

# TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S NEWS

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Volume 18 Number 3

AUGUST, 2008

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 sets 2008 Fall Fundraiser Sunday, Sept. 28 at Ellinger

The Texas Sportsman's Association's 2008 Fall Fundraiser will be held Sunday, Sept. 28 in Ellinger.

Members and guests will gather at the Ellinger Hall to enjoy a barbeque meal at noon. Cost of the meal will be \$7 per person.

Other activities planned for the day include a raffle, silent auction and penny raffle. Attendance door prizes will be given throughout the event.

Members are reminded to bring a dessert to be served with the meal. Plan to attend, visit with old friends and new and support your association.

All members are encouraged to sell raffle tickets. Raffle tickets may be obtained by contacting any of the following:

L.J. & Doris Rinn – New Ulm – 979-357-2220

Terrel Maertz – Alleyton – 979-732-5339

Buck Kollmann – Bellville – 979-865-3811

Charles Abel – Sealy – 979-885-2719

David Wade – Cat Spring – 979-865-9769

Brandee Froebel – Bellville – 979-865-8046

Diane Boehme – New Ulm – 979-992-2919

Mary Lou Henneke – Cat Spring – 979-732-5349

Raffle tickets will also be available for purchase at Bernardo Farm and Ranch Supply in Bernardo and M-G in Weimar. Please see page 6 of this newsletter for a list of raffle prizes.

## *Feral Hog Symposium draws big crowd at Cat Spring Hall*

By PHILIP SHACKELFORD  
Austin County Agent

Feral Hogs were the main topic of discussion at the Feral Hog Symposium, held recently in Cat Spring at the Agricultural Society Hall.

The event, which was coordinated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Sportsman's Association, drew in over 200 landowners, wildlife enthusiasts and agricultural producers from Austin, Colorado, Fayette and Washington Counties. The program covered several aspects of feral hog management, biology, laws and regulations regarding feral hogs, marketing and methods for removal.

"Feral Hogs have become the scourge of our time. Those little devils tear up, root up and stink up several acres in our area each year" said one local landowner. Despite the best efforts of many landowners, we still can't seem to make them go away.

Melissa Barton with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) was the first speaker of the day. She reminded the audience that there are currently no legal toxicants labeled for feral hog control, and anything that is used off label to poison feral hogs is a violation of the law.

Dr. Jim Cathey, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Wildlife Biologist, spoke to the group about the biology of feral hogs, where they came from why they are so difficult to control. Most of our populations are descendants from formerly domesticated swine of 100 years ago. However, some Russian Boars have been brought into Texas and released. This has bolstered the population of feral hogs in some areas of the state.

T.J. Muir, with Texas AgriLife Extension Service Wildlife Services, covered

(Continued on Page 8)



Don't know where this wild hog was killed or what it weighed, but it's definitely bigger than the feral hogs we see in this area.

# TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 26,  
Columbus, TX 78934



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**Herman Brune**

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Phone: 979-732-5241

## 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

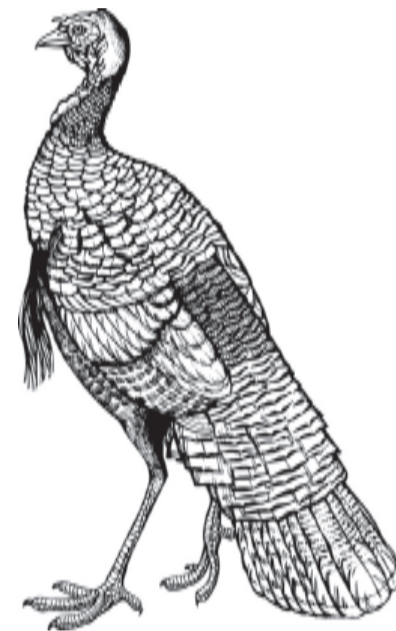
President — L.J. Rinn  
Vice President — David Wade  
Secretary — Diane Boehme  
Treasurer — Charles Abel  
Committeeman — Wilfred Eckardt

### Colorado County

President — Terrel Maertz  
Vice President — Jerry Woodward  
Secretary-Treasurer — Ruth Poncik  
Committeeman — Walt Glasscock

## Wild Turkey Facts

- The Wild Turkey is native to North America.
- There are 6 subspecies of Wild Turkeys:
  - **Eastern** – range covers eastern half of the U.S. extending into Canada
  - **Osceola or Florida** – found only on the Florida peninsula
  - **Rio Grande** – ranges through Texas to Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oregon, California and Hawaii
  - **Merriam's** – ranges through the Rocky Mountains and prairies of Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota as well as the high mesa country of New Mexico
  - **Gould's** – ranges southern Arizona and New Mexico and northern Mexico
  - **South Mexican** – not found in the USA or Canada.
- Turkeys have between 5,000 and 6,000 feathers.
- Each foot has four toes, and males have rear spurs on their lower legs.
- The average weight of the adult male is 18 lbs. and the adult female is 8 lbs.
- The average wingspan is 4.8 ft.
- The record-sized adult male wild turkey, according to the National Wildlife Turkey Federation was 38 lbs.
- Wild Turkeys are omnivorous. They prefer eating acorns, nuts or seeds but occasionally consume insects or small snakes and frogs.
- Turkeys are surprisingly agile fliers and very cunning.
- The turkey "gobble" can carry for up to a mile.
- Immature male turkeys are called jakes.
- Wild Turkey hunting in the United States and Mexico is a multimillion-dollar industry.
- Turkeys have amazing eyesight.
- Wild Turkeys do not migrate.
- Male turkeys are polygamous, forming territories that may have as many as 5 hens within them.



## *Get involved in TSA!*

Simply fill out the  
membership application  
on page 3 of this issue  
of the newsletter.



**FALL FUNDRAISER**  
*Sunday, Sept. 28 — Ellinger Hall*

# TP&WD finalizes 2008-09 dove, teal seasons

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has finalized the early season migratory game bird regulations, which includes dove and teal seasons for 2008-09. Texas hunters will see a 16-day September teal season and no changes to the South Dove Zone segments.

The North Zone runs Sept. 1-Oct. 30, with a 15-bird bag and not more than two white-tipped dove; the Central Zone is Sept. 1-Oct. 30 and reopens Dec. 26-Jan. 4, with a 12-bird bag and not more than two white-tipped dove. Possession

limit is twice the daily bag.

This year, the South Zone dove season is Sept. 20-Nov. 9, reopening Dec. 26-Jan. 13 with a 12 bird bag and not more than two white-tipped dove. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

The Special White-winged Dove Area, which now encompasses land west of I-35 and south of U.S. Hwy. 90, opens to white-winged dove afternoon-only (noon to sunset) hunting Sept. 6-7 and 13-14 and reopens Sept. 20-Nov. 9 and again from Dec. 26-Jan. 9.

The daily bag limit during the first two weekend splits is 12 birds, not more than four mourning dove and two white-tipped dove.

The daily bag limit during the remainder of the Special White-winged Dove Area is 12 birds, not more than two white-tipped dove. Possession limit is twice the daily bag.

Teal season is Sept. 13-28 with a daily bag limit of 4 birds. Possession limit is twice the daily bag.

Hunters should note the dove and teal season dates and bag limits are not included in this

year's Outdoor Annual of hunting and fishing regulations. Information will be available in the Early Season Migratory Game Bird Digest supplement, available Aug. 15 on the TPWD Web site and wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold.

Sept. 1, as opening day of dove hunting in Texas, has been part of the state's hunting tradition ever since the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 was signed. Treaties with Canada and Mexico established the framework for the taking of all migratory game birds, including dove.

## Deer diet is varied, and they have their favorites

White-tailed deer eat the leaves, twigs, seeds and fruit of a wide variety of plant material. They choose vegetation based on palatability, seasonal availability, vegetation abundance, precipitation and overall health of the habitat.

When deer browse, they tend to select the most tender growth first, usually the twig tips and new leaves. When forbs are abundant, the deer's diet may be primarily forbs.

By observing which plants deer are eating on your property, it is possible to get a better feel for deer population and overall health of your habitat.


The following plants are relatively common in the Post Oak Savannah and Gulf Coast Prairie regions of Texas, and are ranked in three categories according to the animal's preferences.

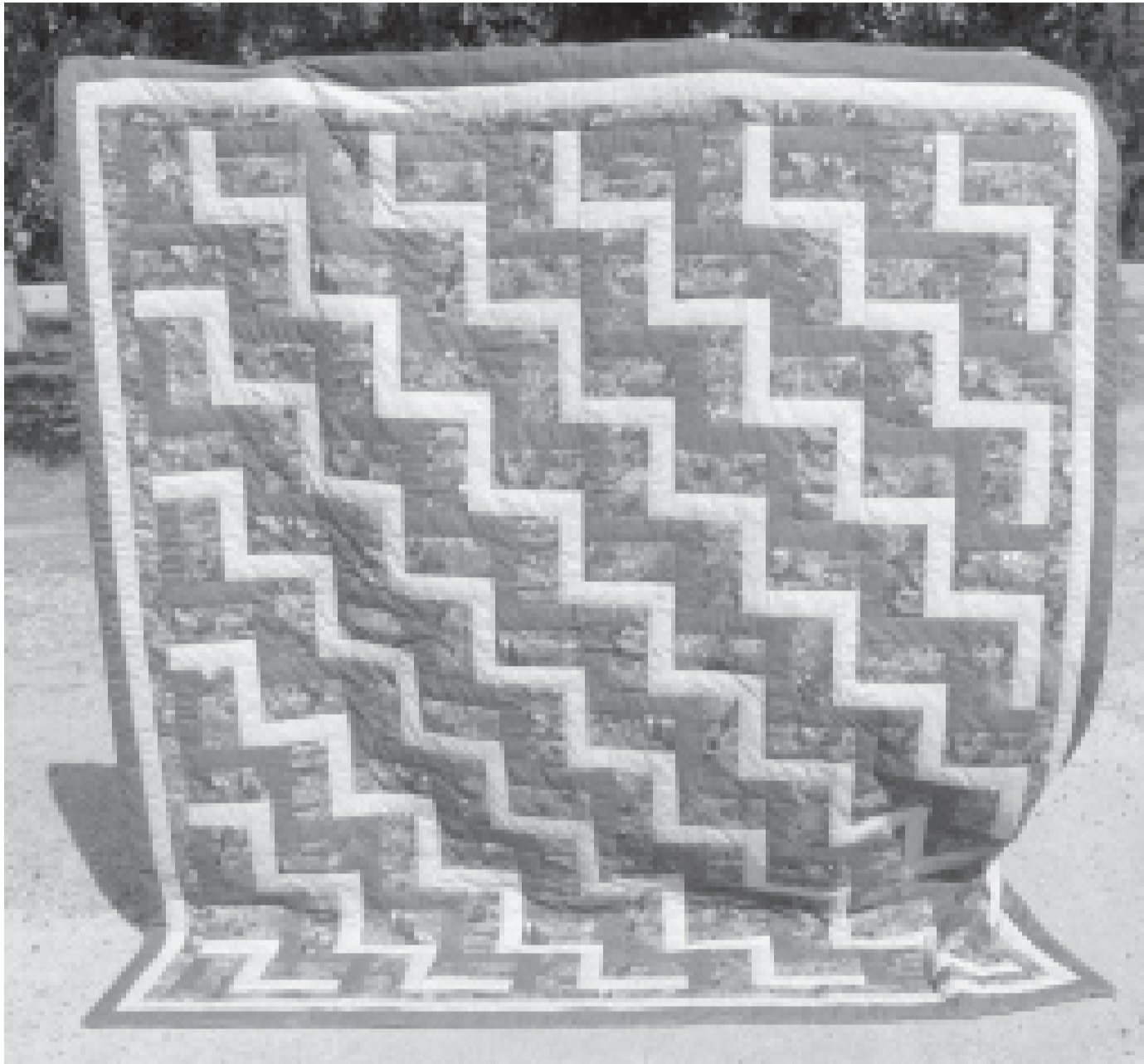
**FIRST CHOICE** — Plants eaten whenever found by deer,

regardless of season: Alabama Supplejack/Rattan Vine, American Beautyberry, Bois d'arc, Bristle Greenbriar, Cedar Elm, Deciduous Holly, Hawthorn species, Netleaf Hackberry, Poison Ivy, Roughleaf Dogwood, Sawtooth Greenbriar/"Catbriar", St. Andrew's Cross, Texas Sophora, Trumpet Creeper, Virginia Creeper, Water Oak.

**SECOND CHOICE** — Plants selected when first choice is unavailable or uncommon: Bumelia, Dewberry species, Farkleberry, Huisache, Live Oak, Macartney Rose, Mustang Grape, Post Oak, Western Soapberry, Yaupon.

**THIRD CHOICE** — Plants eaten as a last resort, when more preferred plants are unavailable: Blackjack Oak, Coralberry, Eastern Red Cedar, Hercules Club/Prickley Ash, Honey Mesquite, Laurel Greenbriar, Peppervine.

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I AGREE TO SUPPORT THE GOALS OF TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION																				
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<p><b>Texas Sportsman's Association</b>  <b>MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</b></p>		 <table border="1"> <tr> <td>DUES: Annual</td> <td>\$ 5.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Life (Onetime)</td> <td>\$200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">DONATION TO:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSN.</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">DUES PAYABLE TO:</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">P.O. BOX 26</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">COLUMBUS, TEXAS 78934</td> </tr> </table>	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	
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### *Raffle prize*

This beautiful, hand-made quilt is one of the great prizes which will be awarded during the raffle drawing on Sept. 28 at the Texas Sportsman's Association annual Fall Fundraiser at Ellinger Hall. Be sure and get your tickets!

### *Behrend receives wildlife rehabilitation license*

*"The goal of wildlife rehabilitation is to provide professional care to sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals so they can ultimately be returned to their natural habitats."*

— National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association

Linda Behrend recently received her wildlife rehabilitation license through Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Curly Q Refuge, Linda's facility in New Ulm, and Rigler Rescue in Industry are parts of the non-profit Lone Star Wildlife Rescue in Bellville. These are local facilities helping local wildlife in efforts to restore nature's balance.

Tax-deductible donations can be made through Lone Star Wildlife Rescue in the name of any of the rescue operations. The web site is ([www.lonestarwildlife.org](http://www.lonestarwildlife.org)). All donations go 100 percent to the wildlife.



## **2 biologists in this area are retiring**

Two wildlife biologists well known in this area will "call it a career" later this month.

Royce Jurries (biologist for Colorado and Austin counties) and Robert Lehmann (biologist for Washington and Waller counties) will step down on Aug. 31.

Jurries has been with the department since October of 1969, and Lehmann joined the department in May of 1978.

That's about 67 years of experience getting ready to leave the department.

Both men have witnessed many changes over the years. Their dedication to the habitat and wildlife resources in the district and their willingness and ability to work with local landowners will be missed.

If you run into either or both of these men this summer, congratulate them on their retirement and thank them for their tireless efforts.

## *Here comes Santa Claus!*

A.C. Unit's Christmas Party planned Dec. 7

It's too hot to be thinking about Christmas, but the months are slipping by fast.

Sunday, Dec. 7 is the date for the Christmas Party of the TSA's Austin County Unit.

We will gather at New Ulm's Firemen's Park for all the fun, food and fellowship. All members will be receiving an invitation with all the details at a later date.

Watch your mail box about the first week of November. Ring in the Christmas holidays with the first party of the season!

# Texas hunting, fishing icenses are now on sale

New hunting and fishing licenses for 2008-09 went on sale on Friday, Aug. 15, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is encouraging hunters to buy early and avoid the rush heading into the Sept. 1 dove season opener.

"If you wait until the Labor Day Weekend, you're probably going to be standing in line to buy a license," said Tom Newton with TPWD's licensing section. "Savvy hunters have figured it out and are buying their licenses early."

Sportsmen are reminded all current annual hunting and fishing licenses (except for the year-to-date fishing license) expire Aug. 31. Texas issues 2.1 million hunting and fishing licenses annually through 28 TPWD field offices, more than 65 state parks and at over 1,500 retailers across Texas.

Because dove season in the North and Central Dove Zones opens on a Monday, Newton predicts there will be a weekend rush to buy licenses. "Last year, we sold over 350,000 licenses during the four-day period around the opening weekend of dove season," he recalled. "It takes an average of three-to-five minutes to process a license sale transaction, so it's likely there will be delays if you wait 'til the last minute."

By comparison, Newton said the department averaged less than 20,000 license transactions a day during the two weeks prior to the dove season opener as opposed to five or six times that number on the days around opening weekend.

A last-minute license purchase rush is probably inevitable in some areas of the state, TPWD officials say, particularly along the I-35 corridor where many dove hunters descend. Fortunately, there are

other license buying avenues available.

"Hunters who need to purchase a license at the last minute or those who don't want to stand in line have a couple of options," said Newton. "They can also purchase licenses online through the TPWD web site (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/>) or by calling (800) 895-4248. There is a \$5 convenience fee for either option and a major credit card is required."

License sales call center hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday — Friday. The online transaction system is available 24/7.

"We sold about 4,500 licenses online and by phone during the peak sales weekend last year," Newton said. "We'd like to steer more of the traffic to the call center and Internet during the peak volume periods."

A license confirmation number is issued at the time of purchase for online and phone orders, and the physical license is mailed separately. Confirmation numbers will verify that a license has been purchased, which is sufficient for dove hunting, but will not allow hunters to take fish or wildlife that requires a tag.

"Some people are using the convenience options to purchase licenses for everyone in their family or hunting group,"

Newton said. "It can help ensure that everybody who shows up to hunt, especially those coming in from out of state or kids coming in from college, already have a hunting license waiting for them. You can buy a license for someone else, even at the retail counter, but to avoid delays please be sure you have all their personal information."

In addition to a hunting license, all wing shooters will need to purchase a game bird stamp. To hunt doves or teal in September, a Migratory Game Bird Stamp (\$7) is required. Duck hunters also need to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp and receive HIP (Harvest Information Program) certification. HIP certification will be printed on the license at the time of sale only after the purchaser answers a few brief migratory bird questions. Lifetime license holders must also be HIP-certified and purchase the Federal Duck Stamp to hunt migratory birds. All other state stamp endorsements are included with a lifetime license.

"Remember, it's your responsibility to make sure you are properly licensed, so be sure to check your license before you leave the sales counter," Newton said. "We do get a fair number of requests for re-issuance of licenses because

the hunter forgot to get HIP certified."

There are other mandatory endorsements to consider at the time of purchase, too. An Upland Game Bird Stamp (\$7) is required to hunt all non-migratory game birds, including turkey, quail, pheasant, chachalaca and lesser prairie chicken.

Of course, anyone who purchases the Super Combo license package, the best bang for the buck, automatically gets these needed stamps.

Hunter Education Certification is also required of any hunter born on or after Sept. 2, 1971 and who is at least 17 years old. For hunters who are unable to work in a hunter education class before hunting season for whatever reason, TPWD does offer a deferral option.

The deferral option allows people 17 years of age or older a one-time only extension to complete the state's hunter education requirements. The individual must first purchase a hunting license and then may purchase the deferral option.

Hunters using the deferral must be accompanied by someone 17 years old or older who is also licensed to hunt in Texas. The accompanying individual must have completed hunter education or be exempt from the requirements (*born before Sept. 2, 1971*). The extension is good for one license year, by which time the person with the deferred option needs to complete a hunter education course.

This option is not available to those who have ever received a conviction or deferred adjudication for lack of hunter education certification. They still must take the course before going afield.

## VARIETY SHOOT

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2008**

**Firemen's Park in New Ulm**

**1:00 p.m.**

Sponsored by:

**The Austin County Unit of the  
Texas Sportsman's Association**

# TPWD to discontinue deer check stations

For the last six years, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department biologists in District 7 have been operating voluntary check stations in the original six antler restriction counties: Lavaca, Colorado, Austin, Lee, Washington and Fayette.

Biologists have been manning these check stations the first two weekends of deer season, then visiting the stations periodically throughout.

Deer brought to the check stations were aged and antler measurements collected. Landowners and hunters in these counties have done a great job providing our biologists with this very important and useful information.

Additionally, the owners of the check stations and incentive prize donors played a big part in successful date collection.

The data was used to monitor the effects of the original experimental regulation. The data indicated the restriction resulted in an increase in the number of older bucks in the population and that hunters were selecting for these larger bucks under the one-buck bag limit.

This led to the adoption of the current regulation and the two-buck bag with antler restrictions (only one buck with a 13-inch inside spread; the second buck with at least one unbranched antler).

TP&WD continued to monitor the population via the check station data after adopting the two-buck bag to make sure there were no negative impacts on the population.

Over the past several years older age bucks have comprised more and more of the harvest. Pre-regulation harvest totals have been reached and then surpassed.

Thirty-nine percent of last year's buck harvest was made up of 3.5-year-olds, while 4.5-year-olds and older made up 41 percent of the harvest. This represents a complete reversal of what was experienced historically in the Post Oak Savannah.

For years prior to the antler restriction regulation, 80 percent of the buck harvest was made up of 1.5 and 2.5-year-old bucks.

Bottom line — this is a very successful regulation in this area and local landowners, hunters and wildlife management association members deserve a “pat on the back” for being instrumental in making it a success. By the 2009 hunting season, this regulation will be in more than 80 Texas counties.

So, what does the future hold? Right now, TP&WD plans to discontinue the voluntary check stations for three years. This will allow the biologists in the district to concentrate efforts in counties other than the original six antler restriction counties.

This does not mean that a biologist won't age or measure your deer. It just means they won't have the formal check stations and entry forms format. If you have a deer you want aged and measured, you will need to get in touch with your local biologist. He/she will be glad to set up a time to collect that data.

TP&WD plans to reinstate the voluntary check stations in three years. We plan to conduct these for another three-year period. We think this will allow us to stay on top of what's happening to the buck population. We will always be interested in the age structure, but we also want to monitor Boone and Crockett scores, hunter pressure and youth participation.

## 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 fu-*

## TSA Raffle Prizes

Following is a list of raffle prizes to be awarded at the big drawing on Sunday, September 28th at Ellinger C of C Hall at 3 p.m.

PRIZE	DONOR
1. Savage 116-243 Accu-Trigger .....	T.S.A. (\$590 value)
2. Weatherby Vanguard Sporter 270 .....	T.S.A. (\$580 value)
3. Remington SPR 310 20 ga. Over & Under .....	T.S.A. (\$580 value)
4. Electric Meat Grinder .....	Heinsohn's Store (\$500 value)
5. Remington 870 Express 12 ga. 3" .....	T.S.A. (\$380 value)
6. Savage 93 17 HMR .....	T.S.A. (\$310 value)
7. Leupold Vari-X 1 3x9 Scope .....	T.S.A. (\$300 value)
8. Ruger 10-22 .....	T.S.A. (\$285 value)
9. Hand-made Quilt .....	T.S.A. (\$250 value)
10. Rod & Reel Combo .....	T.S.A. (\$125 value)
11. \$100 Savings Bond .....	Carmine State Bank
12. \$100 Savings Bond .....	Columbus State Bank
13. \$100 Savings Bond .....	First State Bank-Columbus
14. \$100 Gift Card .....	Industry State Bank
15. \$100 Gift Card-Academy .....	Trafco - Eagle Lake
16. \$100 Savings Bond .....	Wells Fargo Bank-Bellville
17. \$50 Wal-Mart Gift Card .....	J.W.V. Services-Sealy
18. 2 sets of T.S.A. Dominoes .....	Buck & Ora Dell Kollman
19. \$50 Bass-Pro Gift Card .....	Citizens State Bank
20. Ice Chest .....	Round Top State Bank
21. \$25 Gift Card .....	Lindemann Store



**GOOD EATIN'** — This nice mess of channel cats was caught by the grandchildren of L.J. and Doris Rinn.

# Recipe

## VICTORIA VENISON LOIN

Courtesy of Robert Harris

- Cut a whole backstrap in appropriate lengths of about 4-6-inch cuts. Make one-inch, cross-wise incisions about one inch apart along the length of each piece of meat.
- Make sure that the incisions DO NOT cut completely through the loin.
- Put pieces of sweet onion and green bell pepper in each cut.
- When all are filled, sprinkle the meat with McCormick Montreal Chicken seasoning
- Wrap each piece of loin with bacon and secure with toothpicks.
- Place on hot grill and cook until done. Turn meat often while keeping it wet with a sop of Italian dressing and mild picante sauce (half and half).

# 2008-09 Hunting Seasons Calendar

### Proposed 2008-09 Hunting Seasons

<b>Alligator</b>	22 core counties (by permit only) Remainder of state	Sept. 10-30 April 1-June 30
<b>Pronghorn Antelope</b>	by permit only	Oct. 4-12
<b>Dove</b> (Please report leg bands to 1-800-327-BAND) See Important Notice		
	North Zone	Sept. 1-Oct. 30
	Central Zone	Sept. 1-Oct. 30 Dec. 26-Jan. 4
	South Zone	Sept. 20-Nov. 2 Dec. 26-Jan. 20
	Special White-winged Dove Zone	Sept. 6, 7, 13, 14 Sept. 20-Nov. 2 Dec. 26- Jan. 16
<b>White-tailed Deer</b>	Archery General: <b>*Special Youth Season</b>	Sept. 27-Oct. 31 Oct. 25-26 Jan. 17-18
	<b>North Texas</b> (200 counties)	Nov. 1-Jan. 4
	<b>Panhandle</b> (6 counties)	Nov. 22-Dec. 7
	<b>South Texas</b> (30 counties)	Jan. 19-Feb. 1
	<b>Late Antlerless and Spike</b>	
	Edwards Plateau (39 counties)	Jan. 5-18
	South Texas (30 counties)	Jan. 19-Feb. 1
	Muzzleloader (23 counties)	Jan. 10-18
<b>Mule Deer</b>	Archery General: <b>Panhandle</b> (36 counties) <b>SW Panhandle</b> (7 counties) <b>Trans-Pecos</b> (9 counties)	Sept. 27-Oct. 31 Nov. 22-Dec. 7 Nov. 22-30 Nov. 29-Dec. 14
<b>Javelina</b>	(Approximately 43 counties) (Approximately 50 counties)	Oct. 1-Feb. 22 Sept. 1-Aug. 31
<b>Squirrel</b>	<b>**Special Youth Season</b> <b>East Texas</b> (51 counties)	Sept. 27-28 Oct. 1-Feb. 1 May 1-31
	<b>Other Open counties</b> (see County Listings in current Outdoor Annual)	Sept. 1-Aug. 31

<b>Lesser Prairie Chicken</b>	By property (by landowner permit only) (see current Outdoor Annual)	Oct. 18-19
<b>Pheasant</b>	<b>Chambers, Jefferson &amp; Liberty counties</b> <b>Panhandle</b> (37 counties)	Nov. 1-Feb. 22 Dec. 6-Jan. 4
<b>Quail</b>	<b>Statewide</b> (all counties)	Oct. 25-Feb. 22
<b>Rio Grande Turkey</b>	Archery Fall Season: <b>*Special Youth Season</b>	Sept. 27-Oct. 31 Oct. 25-26 Jan. 17-18
	<b>North Zone</b> (122 counties)	Nov. 1-Jan. 4
	<b>South Zone</b> (26 counties)	Nov. 1-Jan. 18
	<b>Brooks, Kennedy, Klebert &amp; Willacy counties</b>	Nov. 1-Feb. 22
	Spring Season: <b>North Zone (NZ)</b> (101 counties) <b>*Special Youth Season NZ</b> <b>South Zone (SZ)</b> (54 counties) <b>*Special Youth Season SZ</b>	April 4-May 17 March 28-29 March 21-May 3 March 15-15 May 9-10
	<b>I-Turkey counties</b> (11 counties)	April 1-30
<b>+Eastern Turkey</b>	<b>Spring Season Only</b>	
<b>Chachalaca</b>	<b>Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr &amp; Willacy counties</b>	Nov. 1-Feb. 22
<b>Rabbits and Hares</b>	No closed season.	

\* In all counties that have an open season for those species.

\*\* In all counties that have a Oct. 1-Feb. 1 and May 1-31 Open Squirrel Season.

+ Rio Grande and Easter Turkey may be hunted in these counties.

**Important Notice:** Texas dove and early teal season dates are tentative pending federal approval. For final dove seasons, check the Texas Outdoor Annual when it comes out in July. September Teal Season will be set in mid-July and will be posed on the Teas Paks and Wildlife Department Web site by July 18.

**For More Information:** All inquiries should be sent to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-1112, or (512) 389-4800, or visit the Web site for detailed information about TPWD programs:

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)



While the weight wasn't listed on this big porker, it sure filled up this front-end loader.

## Feral Hog Symposium

Continued From Page 1

the control aspects for feral hogs. He suggested that constant pressure through hunting with dogs is a good method of moving hogs off your property. T. J. also discussed the various trapping and baiting methods and demonstrated a hog enclosure with a roter gate for the audience.

Dr. Mike Mabry, with the Texas Animal Health Commission provided an update on the new laws affecting transportation and confinement of feral hogs and the disease monitoring program for pseudo-rabies and swine brucellosis. In Dr. Mabry's outline, feral swine trapped on premise are to be tested negative for brucellosis and pseudo-rabies within 30 days before they are moved to a game preserve or site where they will be maintained for hunting. Tests are not required if animals are sent directly to a livestock market or slaughter facility.

Cody Weiser, with Wild Boar USA magazine spoke about the economic potential for landowners selling hunts and trapping feral hogs for sale.

The evening concluded with the audience participating in survey of the program and the estimated losses caused by feral hogs on their property. The average loss per landowner was estimated to be \$2,022.36 a year. Losses included destruction of seed and seed bed, predation on other livestock and wildlife and equipment damage.

For more information regarding feral control and the feral hog damage survey, contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Service

## 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.texassports-mansassociation.org](http://www.texassports-mansassociation.org).

## Last 2008 business meeting for Austin Co. Unit Sept. 9

The final business meeting of the TSA's Austin County Unit for the year 2008 will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Members are urged to come on over to the Cat Spring Hall at 7 p.m. for the social and stay for the business meeting.

Items on the agenda include the Variety Shoot and Christmas Party. (Yes we're getting as bad as Wal-Mart ... making plans for Christmas so early.)

See you in Cat Spring. Let your voice be heard among your other friends in wildlife.

## TSA Variety Shoot Oct. 26

The Austin County TSA Variety Shoot will be held at New Ulm Firemen's Park on Sunday, Oct. 26 (Be sure to note change).

The fun will kick off at 1 p.m. Shells will be furnished for 12, 16 and 20 gauge shotguns.

Watch for the signs in New Ulm!

## Hunter Safety Course to be held this fall

Bradley Rinn, certified Hunter Safety Instructor, is planning a safety class later in the fall.

Anyone needing to complete this class may contact Bradley at 979-357-2770 after 7 p.m. for further details.

## Recipe (?)

### BAKED STUFFED CHICKEN

4 to 5 lb. chicken  
1 c. uncooked popcorn  
1 c. melted butter  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1 c. stuffing (any brand)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Brush chicken well with melted butter; salt and pepper. Fill cavity with popcorn. Place in baking pan, with the neck end toward the back of oven. Listen for popping sounds. When the chicken's butt blows the oven door open and the chicken flies across the room, it's done. *Ha! Ha! Gotcha!*

## 2008 Fall Fundraiser Committee members

### Membership & Registration

Robin Maertz  
Diane Boehme

### Sell Meal Tickets

Buck Kollmann  
Marcella Maertz  
Otto Loessin

L.J. Rinn

### Raffle

Terrel Maertz  
Colby Maertz  
Jerry Woodard  
Charles Abel

### Attendance Prizes

Dorothy Brune  
Ruth Poncik

### Silent Auction

Doris Rinn  
Brandee Froebel

### Dessert

Joyce Loessin  
Ora Dell Kollman

Geraldine Abel  
Dorothy Borak

### Penny Raffle

Joyce Loessin  
R.W. Maertz  
Simon Borak  
David Wade