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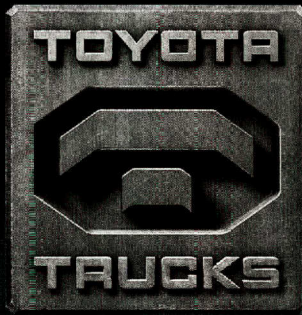
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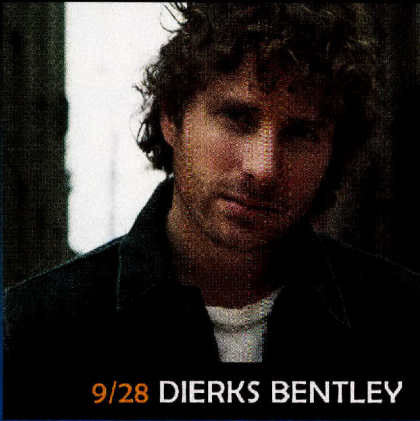
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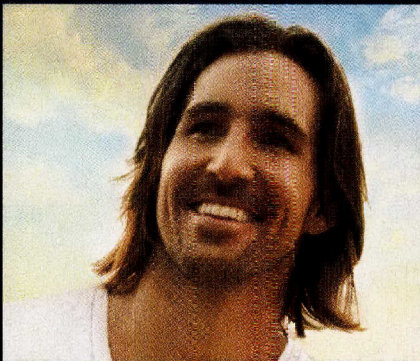


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FRONT: A hunter wraps up a successful day of duck hunting in the Coastal Bend, accompanied by his faithful companion, a chocolate Labrador retriever. Photo © Todd Steele

PREVIOUS SPREAD: The scenic and solitary Pinto Canyon Road winds through the Chinati Mountains from Marfa to Ruidosa. Photo by Chase A. Fountain/TPWD

THIS PAGE: Silhouetted against an autumn sunset, a hunter silently closes up his deer blind for the evening — already planning his strategy for better luck tomorrow. Photo by Earl Nottingham/TPWD



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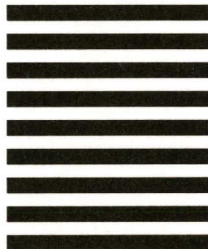


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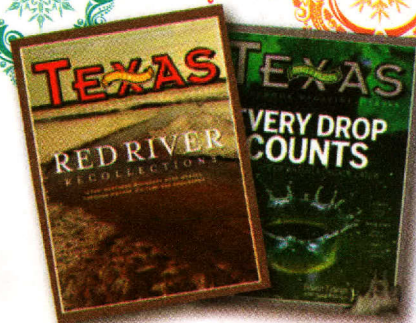


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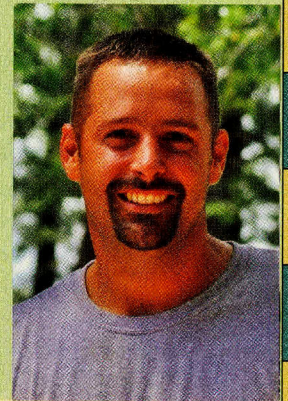
In the Field

DYANNE FRY CORTEZ, a Hill Country native, considers the Chihuahuan Desert of far West Texas her second home. She has hiked most of the mountain and canyon trails in Big Bend National Park, wandered arroyos that drain into Terlingua Creek and still has a lot of exploring to do in Big Bend Ranch State Park.



She travels with her husband, Javier, who never met a hot spring he didn't like. Dyanne works at TPWD's Austin headquarters, keeping the agency website up to date with information on fish records, rainbow trout stocking and which lake produced the most recent ShareLunker bass. Her writings on Texas nature and culture have appeared in *Hill Country Magazine*, *American Profile* and the *Austin Business Journal*. "Discoveries in the Desert" is her fifth article this year for TP&W magazine.

TUCKER SLACK works as a wildlife biologist at Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area in East Texas. Tucker engages in both hands-on habitat management activities and outreach and education opportunities at the WMA, which is designated as a Research and Demonstration Area for the Post Oak Savannah Ecoregion. Tucker was born and raised in Orange County and developed an appreciation for Texas' wild things from an early age. He and his family are always looking for excuses to get outdoors, which led to this month's Wild Thing article on box turtles. He considers himself blessed to be a husband, father and biologist, and he's the proud owner of one of the finest box turtle retriever dogs in Anderson County.



HEIDI RAO'S love of the outdoors and hunting led her to a career with TPWD as the hunter education specialist for Southeast Texas, beginning in 1998. She is also the statewide coordinator for the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program. Heidi, who wrote this month's Skill Builder on women's hunting gear, graduated from Southern Illinois University with a



bachelor's degree in zoology and a master's in human dimensions of wildlife management. She and her husband, John, take every opportunity to introduce their four boys to all things outdoors. They enjoy traveling, camping, hiking, hunting, trapping and fishing together. The best part? Watching the curiosity in their boys' eyes as they take time to stop and smell the flowers and investigate every creature along the way.

AT ISSUE

FROM THE PEN OF CARTER P. SMITH

For the sportsman, happiness is the month of August in the rearview mirror. Hints of fall are just around the corner. Flights of dove are a welcome sight over stock tanks and sunflowers. Teal have come buzzing in to the state's playas and ponds. Fishing coastal flats takes on greater appeal. Work weekends at the deer lease are eagerly planned. And, trips to the sporting goods stores for new licenses and gear pick up in frequency and fervor.

For the outdoor enthusiast who's not a hunter or angler, the hustle and bustle of a sportsman's September may seem like a distant abstraction. It is not. Or, perhaps more appropriately, it should not. Let me explain.

Seventy-five years ago, a persistent band of prominent sportsmen-conservationists pressed Congress into doing something to address the country's declining wildlife stocks. Their premise, at least in today's day and time, seemed like a non-starter: Convince sportsmen, manufacturers and retailers that it was in their best interest to levy a new excise tax on the sale of all sporting arms, handguns, shells and related outdoor goods.

The proceeds would be used to fund wildlife research, restoration and enhancement programs. Funds would be apportioned to all the states in proportion to their respective numbers of hunters. The monies would come in the form of matching grants to the states, with the states being responsible for a 25 percent share. State fish and game agencies, as the lawful stewards and fiduciaries of the public's resources, would be responsible for implementing effective conservation programs in concert with university, nonprofit and private landowner partners.

It was a plan that made good legislative sense to those who wanted to see wildlife populations rebound and ultimately flourish. Thankfully, maybe even miraculously, it passed. A number of years later, so, too, did a companion bill to support freshwater and saltwater fisheries conservation. From that vision and persistence of a formidable few sportsmen, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program was born.

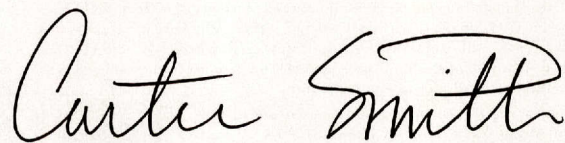
This year, we herald the program's 75th anniversary, a milestone of no small proportion for our beloved home ground and the wild things that reside here. Since the program's inception, more than \$650 million has been invested for fish and wildlife programs in Texas. The return on that investment would make any investor proud.

Thanks in part to Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration funding, Texas has a network of 49 wildlife management areas that serve as research, demonstration, educational and public hunting resources. Over a million and a half acres of public and private land are made available to sportsmen each year to pursue their favorite quarry. Eight inland and coastal fish hatcheries produce around 40 million fingerlings a year to stock in Texas rivers, lakes, bays and estuaries. Research on everything from redfish and redheads to turkey and trout has come about because of the program's sustained funding.

In plain terms, we have more deer, doves and ducks than any other state. Our coastal and inland waters are teeming with redfish, trout, flounder, bass and catfish. An approximately \$16 billion outdoor recreation industry is built around our vibrant fish and wildlife populations. More than 1 million hunters, 2.5 million anglers and 7 million nonconsumptive outdoor users benefit annually in the fruits of these investments.

As the slogan for the 75th anniversary of the act aptly suggests, "It's your nature." And it is indeed yours. Thanks for caring about our wild things and wild places. They need you now more than ever.

Seventy-five years ago, a persistent band of prominent sportsmen-conservationists pressed Congress into doing something to address the country's declining wildlife stocks.

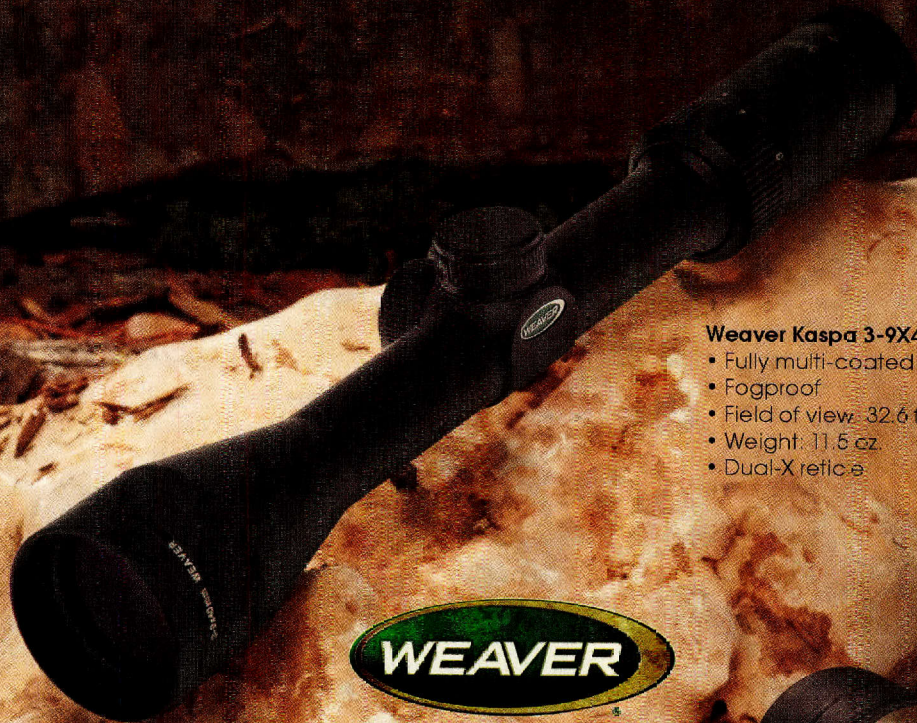


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To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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PICKS, PANS AND PROBES FROM OUR READERS

FOREWORD

There is so much inspiration to be found every day in the work we do here at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and at this magazine. Chief Photographer Earl Nottingham, who always seems to have his finger on the very pulse of Texans when he snaps the shutter of his camera, has been venturing into video lately. His latest foray features longtime *TP&W* magazine subscriber Rex Baugh, who redefines the concept of "loyal reader."

Rex has been reading the magazine since January 1955, when he says a subscription cost only a buck or two. He has a collection of every issue since, all in their own special covers in their own special bookcase. "I've read every magazine from cover to cover and I reread them ... Probably looked at them more than my schoolbooks ... I treasure it as one of my most prized collections."

In the video, Rex goes on to share his connected heritage to Mother Neff State Park and gets a little choked up when he thinks about how his grandfather hunted squirrels from the same pecan and oak trees he can walk under today. He agrees with our Executive Director Carter Smith when he says that our wild places and wild things need our help now more than ever. I couldn't agree more.

Lately, I've taken to watching Rex's video a few times each week. It reminds me that our readers are caring, intelligent, sincere folks, and it inspires me to work harder to help those wild things and wild places, just like Carter Smith, just like Rex Baugh. You can find the video on our website and on our Facebook page, and you can find his letter to the editor with a link to the video in the Letters section to the right.

Of course, the mission is too much for any one state agency to handle all alone. This month, we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration programs. Tom Harvey lays out the chronology of the funding and programs that came from a tax paid by manufacturers of guns, ammo and archery equipment. More than \$300 million later, we see all that the funds have accomplished. A tax on fishing gear alone has generated nearly \$350 million.

Mike Cox takes us deeper with Phil Goodrum, this month's Legend, Lore & Legacy profile. Cox tells us that Goodrum directed the efforts to get the WSFR program up and running, "compiling a record never equaled in Texas."

Of course, after looking back at these amazing success stories, you'll be ready to get out and do some hunting and fishing in the cooler weather. Steve Lightfoot gives you the lowdown on this year's conditions in our annual Hunting Forecast, and Larry Hodge takes us fishing for sunfish. And we haven't forgotten those of you who enjoy the outdoors in myriad other ways, with information on state parks, photography, plants and animals.

Thanks to Earl Nottingham and Rex Baugh, I wake up inspired every day to get out and enjoy the natural world. After reading this issue, I hope you feel the same way!

Louie Bond

LOUIE BOND
EDITOR

LETTERS

GRANDPAPPY'S FOOTPRINTS

Dyanne Fry Cortez's piece on Mother Neff State Park ("Hiking the Woods and Prairies," August/September 2012) brought a tear to my eyes.

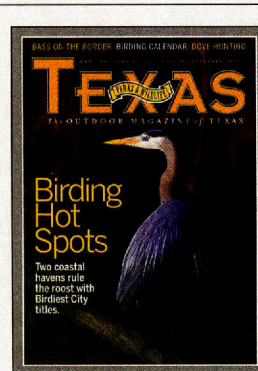
My great-great-grandfather, William Lovic Baugh, immigrated from Georgia in 1850 and built the "Baugh Mansion" a quarter of a mile up the gravel road and on top of the hill due east of Mother Neff. My grandfather was born in 1881 in that house, the remains of which still exist, albeit in a sad heap of timber and stone.

He left me a legacy, through my father, for a great love of Texas and its out-of-doors. He left the Mother Neff area with his widowed mother in 1900 in a wagon and mule team and settled on a farm near Rogers. I am blessed to own that farm today. I am more blessed to have enjoyed many

deer and squirrel hunts with my grandpappy and my daddy. I know that his footprints made as a teenager must still remain on the banks of the Leon River.

I have every issue of your magazine beginning with January 1955. I long for the 13 or 14 years that the magazine was published before I became aware of it. Thank you for a great magazine and for including Earl Nottingham's photographic insights.

REX BAUGH
Temple



"He left me a legacy,
through my father, for a great
love of Texas and its
out-of-doors."

REX BAUGH
Temple

Watch a video of reader Rex Baugh sharing his memories of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine and Mother Neff State Park at <http://youtu.be/k2AzFdH9r0s>

MAIL CALL

NOT THE LEON RIVER

I just received my August/September issue and feel the need to comment on the article about Mother Neff State Park ("Hiking the Woods and Prairies").

Having spent much time serving as park host and walking/working on the trails, I am very familiar with the park. Your attention is directed to the photograph of the "Leon River bottom" on Page 18. So as to not mislead readers, this is not a photograph of the Leon River. It is in fact the Wash Pond. The stone feature in the upper part of the pond is a dam constructed by the CCC.

I have never and most likely will never see the Leon River as clear as the water seen in the Wash Pond.

Keep up the good work. I look forward to receiving my issues each month.

W.R. WAMBLE
Houston

BEAUTIFUL FOXES

Having grown up in Texas, I am now a resident of Kansas. This year my wife and I had the privilege of watching

a mother red fox and five babies. It was during this time that you ran the article "A Tail of Two Foxes." Having always been an avid outdoorsman, I had a little knowledge of foxes, but not the red fox. We watched these animals for almost two months before they decided to move on. It was nice to be able to read up on the beautiful animals and learn a little more.

GLENN KLANDER
Spring Hill, Kan.

A FINE ISSUE

May I commend you on one of your finest issues — July 2012.

I was pleased to see where graffiti was removed from historic sites ("Goodbye, Graffiti"). What kind of mentality does such — none!

The bluebells ("The Ice Cream Flower") were prolific around this old homestead, called Highland Springs Farm for its many springs (heat and dry have wiped them out). Plus, many a piece of bacon on a string dropped down a crawdad hole produced a fine meal

("Chimney Builders").

The XIT ("XIT Marks the Spot") was a must event when I was an aspiring rodeo lad — a fine article and a history of a piece of Texas.

The well-written and well-researched article on bobwhite ("Quail Quandary") kept me busy with my thoughts and remedy. I was recently rewarded when I jumped a small covey here at the farm.

Again I congratulate the writers and your staff.

CARL BAILEY
Cisco

Sound off for Mail Call

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SCOUT

NEWS AND VIEWS IN THE TEXAS OUTDOORS

A PLACE TO HUNT

Celebrating the silver anniversary of TPWD's Public Hunting Program.



It's 4 a.m. on a cool, drizzling November morning, and the line of people looks like a scene from a Black Friday sale. But these folks are checking in, not checking out. It's the first week of duck hunting season, and this scene is being replicated at nearly a dozen public hunting areas along the Texas coast. Waterfowlers sign in and make their way into the marsh to set up decoy spreads for the morning hunt. For the price of dinner and a

movie, these hunters will get the chance to experience some of the best duck hunting anywhere.

For hunters who do not have access to privately owned land, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provides low-cost access to thousands of acres of department-managed lands for hunting, including most wildlife management areas, some state parks and many leased properties. Access to those properties is available to

hunters who purchase an Annual Public Hunting (APH) permit.

This hunting season, the TPWD Public Hunting Program recognizes 25 years of public hunting opportunities offered by the APH permit. Since 1987, more than 817,000 hunters have taken advantage of affordable access to public hunting land. With more than 95 percent of hunting land in Texas in private hands, the APH permit has been and will continue to



Texas hunters can take advantage of TPWD's network of public lands and private leased properties to hunt for a variety of species, including waterfowl, deer, small game and dove.



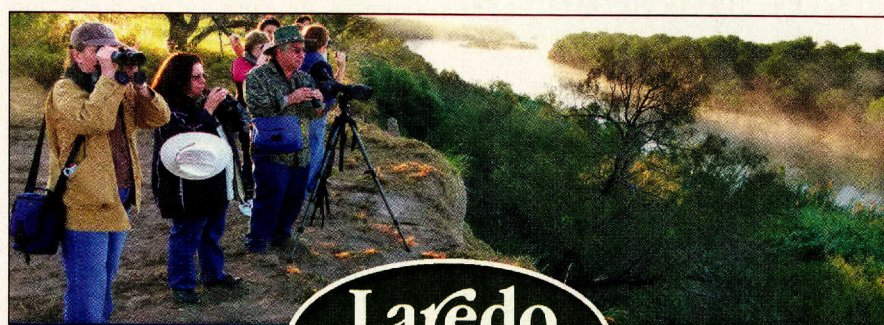
be a valuable resource for people looking for access to the outdoors, whether for hunting, fishing, bird watching, hiking or photography.

The APH permit costs \$48 and is valid from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31 of the following year. It allows hunting on designated properties for a variety of species, including doves, squirrels, rabbits, white-tailed deer, feral hogs, turkeys, predators and furbearers, without having to pay a daily fee. Equipped with the appropriate Texas hunting licenses and stamps, permit holders may take kids under age 17 hunting for free on these areas. Just remember, a Texas hunting license and adult supervision are always required for youth participants.

A new online map feature allows for "virtual scouting" of public hunting areas. You can follow links to detailed aerial maps, Google Earth imagery, APH permit information and maps found in the map booklet.

Permits are conveniently available wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold, online at www.tpwd.state.tx.us or by calling (800) TX-LIC-4U. There is a \$5 convenience fee for online and phone purchases. If the permit is purchased at a TPWD office, the public hunting lands map book will be provided immediately at the time of purchase; otherwise, the publications will be mailed to the purchaser within two weeks. ★

— Steve Lightfoot



Green Parakeets, White-collared Seedeaters and the Great Kiskadee, oh my!

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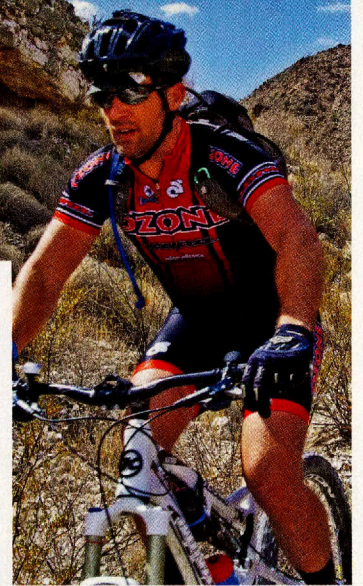


Desert Wheeling

The Chihuahuan Desert Bike Fest returns in February.

As fall moves in with cooler temperatures, it's a perfect time to tune up your bike and start training for the biggest mountain-biking festival in West Texas. The Chihuahuan Desert Bike Fest features three full days of riding in Big Bend Ranch State Park, Big Bend National Park and the Lajitas Trails on Feb. 14 through 16. Most rides are guided, but folks can choose to ride individually as well.

Terlingua-based outfitter Desert Sports will again partner with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to produce the third annual Bike Fest as a fundraiser for the Big Bend Trails Alliance. The 2012 festival drew 240 riders, about 50 more than in 2011. Judging from the enthusiastic turnout, which included experienced riders from across the country and a growing number of beginning-level cyclists, organizers predict that event attendance will continue to grow.



Big Bend-area mountain biking offers its own set of challenges and rewards. Don't forget water and extra tubes.

In 2012, Lajitas Golf Resort and Spa hosted the event, with camping and lots of social activity at the resort's Maverick Ranch RV Park. Representatives from Bicycle Sport Shop, the Bike Barn, Bike Mojo, Specialized, Bike Mart, Shimano and others were on hand with a fleet of demo bikes for riders to try out on the trails. Post-ride evening activities included swimming, hula-hooping, dining in Terlingua, listening to live music and checking out the Austin Bike Zoo's fantastical bike creations. The 2013 event will follow a similar format, and participants from previous years have been invited to return.

With more than 200 miles of multi-use and single-track trails, Big Bend Ranch State Park is gaining a reputation as a premier mountain-biking destination. The International Mountain Biking Association's recent designation of a 58-mile "Epic" trail has helped put the park solidly on the cycling map. The Epic trail ride, which can be extended to 70 miles depending on a rider's preference, is a favorite among Bike Fest riders. There is also a two-day Epic ride option, with an overnight stay and meals at the Saucedo headquarters bunkhouse.

Other rides in Big Bend Ranch State Park include the popular 30-mile Rincon Loop ride and its 2.5-mile single-track segment, the Chimney Rock Cutacross. The 18-mile Contrabando Loop and Dome Trail is a perennial favorite with riders who crave desert single-track, and recent trail additions allow for a side trip to the historic Contrabando Waterhole. Park rangers will also lead slower-paced Chihuahuan

Desert ecosystem bike tours; there will be shorter rides for kids, as well as rides in Big Bend National Park.

Recreational mountain-biker and Bike Fest attendee Russ Holm says he will "definitely be back" in 2013. Accustomed to riding loop trails in his hometown of Austin, Holm says the quality of riding at Bike Fest is well worth the long drive to get there.

"Big Bend Ranch State Park has such an extensive trail system that it offers you the opportunity to have a new experience every day, in the beautiful setting of the Chihuahuan Desert ecosystem," he explains. "The Lajitas trail system is great, too. You just don't get that type of riding anywhere else."

Although the desert terrain is beautiful, it can also be hilly, rocky and challenging, and temperatures can vary from extreme cold to extreme heat. Riders are encouraged to train ahead of time and research the gear they'll need — such as a means of carrying two to three liters of water a day, and at least two self-sealing bike tubes.

To learn more, visit the Desert Sports website at www.desertstx.com. Event details will be posted there, along with photos from previous festivals. For more information about the trails at Big Bend Ranch State Park, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/bigbendbranch or call the park at (432) 358-4444. The park website has downloadable maps and the *Big Bend Ranch Biking Guide*, with 26 ride descriptions, including the Epic trail ride. ★

—Karen Hoffman Blizzard

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Frostweed and Monarchs

This native plant is an important pit stop for butterflies' fall travel.



Frostweed's fall flowers prove irresistible to migrating monarchs. The plant is an important nectar source for them. In winter, water from the stems can freeze into fascinating shapes, above.

One weekend in late October, we ventured out to Colorado Bend State Park to camp. Halloween was just a few days away, so we carved some pumpkins we had brought along. When night fell, we set them out on the picnic table and lit the candles inside. It was a moonless night, and everyone marveled at how brightly they glowed in the dark.

Late afternoon the next day, we set out to find Spicewood Springs, a short walk downriver from the campground. As the trail dipped down into the shade of tall pecans, we walked straight into a cloud of monarch butterflies. Luckily for us, our Halloween outing coincided with the peak migration of monarchs making their way south to Mexico.

Out came the camera, and I set off to get the perfect monarch photo. I parked myself by a waist-high frostweed plant (*Verbesina virginica* L., a member of the sunflower family) in

full bloom, covered with monarchs. I noticed that the monarchs were flocking to the white flower heads on all of the frostweed plants, busily probing the flowers for nectar.

Monarch butterflies follow the Colorado and other Texas rivers as they migrate to their wintering grounds in the highlands of northern Mexico. The fall migration takes about two months, and as they go, the monarchs drop down into the shelter of forests along the way to feed on flowers and rest overnight. They rest hanging from the branches of frostweeds and other plants.

Watching the monarchs at work, I was reminded of the importance of timing for both plants and butterflies. What would happen if the frostweeds bloomed too early or too late? Would the monarchs have enough fuel to make it to Mexico? Would the frostweeds get pollinated and set seed for next year?

Frostweed is a native plant found in shaded forests throughout the eastern half of the state. It spreads by underground stems, sprouts new plants in late spring and dies back in the winter. Although larger in size than most wildflowers, frostweed is hardly

noticeable until it blooms in the fall. The plants produce long, green, ribbon-like wings that run the length of the stem. This characteristic makes them easy to identify when they aren't in flower.

Frostweed gets its name from the plant's ability to squeeze water from the stem when it freezes in winter. As water is squeezed out, it forms ribbons of ice crystals that take on fascinating shapes.

Frostweed has other names, including iceplant, white crownbeard, Indian tobacco and squawweed. Native Americans — including the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek and Mikasuki Seminole — used the leaves to treat fever, chills and body aches, and they used the roots as a purgative to treat indigestion.

Matt Turner, in *Remarkable Plants of Texas*, attributes the name "squawweed" to a specific use for women. Turner notes that the Kickapoo, as late as the 1970s, were still using hot decoctions of the plant for near-term and post-partum issues, such as cleansing the womb and stanching excessive bleeding.

You may be wondering if I ever did get that perfect monarch photo. Not even close! I think it's time to make another trip out to Colorado Bend State Park to try again. ★

— Karen H. Clary



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Beloved box turtles come packaged in protective, decorative shells.



On a recent walk in the woods, our family dog returned from his travels with a “treasure” gripped firmly in his jaws. He ran straight to me, obediently dropped his package at my feet and proudly looked up awaiting his reward—a heartfelt “good boy!” Upon closer inspection, I noticed that this gift was a little different from his customary offerings. I reached down and picked up a slobbery, slimy and somewhat disoriented three-toed box turtle.

Just mention the name “box turtle” and it brings about a flood of fond childhood memories for most Texans. I doubt that there is any other type of turtle in our state so warmly welcomed by the masses, so loved that it could possibly compete with the beloved Texas horned lizard in a reptile popularity contest. Box turtles were once common throughout the state, but recent population declines have been a cause for concern.

There are two species of box turtles found in Texas—the eastern box turtle and the ornate box turtle. Three representative subspecies occur in Texas. The eastern box turtle is represented by the three-toed box turtle (*Terrapene carolina triunguis*). The ornate box turtle has two subspecies: the ornate box turtle (*Terrapene ornata ornata*) and the desert box turtle (*Terrapene ornata luteola*).

Box turtles can be found statewide, with each subspecies generally occupying a different area of the state. The desert box turtle inhabits the southwest, the three-toed box turtle resides in the eastern portion of our state, and the ornate box turtle generally enjoys a more

statewide distribution. Box turtles are omnivorous, with a diet of insects, snails, slugs, fruits, berries, plants and sometimes carrion.

These unique turtles acquired their name from the hinge on their shell that allows them to completely shut the shell when threatened. This adaptation protects the turtle from its natural enemies, which are not thought to be the most likely culprits in recent population declines. Habitat loss and collection for the pet trade are the more likely reasons for the decline.

These turtles occupy a very small home range, which means that when they are removed from an area for any reason, they generally do not recolonize that area. They are also long-lived, having been documented with a lifespan of up to 50 years. Because of this long life expectancy, they take between five and 10 years to reach maturity, and produce relatively few offspring. These biological constraints add to the already daunting task of rebounding from population and habitat losses.

To enable us to better manage their populations and to gain more information about these turtles, TPWD tracks box turtle sightings. You can help by completing the form at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/boxturtles if you happen to encounter a box turtle. We hope these efforts will allow for future generations to look back at their fond childhood memories of these interesting “treasures.” ★

— Tucker Slack

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Take a Step Back in Time

Ranching heritage lives on at Hill Country State Natural Area.



The land is to be “kept far removed and untouched by modern civilization, where everything is preserved intact, yet put to a useful purpose.”

That’s what Louise Lindsey Merrick, owner of the Bar-O Ranch, requested when she donated portions of her land over a seven-year period to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. First opened to the public in 1984, Hill Country State Natural Area has more than 5,300 acres where visitors can get away from it all. Located just 11 miles from Bandera, the self-proclaimed “Cowboy Capital of the World,” this secluded Hill Country retreat offers picturesque views, multi-use trails, primitive camping and more.

Hill Country State Natural Area balances protecting its natural and cultural resources and offering great recreational opportunities. Trail riding is one of the most popular activities — if you don’t have your own

HORSE PHOTO BY EARL NOTTINGHAM/TMWD; OTHERS BY CHASE A. FOUNTAIN/TMWD



Opposite page: Hill Country State Natural Area is crossed by miles of trails for horseback riders and other users. The limestone hills offer sweeping Hill Country vistas. Above: A group lodge is available for overnight stays.

horse, you can contact local outfitters for a rustic experience on horseback.

While the traditional ranching lifestyle may be disappearing, you don't have to look far for clues to the

past at Hill Country State Natural Area. After you enter the park, you'll pass by the two-story ranch house, which dates back to 1892. Look for ranching implements like antique balers and tractors next to the headquarters building, and hunt for history along the trails.

On Saturday, Oct. 20, you can experience ranch history at Ranch Heritage Day, an annual open-house event co-sponsored by the park and

the park's friends group, Hill Country State Natural Area Partners.

"We will provide a variety of recreational activities that are compatible with conservation of the park resources," Superintendent Paul David Fuentes says. "There will be activities about ranching and the animals that made up the day-to-day life of the cowboy."

Equestrians can kick off the day with a trail ride, followed by events in the horse arena like drill teams, ranch skills demonstrations and competitive skills showmanship. Storytellers, horse trainers, singers, historians and others will be on hand to portray authentic ranching life. This free event runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with concessions available.

From Bandera, travel south on Texas Highway 173, go across the Medina River and continue for approximately a quarter-mile to Ranch Road 1077. Turn right on Ranch Road 1077 and go 10 miles to the end of the blacktop. Continue on the caliche road and follow the park signs to the park headquarters. For more information, visit www.texasstateparks.org or call (830) 796-4413. ★

—Tara Humphreys

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Shooting Fall Color

Though autumn foliage doesn't always show off, these tips will help you get the best shots.

Unlike the predictable autumn postcard colors in much of the northeastern United States, fall color in Texas can sometimes be a gamble. One year may produce brilliant reds, oranges and yellows, while the next year seems to produce only infinite shades of brown. But when the rainfall and temperature conditions are just right, autumn in Texas can be glorious and a magnet for photographers.

From McKittrick Canyon in the Guadalupe Mountains to the Texas Hill Country to the Pineywoods and hardwood forests of East Texas, each of the state's diverse natural regions displays its own unique cloak of colors.

I've often heard from photographers that the autumn foliage images they took just didn't do justice to the colors they initially saw with their creative eye. This is usually due to the camera's limitations relative to the abilities of the human eye. Our visual abilities can discriminate a much greater range of color and light value than the camera can. However, there are a few things you can do to increase the odds of getting some great photographs.

Although bright sunlight might make colors look brilliant, the added contrast sometimes makes colors appear harsh, especially when contrasted with deep shadows. Try shooting on days with slightly overcast or cloudy conditions. While it may go against our nature to shoot on cloudy days, diffused light is the photographer's friend and will result in greater color and tonal range. It's also easier to find more diffused lighting conditions in the early morning or late afternoon, so plan your shooting accordingly.

If you must shoot in bright sunlight, try to find angles where the sun is coming from behind the foliage, thus trans-illuminating the brilliant colors of the leaves.

Other unique atmospheric conditions such as rain, fog and even frost can greatly enhance any fall photograph, and you can feel very lucky if you encounter them while shooting. Raindrops and frost patterns are especially good candidates for close-up images. One of the secrets of good photography is that some of the best conditions for taking a photograph occur under what we would normally consider "bad" weather.



Lighting can be a challenge but can also be used to your advantage in capturing the brilliance of fall foliage in Texas.



Camera settings on digital cameras also play an important part in reproducing brilliant foliage colors, and two settings in particular will help get better results. They are the color saturation and white balance settings.

Color saturation settings that intensify outdoor scenes have different names depending on the manufacturer. Some may have a "Vivid" picture style setting, while others may call it a "Landscape" setting. Both will intensify the color saturation of landscape colors. Consult your camera's manual for the proper setting.

Correct **white balance** is important. While most point-and-shoot digital cameras will default to the "Auto" white balance feature, colors may not reproduce as accurately as possible. A better choice is to manually change to either the "Daylight" or, preferably, the "Cloudy" white balance icon when shooting under diffused light. This ensures that the warmer autumn colors will be faithfully reproduced. For even warmer colors, try the "Shade" setting. In fact, shoot several images at different settings and see which

results you like. That's what the delete button is for.

Finally, don't forget that the autumn outdoors make a great studio for people pictures. Just put your subjects in earth-toned clothing (no white shirts), and you've got the makings for colorful family memories.

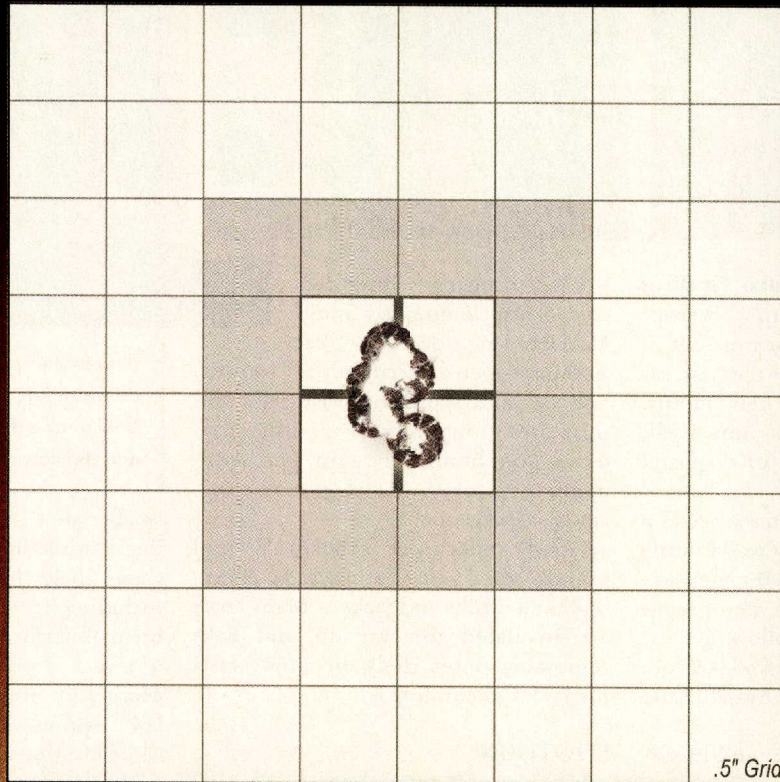
Because most Texas land is privately owned, access to good places for photography can sometimes be limited. Luckily, some of the best locations for peak color are in Texas state parks, and all are photographer-friendly. Learn more about park foliage at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/parkinfo/seasonal/foliage/. ★

—Earl Nottingham

» Please send questions and comments to Earl at earl.nottingham@tpwd.state.tx.us
» See more on outdoor photography at www.tpwdmagazine.com/photography

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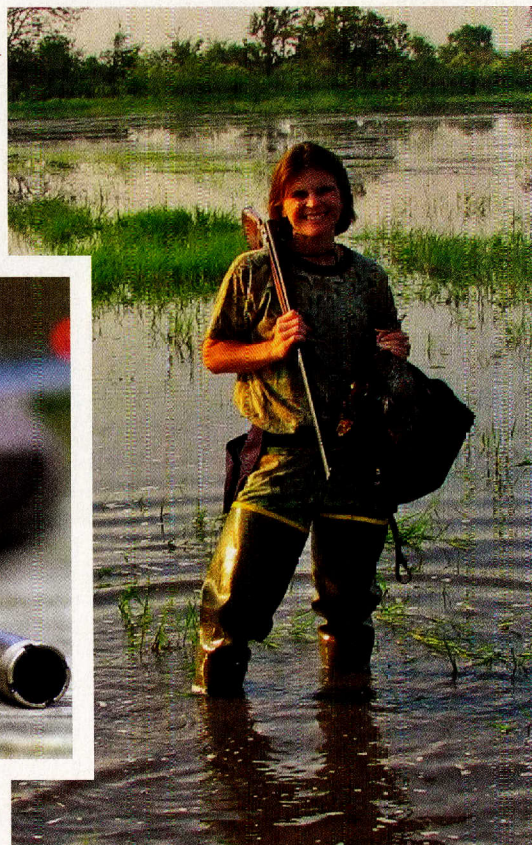
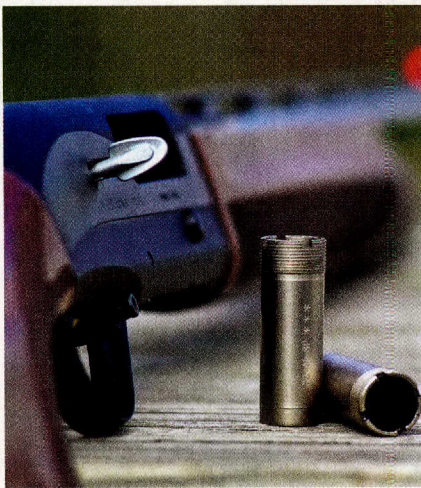
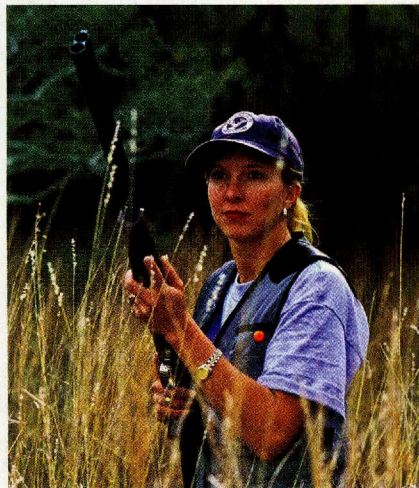


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More Than Pink Camo

Female waterfowl hunters prepare for the hunt.



Increasingly, women are finding their way to waterfowl hunting. Perhaps it's their innate yearning for time out in nature or a desire to procure the freshest, nature-raised meat for their family. Perhaps it's the thrill of the hunt itself, with the added excitement of dogs and calls and disguise.

In some cases, the path to a successful waterfowl hunt is made more daunting to women because they lack the mentoring needed to assist them in their preparation for the big day. By following these simple steps before waterfowl season, women can experience an enjoyable and successful hunt.

The first step is education and licensing. Every hunter born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education course and carry proof of certification while in the field. A hunting license and federal and state migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps (duck stamps) must also be purchased and carried with you while hunting. Licenses can be purchased across the state, at all TPWD law enforcement offices and at most stores where sporting goods are sold.

The next step is gearing up. On your first visit, a large hunting department store can be intimidating, so let's break down the process into manageable pieces.

CLOTHING

Weather will factor into your clothing choices. No matter where you hunt, it's always beneficial to dress in layers. Since

you're hunting waterfowl, waterproof clothing is a must. Most hunting stores now offer clothing targeted specifically for women. You can find appropriate hat, pant and shirt sizes to match the camouflage pattern of your hunting location, whether in bottomland forests, marsh grasses, croplands or even snow.

Good waders are crucial. Several brands offer sets that include chest-high wader bibs and jackets. Many coats are insulated for warmth and have removable outer shells or inner vests for layers of comfort.

SHOTGUN

Having a well-fitted shotgun is critical to becoming a proficient shot. Many shotgun manufacturers now design their firearms specifically for the differences in a woman's body frame. Knowledgeable staff at a reputable firearm dealer or hunting store can help you select the best gun for the hunt. They can help you determine the proper length of the stock and barrel for a good fit. After you purchase a firearm, visit a local gunsmith, who can ensure proper fit and modify the stock to match the contour of the shooter's cheek.

AMMO

The type of ammunition you select depends on the size of the birds you're hunting. The most commonly used shot sizes for waterfowl include (from smallest to largest) 4, 3, 2, 1, BB, BBB and T. The

A successful waterfowl hunt will depend on, from left, plenty of practice in the field or at a range, a well-fitted shotgun and the correct clothing.

smaller shot sizes are recommended for ducks, while the larger ones are used for geese. Shells also come in varying lengths, including 2¾-inch, 3-inch and 3½-inch. Waterfowlers typically prefer 3- or 3½-inch loads that carry heavy shot charges for greater pattern density. U.S. law requires the use of nontoxic shot while hunting waterfowl.

Match your firearm with the proper ammunition. Read the specific gauge designation that is stamped on the barrel of the shotgun. Match that designation exactly. For example, if the shotgun barrel is stamped "12-gauge for 2¾-inch shells," then that is the exact ammunition to purchase. Carefully read the information on the lid of the ammunition box. Always check both the gauge and the shell length, and make sure those figures match the data on the barrel.

Once you're properly outfitted in the appropriate clothing (with the proper pattern of camouflage to match the environment) and have a well-fitted shotgun with the correct ammunition, let the practice begin. Seek out a local sporting store to sharpen your shooting skills. When you're comfortable with your results, let the hunt begin! ★

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3 Days in the Field / By Dyanne Fry Cortez

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Discoveries in the Desert

In Presidio County, life and art are where you find them.



Abhhh ... the cool-water pool at Chinati Hot Springs gives guests a place to escape the heat.

Chinati Hot Springs is not on the way to anywhere. To experience this oasis in the Chihuahuan Desert, you have to really want to go there.

There are two ways in: northwest on FM 170 from the border town of Presidio, or south from Marfa over FM 2810 and the ruggedly beautiful Pinto Canyon Road (a high-clearance vehicle is strongly recommended). Today we're taking the border route. We stop in Presidio for last-chance groceries and follow the Rio Grande upstream. The winter sun sinks behind a Mexican mountain range, putting the highway in shadow before we reach the village of Ruidosa and turn right onto Hot Springs Road.

We've called ahead to reserve a campsite, and manager Diana Burbach is waiting to check us in. She gives a quick tour and advises us that a mountain lion was seen on the premises two nights ago.

"We've always known there are some around. They don't usually cause any trouble," she says. This one was prowling the cottonwood flat that runs alongside Hot Spring Creek when a guest stepped out of his cabin. The big cat "let him know it was there," Burbach says.

There aren't many people here tonight. We have the kitchen to ourselves as my husband, Javier, cooks red beans and rice fortified with chunks of German sausage. We eat, wash up and walk down to the bath house, keeping our eyes peeled for lions. After a soak in Tub No. 1, our favorite, we're not fit for anything but sleep.

We've visited Chinati a half-dozen times in the past 15 years. It's the best place we know to take a break from the world and all its troubles. In this canyon of healing waters, the world seems very far away.

The guest rooms don't have TVs or telephones. Mobile phones don't work

here — at least, mine doesn't. Marfa's public radio station will come in sometimes, but you can't count on it; there's a lot of volcanic rock between here and the broadcast tower. Ruidosa, seven miles away, once had a little store, but it's no longer in operation. Says Dan Burbach, Diana's spouse and co-manager: "There's not even a place to buy a Coke."

The resort dates back to the 1890s. Formerly known as the Kingston Hot Springs, it was run by one family for almost a century. After a change in ownership, it closed to the public for several

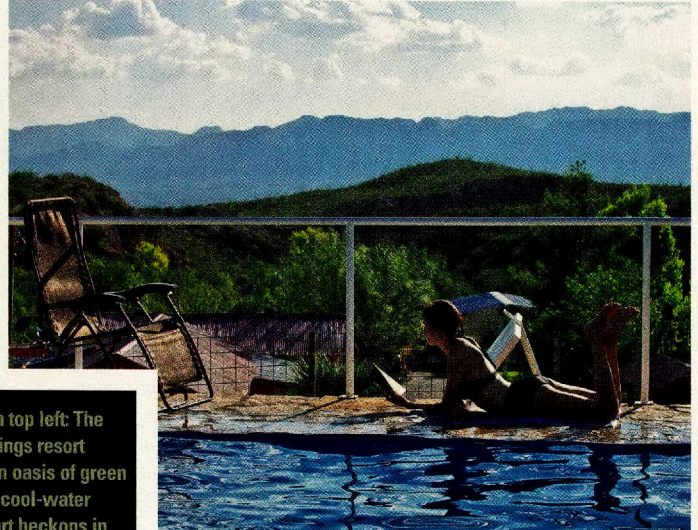
years and reopened as Chinati Hot Springs in 1997.

On our first visit, I suspect the place was pretty much as the Kingstons left it. There were three hot tubs, two for general use and one with an attached guest room (now called the El Presidente Suite). The funky old faucets worked strictly on gravity feed, and if people happened to open all three at the same time, the third tub might not get any water.

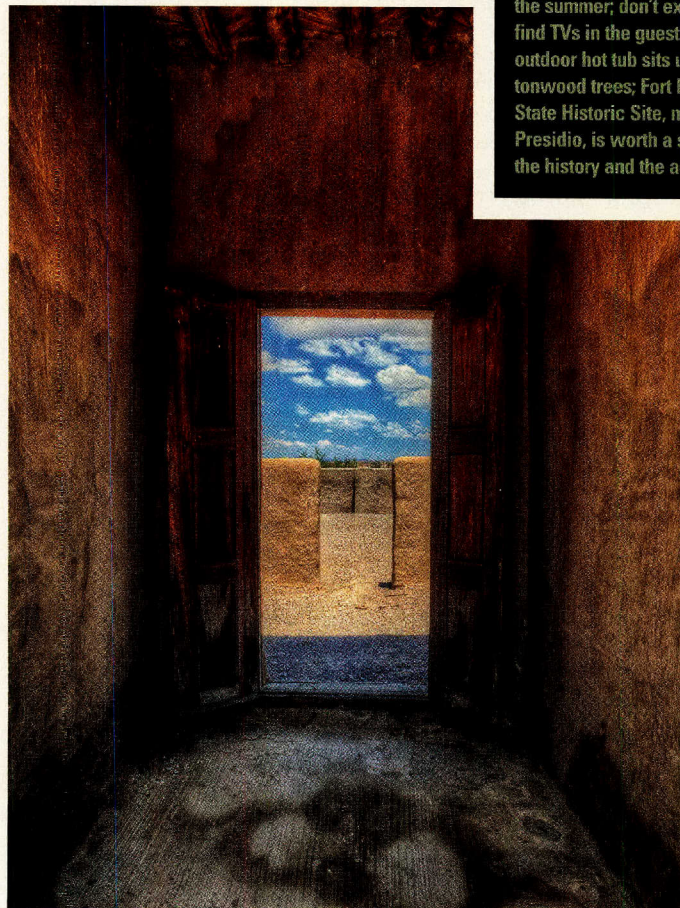
A few things have changed in the past decade, but the feel of the resort remains

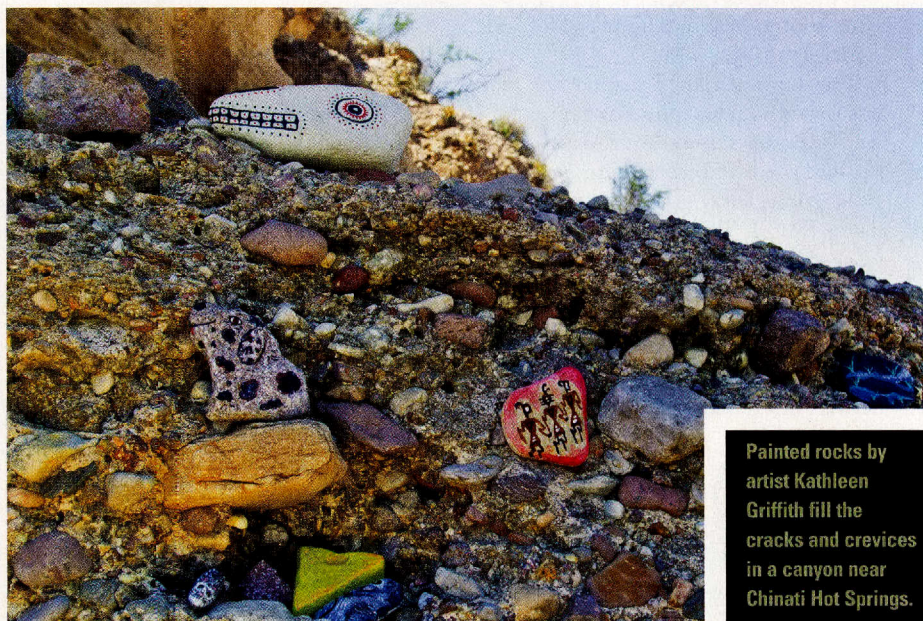
the same. The original bath house is still there, with some new plumbing behind the scenes. It still seems stuck in time with its deep tubs, thick rammed-earth walls, skylights for daytime use and soft lighting at night. Two additional guest rooms now have private tubs on fenced patios. There's an outdoor tub under cottonwood trees and a cool pool that's filled only in summer.

My favorite addition is the new kitchen and dining hall, built in 2005. I sometimes wonder: Can we really say we're "camping" at Chinati, when we have the



Clockwise from top left: The Chinati Hot Springs resort stands out as an oasis of green in the desert; a cool-water pool at the resort beckons in the summer; don't expect to find TVs in the guest rooms; an outdoor hot tub sits under cottonwood trees; Fort Leaton State Historic Site, near Presidio, is worth a stop for the history and the adobe.





Painted rocks by artist Kathleen Griffith fill the cracks and crevices in a canyon near Chinati Hot Springs.

sign painted on a rock. In fact, there are painted rocks all over the place.

This canyon is not carved in blocks of limestone, like some others in the Big Bend area. Its walls are lumpy, bumpy conglomerations of sand and stone, dotted with cracks and crevices. Rock and tile artist Kathleen Griffith, who owns land on both sides of the creek, has filled those niches with portraits of birds, mammals, frogs, fish and people, all painted on rocks of various sizes and shapes. One large, pointed stone has been transformed into a life-size javelina head. The sly face of a mountain lion lurks under a high ledge.

"I just thought it would be a point of interest," says Griffith, who also created the new tile mosaic at the gate to Chinati Hot Springs. She

luxury of cooking indoors? The kitchen has two sinks, two refrigerators, two stoves and counter space for several parties to prepare meals at the same time. We don't even need to pack pots, plates or utensils; it's all there. The dining area holds an assortment of tables and chairs, with more seating outside, and a pair of barbecue grills on the patio.

The shared kitchen serves as a community gathering place, great for sharing stories with other visitors. You never know whom you'll find out here in the middle of nowhere. On one of our first visits, we waited our turn at Tub No. 1 and found that Austin singer Toni Price was in just ahead of us. We're told Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall once stayed in the El Presidente Suite.

If I want to be alone and listen to the desert, there's plenty of space for that, too. After breakfast, I take a hike.

There's a trail. It starts on a rocky slope at the north end of the property, crosses Hot Spring Creek and climbs a steep bank on the other side. Taking a sharp turn just before a fence with a "No Trespassing" sign, I wind my way through desert scrub at the top of the canyon wall. Looking down from here, I get a panoramic view of the resort on the inside bend of the creek. The Chinati Mountains form a scenic backdrop, toppling out at 7,728-foot Chinati Peak. Just for fun, I check my cellphone to see if I can catch a signal at my present altitude. Nothing. I might as well be on the moon.

The trail follows the ridge for a way, heading downstream, and finally descends to the creek bed. From there it's a short walk over sand and gravel bars back to camp.

Diana Burbach says that if I want to try another hike, straight down the creek about a half-mile, I'll find an art gallery in the canyon wall. After a dip in the outdoor hot tub and lunch on the patio, I talk Javier into going with me.

I've never seen more than a trickle of water in this creek. It's fed by several springs, both hot and cold. However, as with any watercourse in this part of Texas, there are times when it's a raging torrent. We see evidence in the tumbled rocks we're walking over, the undercut banks on sharp curves, the debris caught in the trees and brush that have grown up on the canyon floor. As we head downstream, the walls get closer and higher.

Eventually, we see a utility pole high on the right bank. We look to our left and there is Griffith Gallery, marked with a

notes that the art works are all temporary inserts; no changes have been made to the wall itself. She hopes hikers will enjoy them and leave them there for others to see.

Back at camp, the weekend crowd is moving in. We fix a spaghetti dinner, don a few more layers of clothing and sit outside with other guests to drink in the night. The moon is almost full, casting a silver light over the rock-lined paths, the bath house and the cottonwood flat.

By 1 p.m. Saturday, we're packed and ready to go. We plan to break up the long drive home with a night at Presidio's Three Palms Inn, situated almost within sight of the International Bridge to Ojinaga, Mexico.

We catch a late lunch at El Patio, on the main street around the corner from the bus station. Javier has the El Patio special: a chile relleno, crispy taco and two beef enchiladas with green sauce spicy enough to make his nose run. I order chicken enchiladas with red sauce. The food is good, and I have to love the décor. Somebody here really admires Don Quixote. His likeness is everywhere: pictures on the walls, figurines on the ice-cream cart and, in one corner of the dining room, a life-size wooden statue of the hapless knight sitting dejectedly on a stump. The backdrop for the statue is a floor-to-ceiling mural of a Spanish country scene, including a windmill with a broken blade.

Proprietor René Franco tells me the statue was the first Don Quixote in the collection. It inspired visiting artist David Mendoza, who painted the mural some 10 years later. Most of the other items were donated by customers and friends.

We've had lovely weather for our trip, but morning comes with clouds and a slight chance of snow in the forecast. After plates of huevos rancheros at the Oasis Restaurant next door to our hotel, we hit the road for home. ☆

DETAILS

- Chinati Hot Springs, www.chinatihotsprings.net, 432-229-4165 (reservations required)
- Three Palms Inn, 1200 Emma Ave., Presidio, www.threepalmsinn.com, 432-229-3211
- Oasis Restaurant (next door to Three Palms Inn), 432-229-3998
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BY STEVE LIGHTFOOT
2012-13 HUNTING

Here's the lowdown on



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GRAVES



G FORECAST

whitetails and more, straight from the experts.



PHOTO BY CHASE A. FOUNTAIN/ARND



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Hunting is as much a conversation as it is an activity. Storytelling around a campfire at the end of the day is an important part of our hunting heritage, but hunters also crave news. If you don't believe me, observe what happens whenever two or more of them get together. Doesn't matter if it's in a coffee shop in El Campo, a steakhouse in Fort Worth or a feed store in Llano — hunting will be discussed.

Arguably, no other Texas hunters have more conversations about hunting than wildlife biologists with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. They are the experts. They're also in the woods practically every day. They see a lot of what's going on in the wild year-round. It's logical that the No. 1 question they get from hunters is: "What's the season looking like this year?"

So, pull up a chair and grab a cup of coffee. This place is full of wildlife biologists, and the talk is all about hunting season.

PHOTO © D. ROBERT FRANZ/OLFP/COM





Deer

That scruffy-looking character with the bushy horseshoe mustache talking to that large group, that's Alan Cain. He heads up TPWD's white-tailed deer program. That's why he's so popular. He oversees Texas' 3.3 million deer, with a fan base of more than 500,000 deer hunters. A lot of folks want to hear what he has to say.

Cain: The white-tailed deer herd in Texas is doing well and stable. Despite one of the worst droughts on record last year, the deer population came through with minimal population impacts. Most areas experienced a low fawn crop last year, as to be expected, but we had very few reports of any significant adult mortality related to the drought.

Whenever a wildlife biologist talks about hunting prospects, weather is the caveat. It's the one variable that land managers, biologists and hunters have no control over, yet it plays a critical part of the hunting equation.

Cain: Winter and spring moisture was much better compared to last year, and most of the state has received much-needed rain this spring to boost forage resources needed for antler development and fawn rearing. Far West Texas, primarily mule deer country, is still dry. I expect this to be an average to slightly above-average season for antlers. South Texas, known for trophy bucks, should be in good shape as we've had rain this summer. The Texas Hill Country, known for higher deer populations, has also received good rains this summer, so hunters should expect decent antler quality and good body weights for this region.

Another aspect of the hunting equation wildlife biologists are attuned to is trend data. They're good at turning statistics into news hunters can use. Somebody asks about South Texas deer, and Cain defers to David Veale,

whose district covers most of the Brush Country. Veale tips his hat.

Veale: Deer age structure is still going to be impacted by the previous drought, with low fawn crops in 2008, 2009 and 2011. This will affect the number of bucks in the population available for harvest in many age classes, although the large fawn crop of 2007 should carry over decent numbers of mature bucks where they managed to live that long.

David Synatzske is squinting and chomping at the bit to get in his two cents about South Texas deer. He manages the state's crown jewels of South Texas wildlife management areas: the Chaparral and the James Daughtrey, and gets a lot of inquiries from savvy public hunters hoping to win the drawing for a prized Chap deer hunt through TPWD's Public Hunting Program.

Synatzske: Antler development is expected to be good on more mature aged bucks but may be somewhat lacking in younger age classes unless the drought ends soon. Higher fawn crops are in order from low production evident during the 2011 drought.

From the side chats and nodding heads, the consensus among the state's biologists points to an overall better deer hunting season, thanks to timely reprieves from the drought. Spring rains rejuvenated habitat conditions, provided bucks with the nutrition they needed for antler growth and enabled does to produce higher fawn crops. Mike Krueger, district biologist for the Edwards Plateau, is an optimist and a realist.

Krueger: What a difference a year makes. But it's still too early to say that the drought is over — more rain is needed to replenish diminished soil moisture, surface water and groundwater supplies.



Waterfowl

Biologists speak different languages, not just deer talk. That red-headed, freckle-faced guy working the duck call is Kevin Kraai, TPWD's waterfowl program leader. He's fired up about this year's waterfowl season, mostly because there's actually some water in Texas for the ducks. From a wetlands conservation perspective, the drought came with an upside.

Kraai: Assuming you can follow up a drought like last year with rain, an event like that can be very beneficial for wetland conditions the following year. Wetlands need disturbance of one kind or another, and drought can act as one of the best disturbances to stimulate favorable plants for waterfowl. I don't believe we could have asked for a

better scenario for breeding mottled ducks and waterfowl arriving this fall ... we just need lots of rain prior to their departure from the north.

Duck hunters should brace themselves for what could be a good season. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's survey estimates 48.6 million breeding ducks, a 7 percent increase over last year and 43 percent above the 1955–2010 long-term average. This year's estimate is a record high and is only the sixth time in the survey's history that the total duck population has exceeded 40 million. As always, fall weather and habitat conditions along migration routes will have a big impact on migration chronology and local hunting success.

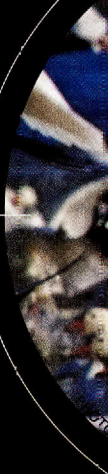




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While the discussion about deer and duck hunting prospects is generating a lot of nods among the crowd, there's guarded optimism among some in the room when the conversation turns to turkey and quail. The rebound from drought, it appears, may not come overnight. Jason Hardin is the quiet type, but when the state's turkey program biologist has something to say, it's worth hearing.

Hardin: Most of the hens in 2011, a lot of which were juveniles following an excellent hatch in 2010, did not attempt to nest. Survival of

hens was actually above average due to their lack of nesting activity. With favorable rains and a mild winter this past spring, turkeys got off to an early start. Most hens nested. Predation was on the high end, but not outside of normal nest predation for turkeys. There should be a fair number of jakes seen this fall and next spring. Plus, we had such a great hatch in 2010 that there should also be a ton of mature toms across the landscape as well. There have been few reports of production in East Texas, unfortunately.

In the Hill Country, a brighter outlook is in store. Krueger, the district biologist, gives the particulars.

Krueger: Ground nesting birds — turkey and quail in particular — were in much better breeding condition this year than 2011, when we speculated that many never did get into good reproductive condition. One negative is that there was a lack of nesting cover this year due to the 2011 drought, which may have limited nest sites and increased the effectiveness of nest predators. A very strong positive is that there were lots of insects this year to provide high-protein sources of food for the young birds that successfully hatched. And the large number of insects, especially grasshoppers, should have provided enough alternative food sources for nest predators (skunks, foxes, raccoons) to help

Turkey and quail



PHOTO © BOB NUSSBAUMER / POLYTRIP.COM



PHOTO © RUSSELL A. CRANES



reduce some nest predation. I've personally observed, and am hearing reports from others, that the production of turkey poults is better than average this year. Quail production should have also been good this year, but unfortunately, there are very few areas of the Edwards Plateau that have enough quail to be of significance.

In South Texas, the Chaparral WMA is a good index of how the quail are faring. Synatzske weighs in.

Synatzske: At least two different age classes of quail chicks and a good turkey hatch have been observed on the Chap. With spring rains being scarce the last decade in general, the hatch is

notable; now if we can just get the follow-up rains for insects to provide chicks with a chance to survive. Brood stock of quail was low, so good hatches will help the rebound process from the drought, but the drought seems to be persistently hanging on.

Veale: Quail have had good reproductive success in many areas, but one good year is not enough to counteract four bad ones. They are going to need several good rainfall years to begin growing their populations back in many areas. Turkey reproduction has been good this year as well, but again, previous lack of rainfall impacts the mature birds in the population. The bottom line: better than last year.

Other game

A hunter couldn't ask for more, but there's a lot more to hunt in Texas.

Squirrel hunting opportunities for the 2012–13 seasons in East Texas should be fair to good, primarily because enough rain has fallen to generate a fair acorn crop. Years with good mast production are typically followed by years with good squirrel reproduction. Sportsmen desiring early fall hunting opportunities will likely be rewarded for their efforts.

Javelina populations remain strong. They are about the only species that did not suffer in last year's drought. Javelinas are plentiful throughout the Trans-Pecos and are a bonus on deer or other game hunts. They can be commonly hunted over feeders or water, and can also make for an exciting spot-and-stalk hunt.

Don't get me started on those darn feral hogs. There are plenty of them to hunt, and most ranchers welcome their removal.

If you don't have a place to hunt, let me tell you about TPWD's Public Hunting Program. With the \$48 annual permit, you've got access to prime hunting throughout the state. You can get started online at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/public.

We could go on and on for hours talking about the opportunities and prospects, but it's time to shut up and go hunting! ★

Texas Hunting 2012

Want to read more about hunting prospects, youth hunting, game recipes and processing tips? Check out the new *Texas Hunting 2012*, a free TP&W magazine digital extra, at www.tpwdmagazine.com/digital/2012/hunting

For hunting seasons and bag limits, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/season

PHOTO © LARRY DITTO



The Greatest Cons

Federal program has played an essential role

PHOTO BY EARL NOTTINGHAM/TPWD



ervation Story ...

(... You've Never Heard)

in wildlife restoration for 75 years. By Tom Harvey

Black Gap Wildlife Management Area

Imagine a nationwide coalition saying, **“Please tax us — we want to pay federal taxes.”** Such a thing seems inconceivable today, but that’s essentially what happened 75 years ago when hunters and anglers called for what became the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) programs.



Below: The governor’s office joins TPWD in marking the 75th anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration programs; deer are released at Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area in the 1950s.

They were motivated by dire peril. By the late 1800s, America was on a runaway train barreling toward a natural resource disaster — and most people didn’t even know it. While we were busy creating the richest and most powerful nation in the world, we were also laying waste to its natural abundance.

Vast herds of 60 million bison and 40 million pronghorn antelope

pounding across the American plains had vanished. An estimated 60 million beaver had been reduced to 100,000. Hundreds of millions of passenger pigeons, so dense in numbers it took hours for them to pass overhead, had disappeared. Waterfowl populations had plummeted. Swamps had been drained, prime habitat converted to agriculture, and market hunting continued unabated. Women wore hats festooned with feathers of 40 varieties of native birds, and would eventually wear the entire bodies of birds on their heads. We were plucking America bare.

The story was similar in Texas, where deer, turkey and other game animals had declined to near extirpation by the turn of the century. For example, in 1911, the greater prairie-chicken of the Blackland Prairie was last observed. Desert bighorn sheep were disappearing from western mountaintops.



A Message from the Governor:

It is my pleasure to join the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

This important program began with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937, and was bolstered with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950. In the years since, its contribution to Texas has totaled more than \$650 million, which combined with state revenue makes possible the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

Of course, the program would not have been successful had it not been for the support of our outdoorsmen. Hunters, anglers and trappers were among the first conservationists, and have long helped fund efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources. Today, hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, boaters and allied industries continue to make critical contributions to the program.

This and many other conservation programs also greatly benefit from the expertise and hard work of the TPWD staff. The work you are doing to preserve the beauty and natural resources of Texas is very important, and I commend you all.

First Lady Anita Perry joins me in sending best wishes.



Sincerely,
Rick Perry
Rick Perry
Governor



BIGHORN PHOTO BY EARL NOTTINGHAM/TPWD; OTHERS BY TPWD



Texas has used federal wildlife money to operate wildlife management areas, such as Elephant Mountain, above, home to desert bighorn sheep. It has also used the money to help restore wildlife, such as pronghorn, right.



Yet by the early 1900s, a handful of conservation-minded free-thinkers emerged with the political will to save America's natural treasures. They were, by and large, America's hunters and anglers. In the first half of the 20th century, most of the responsibility for natural resource conservation fell on their shoulders. That's because state hunting and fishing license revenue provided the one stable funding source to protect, restore and manage fish and wildlife resources.

But it was not enough. Underfunded, understaffed and prone to political interference, fledgling wildlife agencies in Texas and other states more often than not confronted frustration and failure instead of success. The science of fish and wildlife management did not exist, and funds to better understand

the principles of fish and wildlife restoration were nonexistent. Little money was available to acquire land, pursue restoration work or enforce game laws.

A historic change for the better began 75 years ago, when Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937. The law levies an 11 percent excise tax on rifles, shotguns, ammunition and archery equipment and a 10 percent tax on handguns. The tax is paid by manufacturers, not by customers at checkout counters, so most people don't know about it. Since its passage, Texas has received more than \$300 million for wildlife research and conservation, creation of wildlife management areas, hunter education, shooting range development and related work.

The story was similar in Texas, where deer, turkey and other game animals had declined to near extirpation by the turn of the century. For example, in 1911, the greater prairie-chicken of the Blackland Prairie was last observed. Desert bighorn sheep were disappearing from western mountaintops.

A historic change for the better began 75 years ago,
the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in



when Congress passed Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937.



The A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery, above, was renovated with federal tax money; hatcheries and reservoirs have made fishing productive for many Texans, right.

Key language in the law includes “a prohibition against the diversion of license fees paid by hunters for any other purpose than the administration of said State fish and game department.” With those words, the science of fish and wildlife management was taken out of the political arena. If states wanted federal money to help restore wildlife, they had to guarantee their wildlife agency’s right to use every dime of hunting and fishing license revenue to support the work.

In 1950, Congress passed the Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, mandating a similar excise tax on fishing rods and related equipment. This has funneled nearly \$350 million to Texas for fisheries research and conservation, creation of fish hatcheries, boater and angler education, boat ramp and marina construction and more.

In 1984, Congress passed the Wallop-Breaux amendment, providing another funding stream from a portion of federal gasoline taxes attributed to small engines, including outboard motors. Since the late 1980s, Texas has received \$36 million to build 147 water access projects, including dozens of boat ramps across the state, and several marina projects. So, through fuel taxes, boaters also pay into the system, and the upshot is a big increase in public access to the outdoors.

These historic laws were hard-won



HATCHERY PHOTO BY CHASE A. FOUNTAIN/TPWD; ANGLERS COURTESY OF BOB HOOD

Sierra Diablo, below and left inset, was the state's first wildlife management area; at right, biologists check a chart at Kerr WMA in the 1950s; a Texas Game and Fish truck, inset below, makes the rounds.



In 1945, Texas used WSFR funds to buy 5,335 acres for the state's first wildlife management area. Sierra Diablo WMA in far West Texas today encompasses more than 11,000 acres and is a stronghold for desert bighorn sheep in Texas.

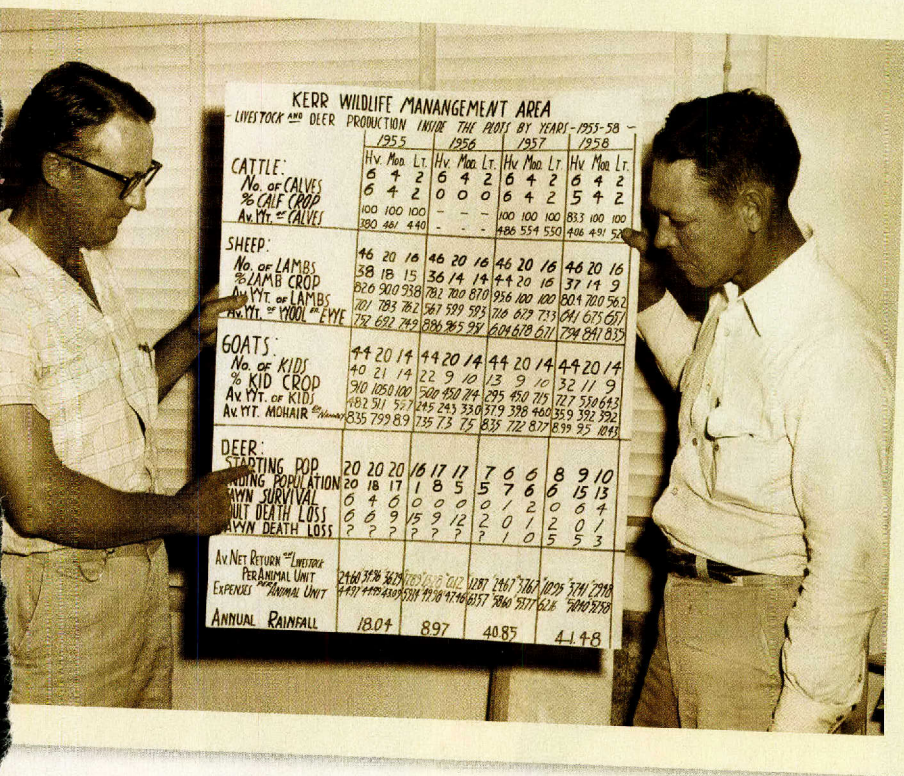
victories. It took years of pushing by conservation groups, and many failed attempts, before they finally passed. Federal excise taxes, along with state hunting and fishing license revenue, are the key to the North American model of wildlife conservation, in which wildlife are owned by the people, and a "user-pay, public-benefit" system taxes those who use the resources most and are willing to pay to manage them for the common good.

To study the 75-year legacy of WSFR funding in Texas is to track the state's history of fisheries and wildlife conservation. Pick any high point, any great

achievement, and this money is behind it. It would take a book to cover all it has made possible in Texas over 75 years, but here are some highlights.

In 1945, Texas used WSFR funds to buy 5,335 acres for the state's first wildlife management area. Sierra Diablo WMA in far West Texas today encompasses more than 11,000 acres and is a stronghold for desert bighorn sheep in Texas. This native species had vanished from the state by 1960, but is coming back across West Texas thanks to restoration work that began at Sierra Diablo WMA and continues today.

More wildlife management areas fol-



SIERRA DIABLO © LAURENCE PARENT; OTHERS BY TPWD

KERR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA																	
LIVESTOCK AND DEER PRODUCTION		1955				1956				1957				1958			
		Hv.	Mo.	Lt.	Hv.	Mo.	Lt.	Hv.	Mo.	Lt.	Hv.	Mo.	Lt.	Hv.	Mo.	Lt.	
CATTLE:																	
No. of CALVES		6	4	2	6	4	2	6	4	2	6	4	2	6	4	2	
% Calf Crop		6	4	2	0	0	0	6	4	2	6	4	2	5	4	2	
Average Yield of Calves		100	100	100	-	-	-	100	100	100	833	100	100	496	491	526	
		380	481	440	-	-	-	486	554	550	496	491	526	496	491	526	
SHEEP:																	
No. of LAMBS		46	20	16	46	20	16	46	20	16	46	20	16	46	20	16	
% Lamb Crop		58	18	15	36	14	14	44	20	16	37	14	9	37	14	9	
Average Yield of Lambs		82.0	90.0	93.0	78.2	70.0	87.0	95.6	100	100	80.4	70.0	56.2	70.1	78.3	76.2	
Average Yield of Ewe		78.2	69.2	74.9	38.6	36.5	39.3	6.04	6.78	6.71	7.94	6.71	6.37	7.94	6.71	6.37	
GOATS:																	
No. of KIDS		44	20	14	44	20	14	44	20	14	44	20	14	44	20	14	
% Kid Crop		40	21	14	22	9	10	13	9	10	32	11	9	32	11	9	
Average Yield of Kids		310	1050	100	500	450	314	295	450	715	727	550	643	727	550	643	
Average Yield of Hair		182	51	5.7	145	24	33.0	37.9	37.8	46.0	35.9	39.2	39.2	35.9	39.2	39.2	
		835	799	8.9	735	7.3	7.5	8.37	7.2	8.17	8.99	9.5	10.6	8.99	9.5	10.6	
DEER:																	
Starting Pop.		20	20	20	16	17	7	6	6	8	9	10	8	9	10		
Ending Population		20	18	17	1	8	5	5	7	6	0	15	13	0	15	13	
Survival		0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Death Loss		0	0	0	9	9	12	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	
Survival		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	
AV. NET RETURN PER ANNUAL UNIT																	
Livestock		24.66	37.8	34.7	10.8	11.2	7.02	10.87	28.67	28.67	10.75	5.74	2.76	10.75	5.74	2.76	
Deer		4.47	4.47	4.47	3.58	3.58	3.58	4.47	4.47	4.47	4.47	4.47	4.47	4.47	4.47	4.47	
ANNUAL RAINFALL																	
		18.0	4	8.97			40.85				4	1	4.8				

lowed, all made possible by WSFR funds. In 1948, Black Gap, in the Big Bend region, became the state's second WMA. Gene Howe and Kerr WMAs followed in 1950. J.D. Murphree WMA near Port Arthur also was created in 1950. Derden WMA near Palestine was renamed in 1952 for Gus A. Engeling, the first biologist assigned to the area, who was shot and killed by a poacher there in 1951. Matador in the Panhandle started in 1959, and Chaparral WMA was born in South Texas in 1969.

Today there are 49 Texas wildlife management areas covering 769,242 acres, almost all operated with WSFR federal funds. Each represents unique characteristics of the various ecological regions in the state. The WMAs serve as research and demonstration areas showcasing best management practices to thousands of ranchers and other landowners, and they also offer public hunting, fishing, camping, birding and the like.

After the devastating 1950s drought, a boom of reservoir development in the 1960s splashed new lakes with big surface acreage across the state. Fisheries managers saw a chance to provide quality fishing opportunities in new warm-water habitats. The Sport Fish Restoration program was instrumental in turning the Texas reservoir system into a freshwater fishing mecca and

economic powerhouse. WSFR funds have paid for biologists and resources needed to create and develop freshwater fisheries through innovative fishing regulations, fish stockings and fish habitat improvements. Today, these resources provide opportunities for more than 1.35 million anglers who spend 27 million days fishing in Texas each year. Freshwater anglers generate \$2.38 billion in annual retail sales and support more than 33,000 jobs across the state.

Throughout the 1980s, virtually all the Sport Fish Restoration funds for Texas were used to construct new fish hatcheries and renovate dilapidated older ones. Tens of millions of dollars flowed to renovate the Dundee, Possum Kingdom, A.E. Wood and CCA Marine Development Center hatcheries. In the 1990s, Sea Center Texas and the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center came on line. These unique facilities blend research and production with public aquariums and youth fishing ponds. Today, the hatchery stocking program is integrated into the state's overall fisheries management program.

The "Redfish Wars" era in Texas showcases the value of WSFR to address big problems. After commercial fishing sent red drum stocks to alarming lows, House Bill 1000 (the state "Redfish

Bill") in 1981 designated red drum and spotted seatrout as game fish and prohibited their sale. It fell to state hatcheries, built with WSFR dollars, to bring back these severely depleted stocks. From 1983 to 2011, hatcheries released 624 million red drum and 65 million spotted seatrout fingerlings. These huge production numbers, combined with science-based bag limits and other regulations, have brought both fish back to record abundance today.

What about encouraging safe, legal and ethical hunting, boating and fishing? Without WSFR, there would be no Texas hunter, boater and angler education programs. More than 50,000 people were introduced to fishing in 2011 thanks to Texas angler education. Since 1972, nearly 1 million youth and adults have been trained in hunter education, dropping the number of Texas hunting accidents and fatalities to an all-time low in 2011, to about one accident per 24,000 license holders.

Clearly, WSFR means more than healthy lands and waters, or abundant fish and wildlife. It means a higher quality of life for people, and in some cases it means lives saved. One conservation leader who helped create WSFR put it this way:

"I feel that the high tension at which the average man has been living is wrecking entirely too many nervous systems. Hunting and fishing is the best nerve tonic I know, and I believe that a greater opportunity for the average citizen to engage in this type of outdoor recreation would greatly promote both the health and happiness of our people."

A. Willis Robertson wrote those words in 1932. They still ring true in 2012.

So, if you buy hunting or fishing equipment, stand tall and proud knowing what 75 years of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration funding has done for fish and wildlife conservation across America. As the national 75th anniversary commemoration effort declares: "It's your nature." ★

RELATED STORY

Biologist put wildlife money to work in Texas. Page 50

A close-up photograph of a man with a beard and mustache, smiling broadly while holding a large bluegill fish. The man is wearing a blue shirt. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text 'SUNNY WITH A CHANCE OF FUN' is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters. A yellow brushstroke underline is positioned below the word 'FUN'.

SUNNY WITH A CHANCE OF FUN

With an official
big-fish pose,
TPWD fisheries
technician Shane
Carter shows off
a bluegill.

A close-up photograph of a man with a beard and mustache, smiling broadly. He is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and is holding a sunfish in his hands. The fish is dark with a lighter belly. The background is a blurred green, suggesting an outdoor setting. A yellow, jagged-edged banner is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

SUNFISH PROVIDE MORE
ENJOYMENT PER POUND THAN
ANY OTHER TEXAS FISH.
BY LARRY D. HODGE

Whether it's the best kind of fish, the best place to fish or the best bait to use, it's hard to get anglers to agree on anything.



An angler in the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center's Bluegill Family Fishing Tournament weighs in his catch.

PHOTOS BY LARRY D. HODGETT/PMD

But ask them what kind of fish is best for getting kids hooked on fishing, and the answer will almost certainly be the same: sunfish.

Sunfish refers to a whole group of small fishes that are pretty, plentiful and pugnacious. Bluegill, redear, green, redbreast and warmouth sunfish — often referred to as bream, collectively — are commonly found in Texas creeks, rivers, stock ponds and reservoirs. Wherever they are found, they provide perhaps more fun per pound than any other fish. Famed Texas author John

Graves observed that fishing for bream with a fly rod is “as pretty fishing as a man can want.”

Sunfish are often referred to as panfish, and for good reason: Cleaned, scaled, corn-mealed and fried whole, sunfish provide some of the tastiest eating Texas waters have to offer. A stringer of sunfish and some potatoes, onions and bacon fried up streamside in a skillet make a breakfast (or lunch or dinner) that is the epitome of “eating local.”

Fishing for sunfish isn't about size. It's

not the size of the fish in the fight that counts; it's the size of the fight in the fish. And as Graves alluded, a feisty sunfish on a fly rod or ultralight tackle rewards the angler with an exciting experience. Sunfish are deep-bodied, which gives them a lot of surface area to leverage against the water during a fight, and their flat, slender bodies and fins allow them to accelerate and change direction quickly.

“Pound for pound, bluegills will rival any freshwater fish in Texas in fighting ability,” says Ben Neely, formerly a fisheries biologist in Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Abilene office. “There is nothing quite like catching a 10-inch bluegill on ultralight gear.”

Part of the charm of fishing for sunfish like bluegills is the simplicity of it. “Bluegill fishing gets back to fishing the way it should be,” says Neely. “You don't need fancy electronics, high-dollar equipment or a boat to find quality bluegills. All you need are a few hooks, split shot, bobbers, some nightcrawlers and a light-action rod rigged with light line.”

That's the gear Neely, Lance Benson and I use on a day spent fishing on Lake Athens. That trip reveals a whole new aspect of bluegill fishing to me. Neely and Benson are friends, but when it comes to seeing who can land the biggest bluegill, the gloves come off and it's bare-knuckles fishing. The barbs traded between the two over the size of fish being caught are sharper than the hooks being used.

It's obvious both Neely and Benson are not just casual sunfish anglers. They're addicts who have studied their quarry and stalk it with the intensity of a half-starved subsistence hunter.

“When I'm going after bluegill I look for two things — vegetation and

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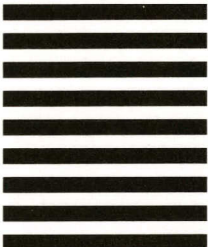


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At the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, Kaylee Nicholson, right, and friend Shelly Bruyere hold Nicholson's 1.14-pound bluegill that was the state junior angler record at the time.

Fishing for sunfish isn't about size. It's not the size of the fish in the fight that counts; it's the size of the fight in the fish.

Sunfish in Texas

Bluegill

(*Lepomis macrochirus*)

- Most common sunfish in Texas
- Easily identified by black spot at base of dorsal fin
- State record is 2.02 pounds from Lampasas River in 1999

Redear sunfish

(*Lepomis microlophus*)

- Largest of *Lepomis* species in Texas
- Native to eastern two-thirds of Texas
- Identified by red tab on opercle (ear) flap
- State record is 2.99 pounds from Lady Bird Lake in 1997

Green sunfish

(*Lepomis cyanellus*)

- Common throughout Texas
- Identified by relatively large mouth and turquoise markings around mouth
- Commonly found along rocky dam faces
- State record is 1.30 pounds from Burke-Crenshaw Lake in 2005

Redbreast sunfish

(*Lepomis auritus*)

- Not native to Texas but currently found in the eastern portion of the state
- Identified by long, black opercle (ear) flap and yellow belly
- State record is 1.63 pounds from the Comal River in 1997

Warmouth

(*Lepomis gulosus*)

- Found throughout Texas but seldom in large numbers
- Similar in appearance to green sunfish but has a more mottled appearance
- Ambush predator that hides in rocks, stumps or vegetation to wait for prey
- State record is 1.30 pounds from Lady Bird Lake in 1991

Other sunfish species in Texas include longear sunfish (*Lepomis megalotis*), spotted sunfish (*Lepomis punctatus*), dollar sunfish (*Lepomis marginatus*), bantam sunfish (*Lepomis symmetricus*), redspotted sunfish (*Lepomis miniatus*) and orangespotted sunfish (*Lepomis humilis*). These sunfish species usually aren't large enough to provide recreational value.



Redear sunfish



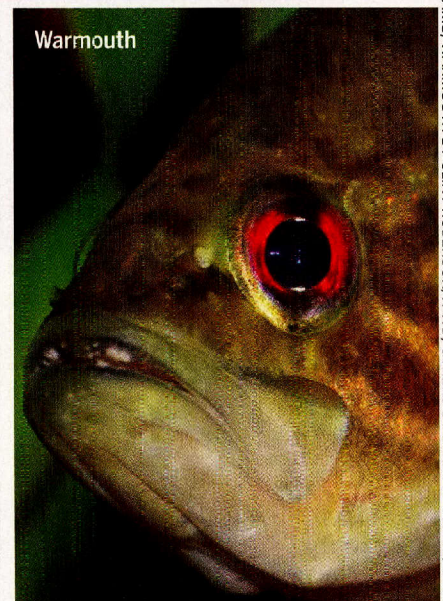
Green sunfish



Bluegill



Redbreast sunfish



Warmouth

bottom structure,” Neely says. “I want to find an area with rocks or stumps that border aquatic vegetation. I’ll set my bobber to suspend a chunk of nightcrawler a few inches off the bottom. A small split shot between the hook and the bobber makes sure the bait gets to the bottom but still allows it to flutter down slowly.”

Neely’s technique is based on bluegill behavior. Adult bluegills, as befits a species often preyed upon by bass and other predators, are ambush feeders: They hide among underwater vegetation or structure and dart out to nab food that comes within reach.

Although they are always aggressive, male sunfish redline their macho meters during the spring through summer spawning season. Males scoop out spawning beds in sand or gravel in shallow water, often congregating in large numbers. Besides fertilizing any eggs laid in its nest, the male guards the nest and its eggs from all other fish, even the female that produced them. The males will chase anything that violates their space, including baited hooks. Toss your bait into the middle of a bluegill’s bed and let it sit. He may dart off when the bobber hits the water, but soon he will return to charge the intruding hook.

Neely recalls a Lake Athens trip in April 2011.

“I was looking for a 10-inch fish for a nice photo,” he says. “We found an area in the back of a cove where big bull bluegills were cruising in shallow water. For the next hour or two we caught big fish as fast as we could take them off the hook. At one point we caught four consecutive fish, each bigger than the last that exceeded the lake record by nearly

half a pound. I knew bluegill fishing was a lot of fun, but that trip opened my eyes to their trophy potential.”

Neely didn’t catch the 10-incher he was looking for, but the nearby Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center casting pond provided just such a trophy bluegill for Kaylee Nicholson of Athens. On National Fishing Day in 2009, Nicholson pulled in a 1.14-pound, 10.5-inch bluegill that was the junior angler state record at the time and remains the water body record today.

Sunfish, especially bluegills, are favorites in farm ponds and other private fishing lakes both for the fishing they offer and for the forage they provide for largemouth bass and other fish. Many a lifetime memory has been made with a cane pole, bobber and supply of locally sourced crickets, grasshoppers, worms or — for the squeamish — canned whole-kernel corn.

Public waters almost always offer sunfish as well.

“Caddo Lake, Calaveras, O.H. Ivie and Toledo Bend are good places to start,” Neely advises. “Lake Dunlap is an excellent choice for anglers looking to tangle with a trophy redbreast or redear sunfish. In fact, there’s a decent chance that a state record redbreast is swimming in Lake Dunlap right now.”

If a record is what you are looking for, your hunt could take you to a sprawling East Texas reservoir or a tumbling Hill Country stream. But if you’re fishing to have fun, or to enjoy an outing with friends or family, or just to hear a kid squeal, almost any place with water will do. California may be the “Sunshine State,” but Texas is the “Sunfish State.” ★

Fishing Tips

Live bait is the ticket to a successful sunfishing trip. Crickets, nightcrawlers and red wigglers are all good choices. Add excitement and anticipation to a fishing trip with kids by digging your own worms or chasing down small grasshoppers (use a butterfly net or swat them).

Use long-shanked hooks to make hook removal easier. No. 6 or 8 cricket hooks are a good size.

A cane pole with eight to 10 feet of line and a bobber makes line management easy and also allows bank anglers to get the bait far enough out over the water to avoid spooking the fish. Kids will enjoy rigging their own gear and will get more satisfaction out of catching fish with something they “made.”

Bigger fish often hang out in deeper water than smaller fish, so start fishing deep and work your way shallow.

Target spawning fish in late spring and early summer. Look for light-colored, circular beds the male fish have cleared. There will often be a number of nests in the same area. These are easy to spot when there is no wind to ruffle the water’s surface, but fishing will probably be better with a light wind since the fish won’t be able to see you as clearly.

If fish keep spooking, try hiding behind vegetation, kneeling or standing a little farther back from the edge of the water. Remember: If you can see them, they can see you.

Fishing tends to be best under low light conditions at dawn and dusk, but sunfish can be caught any time of day, especially when fishing deep around stumps or rocks from a boat.

Sunfish, especially the abundant bluegills, have sharp spines on their dorsal fins. This makes them harder for prey fish to swallow, and it also makes them hard to handle when removing the hook. Grasp the fish around its belly with your thumb on one side of the fish and your fingers on the other to avoid the spines.

Sunfish are easy to clean: Insert a sharp knife into the vent on the belly and cut upward toward the head. Cut the head off just behind the gills. Scale the fish using a tool made for that purpose or the blade of a knife raked from the tail toward the head. Scaling fish is best done outdoors with a water supply handy as scales tend to fly everywhere when removed.

Sunfish are usually cooked whole because of their small size; once cooked the flesh flakes easily from the bones.

Getting Started

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens offers an easy way to introduce your family to fishing for sunfish. The annual Bluegill Family Fishing Tournament takes place Sept. 29. It’s a team event with each team consisting of one adult over age 18 and one youth under age 18.

Each team can weigh in a maximum of four fish. Multiple teams can fish from the same boat, making it possible for both parents to partner with different children and still fish as a family. Team members are not required to be related.

Teams may choose to fish either on Lake Athens, which is adjacent to TFFC, or in TFFC’s ponds and streams, some of which have been stocked with bluegills.

For more information or to request an entry form, contact Craig Brooks at (903) 670-2222.

By Mike Cox

PHIL GOODRUM

Pioneer Wildlife Biologist

The man known as Bull put federal wildlife funds to work in Texas.

Congressional passage of a landmark wildlife law in 1937 triggered an infusion of money for conservation efforts in Texas, but it took people to put the new funding source to work.

And while the old Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission managed the federal dollars that began flowing into the state, made possible by the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, one man deserves much of the credit for getting the program up and running.

His name was Phil DeQuincy Goodrum Sr. Family and friends knew him simply as "Bull."

"The Division of Wildlife Restoration of the Texas Game and Fish Commission, directed by Goodrum, compiled a record never equaled in Texas," Goodrum's friend, former co-worker and King Ranch wildlife manager Val Lehmann later observed. "Among the accomplishments were a statewide survey of all principal game species and extensive trapping and

restoration programs involving white-tailed deer, wild turkey and antelope."

The work Goodrum did had an impact on all of Texas, but his story started in East Texas, the part of the state where he spent most of his life.

When not behind a plow, Goodrum as a youth passed a lot of time hunting quail and squirrel on his family's 300-acre farm located on a bend of the Trinity River. He loved the outdoors, but having a long career in wildlife conservation is not how



Goodrum envisioned his future early in life.

Born Feb. 10, 1906, in the small Houston County community of Weldon, a once-thriving farming town where his dad ran a general store, Goodrum grew to a stout, barrel-chested 6-something-footer who excelled at athletics and was a three-sport collegiate standout. After attending what was then called Sam Houston State Teachers College in Huntsville, Goodrum went into public education. He coached and taught at Groveton High School, where his football players won a state championship, and later coached and taught chemistry in Pasadena.

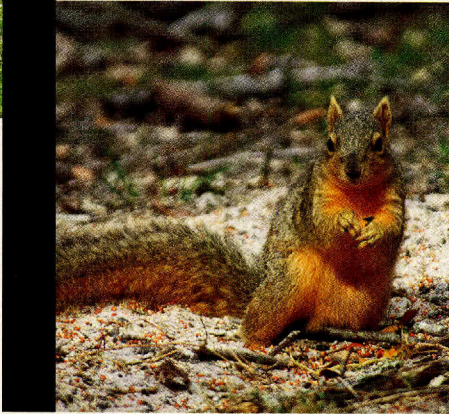
As the Great Depression came on and quickly worsened, Goodrum lost his job. Landing on his feet in the tall pines, Goodrum got a job as a camp leader with the Civilian Conservation Corps. Running CCC tent camps in the Pineywoods, a job that involved everything from teaching workers to read to overseeing work crews to running the camp mess hall, Goodrum became increasingly interested in conservation. According to his son, he also became a heck of a cook.

In 1936, at 30, he began making weekend trips to Huntsville to visit with pioneer wildlife biologist Walter P. Taylor, who ran the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Texas A&M University and was doing field work in Walker County. That's where Goodrum met Lehmann, who was helping Taylor.

Just because he found it interesting, Goodrum began volunteering his help on research the two men were doing on squirrels and other wildlife in that area of the state.

At Taylor's urging, Goodrum decided to quit the CCC and seek a master's degree in wildlife management (the degree from the College of Agriculture at A&M was then called master of sci-

"FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, HIS INNER BEING WAS A LOVE OF LAND AND WILDLIFE. IT WAS THE FIBER OF HIS CORE VALUES."



ence — wild game). He graduated with that new degree (the first ever conferred by the school) in 1938 and went to work as a state game warden.

While Goodrum was sitting in classrooms in College Station, Congress was debating the Pittman-Robertson Act. Passed at the urging of a national coalition of hunters and anglers, the new law repurposed an existing 11 percent excise tax on rifles, shotguns and ammunition and dedicated it for apportionment to each state to pay for wildlife restoration.

There was a catch, of course. States had to meet certain requirements, including a stipulation that the money that states derived from hunting license sales could be used only by their game and fish agencies. Further, states had to submit plans outlining intended uses of the federal money for approval by the secretary of the interior. Following the OK from Washington, states would be reimbursed for 75 percent of the cost of a particular wildlife restoration project. The rest of the money had to come from state funds.

Meanwhile, back in the tall timber of East Texas, Goodrum did not wear a game warden's badge very long. When Will J. Tucker created the Wildlife Restoration Division, he selected Goodrum as division director. He moved to Austin, which is where he ultimately met Marian, his wife of 43 years.

The new federal law that stimulated wildlife restoration raised \$3.25 mil-

lion nationally in its first year on the books, including \$46,238 that went to Texas with another \$155,868 expected for 1938-39.

"The days of hit-and-miss planting of game in Texas are past, and interest is spreading like wildfire," Goodrum told the Associated Press in March 1938.

Goodrum understood that before the department could begin its efforts to restore wildlife in Texas, it needed to know where it stood. Gearing up for that effort, he put together a staff, hiring Lehmann and another recent A&M grad named Dan Lay, among others.

"In a word," Lehmann later wrote, "Goodrum accumulated and held the best staff of wildlife biologists ever to serve in Texas. He and his men turned out more work and more publications than any other group that has ever served in Texas, or, as a matter of fact, in any other state."

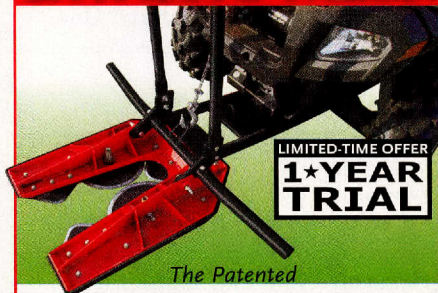
During an era when even making a long-distance telephone call was considered too expensive for routine business, Goodrum directed the efforts of his staff primarily by mail and telegram with only periodic face-to-face meetings. Dividing the state into five wildlife regions, he oversaw the effort to establish a baseline of wildlife data for the state and planned projects based on those findings.

"He had a charismatic personality," his youngest son, Bill Goodrum, says. "He was a detail person and very organized. He catalogued all his files and books. Growing up in the Depression, he also didn't waste anything and kept everything 'just in case' you might need it."

Clearly understanding the need to educate the public about wildlife and conservation, Goodrum was good at dealing with reporters and outdoor writers. In addition, he reached out to sportsman's groups and civic clubs. Until wildlife could be restored, he said again and again, lower bag limits and shorter seasons were needed.

Had it not been for World War II, Goodrum and his staff might have been able to do even more for Texas wildlife. In a July 1943 letter to legendary West Texas rancher Watt Matthews, who worked closely with the department in wildlife restoration, Goodrum wrote: "The war has caused so many changes in our programs that I still do not know what can be done [in regard to stocking Rio Grande turkeys]. ... Feed and labor is practically impossible to get."

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In late 1944, the prospect of a better salary and the chance to do more hands-on research in the field lured Goodrum away from the department, and he took a job as a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Georgia.

Succeeding Goodrum in Texas was Dan Lay, who spent 40 years with the department. One of the first things Lay did was see to completion of a project begun by his former boss, publication of *Principal Game Birds and Animals of Texas*. That document was based on the statewide wildlife survey Goodrum had undertaken. Too, less than a year after Goodrum left, the department acquired its first wildlife management area with Pittman-Robertson money, the Sierra Diablo at Van Horn.

Beyond his scientific acumen, Goodrum had developed the reputation of being a good man behind a podium. "Mr. Goodrum, a Texan, [and] a humorist, is a man whose talks appeal especially to men who like out of doors life," one newspaper noted in advancing his presentation to a local sportsman's club.

Transferring back home to Texas as soon as he could, Goodrum spent the rest of his federal career based in Nacogdoches. He continued with his squirrel research and also did field work involving wading birds.

As time passed, Goodrum became more and more convinced of the importance of hardwoods in the general ecological scheme of things in East Texas. Not only did squirrels need them for habitat and food, the acorns those trees produced constituted a major portion of a white-tailed deer's diet. Federal, state and timber company-managed forests, on the other hand, had a common practice of girdling or killing all the hardwoods they could to make more room for commercial stands of faster-growing pine.

Needless to say, public land managers and the timber industry did not see Goodrum's findings in the same light. "For many years," wrote C. Edward Carlson, then chief of the USFWS Division of Wildlife Research, "he stood almost alone demanding a measure of recognition for wildlife in the coastal plain flat woods. Eventually, the soundness and immediacy of his views began to take hold and the tide began to turn. It can truly be said that he cut a broad swath in the interests of wildlife management specifically, and for sound conservation generally."

In 1964, Goodrum received the American Motors Award for Con-

servation, a prestigious national recognition the automobile manufacturer had been conferring since 1953. Specifically, the citation accompanying the plaque noted Goodrum's efforts in bringing back white-tailed deer, turkey and antelope in Texas, his research-based publications and, finally, his "courageous efforts to point out the harmful effects on wildlife of elimination of hardwood species in southern woodlands, resulting finally in wide recognition of the soundness of his position, and of the need for full presentation of the wildlife management point of view in formulating forestry program."

What the citation did not mention is that Goodrum invented what his son calls a "gizmo" for removing squirrels from traps so that they could be tagged and numbered without anyone getting bitten. He also developed a toenail-clipping numbering technique for squirrels.

Goodrum grudgingly retired from federal service in 1976, but only because back then 70 stood as the mandatory retirement age.

"Bull" died of cancer at 77 in Nacogdoches on Oct. 22, 1983, his youngest son's birthday. Beyond the impact he had on forestry, Goodrum's legacy lives on in a couple of ways.

Son Bill also became a wildlife biologist, playing a key role in establishing wildlife management and conservation programs on 2.1 million acres owned by timber company Temple-Inland. In 2001, the Department of Interior recognized that effort with its prestigious Conservation Service Award.

Also, Lehmann explains, "As a result of game trapping and redistribution, antelope were restored as a game species in Texas. Deer and wild turkey populations were increased to the point that Texas has higher populations and higher annual kills than any other state."

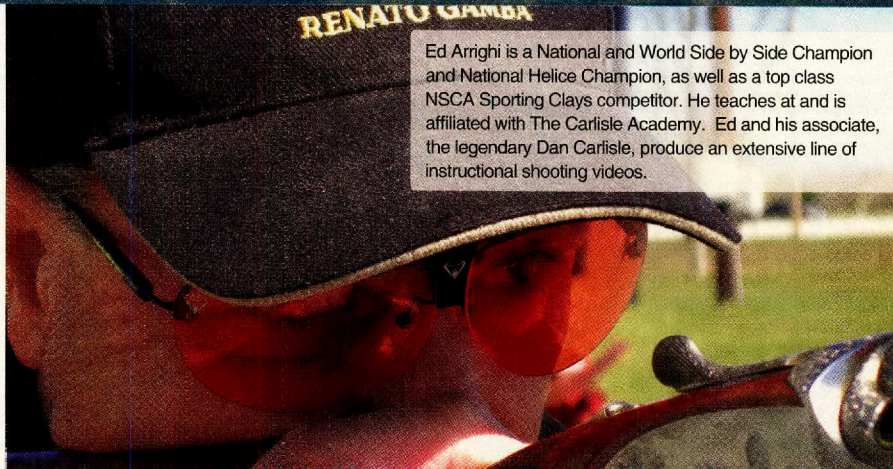
Reflecting on his father, son Bill put it this way:

"From my perspective, his inner being was a love of land and wildlife. It was the fiber of his core values. He wanted to understand and know wildlife and their habitats and better manage the resource, then pass it on to others." ☆

RELATED STORY

Federal program marks 75 years of wildlife restoration. Page 36

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Ed Arrighi is a National and World Side by Side Champion and National Helice Champion, as well as a top class NSCA Sporting Clays competitor. He teaches at and is affiliated with The Carlisle Academy. Ed and his associate, the legendary Dan Carlisle, produce an extensive line of instructional shooting videos.

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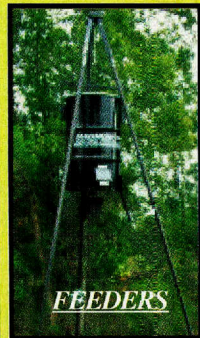
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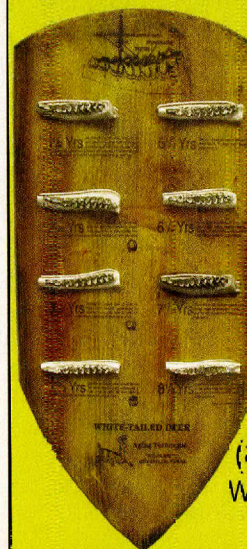
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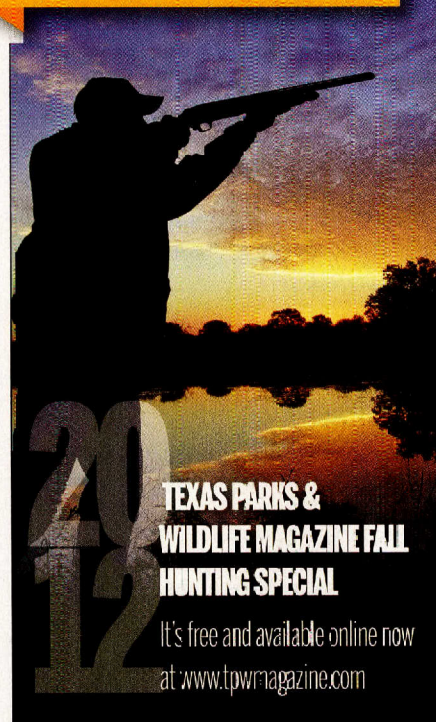
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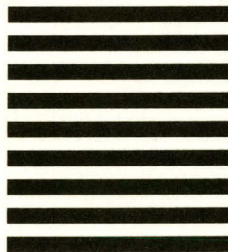
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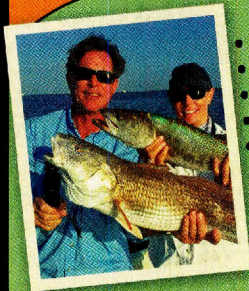
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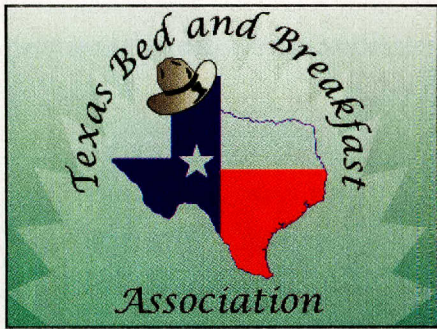
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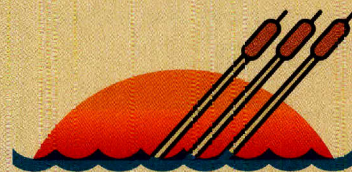
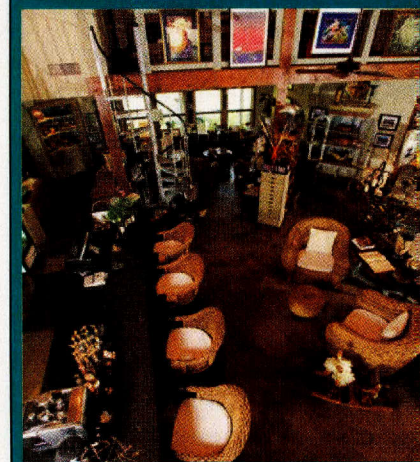
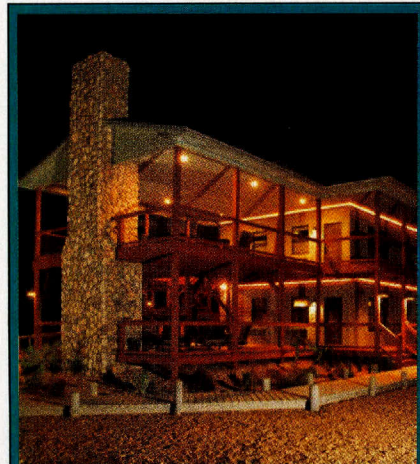


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How to Outsmart a Millionaire

Only the "Robin Hood of Watchmakers" can steal the spotlight from a luxury legend for under \$200!

I wasn't looking for trouble. I sat in a café, sipping my espresso and enjoying the quiet. Then it got noisy. Mr. Bigshot rolled up in a roaring high-performance Italian sports car, dropping attitude like his \$22,000 watch made it okay for him to be rude. That's when I decided to roll up my sleeves and teach him a lesson.

"Nice watch," I said, pointing to his and holding up mine. He nodded like we belonged to the same club. We did, but he literally paid 100 times more for his membership. Bigshot bragged about his five-figure purchase, a luxury heavyweight from the titan of high-priced timepieces. I told him that mine was the *Stauer Corso*, a 27-jewel automatic classic now available for only \$179. And just like that, the man was at a loss for words.

Think of Stauer as the "Robin Hood of Watchmakers." We believe everyone deserves a watch of uncompromising precision, impressive performance and the most elegant styling. You deserve a watch that can hold its own against the luxury classics for a fraction of the price. You'll feel the quality as soon as you put it on your wrist. This is an expertly-crafted time machine... not a cry for attention.

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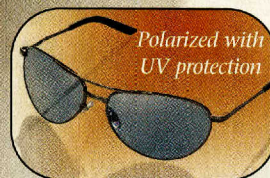
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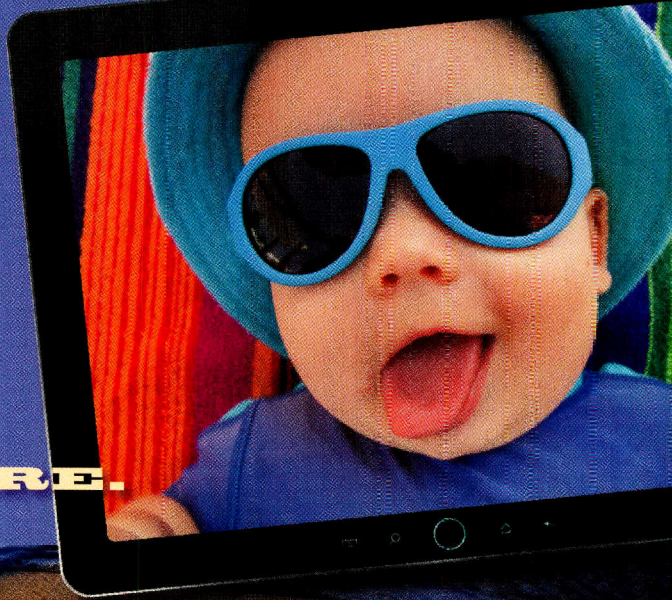
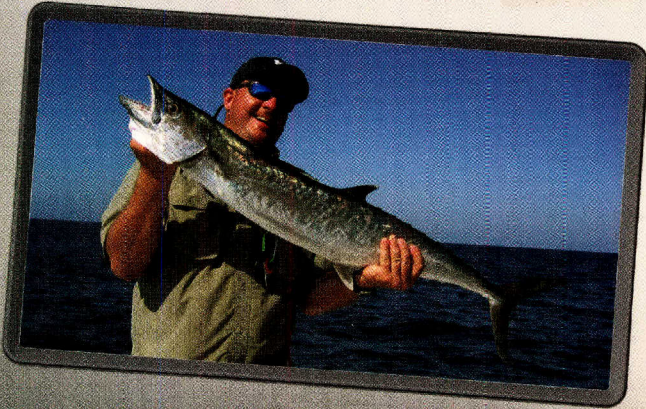
PARTINGSHOT



Texas Parks & Wildlife photographer Chase A. Fountain jumped at the chance to head to West Texas to photograph Chinati Hot Springs for this month's issue. "I travel to the Big Bend region several times a year, but I have never been to Chinati Hot Springs," Fountain says. "It's not exactly on the way to anywhere, but getting there is quite the adventure." On a moonless night, Fountain took this shot of the Milky Way while illuminating the pool with his flashlight.

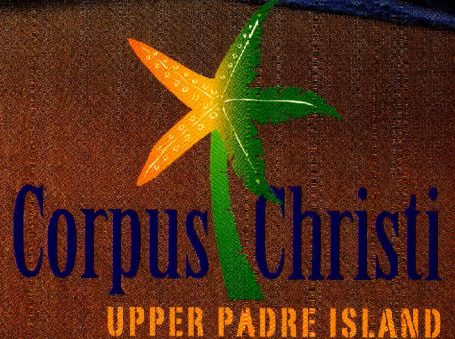
IMAGE SPECS:

Nikon D3S camera with Nikon f/2.8 20-35mm lens, f/2.8 with 30-second exposure, -1.3 exposure compensation.



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