

Issue 26
Summer 2024

East Texan

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SAVING LAKE TEJAS



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Guide to the
OUTDOORS
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READY TO GROW YOUR SMALL BUSINESS?

Follow Bruce and Tonya Huber's lead. They contacted SFA's Small Business Resource Hub Director Larry Cain when they decided to launch Huber Gardens, an agritourism business six miles west of downtown Nacogdoches.

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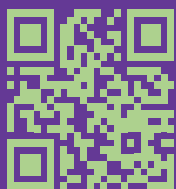
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"When he retired, Bruce was ready to pursue his passion for working the land and hospitality, so I contacted Larry Cain. Larry has taken the time to share business insight and encouragement with us and invite us to business-oriented seminars that gave us access to other helpful advice and resources."

—Tonya Huber, Huber Gardens



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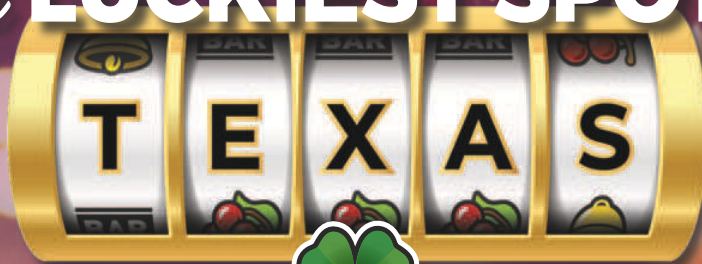
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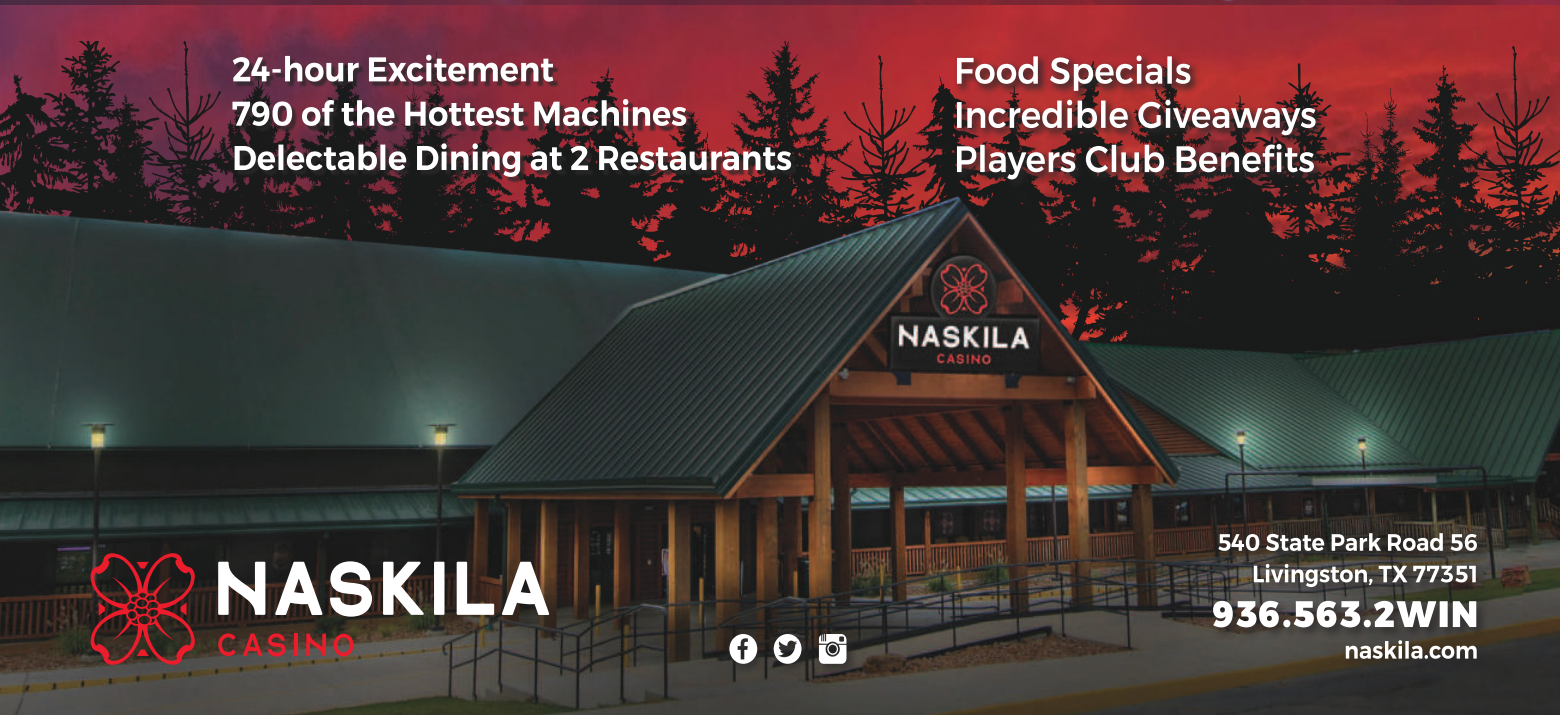
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Dear Readers,

As we reflect on the recent rains and flooding that have swept through East Texas, our hearts are filled with a profound sense of gratitude and pride. While the weather has tested our strength and resolve, it has also unveiled the true spirit of our community – a spirit characterized by resilience, compassion, and an unwavering willingness to help one another.

In the face of rising waters and the challenges they brought, our community came together in remarkable ways. Neighbors reached out to neighbors, offering shelter, food, and support. Volunteers from all walks of life joined forces to rescue those stranded by the floods, demonstrating the kind of unity and bravery that defines East Texas. Stories of people risking their own safety to save others remind us of the deep bonds that hold us together and the extraordinary kindness that lies within us all.

Emergency services worked tirelessly around the clock to ensure the safety of our residents, and it is during these trying times that we see the very best of humanity – the selflessness, the kindness, and the determination to overcome adversity together. The collaborative efforts of our community members, whether through large-scale rescue operations or small acts of kindness, have shown that our strength lies in our unity.

As we move forward, it is important to carry the lessons learned from these experiences. Let us continue to build on the foundations of community spirit and preparedness. By staying connected, informed, and ready to lend a hand, we can face any challenge that comes our way with confidence and solidarity. The recent events have underscored the importance of being prepared and looking out for one another. Whether it's through developing emergency plans, staying informed about weather updates, or simply checking in on our neighbors, every action counts.

The recent events have shown us that while we may face unpredictable and difficult circumstances, we are never alone. Together, we are stronger, and together, we will rebuild and thrive. The sense of community and togetherness that we have witnessed is a testament to our shared resilience and our collective hope for a better, safer future.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the recovery efforts. Your actions have made a difference, and your dedication to our community is an inspiration to us all. We should take pride in our response to these challenging times and look ahead with optimism, knowing that we can overcome any obstacle through our unity and support for one another.

Stay safe, stay strong, and let's continue to support one another.

*Sincerely,
Debbie Dickerson
East Texan editor*

On The Cover



Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPW) Department Technician Michael Mayo mans a TPW fish-stocking barge that is about to release two million fry into Lake Livingston. See story page 32. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten.

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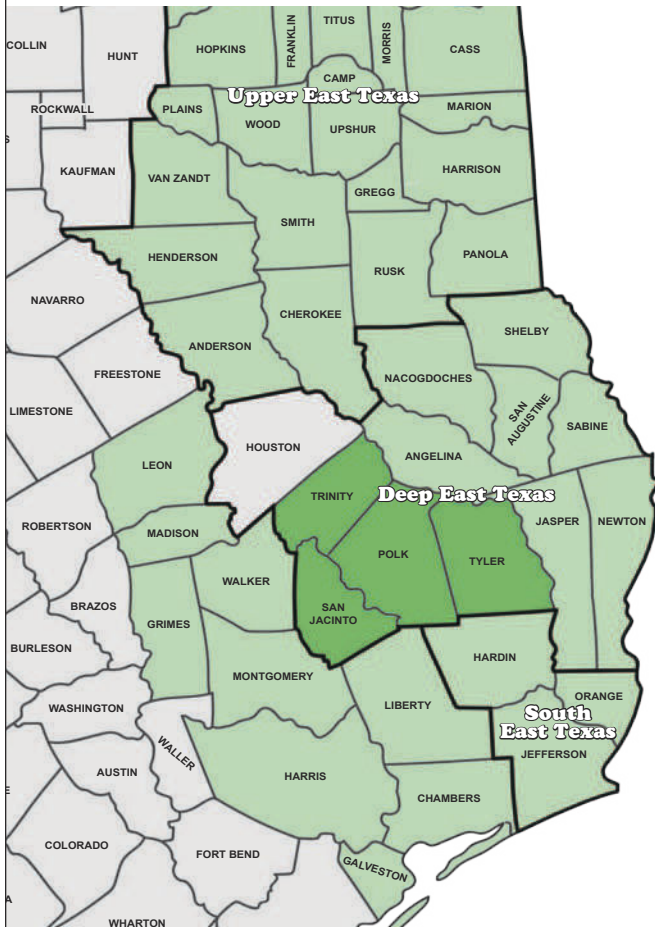
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Food & Fun IN LUFKIN



By Brian Besch

The first edition of Food and Fun appeared in the spring 2024 edition of the East Texan. I had no plan of making it a series, but there was also no plan, so here we are.

In that first edition, we traveled to Houston. In search of something different, we headed the opposite way on Highway 59. My wife had a vehicle maintenance issue in Lufkin, which made it Food and Fun's summer destination. Along the way, we would uncover good times in one of Texas' lumber towns.

It began as any heroic tale would, rising from bed before my 11 a.m. alarm. We had many items on our list, and a noon start would put us behind.

Although the trip to the dealership was a fascinating

adventure in itself, I have chosen to omit its details.

The first stop was in Burke, just south of Lufkin, where His and Hers Mercantile sits. The large shop on the highway has all the treasures you never knew you needed. If searching for new items, keep driving. However, new-to-you finds and rusty gold is their specialty. Tools, parts, furniture, and collectibles are all part of the experience. The store is two floors and has as much to see outdoors as inside.

Scales, lighted signs and clocks — they've got 'em. Vintage newspapers, magazines, 8-tracks, TV/VCR combos or large metal crabs? Of course they do. It's the place you walk into planning to spend 30 minutes and exit two hours later with an armful of discoveries.



Patrons can easily spend up to an hour — just as we did — looking through the finds on the outside of His and Hers Mercantile in Burke, Texas. Photo by Brian Besch.

Back on the road, a short trip to old downtown Lufkin brought us to a quick fuel up at Standpipe Coffee House. There was more than a little construction that had most of First Street fenced, but parking and getting around on sidewalks wasn't too bad.

The Standpipe building is marked by an old Coca-Cola neon sign with a mural for the soft drink painted on an outside wall (more on the town's murals later).

They give plenty of reasons to come in and stick around. There are event nights and live music, and several of those comfortable chairs you leave wanting in your living room.

Lattes, espressos, coffees, housemade sodas and smoothies are served along with salads, gyros, grain bowls and a wide

selection of pastries to munch on.

After a two-hour detour, our next stop was Rusty Axe Brewing Company. Also located downtown, the business established in 2020 offers a large lineup of beers made on site and a menu full of delicious food.

We ordered a couple of beers to start. I am partial to darker beers, so we received two of the darkest on the menu. Black Horse Porter and Double Agent Project (a Russian imperial aged stout) arrived at our table in 12-ounce glasses. Also available are an IPA, pale ale, Mexican lager, honey wheat ale, pilsner, wheat beer, and brown ale. If that isn't enough, there is a Blackberry milkshake flavored IPA, but I'm not that brave.



[above top] Murals such as this one showing the beginnings of Lufkin can be found throughout the town. [above middle] Lufkin Bar-B-Q served as our "dessert" stop. The rumor is they also have brisket, ribs and delicious sides. [above bottom and above top right] The Rusty Axe is a place to relax, play games, and enjoy a meal with cold beverages. [middle right] Both floors inside His and Hers Mercantile are loaded with items. [bottom right] The Standpipe Coffee House also serves treats and cool drinks for the nine months that Texas is too hot.

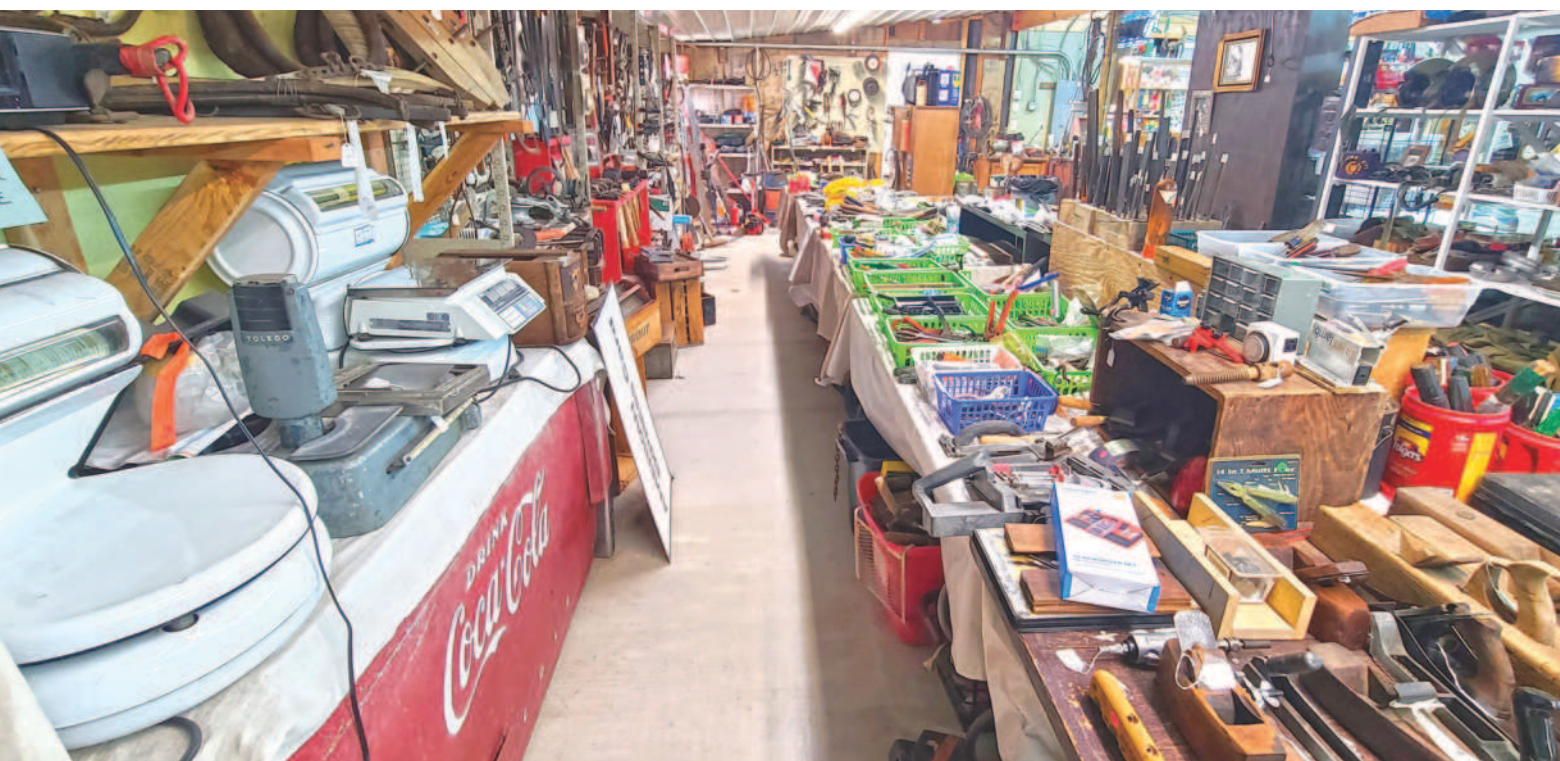
Photos by Brian Besch.

The menu offers salads, sandwiches, starters and entrees like chicken and dumplings, salmon, stroganoff and jagerschnitzel. What caught our attention was the brewery itself, of course, but also a large pizza oven. Therefore, the margherita pizza was a choice, as well as the East Texas "not lobster" roll. Hopefully, the first doesn't need explaining, but the "not lobster" roll was new to us. Just as the name would suggest, it's a lobster roll minus the lobster. Louisiana Crawfish tails, old bay, lemon aioli, butter and celery were stuffed into a toasted roll.

Both were delicious and there are plenty of reasons to return. My job takes me to Lufkin often, and the Rusty Axe will certainly be an eating stop in the future.

The sightseeing portion of our trip took us around the town to see its walls. Murals have decorated spots throughout Lufkin and added interest to the town's history. Art dedicated to the timber industry, Coca-Cola, Brookshire Brothers, fallen soldiers and Lufkin's beginnings make an afternoon drive pleasurable.

Before heading home, we had to grab dessert. I am sure there are several places to do just that, but we took a path less traveled for sweets. Stringer's Lufkin Bar-B-Q was the stop and the bag we carried out was filled with fried rolls. Imagine most any dinner roll you've had in the past and give it a crunchy exterior. After arriving home, they were paired with honey and a long nap to cap our enjoyable Saturday in Lufkin. ■



1820
FLATBOAT



“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots”

- Marcus Garvey

From Diplomats to Dog People

Silsbee Museum shows East Texas connection with statewide and world history

By Mollie LaSalle and Chris Edwards

At a time before refrigeration, ice houses provided an essential service. Icehouses began popping up in rural towns across Texas, and by the 1920s, were pretty much the lifeblood of these rural towns. Few of the original icehouses remain, and in the end, it wasn't refrigeration that did them in, but growth. Cities expanded and suburbs took over small towns. Icehouses, once the center of the city and small-town life, disappeared.

One such town that boasted an icehouse is Silsbee, Texas. Silsbee's Ice House is located downtown, directly adjacent to the railroad tracks. The Silsbee Ice House was built circa 1926, and continued to produce ice until 1983 for various events and local companies, and remained closed until 1990. In September 1991, the old Ice House received a Texas Historical Commission designation. The marker sits in front of the building and reads "The Silsbee Ice, Light and Power Co., 1926, grew rapidly after relocating to this structure in 1930. With a new spur track of the Gulf, Colorado, & Santa Fe Railway in place, the company became a major regional ice distributor. The plant was sold to a local businessman in 1943 and functioned until 1981. Designed by D.H. Paulson, the raised 1-story brick building reflects Spanish Revival stylistic influences in its tiled pent roofs and awnings. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark-1991."

After the Texas Historical Commission's recognition, the badly deteriorating building was restored with the help of volunteers and donations. Once the restoration was complete, volunteers began displaying works of art and historical pieces in the building. In 2013, the Ice House received a generous donation from Silsbee's Economic Development Corporation for more renovations; this historic old building was clearly important to the history of the town, and now, in 2024, it is a shining example of what can be achieved when a town pulls together to preserve part of its past.

The Ice House Museum is in the very capable hands of its curator, Susan Shine Kilcrease, who took the reins in 2020.

Kilcrease is an eighth-generation Texan and Hardin County descendant. Her interest in history is the result of the lessons she learned from her father and grandparents in her life-long pursuit of historical research and travel. Kilcrease received a Bachelor of Music degree from Lamar and did graduate work at Lamar as well as Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Col. She had a career as a high school choir director, and later, as a professional opera singer for 20 years. When she came onboard as curator at the Ice House, she recommended changing it from an art museum to a history museum. Her long tradition of storytelling is alive at the museum in the exhibits and tours. Kilcrease has been instrumental in her ability to secure grant funding to keep the museum open. The grants she has obtained comprise about 90% of the museum's funding source. The museum has an annual fundraising dinner, and this year it was held April 6. The theme this year was "Down da Bayou."

When you enter the museum, the first thing you notice is the 1902 Studebaker wagon that represents the Ice Wagons that delivered ice from this building to homes in the 1920s-1950s by horse and wagon; it is an impressive sight. Another exhibit which caught this writer's eye is the Rhinoceros fossils, which are estimated to be 10 million years old; they were discovered at the banks of the Neches River just north of Silsbee in 2002. The fisherman who discovered the fossils brought them to the museum, who in turn reached out to a paleontologist at Lamar University to help in identifying them and estimating their age. The people at Lamar recommended the fossils be exhibited at a major museum, as they are "an amazing artifact," but the fisherman balked at the idea. After much legal wrangling about who was the owner of the fossils, in the end, they ended up staying in Hardin County, at the Ice House Museum, where they remain on display to this day.

The entire bottom floor is steeped in history and will not disappoint. The museum boasts an original 1863 lithographic print of the Emancipation Proclamation, which features

1820s flatboat exhibit with "friends." Photo by Chris Edwards.



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Abraham Lincoln's signature. It was acquired by a Union soldier from Ohio, Pvt. Cordyn Williams, and remained in his family for four generations, before coming to Silsbee. Copies of the original document are extremely rare, and included in other museums, such as the Smithsonian as well as the Metropolitan Museum in New York City.

Another fascinating exhibit to take in is the Dog People of Caneyhead. The Dog People, thusly named due to their tradition of using dogs to hunt the land, were of English, Irish, and Welsh descent and came to America in the 18th century, after being driven off their land by wealthy powers that be. Once they reached the Neches River bottoms, after migrating from their Carolina arrival locales, they found their own backwoods paradise, which no monied powerbrokers could take away.

According to information within the Dog People exhibit, they wound up in the Big Thicket in 1850, and wanted to live their lives undisturbed by others, who sought to take their land and dissolve their culture, as they had in previous generations.

One who endeavored to this end was John Henry Kirby, a looming presence in the museum, Silsbee's history and in the lore throughout the region. Kirby, known as "The Prince of the Pines," and for whom Silsbee is largely synonymous to many, might have put the area on the map and gotten the railway service established to make his timber empire possible, but he was, to the Dog People, another moneyed presence trying to take their land away.

As Kirby bought up land, his lawyers fought settlers' claims. The Dog People had, like many early Texas settlers, not bothered with obtaining formal land grants, and as the exhibit information states, while the Dog People remained hermetically sealed from the world outside their realm, "a paperwork trap waited on the inevitable corporations to take advantage of them."

Speaking of Kirby, The John Henry Kirby parlor includes priceless paintings from his estate, original family photos, personal effects and many other items. The parlor is furnished in the style of his mansion, and one section depicts his humble beginnings on a farm in Tyler County. Another section showcases artifacts from the first sawmill of his timber empire, which was once the largest sawmill in the south.

Next door to the Kirby parlor is the Paret Gallery, named after Robert and Barbara Paret, who were instrumental in the restoration of the museum. This is where the art is exhibited, and where you can see the Presidential Papers exhibit. The bulk of the presidential papers centers around Lyndon Johnson, who was good friends with Silsbee resident David Read, who founded the towns newspaper, the Silsbee Bee. The bulk of the correspondence between Johnson and Read began when Johnson was a member of

[above right] Inside old Silsbee Ice House, circa 1930. Photo courtesy of Ice House Museum's Facebook page.

[bottom right] Silsbee Bottle Works exhibit, featuring gas generators and carbonators. Photo by Chris Edwards.





the Senate in the 1950s up until his presidency; it is an amazingly large collection of letters.

Kilcrease also has several handwritten letters from Congress, when James Madison was president. Congressman Nathaniel Silsbee, the grandfather of Silsbee's namesake, Nathaniel Devereux Silsbee, wrote these missives. Along one side of the wall in the gallery is a history of old Silsbee, complete with lithographs and old photos. The wall depicts the old train station, and if you are a Hardin County or Silsbee native, this is a must-see.

Along the far side of the wall across from the gallery is the Silsbee Bottle Works Exhibit, depicting 19th and 20th century soda manufacturing and bottling. There is a replica gas generator, a carbonator, a Crown soda machine, a bottle filling table, and a bottle washer. The Silsbee Ice House exhibit is next, where you can learn how 45 tons of ice a month was made in the days before air conditioning and refrigeration. You will find out how ice was manufactured and shipped from this building to homes and businesses. The Ice House even provided the first city electricity and city water to the town.

The Silsbee Ice House Museum breathes new life into the past, and brings it front and center, for future generations to appreciate. The museum is focused on the preservation of art and culture of the people who first settled this area; it belongs to the community. The museum takes events that happened a hundred years, if not centuries ago, and makes you feel as though you were there. Preserving this historic building is an overwhelming task, but in the capable hands of Susan Shine Kilcrease, I have no doubt the Ice House will survive for many decades to come. ■

The Silsbee Ice House Museum is open Thursday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and is located at 818 Ernest Avenue. Phone number: 409-385-2444, email: icehousemuseum@att.net, or visit their website at www.icehousemuseum.org. They also have a Facebook page.

[above left] Wall upstairs featuring an homage to old Silsbee and train depot.

[bottom left] 10-million-year-old rhinoceros fossil, discovered by local fisherman on the banks of the Neches River in 2002.

Photos by Chris Edwards.



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SAVING LAKE TEJAS

Without intervention, the future of a beloved East Texas swimming hole may be in jeopardy.



By Kelli Barnes

All roads lead to Lake Tejas in the summertime for many in East Texas. It is one of the only small swimming holes to include food, picnic tables, diving platforms, slides, tubes, paddle boats, music, fishing, games, campgrounds and cabin rentals. The lake is owned and managed by Colmesneil Independent School District (CISD) on land provided to the school in the 1930s for this purpose. For many years, thousands flocked to the 14-acre lake each summer and the lake enjoyed regional notoriety with very little competition for this type of facility. As with many businesses, times have changed and the competition to remain relevant has been a fierce battle. For those seeking simpler times, Lake Tejas is a good place to take your family for the day to swim, fish and hike. Overnight camping for tents and RVs is also available, as well as rustic cabin rentals and pavilions for large gatherings.

Funding for the lake does not come from federal, state or taxpayer dollars. Instead, it must be self-sustaining. The vision of the school district, led by CISD Superintendent Lee A. Taylor, was for the lake, his “dream child” as some referred to it, to support and provide work opportunities and a place for youth to take pride in their accomplishments. The Boy Scouts were very involved in this project during the 1940s.

The caretakers for the lake since the very beginning have been employed by the school to take care of the property year-round, and manage lake days during the summertime, including lifeguarding and snack bar duties. The manager is paid a small salary and receives a reduced price for renting a house provided on the property.

Lake Tejas in Colmesneil is well maintained and offers fun and affordable recreation to those wanting something different from a water park. The famous high dive platform has been rebuilt in recent years, and new inflatables have been added, along with covered picnic areas available for rent.
Photo by Kelli Barnes.

[inset left] In 1945, a group of Colmesneil residents were baptized in Lake Tejas by Bro. Tom Campbell.

[inset right] In 1959, Colmesneil ISD superintendent Lee A. Taylor hosted a July 4 fundraiser event which included the First Neches Ski Club team performing ski stunts.





According to the CISD business manager Wanda Ryan, the income for Lake Tejas comes from customers at the lake. Entrance fees are \$9 per person or \$100 for a season pass. Camping fees start at \$20 per night. Pavilion rental is \$15-\$40 per day depending on size. Cabin rental is \$75 per night. The current caretaker for the lake, Kristin Bruton, said, “With our pricing and the number of customers who come to Lake Tejas, we are able to meet all of our regular expenses, but we have not had the money for senior scholarships in a few years, and we do not have much money for repairs or improvements.” Ironically, in a column written for the Houston Post in approximately 1958, Taylor stated “not much profit is made from charging for the recreational facilities, since operational expenses must be subtracted, ... new building has been a slow process.” So, this is not a new problem.

Unfortunately, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has cited Lake Tejas for needed dam repairs that they currently cannot afford. “They are working with us, but we don’t have the financial means to make the repairs at this time,” Ryan said. The school board is working on fundraising ideas for Lake Tejas to bring in extra revenue to help with these repairs so the lake can get back in good standing with TCEQ and stay open.

According to Jackie Ruth (Sturrock) Brown, Superintendent Taylor was always coming up with new schemes to raise money for the lake. He served as superintendent of CISD between 1930 and 1969 ... 39 years total. “The lake has a very colorful history,” Brown said. “I remember one time Mr. Taylor planned a ‘Miss Lake Tejas’ pageant and myself and some friends of mine were involved. There is a picture of us at the Burger House (in Colmesneil) that promoted this event.” Brown went on to reminisce about the early days of Lake Tejas. She was a student at CISD from 1939 to 1950 and remembers Mr. Taylor taking every student to “Lake Day” once a year, and the rest of the summer her and her friends would walk there and pay 25 cents for the day. “When the lake first opened it had a big raft for climbing located in the middle of the lake, and a cable tethered from the shore to the raft we could hold on to, to get back and forth,” Brown said. “It also had a snack bar, high dive, a volleyball court and tubes we rented for a quarter to float and sunbathe on the water. Several girls liked to sunbathe. Later, they added the water slide and paddle boats.”

In 1945 Brown said that she, along with several young people in the community, including the boy who would later become her husband, and Nannie Lee (Lamb) Pittman of Colmesneil, were all baptized in Lake Tejas by Bro. Tom Campbell. “I believe Nannie Lee and I are the only two still living who were baptized that day.

“I remember in the 1950s when water skiing became popular, Mr. Taylor planned a big July Fourth celebration and a group performed stunts while skiing. In those days they allowed boats on the lake.” This group was called the First Neches Ski Club and they performed a human pyramid act on water skis. This occurred in 1959 and the five people in the pyramid ski stunt were Munro Scurlock, Buddy Herbert and Warren Smith on bottom, and Janet Scurlock and Delores Smith on their shoulders. According to Brown, the lake offered ski lessons and swim lessons too, all things Taylor came up with to bring in more revenue.

According to an article published in the Tyler County Booster, a newspaper started in 1930 that still serves the community today, Lake Tejas was dedicated on July 25, 1940, and the Sam Houston State Teacher’s College band performed at the lake for the celebration.

More history recorded on the lake’s website states that the original excavation of the lake turned up a large arrowhead 10 feet under the topsoil and it was believed to be carved by a member of the Caddo Indian Tribe, the same tribe that influenced the naming of the state of Texas. Tejas is the Spanish version of the Caddo word “Taysha” which means “friend” or “ally.” They decided to name the lake Lake Tejas because of this find.

There is something for children of all ages at Lake Tejas, including a lower platform diving board, a toddler swim area with slide, canoes, paddle boats, tubes, and fishing piers. Contributed photos.



Photo by Kelli Barnes

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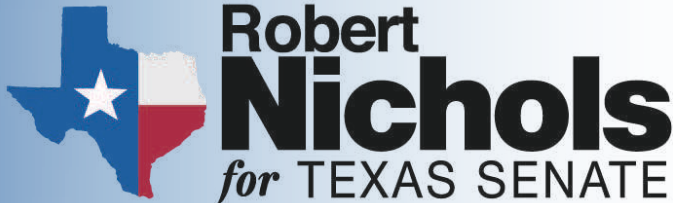
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It was a coincidence that while Kenneth Belt was clearing, digging and attempting to preserve some of the natural beauty around the future lake, it was realized by Taylor and others that the shape was looking similar to the shape of Texas, so the workers made the effort to continue making it resemble the shape of Texas even more.

Anyone who has a fond memory of spending a summertime day at Lake Tejas at least once in their life is encouraged to make plans to visit this summer. The lake provides good, wholesome family fun at an affordable price, and all support is appreciated and needed for the future of the lake. Tax-deductible donations for the Lake Tejas Dam project can be sent to: Colmesneil ISD Business Office, Attn: Wanda Ryan, P.O. Box 37, Colmesneil, TX 75938. ■



Children can enjoy family fun in the sun for just the day, or families can plan an overnight stay in one of the Lake Tejas rustic cabins available for rent. The lake also has camp sites and RV sites. Contributed photos.





Our visit to the Selena Museum

By Emily Banks Wooten

My family and I traveled to Corpus Christi in March for a little spring break getaway. Having researched things to do and see, we knew that one of the places we wanted to visit was the Selena Museum. Widely referred to as the “Queen of Tejano Music,” Selena Quintanilla Perez was an up and comer in the recording industry before being tragically murdered at the tender age of 23.

We aren’t necessarily Selena fans per se, but her murder is one of those stories that is a snapshot in time that you never forget. And to be fair, we admire her work ethic and her rise to success.

The museum is an intimate memorial for Selena fans, showcasing the singer’s awards, concert attire, magazine covers, assorted memorabilia and even her red Porsche, which was

considered to be the one and only “splurge” she allowed herself. On the day we arrived, the parking lot was full and we had to park on the street a block or two away. The people flocking to the museum necessitated several police officers to direct traffic. As we neared the building, Hubby asked one of them, “Is it always this crowded?” to which the officer responded, “Only during Spring Break.” That made sense and with March 31 being the 29th anniversary of her murder, numerous fans had made the pilgrimage to pay homage.

Initially, we were a little surprised at how small the museum and accompanying Q Productions studio were, especially considering the volume of people it draws. It wasn’t long, however, before we learned that her family wanted to keep it exactly as it was when she last recorded there. I had heard that

[left] The Selena Museum, part of Q Productions, is located at 5410 Leopard St. in Corpus Christi.

[above] This wall is filled with some of Selena’s highest-selling albums and CDs.

Photos by Emily Banks Wooten.



This is one of two separate exhibits that display Selena's concert attire. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten.

her father, Abraham Quintanilla Jr., often sits at a desk across from the admission area where you first enter the museum. Sure enough, the day we were there, he sat there quietly watching the crowd, but not interacting with anyone. I can't help but wonder if seeing the throngs of fans that arrive daily makes him feel closer to his lost daughter, or perhaps – hopefully – provide him some peace. I can only imagine.

Selena ranks among the most influential Latin artists of all time and is widely credited for catapulting the Tejano genre into the mainstream market. Breaking down numerous barriers, she achieved so much before her short life was snuffed out due to greed and jealousy.

The youngest child of her family, she debuted on the music scene as a member of the band Selena y Los Dinos, which also included her elder siblings A.B. Quintanilla and Suzette Quintanilla. In the beginning, she was often criticized and refused bookings for performing Tejano music – a male-dominated music genre. Her popularity grew, however, after she won the Tejano Music Award for Female Vocalist of the Year in 1987, which she won nine consecutive times. As a solo artist, she recorded five studio albums, with each one further propelling her to stardom.

Her last major performance was before a sold-out crowd at

the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo on Feb. 26, 1995, in the Astrodome in Houston. A music critic reviewing her last rodeo show crowned the singer “Tejano’s answer to Madonna, Janet Jackson and Gloria Estefan.”

Yolanda Saldivar, a nurse from San Antonio, founded the Selena Fan Club, becoming president and ingratiating herself with Selena and her family, later becoming manager of Selena’s boutiques in San Antonio and Corpus Christi.

When it was revealed that Saldivar had embezzled more than \$30,000 through forged checks from both the fan club and the boutiques, Selena requested bank statements and financial records from Saldivar who continued to delay producing them. When Selena met with Saldivar on that fateful day in Saldivar’s motel room at the Corpus Christi Days Inn to demand the return of the items, Saldivar pulled a gun from her purse and shot Selena as she tried to run. The singer ran to the lobby and was able to identify the shooter and give the room number of the room in which she’d been shot before collapsing due to blood loss.

Selena was transported to Corpus Christi Memorial Hospital and although valiant attempts were made to save her life, she was pronounced dead from blood loss and cardiac arrest

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A Houston jury convicted Saldivar of first-degree murder in October 1995, and she was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 30 years, the maximum prison term allowed in Texas that could be imposed at the time. This means that Saldivar will be eligible for parole next year.

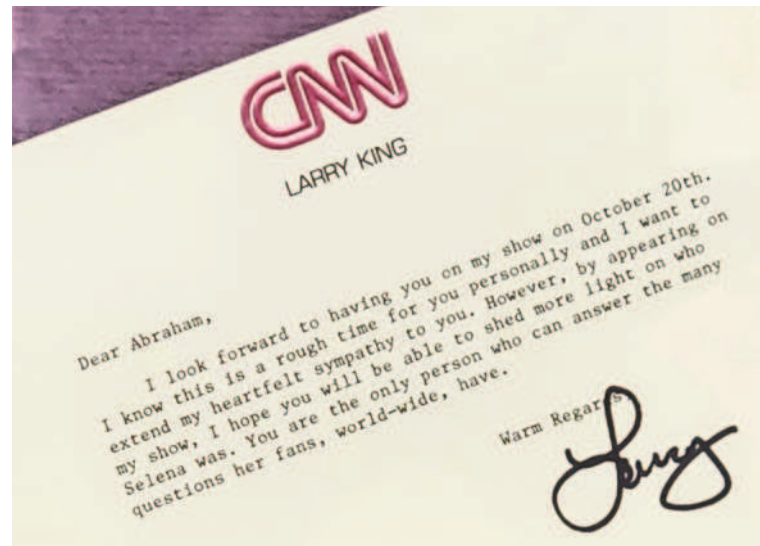
Owned by the Quintanilla family, the Selena Museum is located at 5410 Leopard St. in Corpus Christi and is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and closed on weekends. Admission is \$3 for ages three and up.

[left] This case displays some of the many Tejano Music Awards that Selena received.

[below] A postcard from CNN Broadcaster Larry King to Selena's father, Abraham Quintanilla.

[bottom] Selena's red Porsche, considered to be her only splurge, is parked in the museum in front of a wall full of framed magazine covers of Selena.

Photos by Emily Banks Wooten.



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Italian Chopped Salad

By Barbara White

This easy-to-assemble salad can be a meal in itself on those hot summer nights when you just don't want to turn on the oven. It can be made in advance, but wait to add the dressing until just before serving. Be sure to use hard salami, not cotto. Serve with your favorite crackers or garlic bread.

Dressing:

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 clove minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper to taste

Salad:

- 12 cups chopped lettuce
- 6 ounces of hard salami, cut in fourths
- 1 1/2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup sliced black olives
- 1/4 cup sliced pepperoncini
- 1/2 cup chopped provolone cheese
- 1/4 cup shredded parmesan cheese
- 1/2 small red onion, thinly sliced

Using a whisk, combine the dressing ingredients and set aside. Assemble the salad. Add the dressing shortly before serving and toss lightly.
Serves 4.





Photo by Emily Banks Wooten

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Hybrid bass stocking program could have huge economic impact

By Emily Banks Wooten

An ambitious project kicked off in April that could potentially have huge repercussions for Lake Livingston and the surrounding area for many years to come. Through a project that was about three years in the making, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Lake Livingston Fishing Club aka “The Happy Hookers,” Trinity River Authority (TRA) and Friends of Lake Livingston (FoLL) partnered to launch a hybrid bass stocking program, which could result in a significant economic impact on the East Texas area. Hybrid bass are a cross between white bass and striped bass.

Through the first stocking, two million fry were released into the lake under a private permit issued to TRA for one million and a private permit issued to Mike Bischoff on behalf of the Hookers for an additional one million. For the uninitiated, a fry is a baby fish that has just hatched and is a quarter to a half-inch long.

The two million fry came from a fishery around Little Rock, Ark. and were released at Beacon Bay Marina by a TPWD-owned fish-stocking barge shortly after the sun went down.

And this was just the first phase. TPWD is expected to release 275,000 hybrid fingerlings into the lake this summer. A fingerling is a baby fish that has grown to two to four inches in length.

“The intent is for TPWD to commit to doing this on an annual basis. TRA and the Hookers have also committed under private stocking permits. We want to bring awareness to the general public to bring validity to our fundraising and a sincere interest in the program,” President Mike Bischoff aka “Head Hooker” said.

“Hybrid stripers grow to trophy fish size and are very appealing to fisherman. The environment of the lake, with its natural foliage, makes it an ideal habitat for these hybrid bass. Our lake will be a destination lake for anglers for trophy-sized hybrid stripers. The long-term objective is to get our lake

to the level where there are 10 catchable hybrid striped bass per acre of surface area, which will probably take five to eight years,” Bischoff said.

“The weekend warrior angler that comes up from Houston with his buddy or his wife will spend \$1,000 per weekend. That’s a heck of an impact to the economy,” he said.

How will the stocking of Lake Livingston with hybrid bass benefit the local community?

According to Bischoff, the economic impact of a fish stocking program on Livingston and the surrounding communities can be significant. According to a study by the University of Minnesota, a \$1 million investment in a fish stocking program can generate \$4 million in economic activity. This includes the direct spending of anglers on fishing licenses, equipment and lodging, as well as the indirect spending of businesses that support the fishing industry.

A study by the University of Wisconsin found that a single day of fishing generates an average of \$1,200 in economic activity. This figure includes spending on food, lodging, transportation and souvenirs. In addition to the direct economic benefits, fish stocking can also have a number of other benefits for the surrounding communities. It can improve water quality, boost tourism and create jobs.

Bischoff said the specific impacts a fish stocking program can have on surrounding communities are increased tourism, increased jobs, increased tax revenue and improved water quality.

“A nationally recognized lake for great fishing will attract anglers from all over the country. This will boost tourism in the area, leading to increased spending on hotels, restaurants, and other businesses. The fishing industry supports a variety of jobs, including, but not limited to, fishing guides, tackle shop owners, and boat rental businesses. Of course, all the support businesses such as gas stations, quick stops, grocery stores,

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department’s (TPW) Inland Fisheries Jasper District Supervisor Todd Driscoll hands a box containing 50,000 fry to TPW Inland Fisheries Biologist Dan Ashe as TPW Technician Ray Lenderman waits in the wings. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten.





Lake Livingston Project Manager Chad Holton (in blue shirt and blue cap) carries a box of fry to the fish-stocking barge. Each box contains 50,000 fry. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten.

hotels, sporting goods stores, etc. will also experience improved job growth. Purchases by anglers will generate tax revenue for the government. This money can be used to support local schools, roads and other infrastructure. Fish help to improve water quality by consuming algae and other pollutants. This can make the lake more attractive to anglers and other users.”

How long will the stocking program go on?

“The short answer is forever. As long as the lake exists, which should be at least another 50 years, stocking should be sustained. Since hybrid bass are a cross between white bass and striper bass, they are not able to reproduce to procreate more hybrid bass,” Bischoff said.

“Lake Livingston is an ideal environment for the survival of mature hybrid bass, but because they cannot reproduce, their numbers will decrease through natural attrition and from fishing. Hence, annual stocking of hybrid will be required as long as it is deemed to be worth the investment for funding. Therefore, the first two to three years the stocking program would be shared by our private permit and TPWD would be very aggressive. Target at this time is 300,000 fingerling per

year shared 50% private permit and 50% TPWD. Stocking will start in the spring/summer of 2024 and by the fall of 2025 fish count surveys conducted by TPWD would determine all future stocking needs to maintain a healthy population,” Bischoff said.

The effort is being coordinated by the non-profit organization Friends of Lake

Livingston, an established group initially formed to reestablish Lake Livingston as a prime destination for anglers and water enthusiasts by restoring aquatic habitat. However, they have now agreed to increase their focus to include the hybrid stocking program. The stocking program will have a separate project manager and all funding will be separate from the “normal” FoLL funding.

This arrangement allows the quick establishment of a local, known and experienced, non-profit organization for obtaining a certificate and approval from the TPWD to do hybrid stocking in Lake Livingston. The principal partners and project advisors for FoLL are Texas Black Bass Unlimited, Texas Association of Bass Clubs, Friends of Reservoirs and Piney Wood Lakes Chapter Texas Master Naturalist. ■



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Recalling Leon Hale



Leon Hale and his family's late Lab, Charlotte Bronte. Photo by Babette Hale.

By Janice R. Edwards

Leon Hale's March 16, 2014 column announced his retirement from writing columns after almost 65 years on the job, in aggregate, for the Houston Post and the Houston Chronicle. He deemed it time to retire, 30 years past the time most people quit the rat race. We "customers" of Leon Hale thought this day would never come – because he and his observations are timeless.

Hale was born May 30, 1921, in Stephenville, Texas. He wrote a column for the Houston Post for 32 years, then moved to the Houston Chronicle from which he retired in 1985. But he never stopped writing. He wrote a personal commentary for years until his retirement in 2014. In retirement, he worked on a "retirement journal" (which became his last book, "See You On Down The Road") until his death March 27, 2021 just a couple of months shy of his 100th birthday.

In addition to the columns Hale wrote, he is the author of eleven books. He received the lifetime achievement award from the Texas Institute of Letters (also awards for fiction and non-fiction from that group), United Press international, the Associated Press, the Headliners Foundation – among others. He fought in World War II as an aerial gunner on 50 combat missions.

Reading "See You On Down the Road" made me think about this customer's (he called his readers customers) time spent wrapped up in his stories. When I was a child, my family followed Hale's column religiously. Once we followed his directions to find a ghost road in East Texas – and we thought we had found the ghost until it turned into a reflection on a car's windshield. No one elevated the common man better than Hale, and who can forget his trips south each year to find the spring?

And Leon Hale loved East Texas. I found the following quote

in one of his columns from the Houston Chronicle:

"I'm struck with an almost painful hankering to get back on the road. Go east first, on U.S. 90, through Dayton and Liberty and through the rice fields, and then cut up into the Big Thicket. To Sour Lake, Kountze, Silsbee. Spend a day or two listening to the birds along the Neches River.

"I haven't spent any time in the East Texas Piney Woods in years, and I need to go. I used to think it was a sin to miss East Texas in November, when the hardwood foliage put on its color show. Or in spring, when the dogwood bloomed.

"Go on north to Woodville, Jasper, San Augustine. And Sam Rayburn Reservoir. I once burned a good deal of gas running around on what's now the bottom of Rayburn, and Lake Livingston as well. Those lakes flooded a lot of timberland. (I wonder what he would have thought of this year's floods?)

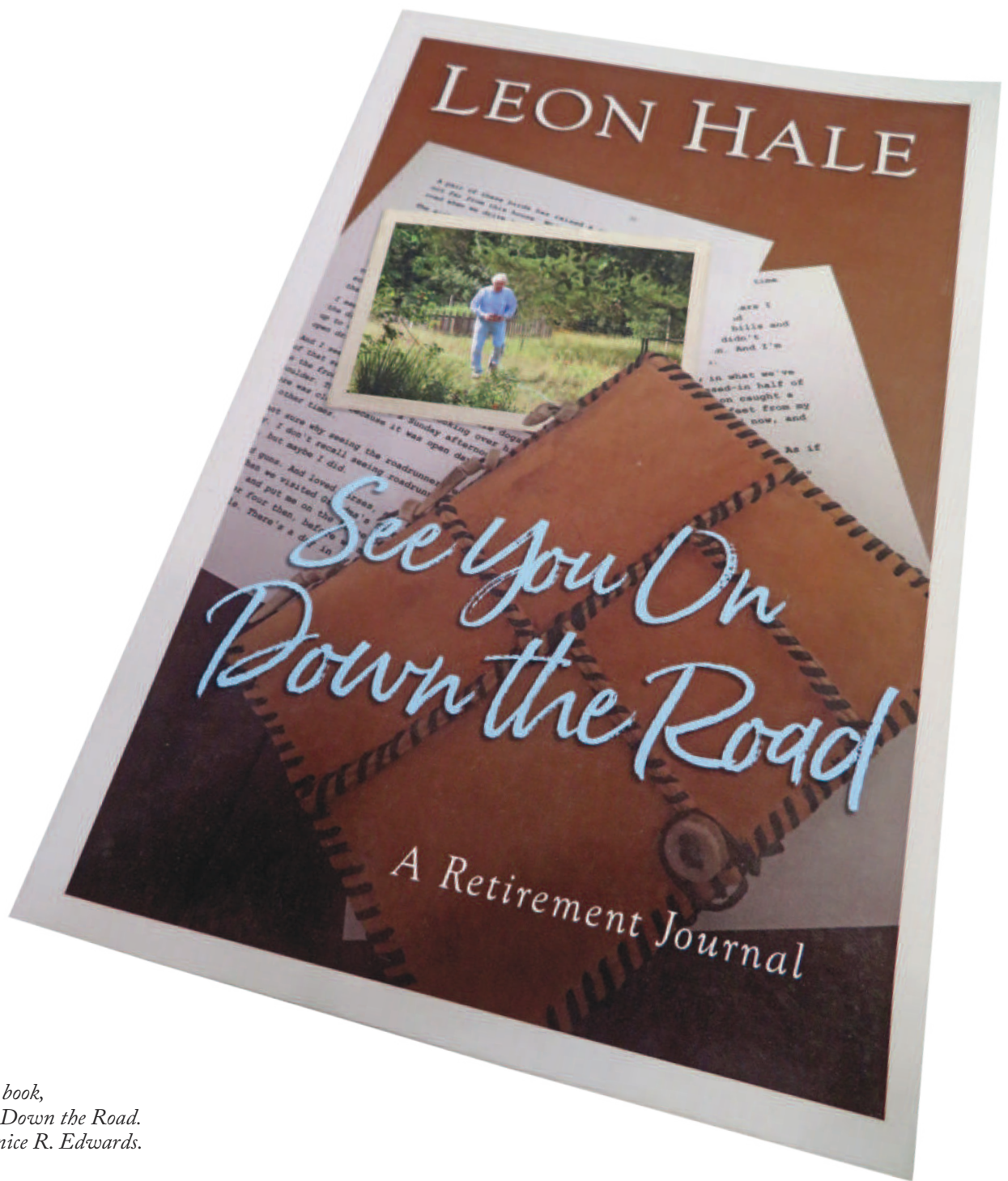
"I'd want to run on up to Caddo Lake, just to get the feeling of that spooky place one more time. I still like to believe the ivory-bill woodpecker, supposed to be extinct, is alive somewhere back in the woods of Caddo.

"Then come back down to Nacogdoches and Lufkin. I spent so much time in those two towns, I had plans to retire in or near one or the other of them. And if I'd ever found the right little patch of woods up there to build a cabin on, I'd be writing this stuff from East Texas instead of Washington County.

"I'd love to roam a while through Davy Crockett National Forest. And see if anyone in Livingston or Crockett remembers me. I was the skinny dude walking around with a pencil and notebook, trying to get somebody to tell me a story.

"Then Huntsville. I hung around that town so much, I ought to have paid taxes. While drinking coffee in the Texan Cafe there, I heard every lie ever told in Walker County, and that's a mighty lot of them."

Personally, I learned a lot from Leon Hale. When I was



*Leon Hale's book,
See You On Down the Road.
Photo by Janice R. Edwards.*

working on my English/journalism degree at Sam Houston State University, this young, would-be journalist was fortunate enough to take Feature Writing I and II from Mr. Hale the only two semesters he tried to make a living teaching. In those days, he typed his columns on a manual typewriter using the hunt and peck method. He was an unusual college professor to say the least. You never knew what he would bring to class – a wooden clothes pin today, a corn cob tomorrow – a full-fledged story, or just an observation. (His description of what you did with an old corn cob in an outhouse still lingers in the recesses of my brain today.) What I learned in his classes has served this writer to this day. I learned to observe – everything.

I learned everything and everyone has a story, you just need to look for it. How good a story depends on the storyteller and the relationship to his/her “customer,” so get to know your source. I took his lessons to heart.

When I published my first story for Image magazine, I called Mr. Hale to thank him. Now many years later, I’m still harvesting wonderful stories from people around me, and I am still grateful for Leon Hale’s teachings. I sometimes wonder how my writing would have changed if he never brought a corn cob to class.

The attached picture is of Leon Hale and his family’s late Lab, Charlotte Bronte. The picture was taken by Babette Hale and we should credit her with the picture. ■



Cork This Tap That!

With a name like that, what's not to like?

By Emily Banks Wooten

One Sunday afternoon not too long ago, we were en route to Bernhardt Winery in Plantersville but wanted to stop and get a bite to eat on the way there. Not being very familiar with the area and what the choices were, I turned to the handy dandy Tripadvisor app on my phone and typed in “restaurants nearby.” Several turned up, but one immediately caught my eye. And how could it not? It was called Cork This Tap That!

As we walked across the parking lot toward the entrance, we could see a little covered bandstand outdoors where some live music was already underway. We entered the building and knew immediately that we had made a good decision. We appreciated the funky, homespun vibe that we picked up all around us. While we picked a table inside, large glass roll-top doors were raised providing us a nice view of the band, also revealing additional outdoor seating. The band that particular day happened to be “Country Acoustix,” also known as Bo Cheatham, Billy Hillman and Scott Nutter. There were couples, families, groups of friends, baby strollers, dogs on leashes and a couple stray toddlers milling about. It was a perfectly relaxing, casual Sunday afternoon – one of those days that comes to mind when you hear the term “Sunday Funday.”

[left] Cork This Tap That! is located at 26091 TX-105 in Montgomery. [right] I enjoyed this hamburger special with French fries accompanied by a glass of Bearkat Blonde on tap. Photos by Emily Banks Wooten.



Cork This Tap That



Karla, the proprietor, opened Cork This Tap That! in 2021 after owning Cork This! Winery in Montgomery and Wonderland Winery in College Station, before slipping and hitting her head, as she would say, and thinking that leaving healthcare administration and owning her own business was a good idea. Her goal was to create a local watering hole that was fun for the whole family with live music and an eclectic menu. With her prior winery experience, she has built an extensive collection of local beers and wines for Cork This Tap That!

“Life’s too short not to have fun. And if I’m going to work all the time, I’m going to make it as fun as possible,” she said. “We love our customers, both regulars and first-timers, and strive to make their experience entertaining, quirky and yet still delivering the highest caliber of service.”

Our first trip there, Hubby and I each ordered a hamburger special with French fries which we thoroughly enjoyed. We made a return trip about a month later and took Daughter with us. She ordered a barbecue stuffed potato which was a large baked potato served with chopped brisket, butter, cheese, sour cream, bacon and chives. Hubby selected a chicken fried steak which was served with a dinner salad, French fries, gravy and toast. I opted for a patty melt which was a quarter pound burger topped with Swiss cheese and grilled onions and served on Texas toast. I also ordered some onion rings on the side. Everything we ate was wonderful and very filling.

A variety of specials are offered. You can play Singo Bingo from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesdays for \$5 per card and all-cash pots. Buy one get one half off burgers are available on Wednesdays. Thursdays offer grilled ribeyes cooked to order and live music. There’s an open mic night from 6-9 p.m. on Fridays. There’s live music on the outdoor stage from 6-9 p.m. Saturdays and 2-5 p.m. Sundays weather permitting. ■

While this may be a little bit off your beaten path, I think if you try it, you’ll like it. Cork This Tap That! is located at 26091 TX-105 in Montgomery. The phone number is 936-597-7448 and the website is www.corkthisapthattx.com.

[above left] Hubby enjoyed a chicken fried steak which was served with a dinner salad, French fries, gravy and toast. Photo by Kevin Wooten.

[above right] A selection of humorous T-shirts is available for purchase. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten.

[left] “Country Acoustix” provided live music one Sunday afternoon while we were there. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten.

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“Big Doggie” Introduction

By Janice R. Edwards

“Look, Mutt, BIG doggies,” I teased our sleeping Yorkshire Terrier, George Mutt. That fur baby always accompanied my husband, Roy, and me on our camping adventures. As soon as the car engine started, George usually found a comfortable place in my lap and promptly fell asleep – he travelled well.

Once we left the city and began travelling through the countryside, George would often wake and raise his head up – peering out the closest window. He grew quite animated when he smelled cows and/or horses in the pastures we passed – or just awakening and seeing them. He would dash to the window closest to the pasture, barking and wagging his tail. If he could have gotten out of the car, he would have joined his potential four-legged buddies in the pasture communing with them. I loved watching the interaction between George and his “big doggie” friends, so sometimes, when Mutt was in a deep sleep, I’d bring them to his attention just to get a rise out of him.

On this trip, we were bound for Caddo Lake for our canoe club’s annual Easter paddle. A group of us would camp and/or rent some cabins on the lake outside Uncertain, Texas. We’d paddle and fish during the day and share supper and tell stories around the campfire at night. George was the camp dog and participated in all the day’s activities.

We rented the cabins from a man whose home was on the hill just up from the campsite. Sometimes he would drop by to check to see if we needed anything or to partake of our impromptu fish fries. In addition to his campsite and cabins, he also maintained pastures of his own where he ran cattle. On this trip, he had been working cattle all day, and brought his horse trailer – horses included – into our campsite while

he ran up to his home to grab a bite to eat before stabling his horses.

Roy and I were sitting around the campfire with George Mutt and a few other campers who had just eaten their fill of fried bream. When the horse trailer came up, Mutt was immediately interested in the horses. “Look, Mutt,” I said, “Big Doggies!” Mutt had been dozing in Roy’s lap and when I confirmed his suspicions, he started barking and wriggling, trying to escape Roy’s grasp. Roy smiled at George’s antics and asked our host if it would be okay to introduce him to his horses. To which he laughingly replied, “Yeah, that’s fine. Just don’t let him eat them.”

Roy then got a good hold on George Mutt, picked him up and carried him over to the horse trailer to make the introductions nose to nose. The closest horse in the trailer turned his head as if to inquire about the approaching company. Roy held George face to face with this “big doggie” friend. Each animal quietly observed each other, each cautiously sniffing the scent of the other. Then, without warning, the horse snorted. I guess he noticed that George was not something he wanted to get to know better.

Before Roy could do anything, George barked sharply, and, darting his head through the cattle trailer bars, bit the nose of the offending horse. George’s nip drew four little pin pricks of blood on the horse’s muzzle. No “big doggie” was going to threaten his daddy.

Roy, noticing the blood spots, withdrew Mutt from his adversary as quickly as possible. As he hastened to leave the scene of the crime, and to the delight of the camping observers, he scolded, “Mutt, you were supposed to meet – not eat the big doggie!” ■

“Let sleeping dogs be.”

– Robert Walpole



Words from East Texans

Good Morning,

I want to thank you for the wonderful article you wrote about the Kirby Hill House Murder Mystery Dinner Theater in the East Texan Spring 2024 edition of your magazine.

Your attention to detail was so wonderful. You noticed everything that we do to try and make this a memorable experience for our patrons. The pictures were great and very informative for anyone who has not been before.

The Kirby Hill House is a place where folks can come experience a little nostalgia, a little history, a little fun, and a lot of hospitality! We appreciate your article more than you know. But mostly because you interpreted our intentions perfectly and put it into words so beautifully!

*Best Regards, Rose Hall
Board President of Kirby Hill House*

Dear Mr. Holley,

Online “reviews” nor commenting on literary pieces is something that I usually do, however I felt compelled to the East Texan’s article “I would really like to help, but ...” by Barbara White.

While sitting in my recliner after lifting heavy bags of mulch, for my do-it-yourself yard work via my rollator ... (can’t afford the going rate that young “whippersnappers” charge these days) ... I began reading the above-mentioned article. My laughter and shouts of “you go girl” were probably heard throughout the neighborhood. Her delightful attitude was so refreshing, and her words rang nevermore so true.

Now, I don’t know if awards are given for “Best Article of the Year,” but Barbara has my vote. Truthful, well-written, entertaining and funny hit all the marks for an award-winning writer, in my book.

*From my recliner to yours Barbara. Thanks for the dance.
~ SC, An Onalaska Reader ... and fellow short-lived “tainted nickel” owner*

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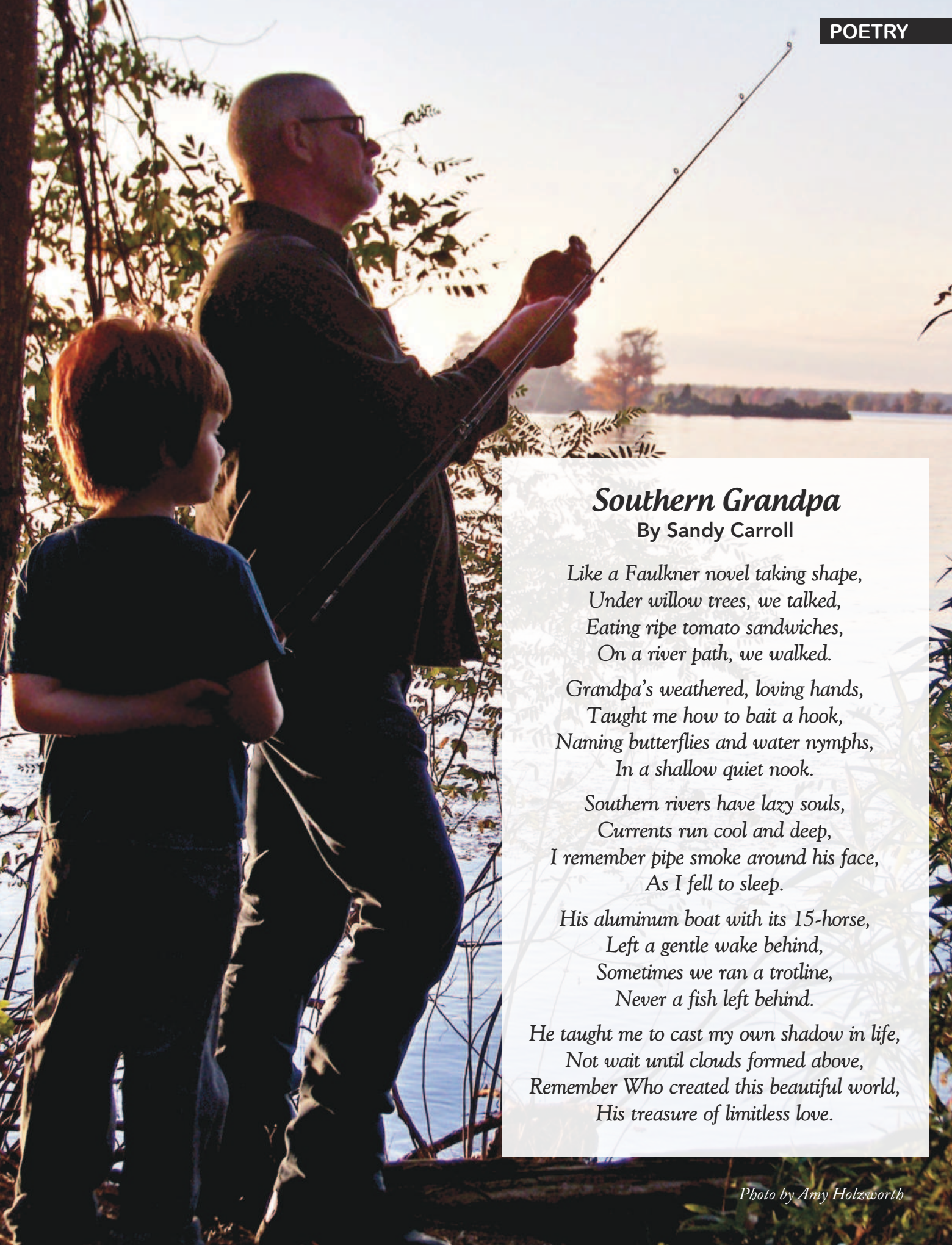
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Southern Grandpa

By Sandy Carroll

*Like a Faulkner novel taking shape,
Under willow trees, we talked,
Eating ripe tomato sandwiches,
On a river path, we walked.*

*Grandpa's weathered, loving hands,
Taught me how to bait a hook,
Naming butterflies and water nymphs,
In a shallow quiet nook.*

*Southern rivers have lazy souls,
Currents run cool and deep,
I remember pipe smoke around his face,
As I fell to sleep.*

*His aluminum boat with its 15-horse,
Left a gentle wake behind,
Sometimes we ran a trotline,
Never a fish left behind.*

*He taught me to cast my own shadow in life,
Not wait until clouds formed above,
Remember Who created this beautiful world,
His treasure of limitless love.*

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"Our mission is to serve the men and women who serve us daily."

~ Allen "A.J." Schwind



OUR MISSION

The mission of A&E Conservation, Inc. is to provide active military, first responders, veterans, and their families a minimally-restrictive environment to enjoy nature's beauty and bounty. Hunting, fishing, and nature walks will be available.



CONSERVATION

A&E Conservation, Inc. seeks to conserve wildlife and timber by respecting and caring for the land and for the animal habitats.



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OUR VISION

The vision of A&E Conservation, Inc. is to offer a desirable benefit for all active military, first responders, veterans, and their families. Through our donors and partners we hope to provide access to natural resources to thank the men and women who have given us so much.



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By Tony Farkas

As a kid, Allen Schwind would go with his father to a deer lease, and like many people, those times became some of his best memories.

Throughout his life, his enjoyment of hunting, fishing and nature walks just grew. Then it grew into a mission.

Allen “A.J.” and Emilie Schwind, who reside in the North Houston area, both work as teachers while volunteering their time in many areas.

Succinctly put on their website — aeconservation.com — both have family members in military service and based on that, the Schwinds saw a need.

Their mission is to provide a way for those currently in uniform – veterans, first responders and their families – to enjoy nature away from the stress related to their work, social movements, and politics surrounding their service. Their current plan includes nature walks, fishing, and hunting.

The events are done at no charge, but donations always are welcome.

A.J. said hunting corresponds with the particular seasons, but feral hunts can be done year-round.

For fishing, the Schwinds have friends who have boats,

and clients are taken to Lake Livingston or Lake Conroe.

“We go for a day and do what we call the three C’s — catch, clean and cook,” he said. “We do all three that same day. A&E has some equipment to provide, as long as there is enough advance notice.”

Nature walking will be done, preferably on leased land, at areas that can provide the necessary stress relief, he said.

“We determine where and when; we’ll set a date, determine the place and then inform people that it’s available,” he said. “The only stipulation is that the crowd size must be manageable, since at this time there is not a lot of volunteers.”

Through those services, they hope to provide valuable experiences for active military, veterans, first responders, and their families.

“We prayed about this, and we continue to pray, that we will be successful,” A.J. said.

While mainly geared to help veterans, the other groups were added because of their line of work.

“We focus on that population because those people have given me the opportunity to live freely, and I want to give back a token of what they’ve given me, to show them what I’ve done with that freedom,” he said.

[left] A.J. and Emilie Schwind get the word out about their efforts. [below] Groups enjoy the serenity of a day fishing. Courtesy photos.





[above] A.J. Schwind (back row, right) and his first group for a fishing outing. [above right] Veterans and their families enjoy a day of fishing. [above far right] Hunting of all types is offered. [bottom right] Part of the three C's done on a fishing adventure — those being catch, clean and cook. Courtesy photos.

At one point, they considered adding correctional officers, because they have been through a lot of traumatic experiences as well, a plan that still may happen. At some point in the future, those plans also include other people taking the lead and growing the mission.

A.J. and Emilie also look toward conservation of land, animals and other resources.

“Everywhere you go in this area, there are developments going up,” A.J. said. “There’s a landfill going up. What opportunities will there be for my son, who’s 3 years old right now, when he is 18-19 and wants to go out and buy a rifle to hunt? There’s not going to be any.”

He said he would like to secure a piece of property, either through lease or donation, to have a place to for his events, and even established a non-profit to help in that endeavor.

A.J. said leases would serve his targeted clientele better; state parks and national forests are overrun and there’s not enough opportunity to hunt because of overcrowding, and some landowners are beginning to require insurance for liability concerns.

“We’re trying to service a cause, not using and abusing

land and resources,” he said. “We want to conserve, and we want to help manage areas. That’s the foundation of A&E.”

Currently, A.J. and Emilie are trying to raise funds to find areas to use year-round — without stipulations — to help with their plans.

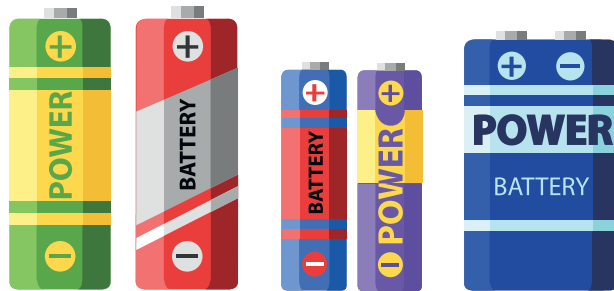
Donations are accepted through their website, and 100% of donations go toward serving their chosen clients. Donations will pay for the property, facilities, and necessary supplies it takes to provide a meaningful experience to those who have served our nation and community. And as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, donations are tax-deductible.

Sponsorships also are available, and also are tax-deductible; and as well as funds, A&E seeks the help of volunteers.

A&E Conservation can be contacted at aeconservation.com, aeconservationinc2019@gmail.com, on Facebook [aeconservationinc](https://www.facebook.com/aeconservationinc) or at (281) 806-5071.

Operating Hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Sunday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. ■





POWER TO THE PEOPLE

(batteries not included)

By Barbara White

It always startles me, even when -- tipped off by swaying pines and limbs pelting my house -- I suspect that it might happen. After a minute or two, when my heart has stopped thumping around my chest like a tennis shoe in the dryer, I begin to gather my wits and my battery-operated gadgets around me and settle in for what I hope will be a short-lived power outage.

I don't want to brag, but I am pretty good at the settling in part. I text a few friends and neighbors to make sure I'm not the only one having all the fun, set the phone aside to conserve its battery and begin to appreciate how peaceful it is without the annoying hum of the air-conditioner and refrigerator or someone yapping at me from a television screen.

Since I got quite a bit of practice this past spring, I can now keep up that charade for nearly an hour. After that, I start twitching a little and begin to dig around in my battery bag to see if I have enough C batteries to power up my little boom box and enough D cells to use my portable fan, which in addition to stirring the air makes a comforting little humming sound.

You may be thinking that checking the battery supply is something that should be done regularly, before a power outage, and you are absolutely right. I might also remind you that nobody likes a know-it-all.

I have several flashlights and a lantern in addition to the aforementioned boom box and fan. Nearly all of them require different size batteries, which is something I will never understand. Why can't there be a standard size battery for stuff like that? Anyway, it is what it is and, having the patience of a toddler when it comes to things like organizing batteries, I have a little trouble keeping up with such tasks.

I once had a friend who had a battery organizer with special compartments to keep the AAs from hobnobbing with the AAAs and the Cs from getting mixed up with a gang of huskier Ds. There was even a spot for those little rectangular 9 volts that don't roll with the others and, as near as I can tell, are good only for smoke detectors.

I have lost touch with that friend, probably because we had so little in common.

I have a large canvas tote bag in which all members of the

battery family mix and mingle. Most of the batteries are in their original packaging. A few never made it to the tote bag. There are some loose AAAs, rescued from a retired remote control, on a bookshelf because I figure they still have some life left and I occasionally encounter a crusty AA rolling around in my junk drawer. But most of the batteries are in the battery bag.

Digging through that bag reminds me of the D-cell anxiety I felt in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. For weeks after having survived several days without power and running low on D cells, I would pick up a package of them whenever I went to the store. Now, some of them are well past their expiration date. Are they still good? I have always taken expiration and "best by" dates with a grain of salt but, unlike a jug of milk, you cannot just give batteries a sniff test. I do not want to remove them from the package to test them, so if I see no signs of corrosion they go back in the bag. I make a mental note to buy more, just in case. That bag is getting heavy.

I also keep an ample supply of AAAs to power what became my best friend after the last couple of storms.

I don't know about you, but I get attached to certain things during a prolonged power outage. For me, it is a small but mighty flashlight that has a wrist strap. For several days after Hurricane Ike that flashlight went everywhere I went, swinging from my wrist and sharing some of my most intimate moments. It was a tough habit to break -- kind of like how you continue flipping the light switch when you enter a room days after knowing full well that the switch is useless in a power outage.

When life returned to some normalcy and I prepared to make my first post-storm trip to the grocery store, I got into the car, put the key in the ignition and noticed the flashlight dangling from my wrist. I had grabbed it instead of my purse.

During normal times, this would alarm me, as would the anxiety I felt as I went back into the house to exchange the flashlight for my purse. I won't tell you how close I came to sticking the flashlight in the purse. "That would just be too weird, even for you," I told myself as I left my lifeline behind on the kitchen counter. I drove to the store with the nagging feeling that I had forgotten something important.

The feeling eventually passed. Just like storms. ■

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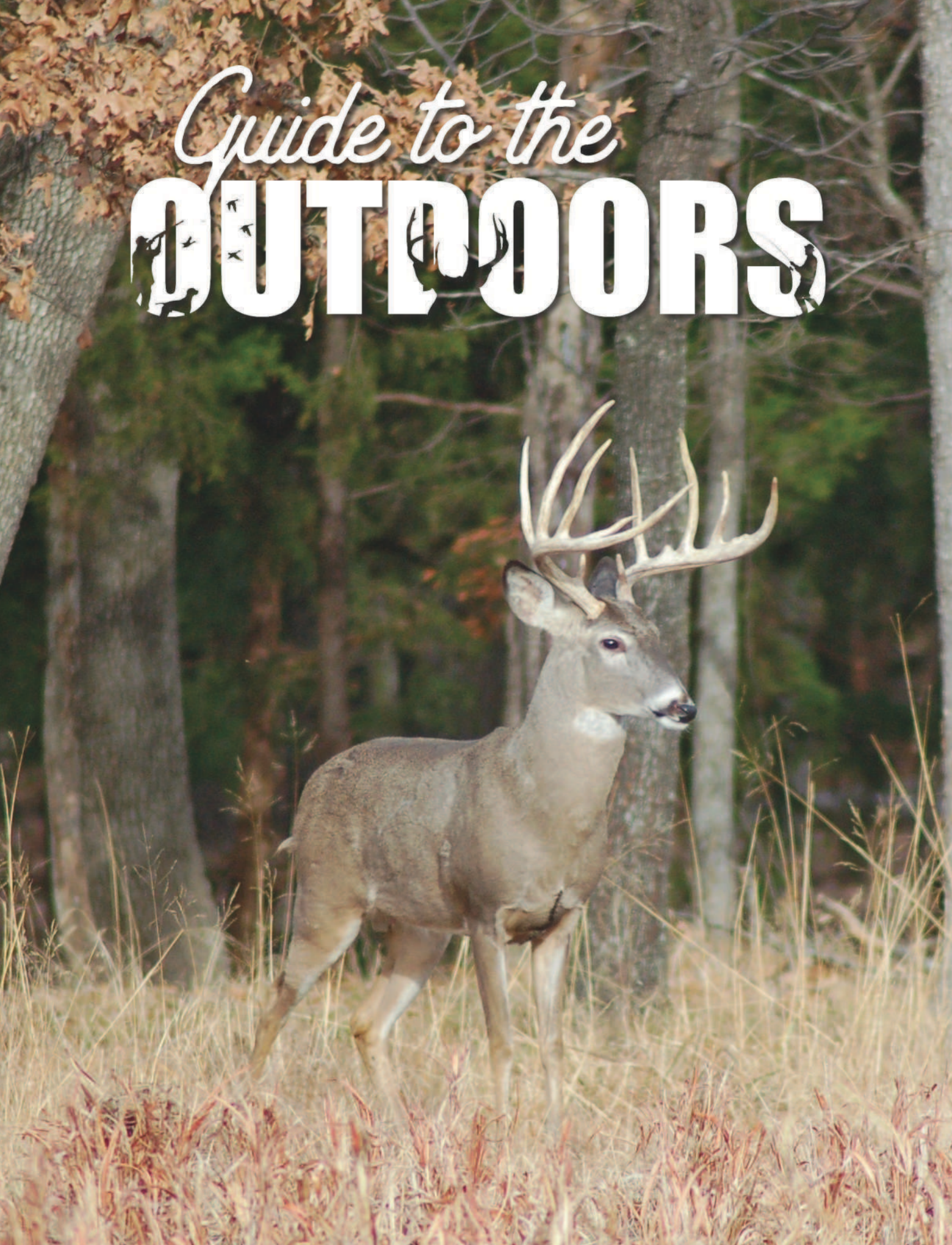
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Guide to the
OUTDOORS



2024 - 2025 HUNTING SEASON DATES

GAME ANIMALS

Javelina

North Oct. 1, 2024 - Feb. 23, 2025
 South Sep. 1, 2024 - Aug. 31, 2025

Mule Deer

Panhandle Nov. 23, 2024 - Dec. 8, 2024
 Trans-Pecos Nov. 29, 2024 - Dec. 15, 2024
 Archery 59 of 254 counties Sep. 28, 2024 - Nov. 1, 2024

Pronghorn

General 41 of 254 counties Sep. 28 - Oct. 13, 2024

Squirrel

East Texas Oct. 1, 2024 - Feb. 23, 2025
 & May 1-31, 2025
 Other open counties Sep. 1, 2024 - Aug. 31, 2025
 Youth-only Sep. 27-29, 2024

White-tailed Deer

General - North Nov. 2, 2024 - Jan. 5, 2025
 General - South Nov. 2, 2024 - Jan. 19, 2025
 Special Late - North Jan. 6-19, 2025
 Special Late - South Jan. 20, 2025 - Feb. 2, 2025
 Youth Only - North Oct. 25-27, 2024
 & Jan. 6-19, 2025
 Youth Only - South Oct. 25-27, 2024
 & Jan. 6-19, 2025
 Archery 252 of 254 counties Sep. 28, 2024 - Nov. 1, 2025
 Muzzleloader 90 of 254 counties Jan. 6-19, 2025

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

Chachalaca

Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr & Willacy Counties
 Oct. 26, 2024 - Feb. 23, 2025

Pheasant

Panhandle/South Plains
 Dec. 7, 2024 - Jan. 5, 2025

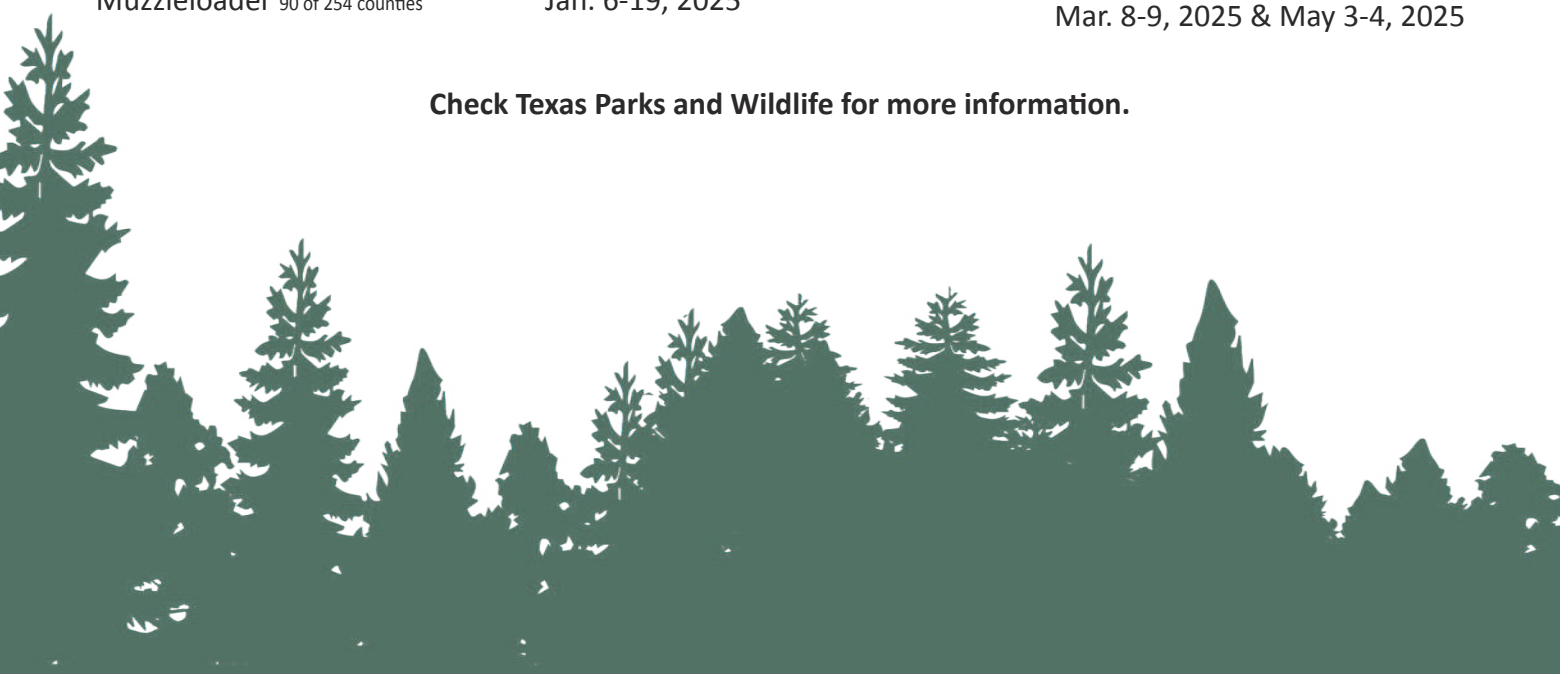
Quail

Statewide Oct. 26, 2024 - Feb. 23, 2025

Turkey WILD

Fall - North Nov. 2, 2024 - Jan. 5, 2025
 Fall - South Nov. 2, 2024 - Jan. 19, 2025
 Fall - Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg & Willacy counties
 Nov. 2, 2024 - Feb. 23, 2025
 Fall - Archery-only Sep. 28, 2024 - Nov. 1, 2024
 Fall Youth-only - North
 Oct. 25-27, 2024 & Jan. 6-19, 2025
 Fall Youth-only - South
 Oct. 25-27, 2024 & Jan. 20, 2025 - Feb. 2, 2025
 Spring - North Mar. 29, 2025 - May 11, 2025
 Spring - South Mar. 15, 2025 - Apr. 27, 2025
 Spring - One-turkey counties Apr. 1-30, 2025
 Spring - East Apr. 22, 2025 - May 14, 2025
 Spring Youth-Only - North
 Mar. 22-23, 2025 & May 17-18, 2025
 Spring Youth-Only - South
 Mar. 8-9, 2025 & May 3-4, 2025

Check Texas Parks and Wildlife for more information.



2024 - 2025 HUNTING SEASON DATES

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD

Dove

Regular - North Sep. 1, 2024 - Nov. 10, 2024
 & Dec. 20, 2024 - Jan. 7, 2025
Regular - Central Sep. 1, 2024 - Oct. 27, 2024
 & Dec. 13, 2024 - Jan. 14, 2025
Regular - South Sep. 14, 2024 - Oct. 27, 2024
 & Dec. 13, 2024 - Jan. 21, 2025
Special White-winged Dove Days - South
 Sep. 1-2, 2024; Sep. 6-8, 2024; & Sep. 13, 2024

Duck

Regular - High Plains Mallard Management Unit
 Oct. 26-27, 2024 & Nov. 1, 2024 - Jan. 26, 2025
Regular - North Nov. 9, 2024 - Dec. 1, 2024
 & Dec. 7, 2024 - Jan. 26, 2025
Regular - South Nov. 2, 2024 - Dec. 1, 2024
 & Dec. 14, 2024 - Jan. 26, 2025
Youth/Veterans - High Plains Mallard Management Unit
 Oct. 19-20, 2024
Youth/Veterans - North Nov. 2-3, 2024
Youth/Veterans - South Oct. 26-27, 2024

Goose

Early Canada Goose - East Sep. 14-29, 2024
Dark Geese - West Nov. 2, 2024 - Feb. 2, 2025
Dark Geese - East Nov. 2, 2024 - Jan. 26, 2025
Light Geese - West Nov. 2, 2024 - Feb. 2, 2025
Light Geese - East Nov. 2, 2024 - Feb. 14, 2025

Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens

Statewide Sep. 14-29, 2024
 & Nov. 2, 2024 - Dec. 25, 2024

Sandhill Cranes

Zone A Oct. 26, 2024 - Jan. 26, 2025
Zone B Nov. 22, 2024 - Jan. 26, 2025
Zone C Dec. 14, 2024 - Jan. 19, 2025

Snipe

Statewide Nov. 2, 2024 - Feb. 16, 2025

Teal

Statewide Sep. 14-29, 2024

Woodcock

Statewide Dec. 18, 2024 - Jan. 31, 2025

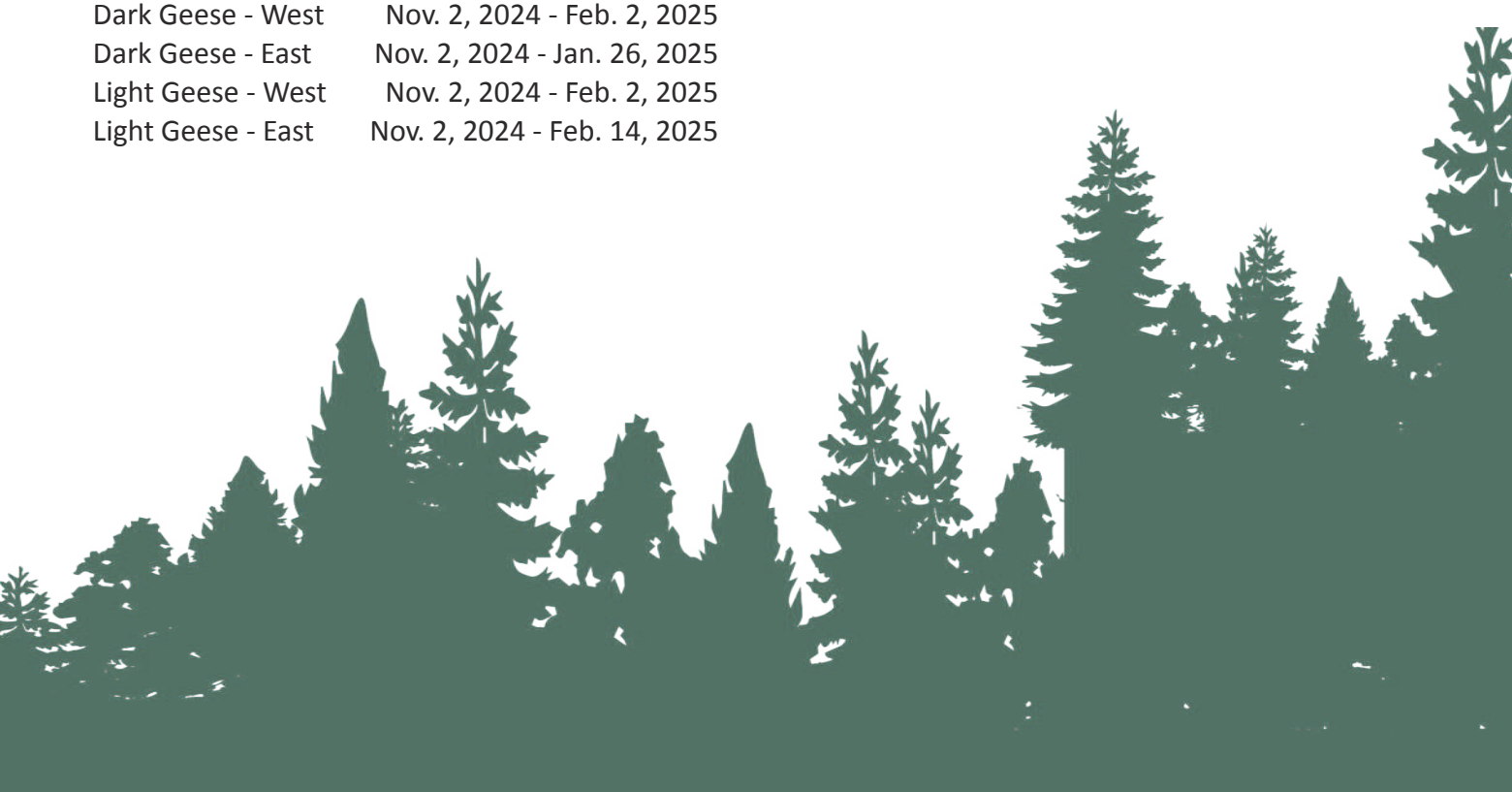
OTHER ANIMALS

Alligator

22 Counties & Special Properties Sep. 10-30, 2024
All Other Counties Apr. 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025

Rabbits and Hares

Statewide No closed season





Whitetail Report

State program leader says spring rain and banner range conditions point to good fall season in most of state

By Matt Williams

Texas' 2024-25 white-tailed deer season is still months away, but early reports from Blaise Korzekwa indicate it should be a good one in most areas of the state.

Korzekwa, 34, heads up the white-tailed deer program for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For those who may not know, Korzekwa took over the position in October 2023 after long-time whitetail leader Alan Cain was promoted to Big Game Program leader following the retirement of Mitch Lockwood.

A 10-year TPWD veteran, Korzekwa began his venture as a graduate research assistant at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M Kingsville. He graduated in 2014 with a Masters of Science in Range and Wildlife Management, and conducted white-tailed deer research on the Comanche and Faith ranches.

In late May, Korzekwa released his 2024 statewide white-tailed deer hunting forecast. He says things are looking good in lots of places. What follows is a summary of the report:

Spring Rainfall: Setting the Stage

Texas has an abundant deer population estimated at 4.7 million animals — way more than any other state. Just about every deer season around here is a good one, but some turn out to be better than others.

Hunting seasons are typically judged by antler quality on bucks and overall harvest numbers.

About 757,000 hunters shot nearly 740,000 whitetails last season, according to Big Game Harvest Survey estimates. Among them were 424,892 bucks and 314,972 does. Hunters enjoyed a record 68 percent success rate, Korzekwa said.

Some of Texas' best deer seasons have come in years with bountiful rainfall during spring and early summer. Good moisture early in the year spurs the production of nutrient-rich forbs that jump start antler growth on bucks while helping does stack on fat reserves to bolster fawn production and lactation. It also fuels the growth of good fawning cover and drought-tolerant browse plants to help keep deer fat and sassy during those nasty summer heat waves.

Korzekwa says this has been one of those banner springs in

most of Texas. The outliers are the Edwards Plateau and areas spanning from southwest Texas to Trans-Pecos.

“While not quite as profound as spring of 2022, much needed rain from March through May led to over 50 percent of Texas experiencing no drought conditions, and an additional 23 percent considered to be only abnormally dry during these months,” Korzekwa said. “The Edwards Plateau has been the unfortunate bullseye of drought conditions this year and has been under extreme drought and missed rainfall events. Areas spanning from southwest Texas to the Trans Pecos have also struck out on the rainfall lottery this spring.”

The biologist expects southwest Texas and portions of the Edwards Plateau to see below-average antler production and fawn crops, although landowners who practice proper grazing and habitat management can reduce the severity of impacts and still have a successful season.

“The remainder of the state should expect above-average fawn recruitment and antler production,” he said. “Given that over half of the state experienced good habitat conditions this spring, hunters in these areas will have a great opportunity at harvesting a quality buck this season.”

Recovering From Drought

While the overall whitetail population remains robust, Korzekwa says numbers continue to rebound from the severe drought conditions from two years ago that resulted in a 2022 fawn crop of only 28 percent — just shy of the 29 percent crop following the 2011 drought.

“Drought-quenching rain in Spring 2023 led to a 10-year high fawn recruitment of 44 percent last season, and this summer's projected fawn crop should help boost the population,” he said. The five-year average statewide fawn recruitment is 38 percent.”

Outlook by Region

Edwards Plateau: Korzekwa says prolonged drought has lowered the Hill Country deer population around 25 percent, but it still holds the highest deer density in the state, about 1.5 million animals.

‘Hunters looking for opportunities to see lots of deer this



The South Texas ecoregion is highly regarded as the state's best bet for consistently producing trophy class bucks. Experts say bucks 4 1/2 years old and up represented 64 percent of the buck harvest there in 2023 — the highest percentage of mature buck harvest in the state last season. (Texas Big Game Awards Photo)

fall should put this area on the priority list,” he said. “Hunter success during 2023 in this region was 79 percent. Despite the current drought conditions, the Edwards Plateau is a great deer hunting region, especially for hunters looking for quantity of animals. It consistently produces one of the highest hunter success rates in the state.”

Korzekwa says hunters looking for older age class bucks this season should focus on the area between Hondo to Del Rio and north of Highway 90. The three-year average there shows nearly 65 percent of bucks harvested are 4 1/2 years old or older.

South Texas Plains: Trophy hunters gravitate to the Brush Country, mainly because of its reputation for producing mature bucks and above average antler quality. Bucks 4 1/2 years old and up represented 64 percent of the buck harvest in 2023 — the highest percentage of mature buck harvest in the state last season. The trend in older age class harvest is expected to continue with the 2024 season. Overall hunter success was estimated at 79 percent.

Korzekwa says 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 year old age classes will be

abundant this season and offer plenty of mature bucks in the coming years.

“Many ranches in the region manage for older age class bucks, and the 5 1/2 to 6 1/2 year age class should be well represented this year,” he said. Properties “stacking” bucks into the mature age classes over the last several years should see a good pool of mature bucks available for harvest.”

The eastern region of South Texas has received quality springtime rainfall and should expect an above-average season, while the western region of South Texas has experienced severe drought conditions and will likely be average or slightly below average.

Post Oak: Korzekwa says the Post Oak Savannah ecoregion has enjoyed a good spring, which should result in average or above average fawn production and good antler quality this fall. He pointed out the region's sex ratio is skewed, averaging nearly four does to every buck. Age and antler surveys indicate 39 percent of the 2023 buck harvest was animals 4 1/2 or older. Harvest success was 70 percent..

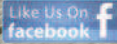
“There should be a good crop of bucks this season in the

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4 1/2 plus classes based on previous fawn crops,” he said. With adequate rainfall this spring, hunters should have opportunities to harvest a quality buck that is at least 4 1/2 years old.”

Pineywoods: Recent survey data indicates the Pineywoods deer population is right in line with the last three years — about 331,500 animals. Densities are highest around the Tyler area, about 31.8 deer per 1,000 acres; lowest between Beaumont and Houston, 4.6 deer per 1,000 acres.

The region saw relatively low fawn production in 2021 and 2022, but jumped to 30 percent in 2023, which led to localized population increases in some areas. Hunter success last year was 59 percent.

Antler restrictions are in effect here, and it shows. Korzekwa says

51 percent of the bucks harvested in 2023 were 3 1/2 or older; 24 percent, 4 1/2 or older. Hunters should expect the same trend for 2024.

Cross Timbers: The North Texas ecoregion maintains the

state’s second highest deer population, about 755,000 animals. Hunter success last season was 71 percent, with 41 percent of the bucks averaging 4 1/2 plus.

Korzekwa says hunters focusing on mature bucks should not be disappointed this season. Timely spring rainfall should yield similar harvest rates for this year and historical fawn recruitment should produce an above-average mature buck harvest.

Rolling Plains (East and West): Deer densities are lower than most ecoregions, but long term population trends point to stable numbers. Hunter success last season was about 70 percent.

Korzekwa says 61 percent of the buck’s shot in the WRP last season were 4 1/2 or older; 53 percent in the eastern part. Similar trends are expected this season.

“Both ecoregions have been hotbeds for mature buck harvest, and 2024 is expected to be another great season,” he said.

Matt Williams is freelance writer based in Nacogdoches. He can be reached by email, mattwillwrite4u@yahoo.com. ■

Good moisture early in the year spurs the production of nutrient-rich forbs that jump start antler growth on bucks while helping does stack on fat reserves to bolster fawn production and lactation. (Photo by Matt Williams)



Whitetail Forecast Takeaways and Reminders

- * Good spring/early summer rainfall promotes improved habitat conditions that lead to good antler growth and fawn production.
- * By June 2024, over 70 percent of Texas experienced either no drought conditions or was only considered abnormally dry. Despite the expected hot and dry conditions during the summer, the spring boost should result in an increase in the quality of deer harvested this fall.
- * Ranches that do a good job managing deer numbers, improving native habitats and providing supplemental feed will see consistent improvements in the deer population over time.
- * Modern hunters are much more mindful about deer management than 20 years ago. In 2005, only 21 percent of harvested bucks statewide were 4 1/2 or older. Last season, the number jumped to a record 53 percent.
- * Doe days are expanded to 23 days in Pineywoods and Post Oak counties that previously has a 16 day antlerless season.



Hunting Season	EcoRegion	# Hunters	Hunter Days	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest
*2022-23	Blackland Prairies	19,459	251,235	8,965	9,342
*2022-23	Cross Timbers and Prairies	110,746	1,298,493	54,072	44,164
*2022-23	Edwards Plateau	168,513	1,578,548	97,670	79,929
*2022-23	Gulf Prairies and Marshes	14,875	200,774	7,832	6,700
*2022-23	High Plains	3,770	36,855	2,642	1,604
*2022-23	Pineywoods	119,304	1,786,606	45,957	39,634
*2022-23	Post Oak Savannah	113,089	1,308,885	44,636	33,878
*2022-23	Eastern Rolling Plains	58,684	677,852	27,272	25,857
*2022-23	Western Rolling Plains	34,640	371,013	14,910	7,549
*2022-23	South Texas Plains	93,833	908,302	61,716	49,637
*2022-23	Trans-Pecos, Mountains and Basins	14,467	117,529	8,304	7,078
*2022-23	Urban	2,038	14,356	849	472
*2022-23	Statewide	753,418	8,550,448	377,394	303,277
*2023-24	Blackland Prairies	20,591	236,218	10,967	4,718
*2023-24	Cross Timbers and Prairies	109,542	1,350,913	57,894	44,632
*2023-24	Edwards Plateau	162,117	1,644,558	109,156	79,062
*2023-24	Gulf Prairies and Marshes	14,688	173,439	9,564	8,289
*2023-24	High Plains	5,628	60,899	3,826	2,933
*2023-24	Pineywoods	122,994	1,810,619	46,034	36,470
*2023-24	Post Oak Savannah	113,111	1,296,523	56,873	42,719
*2023-24	Eastern Rolling Plains	57,791	619,259	31,370	19,000
*2023-24	Western Rolling Plains	30,337	311,004	13,007	9,309
*2023-24	South Texas Plains	97,325	982,916	73,578	56,618
*2023-24	Trans-Pecos, Mountains and Basins	20,179	201,357	12,114	8,799
*2023-24	Urban	2,745	30,956	1,530	1,403
*2023-24	Statewide	757,047	8,718,659	424,892	314,972

Texas has more white-tailed deer than any other state (4.7 million) along with an army of deer hunters numbering upwards of 757,000. This chart compares harvest numbers by region for the two previous seasons. Texas deer hunters shot an estimated 740,000 whitetails last year and experienced a 68 percent success rate statewide. Experts say late spring and early summer moisture has set the stage for a banner 2024-25 season in most parts of the state. (TPWD Graphic)



Total Harvest	% Bucks	% Does	% Hunter Success	Harvest per Hunter	Hunter Days per Hunter	Harvest per 1000ac	Hunters per 1000ac
18,307	49	51	62	0.94	12.91	6.44	6.85
98,236	55	45	69	0.89	11.72	8.05	9.07
177,599	55	45	73	1.05	9.37	8.82	8.36
14,533	54	46	73	0.98	13.50	7.84	8.02
4,247	62	38	73	1.13	9.78	2.37	2.11
85,591	54	46	59	0.72	14.98	5.98	8.34
78,514	57	43	59	0.69	11.57	5.23	7.53
53,129	51	49	67	0.91	11.55	5.70	6.30
22,459	66	33	59	0.65	10.71	1.58	2.43
111,353	55	45	77	1.19	9.68	6.66	5.61
15,382	54	46	84	1.06	8.12	3.46	3.26
1,321	64	36	80	0.65	7.05	2.72	4.19
680,671	55	45	64	0.90	11.35	6.00	6.64
15,685	70	30	68	0.76	11.47	5.52	7.24
102,525	56	44	71	0.94	12.33	8.40	8.97
188,218	58	42	79	1.16	10.14	9.34	8.05
17,853	54	46	69	1.22	11.81	9.63	7.92
6,758	57	43	80	1.20	10.82	3.78	3.15
82,505	56	44	59	0.67	14.72	5.77	8.60
99,592	57	43	70	0.88	11.46	6.63	7.53
50,370	62	38	70	0.87	10.72	5.41	6.21
22,316	58	42	69	0.74	10.25	1.57	2.13
130,197	57	43	79	1.34	10.10	7.79	5.82
20,913	58	42	86	1.04	9.98	4.71	4.54
2,933	52	48	90	1.07	11.28	6.03	5.65
739,864	57	43	68	0.98	11.52	6.52	6.68



By PCPC Staff

Fish one of the largest lakes in the state, hike quiet trails through the forest or camp under the trees at Lake Livingston State Park which is located on the east shore just above the dam, occupying over 650 acres on the second largest man-made lake in Texas. At Lake Livingston State Park, you can swim, fish, boat, hike, bird, camp, picnic, mountain bike, geocache and study nature. Activities for the entire family include boat launching, camp sites, walking trails, bird and animal habitats including ponds, native plant gardens and pier fishing.

Many camping options are available, from tent sites with water nearby up to campsites with full hookups. You can also rent one of 10 screened shelters, some of which are ADA-accessible, or book one of the group sites for your next reunion.

Lake Livingston is one of the largest lakes in the state, noted for its white bass population. You might catch catfish, crappie, bass or that kid favorite - perch. The park has three boat ramps, two fish cleaning stations, a fishing pier and bank fishing. You may bring your own watercraft or rent one of the 10 double kayaks.

The park opened a new nature center in 2016 and installed a new observation beehive, where visitors can watch bees bring back nectar and pollen and see the queen bees lay eggs. A new amphitheater and archery

range opened in recent years.

The park's trail system is marked to include the Trinity Trace Trail of three miles that connects the park's campsites, while offering excellent forest and wildlife viewing. The Bakba Trail provides hikers with a two-mile loop through the park.

The Pineywoods Nature Trail Boardwalk is an improved trail, handicapped-accessible, and covers just under a mile. It offers exposure to both wetlands and woodlands habitat, including the bird blind and duck pond. In season, there is an active pollinator garden with plants designed to attract all pollinators, including butterflies.

The Oak Flat Trail is a short one-third of a mile walk with a self-guided tour. The Fo:si (the Alabama-Coushatta word for "bird") Trail is a walk of a half-mile through deep woods connecting many other trails.

The park offers fishing from one pier and the shoreline. Anglers and others also may launch boats in the park to access small coves around the park's shoreline. If you are fishing from the pier or shoreline you do not need a fishing license, but bag limits must be observed regardless of where you fish. Those fishing from boats are required to have licenses regardless of where they launch.

Depending on the season, you may catch black bass, striped bass, white bass, yellow bass, blue, channel and hybrid catfish, black and white crappie and many varieties of bluegill, red ear, green, long ear and hybrid sunfish,

Welcome to LAKE LIVINGSTON STATE PARK



which are always a treat for the youngsters.

For those staying overnight or longer, the park offers tent camping areas, full hook-up water and electric areas and screened shelters. There are restrooms scattered throughout the park and dump stations for you to use before leaving for the day.

Biking is allowed on the Fosi Trail and the Trinity Trace Trail and there are bike racks at the Pineywoods Nature Trail Boardwalk entrance.

Throughout the year, the park hosts a number of monthly activities such as guided nature hikes and programs such as introduction to geocaching, backyard bass fishing games, fire is living history, sungazing, star stories stargazing program, kayaking with a ranger, arts in the park and others. While the cost of these programs is free – other than the normal park admission – the geocaching and kayaking programs have limited space. Those wishing to take part should make a free reservation by calling the park store at 936-365-2201 ext. 2060.

Activities are also available to groups by reservation and can be tailored to the group's interests. For availability and information, contact Ranger Eric at 936-365-2201 ext. 2058.

The park is open daily and admission is \$6 for adults with children 12 and under admitted free of charge. Annual family passes are also available. For information about the park, call 936-365-2201 or go online to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/lake-livingston. ■

COOL THINGS TO DO AT THE LAKE LIVINGSTON STATE PARK:

- Check out the view from the top of the lookout tower.
- Splash in the shallow areas near the bank on Lake Livingston.
- Hike or mountain bike on trails or park roads.
- The park participates in a "Tackle Loaner Program" to encourage angler education. If you need fishing equipment or a few tips, just ask a park staff member.
- Special events and programs are scheduled all the time. Check the calendar when you visit and online at www.tpwd.tx.us so you don't miss the fun!
- Rent a canoe, kayak or stand-up paddleboard for as little as \$10 per hour (tax included).



'Old School' Catfishing

By Luke Clayton

A fishing trip last week began as many do, with a telephone conversation. I called my long time friend Jason Barber who guides for about anything that swims to get an update on the fishing for a radio show.

"How is the catfishing? The channel cats should be in shallow water big time about now, right?" I quizzed. "You bet! They are a dime a dozen around docks, bulkheads and shallow vegetation on just about any type catfish bait you choose to use. With all the fresh water, we've been loading up on blue catfish using fresh cut shad. Let's pick a time for you to join me and we will stock your freezer with blues," was Jason's reply.

My next question, I probably would not ask many of my guide buddies but I know Jason's roots were much the same as mine, he grew up fishing for a variety of species and I remember him talking about fishing with cane poles back in the day.

"What do you think about cutting some cane poles and fishing 'old school', off the bank for channel catfish? We can go after the blues soon but it sure would be fun to enjoy some nonstop action on these good eating little channel cats," says I. Jason was all in and replied that he knew where a stand of river cane is growing. He would cut a few poles, rig them up and meet me at his home marina, Sandy Shores Marina and RV Park, the following afternoon.

Fishing with a cane pole is a simple but effective method of catching lots of fish when they are in shallow water. All that is needed is a pole about 8 to 10 feet long, about 15 feet of twenty pound test line, a floater and hook that matches the species and a split shot to keep the bait down. For channel catfish, a #6 or #4 treble hook is perfect. I grew up fishing for bass with my parents who were avid cane pole bass anglers using a standard J type hook and live minnows. My love of fishing with cane poles go way back to when my Dad and I stabbed the poles baited with chunks of cut sunfish in the soft banks of Pecan Creek in Red River County and checked them during the first couple hours of dark. When we needed a 'mess' of catfish, this was usually a high percentage method.

As I pulled into the parking lot at Sandy Shores, I spotted Jason's truck immediately. It had three freshly cut cane poles in the bed and my buddy was in his boat dockside tidying things up after a guide trip earlier in the day.

I asked Jason where we were going to fish and he pointed toward the shallow water in the cove. I glanced at my buddy's big center console guide boat tied to the dock with all the modern day bells and whistles and then at the three green sticks of freshly cut cane we were planning to fish with.

"This is going to be a bit different fishing trip than the one with clients you just wrapped up," I kidded.

"Yep, he replied. We won't be needing GPS or all this state-of-the-art sonar. What kind of catfish bait did you bring, Luke?" I had a mix-mash of three or four prepared baits, all of them with a cheese base. Some were 'dough' type baits and others had fiber which keeps them on the hook longer when making long casts. Since we were going to be dropping our baits vertically into the water, it's really didn't matter which bait we used, they all smelled like cheese and we were soon to discover they all quickly produced action when the hordes of catfish got a whiff of the cheese. Granted, when the aggressive channel catfish hit the dough baits, we either hooked them or it was time to bait. The baits with fiber stayed on the hook better and sometime lasted for a couple of 'strikes'.

We began fishing with floaters but soon learned most of the bites came from within inches of bottom. There was no need to use the split shot to keep the baits down, it seemed that when the bait slowly settled to bottom they attracted more instant strikes. The name of the game was keeping a close eye on the line. It was easy to see when a catfish took the bait and a quick hook set was key.

Chumming is a good way to concentrate the fish and I tossed out some of the older cheese bait when we first began fishing. During the first ten minutes or so the bite was sporadic but once the smelly chum was in the water for a bit, catfish had moved in like hogs to a feed trough. We fished a little over an hour and landed about 40 fish. We 'left em biting' as the saying goes.

I think the heaviest fish we landed might have weighed 2 pounds, most were a pound or just over. Most catfish eaters are also catfish eaters and there the question of which species is the tastiest when dusted with cornmeal and subjected to "Lake Crisco". Some swear by the flavor of blue catfish, others sing the praises of flatheads. But few fish eaters I know will object to setting down to a big platter of crispy fried channel catfish fillets. As Jason says, "When fried crispy, the fillets curl up and make a perfect scoop for tartar sauce or catfish." Some folks prefer to skin and fry smaller catfish whole and that's the way I grew up eating them. But these days, I prefer not to have to deal with the bones. It really doesn't matter one's preference, it's hard to beat the flavor of freshly caught channel catfish.

Jason says the channel catfish will be around shoreline cover for a few more weeks now. If you think you need an expensive fully rigged boat to go fishing, think again. As our little late afternoon outing proved, all you really need is a cane pole rigged for fishing, some cheese bait and the desire to fish.

Note- I filmed our little fishing trip for our TV show this week on A Sportsmans Life on YouTube and Carbon TV you might learn more about this simple but effective style of fishing by watching. Contact guide Jason Barber, King's Creek Adventures 903-603-2047. ■



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Squirrels

Possibly the Perfect Small Game

By Luke Clayton

Why would I think Mr. Busheytail is the perfect game animal? The reasons are many; squirrels are very challenging to hunt and pursuing them greatly increases one's hunting knowledge; they will teach you to become a better hunter! Squirrels are also plentiful across much of the state and finding a place to hunt them is usually easy. Finding a farmer or rancher receptive to allowing you to hunt deer can be challenging but the same folks will often open their gates to squirrel hunters. The fact that squirrels are excellent in a pot of dumplings or served with cream gravy and biscuits adds much to a squirrel hunt albeit fewer and fewer people today are aware of just how tasty squirrel meat can be.

First and foremost, you will need a tack driving rifle with enough punch to cleanly dispatch a squirrel from a limb 40 feet up in a tree. As a youngster, I owned a caliber pump air rifle that was very accurate out to about 25 yards. I killed a lot of squirrels with this little rifle, making head shots but I do remember it didn't have quiet enough "uumph" to cleanly dispatch squirrels with shots to the "vitals", especially if my aim was just a little bit off. Today, there are many excellent .22 caliber and .25 caliber air rifles on the market that do a great job on squirrels. A rifle used for squirrel hunting, whether powered by air or a rimfire .22, must consistently shoots very tight groups out to about 30 yards which is about the maximum distance most squirrels are killed. Just as a whitetail deer can "jump the string" on a bowhunter, a squirrel is known for being "active", especially 'cat' of gray squirrels in east Texas. For this reason, many east Texas hunters

go after their quarry with shotguns. Even if a rifle has the punch and accuracy to cleanly kill at extended yardages, keep in mind that squirrels do not set still for very long, especially gray squirrels. The farther the shot, the greater the margin for error! My goal when squirrel hunting is a head shot which results in very little meat loss.

Technique involved in hunting squirrel depends much upon where you hunt them. I have a good friend that owns a hunting ranch in eastern Texas. Throughout the year he keeps several corn feeders throwing corn twice a day. My enlightened buddy knows that if left unchecked and unharvested, busheytails would run rampant on his place and eat a large percentage of the corn intended to attract deer and hogs. A couple years ago, I went down and used my .25 Caliber air rifle to remove several of his pests/potential meals! After a tasty dinner of fried squirrel and gravy, my buddy vowed to take the time to clean every squirrel he shot. Squirrels are smart and prolific, just like wild hogs and try as he might, he will always have them nibbling away at his corn but now he keeps the numbers in check and has a lot of fun doing so. Obviously this is a specialized way of hunting squirrels but one I've used on many occasions. Just about every piece of hunting ground in the state of Texas has several corn feeders and whether the ranch is in the Texas Hill Country or east Texas, there seems to always be an abundance of busheytails around the golden kernels of corn which are distributed freely on a daily basis.

I'll settle into a likely area and usually lean against a tree wide enough to break the outline of my body. Usually there is a "lull" in squirrel movement when the woods are disturbed by an

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approaching hunter. Give them some time to settle back down and become active again. Usually, if I'm in a good spot, I'll see squirrels moving about or, hear their claws on bark. Patience is the name of the game when hunting squirrels. Just like when hunting turkeys, It's best to get the rifle up close to shooting position so you will be ready to shoot without making a great deal of movement. I often rest the rifle between my knees so that I can shift it a few inches and be in shooting position. Once a squirrel is shot, reload and remain quiet, within 15 minutes or so you will probably again see movement in the trees or on the ground. If you do not, it's time to move on to the next likely spot with plenty of squirrel sign.

Still hunting is another very effective method of hunting squirrels and one best suited for hunters that have a problem with setting still and remaining motionless.

There has been resurgence in small game hunting the past few years and I hope the trend continues. Regardless what game animal one hunts during his or her career, squirrel hunting is absolutely the best teacher. If you take only one bit of information away from this article, remember that a tack driving rifle is an absolute must! Your target is about the size of a half-dollar. Keep your shots close and within your effective range.

Many squirrel hunters go after their quarry with a shotgun loaded with #4 or #5 shot. I've taken lots of squirrels using a shotgun but these days I much prefer a tack driving rifle. Squirrel season runs through the end of May in east Texas and in the remainder of the state, the season never closes.

Contact Outdoors writer Luke Clayton through his website www.catfishradio.org ■



Warm Weather Meat Care

By Luke Clayton

Taking care of all that good eating pork after a successful hunt is of prime importance and it's a relatively easy task when hunting during the cold weather months but, what about those of us that enjoy hunting wild hogs throughout the year? If we're hunting a ranch with a walk in cooler to quickly chill the meat, all we have to worry about is a quick field dressing job and hanging the meat. But many of us hunt some pretty remote country where we simply don't have time to skin and quarter hogs in the field, especially after a long night hunt.

A few years ago, I learned a quick and easy method of taking care of the meat. Trust me, skinning and quartering a hog at two in the morning is not what this ole' hog hunter is looking forward to after a night hunt.

I learned a much faster and more efficient way of taking care of the meat when the animal is harvested away from my truck or ATV. I quarter the hog, hide on and remove the backstraps without ever "gutting" the animal. Granted, a little meat such as the tenderloins and ribs is lost using this method but a wild hog packs the majority of its pork in the hams, shoulders and backstraps. These choice cuts can easily be removed in the roughest of country in a matter of ten minutes.

Picture this: You are hunting a remote spot; it's midnight and you just downed a 170 pound sow that will make some fine eating. In a perfect world you would field dress the animal, back a truck up and you and a buddy would toss the carcass in the bed and go, post haste to a walk in cooler. But in this situation there is no walk in cooler and you don't have a buddy handy to help. Besides, you're getting a bit sleepy.

Here's the solution: Simply remove all four quarters, hide on. With a little practice, it's easy to find the ball joint on the hams and the shoulders because they are not connected by bone, are easy to remove. After the front shoulders are removed, the entire backstraps are easy to access and removing them simply requires a cut close to the backbone and a bit of 'filleting' to remove the straps from the upper ribs. You will note that it's much easier to keep the quartered sections clean in the field with the hide on and it's also much easier to transport the smaller "chunks" of meat out of the field. I simply lay the four quarters on the

ground, hide down and place the backstraps on top. If you are not around a camp with electricity, make sure and have a couple of electric lanterns in your truck. Drop the tailgate and you'll find that the quarters are very easy to skin out, and having them waist high makes the task even easier. Use your knife and disjoint the quarters, discarding the lower portions (shanks) of the leg. This task can easily be accomplished in a matter of fifteen minutes, even the first time you try it. By removing the shanks, your quarters will consist of prime pork and take up much less space in your cooler. Chunk all that fresh pork in your ice cooler (make sure and pack ice before the hunt), I usually bring two coolers on summer hunts, one filled with ice and the other empty to place the meat. I toss some meat in the bottom of the cooler; add ice and then more meat, making sure all the meat is in contact with ice so that it will chill quickly.

By the time you have your meat on ice, it's well past midnight and you are really getting sleepy. You no longer have to worry about the meat. I've kept pork perfectly fresh for 3 days during the summer in a good cooler by draining the water and adding ice periodically.

I've also developed an easy and painless way of packing the quarters. Up in Colorado's high country when I was outfitting and guiding elk hunters, we used pack frames to remove the heavy elk quarters from rough country but pack frames are a bit of overkill for hogs, at least in my opinion. I needed something that was light and easy to carry on these hog hunts and experimented with various straps until I found what works best for me. Take a 3 foot piece of nylon rope and attach a ring on each end and then wrap the rope with duct tape which serves as shoulder padding. Then simply tie an 18 inch pieces of cord on each ring at the end of the sling. When you are ready to pack out the quarters, slit behind the tendons and tie the cord on each piece. Pack the two hams together on one strap and the shoulders on another strap, this will insure that the load is perfectly balanced. I usually cut a small hole in the backstraps and thread them on above the quarters or place them in my hunting pack.

Hopefully these tips will help you on your "warm weather" hog hunt. ■

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SHOP EAST TEXAS

Celebrating 20 East Texan shopping sprees

By Kelli Barnes

In recognition of our twentieth shopping trip together, we decided to look back at some of our favorites and see how the businesses are doing today. Summertime is hot, but the shopping venues provide cool indoor spaces, a lot to see and in

some cases, special items to bring home and enjoy.

All the stores featured are still open for business, but exact items pictured may be unavailable, although similar items are still sold at each location. Also there are other specialty shops in each of these communities, so make a day of it!

Top 20, in no particular order:

METAL CUTOUT LEMONADE
His and Hers Merchantile
8505 Hwy. 59, Burke



THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT PERIWINKLE COFFEE MUG
Petalz by Annie
500 N. Washington,
Livingston

ZERO SUGAR WINE
The Rancher's Daughter
14387 Liberty St.,
Montgomery



VINTAGE PHONE REPLICA
Lorretta's Too Antiques
502 N. Magnolia, Woodville



FUN FROG
Junction Antique Mall
5447 US Hwy. 59 S,
Between Lufkin and Nacogdoches





CAMPFIRE COCKTAILS BOOK
Burlap Ranch Mercantile
121 Commerce, Tomball



LASER ENGRAVED CUTTING BOARDS
Happy Camper
411 N. Washington, Livingston



HAND PAINTED LONGHORNS
Southern Serape Boutique
103 E. Commerce, Jacksonville



CHECKERS SET
Bluebonnet Square Antique Mall
1110 11th St., Huntsville



STRIPED CHAIR
Layered Home
207 N. John Redditt Dr.,
Lufkin



SHOP EAST TEXAS



SALT WATER TAFFY
Gokey's Old Town Emporium
1106 State Hwy. Loop 393, Goodrich

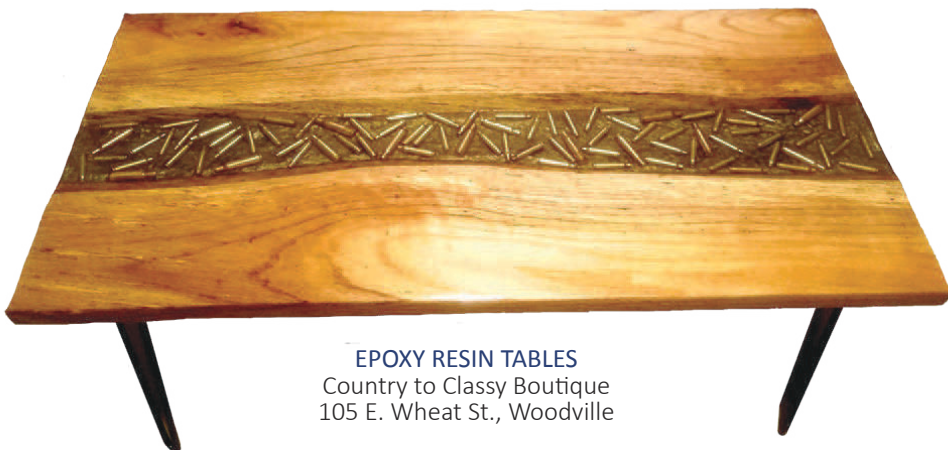


MEN'S DEER HORN BAND
Lufkin Jewelry
121 E. Frank Ave., Lufkin

HANDCRAFTED ICE CREAM SCOOP
Salt & Honey Marketplace
117 S. First St., Lufkin



BEE KEEPING STARTER KIT
Mott's Wholesale/TKC Knives
13250 FM 92, Spurger

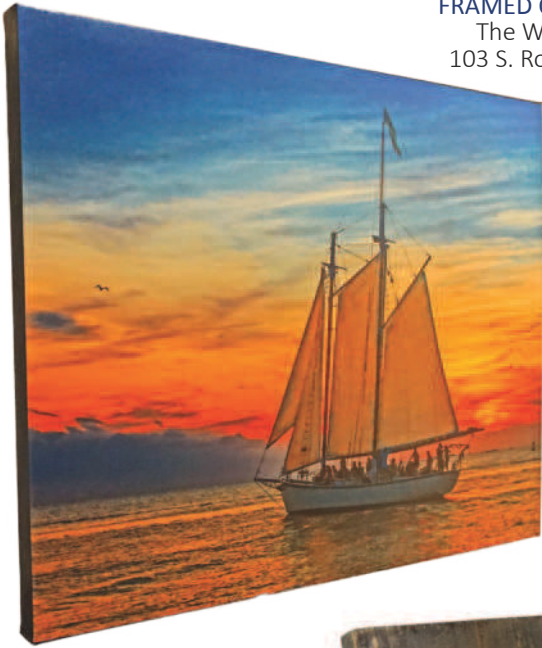


EPOXY RESIN TABLES
Country to Classy Boutique
105 E. Wheat St., Woodville



STORES FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

CRUSIN' THE KEYS
FRAMED CANVAS PRINT
The Way You Live
103 S. Robb St., Trinity



GOURMET POPCORN
SuSu's Popcorn & Candy Café
115 E. Main, Nacogdoches

CHEF'S MENU AND
BOTTLE HOLDER
Paradise Gardens
10 Hwy. 150, Coldspring



COOKBOOK HOLDER
Vintage Swank
929 N. Main St., Lumberton



METAL GUITAR
Cabana Sam's
1007 Hwy. 259 S, Henderson

JULY

Baytown

Fourth of July Celebration/Bicentennial Park
JULY 3-4

Waxahachie

Crape Myrtle Festival and Parade
JULY 3-4

Jefferson

Jefferson Salutes America
JULY 4

The Woodlands

Red, Hot and Blue Festival
JULY 4

Corsicana

July 4 Freedom Fest
JULY 4

Houston

4th of July Festival and Fireworks/Miller Outdoor Theater
JULY 4-5

Livingston

Fireworks over Lake Livingston, Onalaska Side
JULY 4

Kilgore

4th of July Extravaganza/Kilgore City Park
JULY 4

Groveton

Fireworks at the Y
JULY 4

Tyler

Freedom Fighter 5K/Bergfield Park
JULY 4

Beaumont

Annual 4th of July Celebration/Downtown Event Center
JULY 4

Beaumont

4th of July Celebration Concert/Julie Rogers Theater
JULY 4

Nacogdoches

July 4 Freedom Fest/Festival Park
JULY 4

Houston

July 4th Freedom Run/Eleanor Tinsley Park
JULY 4

Canton

Canton Balloon Fest 2024
JULY 5

Warren

Black Creek Rising: A Grassroots Music Fest/Black Creek Ranch, 358 Co Rd 1525
JULY 6

Tyler

Grease at the Tyler Civic Center
JULY 9

Houston

Totally Tubular Festival/713 Music Hall
JULY 10

Lufkin

Gene Watson at the Pines Theater
JULY 11

The Woodlands

Cage The Elephant/C W Mitchell Pavilion
JULY 12

Houston

Bridal Extravaganza Show/G R Brown Convention Center
JULY 13-14

Kirbyville

Kirbyville Country Music Show
JULY 13

The Woodlands

New Kids on the Block with DJ Jazzy Jeff/CW Mitchell Pavilion
JULY 13

Paris

Gene Watson at Love Civic Center
JULY 13-14

Livingston

Livingston Main Street Christmas in July
JULY 19-20

Lufkin

Zak Mirz: Flashes of Magic Tour/Pines Theater
JULY 19

Houston

Sara Evans at the Arena Theater
JULY 19

Fairfield

Fuzzy Peach Festival 2024
JULY 19-20

Crystal Beach

Houston Diesels Beach Bash 2024
JULY 20

Marshall

Gene Watson at Memorial City Performance Center
JULY 20

CALENDAR

Beaumont

Brick Fest Live/Ford Arena
JULY 20-21

Conroe

Beauty and the Beast at the Crighton Theater
JULY 21

Houston

Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus/NRG Stadium
JULY 21

Lufkin

Bellamy Brothers at the Pines Theater
JULY 25

Clute

Great Texas Mosquito Festival
JULY 25-27

Naples

Watermelon Festival and Rodeo
JULY 26-28

Corsicana

Gene Watson at the Palace Theater
JULY 26-27

Huntsville

William Lee Martin at the Old Towne Theatre
JULY 27

Houston

Zach Bryan at NRG Stadium
JULY 27

AUGUST

Tyler

Grease at the Tyler Civic Center
AUGUST 1-4

Houston

Shakespeare Festival/Miller Outdoor Arena
AUGUST 1-10

Longview

Classic Arms Longview Gun Show
AUGUST 3-4

Galveston

Dale Watson and His Lone Stars/Saengerfest Park
AUGUST 3

Carthage

27th Annual Classic Country Music Festival/Civic Center
AUGUST 9-11

Carthage

Linda Davis at the Carthage Civic Center
AUGUST 9

Lufkin

Annie at the Pines Theater
AUGUST 9

Houston

Luke Combs at NRG Stadium
AUGUST 10

Lufkin

Family Day at Texas Forestry Museum
AUGUST 10

Kirbyville

Kirbyville Country Music Show/Palace Theater
AUGUST 10

Orange

Blues Festival/Riverside Pavilion
AUGUST 10

Houston

Def Leppard and Journey at Minute Maid Park
AUGUST 14

Sugarland

Barry Manilow at Smart Financial Center
AUGUST 16

Colmesneil

Back to School Rally/Victory Camp Colmesneil
AUGUST 17

Houston

Santana and Counting Crows/Toyota Center
AUGUST 17

Lufkin

Pineywoods Comic Con/Pitser Garrison Civic Center
AUGUST 17-18

The Woodlands

Stone Temple Pilots/C W Mitchell Pavilion
AUGUST 22

The Woodlands

Sammy Hagar/C W Mitchell Pavilion
AUGUST 23

The Woodlands

Earth, Wind and Fire/C W Mitchell Pavilion
AUGUST 24

Lufkin

The Unknown Tour/Lufkin Convention Center
AUGUST 24

The Woodlands

Train and REO Speedwagon/C W Mitchell Pavilion
AUGUST 25

Tyler

Texas Rose Breed Show/Texas Rose Horse Park
AUGUST 26-27

The Woodlands

30 Seconds to Mars/C W Mitchell Pavilion
AUGUST 29

Canton

First Monday Trade Days
AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1

Huntsville

Bellamy Brothers at the Old Town Theater
AUGUST 30

Houston

Jennifer Lopez at the Toyota Center
AUGUST 31

Paris

Hatch Chile Fest/Paris Farmers and Artisan Market
AUGUST 31

Galveston

Galveston Island Shrimp Festival/Saengerfest Park
AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 1

SEPTEMBER

Houston

Big Salsa Festival/Westin Galleria
SEPTEMBER 1

Paris

Paris Balloon and Music Festival
SEPTEMBER 8-9

Marshall

Georgette Jones/Memorial City Performance Center
SEPTEMBER 14-15

Tyler

Downtown Tyler Art Festival
SEPTEMBER 14

CALENDAR

Hockley
The Bellamy Brothers at 2920 Roadhouse
SEPTEMBER 14

The Woodlands
Creed and 3 Doors Down at C W Mitchell Pavilion
SEPTEMBER 14

Kirbyville
Kirbyville Country Music Show/Palace Theater
SEPTEMBER 14

The Woodlands
Alice Cooper and Rob Zombie/C W Mitchell Pavilion
SEPTEMBER 15

Lufkin
Texas State Forest Festival/Expo Center
SEPTEMBER 19-22

Huntsville
Asleep at the Wheel/Old Town Theater
SEPTEMBER 21

Corsicana
Gene Watson at the Palace Theater
SEPTEMBER 21-22

Winnsboro
2024 Fall Gun Show
SEPTEMBER 21-22

Beaumont
A 5th of Tchaikovsky and Friends/Julie Rogers Theater
SEPTEMBER 21

Hockley
Tracy Byrd at 2920 Roadhouse
SEPTEMBER 27-28

Greenville
The Ultimate Eagles Experience/Municipal Auditorium
SEPTEMBER 27

Huntsville
The Malpass Brothers/Old Town Theater
SEPTEMBER 27

Mt. Pleasant
Titus County Fair
SEPTEMBER 27-28

Corsicana
Linda Davis at the Palace Theater
SEPTEMBER 28-29

Clear Lake Shores
Kemah Car Show
SEPTEMBER 28

Woodville
Ghosts and Legends of Texas Past/Heritage Village
SEPTEMBER 28

OCTOBER

Woodville
Tyler County Fair
OCTOBER 2-5

Corsicana
Beatlemania 64 Live/Palace Theater
OCTOBER 3

Marshall
Texas Sounds International Country Music Awards/Memorial City Hall Performance Center
OCTOBER 3-6

Lufkin
Fall Festival/Texas Forestry Museum
OCTOBER 4

Jasper
Fall Butterfly Festival/Sandy Creek Park
OCTOBER 5

Beaumont
Oktoberfest 2024/Beaumont Civic Center
OCTOBER 5

Huntsville
Fair on the Square/Walker County Fair Association
OCTOBER 5

Corsicana
Bellamy Brothers at the Palace Theater
OCTOBER 10

Lufkin
Ratatouille at the Pines Theater
OCTOBER 11

Nacogdoches
Pineywoods Fair/Expo Center
OCTOBER 11-15

Kirbyville
Kirbyville Country Music Show/Palace Theater
OCTOBER 12

Beaumont
Gabriel Iglesias at Ford Park Arena
OCTOBER 12-13

The Woodlands
Meghan Trainor at C W Mitchell Pavilion
OCTOBER 13

Houston

Electric Light Orchestra/Toyota Center

OCTOBER 16**Longview**

Lyle Lovett at the Belcher Center

OCTOBER 17**Seabrook**

37th Annual Harvest Moon Regatta/Lakewood Yacht Club

OCTOBER 17-20**Woodville**

Harvest Festival/Heritage Village

OCTOBER 18-19**Livingston**

Trade Days at Pedigo Park

OCTOBER 19-20**Lufkin**

Halloween Trail/Texas Forestry Museum

OCTOBER 19-31**Galveston**

42nd Annual Galveston Island Oktoberfest

OCTOBER 25-26**Houston**

Dashboard Confessional/Bayou Music Center

OCTOBER 25**Corsicana**

Moon Walker Memorial/Navarro County Expo Center

OCTOBER 25-26**Lufkin**

Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Pines Theater

OCTOBER 25**Colmesneil**

Harvest Party & Pumpkin Patch/Victory Camp Colmesneil

OCTOBER 26**Huntsville**

Bob Seger Tribute at the Old Town Theater

OCTOBER 26**Spring**

Ricky Skaggs at Dosey Doe, the Big Barn

OCTOBER 26-27**Paris**

24th Annual Festival of the Pumpkins/Downtown Paris

OCTOBER 26**Greenville**

Gene Watson at Greenville Municipal Auditorium

OCTOBER 26-27**Marshall**

Woodlawn Rodeo/Dewey Dossett Woodlawn Arena

OCTOBER 26-27**Houston**

International Quilt Festival 2024/G R Brown Convention Ctr

OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 3

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