

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."

TSA business meeting March 4 at Mentz

The year 2006 is history, the holidays are past, and it is time to get on with the year 2007.

The annual Texas Sportsman's Association business meeting is scheduled on Sunday, March 4 at St. Roch's Parish Hall in Mentz.

Buck Kollman and his stew-cooking crew will be preparing his popular beef stew. (Anyone with extra time on their hands that morning can report to Mentz at 7 a.m. to help with the preparation.)

The free stew meal will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Biologist David Foerster and Royce Jurries will bring us a report on the past hunting season. There also will be a time for a question-and-answer session.

The TSA hopes you will plan to be a part of this meeting. Routine matters will be discussed and an election will be held for a vice president and treasurer.

You will have the opportunity to pay your dues if you haven't already done so. See ya in Mentz on March 4.

Wildlife coalition to give outdoorsmen a strong voice

By HERMAN W. BRUNE

With the Texas Legislature moving into full swing for the 80th session, the Texas Wildlife Association is looking to bolster the voice of outdoorsman by reuniting a coalition of wildlife organizations.

On Feb. 12, at the Cabela's store in Buda, Tex., there will be a meeting to sign a letter urging legislators in regards to Fund 9. The fund pertains to moneys from licenses, stamps, and fees to be retained and used for conservation, and not to let these moneys slip off into general funds or other programs.

The Texas Wildlife Association has called upon the Texas Sportsman's Association to attend the meeting and to play an active role in saving taxpayers' money.

In the previous session legislators proposed to spend funds made available by the freshwater stamp.

Instead, legislators wanted to sell bonds for promised progress towards freshwater hatcheries.

However, TWA and other sportsman's organizations showed that selling bonds would ultimately cost the public millions

of dollars more than the set-aside funding.

Executive Vice President of TWA, Kirby Brown, assured that the loose-knit coalition of wildlife organizations doesn't hinder those groups from individual stances on wildlife issues.

The main purpose of the organization is to provide a strong front against anti-

First '07 meeting set Feb. 13 at Cat Spring for TSA's A.C. Unit

Get a head start for Valentine's Day! Why not bring your sweetheart to the Austin County Unit's TSA meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at the Cat Spring Hall.

The schedule is the same as in the past: social at 7 p.m. with the meeting to follow.

One of the big items on the agenda is the election of a president and vice president. You don't want to miss this!

Any other important matters will be discussed and acted on.

gun factors, anti-hunting factors, and to let Texas lawmakers know how the constituents stand on wildlife issues.

LEGISLATIVE BILLS IN CONSIDERATION

HB 284 by Rep. Joe Driver (R-Garland) and Sen. Jeff Wentworth (R-San Antonio):

This is the Castle Doctrine and clarifies that a person has no duty to retreat from any place that he or she has a right to be. It goes further to limit the ability of a criminal or the criminal's family to sue a victim for killing or injuring their attacker.

HB 258 by Rep. Frank Corte (R-San Antonio) and SB 112 by Sen. John Corona (R-Dallas):

This verifies the rights of Texans to maintain their firearms during a state or natural disaster.

HB 220 by Rep. Phil King (R-Weatherford):

This bill allows Concealed Handgun License holders to have their handguns

(Continued on Page 8)

TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION

**P.O. Box 26,
Columbus, TX 78934**



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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

Austin County

President — L.J. Rinn
Vice President — C.F. "Buck" Kollmann
Secretary — Doris Rinn
Treasurer — Charles Abel
Committeemen — Wilfred Eckardt and Duane Dudensing

Colorado County

President — Terrell Maertz
Secretary-Treasurer — Ruth Poncik
Committeeman — Walt Glasscock

Clearing the air on the TSA's Coyote Contest; it runs all year

Several questions and concerns dealing with the TSA Coyote Contest have surfaced lately.

The Coyote Contest runs all year! The bounties for the entries that are sent in to the state office are paid twice a year.

Entrants will receive one check the first Sunday in March at the annual business meeting, or the week thereafter. Another set of checks will be issued at the Fall Fund Raiser in September or the week after that event.

The bounty WILL NOT be paid at the check-in station. You will be given a card to send in to the state association. It is YOUR duty to send in the card and not the duty of the check-in station.

You must be a TSA member to enter the contest.

TSA asks that you bring in the coyote to the check-in station as

soon as possible after the kill. We do not expect the folks at the check-in station to deal with a "stinky" animal.

They are doing TSA a favor by cutting off the claw. Repay the favor ... Bring that critter in right away.

We have added another check-in station to our list. Willow Springs Store in Fayette County has volunteered to be added to the following list of places where you can register your coyote kill:

Austin County

Lindemann Store - Industry
Steinhauser's - Sealy
Linseisen's Feed & Supply - Bellville

Fayette County

Graeter Motor Co. - Fayetteville
Willow Springs Store - Willow Springs
La Grange Farm & Ranch Supply, Inc. - La Grange (8 to 12, Saturdays only)

Colorado County

MG Farm & Ranch - Weimar
Colorado Feed Co. - Columbus
Bernardo Farm & Ranch Supply - Bernardo
Heinsohn's Store - Frelsburg

Note to members:

Anyone interested in bringing door prizes for the annual meeting is welcome to do so.

Any contributions will be appreciated.



Hunters rewarded for registering bucks at check stations

Six counties in this area — Austin, Colorado, Lavaca, Fayette, Lee and Washington — had an experimental deer antler regulations for three hunting seasons (2002-2004).

Starting with the 2005 season, these regulations became permanent in these as well as in an additional 16 central Texas counties. The regulation included 61 counties for the 2006 season. A second buck, which has to have an unbranched antler, is now allowed in the bag limit in these counties.

To evaluate this increase in the bag limit, the Parks and Wildlife Department continued to have volunteer check stations in the original six counties where hunters could register their bucks. The antler and age information collected from the deer brought to the stations has assisted TPWD in evaluating the results of this regulation.

Every hunter that brought a deer to a check station had their name entered into a drawing for 14 prizes that was donated by local merchants and organizations.

This year's drawing was held

Feb. 3 at the Fayette County Wildlife Management Association meeting at LCRA's Cooper Farm in Fayette County.

The winners included Jerome Kocian of San Antonio who won the Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License donated by the Texas Sportsman's Association.

Cameron Kaley of Columbus and Clint Kupka of Hallettsville each won a Remington 700 BDL .270 rifle donated by the Lee County Wildlife Management Association and M-G,

Inc. of Weimar.

Ty Iselt of Giddings and Carl Wendler of Schulenburg each won a Remington 700 BDL .22-250 rifle donated by the Lavaca County Wildlife Management Association and Drymalla Construction Company of Columbus.

Chad Huebner of Columbus won a Remington Model 7 .270 WSM rifle donated by Ron and Estelle Mostyn of Weimar. Richard Grobe of Columbus won a 20 gauge 870 Express Magnum shotgun donated by the

First State Bank of Columbus.

Joshua Mika of Hallettsville and Logan Ramirez of Weimar won a Marlin 17 MHR bolt-action rifle that was donated by the Colorado County Wildlife Management Association and Market Realty, Inc. of Brenham.

Mike Booker of Columbus and Charles New of Sante Fe each won a Ruger 10/22 donated by Hoffer's Drive In Grocery of Hallettsville and Bill Johnson and Associates Real Estate of Bellville.

Mike Westbrook of Dime Box won a custom made hunting knife donated by Knives by Charlie of Sheridan.

Clay Reed of Dripping Springs won a corn feeder donated by LAMCO, Inc. of El Campo and Gary Love of Houston won an All Seasons broadcast feeder donated by Capital Farm Credit of La Grange.

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department would like to thank the organizations and businesses that donated these excellent prizes. The Department would also like to thank all of the hunters who brought deer to the check stations.

Forget to renew? Well, now's the time to do it

Our directors have all heard these words many times: "I used to get the TSA Newsletter, but it has been a while since I have seen one. I don't understand, I thought I was a member."

Oops — you must have forgotten to renew. Unless you are a life member, you must renew EVERY YEAR to stay current.

All you have to do to get back on track is cut out the application form below, enclose the \$5 fee, address an envelope to TSA, P.O. Box 26, Columbus, TX 78934 and put it in the mail.

Oh, by the way, thanks for all the things you do and contribute toward making TSA a GREAT organization.

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 _____		
<p>Texas Sportsman's Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</p>		
		<p>DUES: Annual \$ 5.00 Life (Onetime) \$200.00</p> <p>DONATION TO: TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSN. \$ _____</p> <p>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____</p> <p>DUES PAYABLE TO: TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 26 COLUMBUS, TEXAS 78934</p>

Looking Down from the Saddle By HERMAN W. BRUNE

Stephen Hoelscher leaned towards the microphone. He grinned and talked with his hands.

“Well, you know how we do it,” he drawled in a Czech accent. “I’ve got recipes for some sausage seasonings, but then sometimes we just go with whatever ... You know ... I was surprised with the batch you mixed. You used way too much red pepper. But, we let it dry and it turned out fine.”

Once a year Hoelscher is my guest on “The News from the Camphouse. It is a 30-minute radio program that airs every Saturday morning on KULM 98.3 in Columbus. This morning I was asking him to divulge his culinary secrets. With the same skilled deftness of a pianist stroking the keys, Hoelscher cuts meat, mixes wild pork and deer, and produces the best lip-smacking good sausage in the county.

Then, his smokehouse is a social center for annual reunions. The sharp-eyed country boys that grew up hauling hay, fighting at dances, running hotrods through the quarter, and dodging the law are victims of time. Now, they’re all wearing glasses, are squishy around the middle, and answer meekly to their wives’ demanding summons.

These honest sinners agree, God should judge lightly their past shenanigans. They are lingering remnants of an era when men were tougher and hunted for subsistence. Also, they were reared in a close-knit rural community that requires proof of kin before acceptance may be granted into social circles.

As Hoelscher and I prattled about the Indian tricks to making dried sausage we eased into our common language, turning the interview into an old home visit. The comments became more casual and I felt the sudden need to tuck my pants in my boots. Then the remark was passed that a head-shot in the moonlight provided the tenderest meat. We both giggled and snorted, knowing we were jabbering foolishness — but Camelot was about to be tested.

The white sedan cruised into town from the north. It was a nondescript vehicle that didn’t draw attention. Nobody knows how many days its occupant was in Columbus, but on Monday, a short heavy-set man stopped at the Chevron station. A poacher operating an illegal meat processing plant was reported; and the rubes in this little burg were dumb enough to advertise their illicit businesses on the radio. The white car’s occupant had several leads but didn’t know exactly whom he was searching for or where to find him. Now, the man was glad to be away from his desk in the city and was going to enjoy his investigation. He approached a young local resident that he took to be the gas station’s owner.

His first stop yielded information that would get him started. The local was friendly, but at the mention of his alleged suspect’s name he saw something close behind the young man’s eyes. As he pulled back onto the highway an older woman, from the gas station office, asked her son what the man wanted.

Wurst lies

hummed to life.

The man soon found that there were many gravel pits in Colorado County. Instead of going to all of them, he decided to poke around town and see how many people supported the story of poaching and illegal processing. Chances were that if the subject was a well-known habitual lawbreaker, the investigation could be wound up in a day.

However, at each stop he saw folks smirk and then clam up when he mentioned the alleged suspect’s name. Initially they acted as if they wanted to say something, but then became suspicious of the newcomer. The bits and pieces of the puzzle weren’t coming together. Nevertheless, he managed to get directions to the suspect’s house. So, he eased out of town and explored the maze of farm to market roads in the north end of the county.

By Wednesday, his clue gathering fizzled. There were no hard facts. His quarry was well liked by everyone, and though he found the correct residence there was never anyone at home. The only thing left to do was confront the suspect.

Early Thursday morning, Georgie Hoelscher was awakened by a thudding noise. Some moron was knocking on the front door. Nobody goes to the front door at the Hoelscher house. The driveway leads to the back door. She cursed under her breath, stood on her tiptoes, and peered out the tiny slotted window. What she saw grated her guts. It was a short, round unimposing clean-cut man, and before she turned the lock, she decided the intruder was the college-educated idiot with a government job that she’d heard was in the neighborhood. She cracked the door ajar.

“What do you want?” Georgie growled.

“Is Mr. Hoelscher home? I’d like to ...”

“Yeah, wait here!” and Georgie slammed the door. “Hoelscher get out of bed — that guy is here to talk to you!” Then she went into the kitchen and began beating pans onto the stove to cook breakfast.

The investigator shuddered. The woman was scary and he wasn’t sure what would happen next. It was unusual for a poacher to have a nice brick house and well kept yard. Petty criminals were usually slovenly. But all indications showed this was a long-established, prosperous home. If his information was wrong, these people would have good reason not to welcome him. He was nervous. The next person to open the door helped set him at ease.

In contrast to the fire-breathing woman, Hoelscher’s wide smile was as clear as a blue summer sky.

“Hey I’m Stevie Hoelscher, come on in,” Hoelscher chortled and shook the man’s hand. “Would you like some breakfast? Georgie, fix this man a plate of eggs. Sorry I was still in bed but I work the night shift. Do you like coffee?” The man nod-

(Continued on Page 8)



Don't ruin your trophy mount

By SHAWN CAMPBELL

You have spent the last year feeding, scouting and preparing to harvest that big trophy buck to hang on your den wall, so don't ruin the mount by not properly capping your deer.

I was talking with Steve Novak, owner of Wildlife Art Taxidermy located down in Beeville. He told me that too many nice trophy bucks come in to his shop in very poor condition. He says it is mainly due to improper skinning for shoulder mounts.

The biggest problem is hunters don't cut far enough behind the front legs and leave enough cape for the taxidermist. Another big mistake is that hunters cut into the white hair on the back of the legs when capping out the buck.

Mr. Novak provided me with five basic points in skinning for shoulder mounting deer.

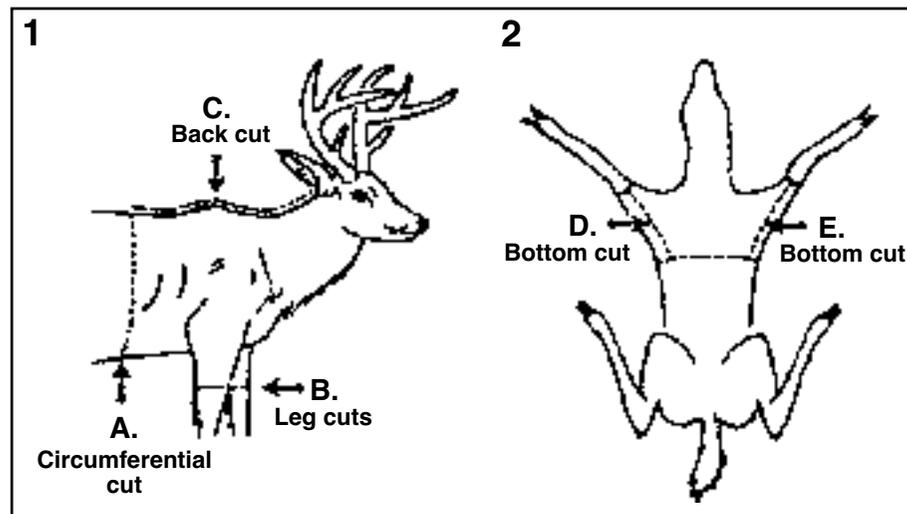
HOW TO CAPE A DEER

"Always cut from the flesh side up"
Courtesy of Steve Novak

1. Make a circumferential cut, minimum of 6-8 inches behind the front legs around the torso (see A, in figure 1 at right):

2. Make leg cuts around the foreleg (B, figure 1).

3. There is a line on the back of each



front leg where the brown hair and white hair meet (D & E, figure 2). Cut on that line and follow all the way back to your circumferential cut. Never cut white hair!

4. On a buck's back there is a dark line of hair. Cut along this line forward to the head (C, figure 1).

5. Carefully separate head from neck as close to the head as possible using a saw or knife. (You can use your knife where the first cervical vertebra connects to the base of the skull. Use the point of your knife to cut the connective tissue on the lateral sides of the

occipital condyle. You may have to twist a little while cutting to get your knife in the cervical joint then sever the spinal cord and it should be separated and ready to go to the taxidermist.

Figure 1. Shows two cut lines.

"A" is the circumferential cut 68 inches behind the front legs.

"B" is the cut around the front legs above the knee.

"C" is the back cut forward to the head.

Figure 2. Shows the two cut lines, on the underside, form- the circumfer-

ential cut to the leg cuts.

NEVER CUT WHITE HAIR!!!

"D" and "E" are the cuts along the white/brown hairline to the back of the front legs.

6. Don't forget to remove the lower jawbone or have your taxidermist do it so that you can age the deer and record it in your harvest data.

7. Get good measurements on the horns if it is a buck (Boone and Crockett measurements).

8. Take a weight before and after field dressing the deer.

The last few points will help you in your management plan. You will get a better feel of the horn, age, and weight structure of the deer on your ranch or hunting lease. If I can leave you with anything to remember, if you haven't shot that trophy buck yet, don't be too fast to pull the trigger before making sure he is a mature (5.5 years or older) buck.

• Shawn Campbell has a doctorate degree in animal nutrition from Texas Tech University. He works as a wildlife consultant from north of Abilene, west to Val Verde County, through the Hill Country down to Victoria County and into deep South Texas. He can be contacted at 361-550-0282 or shawncampbell@dcwildlife.com

Now's the time to start planting dove field

Although dove season is several months away, now is the time to begin planning a field. Since doves feed almost exclusively on seed, success of any dove field depends on quality, availability and timing of seed produced.

Your first planning decision will be what to plant. Brown-top millet, dove proso millet, sunflower, grain sorghum and corn are good choices. All of these are suitable for early or mid-season hunting; however, corn and sorghum are often used for late-season hunts.

Wildlife such as deer, turkey, raccoons, crows and other birds can cause significant losses to your crop. These animals damage crops by eating young plants, freshly planted seed or seed heads of mature plants. Of the plants mentioned above, brown-top and dove proso millet are the least likely to be damaged by wildlife.

The basic steps of planting and caring for the crop will vary around Georgia. Therefore, contact your County Extension agent for information and recommendations on planting, soil testing, fertilizing, controlling weeds, and crop varieties adapted to your locality.

Be sure to plant crops early enough to allow seeds to mature about two weeks before your first scheduled hunt. For instance, brown-top millet needs

60 days to reach maturity. After the millet is harvested or cut, the field should be left for 14 days to attract doves. Therefore, around 74 days are needed from the time brown-top millet is planted until the field is ready for a dove shoot. If you plan to hunt doves on your field September 1, you would have to plant the millet no later than June 18.

Although there is no optimum size for a dove field, 10-15 acre fields are common. A field of less than two acres may be unproductive. As a rule of thumb, allow one acre of field per hunter to insure a safe density of hunters.

The mature crop should be cut about two weeks before the first dove shoot. This can be done through normal har-

vesting techniques or simply cut with a rotary mower. A cutter bar mower also can be used, but raking is necessary to make the seed readily available to doves. Millet fields can be burned to clear plant residue and expose more seed. If you want to attract doves throughout most of the season, don't cut all the field at once. Leave strips that can be mowed periodically throughout the season to provide a continuous supply of fresh seed.

Before preparing a dove field, become familiar with state and federal laws regarding baiting. Crops planted and harvested using bona fide (good faith) agricultural practices are legal for a dove hunt. However, it is unlawful to hunt doves where corn, small grains, salt or other feeds have been

distributed or placed on an area as a lure to doves if it is not a bona fide agricultural practice.

Top sowing of any grain without covering is not considered a normal practice and would be an illegal field for dove hunting. In addition, to be a bona-fide agriculture practice, crops must be planted within 14 days of the planting dates recommended by the Agricultural Extension Service. These dates differ depending on the crop, physiographic region, and in the case of some grains, whether the crop is planted for grazing or grain production.

(The preceding article was produced and distributed by the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service.)

Ten commandments of shooting safety

★ Always point the muzzle of your gun in a safe direction.

★ Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or nocked arrow.

★ Be sure of your target.

★ Unload firearms, arrows and ammunition with care.

★ Handle firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use.

★ Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.

★ Control your emotions when using weapons.

★ Wear hearing and eye protection.

★ Don't consume alcohol or drugs before or while handling firearms or bows.

★ Be aware of circumstances that require added caution or safety awareness.

If you practice these rules, you'll help to ensure a safe future for yourself, for others and for the shooting sports.



THIS 'N THAT — Staci Gatzke, left, and Susie Rigler (above left photo) accept items brought to the Austin Co. unit Christmas Party for the Lone Star Rescue Assn. Above, Willie Schomburg is shown with three young shooters at the annual Austin Co. Variety Shoot. And below, this unusual rack belonged to a buck dropped this season by Ronnie Harris in Austin County.



Calling all cooks: desserts needed!

A slice of cake or pie would surely hit the spot after that bowl of steaming beef stew at the annual business meeting.

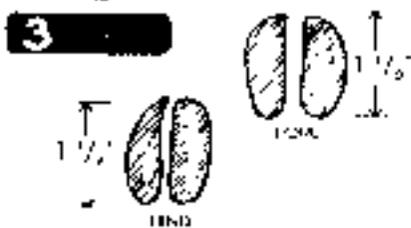
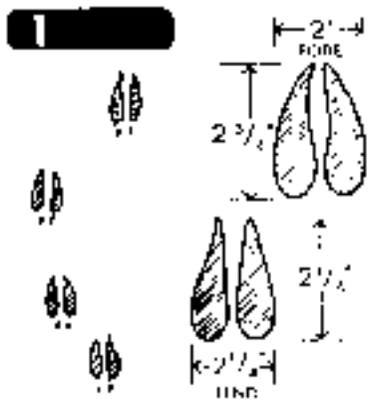
Anyone wishing to bring a dessert is welcome to do so. They would be most appreciated.

Let's make a deal — You bring the dessert and we'll furnish the coffee!

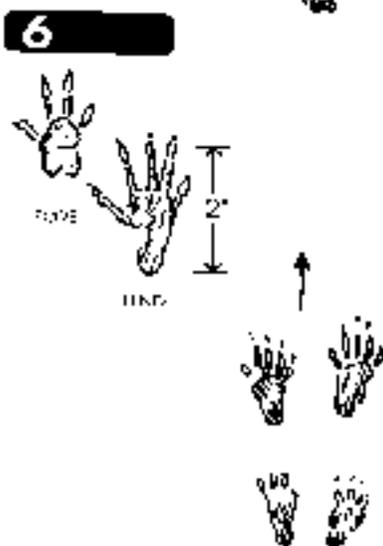
***Forgot to renew
your membership?
See page 3***

Can you identify these tracks?

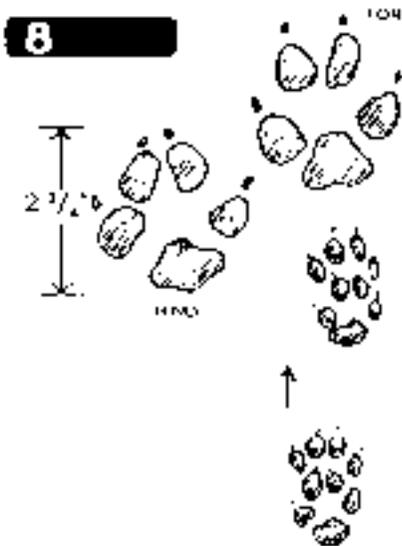
Answers at the bottom of page.



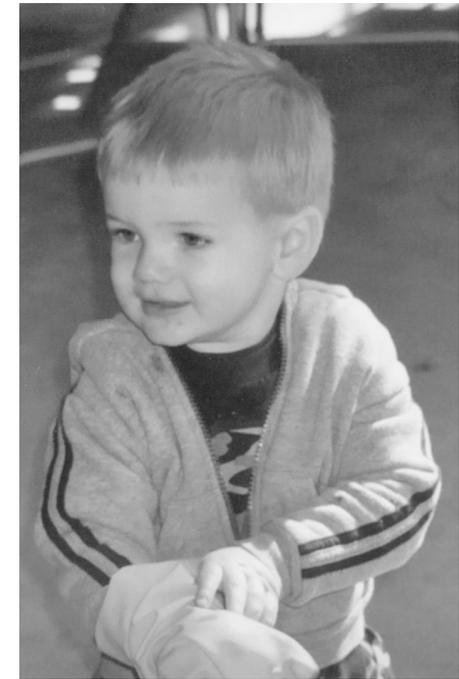
You may know Texas wildlife, but do you know their tracks? Some like the rabbit and opossum are easily recognized. Others such as the coyote, collared peccary, and bobcat may be confused with their domesticated cousins the dog, pig, and house cat. Tracks are easily followed in snow or loose sand. Prints made in soft mud are best for study.



TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
 PHOTO COURTESY W. BROWN



1. white-tailed deer 2. opossum 3. javelina 4. raccoon 5. ringtail cat 6. fox squirrel 7. bobcat 8. coyote 9. skunk



A HELPING HAND — Even the smallest ones were trying to help out at the Austin County Unit's TSA Christmas Party! Rylan Froebel tries on a glove for size.

**Texas
 Sportsman's
 Association
 SPRING
 BUSINESS
 MEETING
 March 4,
 2007
 Mentz Hall**

**Get involved
 in TSA!**
 Simply fill out the membership application on page 3 of this issue of the newsletter.

In memory of ...
 Deloris Eckermann - Austin County
 Edwin Krupala - Austin County
 Lawrence Klump - Colorado County
 Theodore "Teddy" Schultz -Colorado County

www.texassportsmansassociation.org

Editorials published in the TSA newsletter may contain opinions of the author and are not to be taken as a position of the Texas Sportsman's Association. Members of TSA may submit stories, a photo or editorials for possible inclusion in future newsletters.

Legislation

Continued From Page 1

in their locked, private vehicle on their employer's property.

HB 122 by Sen. Bob Deuell (R-Greenville):

This bill allows only law enforcement agencies access to personal information on CHLs, not the media or employers.

HB 308 by Rep. Edmund Kuempel (R-Seguin):

This bill lets the legally blind hunter use laser sights.

TSA welcomes new members

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 lifetime memberships. All TSA memberships expire on Dec. 31 each year.

Simply cut out the application form on page 3, enclose the fee, address an envelope to TSA, P.O. Box 26, Columbus, TX 78934, stamp it and put it in the mail! You may also sign up online at www.texasportsmansassociation.org.

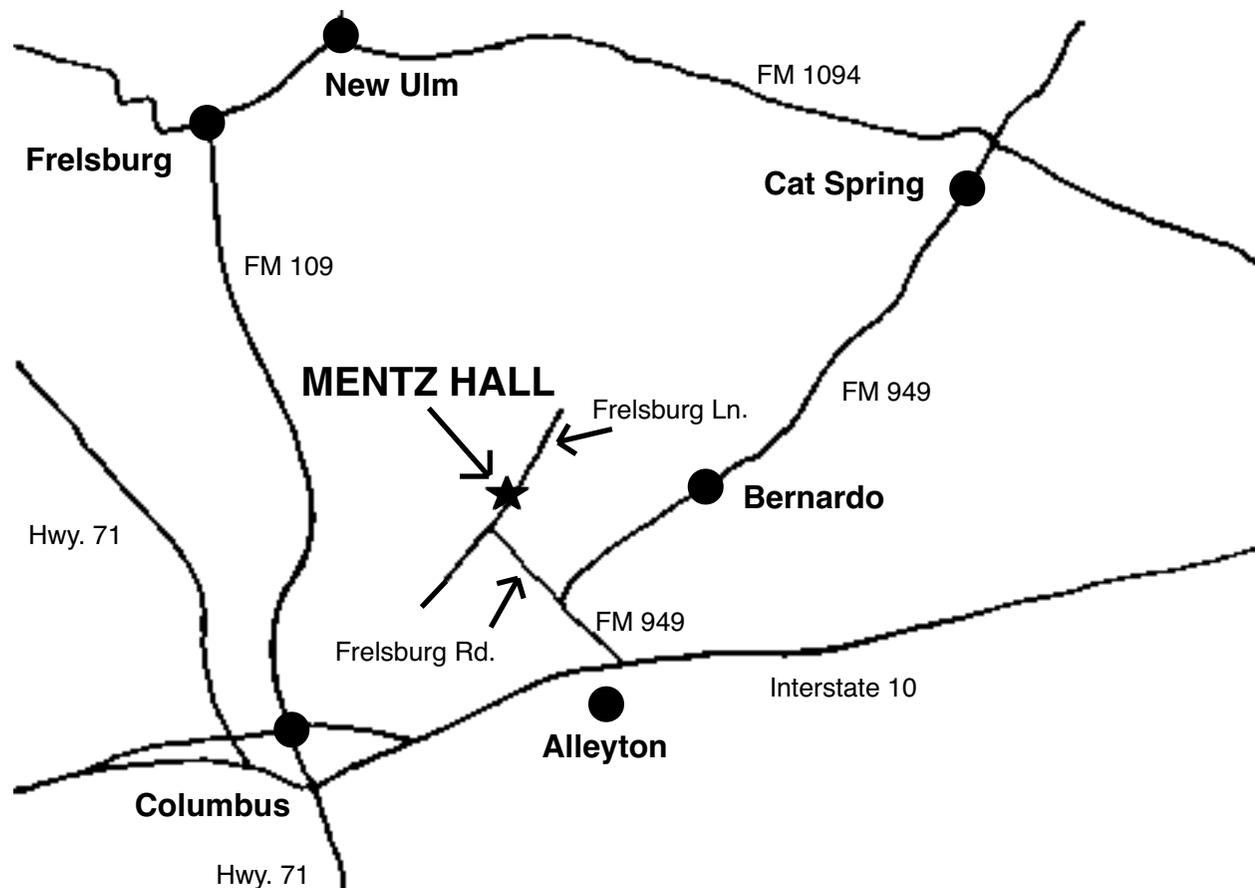
REPORT GAME VIOLATIONS:

Texas:

1-800-792-GAME

Nationwide:

1-800-800-9273



Exactly where is Mentz Hall?

It occurred to us that everyone just might not know how to get to St. Roch's Parish Hall in Mentz, the site of TSA's March 4 Business Meeting. So, here's a map, and we hope to see you there.

Wurst lies

Continued From Page 4

ded.

Hoelscher trotted into the kitchen and grabbed two cups. He glanced out the window and noticed a white car was backed into his driveway — pointed towards the road for a fast getaway.

Hoelscher chuckled and winked at Georgie. She glared at him, spitting mad, and broke an egg. Then Hoelscher went back to the dining room table. His guest was sweating.

"You know, I think somebody sent you on a wild goose chase," Hoelscher said. "But that's okay because I'm going let you see for yourself. Now who did you say you worked for?"

The investigator was astonished. "You don't mind showing me your operation?"

"It's just a family smoke-house where me and a few friends get together to make

ourselves some sausage. I got nothing to hide."

The man shifted in his chair and relaxed. "I work for the Texas Department of Health in the Meat Safety Assurance Division. I appreciate your cooperation and would like to see your facilities."

Georgie stomped into the dining room and served breakfast. Hoelscher sat easy sipping coffee and the investigator realized that his nearest ally was the man he'd come to investigate.

Maybe the reports weren't accurate. Then the conversation turned more casual. Then it dissolved into an old home visit.

After breakfast, Hoelscher led the way to the smoke-house.

"This isn't anything like the accusations that were being made against you Mr. Hoel-

schler," the man said. He inspected the small building and admired the layout. Then he explained the differences in the law between processing wild meat and domestic meat for private consumption. Lastly, he peeked back into the dim room and made a few structural suggestions.

The next day my phone rang. "Hey Herman, that guy from the health department came by and he was a real nice man. He told me that our storytelling has made it all the way to Austin. Can you imagine that some folks believe our foolishness? Oh and hey, do you have any of those four-by-eight political signs in your barn? He told me they worked great to line the walls for when we wash the place down."

I snickered, "which smoke-house did you show him Hoelscher?"