

TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S NEWS

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Volume 17 Number 3

AUGUST, 2007

The Newsletter of The Texas Sportsman's Association

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

All roads lead to Mentz on Sept. 23

That's the big day for the Texas Sportsman's Assn. annual Fall Fund Raiser. The day's activities get under way at the Mentz dining hall at St. Roch's Catholic Church at 11 a.m. Lots of food, fun and fellowship are being planned.

A noon meal of barbecue beef and sausage and trimmings will be served. Adult plates will be available for \$6.50, children ages 6 to 12 for \$4.50 and children under 6 years of age are free.

Attendance prizes, penny raffle and a silent auction will be featured almost all day. Then at 1 p.m. the big live auction gets under way. Many outdoor items plus various other items will go on the auction block for your bidding.

The final and big event of the day is the drawing for the 21 raffle prizes. Seven guns, an electric butcher saw, hand-made quilt, scope, rod and reel, savings bonds, gift cards, BBQ grill and dominoes are some of the items listed

on the raffle ticket. A complete list of prizes and donors is as follows: Weatherby Vanguard Sporter 270 (\$580 value) donated by TSA; Remington SPR 310 20 ga. over & under (\$550 value) donated by TSA; Savage 116 243 Accutrigger (\$430 value) donated by TSA; electric butcher saw (\$400 value) donated by Heinsohn's Store; Remington 870 Express 12 ga. 3" (\$370 value) donated by TSA; hand-made quilt (\$250 value) donated by TSA; Savage 93 17 HMR (\$250 value) donated by TSA; Leopold Vari-X 1 3x9 scope (\$245 value) donated by TSA; Ruger 10-22 (\$220 value) donated by TSA; and Pinnacle Pro Rod & Reel combo (\$100 value) donated by TSA

Also: \$200 savings bond donated by Col. and Mrs. Robert A. Kubena of Lavaca County; \$100 savings bond donated by Columbus State Bank; \$100 savings bond donated by First State Bank

of Columbus; \$100 gift card to Academy donated by TRAFCO of Eagle Lake; \$100 savings bond donated by First National Bank of Bellville; \$100 gift card donated by Industry State Bank; \$100 savings bond donated by Carmine State Bank; Weber barbecue grill donated by Round Top State Bank; \$100 gift card to Bass Pro donated by Citizens State Bank of Sealy; \$50 gift certificate donated by Lindemann Store and set of dominoes donated by Buck and Ora Dell Kollman.

TSA no longer sends raffle tickets in the mail, but they are available if you are interested in buying or selling them. To get tickets, please contact one of the following TSA members: Doris Rinn, 979-357-2220; Brandee Froebel, 979-865-8046; Terrell Maertz, 979-732-5339; Buck Kollmann, 979-865-3811; Charles Abel, 979-885-2719.

We look forward to seeing you in Mentz on Sept. 23. Come one, come all!!

Guidelines explained for antlerless permits in Austin County

By ROYCE JURRIES
Colorado Co. Game Warden

The last few years we have had landowners inquiring about the possibility of harvesting a few does in areas where the deer numbers have been increasing. A few localized areas in Austin County have a relatively high deer density while other areas have very low deer numbers. There is a limited amount of quality deer food available in an area, and when the deer population

becomes too high, they will overuse the better deer foods and be forced to eat less desirable plants. In these situations, it is beneficial to remove a few of the does.

In counties where we have a fairly uniform deer population we issue permits over a fairly large area at the same rate based on spotlight census and herd composition data collected in the area.

The deer population in Austin County does not allow this

method to be applied here. Therefore, we have to look at the deer population on an individual ranch basis. We have done this in parts of Fayette and Colorado counties where we have a similar situation.

Any landowner who is interested in getting antlerless permits on his property has to conduct stand counts. Although this is not a true census method, it does allow us to make a conservative issuance of permits if the counts

are high enough.

If any landowner is interested in a possible issuance of a doe permit(s) on his property, the stand count form is available on the Colorado County Wildlife Management Association's web site at www.ccwma.org.

If you do not have access to the Internet, call my office at 979-732-3611 and I will mail the form to you.

The guidelines for this
(Continued on Page 3)

TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 26,
Columbus, TX 78934



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Visit TSA On Line!

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

<http://www.texassportsmansassociation.org>

The website is maintained by TSA Director Leslie Heinsohn.

TSA County Officers

Austin County

President — L.J. Rinn
Vice President — Duane Dudensing
Secretary — Doris Rinn
Treasurer — Charles Abel
Committeemen — Wilfred Eckardt and Duane Dudensing

Colorado County

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



FIRST FISH — Remember that first fish you hooked when you were a kid? More than likely, it was a little perch caught on a worm and a gold hook, or maybe a little catfish. Austyn Dungen has “set the bar” a little higher, and she’ll have this tale to tell the rest of her life. While fishing at Port Aransas this summer with her Uncle Mike, Austyn hooked, fought and landed (with only a little help) this “keeper” redfish, using a piggy perch caught in Uncle Mike’s cast net. Though it was her first time to go fishing, she’s hooked for life. Austyn is the daughter of Jeff and Debbie Dungen of Alvin, and the granddaughter of Maridel Dungen Anderson of New Ulm.

Texas Sportsman's Association Fall Fund Raiser Committees

Membership & Registration — Brandee Froebel, Robin Maertz

Sell Meal Tickets — Buck Kollmann, Marcella Maertz, Otto Loessin

Raffle — Terrell Maertz, Jerry Woodard, Charles Abel

Attendance Prizes — Dorothy Brune, Ruth Poncik

Auction — L.J. Rinn, Mary Lou Henneke, Joey Vykoukal

Silent Auction — Judy Tiemann

Desserts — Joyce Loessin, Ora Dell Kollmann, Geraldine Abel

Penny Raffle — R.WMaertz, Simon Borak

REMINDER:

Don't let the end of the month sneak up on you! Texas hunting and fishing licenses expire on Aug. 31

TSA hooks up with TOP

By HERMAN W. BRUNE

The Texas Sportsmens Association (TSA) entered the age of electronic cyber-technology by joining the loose-knit coalition known as the Texas Outdoor Partners (TOP). The simple step of being included in an email network put the TSA into the information loop concerning conservation legislation as it happened. It also allowed TSA to add its name to the list of conservation groups that either opposed or favored certain bills.

Other organizations that belong to the TOP include the Texas Wildlife Association, Coastal Conservation Association, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Texas Deer Association, the Texas Wildlife Management Association, the Exotic Wildlife Association, Quail Unlimited, and virtually every group in the state interested in hunting, fishing, trapping, or gun rights. The TOP is not a formally organized association asking for unanimous agreement on all issues. Rather it is set up so that members may agree or disagree within the ranks, but always come together whenever basic outdoor or property rights are threatened.

The TWA is the lead cow prompting attention whenever conservation legislation is scheduled for public hearing in committees. To date, the TSA has been included in letters to legislators opposing such anti-hunting bills as HB 2328. Introduced by Representative Woolley, from Houston, HB 2328

was an animal cruelty bill that had language confusing wildlife and livestock. It also threatened hog hunting, any hunting with hounds, trapping, and common practices implemented with livestock. The existence of the TOP enabled TWA lobbyist Kirby Brown to approach legislators with a list of conservation organizations that represented more than five million sportsmen in Texas. Ultimately the bill was amended to satisfy the outdoor community, as well as, the agriculture community.

An example of no action by TSA or the TOP came on HB 1334. This bill was meant to legalize crossbows during archery season. Currently, crossbows are legal during rifle season and with a handicap provision during archery season. The Lone Star Bow Hunters Association opposed HB 1334 and it died in the Senate Natural Resource committee.

An example of a favorable bill that TSA signed, with many other organizations, was HB 2006. This bill was commonly known as the eminent domain bill and sought to guarantee that landowners receive the actual value for property condemned by the state.

The TOP meeting, after the session, addressed issues of waning participation in the Legislative Sportsmens Caucus. There was discussion of coordinating TOP summer summits and to include the Sportmens Caucus at those gatherings. The TOP would be looking for various conservation groups to fund parts of the summits. The TSA was represented and participated as a contributor at the last Legislative Sportsmens Caucus.

Antlerless

Continued From Page 4

method require one stand per 100 acres. If the property requires two or more stands, the observers have to be in all of the stands at the same time. Each stand must be counted a minimum of five times for a minimum of one hour (morning or evening) during September. The stands can be baited. *This information has to be turned in on the property form if you are requesting permits.*

After you complete the five counts you can mail them to TPWD, 2215 B Walnut St., Columbus, Tx. 78934 or e-mail them to me at rwjur-ries@sbcglobal.net. We will issue the permits at the fall meeting to the landowners who qualify for a permit(s). This is a very conservative system but it does allow a few does to be harvested in the areas with relatively high deer densities. You will be required to keep a harvest data sheet that has to be turned in after the season ends.

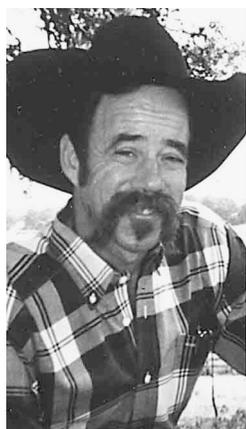
(Taken from Texas Parks and Wildlife's July 2007 Wildlife News)

In memory of
Alvin Lee Flentge
Austin County

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Looking Down from the Saddle By HERMAN W. BRUNE

Grasshoppers sizzled and flew through the shimmering mirage. The bugs clung to the dying bitter weeds along the driveway until my steps kicked them loose. It was easier walking along the packed sides of the track than in the soft sand. My low-quarter corrective shoes allowed sand burrs to collect in my socks and provided ticks open access to journey up my legs. My glasses slipped on my sweaty nose



and the sun burned my hatless skinny face. The morning coolness was gone and the sky was pale and open. There was nothing green in the landscape except the post oak and live oak trees. The lawn grass was burnt brown and the pasture was chewed to the dust. It was a typical summer day and my duty was to take Grandma her mail and collect the 10 cents that she paid. But it wasn't a typical day. It was July 2, my birthday.

Country kids celebrate the end of the school year like getting out of jail. However, the end of May also marks the beginning of a long summer. While there are all sorts of backwoods adventures waiting to happen, it doesn't take long for a youngster to see they're alone. My sister was still in diapers and my bicycle travel was restricted to crossing the Shaws Bend road to deliver Grandma's mail. My world needed to expand.

Television gave some respite. There was Cadet Don in the morning and Kitterick in the afternoon. If your mom remembered to call in, you'd get your name mentioned on TV on your birthday. But cartoons could only hold my attention for awhile. I had to be outside.

My circle of friends was growing in school. There was also a nucleus of close friends from Sunday school that were practically like family. Many of us had known each other since we were three years old. Then there were a few buddies whose moms or dads worked with my dad in town. If my luck held, one or two of my classmates would visit for a day in the summer – and a birthday was a good day for a visit.

Summer Birthdays

There were several boys that I begged to have come over. Darrell Kansteiner was another country kid that could use companionship. Then there was Rusty Klaus, Mark Venghaus, and Rocky Menke who all lived on the edge of town and knew something about both worlds. At noon, Dad's truck pulled into the driveway and a buzzed flattop head stuck up on the passenger side. It was Rocky and I grinned.

Rocky was cool. He was like Fonzie but in the '60s that would have been James Dean. His Mom worked with my Dad and both went to the Lutheran Church. He always had an even minded perspective of things and never got too flustered – except for the time he held that one big-eared kid down and made him eat dirt. Afterwards, they'd made up and everyone was partners again. Rocky played little league and did all the things designed for town kids. His folks also enjoyed hunting and fishing and I listened to him spellbound when he told his stories. Rocky was one of the first boys that I knew who owned a deer rifle.

We went in the house and had lunch, but I was itching to get outside and Mama finally let us escape.

"Why don't y'all go play and when you get back we'll have cake and ice cream." She knew that we'd be gone most of the afternoon. "Where are ya'll going to go?"

"We're going over to Grandma's," I answered. This covered a lot of ground. Going across the road entailed more than talking to Grandma. Our route would circle through the pastures and take us past all my hideouts.

We started by tramping down through the liveoaks and brush to Yaupon Creek. There was an old low water crossing where we could throw stones in one of the pools and search for fossils. Then we'd go under the bridge on the county road and come up through the horse pasture. This brought us to the cowpen barn.

"Come here I want to show you some-

thing," I said. We opened a barn door to a roomful of cottonseed. "Look here's one of my rat traps. I've got about a dozen set."

"You catch rats? Why?" asked Rock.

"Grandma says that these old barns get run over in the spring and summer. She wants me to catch 'em and gives me 10 cents for every rat. She had some old traps, but a couple of them busted and she bought me some new ones. I save my money and spend it on my horse collection when Daddy takes us on vacation."

Rocky seemed skeptical, but followed me through the barn checking my trapline. "Do you use cheese for bait?"

"Naw, I use bacon. It stinks more and I think these rats eat most anything." Then we went to the hay barn on the hill to check more traps, and then down to the horse lot. Here we climbed the ladder to the loft and crawled over the bales to where we could sit and dangle our legs out of the loft door.

"Man, your lucky," Rocky said. "You've got horses and cattle and all this land to run around on."

"Yeah, I find all kinds of stuff. C'mon, let's go see what kind of tracks we can find at the creek." We crawled again over the bales and down out of the loft. We stopped and dipped our hands in the water trough and spent a little time trying to catch tadpoles, then hit a cow trail and traipsed to a different creek crossing.

"Here's coon tracks," Rocky pointed out. I nodded and we followed the trail up the other bank and across a prairie. Our eyes were focused on finding critter sign and we paraded along watching the ground. A few hundred yards farther we reached a slight incline at a mot of trees. Rocky had taken the lead and stopped in the shade, then turned to look at me. I glanced up and suddenly his expression changed.

"Look!" and he pointed in an oblique direction behind us. I ducked and spun around. On the edge of the brush a deer browsed out of the timber. "It's a buck!" We both stood stock-still and watched. In a moment another deer emerged and soon two more stepped out of the brush.

"They're all bucks!" I whispered.

(Continued on Page 8)

Weatherwise, a year makes big difference

What a difference a year makes. Last year this time we were extremely dry with poor range conditions. This year everything looks good with excellent range conditions. The good ground cover should help fawn survival this year. It may also result in an excellent acorn crop this fall. At the time I am writing this article, it looks like we are in for a bumper crop of acorns. However, something could happen and the acorns don't mature. It may be the first good post oak acorn crop in the past ten years. A good acorn year reduces the deer harvest, but it also allows more bucks to live another year resulting in bigger antlers the following season.

Even though last year the range conditions were rather bad during the antler growing season, there were some very nice bucks taken in Austin and surrounding counties last season. This increase in better bucks is a result of the antler restriction regulations that have been in place for the last five seasons. This regulation has greatly increased the number of older age bucks in the herd. Prior to the new regulations, only about four percent of the bucks harvested in the six original counties where this regulation started were 4.5 years of age or greater. Last year 39 percent of the bucks harvested in these six counties were in this age group. You have to get age on bucks before they can express their antler genetic potential. We should continue to see a lot of nice bucks taken in future seasons because of the improvement in the age structure of bucks in the deer herd.

The 2007 season will be the sixth and final for the check stations in the original six counties. We feel that we will have collected enough information to thoroughly analyze the antler restriction regulations as well as the additional tag for a spike. The Bellville check station will be moved to the Bellville Quick Stop at 1216 Front Street for the 2007 season.

(Taken from Texas Parks and Wildlife's July 2007 Wildlife News)



RARE RACCOON — Here are some recent pictures of the red/orange raccoon that frequents deer feeders owned by TSA Secretary Brandee Froebel. His coat turned from a nice reddish orange to orange/white for the summer.

Reading weather signs

My MARSHA MOULDER

I had a couple of ranchers tell me there is no such thing as too much rain. Oh yeah.

When your grass is so sour it stinks, which I have heard is happening in places, I think that qualifies as too much rain.

In the last issue of AgriScope, Bob Rose, meteorologist with the Lower Colorado River Authority, predicted the remainder of the summer and into early fall to continue to be wetter than normal.

I received some information from a gentleman in Hallettsville, who preferred his name not be published, about weather signs. I thought some readers might find this interesting:

“August weather starts where July weather left off. If it is hot on Aug. 4, that foretells a cold winter. If, continually hot from St. Peter's Day on June 29 till St. Lawrence on Aug. 10, usually winter will last a ‘cold’ longtime. Aug. 10 shows the kind of fall to expect. Rain on Aug. 10th means an abundance of mice. By Aug. 10, the warm days start vanishing.

“Aug. 24 — if wind comes from the south, farmers should start plowing slowly. If wind comes from the north, farmers rush your plowing as bad weather could set in.

“As warm as Aug. 28 is; that is about as cold as it will be Nov. 11.

“Weather on Sept. 1 usually shows the weather for the whole month. If rain on Sept. 1, the second cut of crop will rot in the field.

“If good weather on St. Matthew (Sept. 21), the weather will hardly change for the next four weeks.

“These weather signs were compiled from weather kept day and night for 100 years. If weather performed on majority of days over the years, then a weather sign was written. You have to keep some days open so our Lord can have his weather also,” the gentleman wrote.

He went on to say, “Let me tell you about the accuracy of a weather sign ... June 24 is the Feast of St. John the Baptist. We attended Mass at Gonzales the evening of the 24th, and Father Paul Raz had a beautiful homily about St. John. After Mass, I shook his hand and told him in the farming areas, if you wanted rain before the Feast of St. John you had to pray for it. And after the Feast of St. John, it would come without prayers. I told him all week before the Feast of St. John, it just drizzled and we got 1/10 to 3/10 of an inch every other day. By the morning after the Feast Day, we got over 2 inches of rain. And in days, Marble Falls and Georgetown got up to 20 inches of rain. You can bet your best horse on this weather sign. Also, if there is lots of rain on the 24th, you can expect a reduced pecan crop. My daughter can attest to this; she tells me her pecan trees are shedding their small nuts by the bucketfuls,” he wrote.

I'm thinking someone better dig up the blueprints for the ark and start sawing lumber.

Marsha Moulder is the editor of AgriScope. This article appears in the newsletter with her permission.

Deer season is just around the corner

By **SONNY ALANIZ**
Austin County Game Warden

Well, hunting season is just around the corner so I'd just like to take this opportunity to provide a refresher course on some of the rules and regulations for game animals, specifically white-tailed deer here in Austin County.

We have had plenty of rain providing plenty of food for the deer to eat. The deer are looking good and I expect a good hunting season.

The season for white-tailed deer in Austin County begins with archery season beginning Sept. 29 and ending Nov. 2. Two doe and two bucks can be harvested during this time with legal archery equipment.

The General Season begins Nov. 3 and ends Jan. 6. Only two bucks and no doe are allowed to be harvested during the general season. The total bag limit for *both seasons combined* is four (two bucks, two doe).

The bucks harvested must meet the Special Antler Restrictions which are mentioned in this article. The civil restitution for harvesting or being in possession of an illegal deer starts off at \$800.

White-Tailed deer harvested that do not coincide with the above regulations must have an MLD or LAMPS permit attached to it.

I hope the following information helps. Just in case you may want more information most of this can be found in the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

Hunter Education

Every hunter (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must successfully complete a Hunter Education Training Course. Minimum age of certification is 12 years and cost is \$15.

If you were born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, and you are:

Under 12 years of age, you must be accompanied.*

Age 12 through 16, you must successfully complete a hunter education course or be accompanied.*

Age 17 and over, you must successfully complete a hunter education course; or purchase a "Hunter Education Deferral" and be accompanied.*

Hunter Education Deferral (cost: \$10) - Allows a person 17 years of age or older who

has not completed a hunter education program to defer completion for up to one year. A deferral may only be obtained once and is only valid until the end of the current license year. A person who has been convicted or has received deferred adjudication for violation of the mandatory hunter education requirement is prohibited from applying for a deferral.

*Accompanied by a person who is at least 17, who is licensed to hunt in Texas, who has passed hunter education or is exempt (born before Sept. 2, 1971), and you must be within normal voice control. Proof of certification or deferral is required to be on your person while hunting.

White-Tailed Deer Season

Managed Lands Deer (MLD) Permits — Permits issued to landowners with a TPWD-approved Wildlife Management Plan. MLD permits allow hunters, at the discretion of the landowner or agent, to exceed the county bag limit and (in some cases) to hunt during an extended season. All deer taken on a property for which MLD permits have been issued must be tagged with the appropriate type of MLD permit. NOTE: No license log entry or tag from a hunting license is required for deer killed under a MLD permit (see license log requirement above). For more information about Wildlife Management Plans, landowners should call TPWD at (512) 389-4505.

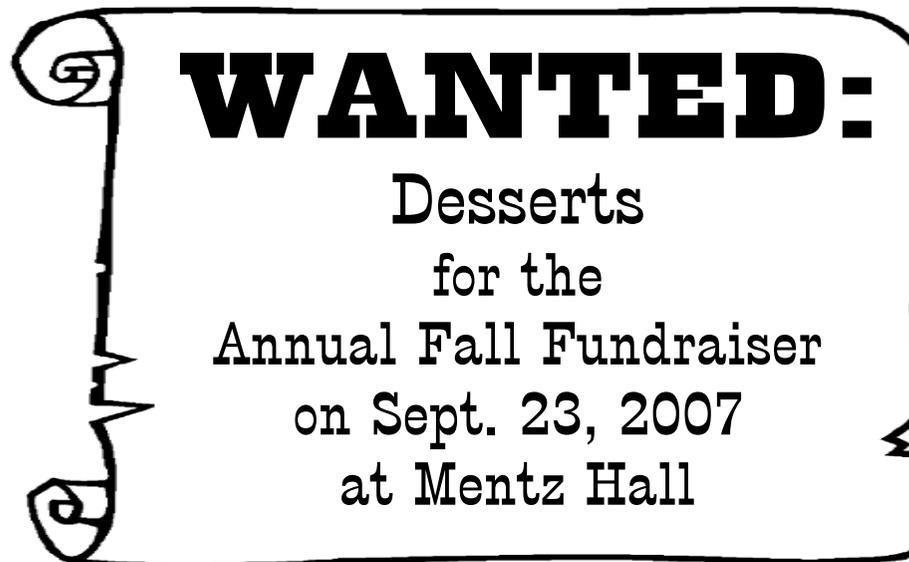
LAMPS permits allow antlerless deer to be taken in counties where antlerless harvest is by permit only during the entire season or portion of a season. For more information, landowners should contact TPWD at (409) 489-0823 or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/permits/land/wildlife_management/lamps. All antlerless deer taken on a LAMPS property must be tagged with a LAMPS permit. This does not include antlerless deer taken during the Archery Only Season or Muzzleloader Only Season. NOTE: No hunting license log or hunting license tag is required for deer killed under a LAMPS permit.

For information about antlerless deer permits on National Forest lands, please call the U.S. Forest Service in Lufkin at (936) 639-8501.

Special Antler Restrictions

(Continued on Page 7)

WHATEVER WORKS: Well isn't that the pits! You've caught all these delicious panfish, and now you discover you forgot to bring your fish scaler. No problem. Just use a spoon. Might take a little while longer, but it gets the job done.



TSA welcomes new members

The Texas Sportsman's Association welcomes new memberships. Dues are only \$5 per year, and memberships run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of each year except for lifetime memberships. All TSA memberships expire on Dec. 31 each year.

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

Deer Season

Continued From Page 6

— In Austin, Bastrop, Bell, Bosque, Bowie, Brazoria, Burleson, Caldwell, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Colorado, Comal (E. of I-35), Comanche, Coryell, Delta, DeWitt, Eastland, Erath, Fannin, Fayette, Fort Bend, Franklin, Goliad, Gonzales, Gregg, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Harrison, Hays (E. of I-35), Hopkins, Houston, Jackson, Karnes, Lamar, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Marion, Matagorda, Morris, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Somervell, Titus, Travis (E. of I-35), Upshur, Victoria, Waller, Washington, Wharton, Williamson, Wilson, and Wood counties, there are special regulations for buck deer. In these counties, the bag limit is two legal bucks, but only ONE may have an inside spread of 13 inches or greater. A legal buck deer is defined as having: a hardened antler protruding through the skin AND; at least one unbranched antler; OR an inside spread measurement between main beams of 13 inches or greater.

To determine if a buck has an inside spread measurement of at least 13 inches, look at the distance from ear-tip to ear-tip on a buck with ears in the alert position (see illustration).

Definition of a point: A point is a projection that extends at least one inch from the edge of a main beam or another tine. The tip of the main beam is also a point.

This does not apply to properties that have Level 3 MLD permits, or in counties where there is no open general season for white-tailed deer.

Age Restriction: In the applicable Special Youth-Only

counties, only licensed hunters 16 years of age or younger may hunt deer. Special Hunting License Required (Type 102).

October Special Youth-Only Season: Saturday and Sunday, October 28 - 29, 2006. All legal hunting means and methods are allowed, except Grayson County is archery only. All other deer hunting, other than by youth hunters, shall be by means of lawful archery and crossbows (hunters with upper limb disability) only. See bag limits below.

January Special Youth-Only Season: Saturday and Sunday, January 20 - 21, 2007. The season is open in all counties where there is a general open season for white-tailed deer. All legal hunting means and methods are allowed, except Grayson County is archery only.

October and January Special Youth-Only bag limit, take of antlerless deer, and special requirements: In Bowie, Brazos, Burleson, Camp, Cherokee, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Grayson, Gregg, Grimes, Hopkins, Houston, Lamar, Madison, Morris, Red River, Robertson, Rusk, Titus, Upshur, and Wood counties, the bag and permit requirements are the same as the period November 23 - 26, 2006 for each respective county www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/annual/hunt/county_listing/

For the remainder of the state, the bag and permit requirements are the same as for the first two days of the general season in the county. In a county where antlerless deer may be taken only by permit, a permit is required to take antlerless deer during the youth seasons.

Hunting Harvest License Log — Immediately killing a white-tailed deer the hunter must complete the log, in ink, on the back of the hunting license. Failure to complete the log as required may result in a fine not to exceed \$500 for each deer improperly logged. New: Asterisks indicate bucks of at least 13*.

Completion of the log is not required for mule deer, or for white-tailed deer lawfully taken under a MLD permit, LAMPS permit, TPWD Special Drawn Public Hunt permit, U.S. Forest Service antlerless permit, or on a Big Time Texas Hunt.

Criminal Penalties and General Law

If you violate fish and wildlife laws, in addition to civil restitution you may: be fined (Class C - \$25-\$500; Class B - \$200-\$2000; Class A - \$500-\$4000; State Jail Felony, \$1500-\$10,000); be jailed (Class B and higher offenses); face automatic suspension or revocation of licenses for up to 5 years; Forfeit hunting gear, including firearms, used to commit a violation.

CIVIL RESTITUTION: In addition to the criminal penalty for hunting and fishing violations, the department will seek the civil recovery value for the loss or damage to wildlife resources. The civil restitution cost is payable to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is in addition to the fine assessed by the court. Failure to pay the civil recovery value will result in the department's refusal to issue a license, tag, or permit. An individual who hunts or fishes after the refusal commits a class A misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine not less than \$500 or more than

\$4,000; punishment in jail not to exceed one year; or both fine and confinement. For questions concerning civil restitution call (512) 389-4630.

INSPECTION AUTHORITY: A game warden who observes a person engaged in an activity governed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code or reasonably believes that a person is or has been engaged in such an activity may inspect:

any license, permit, tag, or
(Continued on Page 8)

Help!! Help!!

We are in need of desserts for our Fall Fund Raiser on Sept. 23. The calories and goodies would be most appreciated.

Also, attendance prizes and auction items could be used. Can you help us with any of these?

Austin County Unit Calendar of Events

Sept. 11 — Quarterly Meeting at Cat Spring Hall. Social 7 p.m. with meeting to follow.

Oct. 28 — Variety Shoot, Cat Spring Hall, 1 p.m.

Dec. 2 — Annual Christmas Party, New Ulm Firemen's Park, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

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

Summer Birthdays

Continued From Page 4

Rocky was big-eyed and staring.

"Man, four bucks! And look at 'em. There's two little ones, and a six-pointer, and an eight-pointer! Maybe two of 'em are eight-pointers!"

"Well, their horns are still growing. It's hard to tell how many points they really have," I said.

"Yeah, but two of 'em are pretty big!"

"Boy, I'd like to shoot one of them next year!" I said, but I knew better. There was no way my folks would let me go hunting by myself.

"I'd shoot that big one!" Rocky said.

"Heck, I'd like to shoot any of them," I said.

"Naw, I just want to shoot the big one."

"What would you do if one of the little ones came out first?" I asked.

"I'd wait. There's no point in shooting a little one. You gotta wait and shoot the big ones!"

"What if a big one doesn't come out?"

"Then you go hunting again some other time!" he answered.

I marveled at my friend and knew he was right. Soon the deer went back into the brush and we continued our expedition.

That day's explorations ended with birthday cake and ice cream – but the trails we followed remain, in the soil and in my mind. And some of the tracks and ideas we find today seem as new as they did yesterday.

other document issued by the department and required by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code of a person hunting or catching wildlife resources;

any device that may be used to hunt or catch a wildlife resource;

any wildlife resource in the person's possession; and

The contents of any container or receptacle that is commonly used to store or conceal a wildlife resource.

The full text of this law may be found at www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/statutes.html or call TPWD at (800) 792-1112 (press 9, then 4381).

It is unlawful to: Fish on privately owned waters, fish in public water from private land, or hunt on privately owned lands without the permission of the owner or the owner's agent. Under the Texas Penal Code (§30.05) it is an offense for any person to enter property that is fenced, posted with a sign(s), or marked (purple paint) without the express permission of the owner. Posts or trees bearing purple paint marking of not less than eight inches in length and not less than one inch in width at not less than three or more than five feet from the ground constitute notice that the property is posted. A person who hunts without landowner consent and kills a desert bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, white-tailed deer, or mule deer commits an offense that is a Parks and Wildlife Code state jail felony. Upon conviction, your hunting and fishing license is automatically revoked. You are not required to have a fishing license to fish in private waters in Texas; but, if you are on private property while fishing in public water, a fishing license is required.

Deer Season

Continued From Page 7

Discharge a firearm on or across a public road.

Transfer of Wildlife Resources

A person may give, leave, receive, or possess any species of legally taken wildlife resource, or part of the resource, that is required to have a tag or permit attached or that is protected by a bag or possession limit if the wildlife resource is accompanied by a Wildlife Resource Document (WRD) from the person who killed or caught the wildlife resource.

For deer, turkey, or antelope, a properly executed WRD shall accompany the wildlife re-

source or part of the resource until it reaches its final destination and it is finally processed.

No WRD is required to possess a wildlife resource that is required to be tagged if the wildlife resource is tagged.

For all other wildlife resources, a properly executed WRD shall accompany the wildlife resource until it reaches the possessor's permanent residence or a cold storage/processing facility, except:

No WRD is required if a person receiving the wildlife resource does not exceed the possession limit.

VARIETY SHOOT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28 - 1 p.m.

Cat Spring

Agricultural Society Hall

\$1.50 per shot - shells furnished (12, 16 & 20 gauge)

Special Feature: 1 round exclusively for youngsters 12 & under

Sponsored by:

**The Austin County Unit
of the**

Texas Sportsman's Association

*Get involved in
TSA!*

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

