

TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S NEWS

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The Newsletter of The Texas Sportsman's Association

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



TSA MEMBER Steve Alleman of Katy called in this bird in Lavaca County April 27, 2011. It rated a 123.9375, and if that's correct, it will be the No. 2 bow kill in the state of Texas this year.

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 at the bottom of page six, 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.texassportsmansassociation.org>.

A note from the President



Greetings TSA members:

Our Annual Spring Business Meeting was a great success with around 100 members present.

For those not attending the meeting at Mentz Hall, the doors were open at 11 a.m. and Buck and his cooking team's turkey and beef stew was served at noon. The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. We had a presentation from the Bobwhite and Buck Brigade recipients from last year's sponsorship.

Jon Hayes, TPW Biologist, told the membership that the department anticipates the renewal of the check stations again this year during rifle season. He was asking our membership for a donation as we had done when the antler restrictions went into effect. At that time a lifetime Hunting & Fishing Combo License was donated by TSA each year for \$1,000. Well, now the cost has almost doubled, so we voted to contribute the \$1,000 to either a lifetime hunting or fishing license.



We also had great representation from the TPW enforcement division and they were there to support us and answer any questions from members. They are also working hard under budget constraints and we appreciate their support.

We had Dawn Vollmer from the Texas Forest Service as the main speaker and she did a fine job of explaining the proper planting and caring for trees and shrubs. Many questions were asked and she stayed until after the meeting answering questions. A great volunteer speaker!

Walt Glasscock and Herman Brune gave us updates from the TOP tele-conference which was mainly concerned with budget cuts and how they affect us. The cuts ranged from eliminating land acquisition to layoffs of personnel. Herman Brune also announced the donation of a Horseback and Hounds Hog Hunt for 2010, in the name of TSA. Herman

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TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 26,
Columbus, TX 78934



STATE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

David Gohlke

P.O. Box 347, Sheridan, TX 77475

Phone: 979-234-2860

VICE PRESIDENT

Herman Brune

1079 FM 1890, Columbus, TX 78934

Phone: 979-732-5241

SECRETARY

Ginger Friemel

1618 Rocky Creek Rd., La Grange, TX 78945

Phone: 979-968-6376

TREASURER

Terrel Maertz

1380 Piney Woods Rd., Alleyton, TX 78935

Phone: 979-732-5339

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Brandee Froebel

939 Witte Rd., Bellville, TX 77418

Email: btkrfroebel@yahoo.com

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.

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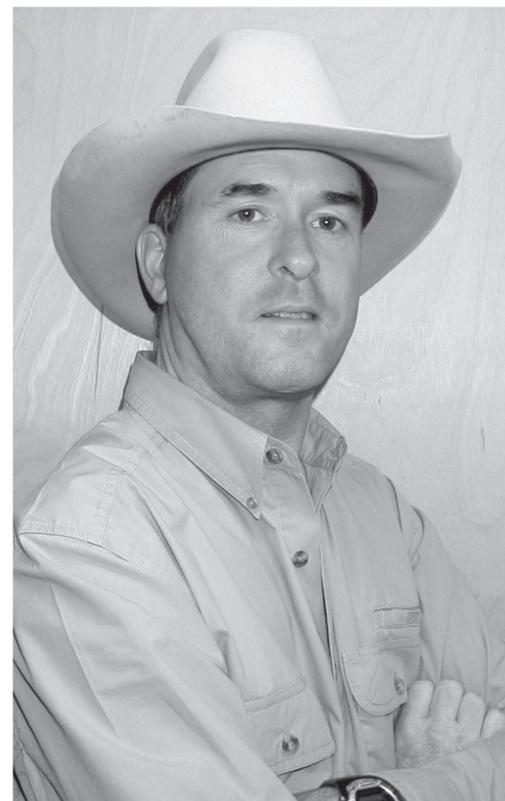
Committeeman — Walt Glasscock

Texas is too big for only one 'state gun'

BY KENDAL HEMPHILL

Samuel Colt was having some financial problems in 1846. His Colt Patterson revolver had been somewhat successful since he had invented it in 1836, but poor sales had caused him to close the doors of his New Jersey factory in 1842. He was making insulated cable for the U.S government, to be used in conjunction with Samuel Morse's telegraph machines, when Samuel Walker contacted him four years later about making some more guns.

Walker was a Texas Ranger, and the Rangers had gotten hold of some of the Pattersons, which were .36 caliber, didn't have a



strap over the cylinder, and had a fold-away trigger which popped out when the gun was cocked. It was a good revolver, but the design was delicate, the parts were many and subject to breakage, and the caliber was somewhat light for frontier work against bandits and indians.

The little gun had made its Texas debut at the Battle of Bandera Pass in 1841, and was a big hit with the Rangers. Captain Jack Hayes and about 50 Rangers were attacked there, just south of Kerrville, by a bunch of Comanches. Reports put the number of indians at anywhere from

100 to 600, so the Rangers were definitely outnumbered.

Up until then, the indians usually waited until the Rangers had fired, and then rode in and shot several arrows while the cowboys were reloading. When they tried that at Bandera Pass, they got a surprise — the Rangers kept shooting. One old indian later said, "The Rangers had a shot for every finger of the hand." The revolver made a huge difference, and at that point the tide really started to turn in the indian wars.

The story goes that Sam Walker went to see Sam Colt in 1846, and explained to him that the Rangers needed a bigger gun, more sturdily built, so it could be used as a club when it was empty. And the caliber should be larger, .44 or .45 at least. The Rangers wanted 1,000 of them, and they wanted them yesterday.

Colt was happy to oblige, but he no longer had a factory. So he engaged Eli Whitney Blake, nephew of the cotton gin inventor, to build the guns in his manufacturing plant. The original run was 1,100, and they sold for about \$10 each. The revolvers arrived in 1847, and the model was dubbed the Walker Colt, the precursor of the Dragoon.

Sam Walker was a contemporary in the Rangers with Samuel 'Bigfoot' Wallace, who arrived in Texas after the Battle of the

(Continued on Page 8)

Looking Down From the Saddle

By HERMAN W. BRUNE

This interview is in response to TSA general membership questions concerning Texas Parks and Wildlife funding, expenditures, and increasing license costs. TSA member and Columbus High School student Aaron Weishuhn participated in this question and answer session with Deputy Executive Director TPW Gene McCarty.

Brune: You're one of TPW's main bean-counters, correct?

McCarty: I work with the agency's budgets and the legislative budget board that is the oversight entity that helps us through the legislative process.

Brune: Aaron, what is your part in today's interview?

Weishuhn: I'll use the information from today's discussion in a 4-H project.

Brune: Okay, please ask Mr. McCarty the first question.

Weishuhn: There are \$6 billion being spent by hunters in Texas. How is this money generated?

McCarty: That number is an estimated total economic impact. It includes food, ammunition, apparel, guns, fuel and all the associated costs that hunters are contributing to the state's economy.

Weishuhn: What then is the proper breakdown that reflects a return for hunters' investments?

McCarty: A sub-set of the \$6 billion is the hunting license fees. That accounts for about \$90 million a year (hunting and fishing). These fees are used to manage the resource. They are used to provide quality hunting and fishing to the sportsmen of Texas. This includes management structures, law enforcement initiatives, public lease programs, and everything TPW does to promote sport hunting in Texas.

Weishuhn: Knowing that so much money is being spent on hunting and fishing, has license sales increased?

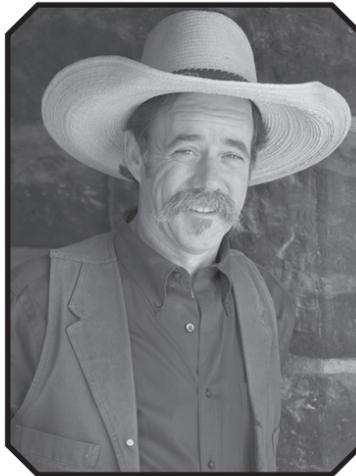
McCarty: License sales have been flat. We've historically had three million hunters and fishermen in Texas. There are about one million hunters and two million fishermen. However as sportsmen know, the cost of licenses has increased and that reflects the cost of running the agency, wildlife management, law enforcement initiatives, etc.

Brune: Please elaborate about expenditures that drive up license prices?

McCarty: Agency costs such as rising salaries, fuel, vehicle costs, cost of maintaining fish hatcheries, rising energy costs all drive up the cost of wildlife management. We get no state tax dollars or legislative general revenue funds for wildlife. We are self sufficient. All our wildlife management revenue comes from hunting and fishing licenses. So, as our costs go up so do the costs of the license.

Brune: The cost of a Lifetime Combo Hunting & Fishing License has jumped from \$1,000 to \$1,800. A Lifetime Hunting license and a Lifetime Fishing License are each \$1,000. How does TPW account for the sudden jump in prices?

McCarty: Those fees go into an endowment system which is designed to recoup the actual costs of regular licenses over



a period of time. As other licenses went up, the lifetime licenses did not. The payout was meant to be the same as the total of buying hunting and fishing licenses over a 20-year period. Instead the price had shifted to being about a 12-year payout. So the decision was made to bring the cost of lifetime licenses back in line with the 20-year payout plan.

Brune: Please explain Fund 9.

McCarty: Fund 9 is the actual mechanism that collects hunting and fishing licenses, boat registration fees, and some oil and gas revenues. It totals approximately \$129 million. Revenue for state

parks goes into Fund 64. Within Fund 9 are the sub-accounts from the various hunting and fishing stamps that must go to the dedicated purposes of each particular stamp. So we have segregated fees that are then budgeted to their intended places.

Brune: Part of an ongoing controversy is that the legislature does not allocate the entirety of Fund 9. Why do they withhold funds, or rather, if sportsmen support conservation through license fees, then why does the legislature not release the entirety of that money?

McCarty: Fund 9 is a protected account with significant balances. At the end of this biennium we will have \$65 million that will not be appropriated or spent. But it's not going anywhere. As this economy turns around we'll be able to go to the legislature and ask that those monies be turned over to us.

Brune: Do parks generate much revenue, and how much is brought in by sales tax of outdoor products?

McCarty: Parks do generate revenue and they also receive a portion of the monies raised by the sporting goods sales tax. We also have a portion of the unclaimed motorboat fuel tax. That tax was meant for highways, but most folks don't reclaim that tax when they fill their motorboats so it goes to TPW. We also get \$40-45 million a year in federal funds that go directly to conservation and restoration programs for wildlife, coastal fisheries, and inland fisheries.

Weishuhn: Has revenues gone up since the implementation of antler restrictions?

McCarty: In the last five years we've seen hunting licenses on a slight increase. I don't know that it can be attributed to the antler restrictions. But you can certainly say that antler restrictions aren't causing hunting license sales to decline. Whether it concerns fishing slot regulations or antler restrictions, we see that as the resources improve people enjoy hunting and fishing more.

Editorial policy

Editorials published in the TSA newsletter may contain opinions of the author not necessarily endorsed by the Texas Sportsman's Association.

TSA members are encouraged to submit stories, a photo or editorials for possible inclusion in future newsletters.



HONOR STUDENT — Colby Maertz of Alleyton a member of Texas Sportsman Assn has earned a place on the President's Honor Roll for the 2010 fall semester at Texas State Technical College Waco. Colby, a student in Welding Technology, achieved a 4.0 grade point average for the semester. He is the son of Terrel and Robin Maertz.

Polk Co. Game Warden TPWD's Officer of Year

The 2011 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officer of the year award has been presented to Game Warden Ryan Hall.

Warden Hall has served as a game warden for more than eight years and is currently stationed in Polk County, one of the busiest recreational boating areas of the state. He patrols Lake Livingston and the Neches and Trinity rivers.

To date, Warden Hall has made 65 boating while intoxicated arrests with an almost 100 percent conviction rate.

TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith presented the award to Hall at Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting on May 26 in Austin.

In his remarks, Smith noted that Hall is heavily utilized by his supervisors to train other wardens, both new and veteran, in BWI enforcement, and that he has been instrumental in working with the District Attorney in his county to implement a zero tolerance for BWI on Lake Livingston."

Hall has also developed and hosted Kid Fish events designed to introduce children to fishing and outdoor recreation.

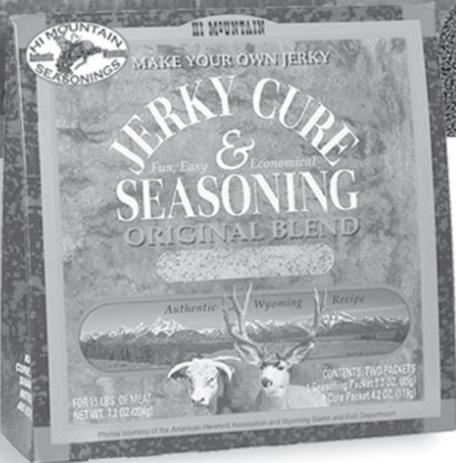
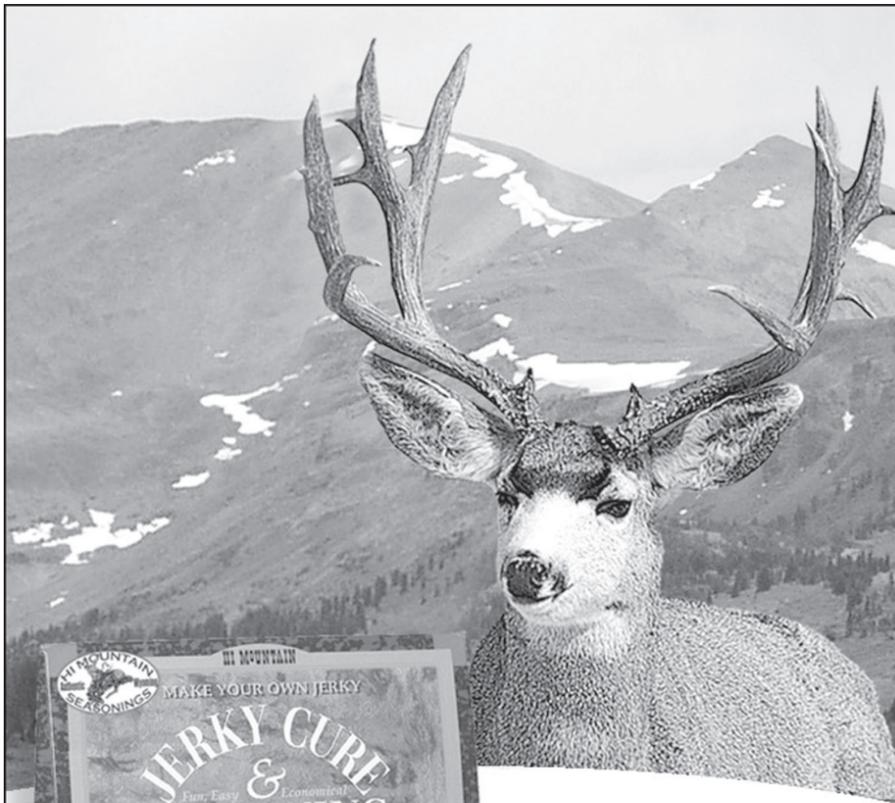
A native of the Livingston area, Hall's knowledge of



Game Warden Ryan Hall

the area gives him a unique advantage in the location and rescue of lost or stranded boaters, usually because he can just call the boaters' cell phones to contact them.

As the 2011 TPWD state officer of the year, Hall is now eligible to receive the Southern States Boating Law Administrators Association's Officer of the Year Award. If chosen for the SSBLA award, he would be nominated for the National Association of Boating Law Administrators' Officer of the Year Award, to be presented in September.



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Sportsman's Notebook: *The Bowie Knife*

BY HERMAN W. BRUNE

Four of us trotted our horses out of the ravine, through the oak woods, and into an opening. Here, we pulled to a stop. We were three Texas cowboys and one Colorado guest riding quiet and pausing to bask in the sun's early morning glare. Opposing the peacefulness, a stiff north breeze sliced at our hands and faces. The dry wind scattered dead leaves and we raised our collars against the fresh cool front. No man spoke. Everyone strained to listen. Somewhere in the surrounding Post Oak thicket we expected a battle. Then several of the horses pricked their ears, lifted their heads, and stared at the distant Spanish moss treetops. We craned our necks aching to distinguish what our mounts could hear. Then in the distance a dog yipped, a second dog barked, and a hound bellowed a rolling howl.

"There!" my partners yelled and pointed at the bay. We hesitated, certified the dogs' position, and struck a lope towards the morning's destiny. It was a make-shift posse. Back into the woods, down through a flint-rock creek, up a cow trail, and through the eroded clay banks we ducked briar vines, dodged limbs, and spurred towards our quarry. Then out of the tangled forest, across a bare hilltop, down a slope to the edge of a small stock tank where we checked the race to see if our client was still in the saddle.

His wide-eyes and grin signified pure elation. Then a shrill squeal pierced several octaves above the chorus of dogs.

We abandoned our horses. Now, it was a stumbling footrace into the darkest thickest yaupon jungle. Ahead the hounds were pitted in life or death combat. The ear-splitting ruckus consumed the woodlands. Adrenaline coursed in our veins and we ran headlong towards the deadly encounter. Jason, was the first cowboy into the hog's lair. The dogs had it stretched and the cowboy grabbed the boar's hind legs. Holding it wheelbarrow-style it couldn't reach him with its razor tusks. I was two steps later getting into the melee.

"Here, you take the hog and I'll get the dogs," hollered Jason and he handed the critter's back legs to me. Then he reached for his leashes.

The hunter mashed into the fray. We were shoulder to shoulder and hip to hip. The dogs wrenched against their collars and pushed against our legs. The hog jerked me side to side. Safe shooting was... Nobody was stupid enough to shoot in these confines.

"Help me flip this thing down," I wheezed. "Then take my Bowie knife and stick it in the base of the throat."

The hunter gawked. Then he caught a handful of the hog's hair as I twisted the back legs and we threw the boar on its side. Earlier we were cold. Now, sweat burned our eyes and dripped from our hair. My hat and several of the men's jackets were back along the trail. The hunter drew the blade from my gunbelt; then he stood motionless contemplating

what he was about to do.

Later:

We relaxed under the giant Live Oaks at the Brune Ranch headquarters. Systematically, we skinned and quartered the wild boar; putting the pork in one cooler and dragging Shiner Bocks out of another.

"When you emailed not to bring a gun, I thought you were crazy," said our guest. "But now I see – there's no way to shoot into that brawl. I need a knife like that." Then he peered at me for affirmation.

"You saw how fast that pig died when it was stabbed correctly. That's what a big Bowie is for. It's ignorant to muzzle blast or accidentally shoot a hound. When I started guiding hunters, the boys in Montana laughed at anyone carrying a big knife. They could skin, cape, and quarter an elk with a pocketknife."

"I always liked a fixed blade. Cowboys never know when they may have to cut a rope fast. Once or twice I needed my 4 1/2 -inch Old Timer."

"Then there's the business of quartering game. In Texas, I take out the backstraps and then save the ribs for the barbecue pit or sausage. Up north, some outfitters like to short quarter and leave the ribs. I do it the old fashioned way. Deer are cut in half and elk are quartered like beef. It irks me to leave a clean meadow with a ribbed carcass lying there looking like a dead horse. The proper way is to cut the elk, or deer, in half between the second

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Cast netters net citations

A while back, Austin County Game Warden Sonny Alaniz cited two subjects who were using an illegal cast net to catch an array of undersized fish on Lake Somerville. The catch included undersized black bass, channel cat and crappie

Hot, hotter and WOW!

The Scoville scale, for those of you who don't know, is a measure of a pepper's content of capsaicin — the chemical compound that makes peppers spicy.

It ranges from 0 for a bell pepper to 16 million in the case of pure capsaicin. Jalapeños weigh in at about 2,500 to 8,000 Scoville units, depending on how they are cultivated. Habaneros, meanwhile, are rated at 100,000 to 250,000 Scovilles.

Venison hash

- 2 tablespoons bacon drippings
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 cups cooked and ground venison leftovers
- 2 medium potatoes cut into 16 pieces
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 3 cups beef broth
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon thyme
- 1/2 tablespoon chili powder

Brown onion and potatoes in bacon fat. Add flour and make a roux. Add venison, broth and other ingredients. Let simmer until tender. Serve with cornbread or biscuits.

Keep in touch with TSA at www.texasportamansassociation.org



AUSTIN COUNTY BUCKS — These four TSA members pose with four bucks taken last fall in Austin and Colorado counties. From left are Fred Kollman (9 pt., 15.5-inch spread), Buck Kollman (10 pt., 14-inch spread), Andy Kollman (8 pt., 15.5-inch spread) and Blair Goebel (9 pt., 14-inch spread).

Sportsman's Notebook

(Continued from Page 6)

and third ribs. It takes a long knife with a straight point to poke from the inside out beside the backbone, through the hide, and then cut the meat and hide all the way back to the belly. I can cut an animal in half with two cuts using my 9-inch Cold Steel Bowie. But the point on a stabbing knife must be straight. If it has a rolled point and you're stabbing with the cutting edge, it doesn't work as well. Then to finish knocking an elk or deer in half I carry a camp axe. I also use the axe to split both halves down the backbone."

"A rolled point is for skinning, a drop point is for capping, and a guthook is handy. I prefer a heavy blade made out of steel that will sharpen on a diamond stone. And don't use a Bowie for a hatchet or shovel! I carry a folding Puma skinning knife, and usually pack three knives, an axe, and a saw. A guide must know how to hit the joints when he's butchering. I lose patience

with a yahoo that wastes a good knife-edge whittling on bones. Likewise, I'm not impressed with the chucklehead who shows me a dull knife and tells me how many deer he's done with it. You should touch up the edge after every critter."

"There's one thing that I don't savvy. If you ever read books about Davy Crockett or Ben Lily, they leave no doubt that the old bear hunters occasionally settled matters with a long blade. I just can't figure how to get that close and

personal with a bear. When I'm in grizzly country I carry pepper spray, my .44 hand cannon — and if everything really goes south — I'll count on my Bowie before I give up the ghost. Remember, Jim designed that thing for fighting!"

My guest shuddered, "So you'd take on a grizz with a knife?"

"No, if I get crossways with an ol' growly bear I'll just grin him down," I said. Then I reached in the cooler for another cold Shiner Bock.

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State Gun(s) of Texas

(Continued from Page 3)

Alamo and before the Battle of San Jacinto. According to Texas lore, Walker and Wallace were once on a reconnaissance mission, and snuck into a Comanche camp before sunrise. A dog started barking at them, and roused the camp.

Walker and Wallace determined their presence was unhealthy and took flight. As they passed a meat pole, Wallace grabbed a rack of ribs from it. As they ran, he offered to share the ribs with Walker, who declined on the grounds that he was a little busy.

After a few hundred yards, with Comanches chasing them and bullets and arrows flying by, they found a gully and took cover. Walker turned to Wallace and allowed that he wouldn't mind helping him on those ribs now. But it was too late. Wallace had eaten them all on the trip.

Walker unfortunately died in battle during the Mexican-American War, shortly after the gun that bears his name arrived in Texas. But I think he'd be proud that the Walker Colt has been nominated to become the official Texas state firearm.

My friend, Randy Young, recently sent me a blog entry, or something, by a fellow named Jonathan McClellan, who pointed out that Texas does not have an official state gun. McClellan opened nominations with the Ruger LCP .380, which is what Gov. Perry recently shot a coyote with, and the LaRue Tactical OBR 556, which is an AR-style .223 made in Leander. Both are excellent guns, and would be good choices.

There was a write-in nomination for the STI 2011, which is a 1911-style pistol made in Georgetown, and is also hard to beat. Still, the 1847 Walker Colt probably epitomizes Texas best, and has a long, distinguished history to back up its claim to Texas fame.

But there are other choices. Personally I'd like to nominate the Bond Arms Ranger. The Ranger is a double-barrel derringer made entirely of stainless steel, and chambered for .410/.45 Long Colt. The Ranger comes with a replica of the old Texas Ranger badge inlaid in the grips, and is an excellent example of firearm quality. Besides, it's made in Granbury.

Actually, there are too many good choices to have to settle on one official state firearm. But Texas is big enough, I think, not to have to get by with just one. And since we already have four official state theatrical plays, I have another suggestion.

What we need to do is designate an official state rifle — the LaRue OBR, a state pistol — the STI 1911, a state revolver — the 1847 Walker Colt, a state pocket pistol — the Ruger LCP, a state derringer — the Bond Ranger, and maybe some other state firearms. This is Texas, after all. It's too big for just one state gun.

And the state barbecue dish should definitely be ribs . . .

Kendal Hemphill is an outdoor humor columnist and public speaker who never eats ribs while running from indians. Write to him at PO Box 1600, Mason, Tx 76856 or jeep@verizon.net.

President's Message

(Continued from Page 3)

also agreed to be the focal point for this newsletter, a time consuming task which had been handled since it began by Doris Rinn.

Thank You, Doris!

A new TSA vice-president and treasurer were elected as well. I have not included names on many of the events listed as we had our last meeting April 27, and I do not have the notes and other members are supposed to include articles as well. Another major theme for this year's Spring and last year's Fall fundraiser was recognition of the TSA life members. Those present were given a certificate and metal membership identification. For those not attending we handed them to other members to distribute at the April 27. Those not living in the area will be receiving them in the mail. Thank you life members! I would like to take this time to thank all of the hardworking members who contributed time and donations to make our meeting a success. We would not be able to exist without your participation.

We have started planning the Fall Fundraiser and it will be held at Mentz Hall on Sept. 25, 2011, so mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you there.

As the drought continues, I wanted to share some good news about the turkey flock in my area of Lavaca County. We had two hunters from Oregon bow hunting and filming the first week of the season. The mature birds were not aggressively coming to the calls and decoys at the time, but on one hunt they filmed 18 Jakes working the hens as well as several large gobblers, who stayed out of bow range. On the last day of the hunt a nice gobbler was taken at 32 yards with a recurve bow. There is also a picture of Steve Alleman with his record book bow turkey.

I spoke with Jon Hayes, TPW Biologist, and he has answered many of our questions and will be willing to share information about what you can do on your property to help the local flock. He also mentioned the fact that the 2010 excellent spring conditions contributed to the very good hatch and survival rate that we witnessed.

I saw my first spotted fawn, kicking up dust May 1, as it ran through the woods. I join you in praying for some much needed rain. That being said, Mother Nature has been very angry this year in Japan and the USA. As bad as we all complain about our drought, things could always be much worse and we must always be thankful and keep those who have lost everything in our thoughts.

Thanks again for your support! We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

David Gohlke

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