

TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S NEWS

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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."



GREAT DAY ON THE WATER — C.F. "Buck" Kollman and Friends had a perfect day of fishing on Lake Somerville last summer and, taking 91 very nice crappie. From left are Blair Goebel, Buck Kollman, Andy Kollman and Otto Riechart.

What's the hold-up? Join TSA today!

Not a member yet? Well, it's high time you joined. Fill out the membership application on page 6, send it in and get involved in Texas Sportsman's Association!

A note from the President



Season's Greetings members:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope your outdoor experiences have been safe and enjoyable with the colder weather. The rains made it much safer to enjoy the much needed camp fires. There have been some really nice deer harvested so far this season and now that the acorns have fallen they should be frequenting the food plots more often. Please send in your success stories and we will share them with the members.

Let's review our September 29 Fall Fundraiser. Even though our turnout was lower, we were able to meet our financial goals for 2013. We have some great sponsors and our members really worked hard selling the raffle tickets to make the event a success. Our fundraiser was held at the Columbus KC Hall this year and we adjusted to our new surroundings. I want to thank Bob Tait for his help getting us set up at the hall. Mark Lange, TP&W wildlife biologist for our area gave us a presentation on what the department has been working on in our area. He also discussed the recent deer surveys and turkey survey that was initiated for November. Mark has always made himself available for TSA business and we thank him for that. Keyser's market catered the brisket and sausage meal and it was enjoyed by all.

The list of raffle winners are printed in this issue, and congratulations and thank you for your support! R.W. Maertz was our top seller this year and he really worked hard all year, as he also led the cooking team for the March meeting. He also enjoys doing the penny raffle and I don't really know why they call it that as my draws are always five or six dollars.

Aaron Weishuhn and Victoria Maertz were present to accept their "Buck" Kollman TSA scholarships. Congratulations to these two fine dedicated students. Ernest Thuman accepted the lifetime license awarded through the TP&W check station drawing. We will continue this award again this season, so get



(Continued on Page 8)

TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 26,
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Phone: 979-732-2954

Visit TSA On Line!

The TSA web site is up and running, and members are encouraged to visit:

<http://www.texassportsmansassociation.org>

The website is maintained by
TSA Director Leslie Heinsohn.

TSA County Officers

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TROPHY ELK — TSA member Brad Gohlke took this fine Bull Elk in Oregon while shooting for the Humans Energy Concealment Systems (HECS) outdoor program. The hunt was filmed and Brad made the shot at 20 yards. It will air on the Pursuit channel (DirecTV 604, Dish Network 393) in 2014.

2013 TSA Raffle Winners

Prize	(Donor)	Winner
1. Weatherby VGD 7mm Mag. (TSA)	Delton Wunderlich
2. Benelli Nova 12 ga. (TSA)	Alfons A. Hudec
3. Ruger American 308 (TSA)	Brian Krenek
4. Remington 783 -270 Win. (TSA)	William Kollman
5. Savage Axis 25-06 (TSA)	Drymalla Construction Co.
6. Henry Lever 22LR (TSA)	Dolores Voitle
7. Ruger LCP .308 (TSA)	Mark Holl
8. Smith & Wesson HP Auto 9mm (TSA)	David Wade
9. New England Pardner Pump 20 ga. (TSA)	Kenneth Warschak
10. TSA Lifetime Membership (TSA)	Sullivan Machine Ltd.
11. \$100 Gift Cert. to Johnny's Sports Shop	Ken Mertz
12. \$100 Gift Cert. to Academy (Trafco-E.L.)	Patricia Polasek
13. \$100 Gift Card (Cynthia & David Gohlke)	The Eden Family
14. \$100 Gift Card (First National Bank-Bellville)	Andrew Sowa
15. \$75 Gift Card (Citizens State Bank-Sealy)	Kase Weishuhn
16. \$50 Gift Card (Baumgart Agencies)	James Swafford
17. 10 qt. SS Pot (Colorado Co. Butane)	Bobby Baker
18. \$50 Walmart Gift Card (J.W.V. Services-Sealy)	Randy Becker
19. ATV Cover (Country Outfitters)	Carla Mulder
20. 31-Camo Utility Tote (Virginia & Douglas Lillie)	Tony Bisbano
21. \$50 Gift Card (HEB)	Johnny's Sports Shop-Michael L. Grigar
22. Case of Motor Oil (A-Line Auto)	Lee Coufal
23. \$25 Gift Card (Brookshire Brothers)	John Donako
24. \$20 Gift Card (O'Reilly Auto Parts)	Chase Ashorn

Should you shoot spikes?

Some management-conscious hunters promote shooting spikes, thinking that these yearling male deer owning only two "spike" antler points will never make quality bucks. But research indicates that while spike bucks are unlikely to blossom into record-caliber bucks, given enough age and nutrition they can develop antlers that most hunters would be proud to hang over the mantel. Spike bucks will certainly never reach their potential if hunters shoot them.

Looking Down From the Saddle

By HERMAN W. BRUNE

Is \$200 billion a conservative budget?

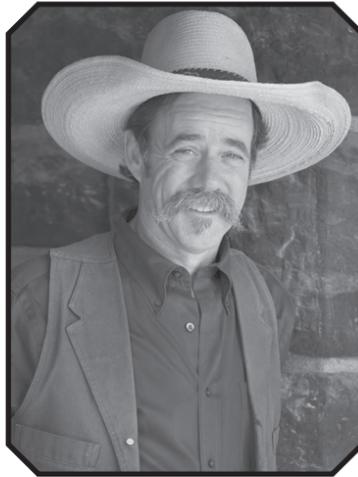
Editor's Note: This is an edited transcription of an interview with Texas State Representative Lois Kolkhorst heard on the "The News from the Camphouse" on KULM 98.3 FM.

Brune: This is another post-legislative session interview and you may note that I have many of the same questions that I ask each elected official. The reason is because we want to know each official's stance on topics. With that said, the legislature passed a \$200 billion budget and they want us to vote on dipping into the Rainy Day Fund. Is that considered a conservative budget? And, please tell us the good things that you saw from this session this session, as well as, what you didn't like.

Kolkhorst: You're right. The budget is huge. We're the fastest growing state in the United States and have the hottest economy. We've got the Eagle Ford Shale and other shale plays fueling our economy. I'll also tell you that I did not vote for the budget in the final version. I felt it was too large. And, we never voted on this particular item, but embedded in the budget was a pension pay raise for state lawmakers like myself and I could not vote for that. In the end there were a lot of items that I did support. We put a tremendous amount of money into public education, we bolstered support for natural resources, and we helped retired teachers. But in the end I didn't vote for the budget. It's the first budget that I didn't vote for in seven terms as a representative. I'm respectful of members that helped craft the budget but I didn't feel that we had sharpened our pencils enough. Instead we asked county and city governments to sharpen theirs.

One of the items that I supported was the \$2 billion bank that we're going to set up for water conservation planning infrastructure. That money will be coming from the Rainy Day Fund. You know that for the last two years we've not had the ability to send water to rice farmers because of the low levels in the highland lakes. We must come up with solutions for thirsty urban areas. We're in the midst of a drought. If the voters allow us to set up this bank we must stay very engaged. We must decide how to allow permits for water to urban areas while protecting the rural areas. I think we're taking a step in the good direction. I know there are interests in Waller and Austin Counties that want to send water to Fort Bend County. I'm not interested in this bank funding water marketers. I'm interested in this bank funding the Texas Water Plan. We started on this plan with Lt. Governor Bob Bullock in the late 1990's and would like to see some of the recommendations proposed by local folks that came up with solutions when setting up our regional planning process.

Yes, the budget is big, huge! Texas is growing. I'm concerned because some of the costs will be recurring. And while our economy remains hot, I don't want to become California. When they had good times they built a bigger government, but, then they had to fund it. And when hard times hit they didn't make the cuts the way we did during the last session. We must be careful to not become California.



Brune: During the last session money was held out of education funding. This session the money was put back. During the interim there was much discussion that throwing more money at education doesn't necessarily provide for better education. But legislators took steps other than funding that should help the quality of education.

Kolkhorst: Yes, but now first I must thank all the folks that work in school districts — at every level. I visited with every school district superintendent in my district separately. One of the items they stressed was while money is important a major problem was the mandated end-of-course

exams. There were 15 end-of-course exams. So we passed a bill that cut these exams from 15 to five. It also helps us identify career paths for children. We once tried to push everyone to go to college and I'm a big supporter of higher education but we should also look at careers in hands-on technology. The trim in the education budget last session was the first cuts since WW II. This time we put the money back.

Brune: What is the attitude towards Speaker of the House Straus.

Kolkhorst: We have a good working relationship. He's allowed me to be chairman of the public health committee. He and I do differ on occasion. I don't think he was thrilled that I voted against the budget and other initiatives that he supported but I must vote and represent my district. I respect anyone that holds that job and know it's difficult to manage representatives from across the state with varying concerns.

Brune: How much of the Texas budget is spent on federal mandates?

Kolkhorst: In Texas Governor Perry led the charge to not do Medicaid expansion. There was a lot of pressure by lobbyists to expand, but looking at the numbers we have Medicaid implementations in the late 1960's. We have 24 percent of the population uninsured. Medicaid expansion would have only gotten another three percent, and only 30 percent of doctors want to see new Medicaid patients. The problem is that they're changing the law, Obamacare, before our eyes as they please. Texas had to tap the brakes on Medicaid expansion especially when it was going to insure less than one million people. Economists were hired to put forth false numbers. I used state agency forecasters. We need to let the dust settle before we think about another federal health program in Texas. Health and Human Services represents more than 25 percent of our budget.

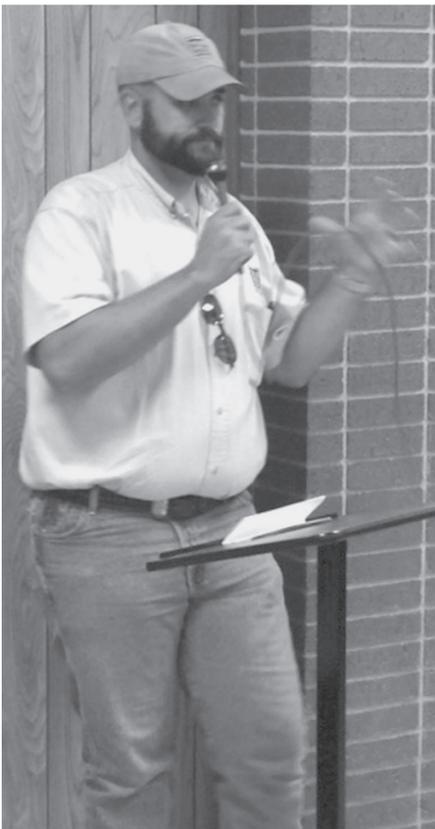
Brune: Back to water. Should the LCRA be under Sunset Review?

Kolkhorst: I would support that. While I respect their work through the years, there is a huge advantage to transparency. All of the river authorities are government agencies when it benefits them, and then not agencies when it doesn't benefit them. If the voters allow this \$2 billion water bank to be set up, we have a duty to stay engaged. Grassroots works.

Scenes from the TSA Fall Fundraiser



SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS — Aaron Weishuhn and Victoria Mertz were presented their "Buck" Kollmann Scholarships during the TSA Fall Fundraiser held on Sept. 29 at the KC Hall in Columbus. Presenting the scholarships is TSA President David Gohlke.



Send in your stories, photos for Newsletter

Texas Sportsman Assn. members are encouraged to submit stories and/or photos for the Newsletter. Submissions may be mailed to Texas Sportsmans Association, P.O. Box 26, Columbus, TX 78934, or email editor@industryinet.com.



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Blind hogs and earthquakes

By **KENDAL HEMPHILL**

Cedar arrows are never really, completely, totally, absolutely straight. What they are, all of them, when you get right down to the nitty gritty, honest truth of the matter, is crooked. Some of them are pretty straight, and some are kind of straight, and some are mostly straight. Which means that all of them are, frankly, crooked.

Now, I like cedar arrows. Since I shoot longbows and recurves, it seems wrong to shoot aluminum or graphite arrows, anyway, but I shoot cedar shafts because I like them. They're like a lot of people — when you just glance at them they look fine, but if you get to looking close you find the flaws. It's best not to look too closely at people or cedar arrows. You'll be happier that way.

I was thinking about my arrows being just a little crooked last Saturday, while sitting in the treehouse my boys and I built near my house about 10 years ago. Saturday was National Hunting and Fishing Day, and it also happened to be the opening day of bow hunting season. I hate to let a holiday go to waste.

The treehouse has two levels. The first one is about seven feet off the ground, and the second is about 14 feet high. The top floor has a little porch that overlooks a deer trail, so I figured that would be a good place from which to fling arrows toward deer. I rarely hit deer with arrows, but I like to keep them alert. It's a public service I provide. My contribution to the preservation of wildlife in Mason County.

The treehouse also has a good tin roof, if you're not too particular about the definition of 'good.' It has holes, but if you pay attention to where you sit, you can avoid the drips as long as it doesn't rain too



KENDALL HEMPHILL shows off this nice 10-pointer brought down by one of his "crooked cedar arrows."

hard. The best place to sit in the treehouse while it's raining is somewhere else.

But the main attribute the treehouse offers, as a deer stand, is convenience. The older I get, the less I like to travel on the heel-toe freight line. The treehouse is within rock chunking distance of my back door, although I rarely chuck rocks at it.

The only other thing you need to know about my treehouse is that it's built in a little oak mott, and has an old telephone pole at each corner. The southeast corner post is a handy spot to mount a Cuddeback brand game camera, which I started doing about midsummer. And found out that I look really funny when I'm squatting in front of the game camera, trying to get it open. I also found that I had several deer sneaking by the treehouse at odd hours of the day and night, and one of them was a pretty nice ten-point buck. Which was another incentive to use the treehouse

for a deer stand. I like keeping bucks alert more than does.

The game camera also told me approximately exactly what time of day the deer generally came by. The pictures are all date and time stamped, which tells me exactly when the deer are there, but the camera's internal clock has to be set correctly for it to do that, which means that, since I'm the one who sets the clock, it tells me approximately exactly when the deer are there. It's sort of close, but NASA won't be asking me to calibrate their launch computers anytime soon, I don't think.

Anyway, I sat in my deer stand/treehouse Saturday evening and watched the ten-point buck and his smaller buddy as they alertly made their way toward me, and when I looked down at my guaranteed crooked cedar arrow, which was nocked onto my bowstring, I wondered when Texas had begun having earthquakes. The broadhead was bouncing around like a pea

in a paint shaker. And then I realized we weren't having an earthquake, I was just nervous about shooting at a deer with a bow for the first time in over a decade.

It's a little known fact that crooked arrows don't fly straight. And when you compound that little problem with a near fatal case of buck fever, and you're shooting almost straight down at a deer 14 feet below your treehouse porch, there's a better than even chance you're going to shoot an arrow through your foot.

Somehow I managed to calm down enough to shoot the buck, which promptly ran off with my crooked cedar arrow. I sat down to wait the obligatory half hour before I went and looked for him, and wondered about the probability of a blind hog actually finding an acorn. And while I was doing that some does came by, and I decided to try for one of them.

All I can say is that if there are any blind hogs around your place, you'd better hide your acorns. I managed to hit the doe, too, and she decided to give it up right there. And when I went to look for the buck, I found him less than 100 yards away. I had not shot an arrow at a deer in over ten years, and now I'd shot two deer in 16 minutes. That doesn't happen. Not to me.

I'd take credit for my great shooting, but the truth is that if my arrows had been straight I probably would've missed both deer. That's what I like about cedar arrows — they never shoot quite straight, but sometimes they miss in exactly the right direction ...

Kendal Hemphill is an outdoor humor columnist and public speaker who never looks for acorns. Write to him at P.O. Box 1600, Mason, TX 76856 or jeep@verizon.net.

Zebra Mussels are coming, and we don't want them!

By ALICE RENEAU WHITE

As small as an inch long with a little zebra striped shell filling the waterways around Texas with microscopic larvae seems like a small thing to deal with, but is rapidly becoming huge. Being highly invasive and impossible to eradicate with the technology we currently have and having only a few natural predators in the crayfish, smallmouth bass and some catfish they are a new ecological nightmare waiting to happen. Multiplying at high speed with one adult being able to produce a million larvae, they could become our latest environmental and economic damage that travels all the way through our water systems.

The Zebra Mussel can live and feed in many different habitats. They will colonize on all types of surfaces dead or alive. Attaching themselves to water-intake pipes, boats, buoys, plants, docks, piers and even slow moving native animals like

the turtle, crayfish and clam. We are looking at an economic impact in the billions of dollars as they make their way into the area waterways by accidental transportation.

These lake killers are originally from the Balkans, Poland and Russia, but now have a strong foothold in Europe and have invaded much of the United States. In April of 2009 the first adult Zebra Mussel was confirmed in Lake Texoma and have since spread and become well established in numerous Texas lakes and rivers, having been confirmed in Lake Ray Roberts, Lewisville Lake and Lake Bridgeport.

They have also been found on isolated occasions in Lake Lavon, Lake Ray Hubbard, the Red River below Lake Texoma, the Elm Fork of the Trinity River below Lake Ray Roberts and Sister Grove Creek. They are traveling fast and we are unknowingly helping them.

They will attach themselves to any smooth surface and may not even be visible to the naked eye. If you are a boater, or perhaps have a water ski you should know that they could be just about anywhere on your craft. Before leaving a body of water you need to clean, drain and dry all your boat, waterski equipment, trailer and gear. They can even be attached to your anchor, dock lines, in your live wells, hull, prop, wheel axles, bilge, basically if it touched the water at any time, they may be there. Be sure to remove any plants, animals or foreign objects that you may find. Drain everything right down to your bait bucket before you leave the lake. To be extra safe allow your equipment to thoroughly dry for at least a week before entering another body of water. If you can't wait that long then clean it with a high-pressure washer and very hot, at least 140 degree soapy water.

If not in the Guadalupe, Brazos and San Marcos rivers and area lakes such as Canyon already, they probably will be soon. The damage to the environment then travels right to your water supply systems, private property, and infrastructure. They proceed to clump together and clog up canals, can completely block small one foot diameter pipes, and can even clog up the intake pipes for water transfer and treatment facilities causing costly cleanout. They also help create corrosion and

(Continued on Page 8)

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Texas Sportsman's Association
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Feral hogs are a reality — what can you do?

By ALICE RENEAU WHITE

There is no positive way to get an exact number on the feral hogs in your area, but with behavior patterns, weather and statistics from Texas A&M you can get close on what you are dealing with today and what will come tomorrow. John Calentine our USDA Wildlife Troubleshooter shared information as well as a couple of local Feral Hog Trappers and Hunters and my own general knowledge gained from the Texas Dog Hunters Association.

Feral hogs have the same basic requirements as humans. They need food, water, protection or cover from the elements and space to live. Guadalupe County gives them plenty of perfect habitat. Our county is a block of land covering approximately 711 square miles with the Guadalupe River, many creeks, stock tanks and plenty of brush for them to rest in during the heat

of the day. Recent rains will allow them to venture further away from traditional water sources and cooler temperatures will make daytime activities increase. Normally you will find out they have visited your place by the destroyed land you find upon waking, but as fall comes, the daytime hogs show themselves.

If trying to estimate population based on statistical data and math it will tell you that there is between 1.33 and 2.45 hogs per square mile of suitable habitat. This would give Guadalupe area up to 1,742 of these grunting land rippers. But when you add in the pecan trees, water supply, river, farm land and this county's crop production it quickly becomes hog heaven and you can make a good case for this number being low in the area.

The most expedient way to keep them at bay is through exclusion fencing and aerial gunning, however these are also

the most expensive. The most common are hunting, hunting with dogs, trapping, and snaring.

None are 100 percent successful but they help control the population overall. After recent rains you can expect to see more hogs and increased damage. If nothing is done they will increase in population around 20 percent per year or double their number every five years, so this is definitely an ongoing battle for all Texas residents. During deer season they get a small break from population control and take full advantage with breeding and extra destruction.

Last year Agrilife hosted a Feral Hog Workshop with 265 in attendance to get an idea of damage being caused. Between loss of crops, pasture damage, land owner and employee time, equipment and vehicle damage and personal

(Continued on Page 8)

Mark your calendars ...

**Annual TSA
BUSINESS MEETING**
SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2014

**Knights of Columbus Hall
Columbus - 12 Noon**

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Feral hogs: what to do?

(Continued from Page 1)

injuries the total economic loss was found to be around \$4,344 per landowner's property. Consistently attempting to bring down the number of wild pigs is the only way to bring down the loss. The damage converts over directly to your food costs even if you don't farm or ranch.

Making their way into yards they destroy your landscaping in one night. Hogs enjoy the white pulp part of grass, plants and crops near the root so they rip it up completely destroying the plant. Then they dig to get to worms or any other tasty treat they may find leaving craters behind. There have even been cases where they have gone down newly planted rows to eat the freshly planted corn. In some instances they have been known to go after small livestock and wreak havoc with native wildlife.

Feral hogs can be dangerous to humans but it is very rare. The safest response to a close encounter with a hog is to remove yourself from the area and the hog will probably be doing its best to get away from you as well. When people are hurt it usually happens in a hunting incident when a hog runs through the hunters or when a person inadvertently gets between a sow and her piglets.

You are much more likely to be impacted by a vehicle collision with a wild hog or by the disease they can spread than any direct attack. A wild pig has a natural instinct to flee rather than attack.

Common disease problems include the external parasites like ticks, fleas and lice as well as Swine Brucellosis, Pseudorabies and Tularemia. Pseudorabies can stand some explanation, this is not actually a form of rabies but a herpes virus that attacks the respira-

tory, nervous and reproductive systems of hogs. It gets the name from the symptoms that present that are similar to a rabid animal.

They share this disease primarily through breeding but can also spread it through respiratory secretions. This disease is of special concern to domestic hog livestock and pets. Once a hog is infected it carries this disease for life and will periodically shed the virus through its mouth and nose which can infect or contaminate feed, water and trailers used for transport.

Closer concern for human health is Brucellosis. It is an infectious, bacterial disease that can be transmitted to humans. When a human is infected it is known as Undulant Fever and causes flu-like symptoms such as chills, aches, pains, fever and chills. It can be treated with specific antibiotics and most likely to be contracted by a human that raises hogs for a living and comes into regular contact with domestic hogs or hunters that have repeated contact.

Feral hogs will continue to be a nuisance for the land owners in Guadalupe County. Despite control efforts, once a group of hogs has been removed, others will move into the habitat and rebuild a population. Continued pressure is required if landowners don't want to put up with the damage they inflict on pastures and row crops. Additional information on feral hogs is available at <http://feralhogs.tamu.edu/>.

**Annual TSA
Business Meeting
Sunday, March 2, 2014
12 Noon
Columbus KC Hall**

President's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

your bucks checked in. Check station drawing winners will be announced in March.

We had our final board of directors meeting for 2013 on October 23, and after all expenses, we are ahead of last year's balance. Our next meeting will be January 16, 2014, at 7 p.m. at the Columbus EMS meeting room. We will also meet again on February 13, 2014.

We have started planning the March 2, 2014 Annual Business Meeting. It will be held at the Columbus KC Hall beginning at noon. We need nominations for President and Secretary that have reached term limits.

Meeting Agenda Topics:

- Distribute 2013 Financial Report
- Name the 2014 TSA Scholarship
- Elect new President and Secretary

Please contact a board member if you have additional issues you wish to address.

We will give away a rifle by selling the deck of cards again and the coyote rifle will be awarded to the present member through a drawing from the entries received.

We ask members to bring a door prize and/or a dessert and the stew lunch will be provided by the TSA for the March 2, 2014 meeting.

I hope you have safe and enjoyable holiday season and remember to take your children and grandchildren outdoors this wonderful time of the year!

David Gohlke

Zebra Mussels

(Continued from Page 1)

compete with other aquatic organisms that we want and need. An emergency rule was just added by the TPWD to include Lake Belton and Stillhouse Hollow and parts of the Leon and Lampasas rivers. When visiting these areas you will not be considered in violation of this ruling if you drain your boat and gear before leaving.

A Texas Mussel Watch volunteer was looking on the shores of Lake Belton in September and found a giant floater mussel that had a small mussel attached to the shell. Texas Parks and Wildlife confirmed it was a Zebra Mussel the following day. In a follow-up survey they discovered that they were well established and had three different sizes meaning they had been growing and multiplying since 2012 and in the process may have been spread to other Texas lakes.

Help protect our water in Texas by becoming a volunteer. Report any sightings immediately to the TPWD. Learn all you can about these invasive destructive mussels at www.texasinvasives.org and follow a strict regimen of cleaning your equipment.

Zebra Mussels are the last thing we need in our waterways, hydroelectric plants and water pipes. The cost is too high to pay and we need to fight this infestation in any way we can. All information in this article was gathered from Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Texas Invasives Organization and the San Marcos field office of the Texas Parks and Wildlife.