When the shooter exited the car to search for his wallet, he was arrested. The driver of the car escaped. The shooter told Jones the other two individuals with him were his sister and her boyfriend. The investigation continues.

## STATE TROOPERS NOTICE EXCESS DOVE

Palo Pinto County Game Warden David Modgling was called to Interstate 20 by state troopers who had stopped a group of hunters traveling back to Dallas after hunting near Abilene. The trooper thought the hunters might have too many doves. After arriving on the scene, Modgling determined they did and seized 105 of the 165 birds they had in their possession. Cases pending.

## 'MEAT HAUL' TAKEN TO AN EXTREME

Matagorda County Game Wardens Aaron Koenig and David Janssen made several cases for various violations while working the Port O'Connor jetties. Violations found included undersized cobia, filleted fish on board a vessel, water safety infractions, and one boat that had almost a dozen undersized red snapper, some less than

10 inches. Cases pending.

## APOLOGY DOESN'T UNDO MESS OF BIRDS

Two hunters in Uvalde County were cited for exceeding the daily bag limit after Game Warden Chris Stautzenberger located two hunting stools stuffed with birds and a pile of birds in the brush. The hunters apologized to Stautzenberger, who was patrolling the Central Zone dove opener with Capt. Gus Sorola, for their misdeeds but were issued citations for exceeding their bag limit. Cases pending.

## WITNESSES POINT WARDENS ON TRAIL TO POACHERS

Game Warden Matthew Cruse received a phone call about a buck white-tailed deer that was found dead in the city of Roaring Springs in Motley County. Upon investigation, it was obvious the eight-point buck had been shot. The small-caliber bullet was removed with the aid of a metal detector to locate where it came to a stop in the body of the deer. Over the next few days, Cruse received phone calls from witnesses who saw the vehicle and heard the shot. They were a couple of blocks away in the backyard of a house when the vehicle drove up, shined lights into the vacant lot, shot, then sped away. The vehicle was identified by one witness as the vehicle that the shot came from the night of the shooting. The shell casing was

also found on the street where the shot was taken. Cruse interviewed a young man, who confessed to shooting the deer and leaving it. The deer was shot with a .17-caliber rimfire scoped rifle. Another young man was also involved in killing the deer. Game Wardens James Michael and Eric McCarstle from Region 9 received a confession from the second young man involved. Class A charges will be filed along with restitution for the eight-point buck.

## OLD PICKUP NO PLACE TO HIDE

Lubbock County Game Warden Quentin Terrel and Lt. Ted Davey contacted a large group of hunters on opening day of dove season. Two of the hunters were hunting with unplugged shotguns. While checking them, Davey approached two of the hunters who had quit hunting, claiming they were done and had a limit. After counting their dove, one of them was one bird over the limit. The officers were asked if they had more birds, and they claimed that was all of them. After some talking, they decided to give up four more birds that were thrown in an abandoned truck. Davey continued to talk with them about additional birds, and finally one said, "I can't be on the wrong side of the law. Get him the rest of the birds. There are 19 underneath that old truck." The two

## BURGLARS CAUGHT AT LAKE TAWAKONI

Hunt County Game Warden Dale Waters seized a stolen boat from a fish camp on the north end of Lake Tawakoni. Two suspects were arrested. They had been living in a makeshift camp and are suspected in several area burglaries of houses and businesses. A 32-inch TV, rods, reels and baby strollers were also seized. The investigation continues.

## ROCKS SPRAYED AT WARDENS

A driver used his tires to spray Hays County Game Warden James Michael and Travis County Game Warden Braxton Harris as they were patrolling the Colorado River at the Montopolis Drive bridge. The wardens were walking down to the river when the sport-utility vehicle backed out of the river and up to where the wardens were standing. The vehicle then did a 360 and sprayed the wardens and their patrol vehicles with dirt and rocks. The driver was ordered to stop, but he did another 360, spraying both wardens and vehicles with rocks. He then sped out of the area. Both wardens pursued the vehicle through Austin and eventually stopped it back on Montopolis Drive. The driver was arrested and taken to the Travis County Jail. Cases pending.

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**NO HOGS ALLOWED:** A study has shown that 28-inch fencing works well to keep hogs away from food sources while allowing whitetails easy access. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

## Researchers determine right height for hog fence

### By kicking pigs out, fence encourages deer to use feeder

Farmers and ranchers may be inadvertently aiding and abetting one of their worst enemies, the feral hog, by providing supplemental feed for white-tailed deer and other wildlife, said a Texas AgriLife Extension Service wildlife expert.

A new study conducted at the Welder Wildlife Foundation near Sinton showed that is it possible to design fencing that allows deer access to feeders while excluding feral hogs, said Dr. Billy Higginbotham, AgriLife Extension fisheries and wildlife specialist.

Texas hunters and landowners put out about 300 million pounds of shelled corn annually,

primarily for white-tailed deer, spending an estimated \$50 million. Feral hogs crash the party by raiding the feeding sites and eating the corn, often preventing deer and other wildlife from visiting at all.

The party crashing does more than just deny supplemental feed to white-tailed deer and other wildlife. Better-fed feral hog sows are more likely to produce more piglets per litter, and those piglets have a higher survival rate, Higginbotham said.

Fencing seemed the answer to the problem, he said, but how high was high enough to stop hogs and low enough to admit deer?

To answer the question, Higginbotham devised a cooperative study with Dr. Tyler Campbell, wildlife biologist and station leader at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Ser-

See FENCE, Page 26

# 2009 Hunting Season Dates



**DOVE**  
**North Zone and Central Zone** Sept. 1-Oct. 25, Dec. 26-Jan. 9  
**South Zone** Sept. 18-Nov. 3, Dec. 26-Jan. 17  
 Bag limit: 15 birds and not more than two white-tipped doves.  
**Special White-winged Dove Area** Sept. 5, 6, 12-13, Sept. 18-Nov. 3, Dec. 26-Jan. 13  
 The daily bag limit in the SWWDA is 15 birds, not more than four mourning doves during the first two weekend splits and 2 white-tipped doves. Once the general season opens, the aggregate bag limit will be 15.

**EARLY TEAL-ONLY** Sept. 12-27

**ALLIGATOR**  
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**Remainder of the state** Apr. 1-June 30

**PRONGHORN ANTELOPE**  
**35 counties (by permit only)** Oct. 3-11

**WHITE-TAILED DEER**  
**Archery-Only Season** Oct. 3-Nov. 6  
**Special Youth Season\*** Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Jan. 4-17  
**General Season** North Texas (206 counties) Nov. 7-Jan. 3  
 South Texas (30 counties) Nov. 7-Jan. 17  
**Late Antlerless and Spike** Edwards Plateau (39 counties) Jan. 4-17  
 South Texas (30 counties) Jan. 18-31  
**Muzzleloader (57 counties)** Jan. 4-17

**MULE DEER**  
**Archery-Only Season** Oct. 3-Nov. 6  
**General Season** Panhandle (38 counties) Nov. 21-Dec. 6  
 SW Panhandle (10 counties) Nov. 21-29  
 Trans-Pecos (19 counties) Nov. 28-Dec. 13

**JAVELINA**  
**(43 counties)** Oct. 1-Feb. 28  
**(50 counties)** Sept. 1-Aug. 31

**PHEASANT**  
**Panhandle (37 counties)** Dec. 5-Jan. 3  
**Chambers, Jefferson & Liberty counties** Oct. 31-Feb. 28

**SQUIRREL**  
**Special Youth Season\*\*** Sept. 26-27  
**East Texas (51 counties)** Oct. 1-Feb. 7, May 1-31  
**Other Open counties** Sept. 1-Aug. 31 (see County Listings)

**LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN**  
 No open season for lesser prairie chicken.

**QUAIL**  
**Statewide (all counties)** Oct. 31-Feb. 28

**RIO GRANDE TURKEY**  
**Archery-Only Season** Oct. 3-Nov. 6  
**Fall Season** Special Youth Season\* Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Jan. 16-17  
 North Zone (122 counties) Nov. 7-Jan. 3  
 South Zone (26 counties) Nov. 7-Jan. 17  
 Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg, & Willacy counties Nov. 7-Feb. 28  
**Spring Season** North Zone (101 counties) Apr. 3-May 16  
 Special Youth Season\* Mar. 27-28, May 22-23  
 South Zone (54 counties) Mar. 20-May 2  
 Special Youth Season\* Mar. 13-14, May 8-9  
 1-Turkey Bag Limit (11 counties) Apr. 1-30

**EASTERN TURKEY+**  
**Spring-Only Season** East Texas (43 counties) Apr. 1-30

**CHACHALACA**  
 Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr & Willacy counties Oct. 31-Feb. 28

**RABBITS and HARES** No closed season.

In addition to a hunting license, a migratory game bird stamp endorsement (\$7) is required to hunt any migratory game bird, including mourning dove (a Federal Sandhill Crane Permit also is required to hunt sandhill crane). An upland game bird stamp endorsement (\$7) is required to hunt turkey, quail, pheasant or chachalacas. See County Listings in the *Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual* for specific county regulations and more detailed information.

\*In all counties that have an open season for those species.  
 \*\*In all counties that have an Oct. 1-Feb. 7 and May 1-31 Open Squirrel Season.

+Rio Grande and Eastern Turkey may be hunted in these counties.

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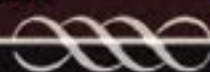
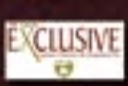
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**PREPARATION:** Experienced archers say sharpening blades is a key step to take before the opener. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

# Sharper, quicker, sneakier

## Bowhunters offer insider tips for success this season

By Thomas Phillips  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Bowhunters are famously particular about (at least) three things: practicing, scent control and sound. Beyond those are a few insider tips for filling a deer tag.

An experienced archer will say shot placement is one of the most important parts of bowhunting. With a firearm, the bullet provides hemorrhaging capacity with tremendous force, so a shot can cut and overpower an animal.

An arrow, traveling at about 340 feet per second, only slices.

For Clint Montgomery, a bowhunt-

er and the president of Texins Archery Club in Dallas, he tries to aim true, and he wants to be aiming an extremely sharp broadhead.

"It really comes down to two things," Montgomery said. "One is having a really sharp blade, and that's often overlooked." (The other is knowing one's gear, he said.)

Montgomery sharpens or replaces his blades after practicing with them.

Jack Jetton, the president of the Lone Star Bowhunters Association, goes a step further. For him, just because a broadhead is brand new and straight out of the packaging doesn't mean it's sharp enough. He tests it, and if it's not up to par, out comes the sharpener.

"If you can shave with it, it's sharp enough," Jetton said.

Before Jetton can take that extra-sharp shot, he wants the deer to come in as close as possible. But no deer worth shooting will go somewhere its nose says

is dangerous.

Jetton takes his odor defense beyond wearing rubber boots taped to scent-blocking camouflage at the cuff. He doesn't wear a gas mask, but he does watch his diet.

"Don't eat garlic," Jetton said. "Breath is one of the worst offenders for scent control.

"You need to do the whole system."

The whole system for Kevin Smith of Rockwall, a pro staffer for Bass Pro Shops in Garland, includes a little gunslinging, bow-style.

"Practice drawing and shooting as fast as you can," Smith said.

Part of his fast shooting is knowing when to draw. He waits until the deer has its head down and is, ideally, quartered away.

Another tip for quick shooting: Smith uses his rangefinder to gauge distances to spots around him so he doesn't have to use it when a deer arrives.



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## Swordfish

Continued from Page 9

The trip was Babich's second or third time targeting swordfish. For this hookup, with the presumed 216-pounder, he manned the rod.

Under Texas rules, for a fish to count as a state record, the rod must be handled by only one person.

Babich fought it for 3 hours, getting it to the boat early in the morning. It took the crew another 15 minutes, Babich said, to boat the fish.

From there, they took length and girth measurements for a more accurate weight estimate. Without a scale, they figured the fish weighed 330 pounds.

At that point, they didn't know the stats on the then-current state record. A few calls into shore and they found what they were looking for.

The former record: 317 pounds. Babich's fish, when weighed on certified scales, hit 326 pounds.

"That's what we were targeting," said Babich, who lives in Hempstead.

The fish fell for a rig of squid, glow sticks and floats, and it counts as the all-tackle state record.

## Rough

Continued from Page 9

motor end, to keep it and the prop from twisting loose; at the midway point up the shaft that usually comes standard to hold the motor against the deck, and a third strap around the head of the motor to the bow cleat to pin the head down with pressure against the bounce buster and the deck.

Also make certain to secure the batteries that power the bow-mount motor. Consider two straps for each battery and positioning them as far astern to keep the batteries' movement to a minimum and to keep the bow of the boat as light as possible. That way, you can use engine trim, rather than weight forward, to run the bow low when needed.

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# HEROES



**BLAYNE HODGES**, 5, holds bass caught simultaneously with his father, **Ben**. Blayne's was the 5-pounder.



**SHAWN GLASS** caught this 30-inch, 11-pound redfish while fishing out of South Padre Island during the 70th annual Texas International Fishing Tournament.



**PATRICK HARRISON JR.**, 10, caught this 8-pound, 11-ounce bass at dusk on a 10-inch red shad worm on a private lake in Central Texas.



**CHRISTOPHER CAVASOS**, 4, of Alice caught and released about 20 pig-gie perch in Corpus Christi.



**JOSH CUELLAR** of Rio Hondo took this seven-point buck at 100 yards with a .270 while hunting with his father in Zapata County.

**Share an adventure**  
 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

# SnapShot

## Winner

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# Snook

Continued from Page 1

into the night time. The area we were fishing had a lot of structure, and a lot of bait."

Rick Roberts, executive director of the Snook Foundation, agrees that structure such as pilings and bridges are among the wily robalo's favorite haunts, and now is the time to go.

"This time of the year — now that the summer is over and the spawn is slowing down — there are a lot of people who are fishing at night for snook," Roberts said. "Bridges are just exceptionally good to fish, and they're exceptionally good at night. Some of the biggest fish — I'm talking big 40-inchers — are caught at night around the bridges."

Rod Bates has been fishing the Lower Laguna Madre since the 1960s and said that, these days, his biggest problem when snook fishing is catching a fish in the slot. Because he has a day job, much of his fishing is done after the sun goes down.

"My second-smallest fish this year was 33 inches. My largest was 41 1/2," Bates said. "The problem up in the pilings is not catching snook, it's catching one you can keep."

In Texas, night-time snook structure looks a lot like the Queen Isabella Memorial Bridge, the 2.37-mile-long causeway connecting

South Padre Island to Port Isabel. The old causeway (now a fishing pier just south of the new span) and docks, rocks and points in the area also hold snook at night.

"At night, the snook are feeding very strongly," Bates said. "I find it best on the ebb tide, by the way. Just when it starts moving again, on the slower tide, those big snook are up there feeding."

When he uses natural bait, he typically tries to match the hatch. He nets whatever is swimming in the area he's fishing and pins it on a hook. More often than not, it's ballyhoo.

"They like it alive. If that ballyhoo quits twitching, change it," he said. "The other thing I'm using a lot is the X-Rap by Rapala. At night, I'm using the black with silver sides."

Bates has spent hours watching snook feed at the edges of lights.

"There have been a few times the water was crystal clear, and I've been able to observe them," he said. "The snook will patrol open water, but they'll lay right along the structure. They seem to go back and forth within these areas. When a school of bait comes by, they just work that area until the bait is gone."

Roberts, whose organization helps fund snook research, said the species' eyes sport a special coating that gives them great low-light vision.



**NIGHT IS RIGHT:** Snook have excellent low-light vision and feed extensively at night. Anglers target areas with structure and bait to pursue the fish. Photo by Erich Schlegel, for Lone Star Outdoor News.

"They see very well at night compared to a lot of fish. They're particularly good at picking off bait that's moving along pretty quickly in

the tide," he says. "Night time is the right time for snook. They are definitely night-time party animals."

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# Teal

Continued from Page 6

day," Owens said.

He and a friend bagged four total, splitting a limit.

They were hunting on the north end of Cedar Creek, and several other groups were hunting nearby.

"We could tell they were doing good as well," Owens said.

Owens and his friend saw many wood ducks and a few big ducks and spoonbills. They had ibis and roseate spoonbills coming into their decoys, an odd sight for the hunters.

Also in Central Texas, John Murray of Arlington limited opening weekend while hunting southwest of Corsicana. He gave the report while driving to Knox City for more hunting during the second weekend of the two-week teal season.

Near Knox City, Lorin Myers hunted with six others and found unusual conditions.

"It was raining in sheets, and it was slow the first hour," he said. "Usually that isn't a good sign but at about 8 o'clock they started coming in. Everyone limited out shortly after that. The good news is there weren't any mosquitoes."

Hunters at the Thunderbird Hunting Club near Matagorda harvested limits opening morning, followed by less success the following day. The birds returned, though, and 30-minute limits were the norm the second Saturday of the season.

"There is lots of second-crop rice here," said Paul McDonald. "The birds were just full of it."

Along the coast, the season got off to a slower start.

"It's been on and off," said Burt Moritz of Lake Jackson. "We've had a couple of good hunts and a couple of zeroes."

Moritz said the coastal areas were very dry.

"The rains came the night before the teal opener, that's a little too late — but it bodes well for the regular duck season."

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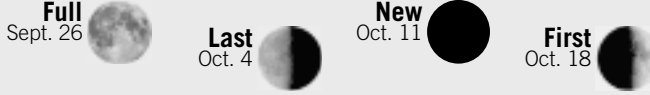


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# Sun | Moon | Tides

## Moon Phases



## Texas Coast Tides

### Sabine Pass, jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Sep 25	12:30 a.m.	3.2H	2:43 p.m.	0.5L				
Sep 26	1:54 a.m.	3.2H	3:56 p.m.	0.7L				
Sep 27	2:31 a.m.	3.2H	5:03 p.m.	0.7L				
Sep 28	2:38 a.m.	3.0H	6:00 p.m.	0.9L				
Sep 29	2:29 a.m.	3.0H	8:16 a.m.	2.5L	10:48 a.m.	2.7H	6:44 p.m.	1.1L
Sep 30	2:25 a.m.	2.9H	8:00 a.m.	2.5L	12:16 p.m.	2.7H	7:22 p.m.	1.3L
Oct 1	2:27 a.m.	2.9H	8:03 a.m.	2.1L	1:27 p.m.	2.9H	7:55 p.m.	1.4L
Oct 2	2:32 a.m.	2.9H	8:19 a.m.	1.8L	2:32 p.m.	2.9H	8:28 p.m.	1.8L
Oct 3	2:38 a.m.	2.9H	8:41 a.m.	1.4L	3:32 p.m.	3.0H	9:02 p.m.	2.0L
Oct 4	2:43 a.m.	2.9H	9:09 a.m.	1.1L	4:32 p.m.	3.0H	9:38 p.m.	2.3L
Oct 5	2:45 a.m.	2.9H	9:40 a.m.	0.7L	5:32 p.m.	3.2H	10:15 p.m.	2.7L
Oct 6	2:41 a.m.	2.9H	10:17 a.m.	0.4L	6:35 p.m.	3.4H	10:51 p.m.	2.9L
Oct 7	2:34 a.m.	3.0H	10:59 a.m.	0.2L	7:47 p.m.	3.4H	11:23 p.m.	3.0L
Oct 8	2:33 a.m.	3.2H	11:49 a.m.	0.2L	9:12 p.m.	3.4H	11:48 p.m.	3.2L
Oct 9	2:44 a.m.	3.4H	12:47 p.m.	0.2L				

### Galveston Bay entrance, south jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Sep 25	1:17 a.m.	2.6H	3:09 p.m.	0.4L				
Sep 26	2:41 a.m.	2.6H	4:22 p.m.	0.6L				
Sep 27	3:18 a.m.	2.6H	5:29 p.m.	0.6L				
Sep 28	3:15 a.m.	2.4H	6:26 p.m.	0.7L				
Sep 29	3:26 a.m.	2.4H	8:42 a.m.	2.0L	11:35 a.m.	2.1H	7:10 p.m.	0.9L
Sep 30	3:12 a.m.	2.3H	8:26 a.m.	2.0L	1:03 p.m.	2.1H	7:48 p.m.	1.0L
Oct 1	3:14 a.m.	2.3H	8:29 a.m.	1.7L	2:14 p.m.	2.3H	8:21 p.m.	1.1L
Oct 2	3:19 a.m.	2.3H	8:45 a.m.	1.4L	3:19 p.m.	2.3H	8:54 p.m.	1.4L
Oct 3	3:25 a.m.	2.3H	9:07 a.m.	1.1L	4:19 p.m.	2.4H	9:28 p.m.	1.6L
Oct 4	3:30 a.m.	2.3H	9:35 a.m.	0.9L	5:19 p.m.	2.4H	10:04 p.m.	1.9L
Oct 5	3:32 a.m.	2.3H	10:06 a.m.	0.6L	6:19 p.m.	2.6H	10:41 p.m.	2.1L
Oct 6	3:28 a.m.	2.3H	10:43 a.m.	0.3L	7:22 p.m.	2.7H	11:17 p.m.	2.3L
Oct 7	3:21 a.m.	2.4H	11:25 a.m.	0.1L	8:34 p.m.	2.7H	11:49 p.m.	2.4L
Oct 8	3:20 a.m.	2.6H	12:15 p.m.	0.1L	9:59 p.m.	2.7H		
Oct 9	12:14 a.m.	2.6L	3:31 a.m.	2.7H	1:13 p.m.	0.1L		

### San Luis Pass

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Sep 25	1:47 a.m.	1.5H	4:05 p.m.	0.3L				
Sep 26	3:11 a.m.	1.5H	5:18 p.m.	0.3L				
Sep 27	3:48 a.m.	1.5H	6:25 p.m.	0.3L				
Sep 28	3:55 a.m.	1.5H	7:22 p.m.	0.4L				
Sep 29	3:46 a.m.	1.5H	9:38 a.m.	1.2L	12:05 p.m.	1.3H	8:06 p.m.	0.5L
Sep 30	3:42 a.m.	1.4H	9:22 a.m.	1.2L	1:33 p.m.	1.3H	8:44 p.m.	0.6L
Oct 1	3:44 a.m.	1.4H	9:25 a.m.	1.0L	2:44 p.m.	1.4H	9:17 p.m.	0.7L
Oct 2	3:49 a.m.	1.4H	9:41 a.m.	0.9L	3:49 p.m.	1.4H	9:50 p.m.	0.9L
Oct 3	3:55 a.m.	1.4H	10:03 a.m.	0.7L	4:49 p.m.	1.5H	10:24 p.m.	0.9L
Oct 4	4:00 a.m.	1.4H	10:31 a.m.	0.5L	5:49 p.m.	1.5H	11:00 p.m.	1.1L
Oct 5	4:02 a.m.	1.4H	11:02 a.m.	0.3L	6:49 p.m.	1.5H	11:37 p.m.	1.3L
Oct 6	3:58 a.m.	1.4H	11:39 a.m.	0.2L	7:52 p.m.	1.6H		
Oct 7	12:13 a.m.	1.4L	3:51 a.m.	1.5H	12:21 p.m.	0.1L	9:04 p.m.	1.6H
Oct 8	12:45 a.m.	1.5L	3:50 a.m.	1.5H	1:11 p.m.	0.1L	10:29 p.m.	1.6H
Oct 9	1:10 a.m.	1.5L	4:01 a.m.	1.6H	2:09 p.m.	0.1L		

### Freeport Harbor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Sep 25	12:39 a.m.	2.2H	3:06 p.m.	0.3L				
Sep 26	2:03 a.m.	2.2H	4:19 p.m.	0.4L				
Sep 27	2:40 a.m.	2.2H	5:26 p.m.	0.4L				
Sep 28	2:47 a.m.	2.1H	6:23 p.m.	0.5L				
Sep 29	2:38 a.m.	2.1H	8:39 a.m.	1.3L	10:57 a.m.	1.8H	7:07 p.m.	0.5L
Sep 30	2:34 a.m.	2.0H	8:23 a.m.	1.3L	12:25 p.m.	1.8H	7:45 p.m.	0.6L
Oct 1	2:36 a.m.	2.0H	8:26 a.m.	1.1L	1:36 p.m.	2.0H	8:18 p.m.	0.7L
Oct 2	2:41 a.m.	2.0H	8:42 a.m.	0.9L	2:41 p.m.	2.0H	8:51 p.m.	0.9L
Oct 3	2:47 a.m.	2.0H	9:04 a.m.	0.7L	3:41 p.m.	2.1H	9:25 p.m.	1.0L
Oct 4	2:52 a.m.	2.0H	9:32 a.m.	0.5L	4:41 p.m.	2.1H	10:01 p.m.	1.2L
Oct 5	2:54 a.m.	2.0H	10:03 a.m.	0.4L	5:41 p.m.	2.2H	10:38 p.m.	1.4L
Oct 6	2:50 a.m.	2.0H	10:40 a.m.	0.2L	6:44 p.m.	2.3H	11:14 p.m.	1.4L
Oct 7	2:43 a.m.	2.1H	11:22 a.m.	0.1L	7:56 p.m.	2.3H	11:46 p.m.	1.5L
Oct 8	2:42 a.m.	2.2H	12:12 p.m.	0.1L	9:21 p.m.	2.3H		
Oct 9	12:11 a.m.	1.6L	2:53 a.m.	2.3H	1:10 p.m.	0.1L		

### Port O'Connor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Sep 25	5:44 a.m.	1.3H	5:50 p.m.	0.3L				
Sep 26	6:29 a.m.	1.3H	7:16 p.m.	0.4L				
Sep 27	7:12 a.m.	1.3H	8:40 p.m.	0.4L				
Sep 28	7:51 a.m.	1.3H	9:50 p.m.	0.5L				
Sep 29	8:21 a.m.	1.2H	10:49 p.m.	0.5L				
Sep 30	8:35 a.m.	1.1H	11:40 p.m.	0.6L				
Oct 1	8:12 a.m.	1.0H	11:28 a.m.	0.9L	4:31 p.m.	1.1H		
Oct 2	12:31 a.m.	0.7L	7:13 a.m.	0.9H	11:22 a.m.	0.8L	6:13 p.m.	1.1H
Oct 3	1:29 a.m.	0.8L	5:53 a.m.	0.9H	11:41 a.m.	0.8L	7:41 p.m.	1.2H
Oct 4	12:09 p.m.	0.6L	9:12 p.m.	1.2H				
Oct 5	12:42 p.m.	0.5L	11:07 p.m.	1.3H				
Oct 6	1:21 p.m.	0.4L						
Oct 7	1:56 a.m.	1.4H	2:07 p.m.	0.3L				
Oct 8	3:32 a.m.	1.5H	2:59 p.m.	0.3L				
Oct 9	4:40 a.m.	1.6H	4:00 p.m.	0.3L				

### Rockport

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Sep 25	8:09 a.m.	0.67H	6:47 p.m.	0.33L				
Sep 26	9:26 a.m.	0.67H	7:50 p.m.	0.35L				
Sep 27	10:36 a.m.	0.67H	8:47 p.m.	0.37L				
Sep 28	11:37 a.m.	0.67H	9:32 p.m.	0.39L				
Sep 29	12:33 p.m.	0.65H	10:04 p.m.	0.42L				
Sep 30	1:32 p.m.	0.63H	10:24 p.m.	0.46L				
Oct 1	7:05 a.m.	0.56H	8:11 a.m.	0.56L	2:57 p.m.	0.59H	3:40 p.m.	0.50L
Oct 2	5:16 a.m.	0.57H	11:17 a.m.	0.53L	5:28 p.m.	0.57H	10:17 p.m.	0.55L
Oct 3	4:39 a.m.	0.60H	12:31 p.m.	0.49L				
Oct 4	4:11 a.m.	0.64H	1:19 p.m.	0.45L				
Oct 5	3:49 a.m.	0.67H	2:01 p.m.	0.41L				
Oct 6	3:45 a.m.	0.71H	2:45 p.m.	0.38L				
Oct 7	4:09 a.m.	0.74H	3:35 p.m.	0.36L				
Oct 8	4:59 a.m.	0.76H	4:32 p.m.	0.35L				
Oct 9	6:06 a.m.	0.78H	5:34 p.m.	0.35L				

### Port Aransas, H. Caldwell Pier

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Sep 25	1:10 a.m.	2.1H	2:48 p.m.	0.2L				
Sep 26	2:34 a.m.	2.1H	4:01 p.m.	0.3L				
Sep 27	3:11 a.m.	2.1H	5:08 p.m.	0.3L				
Sep 28	3:18 a.m.	2.0H	6:05 p.m.	0.4L				
Sep 29	3:09 a.m.	2.0H	8:21 a.m.	1.1L	11:28 a.m.	1.7H	6:49 p.m.	0.5L
Sep 30	3:05 a.m.	1.8H	8:05 a.m.	1.1L	12:56 p.m.	1.7H	7:27 p.m.	0.5L
Oct 1	3:07 a.m.	1.8H	8:08 a.m.	0.9L	2:07 p.m.	1.8H	8:00 p.m.	0.6L
Oct 2	3:12 a.m.	1.8H	8:24 a.m.	0.8L	3:12 p.m.	1.8H	8:33 p.m.	0.8L
Oct 3	3:18 a.m.	1.8H	8:46 a.m.	0.6L	4:12 p.m.	2.0H	9:07 p.m.	0.8L
Oct 4	3:23 a.m.	1.8H	9:14 a.m.	0.5L	5:12 p.m.	2.0H	9:43 p.m.	1.0L
Oct 5	3:25 a.m.	1.8H	9:45 a.m.	0.3L	6:12 p.m.	2.1H	10:20 p.m.	1.2L
Oct 6	3:21 a.m.	1.8H	10:22 a.m.	0.2L	7:15 p.m.	2.2H	10:56 p.m.	1.2L
Oct 7	3:14 a.m.	2.0H	11:04 a.m.	0.1L	8:27 p.m.	2.2H	11:28 p.m.	1.3L
Oct 8	3:13 a.m.	2.1H	11:54 a.m.	0.1L	9:52 p.m.	2.2H	11:53 p.m.	1.4L
Oct 9	3:24 a.m.	2.2H	12:52 p.m.	0.1L				

### South Padre Island

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Sep 25	12:33 a.m.	2.0H	2:34 p.m.	0.3L				
Sep 26	1:42 a.m.	2.0H	3:45 p.m.	0.5L				
Sep 27	2:26 a.m.	2.0H	4:54 p.m.	0.6L				
Sep 28	2:51 a.m.	2.0H	5:56 p.m.	0.8L				
Sep 29	3:02 a.m.	2.0H	6:49 p.m.	0.9L				
Sep 30	3:00 a.m.	1.9H	8:18 a.m.	1.7L	12:01 p.m.	1.8H	7:37 p.m.	1.0L
Oct 1	2:52 a.m.	1.8H	8:15 a.m.	1.5L	1:33 p.m.	1.8H	8:24 p.m.	1.1L
Oct 2	2:41 a.m.	1.7H	8:27 a.m.	1.3L	2:47 p.m.	1.8H	9:13 p.m.	1.2L
Oct 3	2:27 a.m.	1.6H	8:45 a.m.	1.0L	3:53 p.m.	1.9H	10:09 p.m.	1.3L
Oct 4	2:10 a.m.	1.5H	9:09 a.m.	0.7L	4:57 p.m.	1.9H	11:21 p.m.	1.4L
Oct 5	1:39 a.m.	1.5H	9:39 a.m.	0.4L	6:04 p.m.	2.0H		
Oct 6	10:15 a.m.	0.2L	7:17 p.m.	2.1H				
Oct 7	10:58 a.m.	0.0L	8:41 p.m.	2.1H				
Oct 8	11:50 a.m.	0.0L	10:13 p.m.	2.2H				
Oct 9	12:48 p.m.	0.0L	11:38 p.m.	2.3H				

## Solunar | Sun times | Moon times

Houston		P.M.		SUN		MOON		
Sep-Oct	A.M.	Minor	Major	Rises	Sets	Rises	Sets	
25 Fri	11:36	5:24	-----	5:49	7:10	7:14	2:00p	NoMoon
26 Sat Q	12:03	6:15	-----	6:40	7:10	7:13	2:46p	12:11a
27 Sun	12:51	7:03	1:14	7:26	7:11	7:12	3:27p	1:06a
28 Mon	1:35	7:46	1:58	8:09	7:11	7:11	4:03p	2:02a
29 Tue	2:16	8:27	2:38	8:49	7:12	7:09	4:36p	2:58a
30 Wed	2:55	9:05	3:16	9:26	7:12	7:08	5:06p	3:53a
01 Thu	3:32	9:42	3:53	10:03	7:13	7:07	5:35p	4:48a
02 Fri >								

# Texans miss BASS crown

## Four finish in top 12; VanDam wins



**BASS RACE:** Kevin VanDam finished first in the Bass Elite Series Angler of the Year standings. Photo by ESPN Outdoors.

Professional bass fishermen fought through two tough tournaments in Alabama to determine the 2009 Angler of the Year. The winner? Kevin VanDam — again.

VanDam, of Kalamazoo, Mich., scored his fifth Angler of the Year trophy and second consecutive Sept. 18 at the Evan Williams Bourbon Trophy Triumph.

"I'm overwhelmed," VanDam said. "You can do a lot of things in this sport but to the anglers, the Angler of the Year is the real deal. Every time I win one of these, it makes me want to win even more. It's just really special."

The tournaments were among the top 12 anglers on the Bass Elite Series.

At the start of Toyota Trucks Championship week, things didn't look so promising for VanDam. The week began with a tournament on Alabama's Lake Jordan, and VanDam struggled at the start.

Skeet Reese, who finished second in the Angler of the Year standings, performed well and gave VanDam a run for his money.

The first tournament ended with Reese ahead of VanDam in the AOY standings.

VanDam wouldn't stay down long.

He developed a solid pattern in practice at the second tournament site: the Alabama River. At the end, he smoked the field with 30 pounds, 6 ounces.

Still, Reese had a shot, needing a finish of fourth or better, but the 2009 Bassmaster Classic champion fell short, finishing in sixth place.

"I'm utterly shocked right now," said VanDam, who has three Bassmaster Classic victories. "After the first tournament, everything seemed to go wrong, and I didn't think I had much of a shot. But I knew I had to battle through it. This format is definitely intense and things seemed to work out for me."

## Angler of the Year standings

1. Kevin VanDam 283
2. Skeet Reese 277
3. Tommy Biffle 265
4. Michael Iaconelli 261
5. Randy Howell 248
6. Alton Jones of Waco 233
7. Kelly Jordon of Mineola 232
8. Cliff Pace 224
9. Gerald Swindle 219
10. Gary Klein of Weatherford 217
11. Mark Menendez 215
12. Todd Faircloth of Jasper 212

## Results from the Evan Williams Bourbon Trophy Triumph

Angler	Hometown	Lbs.-Oz.	Payout	Totals
1. Kevin VanDam	Kalamazoo, Mich.	30-06	\$200,000	Day 1: 5 14-03 Day 2: 5 16-03
2. Tommy Biffle	Wagoner, Okla.	22-11	\$40,000	Day 1: 5 8-09 Day 2: 5 14-02
3. Kelly Jordon	Mineola	21-15	\$20,000	Day 1: 5 10-15 Day 2: 5 11-00
4. Michael Iaconelli	Runnemede, N.J.	21-12	\$35,000	Day 1: 5 10-05 Day 2: 5 11-07
5. Randy Howell	Springville, Ala.	20-11	\$25,000	Day 1: 5 8-10 Day 2: 5 12-01
6. Skeet Reese	Auburn, Calif.	20-07	\$75,000	Day 1: 5 10-05 Day 2: 5 10-02
7. Gary Klein	Weatherford	20-01	\$17,000	Day 1: 5 8-15 Day 2: 5 11-02
8. Cliff Pace	Petal, Miss.	17-11	\$19,000	Day 1: 5 8-05 Day 2: 5 9-06
9. Alton Jones	Waco	17-11	\$22,500	Day 1: 5 9-00 Day 2: 5 8-11
10. Mark Menendez	Paducah, Ky.	17-03	\$15,000	Day 1: 5 8-11 Day 2: 5 8-08
11. Gerald Swindle	Warrior, Ala.	17-01	\$18,000	Day 1: 5 9-04 Day 2: 5 7-13
12. Todd Faircloth	Jasper	12-02	\$14,000	Day 1: 5 6-10 Day 2: 5 5-08

Although Reese was disappointed, he said the loss was easier to swallow because of his season-starting victory in the 2009 Bassmaster Classic. Reese also had a steady season after the Classic.

"I had a great season but I wanted to have a spectacular season," said Reese, who will defend his 2009 Classic crown at the 2010 edition in Birmingham, Ala., and Lay Lake next February. "I'm sure I will be riding the emotional roller coaster over the next few days but right now I feel OK."

VanDam had a mostly spectacular season, winning a Bassmaster Elite Series event on Virginia's Smith Mountain Lake in April and stringing together solid finishes throughout the year to head into the postseason in the top spot in the

AOY standings.

Four Texans also competed in the week's events.

In the first tournament, Todd Faircloth of Jasper finished eighth. His fellow Texans filled the last three spots, with Alton Jones of Waco taking 10th, Gary Klein of Weatherford taking 11th, and Kelly Jordon of Mineola finishing in 12th.

In the second tournament, Jordon finished third, Klein finished sixth, Jones of Waco finished ninth, and Faircloth came in last.

For the Angler of the Year race, Jones finished in sixth, one spot ahead of Jordon. Klein came in at No. 10, and Faircloth finished 12th.

— BASS report

## Bass Fishing News in Brief

### Judy Wong scores first WBT win at Old Hickory Lake

Judy Wong of Many, La., landed her first win on the Academy Sports & Outdoors Women's Bassmaster Tour on Tennessee's Old Hickory Lake.

Wong brought in a three-day total of 28 pounds, 5 ounces for the win, earning \$1,000 and a boat package valued at nearly \$55,000.

Kim Bain-Moore, the reigning WBT Angler of the Year, finished second with 21 pounds, 9 ounces.

Wong worked a ledge all three days using an Academy H2O crankbait and a Carolina-rigged lizard. One was watermelon red, but she switched to black with blue flake when the sky was overcast.

Texans Robin Babb of Livingston finished sixth with 18 pounds, 10 ounces, Helen Gordon of Flower Mound finished eighth with 16 pounds and Juanita Robinson of Highlands ended in tenth with 15 pounds, 11 ounces.

— BASS report

### Sanger man wins Ray Roberts tourney with 7.7-pounder

Turnout was lower than expected Sept. 12 on Lake Ray Roberts for the inaugural Abu Garcia REVO Big Bass tournament. Soaking rains meant about half of the anticipated anglers hit the water, and the bass weren't biting like they hoped.

Mike Howard of Sanger boated a 7.7-pound largemouth during the first hour of the tournament to set the bar for the rest of the day. The tournament differed from other tournaments in that anglers were going after the biggest bass of the day instead of the heaviest limit of fish.

Howard held the lead the rest of the day, and he didn't expect to.

"No way, this lake has too many good fish in it," Howard said.

It was a rough, rainy and windy day on Lake Ray Roberts. Forecasts warned that the Ray Roberts area could have up to 4 inches of rain on tournament day. Only 174 anglers made it out, down from an anticipated 300 to 500, organizers said.

Only three anglers weighed in during the second hour. Each hour the overall weights dropped, until the final hour when Zach Parker of Aubrey brought another big fish to the scales. When asked if he thought it was going to be big enough to take the lead, Zach replied, "It's going to be close."

When the scales locked in, the fish was about a quarter-pound shy of the 7.70 that was needed to tie for the lead.

— Bass Champs report

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(307) 857-4700  
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## DV-733 GAME CAMERA

**Leaf River's** scouting camera will help hunters track down their dream bucks. The seven megapixel camera has a 2.4-inch viewing screen with zoom and pan capabilities plus improved trigger speed.

The camera can be programmed to pause between 1 to 90 minutes between pictures and also has a Quick Shot mode that captures a second or third image quickly if additional motion is detected. The DV-733 will accept up to a two gigabyte SD memory card. Available in Mossy Oak Treestand camouflage, it comes with a USB cable, an RCA cable, steel mounting bracket, a steel security bar and a mounting strap.

www.myleafriver.com



## Product Spotlight

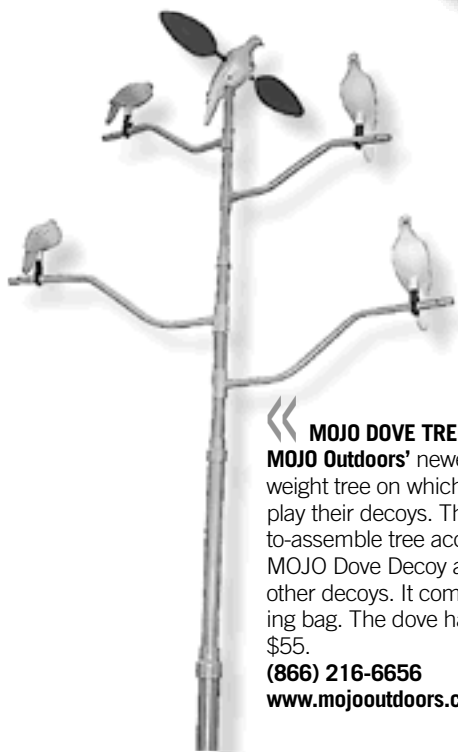
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For more information, call (770) 328-0057 or visit CoolUnderFire.com.



### MOJO DOVE TREE

**MOJO Outdoors'** newest tool is this lightweight tree on which hunters can display their decoys. The portable, easy-to-assemble tree accommodates the MOJO Dove Decoy and the company's other decoys. It comes with a carrying bag. The dove hangout costs about \$55.

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# DATEBOOK

**Sept. 26-27**

**Austin Canoe & Kayak Demo Days**  
Austin, TX  
Hyde Park Quarry Lake  
(512) 719-4386  
www.austinkayak.com



**Sept. 29**

**Bonham Ducks Unlimited**  
Fundraiser  
Legacy Ridge Country Club  
(903) 583-9768



**Athens Ducks Unlimited**

Fundraiser  
Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center  
(903) 675-5658

**Sept. 30-Oct. 1**

**Texas Quail Study Group**  
Cat Spring, Ag Society Hall  
cary@acountryliferealestate.com

**Sept. 30**

**El Campo Ducks Unlimited**  
Fundraiser  
(979) 332-0657

**Oct. 1**

**San Antonio Ducks Unlimited**  
Fundraiser  
Alzafar Shrine Temple  
(210) 616-6876

**Northeast Tarrant County Ducks Unlimited**

Fundraiser  
Colleyville Community Center  
(817) 283-6082

**Oct. 3-4**

**Austin Canoe & Kayak Demo Days**  
San Marcos, Rio Vista Park  
Missouri City, Independence Park  
(512) 396-2386  
www.Austinkayak.com

**Oct. 3**

**Texas Youth Hunt**  
Inaugural fundraiser  
Kerrville, Buckhorn Lake Resort  
(830) 367-7611

**Terrell Outdoorsman's Expo**

First Baptist Church  
mrobinson@catcousa.com

**Jefferson Delta Waterfowl**

Fundraiser  
Kellyville Community Center  
(903) 576-0775



**Oct. 6**

**Corsicana Ducks Unlimited**  
Fundraiser  
Star Hall  
(903) 872-0000

**Navasota Ducks Unlimited**

Fundraiser  
Grimes County Fairgrounds  
(979) 204-4525

**Oct. 7**

**Houston Safari Club**  
Monthly meeting  
HESS Club  
(713) 623-8844



**Oct. 8**

**Coastal Conservation Association**  
Barbecue fundraiser  
Houston Farm & Ranch Club  
(713) 626-4222

**Denton Ducks Unlimited**

Fundraiser  
The Downtowner  
(940) 566-6717

**Dallas Safari Club**

Hill Country  
regional meeting  
Kerrville  
(972) 980-9800



**Oct. 10**

**Operation Game Thief**  
Sporting Clays shoot  
Edinburg, 4E Ranch  
(512) 332-9880  
www.ogttx.com



**Deer Fest**

Wichita Falls, MPEC Exhibit Hall  
(940) 704-2984

**Fairfield Delta Waterfowl**

Fundraiser  
Fairfield VFW  
(903) 388-4301

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## Jetties

Continued from Page 8

Sometimes Tulloch leaves the Matagorda jetties on a high tide and is forced to return via the Port O'Connor jetties, 23 miles to the south, on a low tide.

Tulloch has seen a 30-foot sailboat, a 24-foot offshore boat and an 18-foot bay boat wrecked on the west jetty. The boats entered the jetties with a following sea, became stuck on a sand bar and were blown onto the west jetty. Both the bay boat and sailboat broke up on the jetties; the offshore boat was pulled off the rocks and towed to safety.

### Changes in the works

The jetties were constructed in the late 1980s with an impoundment basin on the west side of the east jetty, said Matagorda Lockmaster Simon DeSoto.

The east jetty was built at an angle, as a weir jetty. The basin was supposed to retain sediments, but it filled over the years and spilled into the boat channel. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for maintaining the channel, but it did not have enough money to dredge as often as necessary.

Now, \$20.4 million has been allotted to build a new 3,100-foot jetty parallel to the west jetty. They should help increase water flow through the channel and require less dredging.

The contract was awarded Sept. 2, and work will begin in about four months, said Isidro Reyna, a spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District.

"Work should last approximately 400 days," Reyna said. "The two parallel jetties will be 400 feet apart with a navigational channel 150 feet wide and 12 feet deep in the middle. We are hoping to have a stable channel with adequate depth for recreational boats, commercial fishing boats and shrimp boats."

When the jetty project is finished, Tulloch and all the other anglers who ply the waters offshore from Matagorda will be able to zip in and out of the Matagorda jetties without being concerned about running aground.

And Tulloch will not need to have an anchor and crew member standing by to pull him off a sandbar.

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# FISHING REPORT

## HOT BITES

### LARGEMOUTH BASS



**BROWNWOOD:** Very good on spinnerbaits and redbug or watermelon worms with chartreuse tails on shaky heads near the docks and over brush piles in 2-8 feet and good on topwaters on main lake flats and over grass.

**BELTON:** Good on spinnerbaits near the bank and trolling Rat-L-Traps.

**CADDO:** Good early on flukes, Senkos and wacky-rigged trick worms, later switching to Texas-rigged worms.

**CONROE:** Good on watermelon red and tequila sunrise Carolina-rigged soft plastics and chartreuse Rat-L-Traps.

### WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



**BRAUNIG:** Striped bass are excellent on liver and shad off points near the pier and at the north end of the park and down rigging silver and gold spoons near the jetty and dam.

**GRAPEVINE:** White bass are good to excellent all over the lake.

**LIVINGSTON:** Striped bass are excellent on spoons and Rat-L-Traps.

### CATFISH



**CALAVERAS:** Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheesebait and shad.

**FALCON:** Channel and blue catfish are excellent on frozen shrimp.

**BUCHANAN:** Yellow and blue catfish are very good on rod and reel, juglines and trotlines baited with goldfish and perch upriver.

**CHOKE CANYON:** Channel and blue catfish are very good on frozen shrimp and punchbait.

**LEWISVILLE:** Good on nightcrawlers.

### CRAPPIE



**RAY ROBERTS:** Good to excellent on minnows and Road Runners over brush piles and around isolated trees.

**ALAN HENRY:** Good on minnows and jigs.

**COLEMAN:** Good on minnows and green tube jigs.

**HUBBARD CREEK:** Good on jigs and minnows.

**ALAN HENRY:** Water lightly stained; 82 degrees; 1.58' low. Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits along brush lines and black soft plastic ringworms worked in brush. Catfish are good on live bait.

**AMISTAD:** Water clear; 87 degrees; 2.28' low. Black bass are fair on buzzbaits, spoons and Pop-R's in 4-12 feet and on watermelon and watermelon red Carolina-rigged soft plastics in 16-22 feet. Striped bass are fair on redfins near the dam. White bass are slow. Catfish are good on cheesebait, punchbait and nightcrawlers in 40-95 feet. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines.

**ARROWHEAD:** Water lightly stained; 82 degrees; 6.36' low. Black bass are good on hollow body swim baits suspended 5-10 feet off rocky points and on topwater baits early in day. Crappie are fair on jigs suspended 12-15 feet. White bass are good trolling. Blue catfish are good drift fishing bait on flats.

**BELTON:** Water clear; 86 degrees; 7.64' low. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows in 30 feet. Channel and blue catfish are good on hot dogs, stinkbait and shrimp. Yellow catfish are good on live perch and live shad.

**BOB SANDLIN:** Water fairly clear; 75-79 degrees; 0.19' high. Black bass are good on Ribbits early, later switching to Texas rigs, Rat-L-Traps and worms on a shaky head jig. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs. Catfish are good on and prepared bait.

**BRAUNIG:** Water stained; 87 degrees. Black bass are slow. Redfish are fair on perch, shad and silver spoons and down rigging spoons near the jetty and dam. Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cut bait and cheesebait. Blue catfish are good on cut bait.

**BROWNWOOD:** Water clear; 85 degrees; 6.95' low. Hybrid striped are good trolling hellbenders. White bass are good off lighted docks at night. Crappie are good on minnows over brush piles. Channel catfish are good on cut bait and nightcrawlers. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with perch in 12-20 feet.

**BUCHANAN:** Water clear; 87 degrees; 21.2' low. Black bass are good on daiquiri topwaters, blue shad flukes, Rat-L-Traps and wacky-rigged watermelon red Whacky Sticks along docks and over flats early. Striped bass are good on plastic swim baits and drifting or free lining live bait. White bass are fair. Crappie are fair on pink/white or chartreuse crappie jigs and live minnows in clear water. Channel catfish are good on liver, minnows and dip bait.

**CADDO:** Water off-color; 75-82 degrees; 0.78' high. Crappie are fair. Bream are excellent on red wigglers, crickets and fly rods. White bass are spotty. Catfish are fair on limb lines and trotlines set in the river.

**CALAVERAS:** Water stained; 87 degrees. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are good on spoons and striper jigs. Redfish are good down rigging spoons. Crappie are slow.

**CANYON LAKE:** Water clear; 86 degrees; 15.16' low. Black bass are fair to good on topwaters and wacky-rigged watermelon red soft plastics. Striped bass are slow to fair trolling crankbaits. White bass are slow. Smallmouth bass are fair on topwaters, grubs and craws. Crappie are fair on crappie jigs and live minnows. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are very good on trotlines and juglines baited with live goldfish and perch.

**CEDAR CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 76-80 degrees; 0.78' low. Black bass are fair to good on Carolina rigs, jigs and dropshots, with early action on topwaters. White bass are fair. Hybrid striped are fair burning large slabs. Crappie are slow on small minnows over brush piles. Catfish are good drifting cut shad.

**CHOKE CANYON:** Water clear; 88 degrees; 8.98' low. Black bass are fair on minnows and white spinnerbaits. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Yellow catfish are fair on live perch.

**COLEMAN:** Water clear; 87 degrees; 9.25' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse and chartreuse blue spinnerbaits, soft

plastics and Rat-L-Traps. Hybrid striped are fair on silver striper jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on shrimp and stinkbait.

**CONROE:** Water murky; 1.38' low. Striped bass are fair on live minnows. Crappie are good on minnows and white tube jigs. Catfish are fair on stinkbait, liver and shrimp.

**COOPER:** Water lightly stained; 74-79 degrees; 1.92' low. Black bass are good on buzzbaits early, later switching to Texas rigs and chartreuse/white chatterbaits. Crappie are fair to good on jigs and minnows over brush piles. White bass are good. Hybrid striped are fair to good. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and prepared bait.

**FALCON:** Water stained; 85 degrees. Black bass are good on small crankbaits and spinnerbaits in 5-7 feet. Striped bass are slow.

**FORK:** Water lightly stained; 75-81 degrees; 0.31' high. Black bass are fair on buzzbaits early, midday switching

nightcrawlers and prepared bait.

**LAVON:** Water stained; 75-80 degrees; 2.81' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits and topwaters in the shallows. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs around structure. Catfish are fair on cut shad and prepared baits.

**LB:** Water stained; 86 degrees; 0.40' low. Black bass are good on watermelon jigs, watermelon red soft plastics and pumpkin tubes. Striped bass are good at night. White bass are fair to good at night. Crappie are fair to good on crappie jigs and live minnows over brush piles in clear water. Channel catfish are very good on nightcrawlers, liver and dip bait. Yellow and blue catfish are very good on trotlines baited with goldfish and perch.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water off-color; 74-80 degrees; 1.83' low. Black bass are fair to good on spinnerbaits, Texas rigs, Rat-L-Traps and Carolina rigs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. White bass are good on Humdingers and slabs. Hybrid striped are fair to good on slabs. Catfish are good on

degrees; 0.1' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits early, later switching to Texas rigs and medium-running pearl crankbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on topwaters and slabs. Hybrid striped are good on 2 oz. slabs. Catfish are good on prepared bait.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water lightly stained; 74-78 degrees; 1.21' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and Carolina rigs. White bass are good on Torpedoes early, later switching to jigging spoons and slabs. Catfish are good over baited holes in the mouths of creeks.

**RICHLAND CHAMBERS:** Water off-color; 75-80 degrees; 3.65' low. Black bass are fair to good on topwaters and spinnerbaits early, midday switching to Carolina and drop-shot rigs. White bass are fair on slabs and topwaters. Hybrid striped are fair on large slabs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are slow. Catfish are good on prepared baits and cut shad.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Water murky; 87 degrees; 1.18' low. Black bass are good on dark soft plastic worms and crankbaits. White bass are good on silver spoons off points. Crappie are good on live minnows. Bream are good on nightcrawlers. Catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live bait and shrimp.

**STILLHOUSE:** Water fairly clear; 84 degrees; 1.18' low. Black bass are fair on minnows and Rat-L-Traps. White bass are fair on minnows and slabs. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on minnows, hot dogs and nightcrawlers.

**TAWAKONI:** Water fairly clear; 75-81 degrees; 1.63' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits, topwaters and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair on live minnows in 15 feet. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and prepared bait. White bass are good on Humdingers and topwaters. Striped bass and hybrid striped are fair on live shad.

**TEXOMA:** Water off-color; 74-80 degrees; 0.41' low. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits and buzzbaits early, midday switching to crankbaits, Texas rigs and drop-shot rigs. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Striper bass are fair early on topwaters, later switching to slabs and live shad. Catfish are fair on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water murky; 87 degrees; 3.91' low. Black bass are good on 6" black/blue craw worms and deep-diving crankbaits. Striped bass are slow. White bass are good on spoons. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Bream are good on crickets and nightcrawlers. Channel and blue catfish are good on trotlines baited with shrimp and nightcrawlers.

**TRAVIS:** Water stained; 86 degrees; 35' low. Black bass are good on bone topwaters, watermelon worms and grubs. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on chrome jigging spoons and minnows. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on nightcrawlers and fresh cut bait in 28-45 feet.

**WALTER E. LONG:** Water clear; 88 degrees. Black bass are good trolling Storm Thundersticks. Hybrid striped are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows and white and chartreuse tube jigs near the dam. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

**WHITE RIVER:** Water lightly stained; 78 degrees; 24.23' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits, live bait and crankbaits with some topwater action late. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. Channel catfish are fair.

**WHITNEY:** Water stained; 11.99' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon and chartreuse Rat-L-Traps, spinnerbaits and soft plastics off points. Striped bass are fair on minnows. White bass are fair on minnows. Crappie are fair on minnows and green tube jigs. Catfish are good on frozen shrimp and punchbait.

**WRIGHT PATMAN:** Water stained; 75-79 degrees; 5.39' high. Black bass are fair on buzzbaits and Yellow Magics early, midday switching to Carolina rigs, crankbaits and jigs. Crappie are fair to good on live minnows and jigs around structure. Catfish are good on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

## HOT SPOT



### Bastrop Lake

Water clear. Black bass are good on red deep-diving crankbaits and soft plastics. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are very good on shrimp, minnows and stinkbait.

to DD22s, Carolina rigs and 3/4 oz. jigs with trailers. Crappie are fair to good on live minnows and jigs around structure. Catfish are good on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

**GRANBURY:** Water clear; 2.89' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse/blue and chartreuse/white spinnerbaits and soft plastics. Striped bass are fair on live bait and green striper jigs. White bass are fair on minnows. Crappie are fair on minnows and blue tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp and liver.

**GRAPEVINE:** Water off-color; 75-80 degrees; 2' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and crankbaits near rocky points. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs over planted brush piles. Catfish are fair on prepared baits and nightcrawlers.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water clear; 86 degrees; 1.13' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse soft plastic worms. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on live minnows in small coves. Bream are good on live worms. Channel and blue catfish are fair on perch and large minnows.

**HUBBARD CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 7.26' low. Black bass are good on white buzzbaits or spinnerbaits. White bass and hybrid stripers are good on live bait. Catfish are good on live or cut bait.

**JOE POOL:** Water off-color; 76-81 degrees; 3.56' high. Black bass are fair on topwaters early, later switching to jigs and Carolina rigs. Crappie are slow to fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good. Catfish are fair on cut and prepared baits.

**LAKE O' THE PINES:** Water stained; 75-81 degrees; 2.41' high. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to Texas rigs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are good on

nightcrawlers.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water fairly clear; 87 degrees; 0.54' low. Black bass are good on soft plastics and crankbaits. White bass are good on troll tubes, slabs and pet spoons. Crappie are good on minnows. Blue catfish are good on shad.

**NAVARRO MILLS:** Water stained; 84 degrees; 0.01' high. Black bass are fair on crappie jigs and shallow running crankbaits near the dam and boat ramps in Liberty Hill Park. White bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows and on chartreuse and orange/chartreuse jigs over brush piles and near drop-offs. Channel catfish are good on stinkbait, shrimp and shad. Blue catfish are fair on stinkbait.

**O.H. IVIE:** Water lightly stained; 79 degrees; 19.87' low. Black bass are good on white buzzbaits and spinnerbaits, live bait and 10-inch blue fleck soft plastic worms worked around timber. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait. Smallmouth bass are good on live bait and baby bass-colored crankbaits. Channel catfish are good on live or cut bait.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water stained; 79 degrees; 4.32' low. Black bass are good on chartreuse soft plastics and chrome Rat-L-Traps on mid-lake points and along grass beds. Crappie are fair on minnows and yellow jigs. White bass are good on silver jigging spoons. Stripers are good on silver spoons suspended in Broadway area. Catfish are fair on live shad.

**PROCTOR:** Water stained; 87 degrees; 7.47' low. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are fair on small minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on minnows. Yellow catfish are fair on shrimp and shad.

**RAY HUBBARD:** Water fairly clear; 74-79

## SALTWATER SCENE

**NORTH SABINE:** Redfish are good in the marsh with high tides. Tides are well above normal. Drifters have worked slicks for trout and redfish on plastics and topwaters.

**SOUTH SABINE:** Trout are fair to good under birds and pods of shad. Trout are good at the jetty on live bait and topwaters.

**BOLIVAR:** Trout are good on the south shoreline on Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels. Trout, bull redfish, black drum, sand trout and redfish are good at Rollover Pass. Croaker are good on fresh shrimp.

**TRINITY BAY:** Trout are good for drifters working pods of shad and mullet on Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels. Redfish are good on live bait around the reefs. Redfish are good on the north shoreline on gold spoons and small topwaters.

**EAST GALVESTON BAY:** Whiting and sand trout are good on the edge of the Intracoastal on fresh shrimp. Trout are good for drifters on plum baitfish imitations.

**WEST GALVESTON BAY:** Bull redfish are good in the surf and at San Luis Pass on crabs and mullet. Sheepshead, redfish and black drum are good at the jetties on shrimp and crabs.

**TEXAS CITY:** Sand trout and Gulf trout are good in the channel on shrimp. Redfish are fair to good in Moses Lake on crabs and shrimp.

**FREEPORT:** Bull redfish are good on live bait and crabs on the Surf-side beach. Black drum and redfish are good on the reefs. Bull redfish are showing at all the jetties.

**EAST MATAGORDA BAY:** Trout are fair for drifters on live shrimp over humps and scattered shell. Trout and redfish are fair to good on the shorelines for waders tossing small topwaters and roach plastics.

**WEST MATAGORDA BAY:** Trout are fair on sand and grass humps on soft plastics and topwaters. Redfish are good on live shrimp and topwaters.

**PORT O'CONNOR:** Bull redfish are good in the surf and at the jetty on natural baits. Trout and redfish are fair for drifters working the back lakes with live shrimp.

**ROCKPORT:** Redfish are good on mullet on the Estes Flats and around Mud Island. Redfish are beginning to work in large schools with the rising tides. Trout and redfish are good in the back of Allyn's Bight.

**PORT ARANSAS:** Redfish are fair at East Flats and Shamrock cove on topwaters and plastics under rattling corks. Offshore is good for amberjack, kingfish, tuna and dolphin.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Redfish are good on the shallow flats on gold spoons and small topwaters. Sand trout and croakers are good in the channels on fresh shrimp.

**BAFFIN BAY:** Trout are good on topwaters and plum plastics around rocks and grass. Redfish are good in the Land Cut on live bait. Redfish are fair to good in knee-deep water on gold spoons and topwaters.

**PORT MANSFIELD:** Redfish are showing in large schools on the sand. Redfish are fair to good while drifting pot holes on topwaters and soft plastics under a popping cork. Offshore is good for kingfish, ling and dolphin.

**SOUTH PADRE:** Trout, redfish and snook are fair to good on the Mexiquita Flats on DOA Lures and live bait. Tarpon activity has been picking up around the jetties.

**PORT ISABEL:** Redfish are good at Gas Well Flats and in South Bay on TTF Flats Minnows, Red Killers and topwaters. Trout and redfish are fair to good while drifting flats.

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## Bow only

Continued from Page 1

those places," Barnett said. "I think you tend to see a lot more mature buck."

### Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates about 30 lakes in Texas, and most have public hunting. The only way to take a deer on more than 20 of them is by bowhunting.

"Each of our lakes has their own program," said Randy Cephus, a spokesman for the Corps of Engineers. "There are different factors, but it's usually derived for safety reasons."

Lakes under Corps authority include Belton, Grapevine, Lewisville, Somerville and B.A. Steinhagen. All allow hunting for deer, and all are archery only.

All told, the Corps of Engineers manages 188,000 acres of public lands, many of which are located near metropolitan areas.

### Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge

Perhaps the best-known bow-only public hunting in Texas happens at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge at Lake Texoma. Grayson County, where Hagerman is located, is known for its big bucks. It's also known as Texas' only county where the only legal way to hunt deer is with a bow and arrow.

"We have a very limited hunt, and it's bow only, so we have some deer that have been around a long time," said Gayle Ellis, an administrative technician at the North Texas refuge.

Hunts are drawn at Hagerman, with permits going to 225 hunters each year. The number of hunters is up from last year's 210, and the permit fee is \$50.

Harvest success, as is often the case with public hunting, is far from guaranteed. 2007 was a great year for deer hunters at the refuge, with one buck ranking in the state's top 10, Ellis said, and several other show stoppers being taken.

Hunters usually take 30 to 40 deer per season at Hagerman. Last year they took a record 71, and doe deer made up most of the total, Ellis said.

At Hagerman, special rules are in place for when hunting is allowed. Hunters do not have the full season as allowed by state law. A permit winner has three days to hunt.

The season is divided into three hunts of three days each.

The refuge's hunting land is also divided

into thirds. Managers rotate the parcel where hunting will be allowed each year.

With the shortened time frame and yearly change in terrain, hunters have to do their homework to bag a trophy.

"We do recommend that they do a lot of scouting," Ellis said.

Hunters, who must pass a shooting test for accuracy, are allowed to take one buck and two does. Taking a doe (or two hogs) wins the hunter an automatic permit for the next season. The automatic invitation is available for one year.

### Texas Parks and Wildlife

For Texas Parks and Wildlife, the prevailing reason for having any bow-only hunting land is safety. But not always.

Sometimes part of the strategy is trying to please a constituency of hunters.

"We know that archers like some areas that are archery only," said Linda Campbell, TPW's program director for public hunting.

TPW keeps scattered records on harvest success for its public hunting. Information is available online for drawn hunts, but for walk-in hunting land, hunters should ask around.

"If they really want to know what's going on in those areas, contact the managers," Campbell said. "They're there, and they know what's going on."

Ron Mize keeps track of bucks on this area," Mize said. "We've seen some 140s and 160s this year."

Also abundant at Alazan are does and "basket-rack bucks" — bucks with antlers under the state minimum 13-inch inside spread.

One drawback to public hunting at an area such as Alazan, Mize said, is that a deer hunter might be in a tree stand in the area's hardwood bottom and have hog or squirrel hunters walk by or be positioned close to waterfowl hunters.

Other hunters could also benefit deer hunters by pushing deer toward them, Mize said.

Maybe the solution is to leave the woods altogether, Mize said, and hunt Alazan's open fields.

"The opportunity to kill a deer here is good," he said. "A lot of guys want to hunt out of a climbing stand here in the bottom. I think a lot of guys might be missing the boat by not using a pop-up blind in the fields."

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**PLEASANT REMINDERS:** Bruce Keller of Kerrville sits among trophies at his home. The mounts remind him of the many trips he has been on in his years of hunting around the world. Photo by Tom Holden, Kerrville Daily Times.

**Award**

Continued from Page 7

him he should consider putting his name out there, Keller was apprehensive.

"I didn't think I was of that caliber," Keller said. "It wasn't my desire to be considered for 10 or 12 years. I was very fortunate to win some other prestigious awards, but you have to really work for the Weatherby. You have to hunt for the hard animals. I've hit it hard the last three or four years, and was blessed with some great hunts."

Of all the hunts Keller has been on throughout the years, one stands out — a 1982 hunt in Alberta, Canada, for a Rocky Mountain big-horn sheep.

"Back then, I was in really good shape," Keller said. "I booked a hunt with a real animal of an outfitter, and I wanted to work hard on that hunt. It was a three-week hunt, and we never saw a legal ram (one with a full curl of the horn) until the 21st day. It was the most backbreaking hunt I've ever been on, just an

incredible endurance feat."

On the final day of the hunt, Keller and his guide spotted a legal ram and started a stalk about 1 p.m. An hour before dark, they spotted the rams on another mountain — 2 miles away from their original position.

"After 21 full days of hiking up and down mountains, we put a major push to get to the rams before dark," Keller said. "We literally ran up the mountain and got there right before dark. I was breathing blood from the exertion. He wasn't a monster, but every time I look at that sheep, I remember that hunt."

Even though the anti-hunting community always will be pushing to put a stop to his favorite passion, organizations such as the Dallas Safari Club, Safari Club International and Shikar Safari Club are invaluable to protecting hunters' rights, Keller said.

"This is the greatest hunting area," Keller said. "Professional hunter Bert Klineburger said that, and he is right. A lot of countries are open to hunting now that have never been opened before."

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# Fence

Continued from Page 12

vices-National Wildlife Research Center near Kingsville.

Higginbotham and Campbell enclosed deer-feeder sites with fences of three heights: 20 inches, 28 inches and 34 inches. All fences used six 16-foot long panels, staked with steel T-posts and arranged in a hexagon around feeders. During July and August, remote sensing cameras, which were tripped by motion, were used to record deer and feral hog traffic. The cameras recorded traffic before the fencing was erected and then for two weeks after in late July and early August.

Before the fencing, the automatic cameras recorded 5.3, 3.1 and 4.7 hog visits per hour for sites No. 1 (34-inch fence), No. 2 (28-inch fence) and No. 3 (20-inch fence), respectively. Deer visits per hour were 0.8, 1.4 and 0.1 respectively for sites 1, 2 and 3.

Once the fencing was installed, all three heights limited feral-hog access, but the two highest fences excluded them completely. To a small degree, the 34-inch fencing and the 28-inch fencing limited some deer access as well, but the overall effect on deer traffic was

minimal.

They could easily jump the fences, Higginbotham said.

With the fencing, hog visits per hour were reduced to 0.0, 0.0 and 1.8 for sites 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Deer visits per hour were negligibly reduced to 0.66 from 0.8 for the 34-inch fencing. They doubled for the 28-inch fencing and more than quadrupled for the 20-inch fencing, he said.

Why the increase of deer visits for the two lower heights?

Higginbotham posits that deer started visiting the feeders once "the neighborhood improved" as the hogs were excluded.

"We don't know for sure, but that's a good bet," he said.

Because of these results, Higginbotham and Campbell are recommending 28-inch fencing.

"The 28-inch high panels worked as well as the 34-inch high panels at excluding hogs," Higginbotham said. "Therefore, 60-inch wide panels can be purchased and ripped lengthwise down the middle to create a least-cost enclosure."

The cost of the panels and T-posts was \$115 for the 20-inch high fencing, \$170 for the 28-inch, and \$187 for the 34-inch, he said.



**STAKE THEM DOWN:** Although shorter fences will keep the hogs away from the feeder from above, they often use their strong snout to burrow under the fence, making T-posts essential. Photo by David J. Sams, LSON.

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## National News in Brief

### Two record trout caught

A Michigan man caught a brown trout Sept. 9 weighing 41 pounds, 7 ounces, a weight that will make the fish the new world record if certified accurate.

Tom Healy of Manistee caught the fish while targeting king salmon on the Manistee River.

The trout was almost twice the size of the kings Healy and his guide, Tim Roller, hoped to catch.

"There's never been a salmon in Michigan that weighed 40 pounds," Roller said.

The fish took a Rapala shad and fought hard for 15 minutes, Roller said. Client and guide assumed it was a big king salmon. They didn't see it was a brown trout until 10 seconds before Roller netted it, he said.

Then they didn't know it could be a world record. It bottomed out one scale at 30 pounds. Roller called a guide friend who brought another scale, and the fish topped 40 pounds.

With the official weight of 41 pounds, 7 ounces, Healy's fish beats the former record of 40 pounds, 4 ounces that was caught in Arkansas'



**BIG BROWN:** Tom Healy holds the pending world-record brown trout he caught in Michigan's Manistee River. Photo by Jeff Kiessel, Ludington Daily News.

Little Red River.

The world saw another trout record fall earlier this month in Canada. Sean Konrad boated a 48-pound rainbow trout, beating the former record of 43 pounds, 10 ounces — which was held by his brother, Adam. The siblings were fishing on Lake Diefenbaker in Saskatchewan.

— Staff report

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# Rookie

Continued from Page 1

us out got bought out," Schmidt said. "Then it merged with Compass, and in 2005, I received a three-year employment agreement. It ended, and I retired Oct. 31, 2008."

The retirement was short-lived. "Earlier that year, I was soul-searching for my second career," Schmidt said. "Fortunately, I'm in good health with no physical challenges."

Schmidt said he wanted his second career to be a positive force in society and to give something back.

"My wife is a retired educator, and part of me always felt guilty that she always contributed, and here I was a banker," he said.

He noticed a story in *Lone Star Outdoor News* about the academy headquarters moving to Hamilton and that it was accepting applicants.

He thought of his love for the outdoors, which he attributed to his parents.

"We grew up in modest economic means," he said. "My father was a plumber, but my parents always managed to take us camping in Colorado every summer. We would go to the campfires at the park where park rangers would talk with us. I thought they were 10 feet tall."

Schmidt was an avid whitetail hunter and had hunted elk in Colorado for 10 years, so the idea of applying intrigued him.

"I thought what the heck and filled it out online," he said. "I thought I'm sure they won't hire someone as old as I am."

But his application was accepted, and he went to an interview in Fort Worth.

"After the interview, I thought that's the end of that," Schmidt said.

Not so fast. A few months later he received an offer to attend the academy contingent on passing the physical agility test.

"I had been working out, and I passed that," he said.

Becoming a Texas game warden was no longer just a pipe dream.

"Now I had to decide that I wanted to do it," Schmidt said.

He didn't take long to contemplate.

"I retired from the bank on Oct. 31," he said. "On Nov. 1, I was at the Game Warden Academy. My retirement lasted 15 hours."

The academy brought a new set of challenges for Schmidt.

"It was very rigorous," he said. "And I was competing with men and women 35 years younger than me. I didn't lead the pack in the physical training, but I was somewhere in the middle — I'm kind of proud of that."

Living in a dorm for months brought back memories.

"Except this time I was sharing a dorm room with nine other guys young enough to be my kids," he said.

Schmidt said being away from family and his aging parents, ages 86 and 87, was probably the toughest part of the training period, which lasted more than seven months.

"My wife was very supportive with that," he said.

Schmidt passed all the hurdles at the academy and began his second career in June after being assigned to Navarro County.

"I really like it, especially learning what a warden's life is really like," he said. "You don't know each morning what the day is going to be like. I held an injured hawk in my hands that we had to take possession of. The Fourth of July weekend was wild and crazy. We investigated some baited dove fields and helped get a grandfather, grandmother and two kids off the water after they swamped their boat."

The warden who runs the academy said ability, not age, is what Texas Parks and Wildlife looks for in game warden cadets.

"I don't think there's any doubt that Schmidt is the oldest cadet ever," said Maj. Danny Shaw. "We don't look at ages when we select a class, we select the most qualified candidates."

Texas has no maximum hiring age for game wardens like some other states, and Schmidt is glad for that.

"It's very rewarding," he said. "A little different from the banking business. And now I have the chance to chase my dreams."

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## Puzzle solution

from Page 18



**BAD BOY COUPLE:** Ronel, at left, and Clint Bronson invested their retirement savings into a Bad Boy Buggies dealership in 2005. By 2008, they were the electric vehicle manufacturer's top dealership. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

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## Bad Boy, couple doing well in Texas

### New Braunfels dealers No. 1 in 2008 sales

By Craig Nyhus  
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

What started as a tiny dealership for a new electric vehicle has turned into the pillar of success for a New Braunfels couple.

Ronel and Clint Bronson started Bad Boy Buggies of the Hill Country after being introduced to the vehicle by Tom Mansell, the only Texas sales representative at the time. Impressed with the vehicles' capabilities, they jumped at the chance and invested their retirement savings when Mansell offered to let them start a dealership.

Soon after, Clint, a chef by profession, was offered another position, and Ronel took over, gaining the nickname of "The Buggy Princess."

The all-electric four-wheel drive vehicles have earned a reputation for reliability in even the toughest conditions, and ranges of up to 35 miles at 19 mph allow hunters and outdoors lovers to stay in the field worry-free.

In 2008, the Bronsons' dealership reached the top, earning Dealer of the Year honors for its No. 1 ranking in national sales.

This year, they are in the top three.

"There are a couple of large stores like Bass Pro selling the XT Buggies," Ronel said. "But the year isn't over yet."

In August, the new Bad Boy Buggy XT was launched with an independent suspension, more torque and a laundry list of upgrades, and it has been a big seller.

"People like the independent suspension aspect of the XT the most," Clint said. "But for most South Texas uses, the original buggy is more than capable."

New tax incentives may help spur more sales for the XT, which is equipped with headlights, turn signals, hazard lights, a horn and more.

"We're gearing up to be street legal very soon," Ronel said. "It will qualify for new electric vehicle tax incentives that will help reduce the overall cost."

Ronel spends much of her time at the company's headquarters in Natchez, Miss., because she is in charge of dealer relations for more than 150 dealers in the U.S. and Canada. Clint mans the Hill Country dealership and travels to Mississippi to train new dealers.

As with most successful businesses, they credit customer relations as the key to their success.

"Our customers are like family," said Clint, who is known to hop in his truck and drive long distances for a small service call. "When they need service, we want them to know we do whatever it takes — I've had to hire someone now to go and pick up buggies that need work."

Their favorite customer?

"Clint sold a buggy to a couple with a special needs 12-year-old girl," Ronel said. "They saved up for it and were so excited. The buggy works great to help her get around and enjoy the outdoors."

One thing is for certain — the couple loves their work.

"I love what I do — it's very challenging, but I've found my place," Ronel said. "I wake up and can't wait to get to work."

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## Crappie

Continued from Page 8

Paty has also fished Lake Texoma, mainly using jigs and targeting shallow brush piles. He locates the piles using side-scanning electronics on his boat.

"We are averaging 40 to 50 fish a day at Texoma," Paty said. "You can catch all you want. The lake is full of brush piles."

Finding big fish for Paty is the challenge, although Texoma is producing big slabs.

"You just have to catch a lot of them and sort them out," he said. "Sometimes minnows will lead to a few bigger fish, but you catch more with jigs."

Once the bite begins, it should last several. The crappie will follow baitfish into shallows as the water cools.

"They'll stay pretty shallow until close to Thanksgiving, when it gets too cold for the baitfish," Paty said. "It all depends on the shad."

"The crappie don't care how cold or how hot the water is."

— Staff reports



## 3 Reasons to Respect Hunters + Anglers

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – National Hunting and Fishing Day is set for Sept. 26, 2009. Congress formalized the annual celebration 37 years ago but organizers say hunters and anglers deserve America's respect now more than ever.

Here are three reasons for the American public to value hunting and fishing today:

### Economic Impact

No bailouts needed here. Hunting and angling together are an economic force worth \$76 billion a year. In 2010, America's economic stimulus package will generate its highest level of federal spending at \$236 billion—but hunters and anglers will spend almost a third of that amount all by themselves. A Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation report shows if hunters and anglers were a nation, their Gross Domestic Product would rank 57 out of 181 countries. About 1.6 million jobs depend on hunters and anglers. Gas stations, stores, restaurants, hotels and other businesses benefit, especially in rural America.

### Wildlife Management

Rabies, crop damages, nuisances. Hunting helps control these wildlife issues and many others—none more dramatic than highway accidents involving deer. White-tailed deer once were on the verge of extinction but rebounded behind historic conservation efforts. Today, deer numbers are skyrocketing. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety estimates 1.5 million deer collisions occur each year. Over 200 people are killed annually. According to a Western Transportation Institute calculation that includes costs of emergency response, injuries to driver and passengers, damages to vehicle and more, the 2009 average cost of hitting a deer is \$6,600.

### Conservation

What if Congress announced a tax increase to cover \$2 billion in annual expenses for conservation programs? Don't worry. Hunters and anglers are already paying that tab. For the privilege of consuming surplus, renewable game and fish resources, hunters and anglers purchase licenses. They also pay special excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, bows, arrows, rods and reels. Combined, these fees generate \$100,000 every 30 minutes, more than \$175 billion per year, for wildlife, fisheries and habitat programs.

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