

NON-CIRCULATING

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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TPWD LAUNCHES CATALOG SALES BUSINESS

AUSTIN--Posters, mugs and T-shirts emblazoned with images ranging from cave paintings to classic Texas landscapes are strewn about the office of Bill Rutledge, conservation communications director at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Rutledge, who is taking college courses to hone his business skills, heads a team of state employees who are going into the mail-order catalog business. If they succeed, they'll be the first Texas agency to do anything of this size and scope. If they fail, some of them may not be here next year, since the program will be phased out if it doesn't make a profit.

"The formula is simple," Rutledge said. "Your outdoor experiences plus the artists and friends of Texas Parks and Wildlife equal wonderful memories.

"We're not going to carry the same products you can buy in L.L. Bean or down at the mall. Everything except the coffee mugs are made right here in Texas. Even the T-shirts are made in Texas from cotton grown in Texas."

No other Texas agency offers a similar catalog, although Rutledge said Arizona Highways magazine has a mail-order business that generates \$5 million per year. For guidance in Texas, the department turned to Bat Conservation International, an Austin-based nonprofit corporation with a successful catalog sales operation began in 1987.

"I think it's wonderful," said Linda Rogers, vice president of BCI. "If Arizona can do it, surely Texas can do it bigger and better. It's to (TPWD executive director) Andy Sansom's credit that he's looking for ways to independently support the department so he doesn't have to depend on public dollars."

Rogers said she talked with the department team about where to buy items, telemarketing, warehousing and other mail-order sales basics. She believes the quality of the department's home-grown product line will help the project succeed.

The department's first catalog features 27 products ranging in price from a \$6 greeting card set to an \$800 lifetime hunting and fishing license. Almost all of them were created in-house by TPWD photographers, journalists, artists and craftsmen.

One image stands out as visitors view a 10-foot by 14-foot retail display showcasing the products at the department's Austin headquarters. It's "The Dance of Life," a colorful array of wild animal outlines on a black background. The origins of the image, found on department T-shirts, mugs, cards and posters, help explain its appeal.

"I got the idea from Native American rock art pictographs in Texas," said artist Debra Morgan, one of the TPWD artists who contributed works for the catalog. "I wanted something fun that people would immediately recognize as representing wildlife and the outdoors, yet would still be true to the power of the original rock art."

The phrase, EXPLORE THE REAL TEXAS, appears on numerous items and represents the heart of the department's marketing emphasis.

"Everyone knows the real Texas isn't buildings and roads; it's the untamed outdoors, which we're uniquely positioned to market," said Linda Adkins, the department's new creative director and catalog design supervisor. Adkins has run her own graphic design business for 15 years. She designed the BCI catalog and has designed catalogs for high profile clients like Pier 1 International.

"I came on board for the challenge and because I feel strongly about promoting Texas' natural resources," Adkins said. "What I've discovered is that the department has its own treasure trove of resources—its people. The state's top experts on wildlife and ecology are right here, not to mention talented artists, photographers and craftsmen."

An educational theme runs through most of the collection. For example, the retail display for "The Dance of Life" poster reads, "TPWD protects these species, but preserving the state's bio-diversity, the full range of native plant and animal life, requires every nature lover's help." Books in the catalog include, The Dinosaurs of Dinosaur Valley State Park, Bats of Texas and Morning Rounds, which is about frontier doctors.

Videotapes in the catalog include the best of the statewide Public Broadcasting Service television series Texas Parks & Wildlife. The tape, Destinations, ranges from the best Central Texas swimming holes to rafting the Rio Grande to wildflower hunting at Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area. The Whitetail shows how to manage land for a healthy deer herd.

Many items are earth friendly and home-grown, such as Grandpa's Long Tail Shirt, which has wooden buttons and is made of 100 percent unbleached Texas cotton. Adkins believes the "Texas made" feature is a major marketing advantage that will help distinguish the department's product line from products in similar catalogs.

'We could have hired somebody to put together a catalog for us or we could have gotten five pages in some other catalog amid the doggy bowls and fake snow paperweights, but I wanted this to be the Parks and Wildlife company," Rutledge said.

The project, known as the "ancillary products" initiative at the department, will run like a separate, nonprofit entity. The department will "loan" the catalog almost \$100,000 to hire staff, buy equipment, rent warehouse space and purchase initial product inventory.

At the end of the first fiscal year, any net profit from catalog sales will go back into the department's Fund 9 and Fund 64 for wildlife conservation and parks.

'We won't keep any of the money, Rutledge said. 'What's in it for us if we make a profit is that we're here next year. We're not setting up another layer of bureaucracy. If we don't make it, this project will go away."

The plan is to distribute about 534,000 catalogs in the first year. The first catalogs will be mailed along with the October issue of Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine to its 175,000 subscribers, with a similar mailing in March. Another 40,000 catalogs will go to magazine newsstands and the rest will be available for people who call requesting information.

The business plan projects 10,000 product orders at about \$38 or three products per order for the first year. This would generate \$380,000 gross, netting the department \$40,000 after estimated costs of \$340,000. However, the team is well aware that most startup businesses don't make a profit the first year.

'I think we're going to be a smashing success, said Michael Galloway, TPWD catalog sales director. 'Yet, I still get these mental pictures of the door at headquarters opening next year and me skidding out on my rear end."

Galloway ran his own nationwide mail-order business selling home brewing equipment for five years. He was recruited from the Texas General Land Office to head the catalog project by Sansom and Rutledge.

"They made no bones about the fact that I'm at risk," Galloway said. "I was willing to take the job first because it's a challenge and second because it's an absolute delight to be a part of an agency that's trying to wean itself from the public trough."

Galloway admits it is a challenge for state government to try to operate like a business where some laws and rules hamper the would be entrepreneur. "One of the most basic problems was setting up a revolving account where we can buy a product, sell it and buy more, instead of getting an appropriation and using it up and then it's gone."

Galloway said most small businesses fail in year one because they're under-capitalized or lack a solid business plan. He said he has the advantage of solid funding and a carefully crafted business strategy.

"Plus, we've got mailing lists that most businesses would kill for. Down the road we envision a catalog mailed directly to about 300,000 hunting and fishing license holders. That list is as current as it can be and most hunters and anglers feel good about buying from causes that they know will benefit wildlife and the outdoors."

The first Texas Parks & Wildlife catalogs will go to newsstands and be mailed Sept. 15 along with the department's magazine. Catalogs and products also will be available at selected state parks and at department headquarters.

(NOTE: For news media information, contact Rutledge at (512) 389-4992. The public should call 1-800-792-1112.

TH 9/10/93

EXPO CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

AUSTIN--Fifteen young Texans, including siblings from Northeast Texas, have won lifetime combination hunting and fishing licenses for placing first in their respective categories in the Texas Wildlife Expo '93 poster, essay and poetry contest.

Licenses will be awarded for each grade from kindergarten through sixth in the poster contest, for each grade from seventh through 12th in the essay contest and for kindergarten through sixth and seventh through 12th in the poetry contest. Winners will be recognized Oct. 1 during the Texas Wildlife Expo '93 banquet, featuring Gov. Ann Richards and Jerry Jones, owner of the Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys.

The biggest winner was the Williams family of Paris. Rebecca Williams, a third grader, won first in her category of the poster contest. Ruth Williams won the eighth grade category of the essay contest.

Other poster contest winners are Jonathan Tanner, Odessa, kindergarten; Sarah A. Miller, Joshua, first grade; Bethany Nall, Wichita Falls, second grade; Angelica Garcia, Rio Grande City, fourth grade; Shane P. Trickey, Mineral Wells, fifth grade; and James Brandon Durham, Kennard, sixth grade.

Essay winners include Shelli Lyons, Austin, seventh grade; Jennifer M. Anders, Edna, ninth grade; Ryan Tabrah, Newton, 10th grade; Connie Hou, Sugar Land, 11th grade; and Katherine J. Studebaker, Corpus Christi, 12th grade.

In the kindergarten through sixth grade poetry contest, the winner is Katherine H. Deason, a first grader in Leander. Darrin L. Boyd, an eighth grader from Nocona, won the seventh through 12th grade poetry contest.

Winners receive a lifetime license, a one-year subscription to Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine and a copy of the Texas Wildlife Viewing Guide, a value of more than \$800. The contest, judged by several members of the Texas Outdoor Writers Association, drew more than 1,700 entries, including 558 posters, 240 essays and 933 poems.

Winning entries will be on display during the Expo. For those winners who will not be at the Expo to accept their award, a game warden will hand deliver their award to them.

Judges also selected several entries as honorable mention. Although no awards are given for honorable mention, the judges felt like certain entries deserved special notice.

In the kindergarten through sixth grade poetry contest, honorable mentions include Elizabeth A. Tucker, Alvord, second grade; James Son, Houston, third grade; and Christine L. Rollins and Nolan R. Pearson, both of Bedford, Natalie Fernandez of Houston and Jamie R. Fussell of Alvin, all fourth graders.

Others are Erica L. French of Mount Vernon, Heidi Busby of Amarillo, Randy Robin Moore of Hamilton, Keslie D. Wilson of Gustine and Cassie J. Andrews of Graham, all fifth graders; and Brandon E. Reavis of Round Rock, Justin C. Cox of Paradise and Stacia McNeil of Watauga, all sixth graders.

- In the seventh through 12th grade category, honorable mentions go to Holly A. Snyder of San Antonio, seventh; Tony R. West of Hurst, eighth; Crystal B. Henderson of Corpus Christi, ninth; Casey Moore of San Marcos, 10th; and Jessica L. Peshorn of Seguin, 12th.

Those receiving honorable mention in the essay contest include Chris A. Jarman of Austin, seventh; Josiah Neeley of Austin, Ashley B. Fretthold of San Antonio and Ethan Swint of Paris, all eighth graders; Shiliang Chang of Houston, ninth; and Valerie R. Rossman of Corpus Christi, 12th.

Honorable mentions in the poster contest go to Michael King of Hallsville, Audra Lowe of Brookland and Deana L. High of Oakwood, kindergarten; Emily S. Smith, Rita Contreras and Cody W. Maple, all of Porter, first grade; Elizabeth N. Sherwood of San Antonio, Greg Ralston of Wichita Falls and Jacob Jerome Pekar of Damon, second grade; and Katherine Dorris of Andrews, Judith V. Ayala of Laredo and Heidi Smith of Andrews, third grade.

Others in this category are Anna L. Perez of Morgan, Silvestre Becerra of Rio Grande City, Cody L. Morgan of Morgan, Viridiana G. Saenz of Consumel, Santiago Cuardos of Dallas, Ruda A. Lira of Morgan and Trevor Nall of Wichita Falls, fourth grade; Collin Neisen, Jake A. Speck and Tiffany Maynard, all of Southlake, and Natalie Aguilera of El Paso, fifth grade; and Adam C. Hillman of Pampa, Julie E. Tiller of Bay City and Sandra Martinez of Comstock, sixth grade.

* * * * *

It is impossible to run every poem and essay that were submitted, but there are a couple of poems that stand out.

Katherine H. Deason of Leander, a first grader, won the kindergarten through sixth grade poetry contest. Below is her entry, minus the first grade handwriting.

I Like To Fish
By Katie Deason

Fishing is great
Fishing is fun
I love to sit by the lake
In the sun

We bring our poles
And we bring our bait
And then we sit
And wait and wait

A fish comes by
And pulls on my line
I reel him in
This feels so fine!

I let him go
Right away
So I can catch him
Another day

We're ready to go home
But first we know
To clean our place
And let life grow

The winner of the seventh through 12th grade category was Darrin L. Boyd, an eighth grader from Nocona. His poem is below.

Yesterday
By Darrin L. Boyd

Yesterday my Granddad was an old man
Shaky
Bald
Wrinkled

Yesterday we picked vegetables
Tomatoes
Cucumbers
Peppers

Yesterday we walked to the pond
Chased butterflies
Skipped rocks
I helped Granddad up the hill

Yesterday we drove to the mailbox
Slowly
Unsteadily
Instead of mail, we found a bird's nest nestled inside

Yesterday we went to "The Boyd Place"
Took out the guns
Walked to the creek
Set up some bottles and cans

Yesterday was my first lesson in shooting
"Guns are not toys," Granddad said.
"They are to be respected
Handle with care."

Yesterday I shot the gun
 I missed
 I came close
 Granddad said I was a marksman

Yesterday Granddad shot the gun
 Steady - not shaky
 Hands made of stone
 He didn't miss

Yesterday Granddad was an old man
 Yesterday I was six
 A good team
 Youth and wisdom

LW 9/10/93

MAGAZINE PHOTOGRAPHERS, TV SHOW AVAILABLE TO EXPO GOERS

AUSTIN--Anyone who subscribes to Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine or who watches the Texas Parks and Wildlife television show knows the quality product put in front of the public. During Texas Wildlife Expo '93, the public can meet the people who produce the magazine and show and learn more about their trades.

This year's Expo is scheduled for Oct. 1-3 and is free to the public. The magazine and television show will share a tent at the Expo.

In addition to members of the magazine staff, three of the top freelance photographers used by the magazine will be on hand, Wyman Meinzer of Benjamin, Laurence Parent of Austin and Steve Bentsen of Edinburg.

These three photographers will have displays of their work available to see, and some of their equipment. They will be on hand to answer questions from the public.

Meinzer, who has freelanced for the magazine since the late 1970s is famous for his roadrunner and horned lizard photos. He also has worked extensively in the Yukon and with wild sheep. Meinzer will have copies of his book, The Roadrunner, on sale at the booth.

Parent, originally from New Mexico, is known for his work throughout the western U.S. He specializes in large formats, particularly scenic shots. Parent will have for sale his books, *Hikers Guide To Texas* and *Hikers Guide To New Mexico*.

Bentsen is actually Dr Bentsen. He is a veterinarian by trade and has a practice in the Rio Grande Valley. Bentsen's specialty is South Texas.

The television show staff also will be on hand to answer questions about the series, which airs in 12 markets across Texas. Visitors will be able to see excerpts of the show on monitors set up as part of the exhibit.

In addition, some of the television cameras and sound equipment used to produce the show will be on display. Producers who work on the series will be there to answer any questions visitors may have about producing quality outdoor television, shooting video or where to find the series in their area.

The Expo will transform the grounds of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's headquarters into a colorful fairgrounds with hundreds of exhibitor booths, live wildlife events, fishing demonstrations, shooting and much more.

Jerry Jones, owner of the Super Bowl Champion Dallas Cowboys, and Gov. Ann Richards each will give remarks at the celebrity banquet Oct. 1. Radio personality Cactus Pryor will be the master of ceremonies. The banquet, which has limited seating, will follow a celebrity sporting clays shoot featuring Doug English, Lee Roy Jordan, Gary Morris and Ted Nugent. Winners of the Expo poster, essay and poetry contest, the Texas Big Game Awards and the Share A Lunker program will be honored.

The Expo will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Oct. 2 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 3. There is no admission fee on Oct. 2 and 3. Banquet tickets vary from \$50 to \$75. Proceeds from the Expo will benefit the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc.'s Wildlife Scholarship Fund.

About 300 exhibitors representing all facets of the hunting and fishing industry and conservation groups, as well as several TPWD programs, will have booths set up at the event. Entertainer and singer Gary Morris will perform a one hour concert on Oct. 2.

Dozens of other events will be ongoing throughout the Expo, including demonstrations, adult and youth shooting, casting clinics and demonstrations, youth fishing derby, seminars and others.

The Expo is designed to create public awareness to the importance of hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation; focus public attention on the contributions hunters, fishermen and other outdoor users have made to preserve the abundant wildlife and natural resources of Texas; inform new generations of Texans about the history of hunting, fishing and the outdoors; and underscore the critical role of hunting, fishing and the outdoors in wildlife management and conservation.

Parking will be east of I-35 on Woodward Dr. A free shuttle will take visitors to and from the Expo.

For more information, contact Bob Hauser at Texas Wildlife Expo '93, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or call 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4472, or (512) 389-4472.

LW 9/10/93

HORSEBACK RIDING HIGHLIGHTS PASSPORT EVENTS

AUSTIN--Horseback riding highlights Texas Conservation Passport events scattered across the state as fall brings cooler temperatures and changing colors to state parks and wildlife management areas.

On Oct. 10, and again Nov. 14, at the Hill Country State Natural Area near Bandera, passport holders can take a guided horseback tour of the area. The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with lunch and mount provided. In addition to a Texas Conservation Passport, there is a fee of \$37.50. Reservations are required. For reservations, call Running R Ranch at (210) 796-3984.

S&K Horse Stables has scheduled a moonlight horseback ride at Pedernales Falls State Park in Blanco County from 8:30-9:30 p.m. each Friday during September, October and November for passport holders. Participants will be able to stargaze from a high ridge in a remote area of the park. There is an additional fee and reservations are required.

Each Saturday in September, October and November at Pedernales Falls, passport holders can take a guided cross-country trip through remote areas of the park and view 4,800 acres from a high ridge. Mounts and picnics are provided. There is an additional fee and reservations are required.

While at Pedernales Falls for the ride and picnic, participants can ask to be included in a session to view the art of horseshoeing following the morning ride. For information or reservations on any of the Pedernales Falls riding activities, call S&K Horse Stables at (512) 479-9443 on Monday through Friday or (210) 868-0314 on weekends and holidays.

Other events scheduled for Texas Conservation Passport holders during October include:

- * Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, flora and fauna trail walk, 10 a.m. to noon, Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27, (210) 585-1107

- * Caddo Lake SP, nature walk and slide presentation, 2-4 p.m., Oct. 30, (903) 679-4006.

- * Candy Cain Abshier WMA at Smith Point in Chambers County, participate in the 1993 Smith Point Hawk Watch and count up to 20 species of raptors as they migrate to Central and South America, 7-11 a.m., Oct. 9, reservations required, (409) 736-2551 or 2540.

- * Davis Mountains SP northwest of Fort Davis, bird banding observation, 8-11 a.m., every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, (915) 426-3337

- * Devil's Sinkhole SNA in Edwards County, observation of Devil's Sinkhole and Mexican free-tailed bat flight, time will be announced when reservations are made, Oct. 16, reservations required, (210) 563-2342.

- * Eisenhower SP northwest of Denison, Walt Disney movie, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Oct. 29, reservations required, (903) 465-1956.

- * Gus Engeling WMA northwest of Palestine, short evening hike to call nocturnal predators and spotlight tour from a flatbed trailer, 7-9:30 p.m., Oct. 16 reservations required, (903) 928-2251

- * Fairfield Lake near Fairfield, mountain bike tour of primitive area, 1-4 p.m., Oct. 9, (903) 389-4514.

- * Fairfield Lake SP/Richland Creek WMA near Fairfield, photos of fall slide presentation at the park then a hay ride at the management area for demonstration, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oct. 23, reservations required, (903) 389-2216.

- * Fort Griffin SP north of Albany, branding and vaccinating cattle, Oct. 23, (915) 762-3592.

* GCCA-CPL Marine Development Center in Corpus Christi, birding walk and hatchery tour and slide program, 9-11 a.m., Oct. 9, reservations required, (512) 939-7784.

* Honey Creek SNA, ethnobotany trail walk, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Oct. 2, (210) 935-2656.

* Kickapoo Cavern SNA near Uvalde, primitive tour of Kickapoo Cavern, 4-6 p.m., Oct. 7 and 15; also, bat flight and interpretation at Green Cave, 6:30-9 p.m., Oct. 1, 2, 7 and 15; also, bird banding observation, 9 a.m. to noon, Oct. 2. Reservations required for each event. Call (210) 563-2342.

* Lake Mineral Wells SP in Parker County, fish collection with electrofishing gear, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Oct. 19, reservations required, (817) 328-1171

* Lake Ray Roberts SP, fish collection with electrofishing gear, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Oct. 21, reservations required, (817) 686-2148.

* Landmark Inn in Castroville, historic structures restoration techniques (geared for professional maintenance of historic structures), 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 26-28; also, a developmental class in marbleized painting of historic structures, Oct. 9-10. Additional fee, reservations required, (210) 538-2133.

* Las Palomas WMA, importance of wildlife management areas nature walk, 3-5 p.m., Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27, (210) 585-1107; also, birding tour of lower Rio Grande, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oct. 20, reservations required, (210) 383-8982.

* Matagorda Island SP off Port O'Connor, beachcombing and shelling, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oct. 17; also, plant and wildflower tour, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oct. 23; walking birding tour, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 9; bike ride and birding tour, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 3. Additional fee for each event. Call (512) 983-2215.

* M.O. Neasloney WMA, wildflower and native plant tour, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 23, (210) 875-9230.

* Old Tunnel WMA near Fredericksburg, bat emergence tour, one hour before sunset until flight is over, every Thursday and Saturday, (210) 868-7304.

* Pedernales Falls SP in Blanco County, Twin Falls nature trail walk, 9-10:30 a.m., Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30; also, bird watchers walk, 7:30-11 a.m. Additional fee. Reservations required. Call (210) 868-7304.

* Sebastopol SHP in Seguin, learn the techniques of flintknapping, 1-4 p.m., Oct. 10, reservations required, (210) 379-4833.

* A.E. Wood State Fish Hatchery in San Marcos, bird watching and hatchery tour, 7-10 a.m., Oct. 16, reservations required, (512) 353-0572.

A Texas Conservation Passport is required to attend these events for each person 17 years old and older. The \$25 passport also provides a waiver of park entry fees, discounts for camping and is a way for everyone to contribute directly to the preservation and enjoyment of Texas' natural and cultural resources.

Other benefits of the passport include entry to some currently undeveloped park lands, discounts on some department items such as the Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine and news of special outdoor programs.

The Texas Conservation Passport is sold at all state parks, TPWD regional law enforcement offices and through two vendors, Whole Earth Provision Company in Austin, Dallas and Houston and REI (Recreation Equipment Inc.) in Austin.

For more information about a tour, call the telephone number given above for the specific tour. For more information about the Texas Conservation Passport, call your local state park or department headquarters in Austin at 1-800-792-1112 or (512) 389-4800.

LW 9/10/93

Paul Hope, Fishing Report No.603
Sept. 8, 1993

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Sept. 8:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 91 degrees, 14 inches low; black bass are excellent to 6 pounds, 7 ounces on topwaters early and worms later in the day, some schooling action where Rat-L-Traps work well; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 6 feet low, 78 degrees; black bass are fairly good to 4 pounds on plastic worms and deep diving cranks in 6-10 feet of water; crappie are good in 20 feet of water on live minnows and jigs; white bass and hybrid striped are running together with good strings to 4 pounds on Cleo Spoons and jigs, good numbers caught at night on jigs; catfish are slow to 2 1/2 pounds on chicken livers and nightcrawlers.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 6 feet low, 88 degrees; black bass are good to 4 pounds on dark colored worms in 3-6 feet of water; striper are excellent while schooling to 10 pounds on live shad in 30-50 feet of water; crappie are fair along docks on minnows; white bass are fairly good along Shaw and Garrett Islands on topwaters early, jigs later in the day; catfish are good on trotlines baited with live shad.

CANYON: Water clear, 80 degrees; white bass are fair on minnows in 50 feet of water near dam; striper are good to 9 pounds.

COLORADO BEND: Water slightly murky, 5 feet low. All fishing slow due to lack of fishermen.

FAYETTE: Water clear, near normal level, 87 degrees; black bass are excellent in schools from mid-morning through afternoon on clear topwaters, Bass Assassins and Rat-L-Traps and good early near the grass beds on live water dogs, worms and lizards; some catfish hooked in 27 feet of water on live carp; redear sunfish are excellent on nightcrawlers.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 84 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 19 inches while schooling and are caught on various baits, cranks and Carolina rigged worms on the humps; crappie good in the brush on minnows in 12-14 feet of water; catfish are fair to 8 pounds on stinkbait.

INKS LAKE: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level. Black bass are fair on topwaters and spinners in shallow water to 3 pounds; crappie slow; white bass are good in the schools on Tiny Torpedoes with white jig trailers; catfish are fair on minnows and live perch.

LBJ: Water clear, normal level, 86 degrees; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on spinner baits in 3-8 feet; striper are slow; crappie are good around the docks and structure on minnows; white bass are good near the dam on topwaters early while schooling; catfish are good in baited holes on stink baits.

LIMESTONE: Water murky, 88 degrees, 26 inches low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on worms and Lunker Lures early and late along grass beds; crappie are fair in 12 to 20 feet; white bass are good on Rat-L-Traps while schooling early and late near the dam; catfish are slow to 5 pounds on live bait in

the creek channels.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water 2.1/5 feet low. All fishing slow due to lack of fishermen.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 1.5 feet low, 88 degrees; black bass are good around the boat ramps and rocky areas to 7 pounds on worms, spinners and topwaters early; crappie are fair on brush piles on live minnows in 10-14 feet; catfish are fair and improving on shad and cut bait; white bass are slow.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 96 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass excellent to 4 pounds on worms; crappie are slow to fair on live minnows; white bass fairly good to 3 pounds in deeper water while fishing for black bass; catfish are fair to 11 pounds on worms in shallow water.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 85 degrees, 10 feet low; black bass are excellent to 3 pounds on topwaters and minnows; crappie are slow; white bass are good in the schools on topwaters and Li'l Georges; catfish are good on trotlines with prepared baits but slow on rod and reel.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 12 feet low, 85 degrees; largemouth bass are good to 4.5 pounds on Jerk-N-Sams and smoke glitter ringworms along shorelines early and in 15 feet of water later in the day; Guadalupe bass good to 17 inches on same lures to 40 per day; white bass are fair on topwaters when surface feeding; catfish are slow; crappie are slow; striper are slow.

WACO: Water slightly off color, 89 degrees, 2 1/5 feet low; black bass are fair to 7 pounds in 5-10 feet of water on crank baits and worms; crappie are fair on brush in 10-20 feet of water on live minnows; catfish are slow; white bass are fair on slabs and spoons with some schooling early and late.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 85 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are slow to 5 pounds on plastics, spinners and cranks early and late; crappie are good midlake on minnows; stripers are slow to 8 pounds with live shad; channel cats are fair to 5 pounds on liver and shrimp; white bass to 1 pound are schooling in the lower lake and good on slabs and spoons.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water 1 foot low; black bass are good to 7 pounds on Power Baits and centipedes early; redear bream excellent on crickets; most all other fishing slow.

BOB SANDLIN: Water stained, 2 1/2 feet low, 88 degrees; black bass are fair to 8 pounds in 10-15 feet of water on drop-offs and ledges on dark colored finesse worms; some spinners and topwater action in shallow water early morning or in shaded areas; crappie slow on minnows; catfish are fair on trotlines using small, live bream.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear; black bass are slow; crappie are good in 14 to 20 feet of water in brush or rocky points on minnows and jigs. All other fishing slow due to lack of fishermen.

CADDO: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on Slug-Gos and purple worms in 6 to 8 feet of water; crappie are fair to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows and jigs in 8 feet of water; catfish are fair to 2 pounds at night on trotlines using minnows. CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 2 feet low, 85 degrees; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on worms in 5-12 feet of water; crappie are slow; catfish are excellent on jug lines baited

with shad and cut bait; white bass are excellent on the humps during the schooling periods with Rat-L-Traps and anything shiny, but most fish running small.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 88 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good on topwaters early and late with good numbers at night on dark colored worms near boat docks. Daytime action slow except during schooling activity; crappie are fair in 20 feet of water in brush piles on minnows and jigs; catfish are good in shallow water on night crawlers and shrimp early and late at night.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 1 foot low, 97 degrees; black bass are good on Rat-L-Traps, buzz baits and worms along vegetation; redfish are fair to 15 pounds; all other fishing slow due to lack of fishermen.

FORK: Water clear, 88 degrees, near normal level; black bass are good to 10 pounds on worms in 15-18 feet of water on secondary points in the creeks; crappie are good on minnows and jigs under the bridges.

GRAPEVINE: Water clear, 85 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on topwaters early and late on secondary points in 5-8 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are fair on tire reefs and under boat stalls on minnows in 20 feet of water; white bass are fair on topwaters and 3/4-ounce chrome Critter Gitters on 20-foot flats; catfish are good to 7 pounds drifting shrimp on main points in 15-18 feet of water.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 86 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are good to 5 pounds on buzz baits, frogs and deep diving cranks; crappie to 2 pounds are fair at night along main river channel and under bridges on minnows; white bass are fair on jigs in the schools but most fish running small; catfish are good to 4 pounds on nightcrawlers along main lake points.

LAVON: Water murky, 83 degrees, 4 foot low; black bass are good to 4 pounds on Li'l Georges; crappie are fair to 13 inches long on minnows in 18-20 feet in the brush and tree stumps; catfish to 10 pounds are good in 25-30 feet of water on live shad and shrimp.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 93 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on oversized black worms in deeper water to 20 feet; catfish are very good on shrimp and Canadian crawlers.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 88 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 8 1/2 pounds on buzz baits and worms in 8-10 feet of water near the grass; crappie are slow under the bridge with live minnows; catfish are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on trotlines using small perch.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 18 inches low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on worms in the creek channels; white bass are good in the schools early and late on spoons, topwaters and cranks; crappie are good to 2 1/4 pounds on minnows in 20 feet of water in the brush; catfish are fair to 18 pounds on trotlines with various baits.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 18 inches low; black bass are good to 9 1/2 pounds on variety of baits in deeper water; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on dog food; crappie are fair on minnows.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 3 feet low, 83 degrees; black bass are slow; catfish are good to 3

pounds; white bass are good on Allison lures; crappie range from poor to good on live minnows; striper are good on live shad and topwaters during occasional schools.

RAY ROBERTS: Water off color, 85 degrees, 11 feet low; black bass are good in deeper water during the day and in shallow water early and late with red shad Power Worms and chrome Rat-L-Traps most effective baits; crappie are good in the creeks and brush in 19-22 feet of water on minnows; white bass are schooling for the first time in a while and hitting slabs and Rat-L-Traps; catfish are good to 10 pounds drift fishing shrimp and worms.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 1 1/2 feet low, 87 degrees; black bass are fair to 7 pounds early on top waters, later Rat-L-Traps and Carolina rigged worms are effective on humps and submerged pond dams; crappie are fair in tree tops suspended in 10-20 feet of water on minnows; white bass are good in 18-20 feet of water on slabs some schooling activity; catfish good on jug lines and trotlines in 15 to 20 feet of water on shad and shrimp.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 84 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 7 pounds on spinners, worms and cranks off the points; crappie are slow; blue catfish are excellent to 18 pounds on rod and reel using blood bait and shad; channel cats are good to 8 pounds on worms; white bass are good to 3 pounds in schools using topwaters and trolling with Hellbenders; striper are excellent to 17 pounds trolling.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 81 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 5 pounds on worms, cranks and spinners in 15 feet of water near shorelines; crappie are good on minnows in 15 feet of water near boat houses; catfish good to 52 pounds on a trotline in 20 feet of water on cut baits and shad; striper are good to 12 pounds on topwaters, slabs and trolling.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water slightly discolored, 89 degrees, 1 1/2 feet low; black bass and all other fishing slow due to lack of fishermen and heat; catfish are fair to 22 pounds on trotlines and drifting stink baits, live baits, catalpa worms, nightcrawlers and chicken livers.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 87 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are slow in 8-10 feet of water very early and very late on worms and cranks in the brush and drop-offs; crappie are caught under 1097 bridge in 10-20 feet on minnows; white bass are schooling early and are caught on topwaters and small cranks, later in 25 feet of water on the humps on small spoons and slabs or trolling; catfish are moving to the banks but most are small using stink baits.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds in 15 feet of water on Jitterbugs, buzz baits. Many fish in shallow water following bait fish; crappie are good in 10-14 feet of water on minnows; white bass are good along points using minnows and small jigs.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 1 1/2 feet low, 83 degrees; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on various baits in the creek channels; crappie are slow on live minnows in the brush and under docks; white bass are slow during the day

but are fair early with spoons on humps and ridges; catfish are good up the creeks but most are throwbacks caught on dough bait.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass are picking up on Zara Spooks early and later in the day on soft-jerk baits and worms on the edges of grass beds and points; crappie action is fair on minnows in 18-30 feet of water on brush and in baited holes.

SHELDON: All fishing slow due to lack of fishermen.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 88 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are slow to 5 pounds on worms in 14-20 feet of water near dropoffs, topwater baits working early and late in the shallow water along moss beds; crappie are fair to 2 1/2 over baited holes in 18-22 feet of water on live minnows; striper are fair to 12 pounds at the generator on spoons; catfish are fair to 18 pounds on live bait in 20-32 feet of water.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 6 feet low; black bass are slow to 6 1/2 pounds on worms; striper action picking up on the surface with topwaters; catfish are good to 6 pounds in 25-40 feet of water on trotlines.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 90 degrees, normal level; black bass are good early to 4 pounds along reed beds on topwaters, plastic worms and jigs; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on cut bait and shad along the discharge area; redbass are fair to 12 pounds on live bait and trolling on silver spoons in 18-20 feet of water.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 89 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 4 pounds on tilapia and Rat-L-Traps in 3 to 5 feet of water around vegetation and shallow rocky areas early; crappie are slow; catfish are excellent to 7 pounds on shad, liver and cheese baits in shallow water near the shoreline; redbass are good to 20 pounds on perch and Tony Accetta spoons; corvina are good to 17 pounds on perch, spoons and Redfins very early in shallow water near the dam.

CHOKO: Water clear, 87 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 10 pounds in 3-10 feet around grass beds on topwaters, spinners, tequila sunrise worms and shad colored soft jerk baits near the points in deeper water; crappie are good but most are running small and are caught on live minnows under the bridges; catfish are in 5-10 feet of water near the outer edge of grass and are caught on cheesebait; white bass are good schooling in the middle of lake trolling chrome colored cranks.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 83 degrees; largemouth bass are fair to 14 inches on plastic worms and Slug-Gos around weed beds early; crappie are poor; catfish are excellent to 4 pounds on cut bait and perch baited trotlines.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass are picking up to keeper sized on tequila sunrise worms in 10-15 feet of water; crappie are good on live minnows and jigs in 15 feet of water off the piers; catfish are fair to 18 pounds on trotlines; striper are good to keeper sized below the dam when the gates are open.

FALCON: Water clear, 85 degrees, 12 feet low; black bass are good to 9 pounds on cranks, spinners and worms in 5-15 feet of water with steady bites through the day;

catfish are good to 5 pounds on shrimp and stink baits in 10 feet of water; striper are good to 15 pounds on Knocker Spoons and live bait in deep water around drop-offs, ridges and near the dam.

MEDINA: Water clear, 86 degrees, 6 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 9 pounds on topwaters and spinners early and then worms later in the day along drop-offs in 10-20 feet of water; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 23 pounds on jug lines baited with live perch; rod and reel action is good to 4 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers; white bass and striper are slow.

TEXANA: Water murky in main lake, clear in creeks, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on tequila sunrise worms along the brushy banks, some crank bait action at same location; crappie are fair on minnows to 10-15 fish per string in the Navidad River and Sandies Creek; catfish are slow; white bass are starting to school and can be caught on topwaters and L'il Georges.

WEST

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear, 6 feet low, 78 degrees; black bass are excellent to 7 pounds on spinners and buzz baits along the rocks all day; crappie are slow; catfish are fair on stink baits and cut baits; hybrid striper are fair trolling; white bass are fair schooling, fish are running small.

FRYER: Water murky, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on minnows and plugs in 4 feet of water; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 9 pounds on minnows and shad on the bottom.

GRANBURY: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds in 12-14 feet of water on small spinners; crappie are good in 16-20 feet of water on minnows; catfish are good to 4 pounds on prepared baits in 30 feet of water suspended at 12 feet; white bass are good early while surfacing with silver slabs; striper are fair in number but are running small.

GRENBELT: Water clear, 79 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are slow; channel catfish are good to 4 pounds on minnows and shrimp; walleye are fair on minnows and jigs; crappie are slow; white bass are fair on minnows and jigs.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear; black bass are good to 2 pounds in shallow water on minnows; catfish are fair to 22 pounds on trotlines with live perch.

KEMP: Water clear, 1 1/2 feet low; black bass are picking up to 3 pounds in the brushy points on worms; catfish are good while drifting shrimp; white bass are fair trolling.

MCCLELLAN: Water murky, 78 degrees, 5 feet low; white bass are fair to 3 pounds; catfish are good to 7 pounds on minnows and prepared baits.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 80 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are good to 5 pounds on worms and cranks in 2-8 feet of water; crappie are slow; blue catfish are good to 8 pounds on minnows and worms; channel cats are good to 3 pounds; all other fishing is slow.

MEREDITH: Water clear and low, 78 degrees; largemouth bass are fair on jigs in 15-20 feet of water; small mouth bass are good to 5 pounds on minnows near the shoreline; crappie are fair on minnows in 8-15 feet of water in brush; catfish are excellent on minnows, worms, liver, prepared

baits and minnows near the shoreline.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 82 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are good to 7 pounds, 7 ounces in 5 feet of water; crappie are picking up on minnows in brush; catfish are good off the docks and trotlines on chicken livers; white bass are good trolling.

O.H.IVIE: Main lake clear, upper end murky, 79 degrees; largemouth bass excellent with 18-inch plus fish caught on topwaters and buzz baits early and late along shorelines, plastic worms also working in 15 to 30 feet of water off points and ledges and along brushy creek channels, crank baits are effective for schooling bass; small mouth bass are good on cranks and jigs along points and ridges in 15-30 feet of water; crappie are fair on minnows in 15-20 feet of water along brushy areas; white bass are fair while trolling with diving lures or casting into surface feeders; channel catfish good to excellent over baited holes in 10 to 15 feet of water on stinkbait, worms, and shrimp.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 82 degrees, 7 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 1/4 pounds early on topwaters and later in 25-35 feet of water on Power Worms; crappie are fair in docks and brush piles with minnows; white bass are good schooling early and late on smaller topwaters; striper are good to 8 pounds on shiny topwaters; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on minnows in 20 feet of water.

PROCTOR: Water murky, 83 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 7 pounds on worms and crank baits in 4 feet of water; crappie are slow; catfish slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 27 feet low, 82 degrees; black bass are good to 4 pounds on spinner baits and buzz baits and worms; striper are good to 22 inches while schooling; white bass are good while schooling on topwater baits and spoons; catfish are good on rod and reel with nightcrawlers and shrimp.

STAMFORD: Water clear, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds on white spinners; crappie are fair to good on live minnows; catfish are low.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish and speckled trout are good with some drum and some flounder near Sydnese Island on dead shrimp and mud minnows; croaker and gafftop are good; no live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Beach front water is in good condition and fishermen are picking up Spanish mackerel and trout; bay fishing is good for redfish and trout on live shrimp; plenty of schooling tarpon working the beach front. Offshore, limits of red snapper, dolphin and kingfish; live bait shrimp available at \$10-\$12 per quart.

FREEPORT: Surf full of specks, bays are good for flounder, trout and redfish in the 5-7 pound range on cacohoe minnows and jumping minnows; all fishing good; silver spoons also working for redfish and trout. Offshore, kingfish and dolphin are good; snapper spotty with ice fish.

PORT OCONNOR: Good action offshore for kings and snapper; inshore fishing for trout and redfish has slowed in the last few days but still good numbers of fish are caught; gafftop are good on cut

bait and squid; reds are good Bar Room Bay and at the wells; a good number of trout caught in Matagorda Bay and Boggy Bayou; good numbers of flounder caught at night with a gig; trout and redfish are plentiful at Dewberry Island; bait shrimp are available at \$8.50 to \$10 per quart.

MATAGORDA: The surf is calm and good numbers of redfish and trout caught with strawberry colored Hogies Super Jacks with white tails; Colorado River jetties are hot for trout and reds; flounder fair in both bays; redfish are good in schools in West Bay; East Matagorda birds are pointing out the trout; old drawbridge at the intercoastal good for reds on finger mullet; live shrimp plentiful at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Good numbers of reds and trout caught in Turtle Bay on strawberry metal flaked Hogie Swimming Shad; good numbers of trout caught around the wells at Port O'Connor and Palacios on live shrimp; good numbers of redfish concentrated in Keller Bay; good numbers of trout in Carancahua Bay with some keepers, most undersized; reds and trout are good along the south shoreline of Matagorda Peninsula and in the surf; live shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

ROCKPORT: A lot of reds being reported; scattered trout caught during the day with night fishing best around lighted piers; soft plastic baits working best; live shrimp available.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish are excellent; trout are on slow side; weather is cooperating; redfish are good in 3-6 feet on live mullet; reds in the 25-27 inch range are schooling; a few drum caught; live shrimp hard to find.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Lots of undersized trout are schooling; redfish are scattered in the back bays and are caught on live shrimp and finger mullet; plenty of live bait available at 15 cents each.

PORT MANSFIELD: The past week offered a mixed blessing. Calm mornings stretched into calm day which does little to encourage drift fishing. Wade fishermen fared much better overall. Herds of reds still showing up off and on just south of East Cut. Care should be taken not to bust or crash the herd. Poling or troll motoring up to the herds is most effective when possible, otherwise, hit hard once and they will scatter and be harder to catch. Lots of reds in varying sizes from East Cut to Butchers Island. Lots of dead grass makes retrieving difficult. Weed less lures are the most effective. West shoreline is still producing and the best area is north of the oaks. South is okay but makes fishing harder. Land Cut is showing signs of life but water conditions are not the best. Better take bait for landcut trip. Offshore slow. Live shrimp scarce.

SOUTH PADRE: A few sand shark caught off the piers along with sandtrout at night; a few speckled trout caught off the pier as well.

PH

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