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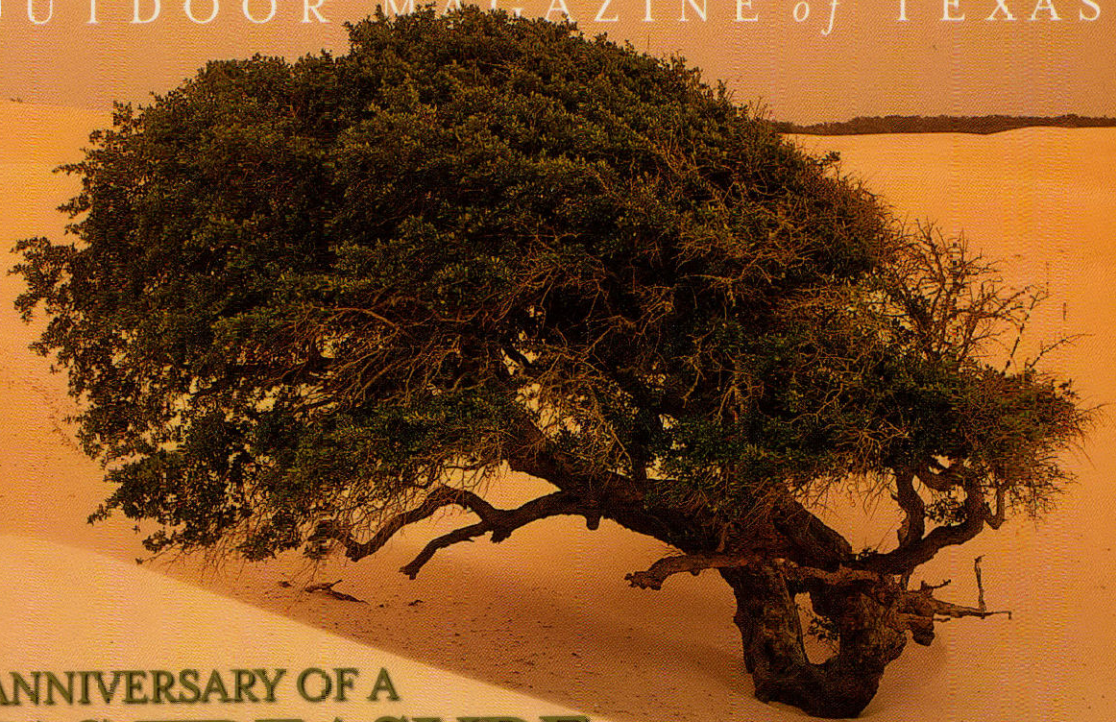
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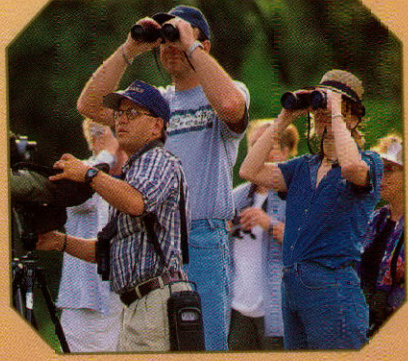
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PARKS & WILDLIFE

The OUTDOOR MAGAZINE of TEXAS



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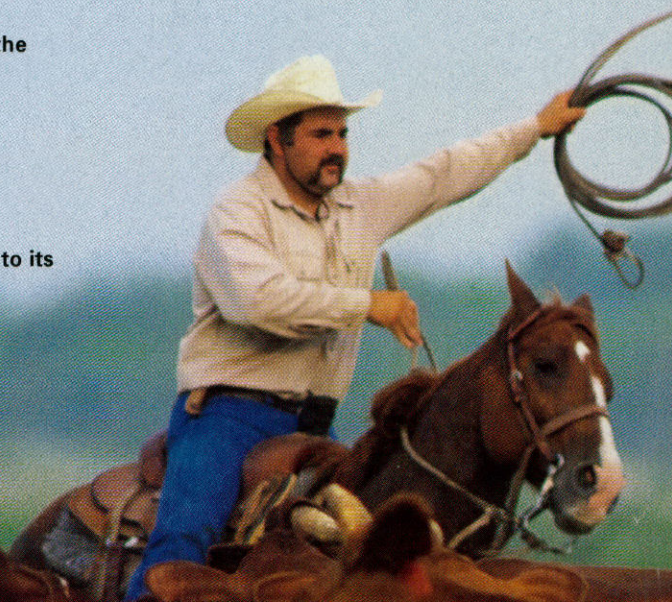
Scientists are piecing together Texas' prehistoric past to answer this question: Could ancient hunters have pushed huge ice age mammals into extinction?

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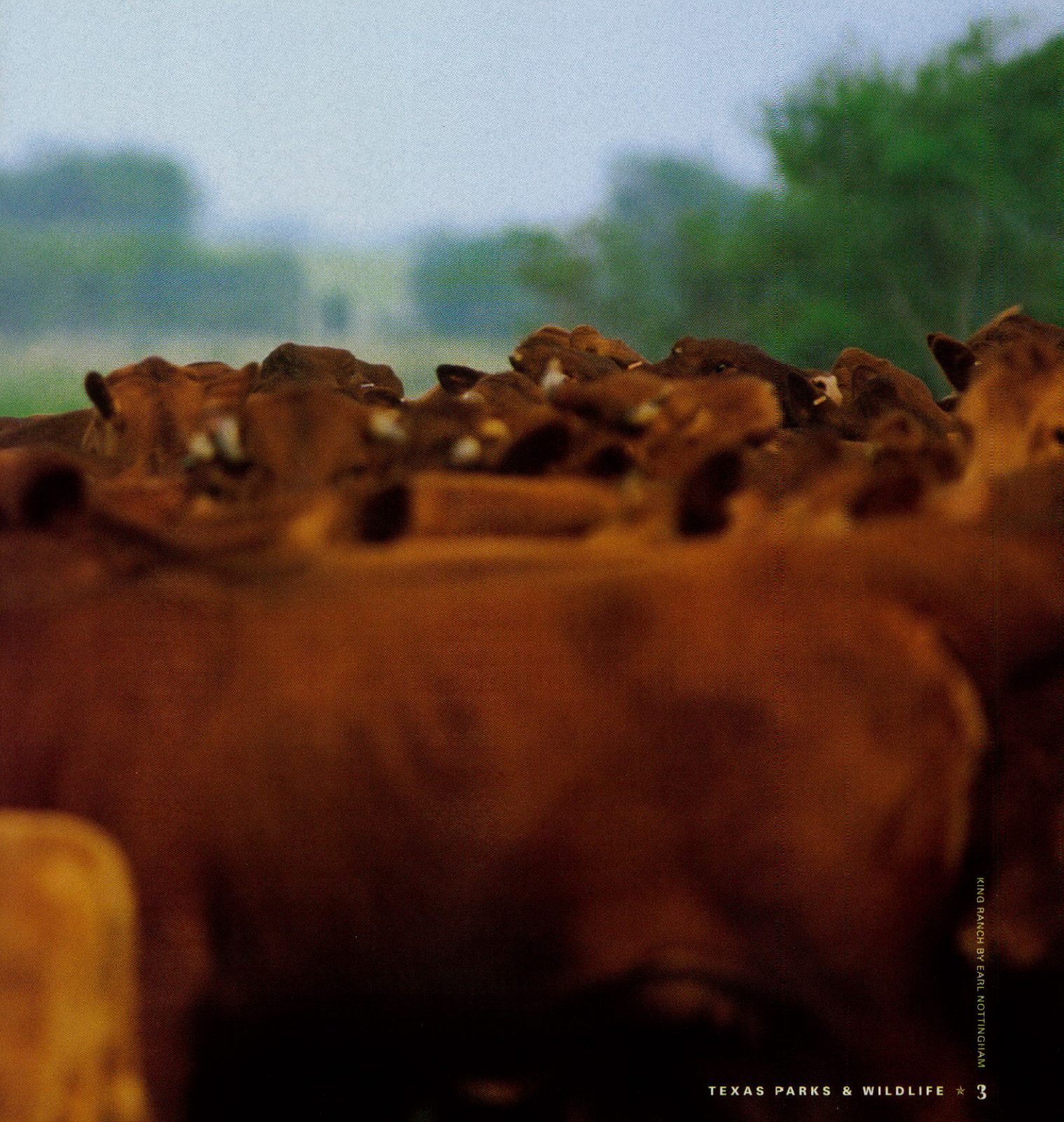
by Larry D. Hodge

For 150 years, the most famous ranch in Texas has been improving natural habitat not only for cattle and horses, but for wildlife as well.

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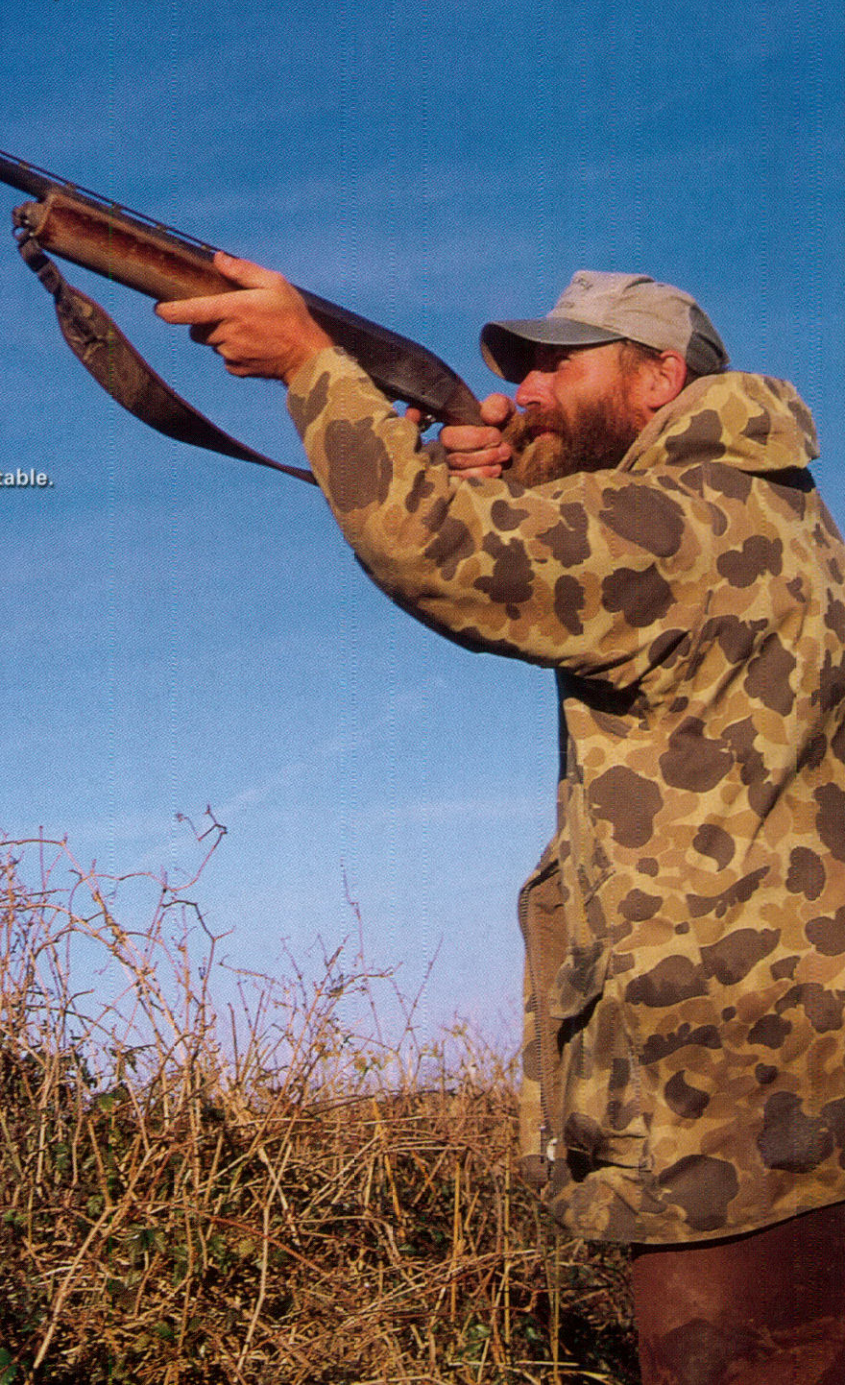
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Covers

FRONT: Coastal sand plains are just one type of landscape at the sprawling King Ranch, where ranching, hunting and nature tourism all have a place. See story on page 30. Sand dunes and cowboy by Earl Nottingham. Deer and birdwatchers © Grady Allen.

BACK: Rugged scenery provides a backdrop for horseback riding at Hill Country State Natural Area. See story on page 53. Photo © Lance Varnell

This page: Photo © Grady Allen



TEXAS

The OUTDOOR MAGAZINE of TEXAS

OCTOBER 2003, VOL. 61, NO. 10

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SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$19.95/year; foreign subscription rate: \$27.95/year. POSTMASTER: If undeliverable, please send notices by form 3579 to *Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine*, P. O. Box 5504, Harlan, IA 51593. Periodicals Postage Paid at Austin, Texas with additional mailing offices.

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine is edited to inform readers, and to stimulate their enjoyment of the Texas outdoors. It reflects the many viewpoints of contributing readers, writers, photographers and illustrators. Only articles written by department employees will always represent policies of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

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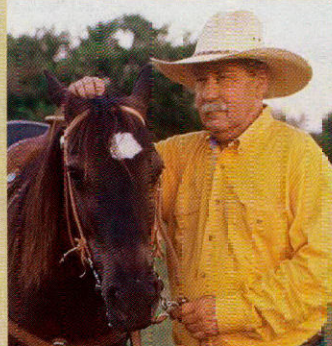
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In the Field

STEVEN LONG

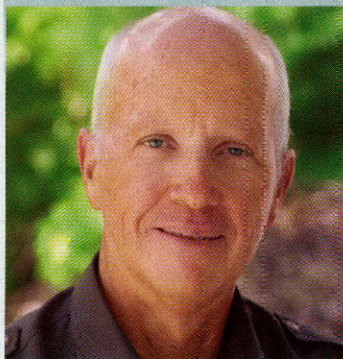
of Houston, who writes about horseback riding in Hill Country State Natural Areas in this issue, is an avid horseman. He and his wife Vicki recently bought *Texas Horse Talk* magazine, of which he is the editor. He also is a contributor to *Western Horseman* magazine and the *Houston Press*. Long is the co-founder of the National Alliance of Urban Literacy Coalitions, a network of coalitions that helps with the creation of literate communities in urban areas across the United States. He covered the Andrea Yates murder case for the *New York Post* and is covering the ongoing Enron scandal. Now under contract with St. Martin's Press, Long's book on the Clara Harris case will be released in March 2004.



THAD SITTON

, author of "The Biggest Game in Texas," is a writer and historian who lives in Austin. A specialist in Texas history, Sitton has published 11 books, three of which won the Texas Historical Commission's T.R. Fehrenbach Award. A frequent contributor to *Texas Parks & Wildlife*, Sitton has written

about East Texas bear hunts, Native American deer-hunting methods, fox hunters, longleaf forests, passenger pigeons and a variety of other topics. He holds three degrees from the University of Texas at Austin, including a bachelor's degree in anthropology.



ELAINE ACKER

grew up in Northeast Texas and discovered a fascination with words almost before she could walk. An early love of nature shaped her interest in writing, and she began writing professionally nearly two decades ago. She has written about wildlife, including bats, for *Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine* since 1991. She now resides in Austin and uses her skills as a freelance writer and nonprofit development specialist to create grant proposals that fund conservation initiatives worldwide. In this issue she writes about last-minute opportunities for bat-watching before the flying mamma's head to Mexico for the winter.



AT ISSUE

FROM THE PEN OF ROBERT L. COOK

The tragic and accidental death of game warden Wesley Wagstaff on Aug. 5 is a shocking reminder of the risks faced every day by our law enforcement officers. Both Wagstaff and another driver, Kimberley Ann Loftin, perished in a vehicle collision that occurred as Wagstaff was responding to an Operation Game Thief call. He was the 15th game warden to die in the line of duty since 1919. He will be missed by all of us — his family and his many friends.

There is no question about the statewide support for our game wardens and their families. Our wardens are educated, highly trained officers who serve as Texas' front-line ambassadors for law enforcement, fish and wildlife conservation and civic duty throughout the state. They are respected citizens in the communities where they live and work and raise their families. Texas game wardens are our front-line leaders in Texas Parks and Wildlife's efforts to inform, educate and actively involve all Texans concerning the importance and value of protecting and managing our wonderful natural resources including the state's diverse fish, wildlife, habitat and water resources.

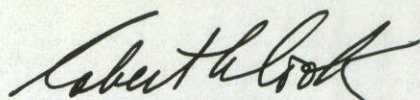
An essential part of our wardens' work with the public is Operation Game Thief, a program in which the public reports suspected wildlife poaching to a hotline phone number, (800) 792-GAME. Since that program began in 1981, the public has placed more than 22,000 calls resulting in more than \$1 million in fines. This operation has also produced a popular traveling exhibit, The Wall of Shame, a 25-foot-long trailer filled with trophy heads, seized weapons, illegal fish traps and other poaching paraphernalia.

The Wall of Shame is one of the many popular features at the Texas Wildlife Expo, our annual outdoors festival that will be held on the grounds of the TPWD headquarters here in Austin Oct. 4-5, 2003. Expo visitors also will have a chance to meet some of our wardens at their popular wild game cooking booth. Other staff members from across the state — including game wardens, park rangers, fish and wildlife biologists, historical and cultural specialists, resource conservationists, interpreters and hundreds of volunteers — will host this weekend of outdoor activities for all Texans. All activities are absolutely free, and everything is furnished.

Learn to fly fish, watch the birds of prey demonstration, shoot muzzleloaders, bows and arrows, pellet guns and shotguns. Try a mountain bike, test your kayaking skills in our man-made lake, improve your wing-shooting on sporting clays, climb the rock-climbing wall, take a hike and see the live alligators, snakes and other wildlife. Will the kids love it? You bet! Will the whole family have a blast? Absolutely! Will everyone who attends Expo have a better understanding and appreciation of the value and importance of conserving our state's fish, wildlife and natural outdoor resources when you leave at the end of the day? Definitely!

And last but not least, will you have a better understanding and appreciation of what our family and your friends at Texas Parks and Wildlife are all about? Yes, that is my hope. That is why we work so hard to host this annual event for you and all Texans. Come join us and enjoy the outdoors at Texas Wildlife Expo, Oct. 4-5.

*Learn to fly fish,
watch the birds of prey
demonstration, shoot
muzzleloaders, bows
and arrows, pellet
guns and shotguns.
Try a mountain bike
and test your
kayaking skills.*


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department mission statement:

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

MAP... YEP.
COMPASS... YEP.
LOST... YEP.

What is it about a good hunt? — You plan, make lists, worry your buddies incessantly over the right cartridges to use, go down to the practice range, and then go again, and again, and finally — *finally* — you're charging into the early morning and frozen air and wet fields and, bang, it happens.

You stop.

You look around.

You begin to realize that everything in the universe has just realigned to make this point in time, this very field, knock down, unadulterated perfect.

And you could lose yourself in that moment forever, save for the fact that about two seconds later it dawns on you — *dang!* there's quail moving around down there.



MAIL CALL

PICKS, PANS AND PROBES FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES

FOREWORD

A magazine is more than words, pictures, paper and ink stapled together; it's a community of readers, knit by common interests, ethics and sensibilities. To succeed, the issues that are foremost to readers must be foremost in the magazine. Sounds simple, eh? Not with readers as diverse as ours! As a group, our subscribers don't have the homogeneity of say, *Ducks Unlimited* or *Texas Trophy Hunter* or *Outside* or *National Geographic*—even though three of every five of you also subscribe to one of these four publications.

The common threads among *Texas Parks & Wildlife* readers may not be as apparent as those in other magazines, but they are strong ones, nevertheless. From our subscriber study we learn our readers could be turkey hunters who enjoy birding or bowhunters who also mountain bike. Common is the love you share for the Texas outdoors and a commitment to our land, our water and conservation. We strive to honor and strengthen these common threads.

We've recently learned that *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine has been awarded the highly coveted designation of "2002 Magazine of the Year" from the International Regional Magazine Association, (IRMA). IRMA consists of about 50 member magazines as varied as *Beautiful British Columbia*, *Ireland of the Welcomes*, *Canada's Cottage Life* and numerous regional magazines in the United States including *Arizona Highways*, *Texas Highways* and *Dour East*.

In addition to being designated Magazine of the Year, individual awards garnered by *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine include:

- **Gold Award, Special Focus Issue:** "Texas: The State of Water," July 2002
- **Gold Award, Cover Design:** "Three Retrievers" photo by Denver Bryan and art direction by Mark Mahorsky, September 2002
- **Gold Award, Travel:** "Solitario Solamente" by E. Dan Klepper, October 2002
- **Gold Award, Art Direction of a Single Story:** "Solitario Solamente" by Mark Mahorsky, October 2002
- **Gold Award, Public Issues:** "¿Rio Grande No Más?" by Rod Davis, July 2002
- **Silver Award, Photography:** "¿Rio Grande No Más?" photography by Earl Nottingham, July 2002
- **Silver Award, Photojournalism:** "¿Rio Grande No Más?" written by Rod Davis, photography by Earl Nottingham and art direction by Mark Mahorsky
- **Silver Award, Overall Art Direction for a magazine with advertising:** Mark Mahorsky, Art Director
- **Silver Award, Reader Service:** "2002 Hunting Forecast" edited by Larry D. Hodge, September 2002
- **Silver Award, Essay:** "God's Swamp" by Michael Furtman, July 2002
- **Bronze Award, Environmental Feature:** "The Hidden Lake" by Elmer Kelton, July 2002
- **Bronze Award, Photo Essay:** "Special Delivery" photography by Denver Bryan and art direction by Mark Mahorsky, September 2002
- **Award of Merit, Illustration:** "Le Loup-Garou" by Keith Graves, October 2002

Chuckling, I have to wonder if in the history of IRMA, a magazine has won "Magazine of the Year" in subject areas as diverse as hunting, mountain biking and environmental issues; I doubt it! But it is you, our readers, whose interests drive the magazine, and you, ultimately to thank for the richness and variety within these pages. You keep us on our toes, to be sure—and we are honored to serve you.

LETTERS

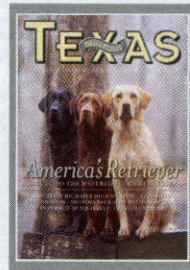
KUDOS TO PHOTOGRAPHERS

Thanks so much for featuring Michael Furtman's article on "Going Digital" (August 2003). Being an amateur wildlife photography enthusiast, but "digital photography dummy," Furtman's article provided me with information and tips I can immediately put to use! Plus he did it in non-pro, non-tech language I could understand.

I haven't read your publication on a regular basis. Yet after reading the August issue, I'm hooked! I just subscribed online and can hardly wait to get the next issue. Again, thanks!

JUDY MCCORQUODALE
San Angelo

BEST COVER 2002



Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine has just been named the "2002 Magazine of the Year" by the International Regional Magazine Association.

Earl Nottingham's review of James Evans' *Big Bend* photograph book (September 2003) is right on!

My wife and I have several of Evans' photographs in our home. We take an annual trip, for a week, to Big Bend; we have been going since 1984. We have been fortunate enough to enjoy Evans' company at the Cafe Cenizo at the Gage Hotel in Marathon. He is not only a topnotch photographer, but a character in his own right. His photographs prove that the Big Bend is not a place, it is a state of mind.

LEWIS D. HILTPOLD
Beaumont

TEXAS WILDLIFE EXPO

We have been to Texas Wildlife Expo a couple of times and have really enjoyed it.

MAIL CALL

I also wanted to let you know that there are lots of us who appreciate the job that you do. I know you take a lot of heat from the non-hunters. However, I think that in Texas they are much in the minority. My family enjoys your magazine and the entertaining, informative articles that you always have.

We are avid hunters and occasional fishers. Our 14-year-old son has just recently become a dove, quail and deer hunter in the Ballinger area. He enjoys the articles that give him more information about this new-found love. It is a wonderful family activity for his father, mother, aunt, uncle, cousins and grandfather to do together. Needless to say we can hardly wait for fall each year. Again thank you, there are many people in the state who know you're doing a great job!

Your magazine is available in many locations in the Fort Worth area, and we always make a point to get it. That reminds me to renew my subscription!

LORI POPE
Burlleson



LIFE'S JUST DUCKY

Callin' 'em in! Attached is a picture of our grandson Nolan (13 months) training for waterfowl season. He's been "calling" since he was five months old.

GARY & BRENDA LAVERGNE
Sugar Land

IN DEFENSE OF FENCES

Having hunted whitetails in our great State of Texas for the better part of my 60 years, I thought I had convinced myself that high fences would spell the end for tradi-

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If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution toward Hunters for the Hungry for program development, please call the hotline for information. TACAA is a 501(c)(3) organization.

The Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA), with funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, provides outreach and coordination efforts for the Hunters for the Hungry program.

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MAIL CALL

tional deer hunting in this state.

However, I now believe it may be the only way to save it. For the past 12 years I have had the privilege of leasing 2,000 acres of prime South Texas brush. The monies paid for this lease would surely have paid for ownership of a smaller acreage by now, but I wanted the chance to take a big South Texas whitetail, maybe a "book deer" with proper management of my lease. I have passed up the young bucks, fed protein, taken the does and spikes, all with the hopes of someday taking a big one.

Since this is a low-fence ranch I have watched the 2½-year-old bucks disappear across the fence year after year. The small rancher to the north, when confronted with a small inside-the-ear 8-pointer, explained that he can't eat horns. The rancher of a 900-acre ranch to the west is convinced that killing does will ruin his deer hunting while his grandchildren shoot everything with horns.

I will never have the means to purchase a big ranch, but if I did, I would high fence it all. I now understand exactly why we see more and more high-fenced ranches. As long as we all have different ideas as to what a "good buck" is, the high fences will continue to spring up. It's the only way you can be reasonably sure the buck you pass up for sound wildlife management reasons will be there next year.

CARROLL FOWLER
Wallisville

THE WHOOPER'S TABLE

My wife and I are nonpaid volunteers for the Whooping Crane Conservation Association, a private, nonprofit group. We recently learned that the July issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* was devoted to bays and estuaries, with a beautifully photographed article on San Antonio Bay and the whooping cranes, titled "The Whooper's Table." The author was Michael Berryhill and I understand he did a terrific job.

Would *Texas Parks & Wildlife* allow us to reprint this article in our *Grus Americana* newsletter? Of course full credit would go to your magazine and writers. We would be most grateful.

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MAIL CALL

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR MICHAEL BERRYHILL RESPONDS: We appreciate your interest, and are always delighted to hear that Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine's readership extends beyond Texas. We continue to follow the status of the whooping crane population, and for the November issue our college intern, Jennifer Nalewicki, is preparing a report on the status of this year's migration and how legions of volunteers such as yourselves have worked so hard to preserve this endangered species. This article will appear in our "Scout" section. Nalewicki will also update our readers on the number of whooping crane chicks surviving the summer. (Two of the chicks are siblings, a rarity for crane biology.) These chicks have the ability to make the migration from Canada to Texas late this fall, making this year's whooping crane season a potentially great year for this endangered species.

COMING NEXT MONTH:

The November issue will be dedicated to Texas Hunting Heritage, and features a rare interview with one of Texas' most colorful raconteurs and restaurateurs, Matt Martinez, Jr. Matt will share some of his favorite wild game and fish recipes, specifically developed for Texas Parks & Wildlife readers.

We'd like some of your favorite game and fish recipes, too, to share with readers in the December issue. Send your recipe to: Reader Recipes, Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine, 3000 S. IH35, Ste. 120, Austin, TX 78704. Please include your name and address, as we'll send a box of outdoor notecards as a "thank you" to those readers whose recipes are selected for publication.

Sound off for "Mail Call!"

Let us hear from you!

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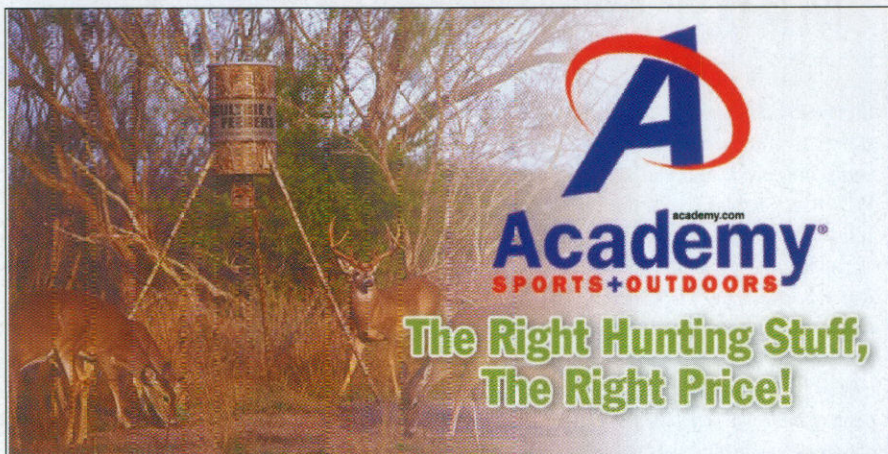
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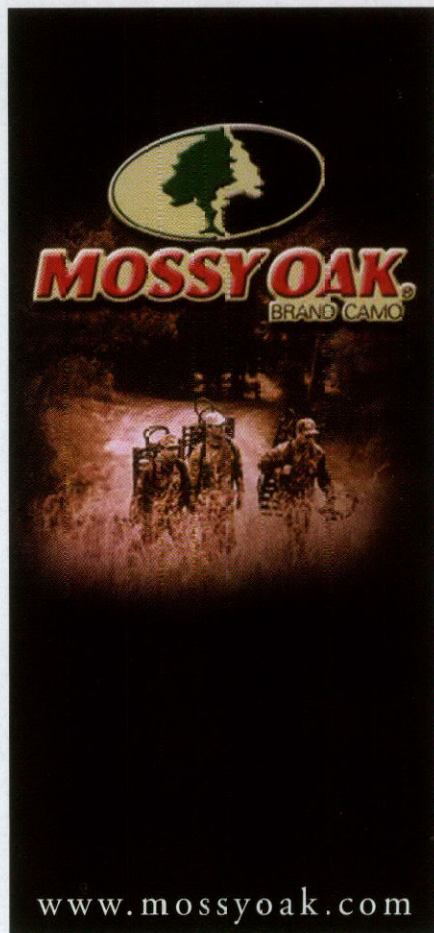
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SCOUT

NEWS AND VIEWS IN THE TEXAS OUTDOORS

¡Hasta La Vista, Murciélagos!

A major Texas tourist attraction heads to Mexico with the first cold front.

Texas is home to 32 of the 45 bat species found in the United States, but by far the most numerous are Mexican free-tailed bats, *Tadarida brasiliensis*. Approximately 100 million bats of this species live in Central Texas from April through October, patrolling the night skies, dining on pesky insects (including mosquitoes) and congregating to form some of the world's largest bat colonies.

Austin's Congress Avenue Bridge, one of the most popular ecotourism sites in the state, is home to the world's largest urban bat colony, with a population of 1.5 million. Every year, more than 100,000 people from around the world visit the bridge at dusk to witness the bats emerging from the crevices beneath it.

Almost all of the bat colonies in Texas are maternal colonies, consisting of mothers and their young. After mating in Mexico, most of the males stay behind in bachelor caves while the females migrate to Texas. In late June the female gives birth to a single pup and nurses it, as do all other mammals. At birth the pups are one-third of their adult weight. They gain weight rapidly and in August, at six weeks of age, the pups make their perilous first flights and learn to feed on their own. In October, they will make their first long-distance migration.

The world's largest bat colony lives at Bracken Cave near San Antonio. Owned by Bat Conservation International, the cave houses 20 million bats that surge from beneath the earth in a thick cloud. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," says Nicole Daspit, who takes groups of visitors to the site. "When the bats start to emerge, the group gets very quiet. All you can hear is the soft sound of wings. Imagine being surrounded by millions of butterflies. It's that beautiful."

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offers bat-watching at abandoned railroad tunnels and caves, and still others are located on private property. Bats are a major line of defense against agricultural pests, and are good both for the environment and the economy. But they won't be here much longer. When the first cool fronts blow through in October,



▲ **Watching bats emerge from beneath the Congress Avenue Bridge is one of Austin's top attractions.**

the bats take advantage of the tailwinds and migrate back to caves in northern Mexico. So it's not too late to see them this month and say ¡Hasta la vista!

— Elaine Acier

Bat Watching in Texas

Bracken Cave, San Antonio: World's largest bat colony, with 20 million bats. Viewing for members of Bat Conservation International only, June-September. To join, call (512) 327-9721 or go to <www.batcon.org>.

Congress Avenue Bridge, Austin: Located about a mile south of the State Capitol. World's largest urban colony with 1.5 million bats. *Austin American-Statesman's* observation area is at the southeast corner of the bridge. Contact Bat Conservation International, (512) 327-9721. <www.batcon.org>.

Eckert James River Bat Cave, Mason: Jointly managed by The Nature Conservancy of Texas and Bat Conservation International, the cave is home to approximately 6 million

bats. Tours are available from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, mid-May through mid-October. Group tours available by appointment. Free admission. (325) 347-5970 or visit The Nature Conservancy's Web site: <<http://nature.org>>. Click on "Where We Work," then on "United States," then on "Texas."

Frio Cave, Concan: State's second-largest colony, with 10 million to 12 million bats. Guided tours from March to September. Group tours for 20 or more by appointment. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 13. Contact Bill Cofer at (830) 988-2864, or bpcofer0420@yahoo.com or Bain Walker at (830) 966-2320.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

TPWD hosts four bat-watching sites. Contact the parks for details. Hours, fees and restrictions vary.

Clarity Tunnel, Caprock Canyons State Park, Silverton, (806) 455-1492,

<www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/caprock/caprock.htm>

Devil's Sinkhole, Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area, Rocksprings, (830) 683-2287,

<www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/sinkhole/>.

Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area, Sisterdale, (830) 238-4487 or LBJ State Historical Park, (830) 644-2252, or <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wma/find_a_wma/list/?id=17>.

Stuart Bat Cave, Kickapoo Cavern State Park, Brackettville, (830) 563-2342, or <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/kickapoo/>.

FIELD NOTES

A Mixed Bag

CANVASBACK DUCKS will be legal game for 33 days of the 2003-2004 season. Last year, the season was closed for canvasbacks nationwide, as the target population was 487,000, well below the U.S. Fish and Wildlife minimum of 550,000. This spring, the canvasback population was posting nearly a 14 percent increase, up to an estimated 557,000.

The season for canvasbacks will be the same as this year's pintail season: Dec. 11 – Jan. 18. During this time frame, Texas waterfowlers will be allowed no more than one pintail and one canvasback in their six-duck daily bag.



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Red October

Bank on big fish action with the fall run of beachfront bulls.

Many saltwater anglers equate catching big fish with spending big money. Count them among the unfortunate souls who have yet to battle bull redfish from the beach.

Never mind the name “bull reds.” Large female snapper are called “sows.” So are trophy-caliber trout. The “bull” moniker makes no sense in the case of spawning female redfish until one considers the leather-jawed leviathans’ tendency to pummel the stuffing out of whomever is standing, feet firmly planted in the sand, with a bowed-up, 10-foot surf rod.

Bull reds have noses like bulldogs and dispositions to match; 25-pound fish are commonplace.

Early autumn draws concentrated schools of spawn-ready reds to the mouths of coastal passes, where their millions upon millions of eggs are fertilized by smaller males and abandoned to the whims of the tide.

The bronze-colored bulls venture surprisingly close to the beach. During high tides, it’s not unusual to encounter random schools of oversized (28-inch-plus) redfish inside the deep-water gut immediately beyond the first sand bar.

It’s this close-to-shore proximity, this ready access to anyone holding a long-handled surfcasting rig, that makes post-Labor Day redfishing so appealing to anglers of all ages and backgrounds.

Suitable tackle can be bought for \$100 or less. Bait, likewise, is affordable, be it fresh-dead mullet and menhaden bought from a bait camp or live finger mullet captured with a cast net.

Heavy monofilament or fluorocarbon leader, barrel and snap swivels, wire-pronged “surf spider” weights and a supply of sharp circle hooks fill out the bill for terminal rigging. Circle hooks are as forgiving as they are efficient. Fish are almost invariably hooked through the jaw, and can be landed, quickly photographed and released to fight — and spawn — many times again.

Patience is imperative. The wait between strikes can be trying, but when a migrating school locates the baits, the payoff is spectacular.

As for specific holes, long-rodging regulars are a secretive lot. I am no exception. But truth be known, finding surf-run reds is usually no more difficult than driving to your nearest bay-to-Gulf pass.

Above Rollover Pass, McFaddin Beach is one of the state’s best bull-red venues. Located about five miles north of High Island off Texas 87 in Jefferson County and approximately 80 miles from Houston, McFaddin Beach yielded a former state record that tipped the scales at 54 pounds. Every year,

similar trophies are landed by adventurous anglers who venture by four-wheel drive into this remote and rugged locale.

San Luis Pass, 60 miles south of Houston, is a powerful and meandering mile-wide divider between West Galveston Island and Surfside, and the state’s largest natural pass. It’s also Texas’ best known and, quite possibly, most prolific producer of surf-running reds.

Farther south, at the turbulent mouth of the Colorado River, Matagorda Beach is yet another favorite hangout of avid surf-casters. Quality redfish action can be enjoyed on both sides of the Matagorda jetties.

Again, these spots top the list because of their proximity to major passes. Water-exchanging arteries are critical to spawning redfish, providing ready access to backwater estuaries

Big redfish congregate near the beach during the autumn spawning period, offering coastal anglers a unique opportunity to land a bull red.



where fertilized eggs rapidly develop and mature into fingerlings.

Nonetheless, South Texas beaches also consistently boot out big autumn reds. Below Corpus Christi, the Padre Island National Seashore beckons, with well over 50 miles of potentially productive surf. This, too, is four-wheel-drive territory, particularly the popular 11-mile-long stretch of sand known as “Big Shell.”

No matter where you try it, beachfront bull red fishing is not completely unlike billfishing. Call it hours upon hours of relentless boredom occasionally interrupted by unforgettable moments of sheer panic.

The only difference is that trolling for Texas billfish can break the bank. For a good chance at trophy-class Texas reds, all you have to do is cast from it.

—Larry Bozka

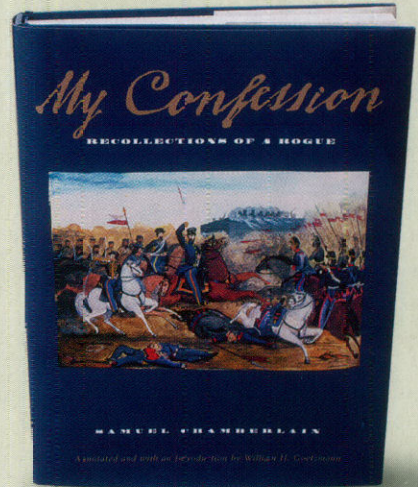
Recollections of a Rogue Revisited

IN 1846, AT THE AGE OF 17, a young theology student named Samuel E. Chamberlain forsook his Boston home for points west. He became a 1st Dragoon in the Mexican War and later a deserter and a reluctant scalp-hunter with the demonic Glanton's Gang. What's remarkable is not that he did so, but that he created an astounding portfolio of writings and paintings to tell his life story in vivid, embellished detail. Passionate, chivalrous, combative, ribald and irreverently humorous, Chamberlain used his pen, his brushes and his wit to create a deft and rich feast for any student of the Mexican War, self-importantly titling his portfolio *My Confession: Recollection of a Rogue*.

This portfolio of illuminated manuscripts and vivid watercolors, created between 1855 and 1861, was found languishing in a Connecticut antique shop in the 1940s by a Baltimore collector. A *Life* magazine correspondent, working with the collector on another assignment in 1955, convinced the *Life* editors to buy the entire collection. Excerpts from this find were published in a series in *Life* magazine, and in 1956, the *Life* editors compiled Chamberlain's tale, along with 55 of his illustrations, in a modestly bound hardcover book.

This year, the Texas State Historical Association published a gloriously illustrated version of this cult classic, (*My Confession: Recollections of a Rogue*, Texas State Historical Association, \$60) annotated and with an introduction by Chamberlain historian William H. Goetzman. This 10" x 13" clothbound, expanded version contains more than 150 of Chamberlain's delightfully energetic paintings, plus full-page facsimiles of his illuminated manuscripts. Fans of novelist Cormac McCarthy will recognize the passages on Glanton's Gang as the basis for McCarthy's blood-chilling portrayals of John Glanton and the Judge in *Blood Meridian*.

Although Chamberlain's original manuscript now resides at West Point, 140 of his original watercolors are in the permanent collection of the San Jacinto Museum of History in Houston. Call the museum at (281) 479-2421 to find out what's on display before visiting. — Susan L. Ebert



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Content Analysis

Are alligators causing the decline of mottled ducks? There's only one way to find out.

When it comes to eating, alligators aren't too picky — at least that is what Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists are finding as they sample the stomach contents of American alligators along the upper and central coast of Texas.

By pumping the alligators' stomachs, biologists and technicians on coastal wildlife management areas hope to determine the reptiles' prey base, as well as any impact on pig frogs and mottled ducks. Populations of both have been dwindling for years.

Mottled ducks are most vulnerable to becoming an alligator's prey during the summer, when they are flightless due to molting. While other ducks migrate north to nest, mottled ducks remain in Texas coastal prairies and marshes, often sharing the same habitat as alligators.

Since the study began in May, biologists and technicians have pumped the stomachs of dozens of alligators, finding everything

place the sample in a bag and freeze it for future analysis.

It takes anywhere from four to five hours to capture and pump the stomachs of eight alligators a night. "It's hard work," says biologist Kevin Kriegel. "We get dirty out there catching them and it

Research is underway on the Texas Coast to see if mottled ducks, below, are a significant part of alligators' diets.



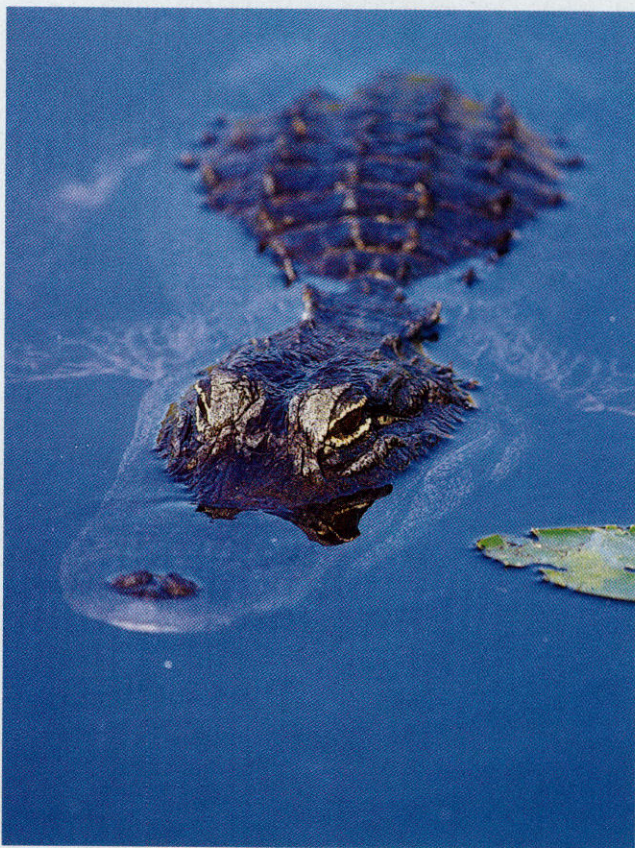
from blue crabs, muskrats, birds, crawfish and frogs to shotshell wads, rocks and broken bottles. They have even found a brass faucet fixture for a garden hose.

"You never quite know what you are going to find," says biologist Matt Nelson.

Waiting until dark, preferably before dawn during the dark phases of the moon, the biologists use airboats and spotlights to navigate the coastal marshes.

After catching an alligator either by hand or snare, biologists place it inside a duffel bag and bring it to shore, where they strap it onto a restraining board. They then insert a 3- to 4-inch-diameter PVC pipe about 8 inches long into the alligator's open mouth, which they secure with duct tape. By counting forward four scale's-widths from the alligator's hind leg, the biologists determine the location of the stomach.

A clear plastic tube attached to a water hose is pushed through the pipe into the esophagus and into the stomach. Light water pressure serves as a lubricant. Once the hose enters the stomach, the water pressure is increased, gradually expanding the stomach until it reaches full capacity. The Heimlich maneuver is performed on the alligator, causing it to regurgitate into a washtub. After straining the stomach contents through a sieve, biologists



can get a little aerodynamic at times when the contents come up, but it's good research."

Kriegel says that the process doesn't harm the alligators. "Sometimes the alligators will hiss at us a little bit," Kriegel says, "but they usually remain pretty docile. They haven't given us any problems yet, knock on wood."

Before returning the alligator to the site of its capture, biologists measure it, determine its gender and body condition and tag it with an electronic chip. The tagging assures that no alligator's stomach is pumped more than once a month, thus reducing stress on the alligators as well as preventing data from being skewed.

As for finding mottled duck remains, during the first round of testing in May and June the biologists came up empty-handed even though mottled duck broods are flightless at that time. As this article went into production, another round of tests was scheduled for July, during the peak of the mottled ducks' molting season. By the end of the first summer, TPWD biologists plan to have pumped the stomachs of 200 alligators, giving them a much better understanding of what role alligators might play in the mottled duck and pig frog decline.

—Jennifer Nalewicki

Targeting the Future

Texas hosts this year's premiere symposium on hunting heritage.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department hosts the 7th Governor's Symposium on North America's Hunting Heritage this year, to be held in Houston Dec. 3-6. The conference is expected to draw 600 participants from across the United States, Mexico and Canada to work on the symposium's theme: "taking action to secure the future of hunting in North America."

This year's symposium will focus on the recruitment and retention of hunters, with the goal of finding efficient, action-oriented programs that government wildlife agencies and hunting organizations can implement. The number of hunters has declined in recent years for several reasons; a further decline in hunting participation could be devastating for wildlife conservation, because hunters do so much economically and socially to maintain and improve wildlife habitat.

TPWD executive director Robert L. Cook will speak on the history of wildlife conservation in Texas. Other topics include the financial impact of hunting, hunting and landowners, hunting ethics and the media and hunting. Steve Williams, director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Doug Painter of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Rollin Sparrowe of the Wildlife Management Institute, Don Young of Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and Rob Keck of the National Wild Turkey Federation will also speak.

The Governor's Symposium on North America's Hunting

Heritage was first held in 1992 and attendance has been growing steadily. At the 2000 symposium in Ottawa, Canada, participants proposed an accord on hunting that established the following shared facts and beliefs. Hunting is a sustainable activity with deep cultural and social roots and tremendous economic impact. The hunting community and government agencies have created hunter safety and education programs that have made hunting safer than most other outdoor activities. Hunting has generated billions of dollars that support habitat conservation and enhancement that benefits all wildlife, including game animals. The hunting community is dedicated to using science-based information to manage wildlife populations and habitat. It works to articulate and teach ethical principles of hunting and to develop good relations between hunting groups and government agencies that regulate hunting and work for wildlife conservation.

A reception on Wednesday evening, Dec. 3, launches three days of seminars, culminating with a banquet Saturday evening. Hunters and members of hunting organizations are encouraged to attend. Registration for the three-day event is \$300 (\$265 before Sept. 30), which includes attendance at all meetings, the opening and closing banquets, exhibits, displays, meals and transportation to a participatory shooting event. For registration information, visit <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hunt/heritage>.

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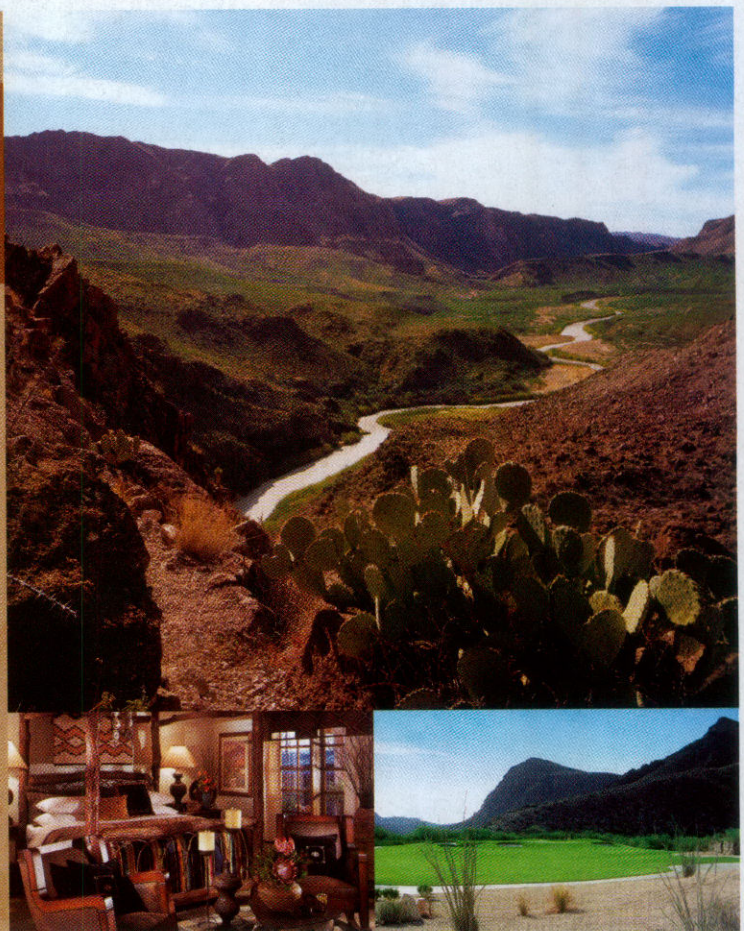
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Following Procedure

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The old woodsman slips through the stunted trees, rocks and cacti and eases toward the ridge overlooking the Rio Grande. His steps are silent. He ducks limbs and avoids snagging branches and thorns. The wildlife photographer he is guiding wheezes and crunches up the incline as though his boots are made of concrete.

The guide stops on the rim and observes the Chihuahuan Desert. A nearby tree oozes sap from fresh claw marks. Several large rocks have been moved from their half-buried resting place, a dead stump has been pried apart and there is a pile of reddish, jellied droppings. He sits down; his client collapses.

The guide points to a saddle in the ridgeline several miles away. "The Mexican black bear we're following is going over yonder," he says. "We need to sneak over there and wait."

The photographer is exasperated.

"How in the world can you know where that bear is going?" he asks.

The outdoorsman ponders this for a moment. "All of your everyday survival skills and deductive reasoning have evolved from the basic common sense we learned from observing nature," he says. "For instance, one morning you can't find your car keys. So, you begin backtracking yourself. You look through yesterday's pants pockets. Then you look on the kitchen cabinet. You look on the nightstand, beside the TV and then start digging through the couch cushions. In desperation you go to your car, and there they are: in the ignition. You backtracked yourself by following your normal procedural pattern.

"Animals also have procedural patterns. Trackers should know the habits of the animals they're hunting, and be open-eyed for clues. An animal's activities involve eating, sleeping, procreation and, sometimes, migration or hibernation. So it helps to know what different species desire on their buffet, when they're breeding and whether they seek shelter to rest or prefer open ground. Predators often rest in concealment, while deer would rather see danger coming from any direction.

"Deer nibble and browse on certain plants during varying seasons. Turkeys scratch, scattering leaves and upsetting the forest floor. Bears flip over rocks and bust open logs looking for grubs. It's pointless to hunt deer on a pine ridge when they're eating acorns in the creek bottom. If you're looking for carnivorous predators, it's pointless to search where there is no prey or food for prey.

"Animals mark their territory to warn intruders and to attract mates. It's interesting that animals are always tracking other animals, whether they're looking for food or to mate. Buck deer make rubs and scrapes. Mountain lions also make scrapes. These territorial markings, food supplies and bedding



▲ Learn the habits of the animals you're pursuing, for a more rewarding outdoor experience.

grounds provide a rough map of travel routines.

"Spotting sign or reading tracks comes with experience. The more time people spend studying nature, the more pieces they find to an ecosystem's puzzle."

The photographer shakes his head.

"So how do you know where that bear is going?" he asks.

"That old bear has a sweet tooth," says the guide. "Did you look at those droppings? He's been eating madrone berries and there's a good patch of 'em on that saddle. Let's go." ★

Camping Hammocks

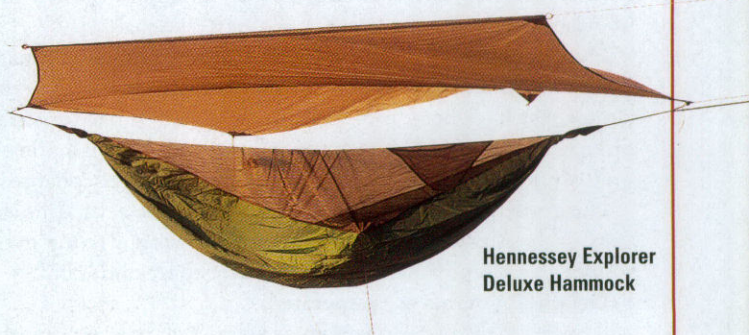
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Mayan Hammock



Clark Jungle Hammock



Hennessey Explorer Deluxe Hammock

Hammocks designed for camping are a great alternative to tents and sleeping on the ground. They are lightweight, easy to use and set up quickly without elaborate campsite preparation. When properly hung, a hammock keeps you out of reach from crawling, flying and biting creatures. Even in bad weather they can provide comfortable sleeping. A canopy can be attached either to shed rain or provide shade. In hot weather, hammocks are especially desirable because air circulates around the entire body. By adding an insulated pad and sleeping bag, some campers use hammocks for winter bivouacs.

The **Clark Jungle Hammock** features a cover that can be zipped closed over its mosquito netting like a tent. This covering is made of breathable, rip-stop nylon fabric that stores at the foot-end of the hammock until needed. Two small inside pockets and six larger compartments along the lower outside help keep gear off the ground. The deluxe model we tested is roomy, comfortable and strong enough to hold a load of 300 pounds. Opening either of the side closures allows the hammock to be used as a lounge chair. It is suspended with two strong polypropylene ropes with aluminum drip rings to divert rainwater. Despite its capacity, it weighs less than 4 pounds, including ropes and extra-large rain-fly. (\$269, Deluxe Hammock, Clark Outdoor Products, (800) 468-4635, <www.junglehammock.com>)

Weighing a little less than 3 pounds, the **Hennessey Explorer Deluxe Hammock** offers zipperless entry through a bottom opening that closes tightly with Velcro strips when body weight is applied. Constructed of strong nylon fabric, it is fully reinforced at stress points, and structured for proper body curva-

ture. Storage is limited to one interior mesh pocket; small clips on the overhead net rope hold light items. The rainfly comes in different sizes, and we recommend the largest to provide more shade and weather protection. The nylon ropes are secured to trees with wide webbing straps that prevent damage to the bark. (\$169, Hennessey Hammock, (888) 539-2930, <www.hennesseyhammock.com>)

Hand-woven cotton hammocks have been used for centuries in tropical realms. Family weavers in Latin America make the best ones. These hammocks come with strong multistrand nylon loop attachments at each end of the cool, open-weave cotton bed. For bug protection, these hammocks must be enclosed with a separate mosquito netting. Rain shields are often simple tarps of clear, heavy plastic or waterproof nylon sheeting. These basic multi-colored **Mayan Hammocks** are best purchased in the extra-large size of deluxe cotton for the greatest comfort. As with any woven material or bedding, care must be taken to protect this style of hammock from snags, tangles and prolonged exposure to the elements. (\$119.95, XL Deluxe, Hammock Jungle, (877) 828-1217, <www.hammockjungle.com>)

Not all hammocks are suitable for camping. Tourist or yard hammocks made from uncomfortable, rough-woven sisal fiber, thin nylon strings or thick-corded rope with wooden spreader bars are intended only for a short nap in the shade. If you're looking for a more comfortable sleep when camping, the best options — especially if the terrain is rough, wet and insects abound — is to purchase a hammock specifically designed for adventure travel and wilderness conditions. ★



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Lost Maples and Longhorns

We may be 200 miles from the coast, but a breeze damp with Gulf moisture is blowing through the valley at the Dixie Dude Ranch in Bandera County, and my daughter Elizabeth and I are wondering if we should have brought our slickers.

We're sitting on upended, smoothly sawn oak logs and eating breakfast served from a chuck wagon. All around us, the limestone hills are green with juniper and oaks.

Elizabeth and I are out of our element here. As flatlanders from the coast, we're not used to having the earth provide such big sights. Bandera County has the densest concentration of hills in the Hill Country. Millions of years of erosion have created this beautiful maze of limestone canyons, small rounded hills and stream-lined valleys.

Vacationers from Houston began boarding at Bandera ranches in the 1920s, basking on the country cooking and western hospitality. Local entrepreneurs soon figured out that city visitors brought more money than raising cattle or goats. Today, 13 dude ranches are registered with the local chamber of commerce. Some are more luxurious than others; some cater to people who bring their own horses. Most offer an "American" plan that includes two or three meals a day and two trail rides. There are campfires every night and on Saturday nights someone in a big hat will sing and play the guitar. (For those who don't care for ranch life, more than 50 bed and breakfasts and guest cottages also operate in the county.)

Dixie Dude Ranch, the oldest continuously running ranch in the area, was started in 1937. The barns are funky, the dogs are sleepy and the décor seems to have been fixed in about 1948. If you're a certain age, you half expect Dale and Roy to come riding up.

After our cowboy breakfast, Elizabeth and I visit Maudeen Marks, a legendary breeder of longhorn cattle, on her ranch, the LH7. All kinds of people visit Marks at her ranch, which has 10 cottages and 14 hookups. The lakes are stocked with

fish for catch-and-release angling. Birders sometimes come and arrange tours. Some people bring their horses. Others arrive in tour buses. Marks recently welcomed 44 beekeepers from Germany.

As Marks shows us some of her towering, tame longhorns, she describes how they became wild animals. Originally brought to Mexico from Spain to pull carts, enough of them escaped to create breeding herds, and nature culled out the losers. The winners had long tails that helped them swat off insects. Their ears sit beneath their horns, which protect these vulnerable organs from thorns and infections. Besides helping the cows fight off predators, their horns are useful to dig in the earth for water, and to knock down moss from trees if forage is scarce.

Now Marks raises a few of these cattle on a dude ranch of their own, and the cattle are the dudes, pampered and doctored, their blood and DNA registered, their traits recorded, their

Cowboy music often comes with the scenery in Bandera.



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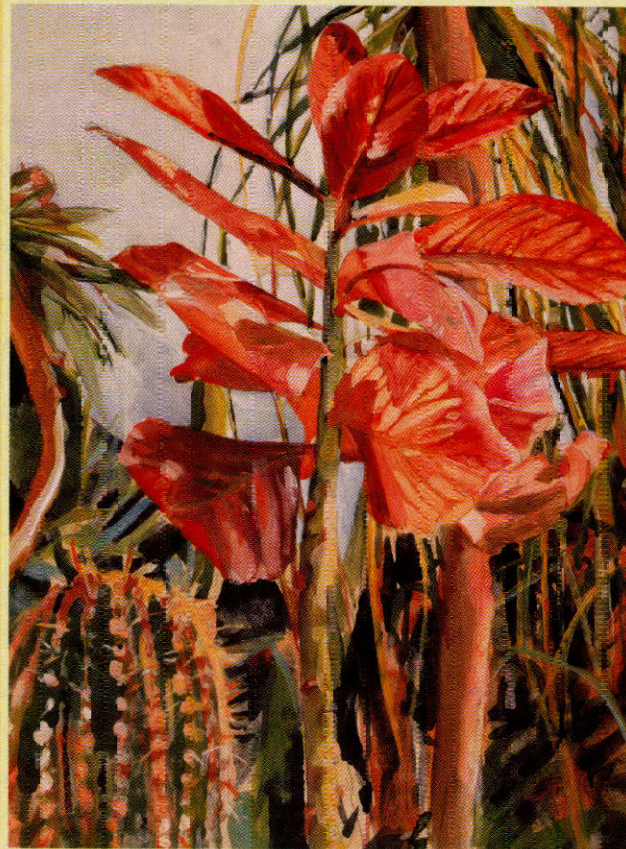
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On a dude-ranch trail ride, the wrangler leads the way, left. A white-tailed deer adds to the charm of a hay ride, top. Longhorns take it easy at Maudeen Marks' LH7 spread, above.

feed calculated and their treats delivered by hand. It's a lot better life than having to pitch coyotes over your head to protect your calf.

From the LH7 we head to one of the best-loved places in Texas. Lost Maples State Natural Area. In late October and early November, depending on rain, the bigtooth maples here set the limestone hills ablaze with scarlet, orange and gold. This leaf show is the state's closest rival to New England. The crowds can be daunting on the weekends, though.

On the way to Lost Maples we stop for lunch at Adams' Apples, a restaurant and tree nursery near the village of Vanderpool on FM 187. Baxter Adams, a Houston oil geologist, began growing apples in the valley in the early 1980s. He says he had so many "ugly apples" that he started baking them in pies. His restaurant has a big room full of picnic tables and the aromas of apple pie and apple cobbler. Elizabeth and I are delighted to discover cinnamon-and-apple frozen custard.

The grounds surrounding the restaurant are covered with Adams' true horticultural success: not apples, but several thousand bigtooth maples *Acer grandidentatum*, set out in five-gallon containers. Adams says he sells all he can raise, and some have been planted at Lost Maples Natural Area. Like whooping cranes, these maples are a relict species, left over from the last ice age 10,000 years ago. As the weather warmed and dried, only the maples left in the remote, well-shaded canyons near Bandera survived.

We arrive at Lost Maples State Natural Area and meet our guide, Lee Haile, a competitive storyteller with a degree in entomology from Texas A&M University. The Hill Country is an ecological crossroads, he explains. This is where western species such as piñon and madrone make their farthest eastern

appearance, and also where the black cherry and walnut of the Appalachian Mountains make their farthest western appearance. Huisache also creeps up from the south. The cool, north-facing canyons harbor hardwoods, while the hot, south-facing ones host cactus and juniper.

The Sabinal River runs through the park, providing a cool place and beautiful views of the bigtooth maples that grow along its banks. With 11 miles of hiking trails, and both primitive and developed campsites, this nearly 2,200-acre natural area draws 200,000 visitors a year for hiking, camping and leaf-watching.

Haile points out a screech owl in a gully and shows us where the red-tailed hawks nest on the side of a cliff. He whistles back to a black-crested titmouse, and gets us to listen to the buzzing of an endangered golden-cheeked warbler that we never see. He points out the bowl-shaped nest of a blue-gray gnatcatcher on the high limb of an oak tree, a beautiful thing created of lichen and spider webs. On the way out he stops at a cherry tree and shows us the empty cocoons of Cecropia moths, hanging like big dried leaves. This moth, the largest in North America, can grow as big as your hand, but because it's night-flying, it is seldom seen.

On Saturday morning, it's time for a trail ride. At age 9, Elizabeth will have nothing to do with riding alone, although the wrangler has a perfectly safe horse picked out for her. But she will ride with me. So I climb on and the wrangler swings her up. A trail ride is a quiet affair. The horses ease steadily along in single file. We clop across a creek bed and through a hardwood thicket, then climb an easy hill. The beauty of riding is just to look at the view from the height of the horse, taking an easy, gently rocking view of things. My eyes wander along the

easy, gently rocking view of things. My eyes wander along the paths of dry streambeds, noting the layers of rock cut through by wind and water, and soon I'm carried back in time.

We play in the swimming pool with some French families from Houston who come back to the Dixie Dude Ranch every year. We stroll around the bustling town of Bandera, and check out the eccentric little Frontier Times Museum, which is filled with such curiosities as a stuffed, two-headed lamb and a collection of bells from around the world. There is also a 19th-century shaving shingle horse used by one of the early settlers here. The cypress trees that grow along the Medina provided the raw material for shingles that were shipped by wagon to San Antonio, the logs being too big to float down the shallow river. That afternoon, Elizabeth insists on another ride, although she firmly refuses her own horse. I think she likes riding this way because it means an hour of being hugged on horseback.

Sunday morning, we tour the Flying A, a 10,000-acre ranch owned by the Alkek family of the old Sinclair Oil Company. Along with guided hunts, the ranch management is planning for ecotourism. To this end, management has redirected water from its streams, sometimes running a mile or more of pipe to water troughs that can be used by small mammals such as ringtails, rabbits, foxes and the like. Black-bellied whistling ducks use a deep hole on one of the ranch's creeks. The invasive young juniper is being sheared away with hydraulic cutters and controlled by burning. Enough old-growth junipers are preserved for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler, which strips the shaggy bark for nesting material.

There's not much left of Sunday but to go down to the Medina River in the Bandera city park and have a picnic. From

Memorial Day to Labor Day, Bandera's three major paddling concessionaires run shuttle services and rent kayaks and canoes. We've come too early in the spring for them to be open, and I think longingly of my canoe back on the coast.

Elizabeth is entranced by the shiners plainly visible near the bank, and tosses a bit of bread to them, which they quickly gobble. I lean against a cypress and close my eyes for a moment. Soon Elizabeth shakes me. Her eyes are wide. There's a fish, she says, a big fish. How big? I ask, and she holds her hands far apart. Sure enough, a bass maybe a foot long is suspended in the green water. I should take her fishing here, I think. We could take a float trip in the fall, and she could learn to sight cast, and we would look for the little green kingfishers that are found here sometimes, and then we'll go see those famous maples in their autumn splendor, those maples that have not been lost at all. ★

Exploring Bandera

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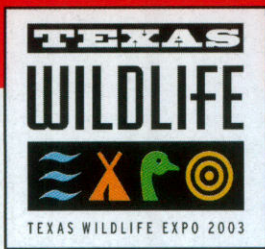
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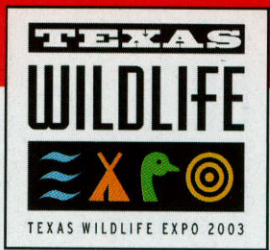
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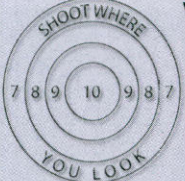
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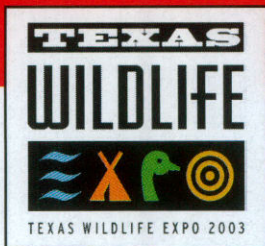
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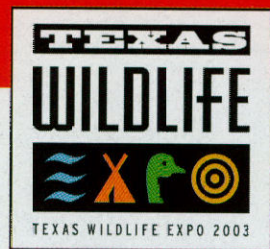
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ANYONE WHO HAS HEARD OF TEXAS

can probably name its most legendary ranch: the King Ranch. During its long and colorful history, this ranch pioneered in the development of hybrid cattle, improved the blood lines of the quarter horse and, until a few years ago, ran a Thoroughbred racing operation. But the ranch deserves to be better known as a major force for wildlife conservation. Its 825,000 acres probably comprise the largest block of wildlife habitat in the state.

BY LARRY D. HODGE

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PEOPLE NEED TO SEE AND BE IN CONTACT WITH
NATURE, AND TO KNOW THAT THERE IS SOMEBODY
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CONSERVATION OF THE LAND

has been deliberately pursued throughout the ranch's 150-year history.

"Every manager in the past has been resource-oriented," says Paul Genho, general manager of livestock and ranch operations. "At times they sacrificed short-term profit for the protection of the resource, and that has left us a good resource to take care of."

That's an understatement. The ranch sprawls across most of Kleberg County and parts of three others. It fronts about 50 miles of the Laguna Madre and perhaps twice that of Baffin and Alazan bays. Towering sand dunes and 100,000 acres of live oak mottes along the coast share the ranch with 12,000 acres of wetlands and hundreds of thousands of acres of native prairies and mixed brush. White-tailed deer, quail and Rio Grande turkeys thrive alongside nongame species such as tropical parulas and green jays. Unfragmented and unspoiled, the King Ranch is a wildlife paradise.

Bucks scoring 150 to 180 Boone and Crockett points draw hunters to the ranch, but far more visitors — some 50,000 a year — come to learn about its history and view its wildlife through binoculars rather than rifle scopes. "Nature tourism fills an important need for the ranch," Genho says. "People need to see and be in contact with nature, and to

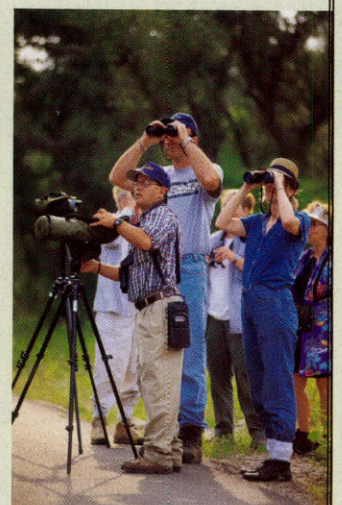
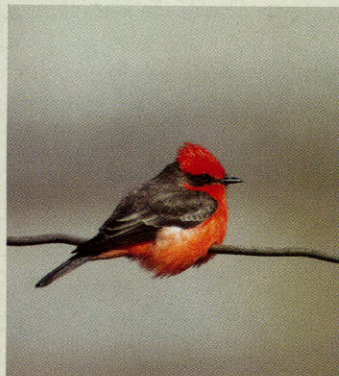
biggest reaction from visitors. "It seems odd to me because they are so common here, but many people gasp the first time they see a green jay." The brilliant green-and-yellow birds often are spotted on any nature tour on the ranch.

New tours begun in 2003 target butterflies (66 species known to occur on the ranch) and dragonflies (30 species). Two of the rarest U.S. dragonflies, the blue-faced darner and the roseate skimmer, dart along a creek not far from ranch headquarters. Langschied expects more species to be recorded in the future.

A Ranch is Born

So legendary is the King Ranch that its story might well begin: "Once upon a time in a land far, far away..." Founder Richard King, the son of poor Irish immigrants, lived a rags-to-riches life, beginning as an indentured servant to a New York City jeweler, then stowing away on a ship

Among the birds seen on the ranch's nature tours are green jays, vermilion flycatchers and ruby-throated hummingbirds.



know that there is somebody preserving the wildlife."

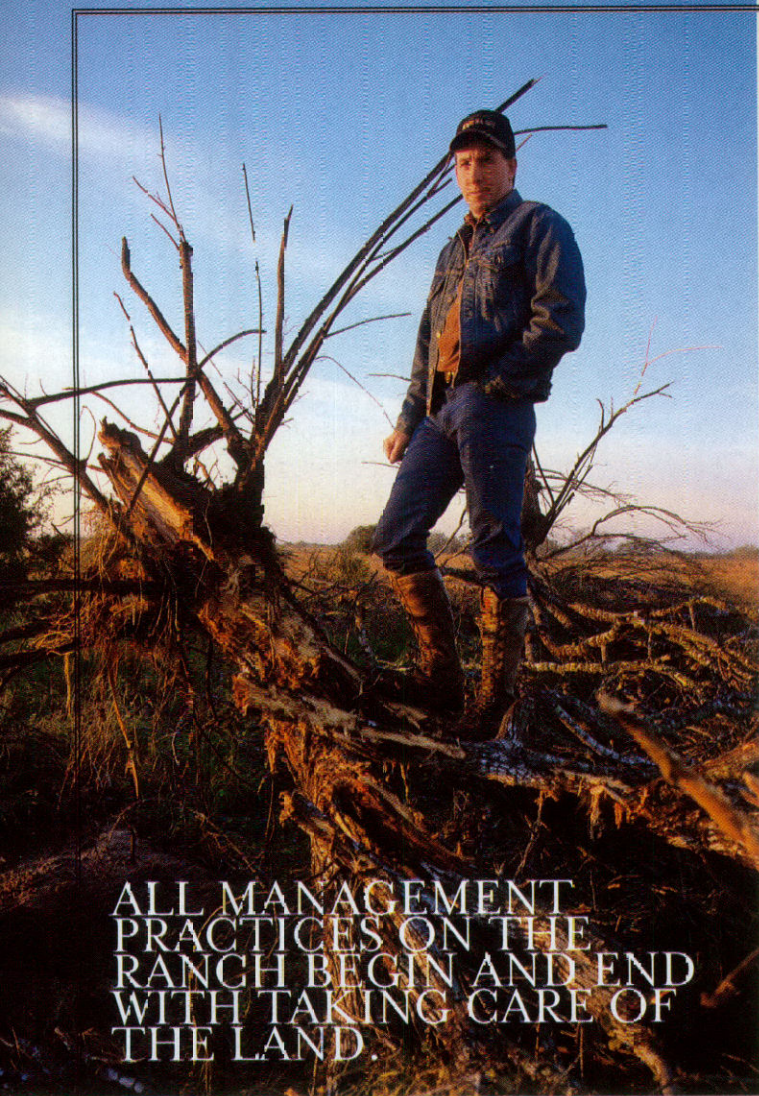
Wildlife biologist Thomas Langschied coordinates the ranch's nature tours, which range from leisurely half-day jaunts targeting a variety of birds and mammals to 12-hour marathons aimed at spotting as many species of birds as possible. Tours can be arranged to cover every part of the ranch to take advantage of the varied habitat types. Birders spot as many as 95 species on the half-day tours, more than 125 on daylong excursions. Many of the birds spotted swell birders' life lists. The ranch has the nation's largest known population of ferruginous pygmy owls and tropical parulas, and the ranch's 347-bird checklist includes shorebirds, hummingbirds, flycatchers, swallows, wrens, kinglets, warblers, sparrows and orioles.

"We tend to focus on the rarer species of birds," Langschied says, but a bird common to the area draws the

bound for Alabama. Discovered and taken in tow by the ship's captain, King went on to become a licensed steamboat pilot. He moved to the Rio Grande during the Mexican War, and there he and his partners dominated the riverboat business. During the Civil War, operating out of Matamoros, Mexico, King earned huge profits in the shipping trade between the Confederacy and Europe — and wisely required payment in gold rather than Confederate dollars. President Andrew Johnson pardoned King for his Civil War activities in 1865.

King used his riverboat profits to buy land southwest of Corpus Christi beginning in 1853. Needing workers, he convinced the entire population of a Mexican village to move to the King Ranch, promising them and their descendants work for life in a mirror image of the hacienda system common in Mexico. *Kineños*, or "King's men," still make up

PHOTO LEFT AND THIRD FROM LEFT BY EARL NOTTINGHAM; FAR RIGHT AND THIRD FROM RIGHT © GRADY ALLEN



ALL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON THE RANCH BEGIN AND END WITH TAKING CARE OF THE LAND.

about half of King Ranch employees, though lifetime employment is guaranteed no longer. By the time of his death in 1885 King controlled more than 600,000 acres.

In a state in which habitat fragmentation is the No. 1 problem facing wildlife, the King Ranch stands out as an exception, and most of the credit goes to two women: Henrietta King, wife of Richard, and their daughter, Alice. Richard and Henrietta King did not want the ranch to be split up after their deaths. She survived him, and in her will she put the ranch into a 10-year trust upon her death. This gave Alice, with the help of her husband, Robert Justus Kleberg, time to carry out her parents' wishes. She set up a corporation, King Ranch, Inc., and deeded to it all the property she inherited as well as land she purchased from other heirs. She sold all the stock in King Ranch, Inc., to her five children, and their descendants still own the corporation today.

The sons of Robert Justus and Alice Kleberg, Richard Mifflin (Dick Sr.) and Robert J. (Bob) Kleberg, oversaw the transformation of the King Ranch into a multinational operation with more than a million acres in Texas, Cuba, Australia, Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Spain and Morocco. In 1940 the Santa Gertrudis breed, developed on the ranch by blending $\frac{3}{8}$ Brahman and $\frac{5}{8}$ Shorthorn, was recognized as the first breed of cattle developed in America. The following year one of the ranch's quarter horses, Wimpy, earned the top spot in the American Quarter Horse Association Stud Book by virtue of being named grand



Range manager Verl Cash oversees brush management. Two bulldozers guided by GPS satellites pull this chain through the pasture, removing designated areas of brush.

champion stallion of the Fort Worth Exposition and Fat Stock Show. Wimpy's descendants still work cattle on the ranch today. The ranch also expanded into Thoroughbred breeding and racing, producing a Triple Crown winner, Assault, in 1946 before bowing out of the business in 1998.

Pioneers in Wildlife Management

The King Ranch attacked every aspect of ranching with determination, developing new methods of brush control, better grasses, better corrals, better fences. By the 1970s the ranch controlled 11.5 million acres worldwide and was engaged in real estate development, oil and gas production and several other businesses.

Oil and gas production began in 1939 and increased in importance over time. The billion dollars in royalties the ranch earned during the 50 years following World War II made it possible to keep the ranch together and enhance wildlife habitat. Caesar Kleberg (grandson of Robert and Alice) laid the foundation for future conservation work while working on the ranch from 1900 to 1946. His game management rules concentrated on limiting harvest. Turkeys had to be shot in the head with a rifle (resulting in either a clean kill or a clean miss), and hens were not hunted. Quail could not be fired on at the initial covey rise. Deer had to be shot in the neck or head, and hunting was suspended during the rut. Game could not be hunted at watering sites or other places of concentration. Few does were taken. Members of the Kleberg family did almost all the hunting.

With Mother Nature managing the wildlife, population levels experienced wide swings, and ranch managers recognized the need for science-based management. King Ranch hired its first wildlife biologist, Val Lehmann, in 1945. The science of wildlife management was still in its infancy; Aldo Leopold's textbook, *Game Management*, the first of its kind, was published in 1933. Lehmann schooled himself on bobwhite quail and became a leading authority on the species; his book *Bobwhites in the Rio Grande Plain of Texas* is still a valuable tool.

"Caesar Kleberg was a great brain who thought that wildlife ought to be taken care of," says Genho. "Years ago there was no economic value to wildlife. It's amazing to me that even then King Ranch hired wildlife biologists and managed the wildlife."

The King Ranch today employs five full-time wildlife biologists, leases more than 500,000 acres to corpora-

tions, conducts guided hunts on about 80,000 acres and reserves about 210,000 acres for family members and the employee hunting club. Each leaseholder is required to have a full-time or consulting biologist. Lessees report game harvest weekly during the season for entry into a custom computer program that allows the ranch to monitor harvest constantly. The ranch holds a field day each year before hunting season for lease holders and their biologists to preview the upcoming season and explain changes in harvest requirements and cosponsors a deer management short course each fall using nationally recognized experts.

"Our overall goal is to ensure that King Ranch always has a thriving wildlife population," says Mickey Hellickson, chief wildlife biologist. "Most herd managers worry about next year or five years down the road; we are looking decades ahead."

The importance of wildlife to the ranch's economic well-being is a fairly recent development, one shared by smaller ranches from Dalhart to Brownsville. "In 1978, King Ranch leased its first property for hunting," says wildlife manager Butch Thompson. "Large-scale commercial hunting started in 1988." The need to generate income from wildlife came at a fortuitous time, when demand for hunting was increasing and income from oil was falling.

Thompson became wildlife manager for the ranch in 1988. He enlisted the help of the late Sam Beasom of the

Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute near Sinton and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist Randy Fugate to design a wildlife management program that would support commercial hunting. Annual censuses of the deer herd began, along with the collection of biological data on every animal harvested. Lessees must harvest a minimum number of does, along with a maximum number of high-quality bucks. Lessees may also take an unlimited number of older bucks with inferior antlers. The intent of the regulations is to leave plenty of trophy bucks in

the herd to pass on their genes. On average, hunters take 1,200 bucks and 2,500 does off the ranch each year.

The ranch hosts 75 to 100 youth hunts for does and cull bucks each year as a way of helping manage the wildlife. Hunts are organized by a variety of organizations, including the Texas Wildlife Association and local high school Future Farmers of America programs. TPWD game wardens also conduct youth hunts on the ranch.

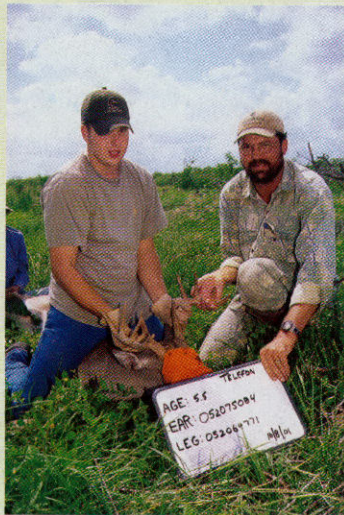
Nothing better illustrates the ranch's commitment to wildlife than its management of bobwhite quail. On the King Ranch, a six-ounce quail is as important as an 1,100-pound heifer. Quail are a major drawing card for hunters, attracting more interest than deer. Cattle and quail vie for

top revenue-generating honors. Most years quail rank first, cattle second. Deer take third place, followed by horses, though the rankings can change from year to year depending on range conditions. "Incomes from wildlife and cattle are roughly equivalent," says Genho. "Some years cattle blow wildlife away; other years it's more wildlife. Neither wildlife alone nor cattle alone will pay enough to operate a ranch."

Quail numbers on the ranch fluctuate wildly depending on rainfall. "Add water in the spring and you will have quail," Thompson says. "Our best harvest year was 30,000 birds; the average is around 14,000." Since quail usually are the No. 1 revenue generator for the ranch, range management practices are geared toward quail first, then cattle, then deer. So valued is quail hunting that there is no need for harvest quotas.

"We have very enthusiastic quail hunters, and they do a very good job of controlling their harvest, because they want to take care of their quail as badly as King Ranch does," says Hellickson. "In years of poor quail numbers some lessees will not hunt quail at all, and they are paying a substantial amount of money for those leases."

Cattle ranching and hunting operations are highly integrated. "The King Ranch is unique in that most people see cattle and wildlife as opposing entities," says Hellickson. "Here, both wildlife managers and cattle managers com-



Mickey Hellickson, right, is the chief wildlife biologist at King Ranch. The ranch hosts youth hunts for does and cull bucks as part of the wildlife management strategy.

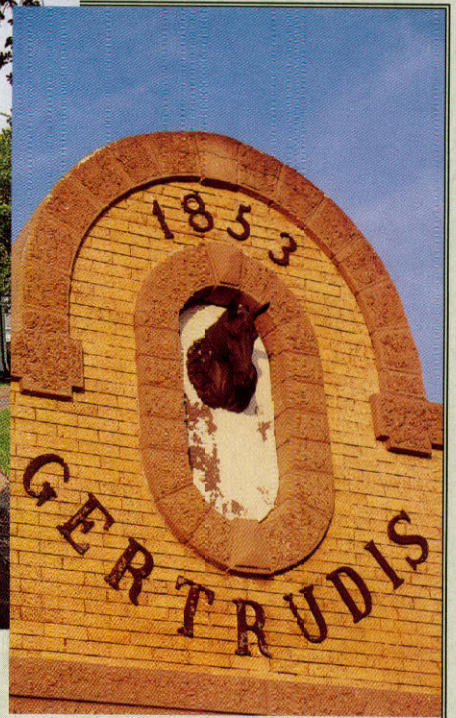
UNFRAGMENTED AND UNSPOILED, THE KING RANCH IS A WILDLIFE PARADISE.



PHOTOS © GRADY ALLEN



QUAIL ARE A MAJOR DRAWING CARD FOR HUNTERS, ATTRACTING MORE INTEREST THAN DEER, CATTLE AND QUAIL VIE FOR TOP REVENUE-GENERATING HONORS.



Historical buildings on the ranch include the main house, top left, built in 1912, and Mrs. King's carriage house, above, built in 1909. Quail, left, are the No. 1 revenue generator for the ranch.



not only the same 19th century products but also cotton, mile lawn sod, orange juice, oil and natural gas. It welcomes visitors interested in nature and ranch history as well as hunting.

In celebration of its 150th birthday, the ranch established the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management in cooperation with Texas A&M University-Kingsville. The Institute aims to provide future ranch managers a broad-based education in wildlife, cattle and range management principles.

Richard and Henrietta King's dream for their ranch has been realized. Caesar Kleberg's vision of the importance of wildlife has been sustained and developed. And all of Texas is the better for sharing the King Ranch heritage. ★

LARRY D. HODGE, *formerly wildlife editor of this magazine, now works at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens.*

For More Information

Visit www.kingranch.com for an overview of ranch history and operations and detailed information on hunting, visitation and guided tours. The King Ranch Visitor Center, open daily, is just inside the ranch entrance on Texas 141 on Kingsville's western edge. Call (361) 592-8055 for hours, fees and reservations.

promise." Nowhere is this more evident than in the brush management practices of the ranch. Bulldozers sculpt pastures to contain 65 percent open grassland and 35 percent brush arranged for the benefit of quail and deer. Range manager Verl Cash maps the brush in each pasture using a GIS (Geographic Information System) database and downloads the information onto computers aboard the bulldozers. GPS (Global Positioning System) satellites guide the machines as they clank and roar through the pastures, taking out only designated areas of brush.

Valuing the Land

All management practices on the ranch begin and end with taking care of the land. Some 60,000 cattle roam the ranch; a four-pasture, three-herd grazing system designed to reduce

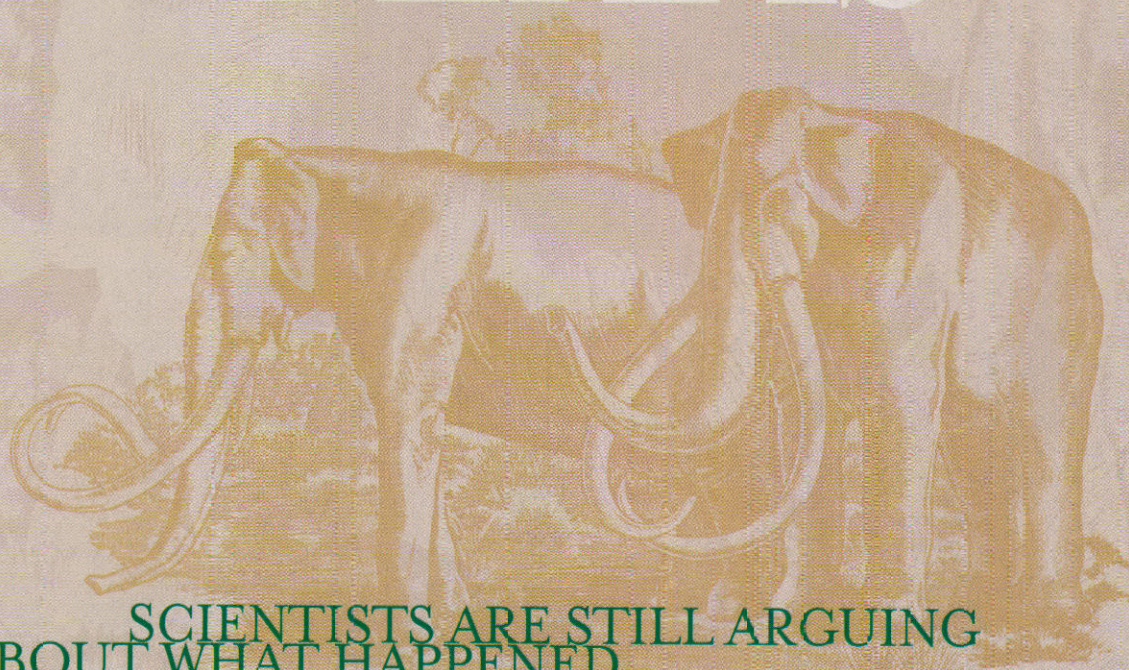
grazing pressure quickly during droughts is used in the pastures that are still in native bunch grasses. "Everything we do goes back to dirt," says Thompson. "If you have good dirt and take care of it, you have what it takes to grow good deer."

Long-range planning and innovation have been keys to the ranch's success since its inception. Currently the ranch is conducting genetic research on white-tailed deer and is evaluating the effectiveness of different methods of censusing quail. In addition, many students at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute use the ranch as a research laboratory.

A hundred years ago the list of King Ranch products included only cattle, horses and leather goods. Today King Ranch is a highly diversified agricultural and energy operation, producing




THE BIGGEST GAME IN TEXAS



SCIENTISTS ARE STILL ARGUING
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE GIANT MAMMALS
THAT ONCE ROAMED TEXAS.

BY THAD SITTON

Around 11,200 years ago, a group of people clustered around a campfire at upper Buttermilk Creek in what is now Bell County, Texas. As they moved back and forth in the flickering firelight, familiar sounds that were about to disappear forever drifted in from the night: the trumpeting of gigantic elephants stirring restlessly in the dark and the territorial roars of nocturnal hunting cats.



ARCHAEOLOGISTS EVOLVED A THEORY THAT THE CLOVIS CULTURE, AND THE SLIGHTLY LATER FOLSOM CULTURE, WERE CULTURES OF SPECIALIZED NOMADIC BIG-GAME HUNTERS.

Other creatures wandering the night landscape made little noise, or were heard much less often, but the people around the campfire must have known they were out there. Somewhere in their thoughts and fears must have been the short-faced bear, a super predator twice the size of a grizzly that ran faster than a horse.

Occasionally, a sound any modern hunter might identify also drifted in on the wind: the night song of coyotes. Like the humans around the campfire and the white-tailed deer, *Canis latrans* would survive. But not the great mammals of the end of the ice age — the so-called "Pleistocene megafauna." In 11,200 B.P. (before the present) a catastrophic extinction of huge North American mammals was already underway.

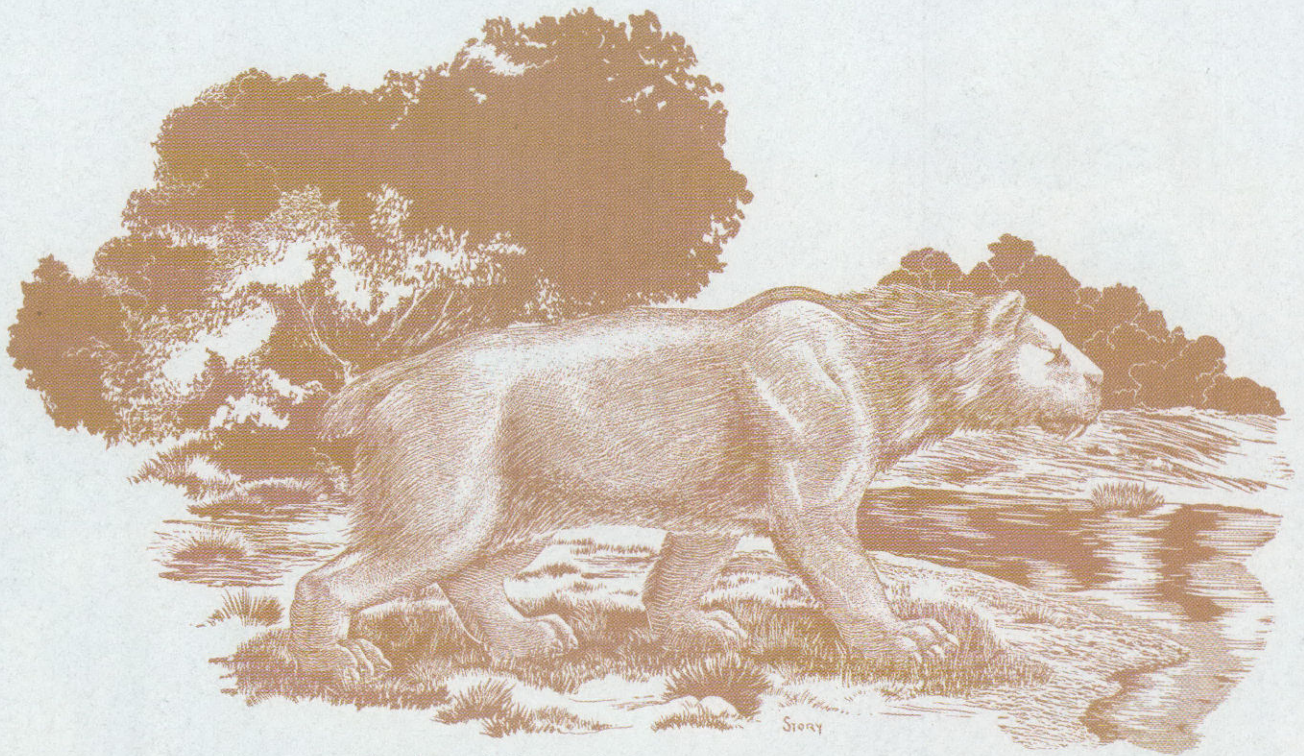
Some archaeologists blame the group

these magnificent and dangerous animals in such a brief period of time? Or did something akin to modern-day wildlife loss take place, caused primarily by the disappearance and change of habitat?

The answers are being pieced together gradually from the animal bones and stone weapons left around ancient campfires such as this one.

streams of Texas rivers, as did round-tailed beavers the size of black bears with front teeth as big as ax blades.

Ground sloths, ranging in size from bears to small elephants, lumbered about. They had evolved from small, tree-climbing sloths similar to modern South American species. Harlan's ground sloth stood over 6 feet tall and weighed 3,500 pounds, but adult males of the genus *Megatherium* reached 20 feet and weighed three tons. *Megatherium* dung



The saber-toothed cat used its huge, interlocking canine teeth to kill prey.

of people around the campfire for pushing the remaining species over the edge with hunting pressure. These were the Clovis people, named for their highly refined stone hunting points, which first were found by archaeologists in the early 1930s near Clovis, N.M. Another name for them is Paleo-Indians, for many archaeologists believe they were ancestors of the people whom European settlers found when they came to the Americas. The Clovis people appear to have lived in North America for only about 500 years. Could a group of people armed with hunting spears and an acute knowledge of the animals they hunted have extinguished all of

A Land of Giants

During the last great ice age, many mammals had evolved in America that were to disappear. Horses and camels roamed the land. They had evolved in the Americas, then later spread across the intermittent Bering land bridge to Eurasia. Moving from Asia, giant long-horned bison, much larger than the modern form, had colonized North America long before, and in the Pleistocene era, which stretches back more than 1.5 million years, they traveled the land in immense herds. Big bulls might stand 7½ feet at the shoulder and weigh 3,500 pounds. Huge, cold-adapted tapirs swam the ancestral

still fills certain western caves many feet deep.

Beavers, sloths, elephants — many animals grew larger than similar modern species. Plant-eaters presumably increased in size as an adaptation to the ice age climate and the flesh-eaters enlarged, better to kill and eat the plant-eaters. The flat-headed peccary, for example, reached the size of a European wild boar. The Columbian mammoth roamed Texas, the adults perhaps immune from attack by all predators except humans. Standing between 11 feet and 13 feet high at the shoulder, the this mammoth was the largest creature to walk North America since the dinosaurs.

FOR A LONG TIME WE
KNEW THE CLOVIS
PEOPLE AND OTHER
PALEO-INDIANS ONLY
BY THEIR KILL AND
BUTCHERING SITES.



Then there were the flesh eaters out there in the dark, grown huge to prey on other giants. Scientists still quarrel about the exact dates of extinctions of these beasts, but there may have been an American lion akin to the African species, only twice as big, and a gigantic jaguar. Smilodon, the famous saber-toothed cat preserved by the thousands in California's La Brea tar pits, has been found at many Texas sites. It had strong limbs and a heavy muscular build, making it much more bulky than modern cats. Like the bobcat, the saber-tooth had a short, stubby tail, and paleontologists speculate that it lay in wait to pounce on its prey instead of chasing, as

than a modern polar bear, *Arctodus* weighed up to 2,000 pounds and was built differently from either of these two large surviving bears.

The short-faced bear was tall, rangy, long-legged and designed for speed — sort of a monstrous “bear-cheetah,” evolved for running down prey by speed of foot. Unlike modern bears, which are omnivorous and often forage on plants and berries, *Arctodus* possessed the skull and teeth of a true meat-eater; its dentition closely resembles that of a lion. *Arctodus* had huge nasal passages, the better to inhale great volumes of oxygen during the chase. Its paws turned directly forward, the better to run fast, and

to walk the face of North America? Your defense consists of a bunch of hand-held sticks with pointed rocks attached to one end.”

Since no conclusive evidence of human-bear confrontations has been found, the students' scenario is highly speculative, but humans, like short-faced bears, are formidable beings. Years ago I observed an archaeologist demonstrate the effectiveness of “hand-held sticks with pointed rocks” on an archery target. He had trained himself by long practice to throw light, stone-tipped spears with a hand-held spear thrower or atlatl, and one after another he thumped feathered missiles with



Huge tapirs swam in the streams that later became Texas rivers.

modern lions do. It dispatched its victim by a bite to the throat with its huge, interlocking canine teeth. Dire wolves, shorter and heavier than modern timber wolves, with strong jaws and thick, bone-crushing teeth, hunted in packs.

Wolves, lions and saber-tooth cats doubtless got out of the way of one beast, the short-faced bear, a creature one scientist termed “the most powerful predator of the American Pleistocene.” *Arctodus*, also called “the great bear” or “the bulldog bear,” towered up to 7 feet at the shoulder and nearly 12 feet when it stood up, which it often did, judging from the structure of its pelvis. Twice the size of a grizzly, half again larger

were quite unlike those of the pigeon-toed grizzly. At the end of the short-faced bear's paws were long, lethal claws.

The Clovis Hunters

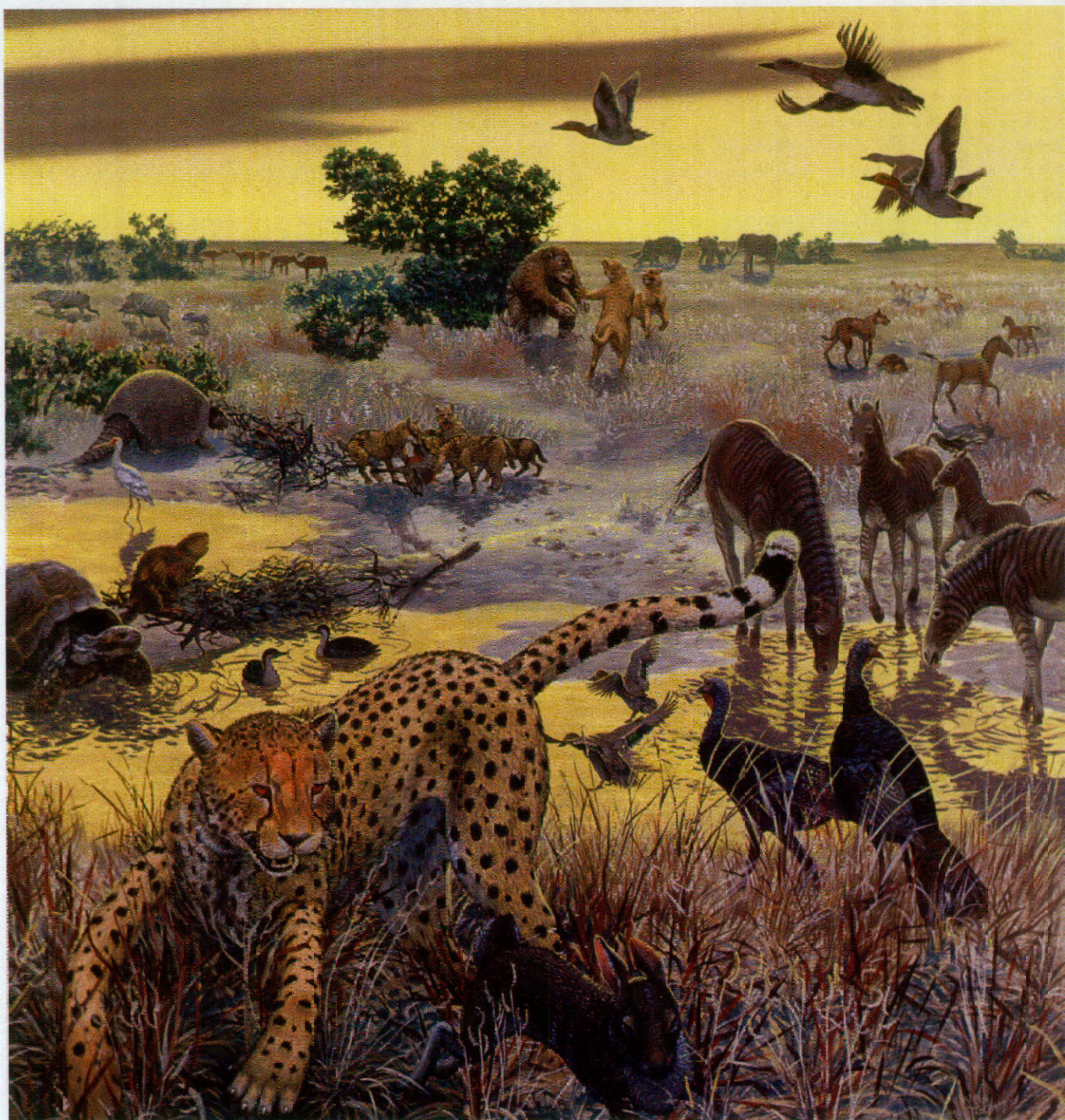
Scientific descriptions of this formidable predator have proven fascinating to the general public. In a prize-winning essay about the paleo-history of Cass County, Texas, three high school science students theorized about encounters between people and the short-faced bear.

“Imagine the scenario of man being hunted instead of being the hunter,” they wrote. “How about being tracked by the biggest, fastest, most agile predator

great force into the bull's-eye at 30 yards.

If there were bear-man confrontations, probably each side took casualties. Dating from about 11,100 B.P., the Lubbock Lake butchering site near the city of that name contained a few foot bones of the short-faced bear, with possible cutting marks that suggest that bears, like mammoths, had been butchered.

For a long time we knew the Clovis people and other Paleo-Indians only by their kill and butchering sites. Our knowledge was one-dimensional — so much so that archaeologists evolved a theory that the Clovis culture, and the



slightly later Folsom culture, were cultures of specialized, nomadic big-game hunters. Large, finely chipped Clovis points date back to approximately 12,000 B.P. and sometimes were found associated with mammoth bones. Archaeologists have found smaller, fluted-based, Folsom points associated with the butchered remains of large extinct bison.

Mammoth-hunting techniques are less certain, the archaeological records more ambiguous. People almost certainly scavenged recently dead mammoths and mastodons, and finished off and butchered self-trapped, bogged-down, sick or injured ones. But just

THERE MAY HAVE BEEN AN AMERICAN LION AKIN TO THE AFRICAN SPECIES, ONLY TWICE AS BIG, AND A GIGANTIC JAGUAR.

how, or how much they hunted entirely healthy animals isn't certain. Archaeologist Eileen Johnson, who helped excavate the Lubbock Lake site, has written that the Clovis people probably used their knowledge of mammoth herd behavior to confront, contain and kill small family units of three to five

animals at Texas sites near Lubbock and in the Pahrhandle town of Miami.

If they did, they were risking their lives.

Hunters or Climate?

Until the mid-1990s, most archaeologists believed that specialized Clovis mammoth hunters were the first people in the New World. According to the "ice-free corridor" theory about the peopling of the Americas, humans entered the New World across the Bering land bridge, then spread south to populate North America after an ice-free corridor opened east of the Rocky Mountain glaciers and west of the great

continental ice sheet. This happened sometime around 12,000 B.P., give or take a thousand years, and only at that date did a way open into North America. According to this scenario, as Clovis people spread south and east they made the most of a vast, virgin wilderness full of big game animals that were easy to kill because they had never known human hunters before.

Did the hunters indulge themselves too much, slaughtering far beyond need? Scientist Paul S. Martin added a dark twist to the Clovis story with his compelling theories of "Paleolithic overkill." Of a certainty, three major changes took place at about the time the Clovis people stood around the Texas campfire in 11,200 B.P.: human hunting populations increased and spread, the ice age climate warmed up and dried out and — for reasons not yet fully understood — most remaining species of large Pleistocene mammals continued their swift slide toward extinction.

Martin and his followers placed the blame for extinction of the later species not upon climate-induced habitat change but squarely upon the "prehistoric blitzkrieg" launched across North America by human hunters. The deadly

Clovis point did it. Pleistocene extinction patterns "track human movements," Martin asserted.

Support for a Counter-Theory

Evidence mounts, however, that people had reached the Americas a long time before the Clovis culture, the opening of the ice-free corridor and the great extinction event at the end of the Pleistocene. Using the same technologies, why didn't these earlier hunter-gatherer cultures cause extinctions? And were the Clovis people specialized big-game killers, and only that, as Martin's "overkill" theory tended to assume? And how had the bison, favored prey animal of the Paleo-Indian hunters for millennia, survived into historic times by the untold millions?

Ancestors of the people around that Texas campfire in 11,200 B.P. perhaps had lived in North America for thousands of years. (Another theory holds that another group entirely may have populated the Americas, and then died out before the Clovis people arrived.) Grudgingly at first, beginning in 1997 with the general recognition of pre-Clovis artifacts dated to 12,300 B.P. at a site called Monte Verde in southern

Chile, most scientists accepted a greater time depth for humans in North America. Not all agree, but a pre-Clovis site at Cactus Hill, Va., has been dated to approximately 15,000 B.P.; strata at Meadowcroft Rockshelter, Pa., have been dated (not without intense dispute) from 12,000 BP to 19,000 B.P.; and the disputed lowest levels of the Monte Verde site reach an astonishing 30,000 B.P. Scientists from other disciplines supported these figures. Linguists estimate that 20,000 years may have been necessary to develop the more than 1,500 languages spoken in the ancient Americas, and biologists studying mitochondrial DNA believe that a time depth of 30,000 years is required to explain its genetic diversity of peoples.

Assuming some part of this greater time depth, scientists increasingly speculate about multiple migrations and other routes by which ancient people may have reached the Americas. Theories abound, and scholars sometimes attack each other like dire wolves and saber-toothed cats. "We are in the theoretical chaos that follows the collapse of a long-held theory," archaeologist Michael B. Collins explains.

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Climatic Change at Work?

Collins' own research has helped to shatter old theories about Clovis hunters. Clovis people and their successors camped for thousands of years at the Gault site on the upper reaches of Buttermilk Creek, west of Salado, Texas, on the eastern edge of the Hill Country. For two-thirds of a century, archaeologists had to content themselves with excavating a long succession of Clovis and Folsom kill sites that were temporary food processing camps with scanty cultural data. By contrast, people lived at the Gault site nearly continuously from 12,000 B.P. until about 1,000 B.P., and the earliest levels of the site offer rich data about the life-ways of Clovis hunter and gatherers.

The Gault site began to draw intense professional attention after the excavation of Clovis points in association with mammoth bones in 1958. Major excavations by a team of scholars from the University of Texas and Texas A&M University began in 1998, with Collins serving as project director. From this large, stratified site, researchers are gleaming hundreds of thousands of artifacts. The Clovis people's complete stone tool kit is present: blades and

burins and spear points and all the rest, along with evidence about how they made the tools, how they lived and the foods they ate. Parts of the tool kit crafted from bones, antlers and other organic materials did not survive in the Hill Country soil.

The people around the campfire emerge as classic hunter-gatherers, not specialized mammoth hunters as had so often been assumed. They used some tools found at Buttermilk Creek to gather wild plant foods, including four Clovis blades. Microscopic wear on these blades reveals that "among other tasks these were used for cutting grass or other plants rich in silicate." As Collins and archaeologist Thomas Hester report: "Recent discoveries and new analytical techniques have shown that Clovis people were generalized hunters and gatherers who lived on everything from turtles and alligators to foxes and opossums, along with an occasional mammoth, bison or horse. The traditional view of Clovis culture has crumbled along with the Iron Curtain."

So has Martin's theory that Clovis hunters bear the primary responsibility for the late Pleistocene extinctions. Many scholars now blame rapid climate

change — global warming and desertification — for the great die-off. Habitats changed drastically and the great ice age creatures could not adapt. Still others have proposed disease pathogens as the cause of the ice age extinctions.

In any case, while the Clovis people at Buttermilk Creek stood around their campfires in the centuries after 11,200 B.P., many familiar sounds coming from the dark began to be heard less frequently, as the last remaining ice age species declined toward extinction.

Perhaps this happened quickly enough so that certain close observers among the elderly noticed that the trumpeting of mammoths or the territorial roars of big cats sounded less often than in their childhoods. Finally, there was silence, with perhaps memories of the sounds and sights of the great beasts lingering in legend and oral tradition for a few centuries more. By 8,000 B.P., people still frequented camp fires at Buttermilk Creek, but they heard only what Euro- and African-American pioneers heard after their arrival in the Texas wilderness so many centuries later — the howls of gray wolves, the hooting of barred owls and the night songs of coyotes. ★

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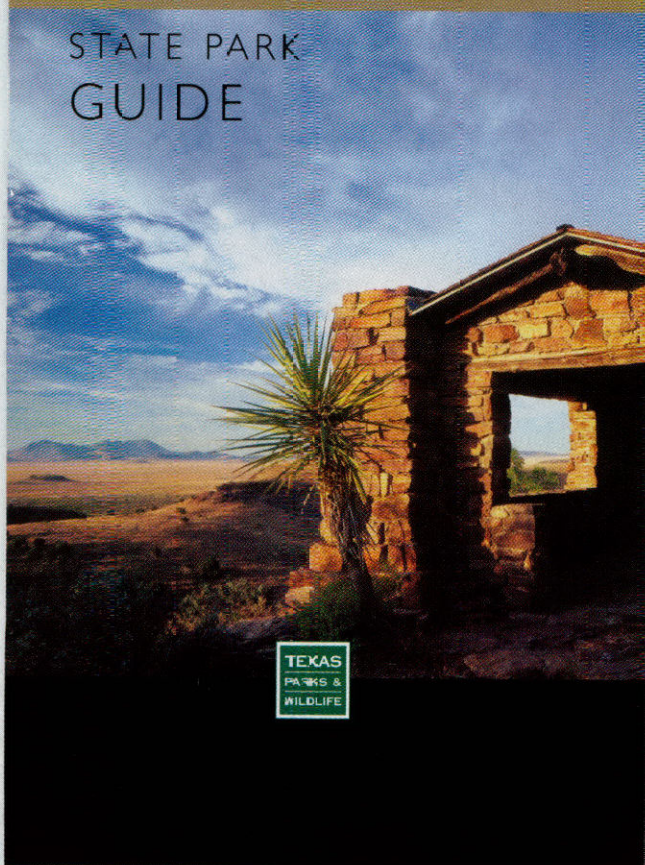
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Cool, clear rivers cut through the limestone splits of the Edwards Plateau and present turquoise-green meadows of escape in the Hill Country. Jump into the Blanco River, tub down the Guadalupe, or wade into the Frio, and you'll find yourself succumbing to the sizzle magic of this hilly terrain. Hike up the smooth pink dome of Enchanted Rock, where you'll discover an unexpected array of plant and animal life needed in its crevices. The parks here are among the most popular in the state, but there are plenty of attractions to go around. You can always find a trail in the river, a rare bird, or a corner of a canyon to discover on your own. Head below the surface at Longhorn Cavern, and you'll find some astonishing subterranean spaces to explore.



HILL COUNTRY REGION

Enchanted Rock STATE NATURAL AREA



CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THIS UNIQUE PINK GRANITE DOME THAT RISES 425 FEET ABOVE the surrounding countryside. It is one of the largest batholiths, or exposed underground rock formations, in the U.S.A. Indians named it *Believing Ghosts* because of the top and that a Spanish conquistador had cast a spell on it. The park is so popular with rock climbers, hikers and campers, especially on weekends, that it occasionally fills an capacity and has to be closed out before you go. ☎ (915) 247-1963

Admiral Nimitz Museum STATE HISTORIC SITE Nations: Museum of the Pacific War



THE NIMITZ HOTEL IN THE HEART OF FREDERICKSBURG was the boyhood home of Chester W. Nimitz, the fleet admiral who led the Navy to victory in the Pacific during World War II and signed the Japanese surrender documents. The Nimitz family's summer home is the historic centerpiece of this site on Fredericksburg Plain State. Now part of a museum complex that showcases over 33,000 square feet of exhibits, the site is home to the world's foremost museum on the United States' involvement in the Pacific War. Visitors can wander through the archives, viewing a captured Japanese intelligence, a 10-ton army camp in the South Pacific, authentic Allied and Japanese military artifacts, or they can sit in a Japanese Garden of Peace. ☎ (830) 917-4379

Garner STATE PARK



GARNER PARK IS A SUMMER RITUAL for so many families that now some represent the fifth generation to have spent part of their vacation on the Frio River. Some of the traditions began during the CCC period when the "boys" constructed a stone dance pavilion and invited local girls to the dance. Now the park hosts the oldest outdoor dance in Texas with live music filling the valley each evening. But during the day, hiking and exploring in the cool waters of the compressed river holds sway. Summer weekends bring out so many people the parking lot fills and day users may be turned away. Best advice: visit during mid-week or off-season periods. Reserve cabins, shelters and concrete benches in advance. Visitor Center, seasonal grocery store, measure golf, and public boats are available. ☎ (800) 323-4132

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ALONG THE COURSE OF THE SABINAL RIVER, springs flow through the scenic and rugged limestone canyon. Hike like ponds with grassy banks which are perfect places to pitch a backpacker tent. Wildlife thrives everywhere, including the endangered golden-cheeked woodrat or black-capped vireo. Hike along the stone miles of trails up steep canyon cuts to reach several dramatic overlooks. But the star of this 2,000-acre park remains a stand of uncommon Double-Edged Maple trees from the last Ice Age. Large weekend crowds journey here when the maples turn vivid reds and yellows in late October and early November as it's best to schedule a mid-week trip during the peak season. ☎ (800) 966-7413

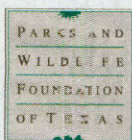
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Thanks to Toyota and the Parks & Wildlife Foundation of Texas for providing funding to help make this new guide available to the public.



EASY GEESE

SETTING DECOYS IS THE CLASSIC WAY TO HUNT GEESE,
BUT PASS SHOOTING WORKS IF YOU KNOW HOW.

BY LARRY D. HODGE

I LOVE HUNTING GEESE OVER A DECOY SPREAD.
The sight and sound of flock after flock of clamoring birds
hovering over you as they try to decide if those are real geese
down there is a spectacle that never fails to delight.



But there's one thing I don't like about hunting over decoys. Setting out a decoy spread is work. hard work. Hunting often takes place in a rice paddy that is still flooded or recently was, and walking in thick, black mud wearing waders while setting out several hundred decoys is not fun. Even on a cool morning you work up quite a sweat putting out decoys, and then you get to lie down in cold mud.

It is possible to hunt geese another way, without a decoy spread. Called flight-shooting or pass-shooting, it involves figuring out the route geese will use to get into a field and then putting yourself in position to shoot as they pass over. In some ways it's like dove hunting. Like doves, geese seem to follow particular routes on their way into a field, and a hunt begins with observing where most

of the birds seem to be going, then choosing a hunting location within range.

"I have several groups of regular customers who specifically request to hunt this way," says outfitter Clifton Tyler of Eagle Lake. "With a group of hunters, I'll spread them out 100 yards apart all the way across a field." That way, as in dove shooting, no matter where the birds fly, a hunter will be waiting. And, as in dove hunting, hunters must be careful to maintain a safe zone of fire.

Oddly enough, my favorite way to begin such a goose hunt is by hunting ducks. At the first hint of daylight, ducks leave their roosts and search for feeding areas. Legal shooting begins 30 minutes before sunrise, and most duck hunts are over by the time the sun is above the horizon. That's about when geese begin to leave the roost, so there's time to do both.

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My morning duck hunt takes place over a pond that was a fallow field a week ago. The rain has been falling, and falling and falling, and the creeks have been rising, and rising and rising. The

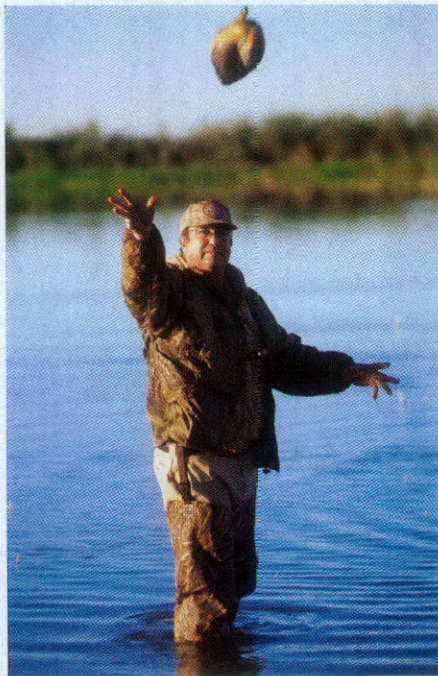
Clifton Tyler sets out duck decoys, above.

Later in the morning, geese descend into a field to feed. Astro heads for a downed duck.

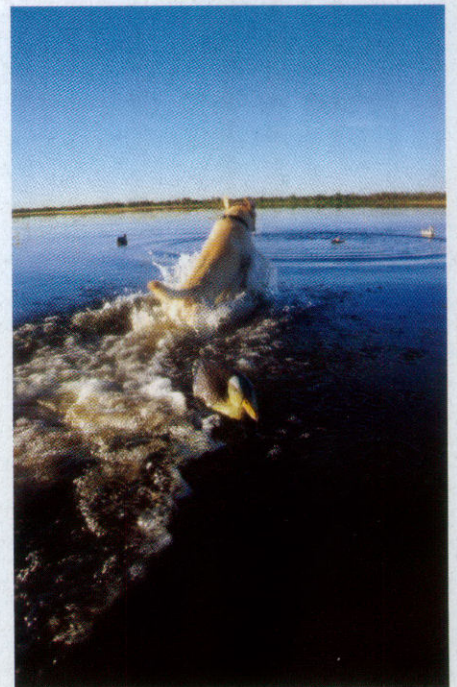
day before our hunt, the creek we crossed on the way in was impassable; today it's only a foot deep over the road, though still 30 yards wide.

The temperature is in the 40s, and the sky is so clear the stars seem sharp holes pierced through the blackness. For the Texas Gulf Coast, it's cold. It's early November, and despite the cool air, blue-winged teal are still the predominant duck on the prairie. From time to time, a few pintails and shovelers look over our spread, but bunches of teal buzz us, occasionally offering a shot. The first duck that comes in becomes part of my bag. Two more bluewings join it before sunrise, and a little later a shoveler makes the mistake of attempting to land in the spread.

The plan is to hunt ducks early, then look for geese flying into a field where we can get under their flight pattern and pass-shoot them. I get an early preview when five white-fronted geese (specklebellies) pass over us just a bit too low. I'd resisted the temptation to shoot at several other groups, thinking they were too high, but this group seems within range, even though I'm shooting No. 4 steel shot. As the geese pass over I lead the closest bird the length of its body and touch off the load, crumpling it instantly. Astro, Clifton Tyler's yellow



PHOTOS BY LARRY D. HODGE





Snow geese flock into a field near Louise. This field could offer a good hunt on the morrow.

Labrador retriever, regards me with respect that was lacking when I missed some easy shots at decoying ducks.

The air is dead calm, and our decoys sit lifelessly on the water. The sun is less than an hour high when Tyler calls an end to the hunt. "Ducks just don't seem to move around much when there's no wind," he explains. "Let's go look for geese."

Geese are everywhere, of course, but we're not looking for just any geese. We're looking for geese with an itch to get into a particular field to feed. That itch can be so strong it will keep geese coming back throughout the day as they alternately feed and water. The geese will trade back and forth between the same watering and feeding sites, so it's usually possible to choose a spot beneath a route being used by substantial numbers of birds. That's the place we want to hunt.

Almost all the prairies around Eagle Lake are leased for hunting by one outfit or another, so we have to find a field that Tyler has permission to hunt. As we drive the graveled country roads, we see clouds of geese descending in the distance. Soon we find ourselves on a road between two separate feeding flocks. Hundreds of geese descend on

Early Season or Late?

Until a few years ago, Mike Whalen, owner of Porter Creek Hunting Club near El Campo, was a purist who would hunt geese only over decoys. But as the snow goose population rose and the percentage of older birds too smart to decoy went up, Whalen began to study goose behavior. And now he uses the knowledge he's gained to pass-shoot when conditions are right.

"Pass-shooting works best late in the season," Whalen says. "The birds are trying to conserve energy for the flight back north, and they won't fly any farther or higher than necessary. In addition, the middles of the fields are all fed out, so the geese will be feeding in the edges of the fields near cover they would normally avoid. If you can get downwind of a feeding area in a direct line between it and the roost, you can do well."

"Everything has to be exactly right for it to work," Whalen cautions. "You have to be in the flight path geese are going to take between a roost pond and a feeding field. I'll put a dozen or so shell decoys out in front of the hunters, and three or four dozen a hundred yards or so behind them. The geese will spot the small group of decoys first and head for it, but when they see the larger group farther on, their attention will be focused there." Just as in magic tricks, a little misdirection goes a long way toward fooling the mark. When the geese head for the more distant group of decoys, hunters hidden between the two spreads have pass-shooting at geese within decoying range.

Early season pass-shooting is possible when all the right conditions come together. "You must adapt to the situation," Whalen says. "Scout. Observe. Don't hunt aimlessly." By way of example, he takes me to one of his favorite pass-shooting spots, an area he calls "the pit blinds." At first glance it appears to be nothing more than a large open field with a dry irrigation canal heavily bearded with weeds running east to west across its middle.

Whalen explains why pass-shooting works here. "This is a large, open field with no obstructions such as power lines, trees or oil field equipment in it that geese will fly around rather than over. There's a roost pond to the south of the field. If birds are feeding north of the canal and there's a strong north wind, geese will fly right over the ditch at low level on their way to feed." By hijacking in the ditch and using the natural cover along its edges, hunters can have good pass-shooting, because there's nothing to tip the birds off that hunters are there.

As if to validate Whalen's remarks, a flight of about 10 snow geese bears straight across the field at us, 20 yards high. Not until they near us do they flare.



Snow geese are notorious for flaring from decoy spreads. Using natural cover such as McCartney rose in a fencerow is a key to pass-shooting.

each of the fields. Fortunately, Tyler has leased a field just to the north of one of the feeding flocks, and a steady stream of geese passes over it. An irrigation canal with a fence by it bisects the field, and clumps of McCartney rose grow along the fence, offering good places to hide. "We can hunt right here" he says. However, in case the geese abandon this field on the morrow, we continue our search for an alternate site.

By the time we finish scouting, it's too late to begin a hunt. It's an unwritten law around Eagle Lake that goose hunting ends at noon. That gives the geese a chance to feed unmolested all afternoon, making them more likely to stay in the area. Plus, geese generally return in the morning to feed in the same field they left the evening before; leaving them undisturbed makes it more likely they will return the next day.

One of the pleasures of flight shooting is that you don't have to get up at 4 a.m. to set out decoys. We do rise early the next morning to breakfast with the hunters going out to shoot over decoys, but after they leave we have time for a half-hour nap. This is the decadent goose hunting I've dreamed about.

When we arrive at the field, we can hear geese clamoring on a roost half a mile away. Ducks and cormorants occu-

py the air while the geese discuss — loudly — what to do and when to do it. The sun is almost up when a roar spills across the prairie, the roar from thousands of geese taking off within seconds of each other. Some are headed our way. I hunker beside my clump of McCartney rose and wait.

Soon geese are everywhere above me, but most are out of range. One of the tricks to pass-shooting is learning to judge distance accurately. Unlike objects in a rearview mirror, geese are generally farther away than they appear. I train a laser rangefinder on a goose that seems to be nearly within range. The reading is 117 yards, more than twice as far as effective shotgun range. I continue ranging geese until I'm confident I can tell when they are close enough.

Before long a flight of white-fronted geese gives me my first opportunity. It takes me three shots to get the lead right but I drop my first goose of the day. For a while I watch as geese pass by low enough but out of range to one side or the other, then I abandon my rose bush and take to the chest-high weeds in the middle of the field. The move pays off as five white-fronted geese come straight over me, and I drop the middle one. As in dove shooting, I shoot at only one goose at a time and watch it all the way to

the ground, then never take my eyes off the spot as I go to retrieve it. Not doing so can result in lost birds in thick cover such as this.

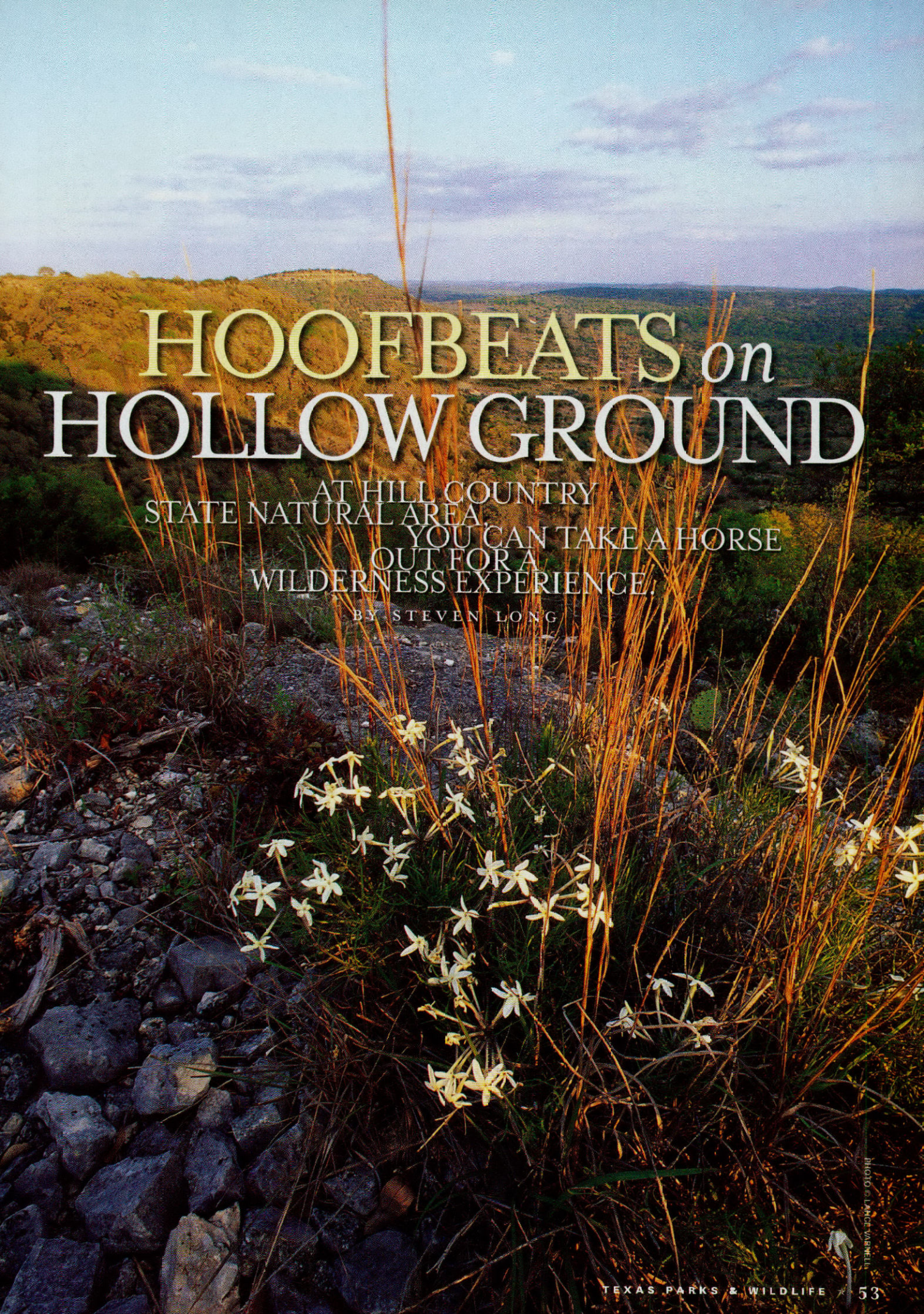
My final goose of the morning is a snow that approaches in the midst of a flock of white-fronted geese. I have my two-bird limit of white-fronted geese, so I can only watch and hope as the geese approach. At the last minute the snow decides to angle slightly my way and breaks free of the others, offering me the clear shot I need.

In spread hunting, with more than one person shooting, it's sometimes difficult to claim a downed bird. As I unload my gun, I mention to Tyler that one of the benefits of hunting geese using this method is that it is always clear who shot a goose. "There's another benefit, too," he replies. "After you're done hunting you don't have to pick up a decoy spread." ★

Outfitters

The following outfitters will either do pass-shooting when birds won't decoy to a spread or will book parties specifically for pass-shooting.

- Blue Goose Hunting Club, Altair, <www.bluegoosehuntingclub.com> (979) 234-3597
- Clifton Tyler Goose Hunting Club, Eagle Lake, <www.texasgoosehunt.com> (979) 732-6502
- Central Flyway Outfitters, Winnie, <www.centralflywayoutfitters.com>, (281) 255-4868
- Larry Gore's Eagle Lake & Katy Prairie Outfitters, Katy, <www.larrygore.com>, (888) 894-6673
- Porter Creek Hunting Club, Louise, <www.portercreekhuntingclub.com>, (979) 543-7349



HOOFBEATS *on* HOLLOW GROUND

AT HILL COUNTRY
STATE NATURAL AREA,
YOU CAN TAKE A HORSE
OUT FOR A
WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE.

BY STEVEN LONG

PHOTO © LANCE VORNELL



Nancy Livengood, formerly a ranger at Hill Country State Natural Area, assisted the group on their ride. The author and Bruja take a break, below.

BRUJA LOOKS AT THE CLEAR RUNNING WATER OF BANDERA CREEK, deciding whether to get her hooves wet. Lucky for me, she's willing to do whatever I ask, but she is a careful horse and I appreciate that on the steep and sometimes slippery limestone trails of Hill Country State Natural Area.

After more than 50 years of mostly casual riding I am still only a pleasure rider, albeit a dedicated one. This isn't Bruja's first time to see the Hill Country. We had spent a hard weekend riding at a nearby ranch. This is our sport. We don't rope or barrel race. We aren't competitive in any way. We love nothing more than to strike out on an upland trail to see what is on the other side of a hill.

We made our first such ride several years ago among the rugged rocks and mountains of Big Bend Ranch State Park. There, a roper — the kind of guy who is at home in chaps and can wear a giant hat with grace — urged me to try Hill Country SNA in Bandera County. It's an hour northwest of San Antonio and an easy drive from my home in Houston.

Hill Country SNA is one of a handful of public places in Texas where you can take a horse out for a wilderness experience. This 5,300-acre park contains 22 trails totaling 36 miles that are open to backpacking, horseback riding and mountain biking. Three miles are reserved strictly for horseback riding



and hikers. The tallest of the limestone hills is more than 1,900 feet and the views on the steep trails are spectacular. The spring-fed streams run over broad, rocky bottoms. Forests of oak and juniper shade the rugged hillsides. The equestrian campsites are equipped with corrals, picket lines and water for horses. If you don't own a horse, you can rent from one of a score of liverys that serve the park from nearby Bandera, a town that bills itself as the "Cowboy Capital of the World."

Bruja steps into the water and wades upstream a bit behind the other horses in our party, then follows them up the bank on the other side of the creek. We are riding the park's trail No. 7, two challenging miles that follow the creek bottom. In many ways, this trail is more difficult than the park's upland treks because it makes several trips up and down creek banks, always a difficult task for a horse.

The first time Bruja emerges from the water she stops, then carefully places a hoof on limestone as she climbs, then jumps to higher ground. She does this again and again as we ride from creek bottom to bank, horse and rider alert to the sights and sounds of the land and water.

Maneuvering the creek bottom is challenging for Bruja, yet I am confident she can handle it. Two weeks after I traded a surly line-back dun named Nitro for her, we had faced one of the most frightening things a horse and rider can endure together. On our first outing I took her to the high levee that borders Houston's George Bush Park and contains Barker Reservoir for a

quiet Saturday afternoon ride. She was then a green-broke 3-year-old and I expected that the noise from nearby Interstate 10 would be about all that she could handle.

That was until the 50-mph winds and marble-sized hail struck and lightning flashed all around. Bruja put her butt into the wind and stood there riding out the storm while other, older horses in our party bolted, throwing their riders to the ground. When calm came, we rode back, confident that the two of us could handle just about anything nature could throw our way. And now she was proving me right.

★

My plan for the ride through Hill Country SNA had been simple — get an expert to show me the park from its finest and most challenging trails. For this, superintendent Paul David Fuentes chose Jeanne Beauxbeannes, owner of Desert Hearts Cowgirl Club livery in nearby Bandera.

When we arrive at the park, we put Bruja, the only horse we've brought with us, into one of the park's pens for the evening and erect our tents. The following morning, I saddle Bruja for the ride. Jeanne offers an Appaloosa named Centavo for photographer Jay Remboldt of Houston to ride and a buckskin named Cisco for my wife, Vicki.

Riding in the Hill Country SNA makes a sound I've encountered nowhere else. At some points on the nine trails and their offshoots, the tone of hoofbeats changes dramatically from a clap, clap, clap to a deeper, more resonant sound. Throughout my first day, I hear that strange tone again and again as we ride from lowlands to high ground up to almost 2,000 feet. The sound is distinct, whether the hooves are striking bare limestone or the soft dirt of the park's lowlands. No matter what the pace — andante, allegro, allegretto, presto — the hollow tone persists.

Jeanne explains the phenomenon. Our mounts are walking above the ceilings of the 32 caves that have been discovered thus far in the park. Geologists speculate that many, if not most, of the caves are interconnected. The hollow sound is created by the caverns below our horses' hooves.

Horse Rental

To rent a horse at Hill Country State Natural Area, call the park at (830) 796-4413 or the Bandera Chamber of Commerce at (800) 364-3833 for a list of liveries. Rental prices range from \$25 to \$55 an hour, all with a two-hour minimum.

All the caverns are still living, creating geological formations caused by the abundance of Hill Country water dripping and running over mineral-rich stone. These natural wonders are unmarked and kept closed to the public because untrained explorers could damage the rare resources.

As we ride, Jeanne begins a running commentary on the SNA. The Hill Country has enjoyed a wet spring and summer and the native gay feather blooms in abundance, its lavender flowers thrusting toward the sun as we begin our climb into the hills, which are green as far as the eye can see. Palmettos grow crab-like on the ground. Our horses climb the clearly marked trail, and eventually we reach an overlook where we can see for miles.

The hills we're looking at were formed in the early Cretaceous period. It is part of what geologists call the Glen Rose formation, which is made of limestone, shale, marl and siltstone beds left along the shifting shoreline of the warm, shallow sea that once covered much of Texas. (The fossil remains of ancient clams and sea snails are found frequently in the

area, and buckets of them are for sale in Bandera tourist shops.)

On top of the Glen Rose formation, the sea deposited another layer of marine limestone, the Edwards limestone. About 10 million years ago the entire region was uplifted several thousand feet, exposing both the Edwards limestone of the hilltops and the Glen Rose limestone of the river and stream bottoms.

West Verde Creek and Bandera Creek both have low, stairstep waterfalls created by the bedding character of the formation, an alternation of hard limestone and soft marl beds. It is through these formations that Bruja and I ride along trail No. 7.

That trail finally emerges from the creek near camp headquarters, where we come upon a sign showing hikers and bikers yielding to a horseback rider. Bruja takes me where no four-wheel-drive vehicle dares to go. In this state park, she gets her due respect.

★

Six months after first riding its trails, the now-experienced Bruja and I are back at Hill Country SNA with Jay and

A group of riders takes their mounts up one of the park's 22 trails. Hill Country SNA boasts 36 miles of trails.



PHOTO © JAY REMBOLDT



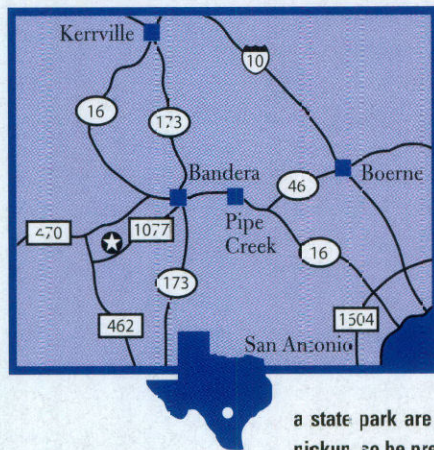
Spring-fed streams crisscross the rocky hills and canyons of Hill Country State Natural Area. Gay feather, below, is abundant in the fall.



his newly acquired horse, Sandman. I like the area so much I have joined Hill Country State Natural Area Partners (SNAF) the park's volunteer group. About four times a year we donate weekends clearing brush, rebuilding corrals, marking trails and otherwise helping the area's two full-time employees.

On our first trip, Jay and I had ridden up a steep hill on a trail designated "Four B." This time, we decide to ride it without a guide. The trail begins modestly enough over limestone and runs through low-hanging limbs past bunches of prickly pear. As Bruja climbs, her hoofs sometimes slip on the limestone. The trail then begins a long and steady climb for 1 1/2 miles. At an elevation of 1,957 feet, the trail offers a vista to the east that seems to go on forever.

Coming down the hill turns out to be far more difficult for Bruja than climbing up. As the incline becomes steeper,



Bruja puts her head down and surveys the ground, carefully looking at the polished top of a limestone boulder thinly camouflaged with sand. The rock poses danger for a horse less watchful. The hard steel of a horseshoe does not grip the surface of limestone worn slick by the ages. To establish solid footing for a half-ton animal carrying the weight of a man, the hoof must be placed carefully in the sand, not on the rock.

I look ahead as the trail slopes down a 50-foot incline. Slowly my horse places hoof in front of hoof, arching her back legs into her belly as she moves carefully down the trail, her bottom almost touching the ground as her front hooves dislodge pebbles that tumble down the hill. Occasionally, I hear the hollow sound as we cross over a cave. Bruja's hooves are the featured instruments in the Hill Country concerto. ☆

Getting There

To get to Hill Country State Natural Area from Bandera, go south on Texas 173 and cross the Medina River. Continue for about a quarter-mile to Texas 1077, turn right and take a scenic 10-mile drive to the end of the blacktop road. Stay on the caliche road and follow the signs to park headquarters.

Visitors to Hill Country SNA should remember that this is a natural area where many of the amenities of a state park are missing on purpose. For example, there is no garbage pickup, so be prepared to pack out what you pack in.

Hill Country SNA offers three walk-in developed tent areas along West Verde Creek, two with a capacity of eight and one with a capacity of 25.

In the Comanche Bluff area, about 25 yards in from the road, three sites are available; one will hold 12 campers, and two each have a capacity of eight. The Chaquita Falls camping area has four sites with a capacity of eight campers each.

All of these campsites have fire rings and picnic tables. The West Verde Creek site also offers swimming and some fishing. Chemical toilets are provided nearby.

Chapa's Camp is a group camp with a capacity of 20 horse-trailer rigs. The two-acre area is shaded with a large barn, electricity and a concrete floor. The site offers water for horses, fire rings, picnic tables and a chemical toilet. Here, campers can stall their horses, or tie them to one of three picket lines. Reservations are required.

Hill Country SNA also offers a group lodge, which may be reserved for both equestrian and non-equestrian use. The building accommodates 12, has three bedrooms with bunk beds; one bathroom; a kitchen that includes a stove and refrigerator; heating and air conditioning; a screened cook shack, as well as stalls and corrals for the horses. Bring your own linens and cooking gear.

There also are six developed equestrian sites with a capacity of six persons and their horses. Each has tables, fire rings, a chemical toilet in the area, corrals, picket lines and water for the horses.

Three primitive camping areas with fire rings are all offered on a first-come, first-served basis and are located 1/2 to 3/4 miles inland from the road.

Horse owners also may bring their animals to the park for day use. They may park at the Bar-O Developed Equestrian Area. This area holds up to 25 rigs near the park headquarters.

Late arrivals camp at the Backpack Trailhead Primitive Area.

All horses brought to the park must have proof (yellow copy) of a negative Coggins test. Hay and animal byproducts must be packed out of the camp.

It is important to note that while water is provided for animals, there is no potable water in the park for people — bring your own.

From February through November, the park is open seven days a week. December and January it is open from Friday noon through Sunday at 10 p.m. It is open for Thanksgiving week and Christmas/New Year week.

For more information, call (830) 796-4413 or go to <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/hillcoun/>.

To make a reservation, call (512) 389-8900 or go to <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/admin/res>.

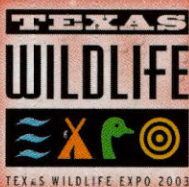
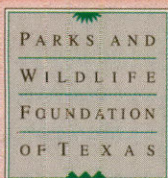


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PROUD SUPPORTER



The LAKE WORTH

MONSTER



ONE SLEEPY SUMMER MORE THAN 30 YEARS AGO, A MYSTERIOUS CREATURE STIRRED UP THE CITY OF FORT WORTH.

BY LARRY D. HODGE

SOUTH TEXAS HAS EL CHUPACABRAS. The Hill Country has La Llorona and East Texas has the wild man of the Big Thicket and the loup-garou. But perhaps none of these created more excitement than the Lake Worth Monster stirred up in the summer of 1969. Something strange, people said, was roaming the woods northwest of town on the shores of Lake Worth.

Many claimed to have seen what was variously called the Goat-Man, the Man-Goat and — in a nod to Scotland's Nessie — the Loch Worth Monster. Some described it as having a short, humanlike body with a head like that of a dog or a goat — with a single horn in the middle of its head. Others claimed it was between 6 feet, 9 inches and 7 feet tall, 250 to 300 pounds, long-necked, flop-eared, slope-shouldered, pot-bellied, covered in white hair or scaly. Reports circulated of sheep being ripped to pieces, of cattle and dogs killed and mutilated and of a car being attacked. One group of witnesses claimed the monster became agitated upon seeing them and threw an automobile tire and wheel 500 feet in an attempt to scare them off.

Sighting the Lake Worth Monster was the thing to do for a time, and rehashing the stories went on until the moon landing and the return of football season furnished other topics for conversation.

All the purported monster sightings took place in the vicinity of Greer Island, which is now part of the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge. Although it was called an island, it could be reached by car on a muddy dirt track, and its relative isolation made it a popular hangout for local teenagers.

The combination of rumor, summer boredom and the opportunity to get one's name in the newspaper fueled the monster craze. At least one explanation was offered at the time, that some students from a local high school were having fun with an old gorilla suit they found. But lacking proof the monster did not exist, many preferred to believe.

The supposed sightings spawned spin-off silliness faster than a nest of alien eggs could hatch. Having a Lake Worth Monster sighting to your credit was a ticket to instant fame, however fleeting. A Fort Worth woman, Sallie Ann Clarke, self-published a book based on newspaper accounts, interviews and personal experience. "It went Grrrrr, Brrrrr, Yeepee, Yuuuuuuuuuuu," she wrote. "Don't go alone. It is too scary out there."

Some 30 years later Robert Hornsby, a New York artist who grew up in Fort Worth, put on an exhibition of pictures and sculptures based on the Lake Worth Monster mania. As refer-

ences he used newspaper accounts and pictures of a Goat-Man statue sculpted by an Azle man and sold in a local gift shop during the uproar. Hornsby invited local

art students to contribute their own works depicting the monster, and a new generation made the legend its own. One wrote a poem that said, "He creeps at night through brush and tree / Or scraggly grass to peek at me."

Now, here's where the story gets weird. There actually was a Lake Worth Monster — and a friend of mine knew him personally.

Rick Pratt, now of Port Aransas, was director of the Greer Island Nature Center at the time of the sightings. "A couple of local teen-agers were putting anti-war signs on the center, and I caught them at it," he recalls. (Their names have been omitted to protect the guilty.) One of them, a student at a local high school, was interested in science and hung around the nature center, which was half a mile from the trailer park where he lived. Pratt describes him as being about 5 feet, 9 inches tall, with long black hair and a fondness for dressing in black. "He was a nice fellow, kind of an early hippie," Pratt says. "He wanted to be a nuclear physicist."

The boy confessed to Pratt that one evening he and his brother put on a little show for people parked in a gravel pit on Greer Island. "The area was home to a former junkyard and had also been a gravel pit at one time," Pratt explains. "There was a cliff wall about 30 feet high around the gravel pit, at the base of a hill. The Lake Worth Monster and his accomplice jumped around on top of the hill waving their arms, then rolled a tire and wheel from the junkyard down the incline. It flew off the cliff and landed near where the cars were parked. The total distance traveled was less than 500 feet, and the tire was not thrown, but that didn't stop the press from reporting it. All the descriptions of the monster were taken from people who had not seen it. The reporter interviewed me but elected not to use anything I said."

The newspaper report of the purported tire hurling by a superhuman something sparked bedlam, Pratt recalls. "There was not a lot going on in Lake Worth at the time. The notoriety gave people an excuse to come out and misbehave. A couple of nights there were big crowds and traffic jams, a lot of drinking. People drove around the lake roads, started fires and partied, and just had a high old time. This went on for about two weeks, and then it died out."

And what became of the boy who started this ruckus?

Although an Internet search for the Lake Worth Monster yielded numerous hits, his creator was more difficult to find. But I can report that the Lake Worth Monster is apparently living incognito, sans telephone, just a few miles from the scene of his exploits, while tales of his purported deeds circulate through cyberspace.

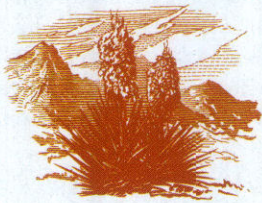
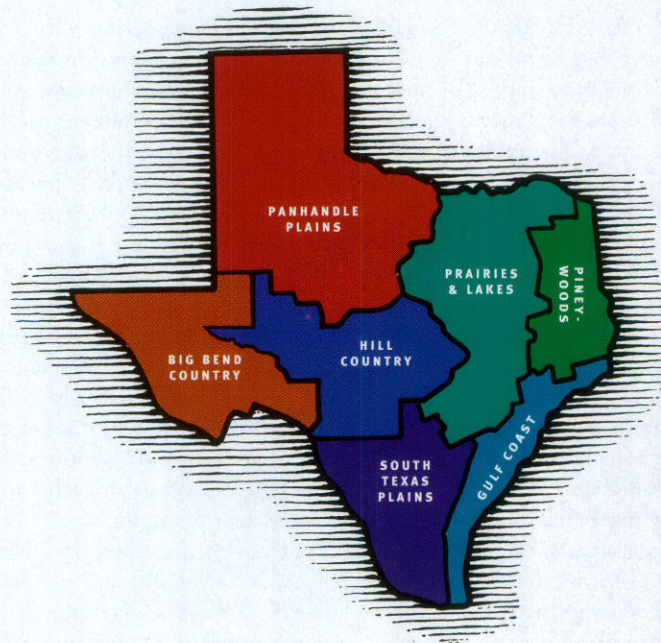
I have his name, and I know where he was last seen. Am I going looking for him?

No way. Like lost treasure, mythical monsters are a lot more interesting as unsolved mysteries. ★

The Lake Worth Monster and his accomplice jumped around on top of the hill waving their arms, then rolled a tire and wheel from the junkyard down the incline.

GETAWAYS

FROM BIG BEND TO THE BIG THICKET AND THE RED TO THE RIO GRANDE



BIG BEND COUNTRY

OCT.: Bouldering Tours, Hueco Tanks SHS, El Paso, every Wednesday through Sunday, by prior arrangement, reservations required, (915) 849-6684

OCT.: Hiking Tours, Hueco Tanks SHS, El Paso, every Wednesday through Sunday, by prior arrangement, reservations required, (915) 849-6684

OCT.: Pictograph Tours, Hueco Tanks SHS, El Paso, every Wednesday through Sunday, by prior arrangement, reservations required, (915) 849-6684

OCT.: Texas Camel Treks, Monahans Sandhills SP, Monahans, (866) 6CAMELS

OCT.: Fate Bell Cave Dwelling Tour, Seminole Canyon SP & HS, Comstock, every Wednesday through Sunday, (432) 292-4464

OCT.: White Shaman Tour, Seminole Canyon SP & HS, Comstock, every Saturday, (800) ROCKART

For more detailed information on outdoor getaways across the state, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us and click on "TPWD Events" in the center light blue area entitled "In the Parks."

OCT. 4-5, 18-19: Guided Tours, Franklin Mountains SP, El Paso, reservations required, (915) 566-6441

OCT. 10-12: Longhorn Cattle Drive, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, reservations required (432) 229-3416

OCT. 11: Annual Friends Festival, Fort Davis National Historic Site, Fort Davis, (432) 426-3224

OCT. 11-12: Outdoor Expo 2003, Franklin Mountains SP, El Paso, reservations required, (915) 566-6441

OCT. 11, 18, 25: Stories of Spirits, Magoffin Home SHS, El Paso, (915) 533-5147

OCT. 18: Annual Living History Day, Fort Lancaster SHS, Sheffield, (432) 836-4391

OCT. 18: V V 75 Tour, Seminole Canyon SP & HS, Comstock, reservations

required, (432) 292-4464

OCT. 18-19: 9th Annual Interpretive Fair Weekend, Hueco Tanks SHS, El Paso, (915) 857-1135

OCT. 19: Birding Tours, Hueco Tanks SHS, El Paso, reservations required, (915) 849-6684

OCT. 19: Big Bend 101: Plants, Animals, Geology, History, Big Bend National Park, reservations required, (432) 477-2236

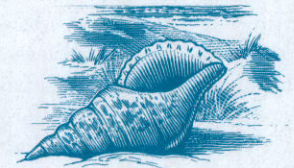
OCT. 24: Ghostly Candlelight Tours, Magoffin Home SHS, El Paso, (915) 533-5147

OCT. 25: Haunted Ghost Town, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, (432) 424-3327

OCT. 25: Presa Canyon Tour, Seminole Canyon SP & HS, Comstock, reservations required, (432) 292-4464

OCT. 26: Upper Canyon Tour, Seminole Canyon SP & HS, Comstock, reservations required, (432) 292-4464

OCT. 30-NOV. 2: Balmorhea Birdfest, Balmorhea, (915) 375-2325



GULF COAST

OCT.: Weekend Nature Programs, Brazos Bend SP, Needville, every Saturday and Sunday, (979) 553-5101

OCT.: Hatchery Tours, Coastal Conservation Association/American Electric Power Marine Development Center SFH, Corpus Christi, every Monday through Saturday except holidays, reservations required, (361) 939-7784

OCT.: Plantation House, Barn and Grounds Tours, Varner-Hogg Plantation SHS, West Columbia, every Wednesday through Sunday, (979) 345-4656

OCT.: Nature Programs, Lake Texana SP, Edna, every Saturday, (361) 782-5718

OCT.: Aquarium and Hatchery Tours, Sea Center Texas, Lake

Jackson, every Tuesday through Sunday, hatchery tours by reservation only, (979) 292-0100

OCT.: Annual Showing of the Quilts, Varner-Hogg Plantation SHS, West Columbia, every Wednesday through Sunday, (979) 345-4656

OCT. 4: Battle Stations 1944, Battleship *Texas* SHS, LaPorte, (281) 479-2431

OCT. 4, 11, 17, 18, 25: Story Time, Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson, (979) 292-0100

OCT. 5: History Tour, Matagorda Island SP & WMA, Port O'Connor, reservations required, (361) 983-2215

OCT. 11: Texas Gulf Coast Roundup, Texas City, (361) 939-8745

OCT. 11, 25: Beachcombing and Shelling Tour, Matagorda Island SP & WMA, Port O'Connor, reservations required, (361) 983-2215

OCT. 12, 18, 19: Bird Tour, Matagorda Island SP &

WMA, Port O'Connor, reservations required, (361) 983-2215

OCT. 18: Preserving the Past for the Future, Fulton Mansion SHS, Fulton, (361) 729-0386

OCT. 18: Lone Star Legacy Fall Festival, Lake Texana SP, Edna, (361) 782-5718

OCT. 18-19: Catch and Release Youth Fishing, Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson, (979) 292-0100



HILL COUNTRY

OCT.: Gorman Falls Tour, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, every Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting, (325) 628-3240

OCT.: Walking Wild Cave Tour, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, every Saturday and Sunday, (325) 628-3240

OCT.: Saturday Evening Interpretive Programs, Guadalupe River SP, Spring Branch, every Saturday, (830) 438-2656

OCT.: Saturday Morning Interpretive Walk, Honey Creek SNA, Spring Branch, every Saturday, (830) 438-2656

OCT.: Wild Cave Tour, Kickapoo Cavern SP, Brackettville, call for dates, reservations required, (830) 563-2342

OCT. 1-31: Bird Watching, Pedernales Falls SP, Johnson City, daily, (830) 868-7304

OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Basic Canoe Skills Clinic, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, reservations required, (512) 793-2223

OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Devil's Waterhole Canoe Tour, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, reservations required, (512) 793-2223

OCT. 3: Tour the Texas State Parks Slide Show, Inks Lake

SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223

OCT. 3: Range and Wildlife Seminar, Kerr WMA, Hunt, (830) 238-4483

OCT. 4: Crawling Wild Cave Tour, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, (325) 628-3240

OCT. 4-5: Texas Wildlife Expo, TPWD headquarters, Austin, (800) 792-1112

OCT. 4, 11, 25: Go Fishing with a Ranger, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223

OCT. 4, 11, 25: Stumpy Hollow Nature Hike, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223

OCT. 5: Kayak Tour, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, reservations required, (512) 793-2223

OCT. 11: Full Moon Hike, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223

OCT. 11: Dutch Oven Dinner, Landmark Inn SHS, Castroville, reservations required, (830) 931-2133

OCT. 11: Hill Country Heritage Day, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, Johnson City, (830) 868-7128

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OCT. 11-12: Fall Plant Sale & Gardening Festival, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin, (512) 292-4200

OCT. 11, 25: Hike the Hill Country, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223

OCT. 11, 26: Guided Hikes, Bright Leaf SNA, Austin, (512) 459-7269

OCT. 18: Fall Friends' Festival, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, (325) 628-3240

OCT. 18: Summit Trail Project, Enchanted Rock SNA, Fredericksburg, (325) 247-3903, Ext. 8

OCT. 18: Fall Legacy Festival, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223

OCT. 18: Texas Timə Machine, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, (512) 793-2223

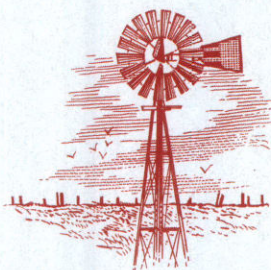
OCT. 18-19: Lone Star Legacy Celebration, Hill Country SNA, Bandera, (210) 854-3848

OCT. 19: Fall Open House, Bright Leaf SNA, Austin, (512) 459-7269

OCT. 25: 25th Reunion of Former Citizens of Fort McKavett, Fort McKavett SHS, Fort McKavett, (325) 396-2358

OCT. 25: Star Party, Fort McKavett SHS, Fort McKavett, (325) 396-2358

OCT. 31: Halloween Party, Guadalupe River SP, Spring Branch, (830) 438-2656



PANHANDLE PLAINS

OCT. 4: Volunteer Day, Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway, Quitaque, (806) 455-1492

OCT. 4: "Indian Summer," Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 358-6500

OCT. 4: Night Noises, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon,

(806) 488-2227

OCT. 4: Petroglyph Tour, San Angelo SP, San Angelo, (325) 949-4757

OCT. 5: NORBA Bike Race, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 355-7224

OCT. 11: Nature Hike, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 488-2227

OCT. 18: Fall Foliage Tour, Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway, Quitaque, (806) 455-1140

OCT. 18: Sun Fun and Star Walk, Copper Breaks SP, Quanah, (940) 839-4331

OCT. 18: 15th Annual Palo Duro Trail 50, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 488-2227

OCT. 18: The Haunted Canyon, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 488-2227

OCT. 25: Trailway Challenge 2003, Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway, Quitaque, reservations required, (806) 455-1492

OCT. 25: Family Nature Hike, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 488-2227

OCT. 25: Stargazing Party, San Angelo SP, San Angelo, (325) 949-4757



PINEYWOODS

OCT.: Walk on the Wild Side, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, every Sunday, (409) 384-5231

OCT.: Interpretive Programs, Tyler SP, Tyler, every Saturday, (903) 597-5338

OCT. 4, 18: Guided Nature Trail Hike, Village Creek SP, Lumberton, (409) 755-7322

OCT. 10: Nature Slide Program, Village Creek SP, Lumberton, reservations required (409) 755-7322

OCT. 18: Star Party, Lake Bob Sandlin SP, Pittsburg, (903) 572-5531

OCT. 18: Floating the Forks, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, reservations required, (409) 384-5231

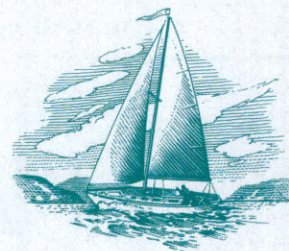
OCT. 18: 11th Annual Murder on the DisOriented Express, Texas State Railroad SP, Rusk, reservations required, (800) 659-3484, (903) 683-2561 outside Texas

OCT. 18: Men of Steel Adventure Sprint, Tyler SP, Tyler, reservations required, (903) 871-8466

OCT. 25: Rocky Raccoon 50K/25K Trail Runs, Huntsville SP, Huntsville, (936) 295-5644

OCT. 25: Dam to Dam Bike Ride, B.A. Steinhagen Lake to Lake Sam Rayburn, (409) 384-2762

OCT. 31: Night Prowl, Village Creek SP, Lumberton, reservations required, (409) 755-7322



PRAIRIES & LAKES

OCT.: Historic and Scenic Tours, Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHS, La Grange, available by reservation only to groups of 10 or more, (979) 968-5658

OCT.: Kreische Brewery Tours, Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHS, La Grange, every Saturday and Sunday, (979) 968-5658

OCT.: Monument Hill Tour, Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHS, La Grange, available by reservation only to groups of 10 or more (979) 968-5658

OCT.: Autumn on the Farm, Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS-Barrington Living History Farm, Washington, every Wednesday through

Sunday, (936) 878-2213

OCT. 1-31: Texas Archeology Awareness Month, Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS, Washington, (936) 878-2214

OCT. 4: Farming Like it Used to Be, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940

OCT. 4: Wildlife Tracking, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940

OCT. 4: Dutch Oven Cooking, Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit, Cooper, (903) 395-3100

OCT. 4: Night Hike, Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway, Mineral Wells, reservations required (940) 328-1171

OCT. 4: Blackland Prairie Nature Walk, Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary, McKinney, (972) 562-5566

OCT. 4-5: I Madonnari, Eisenhower Birthplace SHS, Denison, (903) 465-8908

OCT. 4-5, 12, 18-19, 25-26: Tours, Fanthorp Inn SHS, Anderson (936) 873-2633

OCT. 5, 12: Kreische House Tours, Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHS, La Grange, (979) 968-5658

OCT. 10-11: Jack's Creek Bluegrass Festival, Confederate Reunion Grounds SHS, Mexia, (254) 562-5751

OCT. 11: Outdoor Exposition, Bonham SP, Bonham, (903) 583-5022

OCT. 11: Pond Trail Walk, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940

OCT. 11: Reptiles-Our Scaly Skinned Friends, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940

OCT. 11: Walk on the Wild Side, Cooper Lake SP/South Sulphur Unit, Sulphur Springs, (903) 395-3100

OCT. 11: Texian Days, Fanthorp Inn SHS, Anderson, (936) 873-2633

OCT. 11: Kids' Wilderness Survival, Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway, Mineral Wells, reservations required, (940) 328-1171

OCT. 18: Penn Farm Tour, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill,

Continued on page 65

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS



THE FRONT LINE OF NEWS AND VIEWS



T E L E V I S I O N

LOOK FOR THESE STORIES
IN THE COMING WEEKS:

Sept. 28 – Oct. 5:

Water issues in West Texas; Fort McKavett; fly fishing basics; golden-cheeked warblers; seeing several sunrises.

Oct. 5 – Sept. 12:

A 2,000-acre water filter; Fulton Mansion; deer sounds; managing habitat with prescribed burns; morning on the marsh.

Oct. 12 – 19:

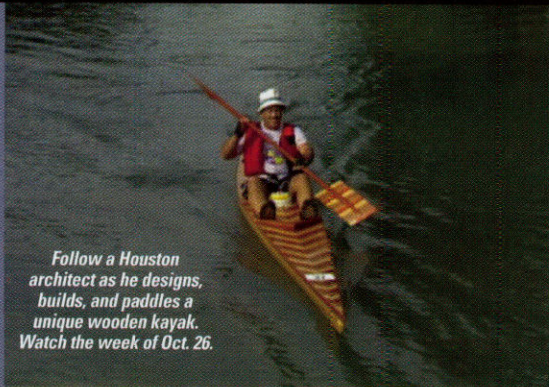
Capturing bighorns; Varner-Hogg Plantation; shotgun safety; why leaves change color; swift-water safety; a hummingbird ranch; a rainy day at Caddo Lake.

Oct. 19 – 26:

Big bass history; Battleship Texas; cicada sounds; veteran birders visit the Valley; bugs at large.

Oct. 26 – Nov. 2:

Building a wooden kayak; Caprock Canyons; camo clothing; learning search and rescue; Comal Springs.



Follow a Houston architect as he designs, builds, and paddles a unique wooden kayak. Watch the week of Oct. 26.

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- AMARILLO:** KACV, Ch. 2 / Sat. 6 p.m.
AUSTIN: KLRU, Ch. 18 / Sun. 10 a.m. / Mon. 12:30 p.m. KLRU-TOO, Cable Ch. 20 / Tues. 11 p.m.
BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION: KAMU, Ch. 15 / Thurs. 7 p.m. / Sun. 5 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
CORPUS CHRISTI: KEDT, Ch. 16 / Sun. 11 a.m. / Thurs. 1 p.m. / Fri. 8:30 p.m.
DALLAS-FORT WORTH: KERA, Ch. 13 / Sat. 8:30 a.m. KERA2 / Sun. 11 a.m.
Also serving Abilene, Denton, Longview, Marshall, San Angelo, Texarkana, Tyler, Wichita Falls, Sherman
EL PASO: KCOS, Ch. 13 / Sat. 5:30 a.m.
(rotates with other programs; check listings)
HARLINGEN: KMBH, Ch. 60 / Sun. 5:30 p.m.
Also serving McAllen, Mission, Brownsville
HOUSTON: KUHT, Ch. 8 / Sun. 3:30 a.m. / Fri. 1 p.m.
Also serving Beaumont/Port Arthur, Galveston, Texas City, Victoria
KILLEEN: KNCT, Ch. 46 / Sun. 5 p.m.
Also serving Temple
LUBBOCK: KTXT, Ch. 5 / Sat. noon
ODESSA-MIDLAND: KOCV, Ch. 36 / Sat. 5 p.m.
PORTALES, N.M.: KENW, Ch. 3 / Sun. 2 p.m.
Also serving West Texas/Panhandle area
SAN ANTONIO & LAREDO: KLRN Ch. 9 / Friday noon, Sunday 2 p.m.
WACO: KWBU, Ch. 34 / Sat. 3 a.m.

Check local listings. Times and dates are subject to change, especially during PBS membership drives.

R A D I O

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Join Joel Block weekdays for a 90-second journey into the Texas Outdoors. Producers Cecilia Nasti, (512) 389-4667 and Lisa Wheeler, (512) 389-8031. Check this listing for a station near you. Listen Monday-Friday unless indicated otherwise. Or tune in on our Web site:

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ALPINE: KSRU-AM 1670 / 9 p.m.
AMARILLO: KACV-FM 89.9 / 11:20 a.m.
ATLANTA: KPYN-AM 900 / 7:45 a.m.
AUSTIN: KVET-AM 1300 / between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. Sat.; K-Zilker 90.1 / 7:15 a.m., 2:45 p.m.
BEAUMONT: KLVI-AM 560 / 5:20 a.m.
BIG SPRING: KBST-AM 1490 / 10:50 a.m.
BONHAM: KFYN-AM 1420 / 10:10 a.m. KFYZ-FM 98.3 / 10:10 a.m.
BRADY: KNEL-AM 1490 / 7:20 a.m.; KNEL-FM 95.3 / 7:20 a.m.
BRIDGEPORT: KBOC-FM 98.3 / 10:20 a.m.
BRYAN: KZNE-AM 1150 / 5:45 p.m.
CANTON: KVCI-AM 1510 / 6:40 a.m.
CANYON: KWTS-FM 91.1 / noon, 4 p.m., 7 p.m.
CARTHAGE: KGAS-AM 1590 / 6:40 a.m.; KGAS-FM 104.3 / 6:30 a.m.
CENTER: KDET-AM 930 / 5:20 p.m.
COLUMBUS: KULM-FM 98.3 / 5:20 a.m.
COMANCHE: KCOM-AM 1550 / 6:30 a.m.
COMMERCE: KETR-FM 88.9 / 10:15 a.m.
CORPUS CHRISTI: KEDT-FM 90.3 / 5:33 p.m.; KFTX-FM 97.5 / 5:40 a.m.; KVRT-FM 90.7 / 5:33 p.m.
CROCKETT: KIVY-AM 1290 / 7:45 a.m., KIVY-FM 92.7 / 7:45 a.m.

DENISON: KJIM-AM 1500 / 11:54 a.m.
DENTON: KNTU-FM 88.1 / 10:58 a.m., 3:58 p.m., 11:59 p.m.
DIMITT: KDHN-AM 1470 / 12:30 p.m.
EAGLE PASS: KINL-FM 92.7 / 3:30 p.m.
EASTLAND: KEAS-AM 1590 / 5:50 a.m., 5:50 p.m. KATX-FM 97.7 / 5:50 a.m. & 5:50 p.m.
EDNA: KGUL-FM 96.1 / 7:10 a.m.
EL CAMPO: KULP-AM 1390 / 2 p.m.
FAIRFIELD: KNES-FM 99.1 / 6:47 a.m.
FLORESVILLE: KULB-FM 89.7 / 1:30 p.m.
FORT STOCKTON: KFST-AM 860 / 12:55 p.m., KFST-FM 94.3 / 12:55 p.m.
GAINESVILLE: KGAF-AM 1580 / 10 a.m.
GRANBURY: KPIR-AM 1420 / 4:05 p.m.
GREENVILLE: KGVL-AM 1400 / 8:10 a.m.
HARLINGEN: KN3H-FM 88.9 / 4:58 p.m.; KHID-FM 83.1 / 4:58 p.m.
HASKELL: KVRP-FM 97.1 / 9:30 a.m.; KVRP-AM 1400 / 9:30 a.m.
HENDERSON: KZQX-FM 104.7 / 10:20 a.m., 4:20 p.m.
HEREFORD: KPAN-AM 860 / 2:50 p.m.; KPAN-FM 106.3 / 2:50 p.m.
HILLSBORO: KHBR-AM 1560 / 9:35 a.m.
HOUSTON: KILT-AM 610 / between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. Thur-Sun.
HUNTSVILLE: KSHU-FM 90.5 / 12:05 p.m., 5:05 p.m.
JACKSONVILLE: KEBE-AM 1400 / 7:15 a.m.
JUNCTION: KMBL-AM 1450 / 7:36 a.m., 12:46 p.m., 5:56 p.m., KOOK-FM 93.5 / 7:36 a.m., 12:46 p.m., 5:56 p.m.
KERRVILLE: KRNI-FM 92.3 / 5:31 a.m., 12:57 p.m., 7:35 p.m.; KMBL-AM 1450 / 5:49 a.m., 12:49 p.m., 5:49 p.m.; KERV-AM 1230 / 5:49 a.m., 12:49 p.m., 5:49 p.m.; KRVL-FM 94.3 / 5:49 a.m., 12:49 p.m., 5:49 p.m.
LAMPASAS: KCYL-AM 1450 / 7:10 a.m., KACQ-FM 101.9 / 7:10 a.m.
LAREDO: KHOY-FM 88.1 / 2 p.m.
LEVELLAND: KLVT-AM 1230 / 12:05 p.m.
LUBBOCK: KJTV-AM 950 / 6:45 a.m.
MADISONVILLE: KMYL-AM 1220 / 7:45 a.m.; KMYL-FM100.5 / 7:45 a.m.
MARBLE FALLS: KHLB-AM 1340 / 12:20 p.m., 5:20 p.m.; KHLB-FM 106.9 / 12:20 p.m., 5:20 p.m.
MARSHALL: KCUL-FM 92.3 / 6:15 a.m.
MCALLEN: KHID-FM 88.1 / 4:58 p.m.
MESQUITE: KEOM-FM 88.5 / 5:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. M-Th.; 5:30 a.m., 4:45 p.m. F)
MEXIA: KYCX-AM 1580 / 3:15 p.m.; KYCX-FM 104.9 / 3:15 p.m.

MINEOLA: KMOO-FM 99.9 / 5:10 p.m.
MONAHANS: KLBO-AM 1330 / 6 a.m., noon, 3 p.m.
NACOGDOCHES: KSAU-FM 90.1 / 2:45 p.m.
NEW BRAUNFELS: KGNB-AM 1420 / 6:52 a.m., 5:24 p.m.
ODESSA: KCRS-AM 550 / 6:05 a.m., 5:15 p.m., KOCV-FM 91.3 / 7:37 a.m.
PECOS: KIUN-AM 1400 / 10:30 a.m.
PLAINVIEW: KVOP-AM 1090 / 7:49 a.m.
PLEASANTON: KBUC-FM 95.7 / noon Sat.
ROCKDALE: KRXT-FM 98.5 / 5:05 a.m.
SAN ANTONIO: KENS-AM 1160 / 6:25 p.m.; KSTX-FM 89.1 / 9:04 p.m., KRTU-FM 91.7 / noon
SEGUIN: KWED-AM 1580 / 7:55 a.m.
SONORA: KHOS-FM 92.1 / 10:13 a.m.; KYXX-FM 94.3 / 2:23 p.m.
STEPHENVILLE: KSTV-FM 93.1 / between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m.
SULPHUR SPRINGS: KSST-AM 1230 / 3:50 a.m., 11:20 a.m.
TEMPLE: KTEM-AM 1400 / 10:20 a.m.
TEXARKANA: KTXK-FM 91.5 / 8 p.m.
UVALDE: KVOU-FM 104.9 / 8:30 a.m.
VICTORIA: KTXN-FM 98.7 / 6:50 a.m.; KZAM-FM 104.7 / 7:10 a.m.
WACO: KWTX-AM 1230 / 7 a.m., 7 p.m. Sat. and Sun.
WICHITA FALLS: KWFS-AM 1290 / 6:15 a.m., 7:45 a.m.
AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN'S INSIDE LINE: (512) 416-5700 category 6287 (NATR)
BEDFORD: K-Meadow, Meadow Creek Elementary / noon
VIRTUAL RADIO eTUNZ: <www.etunz.net> / 10:10 a.m. & 2:10, 4:10 p.m.

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- Texas Hill Country River Region, pg. 9,** (800) 210-0380, <www.thcrr.com>

Continued from page 62

(972) 291-5940

OCT. 18: Common Trees of Northeast Texas, Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit, Cooper, (903) 395-3100

OCT. 18: Discover Fort Boggy, Fort Boggy SP, Centerville, (903) 396-1409 or (903) 626-7761

OCT. 18: Cowboy Campfire, Music and Poetry, Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway, Mineral Wells, (940) 328-1171

OCT. 18: Lone Star Legacy Festival, Stephen F. Austin SP, San Felipe, (979) 885-3613

OCT. 18: 6th Annual Butterfly Flutterby, Grapevine, (800) 457-6338

OCT. 18: Garden Walk, Texas Discovery Gardens, Fair Park, Dallas, (214) 428-7476

OCT. 18-19: Origins of the Cowboy, Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS-Barrington Living History Farm, Washington, (936) 878-2213

OCT. 25: 3rd Annual Cedar

Hill State Park Trail Ride, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940

OCT. 25: Days of Old Fair, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940

OCT. 25: Guided Nature Hike, Cooper Lake SP/South Sulphur Unit, Sulphur Springs, (903) 395-3100

OCT. 25: Storytelling Down in the Holler, Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway, Mineral Wells, (940) 328-1171



SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

OCT. 1-31: World Birding Center Fall Hawk Watch, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley

SP, Mission, reservations required, (956) 584-9156 Ext. 21

OCT. 4: Outdoor Survival and Wilderness First Aid, Government Canyon SNA, San Antonio, reservations required, (210) 688-9055 (park open only for limited access; call before visiting)

OCT. 18-19: Youth Dove and Quail Hunts, Chaparral WMA, Artesia Wells, (830) 676-3413

OCT. 25-26: Dove and Quail Hunts, Chaparral WMA, Artesia Wells, (830) 676-3413

- SP** State Park
- SHS** State Historical Site
- SNA** State Natural Area
- WMA** Wildlife Management Area
- SFH** State Fish Hatchery

State Parks Offer Public Hunts

A number of state parks will offer special permit hunting this fall. As in the past, the specially controlled public hunts are scheduled for Monday through Friday, a slow time at most parks during fall and winter. Most parks will be open on Saturdays and Sundays for camping, picnicking and similar activities.

The following schedule lists the times and dates when public access is restricted. Call the park of your choice directly to make sure it will be open on the day you want to visit. Or call Texas Parks and Wildlife's information line, (800) 792-1112, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Oct. 3-5: Matagorda Island SP & WMA (361) 583-2215

Oct. 12-17: Fort Boggy SP (903) 344-1116

Oct. 19-24: Devil's Sinkhole SNA (830) 683-3435

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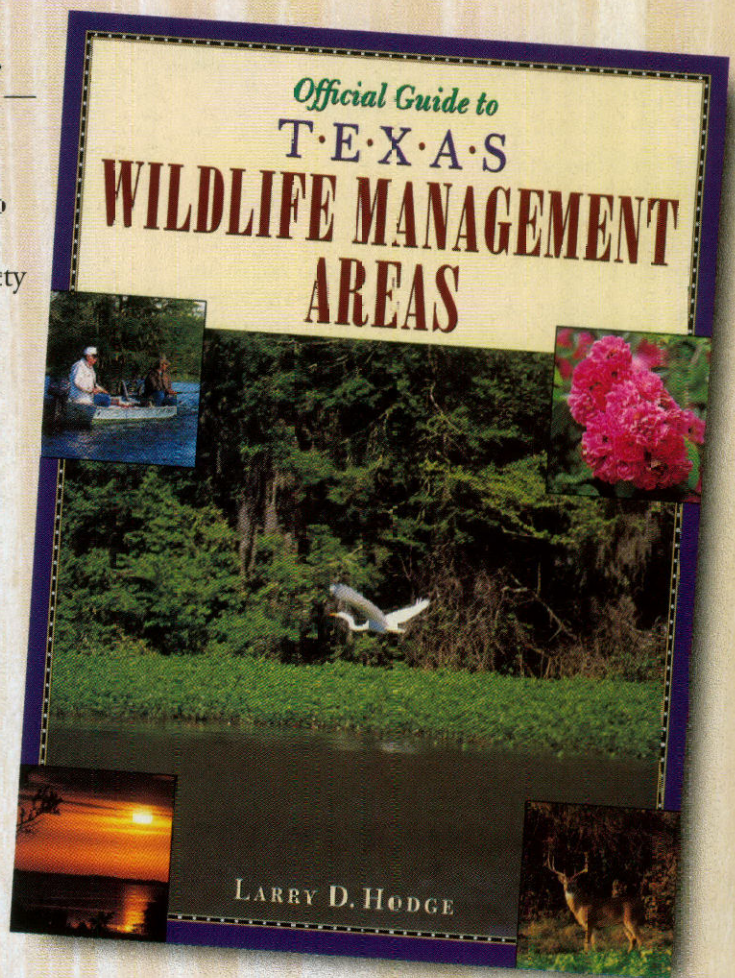
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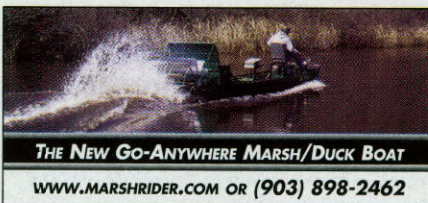


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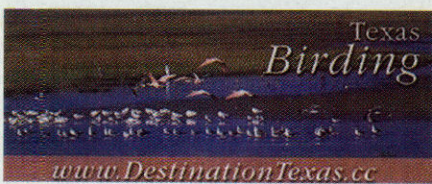
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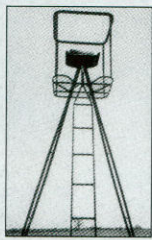
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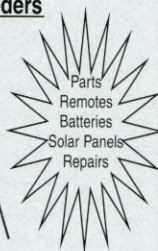
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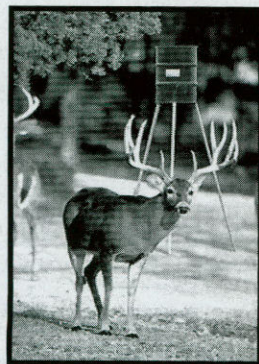
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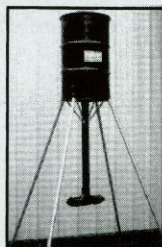
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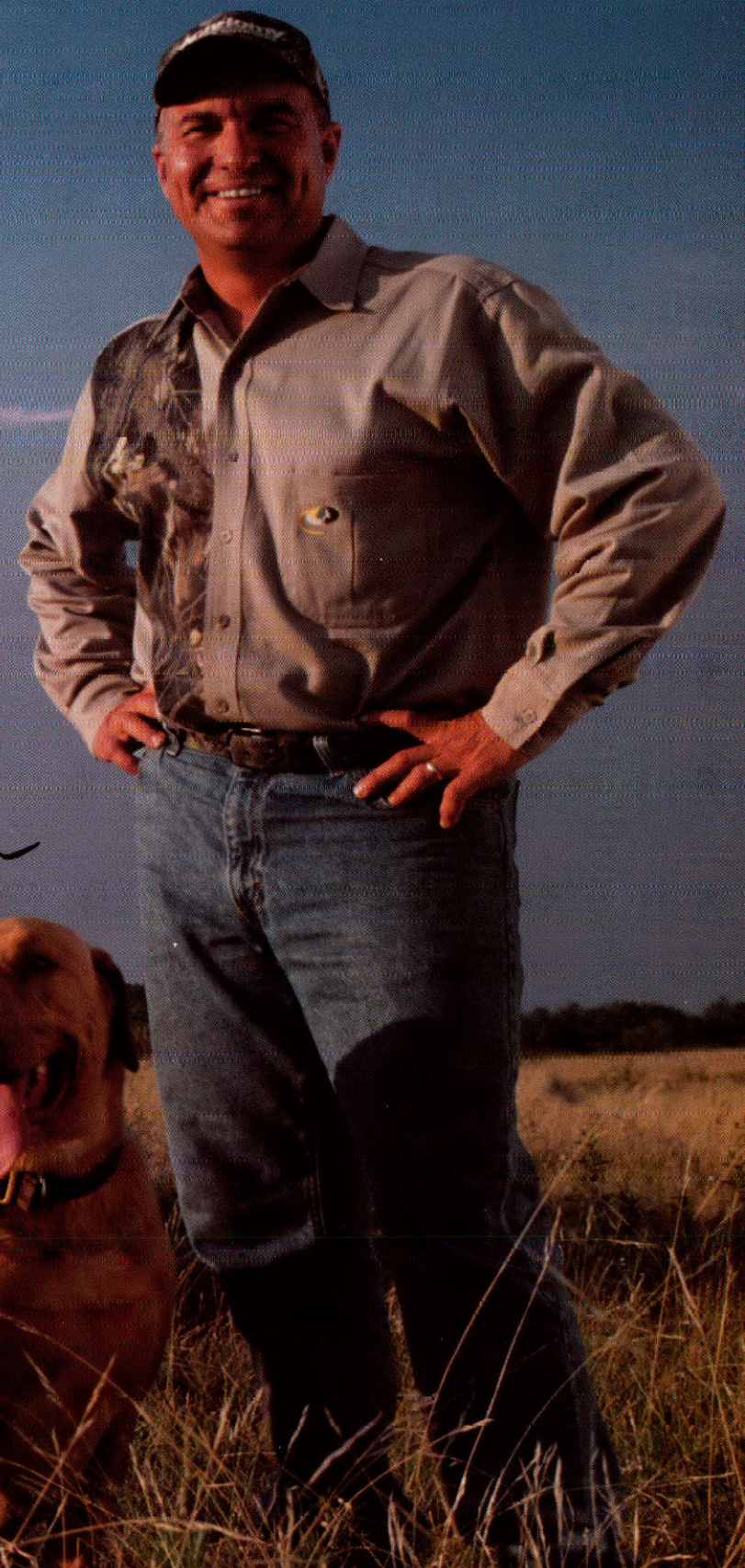
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