



TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

TPWD Mission: To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



Editor's CORNER

We are constantly reminded of what we can and can't do, and of what we should and shouldn't do. T. D. Carroll, former hunter education coordinator, always referred to this as the definition of the "written and unwritten law," respectively. When we apply it to everyday life, school or business, it reminds us of what is appropriate. Please take the following as a friendly reminder of some things that must be done, or not be done, by hunter education instructors.

Please, Do NOT Send Cash in the Mail! Incoming revenue has alerted us to the fact that some instructors are continuing to send cash in the mail for their courses. If it gets lost, it is the responsibility of the instructor to reimburse the state for the loss. Sending cash is definitely against TPWD policy.

Please, Mail The Course Registration Forms to Reach us Within Seven (7) Days of Completion. We continue to receive courses that were taught in 2004 but arrived as late as March. It is most important that we receive this course material in a timely manner (**seven days**). Students call and complain about not receiving their cards. Staff tries very hard to process the course registration forms and get the cards out within a few days of arrival. The certification cards are usually mailed within three days of being received.

If records are continually sent in late, the instructor will be placed on probation. If the problem is not corrected, the instructor will be decertified. Simple rules are not hard to follow, so let's all give it our best effort.

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Texas Hunting Accidents Drop to Record Low



Hunter Education Instructors emphasize safety to participants at last year's Expo.

A new report shows Texas hunting accidents in 2004 decreased to the lowest amount since statistical records began in 1966. The number of people injured in hunting accidents in Texas decreased from 44 in 2003 to 29 in 2004, although fatalities increased from two to four during the same period.

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Editor's CORNER, continued

Confidence Plus ...

Remember in the last issue of *Target Talk* when we talked about "flexibility" referring to one of the letters from an instructor? Well, here is what it is all about. Please read on.

Dear Hunter Ed Staff,

Ever have one of those days when you wonder if all your effort to maintain a program is really worth it, and whether all your hard work is actually making a difference "out there?" Well here's a story to warm your hearts and keep y'all motivated, as it did me. I've been a Hunter Ed Instructor for 10 years now. Got the 500 point belt buckle and all, but I came home yesterday after doing a home study class for one person, feeling as good about myself, about y'all and about this Hunter Ed program as a person can feel.

Several months ago, I met a 48-year-old man, raised in north central Texas. As we talked, the topic of hunting came up, and he said he had been invited to go elk hunting Colorado. It was one of the dreams of his life. I mentioned that he needed Hunter Ed, and that I was an instructor. His face got pale, his shoulders dropped and he immediately changed the subject. I see him almost every week, and on occasion I would raise the issue and try to open discussion about his trip. Finally, after more than a month, as I was leaning on his old truck, talking through the window, his lips quivered, and dropped his eyes and told me his story.

Born and raised in a small town, he struggled through school with extreme dyslexia. He quit high school, finally got a GED 20 years later, but still hated to read - anything. He had convinced himself that he couldn't pass a written test. And although he has hunted and fished his entire life, he was sure he couldn't take a test about it, and was sure he couldn't sit through a class about anything. I told him about this "new" home study option, and that he could use a computer or a video/book to see the material. He hates computers, and I knew he'd never buy the home study packet, so I lent him the video to check it out, and kept the book in my truck for later. The next month he asked about the book, and I put it into his hand. He looked sick, but took it to be polite.

To make a long story short, after another two months and many little discussions, I told him he was ready for the test and made an appointment to finalize the testing at his home Sunday afternoon, then play a little game, called "Beat Mike" with my pellet gun and a target.

When I got to his house, he was sitting at his chair with a cigarette in his mouth and an ashtray full of butts in front of him. His hands were shaking as he filled out the registration form, but I think it proved to be a good warm up exercise. We went out back and after going through the skills trail, he thoroughly and soundly whipped me with my own pellet gun. That little live fire drill made it easier for both of us. Then we went through a review and the questions and he scored an honest 82%. You should have seen the smile on that man's face! If he had been drooling, he'd have gotten spit on both ears.

The TPWD Hunter Education Program and all you fine people who support us instructors, quite literally changed this man's life. Who knows where his newfound confidence will lead him? Thanks for keeping up such a flexible program, and for your continuous encouragement. We are doing good things for many people every day. I may get an elk steak out of this next year, but all I can offer y'all is my gratitude.

Keep up the GREAT work!
A Proud Instructor

How many times has an opportunity like this presented itself? We never know how our actions or courses affect other lives, nor do we know the impact of our volunteer efforts until things like this come up. It made me proud of all our volunteers and the continued support for something they love ... hunting and hunter education. It pleases me to receive communications like this, and to know we have so many caring individuals. Thanks folks for job well done.

Now, it's time to get those courses scheduled for the upcoming fall season. As soon as you have them marked on your calendar, please let us know so we can enter them into the system. We are already getting calls.

NOTICE

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any Texas Parks and Wildlife Department program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information, please call or write: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs - External Programs, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Webb 300, Arlington, VA 22203, (703) 358-1724.

Editor's CORNER, continued



A Very Special Knife

During the Area Chief meeting in January, I was most pleasantly surprised to receive a very special presentation. Shown here are Doris and "Buffalo" Allwright (left) Lester and Anette Walding (right) with me during the presentation. It was a special Bowie Knife made by George Wostenholm & Sons, Washington Works, Sheffield, England, which bears the brand I-XL.

The knife originally was part of a shipment of cutlery bound for Birdwell Cutlery of Beaumont, Texas, back in the 1870s. Birdwell distributed I-XL products around Texas during that time. Somehow the crate of cutlery was overlooked and remained stored in pristine condition in an old warehouse in England for over 80 years.

In the mid-1950s, Mr. and Mrs. Seth Birdwell, descendent of the original Birdwell, visited Westenholm Factory in Sheffield, England. The managing director explained that while cleaning out the warehouse a crate had recently been discovered that had been prepared for shipment to Birdwell Cutlery in the 1870s. The director offered to ship

this crate to Beaumont and it eventually arrived, albeit 80+ years later. Birdwell presented pieces from this collection to many of his friends, and some of the very fine items went to his extended family.

In 1957, M. K. "Buffalo" Allwright purchased the remaining pieces. Many of the I-XL Bowie knives are in private collections from coast to coast, including the Bowie Knife Museum in Washington, Arkansas.

What makes this presentation so special is the fact that it came from some very special people, and that Anette made the sheath and Lester made the presentation box. For this I am eternally grateful, and will always treasure it.

Thanks!

Terry Erwin
Hunter Education
Coordinator

Hunting Accidents, continued

More important than the annual dips and peaks, however, is the long-term trend.

“Overall, we’ve cut accident rates by more than half since the 1960s and 70s,” said Steve Hall, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department education branch chief, and author of the latest Texas hunting accident report. Hall attributes part of the steady decrease to mandatory hunter education that began in 1988.

Hall said the significant factors behind most hunting accidents have not changed much in recent years. He believes wearing blaze orange would avoid many accidents. Law violations are common in accident scenarios, including many violations for “failure to take a hunter education course.” (Any hunter born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must pass the course to legally hunt in Texas.)

The primary reason for Texas hunting accidents remains swinging on game outside a safe zone of fire. This happens when a person points a firearm at another hunter while following a moving target, such as a flying game bird. Hunter education teaches people to set up safe zones of fire where a gun can be safely pointed whether the target is moving or stationary.

Careless firearm handling remains another primary factor in many accidents.

“Careless handling incidents almost always involve three factors: pointing a loaded firearm muzzle at yourself or someone else with the safety off and with your finger inside the trigger guard,” Hall explained. Hunter education courses teach ways to safely handle firearms, including how to carry them in the field and pass them from one person to another.

Some statistics seem to defy stereotypical expectations. Most accidents do not happen under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Most of the people involved had more than 10 years of hunting experience. Most were in light to open cover with clear visibility in good weather.

Other findings verify what might be expected. Most people involved did not attend a hunter education course or wear any type of hunter orange clothing. Most accidents violated a cardinal rule of hunter safety, were situated in or around a vehicle or stand, and occurred toward dusk and involved fatigue as a factor.

Dove hunting had close to twice the number of accidents (11) as the next highest accident category for 2004, deer hunting

(6). This is because hunting birds on the wing involves the greatest risk of swinging on game outside the safe zone of fire.

Last year was the first in which hunters in Texas could purchase a deferral, which postpones the requirement to take hunter education for up to one year.

“We did this to allow more adults to try hunting,” Hall said. “You still must be accompanied by a person who has completed hunter education or is exempt. The idea is to encourage hunter recruitment with experienced mentors.”

Texas has a national reputation for making access to hunter education convenient and plentiful with more than 4,400 courses offered across the state and at least one in all 254 counties each year. The summer months when school lets out are an ideal time for new hunters to take the course.

Texans have several options available for fulfilling hunter education requirements, including the traditional classroom environment, a home study course and an online course. Texas certifies about 33,000 students annually.

The hunter education course is a minimum 10-hour class that teaches hunting safety, modern and primitive sporting arms, wildlife conservation, outdoor skills and responsibility. When the course is completed, the certification card is good for life and is honored by all states, Mexico and all Canadian provinces that require hunter education. Proof of certification, which includes the card or the hunter education certification number printed on the hunting license, must be carried at all times while hunting.

Hunters ages 12-16 must either pass the course or be accompanied by a person who is at least 17 or older licensed to hunt in Texas who has had hunter education or is exempt. Hunters younger than age 12 may take the course but they will not be certified and must be accompanied by a person licensed to hunt in Texas who is at least age 17 or older who has had hunter education or is exempt. Accompanied means within normal voice control and preferably within arm’s length.

Hunters can purchase a license before becoming certified, but they must carry proof of certification while hunting. More information about hunter education as well as the schedule of course offerings are available at local TPWD offices, by calling TPWD at (800) 792-1112 ext. 4999. For more information about the hunting accidents in Texas, see the report included in this issue of *Target Talk*.

Training Efforts and Workshops



Waterfowl Workshop

Thanks to the participants who attended the Waterfowl Workshop in Katy in December. El Campo Game Warden Justin Hurst and his wife, Amanda, conducted another great PowerPoint presentation introducing us to “divers, dabblers and honkers.” They covered basic biology, identification, sexing and aging techniques, habitat and population status. Katy Game Warden Kevin Malonson discussed waterfowl regulations and hunting opportunities.

Both wardens brought birds for necropsy exercises. They explained external features and internal organs

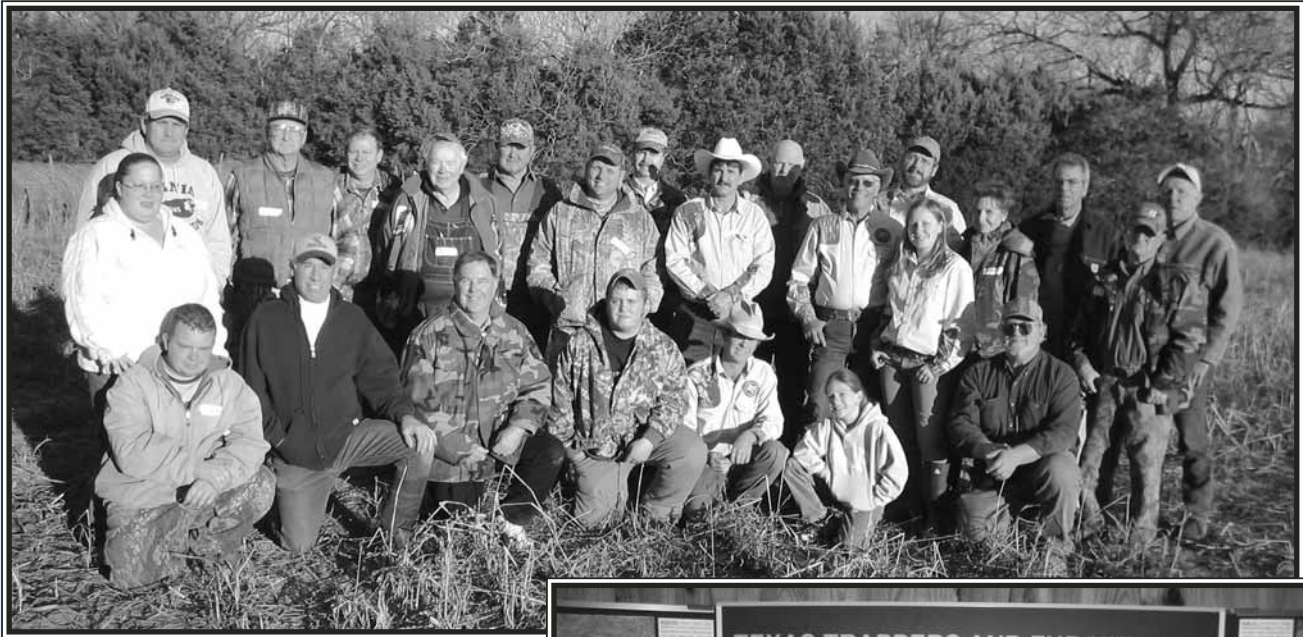
of each different species of duck, dissected the crops of the birds and demonstrated how to successfully clean the birds after the hunt. Hunter Education Instructor, Dan Toler, demonstrated some calling techniques in the field prior to a catered BBQ lunch.

Bill Corcoran with Heritage Kennels in Anderson conducted a retriever demonstration. Participants were able to access a pond on the Outdoor Learning Center’s property where Mr. Corcoran’s retriever training tips and techniques were demonstrated. He then brought two black Labrador

retrievers out, independently, to show how they are trained, and how they work in the field. The well-trained dogs followed simple commands and made retrieves both in and out of the water. We anticipate working together in the future to coordinate an “Introduction to Training the Hunting Retriever” workshop to our calendar.

The day concluded with distance estimation, classroom discussion and feedback from the workshop. Thanks again to all who helped make this workshop such a successful one!

Training Efforts and Workshops



Trapper Workshop

The Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Association did a great job conducting the Trapper Education Workshop at the Parrie Haynes Ranch in January, and again at the Wallisville Reservoir east of Houston in February. A new Trapper Education Manual is available and was recently used during these workshops. Dan Hepker, an officer with the TTFHA, was instrumental in conducting and coordinating the workshops and in providing input into the development of the new manual. Thanks to Jim Brooks, and the Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Association for their continued support!



Turkey Workshop

Area Chief "Duke" Walton hosted an outstanding Turkey workshop in Porter just north of Houston. Representatives from the National Wild Turkey Federation were on hand to show set up and calling techniques along with giving tips and pointers on how to bag the wily birds. Thanks to "Duke's" resourcefulness, everyone went home with some type of door prize that would be useful while in pursuit of gobblers. Thanks for a job well done, "Duke!"

Training Efforts and Workshops



Wing Shooting Responsibility Workshop

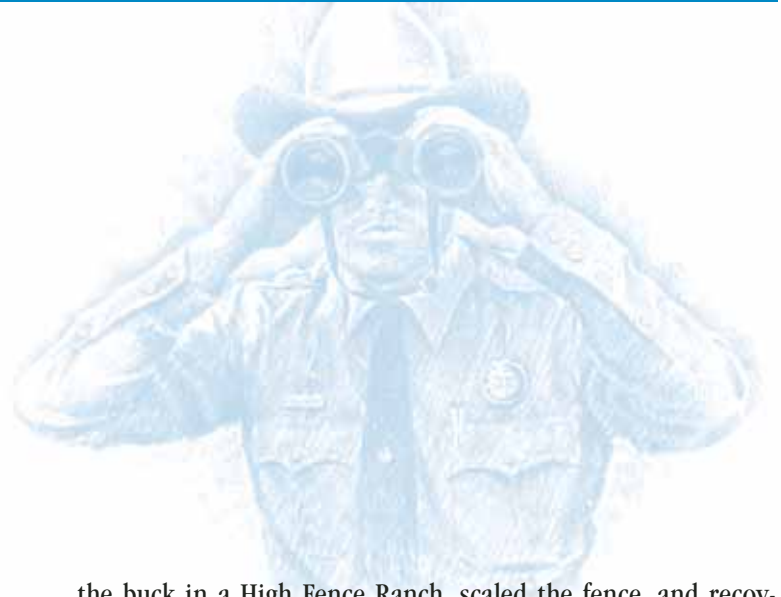
During a recent workshop held at American Shooting Center in Houston, Charlie Wilson is shown coaching one of the students, John Cruzvillarreal, in the fine art of shotgunning. The purpose of the workshop was to increase the awareness of individuals on the causes of wounding loss and the different strategies which can help lower wounding loss percentages. Waterfowl and upland game birds are often lost due to poor shooting skills along with several other factors. Eleven individuals attended the workshop including eight hunter education instructors.

John Cruzvillarreal and Aaron Hartzel were among those individuals who attended the workshop and are employees of the new Gander Mountain Store in northwest Houston. As an added bonus for store visitors, Gander Mountain employees will be offering Wing Shooting Responsibility workshops for the general public in the future.

Look at the photo and observe the shotgun closely, and you'll notice that the bolt is back, but the shell hasn't yet ejected from the chamber. If you look really, really close, at about the power lines, you can see the shot string as it leaves the barrel headed for the clay target. Now, you can say you have seen a "shot string." It is normally difficult to see this because of the light conditions and especially how fast the shot leaves the barrel.

Photo Courtesy of Wayne Poorman

TEXAS GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES



Sounds Like Nature

A Briscoe County Game Warden was patrolling recently and located a sandhill crane hunter. As the warden approached the area the person was hunting, a group of cranes were coming into the person's decoys. The warden did not want to disturb the hunt, so he drove down the road to observe. The person then called the warden on his cell phone and asked if he needed something. The warden responded that he was going to check him once the cranes passed. As they were talking, the warden noticed that the cranes had passed, but he could still hear a large group of cranes via the phone. The warden asked the person if some of the cranes were on the ground near him, and the subject said no. The warden then asked the subject if he was using an electronic call, and the subject said yes. Case is pending for the use of an illegal electronic call.

Herb'Ivore Hunter

Freestone County Game Wardens checked a suspect recently who was leaving a deer camp. The person did not have his hunting license with him so they returned to the camp. After being confronted about his extreme nervousness, the person handed over a bag of marijuana. A search of the camp revealed more marijuana and a bag of cocaine. The suspect was already on probation for distribution of marijuana. *His probation officer's business card was found in the same container as the cocaine.* Cases are pending.

Need Your Help Catching a Poacher

Limestone County Game Warden Kurt Slaughter needs help in locating a set of horns. A 12 or more point whitetail buck was killed during Nov. 9-10 in Leon County. The buck was a mature deer and supported heavy horns. The buck can be easily identified by the five points on the G-1's. The right brow tine has three points and the left brow tine is split into two points. The G-1's are approximately six inches long. Someone killed

the buck in a High Fence Ranch, scaled the fence, and recovered the head. The rest of the carcass of the deer was left behind. If you have any information about this crime, please call Game Warden Dwight Myers at (903) 922-2774.

Don't Mess With Texas – Troopers

Motley and Lamb County Game Wardens apprehended three individuals who were hunting without the landowner's consent. The three decided to hunt property leased to the local Department of Public Safety trooper who called the wardens. Charges are pending.

I Confess

Van Zandt County Game Wardens were visiting the Justice of the Peace in Ben Wheeler when the wardens noted a large metal bowl covered in blood in the front yard at a house next door. The wardens visited with the occupant of the home who stated he had helped a friend clean a deer. When asked if he had killed a deer, the man replied, "I can't hunt anymore because I'm a felon!" When asked the name of his friend, the man became confused and stated, "I knew this was going to happen." The man went on to confess to killing three deer on opening day. A 4-point and two 8-point antlers were seized along with one rifle. Cases are pending.

Setting the Wrong Example – Again!

While a Rusk County Game Warden was recently checking camps, a deer hunter flagged him down. The hunter advised that he and his hunting companions had been heavily peppered by some duck hunters during their morning hunt. The hunter believed the duck hunters were trespassing. Later that evening, the warden patrolled the area where the duck hunters had been and discovered the hunters had returned for an evening hunt, continuing until 20 minutes after sunset to kill three wood ducks. Three adult males and three juvenile

males (ages 14, 13 and 6) were apprehended. Two of the three adults were filed on last year for hunting migratory birds after legal shooting hours on Lake Striker *in the same county, by the same game warden, and under the same judge*. The landowner signed criminal trespass affidavits against the adults. Five shotguns were seized, and six cases are pending. The judge offered the defendants a choice: \$250 per offense and the forfeiture of their shotguns to the state or \$500 per offense with the return of their firearms. Cases are pending.

Here Comes the Judge

A Dewitt County Game Warden responded to a call concerning shots fired from a public road in a subdivision. He tracked down two suspects who confessed to shooting a hog. Three cases were filed against the suspects. It turns out the two men shot the hog in front of the house of the judge who will handle their cases.

One Expensive Brew

A Howard County Game Warden was patrolling a ranch that bordered a rural road in Andrews County when a group of motorcyclists stopped on the shoulder of the road and began drinking beer. One of the riders tossed his empty can in the ditch. The warden approached the men and issued a citation for littering to the one who tossed the can. A records check revealed an outstanding warrant for the person for criminal mischief in Ector County. During the trip to jail in Andrews, the suspect stated that it was just not right that game wardens drove green pickups. He said he thought they should drive black and white vehicles with light bars like the Department of Public Safety troopers.

Breaking All the Rules

Hardeman and Mason County Game Wardens met in Potter County to patrol opening weekend of deer season on the Canadian River by horseback. The horse patrol apprehended one suspect who had killed a white-tailed buck and had tagged it with a mule deer tag. The suspect also failed to cut the dates out and didn't log the kill on his license. While one warden was issuing a citation, the other two wardens backtracked where the deer had been dragged. It turned out to have been taken from private property. The suspect claimed to have shot it on public property and advised that it had run and jumped the fence. All of the evidence found indicated otherwise, and the suspect finally gave a statement indicating it was on private property. Wardens said being on horseback helps them patrol more dense areas.

“Catch Me If You Can”

Walker and Brazos County Game Wardens teamed up to work in an area where the wardens had received information about baiting and hunting late for ducks. The wardens walked into the area and heard a volley of shotgun shots, then the sound of a four-wheeler. As contact was made, it was clear that the area had been baited for ducks and the suspects had unplugged guns and were hunting late. Two of the hunters had been known to say, “We can't get caught. The wardens aren't that good.” A total of seven citations were issued, and three wood duck drakes, three shotguns and a 50-pound bag of corn were seized. One of the hunters begged the wardens not to tell anyone that they had been caught. Cases are pending.

Experience Is Not Always the Best Teacher

A Montgomery County Game Warden and a U.S. Forest Service official were patrolling in the Sam Houston National Forest recently and came across two hunters. One of the hunters had received five citations last year from the same officers. Apparently he did not learn his lesson. The hunting group had entered the forest by boat and taken an 8-point buck. Once the investigators rounded up all the hunters and completed their investigation, the violations included: one for no public hunting lands permit, four for hunting on a wildlife management area without wearing hunter orange, one for hunting on a WMA with buckshot, one for no hunting license, three for no hunter education, two for hunting from a permanent stand on a WMA, one for expired boat registration, one for failure to transfer the title of a boat, one for giving false information and one for possession of marijuana. Cases are pending.

It's Only Good if You READ it

A Schleicher County Game Warden checked seven hunters from Georgia who had 12 deer in their camp. When the checking was over and the ink dried, the warden had written 13 citations and warnings for exceeding the limit on white-tailed buck deer, improperly tagged deer (mule deer tag on whitetail), untagged deer and other tagged violations. The warden offered to give the hunters some Outdoor Annuals, but they stated that they had the books and had not read them. The hunters left a total of \$2,400 with the local Justice of the Peace. Restitution is pending.

Too Bad, So Sad

A Midland resident arrested by a Sterling County Game Warden had his day in court. The subject pleaded guilty to the charge of hunting deer at night and the judge assessed the maximum fine of \$4,000 plus cost of court of \$211. The subject's license will be suspended for a year and he will pay \$1,575 for restitution. The court allowed the subject to keep

his .270 Weatherby magnum rifle. *Note: The landowner also voided the corporate lease the subject had in the amount of \$22,000 with no refund.

“Field Dressed”

Wardens were checking a hunting camp right after dark. When the occupants of the camp came out to greet them, the wardens were somewhat concerned that one of the male hunters was wearing a dress or skirt. Being the professionals they are, they continued with the contact and found that the hunter had been successful in killing two turkeys, one of which was untagged and the other was improperly tagged. While receiving his citation, the Tarrant County hunter asked the wardens, “How do you like my new hunting dress?” They replied that it was nice, but it might be a little cool. The hunter replied that the wind did cause some problems. The dress turned out to be a “camouflage kilt.” The hunter’s wife stated that this was the new fad in hunting apparel, and she had bought the kilt for him.

Hide and Seek, You Lose

A Wood County Game Warden went to a location when he received information in reference to late duck hunting the day before. The warden arrived and the shooting started and continued for an hour. The hunters exited the marsh an hour later. Two men and one woman stopped to rest about 20 yards in front of the warden when one of the men stated, “I wonder if the game warden got tired, gave up and left.” At that point the warden turned on his light and said, “No, I’m still here.” Charges are pending.

They Do Make Game Wardens Like That!!!

Uvalde County Game Wardens observed a vehicle driving slowly down a Farm-to-Market road. The vehicle came right in front of where the wardens were sitting and shined a light into the brush. The wardens weren’t sure if it was a police spotlight due to the position of the light; the vehicle drove to the Zavala County line and turned around. The vehicle approached the same location and lit up the night again; this time the wardens heard two shots; the vehicle repositioned and shot again. A short pursuit ensued, and the vehicle was stopped in Zavala County. After the wardens secured the scene and put the subjects into handcuffs, one of the subjects asked the female warden, “Ma’am, y’all aren’t going to call the game wardens on us are you?” The warden informed the subjects, again, that they were the game wardens. Three individuals were then transported to the Uvalde County Jail. Cases are pending.

Hefty Price to Pay

A Coleman County Game Warden was patrolling a county road when he observed a green car driving around in a pasture. When he made contact, he found the subject to have two felony charges against him while in possession of a .22 caliber rifle. A search of the vehicle turned up a freshly killed set of antlers that Boone & Crockett scored 148. The subject was also hunting on the property without landowner’s permission. After using good investigative skills, the game warden filed charges of no hunting license and hunting deer with a rimfire rifle. The restitution for the 148-class deer was \$4,683.10.

Hi Folks. Yep, it’s me again. I just wanted to let you know that all the incentive awards have been mailed out ... all 900 of them. The only exception is a few of the top awards like firearms. We are waiting for confirmation on the gift certificates before we can mail them. If you think we missed you, please call and we will check on your points.

Those receiving the top firearm awards were as follows. The **2500-Point Handgun Award** went to Hilton Clark, Austin; Charles Good, San Angelo; Sean Hensley, Smithville; Tony Biggs, Buna; Rick Monger, Levelland; Daniel Sanchez, Edinburg; William Tatsch, Jr., Arlington; Frank Moore, Houston; Dr. Peggy Weyel, San Antonio; and Ferris Bavousett, Argyle.

The **3000-Point Rifle Award** went to Max Dean, Odessa; Ron Fehler, Uvalde; John Polasek, College Station; and Dean Slider, Lancaster.

The last and next to the highest award is the **3500-Point Shotgun Award**, which went to Betty Allen, Killeen; Ron Dowda, San Antonio; Duke Walton, Porter; Jerry Couch, Irving; Jim Haynes, Richmond; Roger O’Dwyer, Copperas Cove; and John Meekins, Cleveland. Congratulations to all those who received awards this year! From all of us to all of you, THANKS!!

For Your Information

Rifle Recall

About 3,000 rifles sold under the Sako and Tikka labels have been recalled following catastrophic failures, but a small number of guns sold in the American market remain in the hands of owners who apparently have not heard about the recall. A weakness in the stainless steel used to manufacture rifles last year has led to ruptured barrels. Contact the Sako/Tikka Recall Center immediately at (800) 503-8869 with your rifle's serial number to find out if your firearm is affected.

USFWS Director Resigns

from NSSF

Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton announced the resignation of Steve Williams as director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Williams will become president of the Wildlife Management Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated to scientific wildlife management, effective March 20, 2005. Richard E. McCabe, executive vice president of the Wildlife Management Institute, said his organization would benefit substantially from Williams' expertise. Matthew J. Hogan is the acting director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service until a new director is nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Hogan has served as the Service's deputy director for the past three years. Before joining the Service in 2002, Hogan, 37, spent four years as conservation policy director of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, serving as a liaison between the hunting, fishing and conservation communities and the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus. Prior to that, he was government affairs manager for Safari Club International and legislative director for Congressman Pete Geren of Texas. He graduated from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, New York in 1990.

TPWD INFORMATION

TPWD Check Acceptance Policy

Accepting checks is not required by law, but is a courtesy to our customers.

TPWD requires the following when accepting a check made out to TPWD:

- The check writer's name and address should be pre-printed on the check. Make sure the written and numeral amounts correspond. If the phone number is not preprinted, please ask for one and record it on the check.
- Ask for a work telephone number.
- Write what the check is for (i.e. Hunter Education, Bowhunter Education, etc.)
- Write a drivers license number if not printed on the check.
- Compare the signatures, photo and physical description of the ID with that of the check writer. No check can be unsigned.
- Verify that the ID is still valid. Check the driver's license for signs of alteration or modification.
- Check to see that the address on the check matches the address of the student.
- Review any checks with low check numbers (100 to 500), which indicates a new account, particularly for business or "dba" (doing business as).
- No second- or third-party checks are accepted.

Welcome New Instructors

If you recognize any of these folks who might live near you, please give them a call and ask if you can help them get started. Remember, it is always appreciated when you lend a helping hand.

November

Ike McClendon	Miami
Matthew Caswell	Lubbock
Austin Gilbert	Montgomery
Russell Ives	Follett
Clay Wells	Follett
David Howard	Follett
Jacob Hoggatt	Red Oak
Alfred Petrarca, III	Brownsville
George Davis	Angleton
Tom Haas	Corpus Christi
Bob Murry	Corpus Christi
Chad Peterson	Midland
Nathaniel Pettigrew	Odessa

December

Mike Parton	Mobeetie
Nichole Hoggatt	Red Oak
Blaise Roman	Katy
Taylor Danie	Houston
Hernan Garza, IV	Rio Grande City
Nicholas Burrell	Crystal City

Harvey Willis	Stafford
Danny Spencer	Bellaire
Frank Ortega	Midland
Forest Kinney	Caddo Mills

January

Jason Hoelscher	Rogers
Forrest Barber	Houston
Paul Kirk	Abilene
Michael Rodgers	Rotan
Sarah Chudalla	Wharton
Phillip Elery	Forney
Darrell Hall	Forney
Jim Mallon	Georgetown
Ronald Bean	Kingsland
Roy Boyd, Jr.	Victoria
Michael Dewitt, Jr.	Plano

February

Joshua Kaiser	Louise
Edoardo Diangelis	Leander
Mary Beach	Port Neches

Jack Beach	Port Neches
Garry Smith	Silsbee
Jared Langham	Dayton
Timothy Edwards	Lexington
Vernon Richardson	Wolfe City
James Irvin	Amarillo
Randall Bullard	Canyon

March

Ryan Goodwin	Corpus Christi
Laura White	New Caney
Peter Nicosia	Del Rio
Kymberly Edds	Nacogdoches
Marco Fuentes	Del Rio
Doug Wilson	Del Rio
Jose Gonzalez	Del Rio
Rudy Menchaca	Eagle Pass
Brian Butler	Loraine
Tracy Kalka	Corpus Christi
James Hurst	Barnhart
Bryan Lovell	Big Lake
Bobby Lovell	Clyde

NEW AREA CHIEF

Fred Berg - Del Rio and Val Verde County are revitalizing since Fred became certified as an instructor in 2003. He is constantly encouraging veteran instructors to return to the ranks of being an active instructor, and has been successful in recruiting several new instructors not only in Hunter Education but Bowhunter Education as well. He will cover Val Verde and surrounding counties, which certainly need instructors and courses. Fred has certified over 130 students in 21 courses, and attended 14 in-service workshops or special events. Welcome aboard and congratulations!

INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

Dummy Ammo Available

Reward your hunter education graduates with a product designed to help them safely learn the proper functioning of their hunting firearm. Inert ammo enables your students to become completely familiar with how to use their hunting tool, without the risk of an accidental discharge. While gun locks help promote safe storage, inert ammo helps promote safe handling of firearms. We offer a student pack that is ideal to hand out with the students' Hunter Education card or other training materials. Each pack contains two 12g., two 20g., and five .22 cal. inert training rounds for \$1 per pack. We believe this arrangement contains a combination that is needed in the home of most beginning hunters. These rounds are bright orange in color, and they are very good snap caps. If interested, the ammo can be seen at www.takesafetyhome.com or by requesting free samples.

Manufacturing Services Inc.
2239 S. Mead
Wichita, KS 67211
phone: (316) 267-4111
fax: (316) 267-2609
sales@takesafetyhome.com

INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

continued

Whitetail Restocking History

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, deer herds across America were threatened to the brink of disappearance. One of the nation's remarkable wildlife management achievements is the recovery of those herds, and restocking played a significant role in that recovery, according to the **Quality Deer Management Association**. The QDMA chronicles the whitetail's transplant success in the second edition of *A History of White-tailed Deer Restocking in the United States 1878-2004*. The 112-page soft cover book has been updated from the original 1993 first edition, and it is available for \$19.95 from the QDMA by calling (800) 209-3337.

Great Book Available

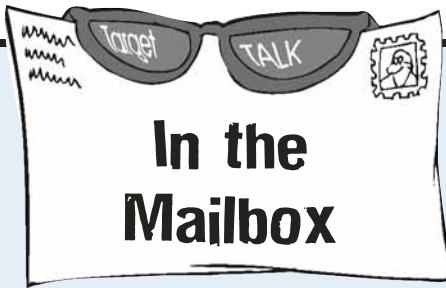
Dave Richards and Al Brothers joined resources a couple of years back and produced one of the best books ever on white-tailed deer. It is titled *Observing and Evaluating Whitetails*, and comes in several formats. The most handy and readily available version is in pocket guide format and size. It can be easily taken to the deer stand and used in the field. When one is looking for that quality animal, or doing continual quality management, this book will help tremendously. You can order from Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) at (800) 209-3337 or the Texas Wildlife Association at (800) 839-9453. The book is available as a pocket guide for \$6.99; soft cover \$29.99, hardcover for \$39.99, and in limited edition leather bound for \$199.99. By the way, there are some awesome photos in this book. It would be well worth your investment to have one in your library.

DVD Tour of Wildlife Refuges

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is distributing "America's Wildest Places," a two-hour tour of eight of the refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Created in honor of the recently celebrated 100th anniversary of the first proclaimed refuge, the armchair tour's footage is accompanied by narration and music. The DVD costs \$6, plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling, and you can order it by calling (304) 876-7692 or visit <http://refuges.fws.gov/> and scroll down to the DVD. Included with each order is "National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Guide," which includes a map of the system's 540 refuges, as well as a listing of public use activities available at each station.

Free Catalog

See what is among the 11 new books in the free spring/summer informational brochure and merchandise catalog published by the Quality Deer Management Association. Other new merchandise includes a cookbook, whitetail re-stocking history and books on habitat and food plots. New gear includes hunting apparel and camp accessories. The QDMA is a national nonprofit organization committed to ethical hunting, sound deer management and preservation of the deer hunting heritage. To request a catalog, click on <https://www.qdma.com/store/requestcatalog.asp> or call (800) 209-DEER (3337).



Dear Staff,

I attended the Grand Prairie Gun Club's Hunter Education class and was very impressed with the class. I attended the October 30, 2004, class and could not have been more pleased. Jan Heath spoke to me on the phone and signed me up. He made this "city girl" feel very welcome and helped me with any problems. What a nice gentleman. All of the instructors were knowledgeable, nice, and great educators.

I learned a lot that day and commend the Grand Prairie Gun Club and TPWD for offering such a course. It should be a must for everyone, even those born before the required date. I have talked my father into taking their course just because it is excellent information and fun. My husband wants to go as well. I understand that all of the instructors there were volunteers. Wow! You couldn't get a better group of people if you paid them and paid them a lot.

I have since spoken to other people who have knowledge in hunter education and all agreed that the Grand Prairie class is one of the best in the state. I am lucky to be in North Texas where this class is offered.

Sincerely,
Marlene Lagerquist, Richardson, Texas

Staff,

Ryan Vaughan passed his Hunters Education Class Saturday. It was great. I sat with him throughout the whole class and left the room when he took the test. It was a great pleasure to watch him take notes and highlight stuff and participate in the class. Hilton Clark is a credit to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The little extra bits of information he gave the class was great. I think everybody there enjoyed it. Kudos to Hilton Clark and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Jack Vaughn

Staff,

I read with some interest your "Editor's Corner" of the Fall/Winter issue of *Target Talk*. I guess, as with most people, I had never thought much about those disabled persons wishing to join in with the shooting and hunting sports - that is until it directly affected me personally.

On May 13, 2002, my eldest son (then 29 years old) became a paraplegic due to an ATV accident. He loved to shoot and engage in all sorts of hunting. It was a real shock when he finally realized much of what was out of his grasp forever. He had a place to hunt turkey and deer at the time, so, when he was well enough, I built him a wheel chair friendly deer blind. He was able to use it one season to take some turkeys before his family life began to fall apart. VA counselors in Albuquerque told us a full 85 percent of marriages involving one paraplegic partner that young don't last. And, it didn't.

Before the accident, I never thought twice about how the physically disabled would get into buildings, cross a street, take a long time getting in and out of doors, vehicles, etc. Now, I look for those things. While I'm not handicapped, I'm beginning to see the reality of what these folks must go through just to exist. Sometimes it's heartbreaking.

I have a hunting lease between Crane and McCamey, in the Castle Gap area. This past season, I began to look at places and ways that my son could go down there as a guest hunter for a day of hunting. Most of the territory is so rugged, rolling around in a wheel chair would be impossible, and so I have to look for areas where he might go where deer or javelina exist. I haven't really figured it out yet, but I am working on it.

My biggest problem now is finding a place nearby for him to live. Our house wasn't built wheel chair friendly, and finding a place that is wheel chair friendly has become something of a challenge.

Just to let you know to please not forget these folks, for many of them still want to hunt and shoot. It's just a matter of figuring out how and where. Maybe a *Target Talk* story now and then on real life people who have found ways to overcome, and get back into the outdoors for a day of hunting and shooting, would be helpful.

Thanks, again.
Steve Poitevint, Big Spring

Editor's Comments:

You're right, we shouldn't forget these folks. Anyone with additional information or a story they'd like to contribute should send it in. I would advise you to contact Michael "Shorty" Powers at POINT (Paraplegics on Independent Nature Tours) at (972) 524-4231, cell phone (214) 212-1227 or e-mail him at point@turningpointtexas.org. They do some outstanding hunts involving individuals like your son.

Via Phone Message:

John Chunn claimed he had been procrastinating and dreading the course, and he "finally" took the on-line course and went in to take the follow-up day of testing recently. Mr. Chunn called and said he was most pleasantly surprised and indicated that the instructor, Ernest Roney, San Antonio, did an excellent job.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ethics Workshop

May 14-15	Del Rio
July 23-24	Midland
Aug. 13-14	Austin

Wing Shooting Responsibility

(1 day - Open to Public)

May 7	Lubbock
May 21	El Paso
June 4	Monahans
Aug 27	Orange
Aug 28	Rosenberg

How to Teach & LaserShot Training

May 8	Lubbock
May 22	El Paso
June 5	Midland
July 16	Houston

Western Big Game Hunting

June 4	Houston
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Waterfowl Workshop – Wing Shooting

June 11-12	Wichita Falls
June 14	Corpus Christi
Aug. 20	Corpus Christi

Deer Aging & Scoring

June 13	Mission
Aug (tba)	Grand Prairie

Wilderness First Aid (Red Cross Cert.)

July 9-10	Houston
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Alligator Management

July 29-30	Port Arthur
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NRA Reloading Certification

June 24-26	Grand Prairie
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Outdoor Skills (Survival)

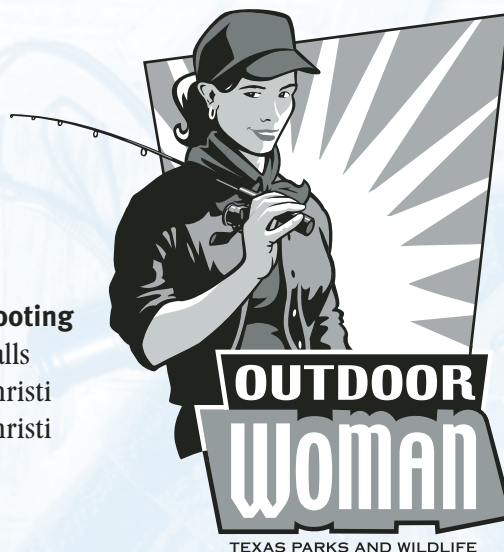
May 14	Rosenberg
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Becoming An Outdoors-Woman Workshops Schedule

Contact BAOW@tpwd.state.tx.us or phone Ashley Mathews at (512) 389-8198

May 20-22	Palacios
	Texas Baptist Encampment

Oct 28-30	Brenham
	Camp For All



Kudos



Shown here is Russell Greiner accepting his Texas Hunter Education Hall of Fame plaque and custom gun cleaning kit from Terry Erwin. Russ has been in the program since 1997, has taught 112 student courses and certified 1,099 students. He attended 88 advanced in-service workshops or special events, taught eight pre-service workshops with other local Area Chiefs and has certified eight new instructors. Russ is also just finishing up two terms as Treasurer of Texas Hunter Education Instructor Association. Congratulations Russ, we are proud of you and appreciate all your hard work!



Don Murray took this 145-pound mountain lion with a Boone and Crocket skull measurement of 15" in Apache Creek, New Mexico. Don is shown with "PJ" of Bill Nelson Guide Services. They hunted with dogs, and after being treed, the lion was killed instantly with one shot from a 6.6x55 Thompson/Center Encore. Congratulations Don!

Kudos

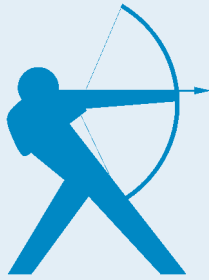


Heidi Rao, Hunter Education Specialist from Dickinson, received two awards recently at the All Ag. Awards Banquet held at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. She is shown here accepting the “**Outstanding Young Alumnus Award**” from Dr. Phelps, Chair of the Department of Forestry.

Heidi was up against other SIU graduates from the past 10 years, and she was selected as the finalist. An additional award is for being selected as “**Young Alumnus of the Year**” in 2004 by the Department of Agriculture at SIU. The award banquet also celebrated the 50th Anniversary for the College of Agriculture. This the first year Southern Illinois University has ever given these awards. Congratulations Heidi!

Tagen Reeves took this nice spike buck with one shot from his a .243 in Coryell County at the Boyce Conner Ranch. Tagen, who is 19 years old, was in the blind with his father, Bobby Reeves. Tagen has a condition rendering him incapable of passing a hunter education exam, so he was granted a “special certification” that states he must hunt under the supervision of an adult guardian at all times. Congratulations Tagen!





THE BOWHUNTER

TEXAS BOWHUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Sportsmen Fortify Defense Against Anti's With Launch of Bowhunter Rights Coalition

(From U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance)

(Columbus) – A coalition of the nation's leading national bowhunting organizations and communications firms have joined to combat the newly elevated threat to bowhunting posed by the merger of two national animal rights groups. The groups are uniting behind an initial U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance plan to mobilize bowhunters in defense of their sport.

"Bowhunters have proven their resolve in the past and must again demonstrate their might to stave off promised attacks by anti-hunters," said Rick Story, senior vice president of the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance.

At a January meeting, the Bowhunter Rights Coalition (BRC) was launched in response to the January 1 merger of the Humane Society of the United States and the Fund for Animals. The new mega-animal rights group boasts of a multi-million dollar budget and has vowed to target bowhunting in 2005.

State and local bowhunting organizations, as well as individual bowhunters and other sportsmen are being recruited to unite under the BRC flag. Bowhunter Magazine, The Bowsite, The International Bowhunting Organization and Pope & Young Club have already joined the coalition.

"The BRC will build a grassroots network capable of defending against attacks in the courts, in legislatures or on the ballot," said Story. "These allies will help to distribute issue alerts, urge sportsmen to contact lawmakers regarding hunting-related legislation and dilute the burden of legal fees in defense of bowhunting."

The coalition's main thrust will be the ability to effectively communicate and to have a rapid response capability. The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance is preparing a BRC website on which it will post the latest news about the assault against bowhunting for sportsmen and bowhunting publications. It will provide educational materials about bowhunter safety and more. A chat room will also be available to discuss issues and for occasional live chats with leaders of the bowhunting community.

"The Alliance's successes over the years have been attributed to our ability to organize," said Story. "That was evident in the formation of the Bowhunter Defense Coalition in 1988 in response to increasing attacks on bowhunting. This effectiveness will be recreated with the BRC."

A report from the Humane Society of the United States released on January 31 lays out the group's plans to ban hunting in 2005. Aside from previous plans to target bowhunting, HSUS is preparing a ballot campaign to ban Michigan's dove season for which sportsmen arduously fought.

For more information about how to join the Bowhunter Rights Coalition, call the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, (614) 888-4868 or e-mail info@ussportsmen.org.



Jack Jetton Receives Award

Jack Jetton, (left) former International Bowhunter Education Program State Chairman, is shown accepting an appreciation plaque for outstanding service to the bowhunters of Texas and to the Texas IBEP Program from Terry Erwin, current IBEP Chairman. Jack did a great job during his tenure as chairman. Many new changes and improvements to the IBEP program were implemented during his reign. Thanks and Congratulations Jack on a job well done!

IBEP Instructors Get New Nametags

If you were one of the IBEP instructors who recently received a new tan nametag with a magnetic fastener, you can thank the Texas Hunter Education Instructor Association (THEIA) for providing them. Texas IBEP instructors have been behind for some time in having appropriate name badges. Jack Jetton provided them to new instructors, but some of the older, veteran instructors felt a little left out. It was not the fault of IBEP, but funding was not available to provide an across-the-board number of badges for all IBEP instructors.

Now, when an individual becomes certified in IBEP, a new name badge is included with the congratulatory packet sent from TPWD. Thanks to THEIA for their generous contribution.

Arrow Injury

Here is a prime example of why one should always check equipment. It is not exactly known how the incident happened, but from looking at it, it appears that a carbon graphite arrow shattered and went into the shooter's hand. This was a summation by NBEF Executive Director, Marilyn Bentz.

One tip for checking equipment, especially graphite arrows, is use a dry cotton ball and wipe the arrow up and down and look for even the slightest fiber that adheres to the arrow. This could indicate some type of flaw or weakness, which, if fired, could potentially result in a similar incident or worse. A word to the wise ... always check your equipment before you shoot, and before storing.



Upcoming IBEP Events

IBEP Student/Instructor Course

June 11-12	Del Rio
June 11-12	Lubbock
July 30-31	Austin
July 30-31	Corpus Christi
Aug 12-13	Nacogdoches

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Target Talk

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Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
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Austin, TX 78744



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