

# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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## ATHENS TO HOUSE FRESHWATER FISHERIES CENTER

AUSTIN--The city of Athens has been chosen by the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc., as the site of the multi-million dollar Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. Athens' winning bid was valued at \$4.063 million by the CPA firm KPMG Peat Marwick.

Athens outlasted nine other bids, including finalists from Corsicana and Longview. A project manager and developer will be chosen within 60 days. Engineering and designing will begin in about six to seven months with groundbreaking expected in late 1993. The facility should become operational by mid-1995.

"We want to strongly emphasize that the entire region, including the other top contenders, will benefit from this project, which will cost in excess of \$12 million," said Ed Cox Jr., chairman of the nonprofit foundation established to provide private sector support for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "Likewise, the entire state economy will benefit as will anglers from across the state and nation. This is truly an historic achievement."

The Athens proposal is the largest private contribution ever made to a fisheries project in Texas, and with a value of more than \$4 million, it is one of the largest gifts ever made for conservation in Texas. It also represents the first time that a department fisheries facility has been located through a bidding process with various communities competing to offer incentive packages.

Valuation of cash and in-kind contributions were key considerations with special attention to current values/front end cash to ensure a timely construction start. Technical analysis of site proposals and water and environmental considerations also played significant roles in the selection process.

The project will be funded through a combination of support from the city of Athens, funds raised by two conservation organizations and federal matching funds. The project is a partnership between the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc., Operation Share A Lone Star Lunker Inc. and TPWD.

The foundation supervised the bidding and selection of the site. TPWD staff provided technical oversight during selection and will oversee construction. The department will operate the facility once it is completed.

The facility will feature an educational center, which will include aquaria, a Fishing Hall of Fame and a historical museum. The center is expected to attract up to 100,000 visitors each year, which could result in direct spending of up to \$7.5 million per year. The total economic impact of hatchery operations and employment is estimated at \$2.4 million yearly. The center will employ 15-20 people with an annual operating budget of \$750,000, including salaries.

The hatchery will increase Florida largemouth bass production for stocking in public waters from 7 million fingerlings per year to 11 million.

"This project will result in the location of a world-class facility in a region of Texas where freshwater fishing already is the finest in North America," said Andrew Sansom, TPWD executive director. "Just as important, it gets the new foundation off to an incredible start, and it demonstrates the great promise of private sector support for conservation in Texas."

The other bids were submitted by Corsicana, Longview, Beaumont, Hardin County, Livingston, Quitman/Wood County, Paris, Mount Pleasant and Tyler

'The foundation would like to express deep appreciation to all those communities who worked so hard to prepare a proposal, Cox said. Hopefully, there will be other projects in the future in which we can involve them.'

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## **TEXAS ADVENTURES TEAM FINDS NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE**

PRESIDIO--Two Texas men taking part in the first Texas Adventure climbed a butte on Oct. 10 and discovered a significant new archaeological site at Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area.

It was the first afternoon of their adventure and Mark Cook of Weatherford, a geologist, and Murray McCarley of Belton, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers park ranger, were anxious to explore. Before the adventure team had even pitched camp, the two men climbed a nearby butte and, alert for archaeological signs from the orientation their team had just been given, they began noticing rocks arranged in regular formation, arrowheads, artifacts and other signs of early human habitation.

"This was a very energetic group," said David Ing, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department archaeologist and team co-leader. "They were eager to explore, to learn more and do more. All in all, it was an incredible first adventure, proof that this is a great concept for conservation education and public involvement."

Mad Dog Butte is now the site's official archaeological name, after McCarley's nickname Mad Dog. Texas State Archaeologist Bob Mallouf was on hand to record the name and direct technical recording of the find.

Mallouf had the adventure team members record every nook and cranny in a one acre area surrounding the Cielo Complex site. The team took photographs, made drawings, took measurements and charted the exact location of the site, which will be kept secret until archaeological work there is complete.

Adventure Team I members had signed on to explore the Cienega Mountains for signs of the prehistoric Cielo people. In all, the team discovered 66 new archaeological sites in a 10-mile radius, including two major sites, one of them the Cielo site described above and another which featured native American rock art.

The group included a wide variety of professional people from across Texas, united by a common love of the outdoors and interest in cultural and natural history.

Team members hailed from cities like Houston, Dallas and Austin and included a chemical engineer, the president of a Dallas property management company, an engineer with General Dynamics in the Fort Worth area, several retirees and a family man who wanted to get out and have an adventure on his own.

The team hiked out to explore daily and camped out at night under the stars. They feasted on steak and other fine camp cuisine prepared by Pat Brown, expert camp cook and river float trip coordinator for Far Flung Adventures of Terlingua.

When the adventure was over, the team had explored remote wilderness, discovered significant new archaeological sites and forged a new circle of friends. They parted Oct. 20, but may not be separated long. The team already is considering a reunion, possibly before year's end, to share photos and keep the adventure spirit alive.

Texas Adventures is a program of the newly formed Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc., in association with TPWD. It allows participants to pay to take part in work/study adventures at natural and historical sites such as Big Bend. The program represents a creative way to educate the public through hands-on involvement and at the same time generate new revenue for Texas conservation projects.

The costs for this fall's pilot program ranged from \$675 per person for seven-day adventure excursions up to \$855 for 10- and 12-day adventures. Holders of the Texas Conservation Passport got a \$75 to \$95 discount on the adventures.

Anyone interested in the program should look for notices in Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine and in the quarterly Passport Newsletter regarding future adventures for 1993, or they may write Texas Adventures, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

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## **SPORTSMAN HARASSMENT COVERED BY LAW**

AUSTIN--As the anti-hunter movement grows, more and more hunters and fishermen may come up against a member of a group that wants to disrupt the sportsman's right to hunt or fish.

Sportsmen should know that they have an avenue to take if someone impedes their lawful right to hunt, trap or fish - the Sportsman's Rights Act, enacted by the 69th Texas Legislature in 1985.

The Sportsman's Rights Act (Section 62.0125 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code) reads, in part:

(c) No person may intentionally interfere with another person lawfully engaged in the process of hunting or catching wildlife.

(d) No person may intentionally harass, drive or disturb any wildlife for the purpose of disrupting a person lawfully engaged in the process of hunting or catching wildlife.

(e) No person may enter or remain on public land or enter or remain on private land without the landowner's or his agent's consent if the person intends to disrupt another person lawfully engaged in the process of hunting or catching wildlife.

Violation of this law is a Class B Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of \$200 to \$1,000 and up to 180 days in jail or both, said Jim Robertson with TPWD's law enforcement division in Austin.

"Sportsmen who have been harassed need to contact their local game warden or prosecutors," he said. "Any game warden or other state peace officer can take the information on an allegation. The peace officer then will contact the district or county attorney seeking prosecution."

Sportsmen should be warned, though, not to take the law into their own hands. Sportsmen are still subject to prosecution for assault, terroristic threat, etc., even if provoked by hunter harassment. Their remedy is the court system.

"Very little of this takes place in Texas, although it's a growing concern and the public needs to be aware that if they are harassed while hunting or fishing these people stand liable for prosecution for their criminal act," Robertson said. "The Parks and Wildlife Department will actively seek prosecution in these cases."

If you have been harassed contact your local game warden or contact the department's Austin headquarters at 1-800-792-1112.

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## CITIZEN REWARDED FOR EVIDENCE IN EAGLE KILLING

TYLER--Laura Montgomery of Frankston received a \$4,000 cash award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for providing evidence that led to the conviction of Kimball Glenn McKinney for killing an endangered bald eagle.

Montgomery was presented the check at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement office on Oct. 30. McKinney, also of Frankston, was convicted of killing the bald eagle earlier this year.

A joint investigation between TPWD game wardens Mike Warren and Mark Davis, both of Athens, and USFWS officials began on Dec. 19, 1989, after a female, immature bald eagle was found dead alongside a road near Lake Palestine in Henderson County and reported to authorities. The eagle had been shot twice with a shotgun and was missing its talons.

In January 1992, Montgomery learned that the eagle killer had not been apprehended and approached Jerry Chilton, TPWD game warden in Tyler, and federal authorities with information that led to McKinney's federal grand jury indictment on two counts of wildlife violations. McKinney was sentenced to four months in a federal correctional facility, one year of supervised release and a \$3,850 restitution payment to TPWD.

"It's a shame that some people have such a disregard for wildlife, but at the same time we are fortunate that there are cooperators like Laura Montgomery who can help us apprehend people like McKinney, said Steve Hamilton, USFWS special agent in Fort Worth. "I hope that offering cash awards for evidence will encourage more individuals to come forward with information needed in wildlife crime cases.

This is the second case in two years that a private citizen has received a cash reward from the USFWS. In 1991, Raena Wharton, a San Saba High School teacher, received a \$7,500 cash reward and a plaque from TPWD after reporting the shooting of an endangered whooping crane. Wharton's information was instrumental in leading to the conviction of two suspects.

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## **FISH, WILDLIFE AGENCIES DISCUSS FUTURE**

AUSTIN--To ensure the future of hunting and fishing in the U.S., sportsmen need to begin policing their own ranks and introducing younger people to hunting and fishing.

Dave Hall, a special projects officer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Louisiana, and several other professionals spoke or presented papers to several hundred of their counterparts during the 46th Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies conference Oct. 25-28 in Corpus Christi.

Hall, who began the Poachers to Preachers program where convicted poachers are converted to spokesmen for upholding hunting and fishing laws, spoke of a chain that "SERVES" to increase compliance in fish and wildlife laws.

S stands for simple, understandable, reasonable laws.

E is for evaluation of conservation officers beyond the numbers of cases and fines collected.

R is respect for and understanding of wildlife laws by judges, prosecutors, probation officers and legislators.

V stands for value of innovative sentences and penalties to create effective deterrents (such as taking away hunting or fishing privileges). Hall said judges want to hurt the individual convicted of a crime when sentencing, not the individual's family.

E is education by the media directed toward hunters and the general public.

S means self-enlightenment resulting from law enforcement and education, including changing hunters' attitudes and behavior regarding the importance of wildlife laws and conservation.

"Hunters have to start policing their own ranks," Hall said. "Hunters will do what they're taught to do. One study showed that 35 percent of poachers violated the law the first time they hunted."

The conference, hosted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, included speeches by several top professionals from across the country. Frank E. Bracken, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, talked about enjoying and caring about the outdoor resource during the keynote address.

"Anybody that is engaged in outdoor recreation needs to be concerned about the resource - about the habitat, air quality, issues we deal with like wetlands, etc.," he said. "Education is very important. Young kids learn about the environment, enjoy the outdoors and care about the resource."

Max Peterson, executive vice president of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, discussed being proactive toward fish and wildlife management. "It's simply not adequate to look back on what we've done. That's nice. That's good. It gives us all a good, warm, fuzzy feeling but it does not engender additional people from saying, 'Let me join your effort,' " he said.

"For goodness sakes, quit planning from the past and just trying to resolve issues that have already happened. Look ahead and decide how we might adapt to what we're doing to meet the realities of the 1990s and the year 2000."

Norville Prosser with the Virginia Commission of Game and Wildlife Fisheries spoke on the future of sport fishing; Denis S. Elliott, acting executive director of the Anti-Poaching Foundation spoke on hunter ethics; and Ron Schmied, special assistant for recreation fisheries with the National Marine Fisheries Service in Florida, addressed angler conservation education.

Professionals from 16 states across the Southeast and the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico presented technical papers on a variety of subjects.

Dr. Rudy Rosen, TPWD fisheries and wildlife division director, discussed the Gulf states view of marine fishery management in the Southeast.

Several fisheries papers were presented by TPWD employees, including angler exploitation of largemouth bass longer than 14 inches at Sam Rayburn Reservoir, red drum life history and sport fishing trends in a freshwater reservoir, the effects of a 14-inch statewide minimum length limit on adult largemouth bass and largemouth bass catch and release regulations at a new reservoir such as Purtil Creek State Park Lake.

Other department papers looked at the preference of freshwater catfish anglers, a hooking mortality study on striped bass at Lake Texoma, the mortality of spotted seatrout, red drum and black drum caught in gill nets, identifying commercial shrimp species through isoelectric focusing, effects of freshwater flooding on eastern oyster populations in a Texas estuary and comparisons between recreational reef fish and non-reef fish anglers.



Beverly Villarreal, who works in TPWD's wildlife forensics lab at the A.E. Wood State Fish Hatchery in San Marcos, presented a paper on distinguishing wild from cultured fish as a forensic tool.

During the awards banquet on Oct. 27, Albert Lynch, 32, a nine-year game warden from Spring, was named the Game Warden of the Year for Texas.

Next year's meeting is scheduled for Sept. 12-15 in Atlanta, Ga.

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### **PRAIRIE RESTORATION PLANNED FOR RAY ROBERTS**

AUSTIN--A 400-acre site on the Lake Ray Roberts Wildlife Management Area has been designated for native prairie restoration and management through an agreement between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Management of the wildlife and habitat resources at Lake Ray Roberts WMA, north of Denton, currently provides public hunting, fishing and other non-consumptive outdoor recreational opportunities for the public.

The restoration project will be on the Culp Branch Native Prairie, located within the Grand Prairie Ecological Area. This area exhibits a wide variety of native grasses and other herbaceous plants that are characteristic of prairies that once dominated this region of Texas, said Jim Dillard, TPWD wildlife biologist from Mineral Wells.

Management will be directed at enhancing the site's diverse plant communities and associations through a strategy of periodic control burning, seasonal grazing, reintroduction of native grasses and other strategies to sustain this important prairie site.

"The native prairie restoration effort forms a working bond with other state, federal and private organizations working together to manage a resource of common interest for the benefit of the people of Texas," Dillard said. A letter of understanding has been signed by TPWD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Native Prairie Association to cooperate in the restoration of prairie sites around Corps lake projects.

The restoration effort at Ray Roberts was initiated by members of TPWD's wildlife branch, who are responsible for managing the natural resources found on lands associated with the project.

"Plans for this native prairie area will include involving interested volunteer groups to assist in the management and interpretation of this area, utilization by local school groups and universities and interpretive presentations for the education of the general public about the significance of native prairies," he said.

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### **EXPO AUCTION ITEMS TO BENEFIT STUDENTS**

AUSTIN--Texas Wildlife Expo '92, which drew a crowd of 7,000 on Oct. 3 and a full crowd of 600 to the banquet on Oct. 2, auctioned several items during the banquet that will put thousands of dollars into the Wildlife Scholarship Fund of the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc.

More than \$17,000 was raised for the scholarship fund through auction items like turkey hunts, a shotgun and Nolan Ryan memorabilia.

- \* A three-day spring turkey hunt on the La Fonda Ranch where Gov. Ann Richards bagged her first turkey sold for \$5,000.

- \* A Big Bend raft trip on the Rio Grande with former Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong and TPWD Executive Director Andrew Sansom sold for \$4,000.

- \* A safari for two on the Rocking R Ranch with Steve Lewis, sponsored by the Texas Wildlife Association, that includes a trophy buck, two does or spikes and two turkeys, sold for \$2,400.

- \* A celebrity hunt involving Nolan Ryan sold for \$2,400.

- \* A Model A-390 12-gauge semi-automatic Beretta shotgun sold for \$1,100.

- \* A 2.5-day spring turkey hunt with world champion turkey caller Cecil Carder on the Cedar Creek Ranch sold for \$950.

- \* A baseball autographed by Nolan Ryan and a Bushlan camouflage jacket sold for \$850.

- \* A Texas flag that flew over the state capitol and was signed by Gov. Richard and Speaker of the House Gib Lewis sold for \$350.

All the money raised from the auction goes into the Wildlife Scholarship Fund, the initial donations to that fund.

On Oct. 3, several visitors to the Expo participated in the 1st Annual World Deer Calling Contest and the Lone Star Classic Turkey Calling Contest.

Winners of the adult division in the deer contest were Tommy Fought, Brownwood, first; Charlie Cantwell, Camp Verde, second; and Jerry Turrentine, Fredericksburg, third. Youth winners were Ryan Dodds, West Columbia, first; Clint Roberson, Menard, second; and Chad Warner, Kerrville, third. All three winners in each division won trophies and prizes.

Mark Drury of Columbia, Mo., won the open division of the turkey contest. He is the current world champion turkey caller. Steve Stoltz of Fulton, Mo., who has won or placed in more than 125 calling contests across the nation, won the friction caller division. Each won cash and prizes.

Texas Wildlife Expo '93 has not been scheduled yet, but is expected to encompass two full days and include fishing, hiking, camping, etc.

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### NOVEMBER 1992 BROADCAST SCHEDULE

STATION	DATE	PGM	TIME
KACV Amarillo Ch 2 (806) 371-5222	NOT SCHEDULED	thru December	
KLRU Austin Ch 18 (512) 471-4811	Sat/7 Sat/14 Sat/24 Sat/31	62 55 40 52	8:30p
KAMU College Station Ch 15 (409) 845-5611	NOT SCHEDULED		

KEDT	Sat/7	65	5:30p
Corpus Christi	Sat/14	66	
Ch 16	Sat/21	67	
(512) 855-2213	Sat/28	68	

KERA	NOT SCHEDULED		
Dallas			
Ch 13			
(214) 871-1390			

KCOS	NOT SCHEDULED thru December		
El Paso			
Ch 13			
(915) 747-6500			

KMBH	Sat/7	45	6:30p
Harlingen	Sat/14	46	
Ch 60	Sat/21	47	
(512) 421-4111	Sat/28	48	

KUHT	NOT SCHEDULED		
Houston			
Ch 8			
(713) 748-8888			

KNCT	Fri/6	52	8:00p
Killeen	Fri/13	53	
Ch 46	Fri/20	54	
(817) 526-1176	Fri/27	55	

KCTF	Sat/7	42	4:30p
Waco	Sat/14	43	
Ch 34	Sat/21	44	
1-800-792-3348	Sat/28	45	

KTXT	Thur/5	55	1:00p
Lubbock	Thur/12	57	
Ch 5	Thur/19	58	
(806) 742-2209			

KOCV	Sat/7	17	7:30p
Odessa	Sat/14	18	
Ch 36	Sat/21	19	
(915) 335-6336	Sat/28	20	
KLRN	Wed/11	31	11:30pm
San Antonio	Wed/18	56	" "
Ch 9	Thur/26	19	10:00am
(512) 270-9000	Fri/27	27	3:00pm
	Sat/28	28	6:00am

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Nov. 4:

#### CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 5 1/2 pounds on worms and jigs; crappie are fair at night on live minnows; catfish are slow.

BELTON: Water clear, 73 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on spinners and Bloodline Ring Rascals; striper are slow; crappie are fair with a few limits on Fleaflyies and minnows in 8 feet of water; white bass are schooling on top, small fish on top but good fishermen are catching larger white bass under the schoolies with jigging spoons and slabs, limits caught; catfish are good to 6 pounds on shrimp and live worms.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 2 1/2 pounds with near limits on spinners; striper are fair in number to 7 pounds on slabs and jigs at night under lights; crappie are fairly good with some limits on minnows and jigs in 12 feet of water around brush piles; white bass are good at night under lights, some schooling in the lake, on silver spoons; yellow catfish are fair in the 18 to 32 pound range on trotlines with shad and large minnows; channel catfish are good to 6 pounds on grasshoppers, shrimp.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 75 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on pigs and jigs in 6-12 feet of water; striper are excellent to 8 pounds on live bait; crappie are fair with some limits on minnows; white bass are good around Garrett Island; catfish are good to 15 pounds on fresh shad.

CANYON: Water clear, 62 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 4 pounds, especially before the front, on minnows; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows in 20-30 feet of water; white bass are slow on slabs, spoons and minnows; catfish are good to 5 pounds on shrimp, worms and minnows.

COLORADO BEND: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are poor; striper are poor; crappie are fair to 6 fish per string on minnows in 4-6 feet of water; white bass are fair 8 fish per string on spinners in the shallow water; yellow catfish are good to 19 pounds on trotlines baited live perch; channel catfish are good to 3 pounds on cut bait and worms.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds early on buzz baits, PopRs, Zara Spooks and Bass Assassins, dark worms are good in deep water off points during the day; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on live water dogs.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 75 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fairly good to 9 pounds on cranks and worms; crappie are fair on minnows; catfish are fairly good to 5 pounds on shrimp and stinkbait.

INKS LAKE: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on topwaters; striper are fair in

number to 11 pounds on live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair in number to 6 pounds on live minnows and chicken livers.

LBJ: Water clear, 76 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 9 pounds, 6 ounces on chartreuse DB#3s; striper are slow; crappie are good around docks with structure; white bass are good midlake under birds early and lake, best baits are topwaters or slabs and jigs; catfish are good to 6 pounds in baited holes on stinkbait.

LIMESTONE: Water murky, 72 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass are slow to 6 pounds on Jawtec Wacky Worms; crappie are slow; white bass are good at the high lines with spoons; catfish are slow.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 75 degrees, below normal level; largemouth bass are good to 3 1/2 pounds in 2-12 feet of water on white spinners, Rattle Traps and cranks; small mouth bass are good to 3 pounds in 15 feet of water on worms, spinners; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow to 4 pounds in 10 to 40 feet of water on worms, cheese bait and shrimp.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 74 degrees, 5 feet below normal level; largemouth are good to 40 fish per day per boat to 3 1/2 pounds on fire tiger cranks, chartreuse spinners and salt and pepper Ringworms; Guadalupe bass are good to 15 inches on the same lures, frequent limits caught in 5-12 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are fair under boat docks in 20 feet of water on live minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

WACO: Water off color, 70 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good through 6 pounds on spinners and jigs; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in 20 feet of water; white bass are fair in number on jigs; catfish are slow.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 70 degrees, 44 inches low; largemouth bass are fair to good to 6 pounds on cranks in 8-10 feet of water; small mouth bass are good to 6 pounds on jigs; striper are good with limits to 14 1/2 pounds on live bait in 25 feet of water; crappie are slow to good around boat house to 1 pound each on minnows and jigs; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds in the flats on spoons and slabs. A new lake record fresh water drum weighing 25.64 pounds was caught on Oct. 30 by Chris Shafer of Lake Whitney on rod and reel with live shad. The fish was 34 inches long.

#### NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 76 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are slow due to lack of fishermen; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; crappie are suspended in 12 feet or more, several limits caught; catfish are slow.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, normal level; winds high midweek, few fishermen out.

BRIDGEPORT: Water off color, 67 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good in number but most are small on spinners; striper are slow; crappie are good, fish are scattered in 8-20 feet of water, limits caught on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

CADDO: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 3 1/2 pounds on purple worms, Rattle

Traps and Beetle Spins; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds in the Oxbow, the Alligator Bayou and in the channel in front of Johnson's Ranch; catfish are slow on the trotlines at night.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 72 degrees, 12 inches low; black bass are very good in number to 4 pounds on dark worms and topwaters early and late; crappie are good with strings to 20 fish on minnows in 10-22 feet of water around bridge pilings, artificial reefs and stump fields; white bass are fair on silver slabs and L'il Georges in 20-24 feet of water; catfish are good to 40 pounds on bream and goldfish baited trotlines; channel catfish are fair to 5 pounds on jug lines baited with bloodbait and shrimp.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 72 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 8 pounds on Bloodline worms; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 32 pounds on nightcrawlers.

FORK: Water clear, 60 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair in number in the 2-3 pound range on jigging spoons, jigs and plastic baits, an 8-pounder was caught on small plastic worms; crappie are excellent with good numbers of limits on jigs; catfish are fair to 43 pounds on trotline baited with cut bait; good numbers of channel catfish were caught on rod and reel with cut bait.

GRAPEVINE: Water stained, 70 degrees, 2.34 feet low; black bass are good to 4.25 pounds on black and blue jigs with pig combinations in 15 feet of water, smaller fish are caught on chartreuse spinners and fire fighter cranks; crappie are fair around baited boat stalls and brushy points in 15 to 20 feet of water; white bass are fair on live minnows around marinas in 25-30 feet of water, some caught on 1/2-ounce chrome and black L'il Georges around tire barriers; catfish are slow, a few caught drifting shrimp around the rocks near the dam in 20 feet of water.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 69 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 10 pounds on dark worms, buzz baits and deep diving cranks; crappie are fairly good above 259 bridge on minnows and south of 155 bridge in 8-12 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 12 pounds on trotlines baited with nightcrawlers and bream.

LAVON: Water clear, 67 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 3 pounds on plastic worms and minnows; crappie are good to 12 inches on minnows; white bass are good to excellent in number on L'il Georges, spinners and jigs; catfish are excellent to 10 pounds on live shad.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on spinners with Colorado Blades; striper are fair to 5 pounds on live bait; crappie are moving under the boat docks in 10-15 feet of water on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 10 1/2 pounds on cut shad.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on 8-inch black worms, fish are beginning to hit water dogs; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 6 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 69 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on worms and spinners; crappie are slow;

white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 68 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 10 pounds on spinners; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds in 14 feet of water, several smaller fish caught around the 1971 bridge on minnows; catfish are good to 4 pounds on trotlines and drifting nightcrawlers and frozen shad.

PALESTINE: Water fairly clear, 20 inches low; black bass are fairly good to 6 pounds on worms and buzz baits; hybrid striped are slow; crappie are fairly good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair on top to 2 pounds on topwaters or L'il Georges; catfish are good to 25 pounds on live bream; channel catfish are good to 4 pounds on bloodbait and catalpa worm baited trotlines.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on a variety of baits; crappie are good on jigs late in the afternoon and at night in 20 feet of water; catfish are fair to 12 pounds on a variety of baits.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 68 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds on Texas rigged worms; striped are fairly good at night on live shad; crappie are very good on minnows in shallow water; white bass are fair with some surfacing; catfish are very good with good numbers of keepers; a 65-pound yellow catfish was caught on rod and reel baited with bloodbait and squid, a possible new lake record caught by Mike O'Neil of Dallas.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 67 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 6 pounds on pigs and jigs in 20 feet of water; crappie are fair with limits in the brush piles and in the creek channels on minnows; white bass are fairly good with schooling west of Wolf Island, best baits are silver and chartreuse or white slabs; catfish are fair on trotline to 8 pounds with live perch; rod and reel catfishing is slow.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 68 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair with some limits to 6.22 pounds on worms primarily; striped are slow; crappie are fairly good to 20 fish per string to 1 1/2 pounds each on minnows in 25-35 feet of water near the bottom; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 8 pounds on shad.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 68 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are good through 6 pounds on worms; striped are poor; crappie are good on minnows and jigs, limits caught in 4-14 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are good through 12 pounds on worms and bloodbait.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 67 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on cranks, pigs and jigs and worms; striped are excellent to 13 1/2 pounds on live bait, Sassy Shad, slabs and topwaters; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are good on Sassy Shad and spoons; catfish are good to 30 pounds on cut bait and live bait; channel catfish are good also.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water clear, 72 degrees, 2 feet below seasonal normal; black bass are fair to 5 pounds, 3 ounces on worms jigs, spinners and Rattle Traps; crappie are fair to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows and jigs at the edge of creeks or rivers in 8-9 feet of water; white bass are fair in the main lake and good below the dam, most whites are small on L'il Georges and Rooster Tails; catfish

are fair to 35 pounds on live perch, live shad, stinkbait, liver and worms; bream are fair in the lake and good below the dam on crickets and red wigglers.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 71 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds but few fishermen out, fish are caught on a variety of lures; crappie are excellent on minnows and jigs in 12 feet of water around brush; white bass are moving around but haven't started spawning runs; catfish are slow and small.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds, 3 ounces on white spinners and black worms; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds in front of Paradise Island in 14 feet of water, full strings caught on minnows; catfish are fair to 7 pounds on trotlines and live bait.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds in the creeks and near dropoffs; striped are slow; crappie are good early to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in 4-6 feet of water around docks; white bass are fairly good in number, only few keepers caught; catfish are fair to 7 pounds on trotlines with cut bait or bream.

RAYBURN: Water is very clear, some murky in backs of creeks, 70 degrees, 7 feet, 10 inches below normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on topwaters early; striped are slow; hybrid striped are good just above and below the dam; white bass are small and some schooling reported; crappie are good in deep water in 15 to 25 feet of water on minnows; catfish are good to 13 pounds on baited holes with blood bait, stinkbait and shrimp and Catfish Charlie.

SHELDON: Water muddy on south end, clear on the north end, 69 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are poor; crappie are poor; catfish are poor; very few fishermen out. Reservoir is now closed to all boats; boats will be allowed again on March 1; bank and pier fishing can continue.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 57 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 1/2 pounds on topwaters, jigs and worms; striped are fair to 12 pounds on topwaters; crappie are good to 2 1/4 pounds on live bait or artificials; catfish are good to 52 pounds on trotline baited with live bait.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on pumpkin seed colored worms off deep points in 10 to 15 feet of water; striped are beginning to school, fish are caught near the dam and in the San Pedro area on half ounce Ponyhead jigs; crappie are slow; white bass are fair in Box Canyon, Zorro Canyon on half ounce white slabs in 10 feet of water; catfish are good in the 3-5 pound range and are moving into 30-60 feet of water on worms and cheese stinkbait.

BRAUNIG: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striped are good on Rattle Traps but most are too small to keep; catfish are good in the 1 1/2 to 2 pound range on liver, cheese bait, shrimp and shad; redfish are slow to 13 pounds on tilapia from the bank.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on minnows, topwaters and plastic worms; striped are slow; catfish are fairly good to 4 pounds on Bob's Cheese Baits and chicken livers; redfish are slow on Tony Accetta Spoons; corvina are fair on shad, perch and Tony Accetta Spoons.

CHOKO: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass were good to 9 1/2 pounds before the front on topwaters; striped are slow; crappie are fair on minnows in 30-40 feet of water; white bass are fair in number along 99 bridge along the river channels on Rattle Traps, live minnows and Roadrunners; catfish are good in number on cheese bait, liver and shrimp on rod and reel, cut bait is good on trotlines.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 76 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 16 inches on buzz baits in shallow grassy areas; crappie are fair to 12 inches on minnows; catfish are fair to 2 pounds on blood baits.

MEDINA: Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on jerk baits and power worms later in the day; striped are slow; crappie are fair on minnows but no limits caught; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on nightcrawlers.

TEXANA: Water fairly clear, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on trotlines baited with cut bait.

#### WEST

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water murky, 61 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are fairly good to 5 1/2 pounds on worms and spinners; hybrid striped are fair to 7 pounds on Rattle Traps and live shad; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 on minnows in 6-8 feet of water around brush piles and dropoffs on jigs mostly; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on cut shad.

FRYER: Water murky, 56 degrees, 5 1/2 feet low; all fishing has been slow; low temperature was 28 degrees Tuesday morning.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, lake full; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are good up Sandy Creek in 8 feet of water on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

MCCLELLAN: Water clear, 58 degrees, 35 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are fairly slow on minnows; white bass are fair but most are too small to keep; catfish are fairly good in the 1-3 pound range on shrimp and liver on rod and reel and jug lines; low temperature was 32 degrees Tuesday.

MEREDITH: Water murky due to high winds, 60 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are good to 4 1/4 pounds in shallow water on minnows and lures; crappie and white bass are slow; catfish are good to 4 pounds on liver and minnows; walleye are excellent to 6 pounds on jigs only in 40 to 50 feet of water.

O.H.IVIE: Main lake clear, upper end murky, 69 degrees, 3 inches low; black bass are excellent to 21 inches or 6 pounds up creeks around shorelines on yellow and white buzz baits, good numbers of undersized fish caught; small mouth bass are fair to good to 15 inches along points in 15-20 feet of water; crappie are good to excellent on minnows at night in 10-20 feet of water in Elm Creek; channel and blue catfish are fair to good to 4 pounds in baited

holes on trotlines with various baits; yellow catfish are fair to good to 12 pounds on trotlines with live bait along rocky ledges and up rivers.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 70 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are good to 5 pounds on Bass Assassins; striper are good to 18 pounds on Pencil Poppers; crappie are fair to good but weather has kept most fishermen away, most crappie are caught in 20 feet of water around docks; white bass are good on slabs and spoons; catfish are good to 35 pounds on jug lines with live perch and shad. Low temperature Wednesday was in the mid 30s.

PROCTOR: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 67 degrees, 24 feet low; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on dark worms in very shallow water; striper are good to 12 pounds on live and cut shad and slabs; crappie are very slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 17 pounds on trotlines baited with cut shad and shrimp.

STAMFORD: Water clear, 1 foot below spillway; black bass are good through 6 pounds on spinners and buzz baits; crappie are fair to good to 3 pounds on minnows and jigs; catfish are good to 34 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

#### COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Strong south winds and high tides prevented fishermen from getting out on the water but bank fishermen did very well; fishing has been fairly good in the protected areas; some redfish and some specks, good numbers of sheepshead, drum and flounder caught south of the Neches River and along the Louisiana shore; live bait shrimp available at 6 cents each.

GALVESTON: The front hit around 10 p.m. Tuesday bringing high winds; fishing was poor Wednesday due high winds and dirty water from rains earlier in the week; some croaker and flounder caught in protected waters; not many fishermen out.

FREEPORT: Offshore fishing has been very good with easy limits of snapper to 5 pound average on ice fish and squid between 40 and 50 miles offshore; a few grouper in the 10 pound range also brought in; a couple of wahoo to 46 pounds caught in the same area; a few kingfish and amberjack caught in the same area; some trigger fish also landed.

PORT OCONNOR: Fishing has been fairly good around South Pass with fairly good numbers of specks; some specks and redfish around Saluria near the Coast Guard Station ruins; jetty fishermen have been catching good numbers of redfish as well as trout and some flounder to 5 pounds around the rocks; offshore fishing has been good but weather has kept most boats in the docks; cold weather should move big redfish into the deeper holes; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per quart; pinperch also available.

PALACIOS: Winds and tides were high midweek, rivers are fresh; fishing has been very slow; fishermen waiting for the front to trigger the fall fishing season; a few trout caught in East Palacios Bay under the birds; some fish caught around the Baptist Encampment under lights; redfish are spotty. Good numbers of

mourning dove in the area; the goose season opener was slow with mostly speckle belly geese put in the bag.

ROCKPORT: Good numbers of redfish in Estes Flats with cacohoe minnows and Broken Back Cordell's; trout are good to 16 inches under in Copano Bay; winds are fairly high midweek; live bait shrimp available but not plentiful at \$10 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Winds have been fairly high; redfish are fairly good in the flats around Hog Island; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 per quart.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Upper laguna fishing has been fairly with limits of specks; redfish seem to be tapering off; most trout are in the 14-18 inch range and are caught on artificials and live bait; not many fishermen out. Back bay fishermen are catching a few redfish between the power lines and a few trout along the causeway; winds have been high all week, few fishermen out.

PORT MANSFIELD: A few scattered trout caught in the East Cut on live shrimp; scattered redfish and trout caught south of Port Mansfield; trout caught under birds south of Port Mansfield and along the west shoreline; live bait shrimp available at \$12 per quart.

SOUTH PADRE: Front hit at 1 a.m. Wednesday, winds to 30 knots; plenty of white caps; no fishermen out midweek; before the front good numbers of fish caught east of Three Island south of the Gaswell Flats; good numbers of redfish caught, many oversized, some limits; good numbers of black drum to 26 inches; a smattering of good sized trout; surf fishermen are catching whiting to 16 inches; long finned pompano to 3 pounds caught in the surf; good numbers of sandtrout, mangrove snapper; black drum and whiting caught of the jetties; offshore fishermen, weather permitting, are catching great numbers of blackfin tuna; snapper boats are getting easy limits of snapper about 20 miles offshore; sandtrout are good to 100 from piers; good numbers of golden croaker are caught from the piers; many limits of specks to 20 inches caught from the pier at night; live bait shrimp are available at \$10 per quart.

PH 11/4/92