

TOWA

The Official Publication of the **Texas Outdoor Writers Association**

TOWA 2013 EIC AWARDS UPDATE

Deadline is Dec. 1, 2012 for TOWA 2013 Excellence in Craft Competition

By Kendal Hemphill, EIC Director

Once again it's that time of year, when a young writer's thoughts turn to . . . hunting. But the EIC deadline is just around the corner, too. Don't miss your chance to throw your hat into the ring, put your best foot forward, and let the chips fall in the salsa. Pick your best work from the past year for an opportunity to be recognized by your peers, receive the accolades of the masses and take home some spendable prize money.

Chevy is once again donating \$5,000 for TOWA's EIC competition, but the deadline for entry is Dec. 1, so don't strike while the iron is no longer hot. Entries postmarked Dec. 2 or later will be returned unopened, and your ice cream will run down all over your hand.

The EIC chairman receives, on average, three requests to waive the entry deadline. So far none of these requests have been written on large denomination U.S. currency. Which wouldn't make any difference, of course. Get your entries in early and avoid the rush.

Please note that only active members who submitted their 2012 dues no later than March 1 of this year are eligible

for the 2013 EIC contest.

Your EIC Contest is the showcase we use to recognize the considerable talents of our member writers, photographers, videographers, and other "ers". And Texas has, without question, the best outdoor communicators in the country, according to a recent poll conducted in Mason, Texas, among TOWA members who happened to be present at the barbecue joint.

Print out the entry form from this

newsletter now, and you will also receive, as a bonus prize, a printed entry form. Send that in with your work, and your entry fee, and you're in business.

So far, the entries have been pouring in as usual, which means, as of this writing, two have been received. The EIC Contest is what you make it, so don't miss out. It would be a shame for you to pass up your chance at fame after I've laid it on like icing on a wedding cake.

TOWA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ALLOWS YOU TO RECRUIT AWAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES

AT THE SEPTEMBER 30 TOWA BOARD MEETING, THE BOARD VOTED TO reward current members who recruit new Active, Associate and Supporting Members with discounted annual dues. Here's how it works:

- For every new active member a current member brings in, the member will receive a \$10 credit toward his or her annual dues.
- For every new associate member a current member brings in, he or she will receive a \$15 credit toward annual dues.
- For every supporting member brought into TOWA, the member will receive a \$25 credit toward 2013 annual dues.

Please ensure that your name is listed on the appropriate application as sponsoring member so that the Executive Director can give you the proper credit.

We have an awesome conference coming up in Galveston, and Program Chairs David Sikes and T.J. Greaney know that "the heat is on" to raise the bar on the wonderful program they delivered in New Braunfels this past spring.

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The TOWA Newsletter is proudly sponsored by Gulf States Toyota. For information, go to www.buyatoyota.com.



Plan to Enjoy Galveston's Rich Heritage, Ample Attractions at 2013 TOWA Annual Conference

The siren song of breaking waves draws visitors to Galveston's beaches generation after generation. With warm breezes and year-round temperate seas, visitor's to Galveston Island can choose to bask in the sun on the Island's 32 miles of beaches, enjoy the rich history, and explore a variety of attractions, only 50 minutes from Houston.

Galveston's attractions range from historic and intriguing to modern and adventurous. This spring, visitors should not miss some of Galveston's highlights.

The Broadway Beauties such as, 1892 Bishop's Palace with its impressive architecture and Moody Mansion, built in 1895, portraying the early 20th century family life among Galveston's elite, are must sees.

The Grand 1894 Opera House, ranked among the nation's finest historical theaters, has various scheduled performances throughout the spring.

The Galveston Historical Foundation offers a look into Galveston history. The Texas Seaport Museum & 1877 Tall Ship ELISSA features the history of the Port of Galveston. The Great Storm documentary details the 1900 hurricane which killed 6,000 people and set the tone for Galveston's resiliency.

Visit a real drilling rig up close at the OCEAN STAR Offshore Drilling Rig & Museum. This museum gives you an inside look at a retired jack-up rig with exhibits, interactive displays, and videos explaining how oil and gas are claimed from under the sea.

Among Galveston's top attractions, the Lone Star Flight Museum houses a fine collection of restored aircraft. Now offering rides on historic war planes including the B-17, B-25 and PT-17 Stearman, this is an experience not to miss.

The coolest way to have fun is to slide into Schlitterbahn Galveston Island Waterpark. The park offers dozens of attractions featuring enclosed tube slides, the Torrent Tidal Wave River, speed slides, water playgrounds and tropical beaches.

Galveston's famed Moody Gardens features an aquarium pyramid, discovery pyramid, a 3-D IMAX theater, a tropical rainforest pyramid, a 4-D special FX theater and an IMAX Ridefilm. This spring in addition to its signature attractions, Moody Gardens will premiere Happy Feet 4D. Plus, the Discovery Pyramid is currently hosting Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America through Galveston Island. This exhibit features Galveston Island as one of the primary immigration ports in the 19th Century.

A great way to see all the sites of Galveston Island is to embark on a sightseeing tour. Whether by land or sea, Galveston offers plenty of tours to learn all of the rich history of the area. Dolphin watch on a Harbor Tour, stroll the East End Historic District on a self guided tour, or join a guided tour with Galveston Duck Tours or the Treasure Isle Tour Train.

Antique lovers, art aficionados and shoppers of all kinds will discover beautiful and interesting objects on display in many new boutiques and stores to the Historic Downtown Strand Seaport District.

For more information on Galveston Island, contact the Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau, at (888) GAL-ISLE (425-4753), stop by the Galveston Visitors Center located 2328 Broadway inside at Ashton Villa, or visit galveston.com.



Galveston's famed Moody Gardens pyramids

TEXAS OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION 2013 EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT ENTRY FORM

The TOWA Excellence in Craft Contest is proudly sponsored by Chevrolet.

The Excellence In Craft Contest is an opportunity for active members to receive special recognition for journalism excellence. Submission must be outdoor-oriented and must have been published, broadcast or distributed in Texas. Associate members are not eligible. *Rules, guidelines and categories can be found in the October 0212 newsletter.*

CATEGORY NUMBER: _____

CATEGORY: _____

TITLE: _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Name Of Publication and Circulation: _____

Date of Publication: _____

Your Role In Production (Video/TV Radio ONLY): _____

Distribution/Further Information: _____

Certified Signature: _____

Date: _____

COMMENTS: (Purpose statement, technical data, etc. that might assist the judges in evaluating your entry)

Each entry in any category will require an entry fee of \$10. You may write one check for the total amount of all categories entered. All entries must be postmarked no later than Dec.1, 2012. Any entry received after this date will be returned unopened.

Send package and check (made out to TOWA) to: Kendal Hemphill
TOWA EIC Chairman
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Mason, TX 76856

Sportsmen Celebrate 40 Years of Clean Water Act, Urge Action to Restore National Wetland and Stream Protections

FORTY YEARS AGO IN A SHOW OF BIPARTISAN SUPPORT, Congress passed the Clean Water Act of 1972. Hunters and anglers support strong Clean Water Act protections, understanding that clean water and healthy wetlands and streams are essential to healthy fish and wildlife populations and habitat. This year, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act and the historic results this keystone legislation has achieved: healthier water to drink; cleaner streams, rivers and lakes in which to swim, fish and play; and dramatically lower rates of natural wetland loss.

However, our clean water celebration is bittersweet. For the past decade, Clean Water Act protections for wetlands, lakes and streams have been eroding. Over the past two years, the Clean Water Act has been under relentless attack by members of Congress, despite overwhelming public support for clean water and healthy habitat across the political spectrum. These attacks jeopardize drinking water for 117 million Americans and accelerate wetland losses that damage hunting, fishing and wildlife watching. According to a recently released U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey, tens of millions of Americans spend \$145 billion annually on hunting, angling, and wildlife watching. This represents direct spending only, and each dollar spent in local restaurants, on guides and outfitters, and on equipment generates even more for our economy.

HUNTERS AND ANGLERS FAVOR RESTORING CLEAN WATER ACT PROTECTIONS TO WETLANDS AND STREAMS

A September 2012 poll of hunters and anglers found that, regardless of political affiliation, 79 percent of hunters and anglers favor restoring Clean Water Act protections to wetlands and waterways, including small creeks and streams. Recent polls in Colorado, Ohio and Wisconsin charted similar results. In this fractious election year, it is worth noting that poll after poll show that a strong majority of Americans supports strong federal Clean Water Act protections.

RESTORING WETLANDS, STREAM PROTECTIONS SUPPORTS HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, FISH AND WILDLIFE, STRONG ECONOMY

Families, communities, farmers and businesses large and small depend on clean, healthy waters for their health, jobs and prosperity. The Clean Water Act is essential to keeping our drinking water safe; providing millions of acres of fish and wildlife habitat across the country; ensuring abundant clean water for irrigating crops; and bolstering the robust fishery, tourism and outdoor recreation industries. Millions of jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity, as well as our hunting and angling traditions, are all at risk if Clean Water Act protections are not restored.

Consider the following (based on 2006 economic data):

- According to the American Sportfishing Association, fishing generates \$125 billion in direct and indirect economic activity across the United States and supports 1 million jobs every year.
- The National Marine Manufacturers Association found that boating contributes \$41 billion to the economy and supports 337,000 jobs annually.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that duck hunting alone contributes \$2.3 billion to the economy every year and supports 27,000 private sector jobs.
- The FWS also estimates that 6.7 million trout anglers contribute nearly \$5 billion annually to our economy.

These activities and the economic growth they support at the local, regional and national levels all depend on healthy waters and wetlands to produce quality outdoor experiences. Clean streams and abundant wetlands are essential for fish and wildlife and to the hunting, angling and outdoor traditions tens of millions of Americans enjoy every year. Unfortunately, these traditions and the economic activity they generate are in real jeopardy today.

SPORTSMEN URGE ACTION TO RESTORE PROTECTIONS TO AMERICA'S WETLANDS, LAKES AND STREAMS

In the wake of 2001 and 2006 Supreme Court decisions and subsequent guidance given to staff at the Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency, more than 20 million acres of wetlands and about 2 million miles of streams in the continental United States are at risk of losing the very Clean Water Act protections that have so successfully cleaned up the nation's waters. The strength and effectiveness of the Clean Water Act have been undermined further by the resulting uncertainty and confusion over the scope of the act's protections.

The erosion of clean water protections takes a serious toll on wetlands. The most recent report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States 2004 to 2009," <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Status-And-Trends-2009/index.html>) demonstrates that the trend toward reduced wetland losses – and even small gains in wetland conservation in the early part of the past decade – have been reversed. Between 2004 and 2009, the FWS found net wetland acres dropped by 62,300 nationwide, a 140-percent increase in the wetland loss rate compared with the 1998-2004 timeframe. The FWS also reports that forested wetlands declined by 633,000 acres, representing the "largest losses since the 1974 to 1985 time period." The full extent of natural wetland loss is masked by growth of man-made retention and other ponds that are of limited value to fish and wildlife, which the FWS found increased by some 336,000 acres. The FWS report highlights the 2001 and 2006 Supreme Court decisions as likely contributors to wetland losses (see pages 17 and 68).

As the Clean Water Act turns 40, America must get back on the path to clean, healthy waters and wetlands. The administration must follow through on its comprehensive efforts to restore Clean Water Act protections to wetlands, lakes and streams in a manner that is science-based and clearly respects the Supreme Court's decisions.

We encourage you to raise this issue of Clean Water Act restoration with your readers and call on the administration to act. If you have questions or need more information, please contact us.

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PROSPECTS GOOD FOR TEXAS DEER SEASON

AUSTIN – Texas hunters should see deer in good condition and above average numbers of mature bucks when the general season kicks off Nov. 3 statewide.

“Despite the drought of 2011 deer appeared to come through the season in fair shape, which I think in part is a tribute to hunters and landowners doing a better job of managing deer populations and the native habitat across the state,” said Alan Cain, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department white-tailed deer program leader. “Couple the results of good management, lower harvest in 2011 and some late winter and spring precipitation and the stage is set for a good deer season in 2012.”

TPWD Big Game Harvest survey results confirmed what biologist and hunters already knew, the deer harvest was down in 2011. Last year’s estimated harvest was 574,808 white-tailed deer; 309,207 being bucks and 265,601 antlerless deer. Compare those statistics to the 2010 season, one of our better seasons, when total deer harvest was estimated at 647,975 deer; 336,550 being bucks and 311,425 antlerless deer. However, a little perspective is in order here. Keep in mind the 11-year average for annual total harvest is 574,423 deer and the lowest estimated harvest occurring during the 2007-08 was an estimated 512,852 deer.

“Although we had a few dry spells during mid-summer, I’m seeing and hearing reports of deer appearing in good body condition,” Cain said. “In fact, range conditions look good across most of the state. As my Dad and I recently returned from a mule deer hunt in Wyoming I had a chance to drive from almost one end of Texas to the other, Texline to Pleasanton, and can say that the landscape was a brilliant green from just east of Amarillo to south of San Antonio.”

The abundant forage, critical to help deer need nutritional demands, will help to bolster fawn production as well as antler quality. Cain is predicting slightly above average antler quality for most regions of the state this season. Late summer rains should help bucks bulk up and insure good fat reserves to make it through the rigors of rut and improve overall survival this winter. The only downside to the late sum-



The stage is set for a good deer season in 2012, with ample late winter and spring precipitation that has produced both water and forage. Photo by Shannon Tompkins.

mer rains is deer may not readily come to feeders or food plots early this fall so hunters may have to change up their strategies to bag a deer during the first weekend or two of general season.

Hunters can expect to see fewer bucks in the 1 ½ year old age class as fawn production was very low across many regions of the state in 2011. However, good fawn crops in 2005, 2007, and 2010 should translate into more bucks in the 7 ½, 5 ½, and 2 ½ year old age classes as compared to other age classes. With the exception of the 1 ½ year old age class there may have been a reasonable carryover of bucks in all other age class simply because many hunters passed on bucks with average antler quality last year, just hoping for an extra year of age and more importantly some rainfall to provide the necessary nutrition to help those buck reach their potential.

“Hopefully, hunters will find what they’re looking for this fall,” Cain said. “I’ve already seen pictures of an 8-point harvested in Bandera County this year that scored on the 159 Boone & Crockett scoring system, maybe sign of good things to come this season. Keep in mind this is well above the average antler quality for bucks 6 ½ years of age or older.

In fact, based on 30+ years of TPWD’s

age and antler data the average estimated B&C score for 6 ½ year old or older bucks is 125.34. The South Texas and Eastern Rolling Plains regions have the highest estimated average B&C scores for bucks 6 ½ or older at 134.59 and 129.82, respectively. The remaining regions produce great quality mature bucks with estimated average B&C scores in the low to mid 120s.

“As always we encourage hunters to harvest antlerless deer to help with overall population management, which is an important component to maintain quality native habitats for all wildlife,” said Cain. “One thing is for sure we are blessed with the largest white-tailed deer herd in the nation, approximately 3.3 million deer, and opportunity can be found in nearly every region of the state. So don’t sit on the couch this fall watching the hunting shows, get outdoors and be a part of what will hopefully prove to be a great deer season.”

The general season runs Nov. 3 through Jan. 6, 2013 in the 209 counties that comprise the North Zone and through Jan. 20, 2013 in the 30 counties of the South Zone. For county specific regulations, check the 2012-13 Outdoor Annual of Hunting and Fishing Regulations.

— Steve Lightfoot



The inaugural Patriot Range Day will be held Nov. 8-11, to help support Folds of Honor. Photo courtesy of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

NSSF Encourages Participation in Patriot Range Day, Nov. 8-11

Shooting facilities, shoot organizers urged to participate in Folds of Honor fundraiser

NEWTOWN, Conn. — Shooting facilities and shooting-competition organizers are urged to participate in the inaugural Patriot Range Day, Nov. 8-11, which will support the efforts of Folds of Honor. This program will enable shooters to help families of our nation's heroes and will draw attention to the meaning of Veterans Day as a time to honor those who have served to protect our freedoms.

Patterned after a similar Labor Day program that allows golfers to add to their greens fees to contribute, this program will allow shooters registering for a scheduled competition, through a check box on the entry form, to make a donation. With the holiday weekend quickly approaching, ranges and competition organizers are urged to visit the Patriot Range Day website at foldsofhonor.org/patriot-range-day to become part of this new program. Parties that express an interest will receive an activation packet that will provide all the details of participating in the inaugural Patriot Range Day.

Folds of Honor is rallying a nation to ensure no family gets left behind in the fight to preserve American freedom. Its website states, "Through scholarships and other assistance we're giving back to the spouses and children of soldiers killed or disabled in service to our country. We're providing healing, hope and an opportunity to realize their dreams with the help of people like you. This is our mission."

About NSSF: *The National Shooting Sports Foundation is the trade association for the firearms industry. Its mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. Formed in 1961, NSSF has a membership of more than 7,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, sportsmen's organizations and publishers. For more information, visit nssf.org.*

X-RITE COLORCHECKER PASSPORT

by Keith Patankar, Hunts Photo and Video

Color accuracy and consistency is one of the most important things to get right. In today's digital world we are using multiple devices to output, sending images through different sources, all interpreting color in different ways. Every camera's sensor is different and light consistently changes from scene to scene. One tool to get accurate color every time is the X-Rite ColorChecker Passport. The Passport is a 24 patch color chart that is designed to create a custom profile for your digital camera. It includes a white balance card and warming and cooling swatches. The ColorChecker is the size of a passport you would carry to travel internationally. You can fit it in your pocket and have it to use as a custom target any where any time. Just don't get it stamped by customs.

How it works: The first thing you do before you start shooting is to use the white card to create a white balance for the lighting you are shooting in. Once you create a custom white balance you will take the target color chart and place it in your scene to take a photo. The ColorChecker does not need to fill the frame. You just need to see all the patches in the photo. If the light changes you will re-shoot the passport in the scene. After you are done shooting you then can import the images either to Lightroom or Adobe Camera Raw. The software allows you to go into the profiles in both these programs and change the profile to the custom profile you setup by shooting the passport in your scene. From there you can sync multiple images with the same lighting to match your custom profile. You can even use the eyedropper to click on the warming or cooling patches if you would like to warm or cool the scene.

This tool helps to create a foundation of accurate and consistent color throughout your images. I found the biggest changes to be in tones of greens, blues and purples. I shoot a lot of fashion and designers create garments with color tones that just don't look the same in my camera as they do in real life. The ColorChecker Passport changes that and brings out the correct colors that are visible to the eye. Fall foliage and fruits are another example of colors that may not look the same when shot regularly with your digital camera. By creating this custom profile we are getting exactly what we see and can duplicate it even if we shoot other images with a different camera. For under \$100 this tool should be a staple in everyone's camera bag.

Keith Patankar works in outside sales, marketing and specialty market at Hunts Photo & Video in Melrose MA. Please feel free to contact Keith directly at patankar@wbhunt.com or (781) 462-2340 with any related questions.



Hobie® Cat Company Announces Partners for Second Annual Hobie Fishing World Championship

Oceanside, Calif. – The second annual Hobie Fishing World Championship will take place in Austin, Texas, Nov. 4-9, 2012. Anglers from more than 10 countries are expected to compete for the chance to be crowned World Champion. All competitors will fish for freshwater bass from identically rigged Hobie Mirage Pro Angler kayaks provided by Hobie Cat Company and outfitted with Lowrance Electronics and Ram Mounting Systems. The event's goal is to continue building a platform for Hobie fishing competition while embracing a common passion for fishing that overrides language and cultural barriers, according to Doug Skidmore, president of Hobie Cat Company.

In October 2011, four Hobie Fishing Team members represented the USA in the Australian inaugural Hobie Fishing World Championship. They were part of an 18-team roster from five countries that also included Singapore, Thailand, South Korea and Australia. Team USA included U.S. Tournament Director, Keeton Eoff; Hobie Fishing Product Manager, Morgan Promnitz; Hobie Fishing Ambassador, Jackie Smith; and Jose Chavez, Hobie fishing team member. Steve Fields, Managing Director for Hobie Australasia and host of the 2011 World Championship, commented that "the Australian and International teams cannot wait to take on the Americans in their own back yard. The competitive spirit is the same as we enjoy in the various Hobie Sailing World Championships held around the globe."

The tournament is a traditional CPR (Catch, Photograph and Release) format in which each competitor will enter his or her three best lengths in aggregate each day. The angler with the highest cumulative length over the three day period will be crowned Champion. Prizes will also be awarded to the top team representatives. Each participating country will be represented by at least one two-person team and combined measurements will be added to determine the Team Champion.

The competition will be held on two of the best-known fisheries in



The Hobie Fishing World competition will be held Nov. 4-9 on Lake Bastrop and Fayette County Reservoir.

Texas: Lake Bastrop and Fayette County Reservoir. Each of them holds the caliber of fish necessary for an international competition.

For additional information between now and the Championship, click on <http://hobiefishingworlds.com>.

Since 1950, Hobie has been in the business of shaping a unique lifestyle based around fun, water, and quality products. From their headquarters in Oceanside, Calif., Hobie Cat Company manufactures, distributes, and markets an impressive collection of watercraft worldwide. These include an ever-expanding line of recreation and racing sailboats, pedal-driven and paddle sit-on-top recreation and fishing kayaks, inflatable kayaks and fishing boats plus a complementary array of parts and accessories.

CCA TEXAS HABITAT FUNDING REACHES NEW MILESTONE

CCA Texas recently announced \$400,000 in habitat project funding. In cooperation with Ducks Unlimited, CCA Texas will fund \$200,000 of marsh shoreline revitalization along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) near Sargent, Texas. Additionally, in cooperation with Galveston Bay Foundation, CCA Texas will provide an additional \$200,000 of funding for shoreline protection and marsh restoration efforts along the Oyster Lake shoreline of West Galveston Bay.

"Sometime back, we announced that coastal marine habitat protection was the next important step in CCA Texas' conservation focus and we are dedicated to that vision," said Mark Ray, CCA Texas chairman. "Since the inception of our habitat initiative, we have pledged and funded more than \$2 million in marsh restoration and reefing projects."

This latest CCA and DU partnership will help protect up to three miles of marsh shoreline along the GIWW near Sargent, where local erosion has caused severe loss of emergent and submerged vegetation, threatening critically important local marsh habitat.

"A partnership between CCA and DU to enhance habitat along the Texas Gulf Coast is a win-win for fisheries, waterfowl and the people who enjoy them both," said Sean Stone, Ducks Unlimited director of development for South Texas. "It's only natural that we combine our efforts, leverage our resources and together make a bigger difference along the Texas Coast."

In partnership with Galveston Bay Foundation, CCA Texas' funding will help protect marsh habitat from wave-caused erosion that currently threatens to breach into Oyster Lake off of Galveston's popular West Bay. This shoreline helps support a prolific fishing area and serves as critical habitat for local bird populations.

"Galveston Bay Foundation truly values its partnership with CCA," said Bob Stokes, Galveston Bay Foundation president. "The dollars contributed by CCA are incredibly important in allowing us to bring state and federal grant funding to the project which often requires matching dollars. CCA's contribution is critical seed funding and its impact will likely be doubled through this process."

Toyota ShareLunker 537 Comes from Lake Austin

Catch is earliest entry ever from Lake Austin

ATHENS—Bennett Cowan of San Marcos caught Toyota ShareLunker 537 about 2:00 a.m. October 16 from Lake Austin.

The 14.28-pound fish was 20.5 inches in girth and 27.25 inches long. Lake Austin has now produced 18 entries into the ShareLunker program, five of which weighed 14 pounds or more.

Cowan's catch was also the earliest entry into the ShareLunker program from Lake Austin. The earliest previous entry into the program from the lake came on Jan. 27, 2011. Two entries have come from the lake in January, seven each in February and March, and one in April.

The catch may be a signal that Lake Austin is poised to have a banner year. On Monday, October 1, an angler caught a 12.6-pound bass from Lake Austin that proved to have been entered into the program as ShareLunker 528 by Brett Ketchum in January 2012.

Lake Austin continues its rise to prominence as one of the top largemouth bass lakes in the state. Only Lakes Fork (249 entries into the ShareLunker program), Alan Henry (25), O.H. Ivie (25), Sam Rayburn (23) and Falcon (19) have produced more 13-pound or bigger bass.

Bennett was fishing a bluff with a hand-poured 17-inch worm when the fish bit. Anglers fishing for big bass at night often use large plastic worms on the theory that the big baits move a lot of water and are easier for the fish to detect.

ShareLunker entries are used in a selective breeding program at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens. Some of the offspring from these fish are stocked back into the water body from which they were caught. Other ShareLunker offspring are stocked in public waters around the state in an attempt to increase the overall size and growth rate of largemouth bass in Texas.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible by a grant to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation from Gulf States Toyota. Toyota is a long-time supporter of the Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of education, fish, parks and wildlife projects.

— Larry Hodge



Bennett Cowan of San Marcos caught Toyota ShareLunker 537 from Lake Austin on Oct. 16, 2012. Photo courtesy Nathan Reynolds, TPWD.

TOWA MEMBER NEWS

TOWA Mourns Passing of Bob Jameson

Bob Jameson, of Dayton, Texas, succumbed to cancer on Oct. 1, 2012. Bob began feeling the effects of the disease about three weeks after the TOWA conference that he and Linda attended in New Braunfels earlier this year. He fought it like the good soldier (U.S. Army, Ret., Korean War veteran) that he was, but it was not to be.

Jameson attended public schools in Dayton and received a B.A. degree in finance from Sam Houston University. He was Chairman of the Board of Dayton State Bank and State Chairman of Ducks Unlimited. He served on the National Board of DU for many years. He was also a 25-year member of the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department, on the Dayton City Council, and was Liberty-Dayton Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year." Jameson was author of "Airplanes, Alligators and Hi-Fin Blues", feature columnist for *The Liberty Gazette*, and contributed to other newspapers, magazines, and sporting publications.

His wit and warm, welcoming personality will be deeply missed, along with his ever-present, infectious smile. Visiting with him was always an uplift, as was hearing his adventurous tales of his flying days and the many fine men he met in the service, along with his hunting and fishing exploits.

— John Jefferson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This is the time of year when I am the busiest, if any one time can be labeled as such. The reason for the increase in my activity is that it is time to send out the conference registration and dues notices. The conference is to be at the Hilton Hotel on the seawall in Galveston and it overlooks the Gulf of Mexico; a beautiful location.

I am trying to tidy up our member information, so I implore each of you to check your information and send any changes made in the past year to me so I can keep our new directory and website as up to date as possible. Email addresses and your personal description are usually the most often areas that need updating, but any change is important.

This year at the conference there will be some proposed amendments to the by-laws for you to consider that will be put forth in an effort to keep our organization moving forward and make it possible to have our website and executive director's position more closely aligned with the 21st Century.

In closing, I ask each member to do your best to attend the conference so you can learn and better understand the many changes in the marketplace of the industry we serve and remember this is not an organization of the board of directors, but of each of our members whose input is invaluable.

I am looking forward to see you at the conference this year.

— Larry LeBlanc

CALENDAR

Oct. 27 - 28, Nov. 2 - Jan. 27 — Duck Season, High Plains Mallard Management Unit.

Nov. 3 - 25, Dec. 8 - Jan. 27 — Duck Season, North Zone.

Nov. 3 - 25, Dec. 8 - Jan. 27 — Duck Season, South Zone.

Nov. 3 - Jan. 20 — General white-tailed deer season, South Zone.

Nov. 3 - Jan. 6 — General white-tailed deer season, North Zone.

Nov. 8 - 11 — Patriot Range Day at various locations across the country. Visit the Patriot Range Day website at foldsofthonor.org/patriot-range-day for more information.

Dec. 22 - Jan. 6, 2013 — Dove Seasons, North and Central Zones.

Dec. 22 - Jan. 22, 2013 — Dove Season, South Zone.

Feb. 14 - 16, 2013 — 2013 TOWA Annual Conference, at the Hilton San Luis Resort in Galveston.