

TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S NEWS

Volume 15 Number 3

SEPTEMBER 2005

The Newsletter of The Texas Sportsman's Association

"Dedicated to educating the public about the need for protection, conservation and improvement of fish, game and other wildlife, grasslands, and forests and to safeguard the freedoms that enable these pursuits."

Urgent!
Urgent!
Urgent!



Postal regulations prevent us from mailing our Fall Fundraiser Raffle Tickets to members, so please pick them up at the following locations. Tickets are also available from TSA officers, and of course at the Sept. 25 meeting and fundraiser.

This fundraiser is our primary source of funding TSA efforts. TSA members at the following businesses have graciously consented to distribute our tickets.

M-G, Inc. Farm Service Center
(Larry)
201 East Post Office
Weimar, TX

Colorado Feed Co. (Tracy)
2105 Walnut
Columbus, TX

TRAFICO (Lonny)
414 West Main St.
Eagle Lake, TX

Bernardo Farm & Ranch
2828 FM 949
Cat Spring, TX

When you pick up your tickets please thank these businesses for their assistance and we wish to thank our entire membership for your support and cooperation.

Tickets are also available from the following: Buck Kollman (979-865-3811), Charles Abel (979-885-2719),

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Texas Sportsman Assn. Fall Fundraiser set Sept. 25 at Ellinger Chamber Hall

The dog days of summer are gone and its time to celebrate. Dove season is here and, the waterfowl seasons are coming.

The Texas Gulf Coast is in for another banner year of saltwater fishing, and the cooler weather makes being on our rivers and lakes much more pleasurable. Likewise, deer hunters and landowners are looking forward to enjoying the fruits of their conservation measures.

Join your neighbors and friends at the

Ellinger Chamber of Commerce Hall on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2005 for the Texas Sportsman Association Fall Fundraiser. Lunch will be catered at noon, followed by a general membership meeting, and an auction with other fundraiser events.

So, come spend a relaxing afternoon with family and friends. And realize the best time of the year for hunters, fishermen, and outdoor folks of all types and genders is immediately at hand.

Experimental deer regulations expanded

(Note: This article appears in the 2005-2006 Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual Hunting and Fishing Regulations booklet that is free wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold.)

By HERMAN W. BRUNE

Whitetail hunters need to double-check the regulation book in 2005 before going afield. Fifteen more counties are joining the 13-inch inside spread antler regulation.

Landowners and sportsman across the state are lining up to join the program that improved deer herds in the original six counties in the Post Oak Savannah. Put a mark in the win column for TPW and Texas.

According to TPW biologist Bob Carroll, the reasoning behind the regulation solves a spectrum of problems ranging from the age structure and health of a deer herd, to more hunter opportunity on fragmented farms and ranches, to changing hunters' social standards, to building better relationships between landowners and TPW.

A major reason for the experiment was a citizens' movement that began in 1990. Concerned sportsmen organized the Texas Sportsman's Association and began lobbying TPW for laws to protect deer.

Simultaneously, TPW reinvented the wildlife co-op program with the Harvey's Creek Wildlife Co-op in Colorado County. Neighbors would be able to agree on wildlife management practices.

Gradually co-ops spread to more counties, but progress was too slow. Finally, 10 years later, retiring TPW Commissioner Nolan Ryan remarked that something needed to be done to help those folks — let a Texas Hero speak ...

Carroll explains, "The climate was politically correct for the six-county experiment to be put in place."

The popularity of the coming experiment grew. Nevertheless, landowners doubted TPW would turn theory into reality. Many saw the co-ops as their only hope. Old co-

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TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION

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We want to hear from you

Members photos, stories and editorials may be submitted for potential newsletter use, via mail to TSA, or electronically to joncken@houston.rr.com

TSA County Officers

Austin County

President — L.J. Rinn

Vice President — C.F. "Buck" Kollmann

Secretary — Doris Rinn

Treasurer — Charles Abel

Colorado County

President — Terrel Maertz

Vice President — Jack Schindler

Secretary-Treasurer — Ruth Poncik

President's Message

By

JOHN C. ONCKEN



This summer has brought a high point in what the antler restriction program has produced. Many of us are smiling at what we are seeing in our pastures and as we drive down the road early and late in the day. Best report I've heard? I had a gentleman report on a drive from New Ulm to Frelsburg and into Columbus early in the morning and counting bucks, 18 that were impressive enough that in his opinion met the 13-inch criteria. Hunting pressure reduction on young bucks is what makes this possible.

Patient hunting allows the numbers to increase not because more does were present, but simply the bucks you see were not harvested as 1- or 2-year-old juveniles. It will be interesting to see what a year of 2 buck tags will do.

There are some thoughts that the second tag will be utilized by a very small portion of the hunters. At least this is what TP&W reported at a meeting. In the hunting groups I run in this is true. However, I hear comments from some in other circles who plan to take two bucks given the chance. If everyone had that opinion, it would put us behind where we are today with buck numbers per acre.

But, I am a patient person and would like to trust human nature to be conservative in the hunt. Most likely it will take a couple seasons to begin to realize the impact of the change — if any?

Remember this year well, document what you see and a couple years out, please compare your sightings of both deer/buck numbers and quality for 2005 where you hunt or travel. Write it down!

Many leases have a notebook and it is interesting to note counts as the years pass. Do this on your own place or even for a road you drive. Compare the result in 2007 or later.

Regarding antlers and antler growth. Listening to a report presented this August at the Convention Center in Houston on a privately conducted study ongoing in Texas that now involves thousands of bucks on multiple Texas ranches, I noted the following comment. Sorting the data of 4.5 year old bucks, there was only a 1 inch difference in the B&C score ... between these two groups as yearling bucks: 2 and 3 points versus, bucks of 4 points and up

I know some of these ranches and folks involved and have a very high confidence level in the quality of the study and interpretation of the data.

As a reminder, please support our group at the September 25th fundraiser in Ellinger, and good hunting in '05.



A black and white photograph capturing a moment of intense action during a rodeo. A cowboy, dressed in a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, dark trousers, and a cowboy hat, is riding a dark-colored horse. The horse is in the middle of a bucking motion, with its tail raised high and its head lowered. The cowboy is holding the reins and appears to be bracing himself. In the background, there are spectators and a sign that reads "Alpha COMMERCIAL 75". The scene is set in an outdoor arena with a dirt floor.

TSA Fall Fundraiser

Saturday, Sept. 25

12Noon

Einger Chamber of Commerce Hall

NAME _____	COUNTY _____	
last	first	
(PLEASE PRINT)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change
ADDRESS _____		EXP. DATE _____
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____
TELEPHONE () _____		DATE _____
I AGREE TO SUPPORT THE GOALS OF TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION		
SIGNATURE _____		
SPONSOR SIGNATURE _____		

Texas Sportsman's Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



DUES:	Annual	\$ 5.00
	Life (Onetime)	\$200.00

DONATION TO:
TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSN. \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$_____**DUES PAYABLE TO:**

TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 26
Columbus, Texas 78934

10 separate Operation Game Thief displays focus on regional violations

Building on the widely acclaimed reception of the 25-foot Operation Game Thief, Wall of Shame Exhibit, the OGT Committee recently decided to make smaller versions available to each of the 10 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement regions in the state.

OGT is the state's wildlife crime stoppers program where callers help solve crimes, get rewards and can remain anonymous.

The 10 new 16-foot trailers, recently delivered, are each decalated to match the larger version, and each region has been awarded a grant from OGT to complete the interiors to represent illegal activity in the respective regions. The use of these additional trailers will provide Game Wardens across the state a professional exhibit with which to enhance public awareness regarding anti-poaching efforts.

"We are proud of the money that has been raised in the OGT fundraisers that has al-

lowed us to put the smaller wall of shame trailers around the state for game warden use. These trailers provide a great tool to get the word out to the public about poaching, and how the public can be a part of recognizing and stopping this," said L.D. "Buddy" Turner, OGT Program Administrator at TPWD.

The following are the status reports of trailers in each area:

Austin, Temple, Bryan and the Metroplex: This trailer will be completed by the end of June. TPWD will be adding to it as items are completed by the taxidermists. In this trailer, there are seizures from many types of violations. There are several mounts of deer that were illegally taken. There are examples of fishing equipment violations such as a hoop net, gigging pole, several fish zappers, and telephones (fish shocking devices). There are examples of non-game violations that include illegal traps and wildlife or their parts that cannot be lawfully possessed.

This trailer also includes several examples of violations of the threatened and endangered species act. These items include zebra skins, salt water crocodile skin, various belts, shoes, and purses made from assorted reptiles, hippo teeth, a jaguar hat, an ocelot skin, and turtle shells.

Caldwell County: Game Warden Joann Garza hit the ground running with her region's trailer, participating with the new OGT Trailer recently at the Luling Safety Fair. More than 300 people attended the event and the trailer won for best exhibit.

Lower-Coastal Region: This trailer will be ready in August. Wardens already have an exhibit commitment in mid-September. Plans are to display the usual deer and fish mounts incorporating illegal items associated with the commercial fishing industry as well. The trailer will be kept in Corpus and anyone interested in requesting the trailer for an event can contact (361) 289-5566.

East Texas: The wardens there just picked theirs up two weeks ago and are collecting species to have mounted to put in the trailer. A group of wardens will be starting work on the trailer as soon as the bulk of the water safety enforcement season is over. Public viewing of the new trailer will start in early fall.

Central/Southeast Texas: TPWD expects to begin development in September with an expected completion date of January.

Upper Coastal Region: Work is pending at area taxidermists to provide mounts for this

Austin County TSA Schedule

Regular Meeting — Sept. 13, Cat Spring Hall; Social at 7 p.m., meeting at 8

Fall Fund Raiser — Sept. 25, Ellinger Hall

Variety Shoot — Oct. 23, Cat Spring Hall

Christmas Party — Dec. 3, New Ulm Fireman's Park, 3 p.m.

Fire Ant program Sept. 1 in Sealy

Fire ants, who needs them?

These destructive little pests have caused millions of dollars worth of damage in the relatively short time frame that they have been in Texas (since 1957).

Is there anything that can be done to stop them? The Horticulture committee of Austin County is sponsoring a Fire Ant Management Program for the general public on Thursday, Sept. 1 at the Hill Center in Sealy from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The program will focus on the best management practices that anyone can do to bring fire ants under control. Special program topics will include;

- History and Morphology of the Red Imported Fire Ant
- Researched Based Fire Ant Control Measures
- Integrated Pest Management Approach to Control
- Update from the Fire Ant Research Project Team

Two CEUs will be given to all pesticide applicators — one IPM and one General CEU. Special thanks to the financial sponsor, Steinhauser's Feed in Sealy.



When conditions are favorable, fawns are plentiful. Here their mom stops for a little supplemental feed to accompany the native browse.

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Sons of 'The Men That Don't Fit In'

By HERMAN W. BRUNE

Pet Crawford's booming voice drawled at me through my home telephone in Shaws Bend, Texas. "Hey boy, I'm going to haul you and your horses to Vinita, Colorado. That other knot-head is coming with his truck and trailer from Montana to meet us. I'm going to deliver you, and then I'll come up for the last hunt to haul your sorry butt home."

I smirked and said okay. At first glance, Pet Crawford is as big as a house and as loud as a train. He learned to whisper in a sawmill and is the epitome of a long tall Texan combined with a southern gentleman's manners. He's worked on the Alaskan pipeline and snaked cattle out of the Texas brush. He's as vociferous and burly as they come.

Nevertheless, his thunderous aura can simmer into subdued roaring during philosophical storytelling sessions that captivate tourists and hypnotize small babies. Around the campfire, he recites Robert W. Service's poetry for hours and has added several of his own verses to "The Men That Don't Fit In." His country neighbors say he has one of the finest brains in the county, if he'd just use it for something besides foolishness. However, in every community there is a brotherhood of wandering souls with the lost look behind their eyes — and unfortunately I belong to this brotherhood.

The other knot-head Pet was talking about was our buddy the Montana outfitter, Chip. I was supposed to pack mules for his summer fly fishing trips into the Bob Marshall Wilderness and then guide his hunters the coming fall. My problem was that I was too broke to get to Montana. An ex-wife had liberated my worn out half-ton pickup and was trying to have me jailed on general principle. Then Chip called me with his own problems.

"Hey Herman, I'm short on livestock. Do you have some extra horses you can bring along?" Chip asked.

I never hesitated and began rustling up ponies. Gerald Koehl, a mule-skinning neighbor, had a riding mule for sale that was also broke to harness. Common sense deemed that if a critter is broke to saddle or collar it would wear a packsaddle. In those days, a good mule brought \$500 in Texas but could be worth three times that much in the Pacific Northwest. Gerald asked for \$1,000 and held his breath. I played the in-between man and got him his price. Both parties were happy.

Then I went to another buddy, world class silhouette shooter turned team-roper Lynn Everts. I was riding a black four-year-old colt for him. The horse was like a spoiled teenager. Whenever he broke a sweat or I asked him to work he threw a bucking fit. I believed the best medicine would be a couple of seasons in the mountains at hard labor and Lynn agreed.

The last piece of livestock I decided to haul was my speckled dog, Smiley. The hound and I bonded when I made a drunken promise, one lonesome night under the trees behind the house, to protect his spotted hide with my .44 if the evil ex-wife or her bottom-sucking attorney ever claimed him.

Everything was set except the transportation. Then, Pet volunteered his round-trip taxi service. There were two reasons for the magnitude of our efforts. One was because we loved Chip. He was a stocky redheaded Irishman who was easy to understand. Feistiness and full-speed-ahead determination were his trade-

The Men That Don't Fit In

By Robert W. Service

There's a race of men that don't fit in,
A race that can't stay still;
So they break the hearts of kith and kin,
And they roam the world at will,
They range the field and they rove the flood,
And they climb the mountain's crest;
Theirs is the curse of the gypsy blood,
And they don't know how to rest.

If they just went straight they might go far;
They are strong and brave and true;
But they're always tired of the things that are,
And they want the strange and new.
They say: "Could I find my proper groove,
What a deep mark I would make!"
So they chop and change, and each fresh move
Is only a fresh mistake.

And each forgets, as he strips and runs
With a brilliant, fitful pace,
It's the steady, quiet, plodding ones
Who win in the lifelong race.
And each forgets that his youth has fled,
Forgets that his prime is past,
Till he stands one day, with a hope that's dead,
In the glare of the truth at last.

He has failed, he has failed; he has missed his chance;
He has just done things by half.
Life's been a jolly good joke on him,
And now is the time to laugh.
Ha, Ha! He is one of the Legion Lost;
He was never meant to win;
He's a rolling stone, and it's bred in the bone;
He's a man who won't fit in.

marks. His knowledge of wildlife, wilderness, and its history seemed boundless. He was what every man wanted to be — a cowboy, mountainman, and entrepreneur. He was an escape from our strangling reality. Chip represented an outlet to a romantic lifestyle with nights in bedrolls under the stars and breakfasts over campfires. He represented rough-hewn manhood and making a living with a saddle and a gun. While we lived in rural Texas, we felt that we lived too near the grimy urban edge of civilization. Chip let us live where our hearts wanted to live. He let us grow our beards and savor the air while sharing the backwoods trails with grizzlies, mule deer, elk, mountain goats, and Big Horn sheep. He was our Texas-to-Montana connection and the key to our happiness.

The second reason for our efforts was for our desires to see new country, to drink in different watering holes, and to taste the

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Dave Weishuhn of Ellinger, Tex. (top photo) and Charlie Grossklaus from Eau Claire, Wisc. show off bull elk they were guided to by TSA corresponding reporter Herman W. Brune. Both of these animals were killed during early September seasons.

Coyote Tags Locations

Austin County

Linseisen Feed & Supply
551 W. Main, Bellville, Texas 77418
(979-865-3602)

Lindemann Store
P. O. Box 96, Industry, Texas 78944
(979-357-2211)

Sealy Oil Mill & Feed Store
228 E. Front, Sealy, Texas 77474
(979-885-3568)

Steinhauser's
P. O. Box 1048, Sealy, Texas 77474
(979-885-2967)

Fayette County

La Grange Farm & Ranch Supply
623 E. Colorado St., La Grange, Texas 78945
(979-968-6441)

Graeter Motor Company
429 N. Rusk St., Fayetteville, Texas 78945
(979-378-2227)

Colorado County

Johnny's Sport Shop
101 Boothe Dr., Eagle Lake, Texas 77434
(979-234-3516)

M-G Feed
201 E. Post Office, Weimar, Texas 78962
(1-800-460-8584)

Heinsohn's
FM 109 @ FM 1291, Frelsburg, Texas 78950
(979-732-5081)

Colorado Feed Store
2105 Walnut, Columbus, Texas 78934
(979-732-3691)

Bernardo Farm & Ranch
FM 949, Bernardo, Texas 78933
(979-732-5161)

Lavaca County

Migl Feed & Grain
90A West, Hallettsville, Texas 77964
(361-798-4368)



Birds are especially fond of Joe Schindler when his sunflower field begins to bloom in the fall. The plants are so thick, it's been rumored that Joe sometimes has a hard time finding his way home.

TSA welcomes new memberships

The Texas Sportsman's Association welcomes new memberships.

Dues are only \$5 per year, and memberships run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of each year except for life-time memberships. When your membership is only \$5 per person, we cannot afford to send out renewal notices. All TSA memberships expire on Dec. 31 each year. Simply cut out the application form below, enclose the fee, address an envelope to TSA, P.O. Box 26, Columbus, TX 78934, stamp it and put it in the mail!

Remember, when pressing toward our objectives, membership numbers are every bit, if not more important, than money. We really do need each of you to sign up *NOW*.

VARIETY SHOOT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2005
Cat Spring Agricultural Hall

Sponsored by:
**The Austin County Unit of the
Texas Sportsman's**

Sons of 'The Men Who Don't Fit In'

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flavor of varying cultures. Each of us hungered for freedom from the social slots we'd been assigned. We hungered for the fulfillment of our wishes and the success of our dreams.

Our disappointed spirits clamored for the life where a man's handshake is his word and every sunrise is reason to rejoice. We longed for a place where our shortcomings weren't evident and where friends never shirked responsibility to friends.

So, I loaded my sacred belongings in Pet's truck and trailer and we headed to Colorado. The only glitch in the first leg of the journey was Pet's decision to take the scenic tour through the Texas Hill Country. Besides almost running out of gas there were no mishaps.

Chip met us at the designated rendezvous and we swapped luggage and livestock into his rig. Wife number three was riding along and she seemed glad to see me. But, I'd spent the previous year in camp with her and I had a bad gut feeling. I knew I needed to watch out for myself.

Soon, the daily routines jelled and we sailed through the summer trips. The highlight of the summer was taking nine retired doctors from Spokane and Seattle on a 10-day trip traveling more than 100 miles through the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

During that summer there were rumblings. Wife number three was talking about buying a restaurant near Glacier Park. I deducted she wanted Chip out of the wilderness business. By the early hunting season the talk had progressed to planning and I set up elk camp while Chip and number three courted the seller. By the end of the second hunt, number three sold

Chip's double-wide and he was relegated to living in a tent between hunts and taking his only shower in eight days at the local KOA campgrounds. I found a little gal in town who had pity on homeless cowboys. Meanwhile, number three was nesting in her new home 150 miles away.

Fortunately, we moved to Jack Atchison's Missouri Breaks camp for the general season, and I was in Shangri-La. There were mule deer everywhere and everyday I came back to camp with an excited hunter and a good buck. We were 400 miles from the restaurant and that put it out of our universe of worry, or so I thought.

Between hunts Chip and I frequented a bar in Winnet, Montana. One day, he studied me through bleary eyes and I knew he wasn't happy. He slouched on his stool smoking a cigarette, sipping a longneck, and shaking his head. All his summer and hunting clients warned him against buying the restaurant. He didn't know what to do. Then he dropped a bomb on me.

"Pet's not coming," he said. "What?"

"Nope, he called and said somebody is sick, he can't leave. Guess you're going to have to leave your horse and dog and ride a bus south," he said.

I sat there and stared at him. Misery loves company.

"Give me a quarter," I said. I hadn't gotten a paycheck in awhile and as the proverb says — I didn't have a quarter to my name.

"What are you going to do?" he asked.

"Give me a quarter."

He handed me a quarter, I walked to the pay phone, and

my luck held when my party answered the collect call.

"Dennis, what are you doing?"

"I'm working a shutdown, but we're almost through," Dennis said.

"Meet me in Choteau, Montana, at John Henry's pizza joint at four o'clock Thanksgiving Day. I'm stranded, and bring a horse trailer."

Dennis acknowledged he could meet me, I hung up the phone, collected the quarter, and walked to the bar.

"I got a ride," I said and returned Chip's quarter.

"Who did you call?"

"A rodeo buddy of mine from the south side of Houston."

Chip was astounded. He was also oblivious to the social slot he was accepting.

On Thanksgiving Day, Dennis swaggered into John Henry's. I looked at the rig he was driving. It was a shiny new Chevrolet dually with a Team Roping Championship trailer hitched behind.

"Where'd you get the truck and trailer?" I asked.

"Well, I collected a poker debt from Mike Welch the rodeo clown and borrowed his truck. My neighbor let me use the trailer he won team roping," Dennis said.

It was -22 degrees when we left Choteau and there was a speckled dog and black horse that were glad to be going back to Texas — and they rode with two men who don't fit in.



Colorado Co. TSA meeting held July 9th

The Colorado County unit of the Texas Sportsman Association met on Saturday, July 7 at 7 p.m. at the Colorado County EMS building in Columbus.

Vice-President Jack Schindler called the meeting to order. Secretary Ruth Poncik read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved as read.

The treasurer's report was given. A balance of \$983.92 is on hand, reflecting the expenses and income of the variety shoot. The treasurer's report was approved as read.

Old business was reported as the success of the variety shoot and thank you notes were written to various supporters.

New business brought discussion on hosting a fishing tournament as a fundraiser on the weekend of October 3. The executive committee will address the idea.

Everyone was reminded that the State TSA Fall meeting is, Sunday, Sept. 25 at the Ellinger Chamber of Commerce Hall.

The next meeting of the Colorado County Unit will be Saturday, Oct. 15, at 6 p.m. at the EMS building. There will be a covered dish meal.

Meeting adjourned and members enjoyed a covered dish meal.

Urgent!

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Monroe Weinecke (979-865-3365), Wilfred Eckardt (979-865-9525), Brandy Froebel (979-865-8046) and L.J. and Doris Rinn (979-357-2220).

Experimental deer regulations

Continued From Page 1

ops expanded and new ones were formed. In the six counties involved, 3,100 landowners put almost 500,000 acres into wildlife co-ops.

Co-op members also participated in spotlight census to determine doe permit numbers. Removing does in overpopulated areas would improve the buck-to-doe ratio, shorten the breeding and fawning seasons, diminish death by predators, and increase hunter opportunity.

Then TPW Commissioners passed the regulation for the 2002, 2003, and 2004 deer hunting seasons. Voluntary check stations were set up to collect data. Then, to insure hunter participa-

tion at the voluntary check stations, the TSA purchased and donated a lifetime hunting and fishing license for a check station raffle.

The age structure for the buck population is decided from the harvest. In the six-county area, 52 percent were yearling bucks and 27 percent were two year-olds. The experiment was designed to allow bucks to survive to be three year-olds.

The average inside spread of a three year-old, in the Post Oak Savannah, was 13.2 inches. To be legal, a buck needed a 13-inch inside spread, six points on one side, or have one slick spike antler.

The results surpassed all expectations. The buck harvest expectedly dropped the first year from 5,000 deer a year to slightly more than 3,000. Then the second year it rebounded to over 5,300.

By '04 the percentage of yearling bucks being killed went from 52 to 14 and two year-olds went from 27 to 15 percent.

Meanwhile, the three year-old age bracket climbed from its previous 16 percent to 39 percent of harvest, and the four year-old bracket jumped from four percent to 32. In three years the harvest numbers flip-flopped. Now, older bucks are doing the breeding, and the branched antler yearlings and two year-old bucks are protected.

Other data was also realized from the experiment. In '02, 41 illegal bucks were confiscated, in '03 there were 31 illegal bucks, and by '04 that figure dropped to 17.

Carroll reports that TPW surveys show 76 percent of hunters say they can determine the 13-inch spread better now than when the experiment started. Seventy percent say they enjoy hunting more than before the restriction, and 78 percent said it is a positive experience for youth hunters.

A new three-year experiment was adopted that will add a spike tag, in hopes to take pressure off bigger bucks, and the six points on one antler regulation was dropped.

Eighty-one percent of landowners and sportsman, in the 15 added counties, answered positively to wanting the program. The prerequisites for inclusion were that a county is a one-buck county and that the buck harvest consists of at least 60 percent bucks less than three years old.

Thirty-four more counties are

wanting into the program: sixteen from the Pineywoods, eight more from the Post Oak Savannah, six from the Crosstimbers, and four from the northeast Hill Country.

TPW deems that this whitetail deer program responds to hunting pressure and will work in any region. Nonetheless, the TSA passed a resolution supporting the new experiment but requested TPW to make annual reports to the TSA board of directors.

Counties currently in the program (original six are underlined): Austin, Bastrop, Brazoria, Caldwell, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Jackson, Karnes, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Victoria, Waller, Washington, Wharton, Wilson.



Operation Game Thief

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trailer, and it is expected to be ready for display by the fall.

Northeast Texas: This trailer will be filled with items relating to types of cases filed in this region and it will be operational by the fall.

West Texas: This one will also be ready for display this fall and will feature common regional seizures and violations.

More specific information about each trailer will be available as the trailers develop.

For more information, call Turner at (512) 389-4846.



John and Mildred Walla were honored as Grand Marshals in May 2005. Seen here, they are touring the parade route for a Festival in Ellinger. John has served TSA at many functions, and was treasurer for a number of years. Congratulations to both John and Mildred!