

TOWA

NOTE NEW
TOWA MAILING ADDRESS:
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15278 Caravel Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78418

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

CONFERENCE SITE CHAIR'S REPORT

Update on New Braunfels for 2014 TOWA Conference

Interim Executive Director & Site Chair Childs Revisits Meeting Site



The Courtyard by Marriott in New Braunfels has added some great outdoor amenities to enhance its riverside backyard.

Checking out our 2014 TOWA Conference location Arriving in front of the Courtyard by Marriott in New Braunfels it looked exactly as I remembered it from our visit two years ago.

Stepping into the lobby I noticed a few subtle differences. But from the large expanse of windows looking toward the river I could tell that there had been some big improvements down by the

waterfront. There was a new dock, large swim platform/pier, lounge chairs in the shade and a nice palapa for watching the river roll past. Let me assure you that even in the busy summer season it was beautiful and peaceful.

As far as the hotel is concerned, our room was large, comfortable, clean and had a gorgeous view. Those who make their reservations early will be able to book a river view. Our group can begin



booking as early as August. The staff is friendly, helpful and competent and the meeting space is perfect for our group.

The average daily high temperature in New Braunfels during the time of our February meeting is 69 degrees. It is Texas and anything could happen, but the weather was most cooperative during our last visit, which made it possible for us to enjoy outdoor activities. We have another invitation to visit Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch for a special photo safari. Rare twin giraffes were born on May 10 at the Wildlife Ranch. This is only the second time that surviving twin giraffes have been born in the United States. There will be two six-person opportunities to be guided through the property in a vehicle perfect for taking photos. One trip is planned for Thursday, Feb. 27 and another for Sunday, March 2. It will be important to sign up early. If there is enough interest,

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TOWA News is published monthly by the Texas Outdoor Writers Association and edited by Susan L. Ebert. Layout by SusanEbertInk, SusanEbertInk@gmail.com. Contributors are urged to submit material by the 15th of each month. For advertising information, contact Susan L. Ebert at (512) 431-2013 or SusanEbertInk@gmail.com. TOWA News is emailed to members and mailed first class, if requested, from Porter, Texas.

TOWA was formed in 1958 as a professional/social organization for those who communicate about hunting, fishing and other outdoor pursuits, as well as those in business and industry connected with the outdoors.

TOWA Mailing Address: Texas Outdoor Writers Association, c/o David Sikes, 15278 Caravel Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78418



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CONFERENCE SITE CHAIR'S REPORT



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it is possible one more trip could be added. Visit www.wildliferanchtexas.com for more information.

Water is everywhere in New Braunfels. There's Landa Park located at the beginning of the spring-fed Comal River. The park houses a spring-fed pool, opportunities for water sports such as kayaking and paddle boats, a miniature golf course and a 1.6-mile nature trail. The Comal is the shortest navigable river in Texas. It runs 3.4 miles through the city until it reaches the Guadalupe River. Find more information at www.nbtexas.org.

Gruene is a destination every tourist must take in while in the area. Besides the famous Gruene Hall, there are dozens of shops and restaurants you will enjoy visiting. This quaint little town is actually in the New Braunfels city limits. See www.gruene.com.

Who hasn't heard of the great fishing at Canyon Lake, which is located 25 miles west of New Braunfels? There are 80 miles of beautiful shoreline with great views, boat ramps, marinas, a yacht club and golf course. Visit www.canyonlakeguide.com for more information.

And there's so much more including an amazing downtown full of early Texas German history. Try to schedule some time before or after the Feb. 23 - March 1 TOWA conference to enjoy all New Braunfels has to offer.

— Jonette Childs



Remembering the Early Days of TOWA

by John Thompson, TOWA Historian

In an effort to protect my status as the official keeper of TOWA history, and insure the income this position generates continues at a steady pace, I thought it proper to put down what I can still remember of the early days.

As I understand it, Fred Maly who wrote outdoors for the *San Antonio Light* in the really early days, made a false start to form an outdoor writing association in the early '50s, but it never caught on.

Shortly afterward, the core of this organization followed the growing trend of state affiliations of the Outdoor Writers Assn. of America, and TOWA was born in 1959. Though I was not there for the first chapters, I feel confident George Kellam was elected the charter president because none of the others present wanted the responsibility.

Kellam was a WWII B-17 bombardier, wounded by shrapnel in his left hand who had no trouble with a manual typewriter for some 30 years with the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. Most of those years were under the outdoor writer tag.

He later put in the name of a young and eager outdoor writer at the *Beaumont Enterprise* as his replacement when he moved to head the paper's promotion department. Fortunately he didn't fully grasp the depravity of my spelling.

In 1960 of the three guys who really carried the mail for this group, Dan Klepper, Ed Holder and Roy Swann, it was Roy who drew the black bean to become our second president. Roy was the outdoor guy at the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*.

Swann was a wonderful, fun-loving guy who probably knew more about saltwater fishing than anyone I've known. Roy also was a solid supporter and leader of TOWA for many years.

The next two presidents, Dan Klepper ('61) and Ed Holder ('62) were really the spine of this organization, not only in those early days, but throughout the years that followed.

Klepper, if there is anyone who doesn't know, was outdoor writer for the *San Antonio Express-News* for some 40 plus years. Dan was the best of all when it came to uncovering news stories and pushing them until something really came of the story—good or bad. He was also good about sharing his information with the rest of us to help with the pushing.

It seemed as though it was always Dan "Weak Eyes" Klepper who came up with new ideas for TOWA as we pushed through the years of change. He was also good for coming up with nicknames for all of the rest of us, but that would take longer to tell than we have here.

He was also a heck of an outdoorsman whether it was rattling a deer or catching a bass. If there was a better all around outdoorsman in our midst, it was Holder. No matter the game, he was a good as anyone you've known. I remember taking him to a gun range in Beaumont. He had never shot trap.

At the end of the round he had broken 25 straight with his duck gun. If it had to do with hunting or fishing he not only loved it — he was good at it. He is also the only outdoor writer I know of who was given an appreciation dinner by the sportsmen of his area. It was a great affair, and they presented Ed with a new Browning A-5 magnum.

Ed wrote for the *Port Arthur News*, and never thought of leaving. In fact at one point when the *Beaumont Enterprise-Journal* came calling, Ed substituted the name of another guy, who was then peddling a part-time column to the *San Angelo Standard-Times*.

And, though I was far from their level as writers, and miles from the best outdoors guy, I was certainly the best looking, and blessed by knowing these four as my closest friends for so many years.

More teal in early-season bag, higher possession limit encourage hunters

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — This fall, early-teal-season hunters may have an opportunity to bag more teal. Additionally, if the Department of Interior finalizes the waterfowl harvest regulations as initially proposed, the possession limit would increase. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed a six-teal bag limit for early teal season and a possession limit for all seasons equivalent to three daily bag limits. Current limits are a four-teal daily bag during the special season and a possession limit of two daily bag limits.

"Ducks Unlimited is always pleased to see increased opportunities for waterfowl hunting," said DU Chief Scientist Dale Humburg. "Harvest regulations are biologically based, and teal population trends have certainly been favorable in recent years."

Habitat conditions in the prairie pothole region have generally been wet and favorable for the last several years, laying the foundation for excellent nesting success for prairie nesters. Habitat conservation efforts by DU and others across North America have also served to bolster waterfowl populations.

"To date, Ducks Unlimited has helped conserved more than 13 million acres of important waterfowl habitat across the continent, but we cannot rest on that success," Humburg said. "Despite record numbers in the breeding waterfowl survey over the last few years, if left unchecked, all prairie-breeding ducks will be negatively impacted by the continuing trend of wetland and grassland losses."

The higher possession limit will be especially helpful for the thousands of waterfowl hunters who travel for hunting trips each year and want to take their harvest home with them. If approved, they will be able to possess up to three daily bag limits at a time, rather than two. For hunters that take week-long trips across the country to harvest waterfowl, this change will make a difference. Because state regulations may vary within the federal framework, DU reminds hunters to check state-specific regulations before heading to the marsh.

"If you support waterfowl conservation efforts in North America, you can look upon these regulation changes as the fruits of your labor," said DU CEO Dale Hall. "If you do not currently support waterfowl conservation, please consider helping ensure that future generations have the same chance to experience the majesty of waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife that you have."

Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. For more information, contact Andi Cooper at (601) 956-1936.



Texas Team Trail Presented by Cabela's Announces 2014 Schedule

NORMAN, Okla. — The Texas Team Trail presented by Cabela's (TXTT) recently unveiled the 2014 event schedule, which includes a couple of new stops along with some familiar favorites.

The regular season will kick off on Feb. 15, 2014 at Sam Rayburn Lake. If history holds true, the event should be a heavyweight shootout. The following month, the TXTT will return to Lake Ray Roberts, which produced a four-fish, 30-pound stringer this season.

In April, the TXTT will visit Lake Texoma for the first time. A favorite between both Texas and Oklahoma anglers alike, Texoma promises to be an excellent test. Finally, the 2014 regular season will wrap up May 3 when the TXTT returns to Lake Livingston.

The two-day, entry-fee Championship is scheduled for June 7-8 on legendary Toledo Bend Lake and will once again feature higher payout and contingency prize opportunities.

2014 TXTT scheduled events: Feb. 15 - Sam Rayburn Lake; March 15 - Lake Ray Roberts; April 12 - Lake Texoma; May 3 - Lake Livingston; and the Championship - June 7-8 - Toledo Bend Lake.

For additional information, anglers are encouraged to call 210-788-4143 or check out the TXTT website at www.texasteamtrail.com. Site visitors can register for events, review the television schedule, get official Texas Team Trail gear and view results.

Along with title-sponsor Cabela's, Texas Team Trail has also welcomed Lucas Oil®, Ranger Boats, Stratos Boats, Triton Boats, Evinrude®, Minn Kota®, Talon, RAM Trucks, Lowrance, Power-Pole, General Tire, Boater's Insurance®, Amphibia, Protect the Harvest and Arctic Ice as official partners.

NATIONAL OUTDOOR NEWS

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES DELIVER SURPRISING ARRAY OF BENEFITS TO AMERICANS

Semipostal Stamp Proposed to Help Bridge Funding Gap

WASHINGTON, DC — A report released by the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) describes some of the unlikely benefits that the nation's 561 wildlife refuges add to the health, safety, and economic well-being of the American people. The broad coalition is urging Congress to provide the Refuge System with sufficient funds to allow these benefits to continue.

Among the most surprising benefits described in *America's Wildlife Refuges 2013: Delivering the Unexpected*:

- Eighty percent of the nation's 561 wildlife refuges provide natural buffers against urbanization and other development pressures, thereby preserving undeveloped lands and airspace that enable military units to execute their vital training missions.
- Conservation easements on nearly 3.5 million acres of refuge lands allow many private landowners to keep their ranches and farms in production.
- Henderson Airfield on the remote Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, one of only a handful of emergency landing sites available for transpacific flights, has been estimated to save commercial airlines at least \$28 million annually and, in 2012 alone, was used by nearly 50 private and military flights for emergency or refueling purposes.
- Wildlife refuges generate more than \$32.3 billion each year in natural goods and services, such as buffering coastal communities from storm surges, filtering pollutants from municipal water supplies, and pollinating food crops.
- Refuge employees often double as first responders to natural disasters and other emergencies in their local communities.
- The more than 47 million hunters, anglers, wildlife watchers, and other recreationists who visit wildlife refuges generate between \$2.1 and \$4.2 billion in sales to local communities each year.

According to the report, the National Wildlife Refuge System needs at least \$900 million annually to carry out its conservation mission, but at its highest funding level in FY 2010, it received only \$503 million. Since then,

Congress has not only failed to provide the \$8 million annual increase needed to cover rising costs, but has steadily cut the Refuge System's budget. With Congress poised to slash federal spending, the System could see its funding drop to \$389 million in FY 2014 - a 23% cut from FY 2010 that would leave an average of only \$2.59 to manage each of its 150 million acres.

"The National Wildlife Refuge System continues to remind us that conserving nature is essential to our own well-being," said David Houghton, president of the National Wildlife Refuge Association and chair of the CARE coalition. "If we ignore those reminders and fail to invest in our national wildlife refuges, everyone loses."

The report calls on Congress to provide at least \$499 million for the System's operations and maintenance accounts to prevent wildlife refuges from reaching a tipping point that would not only eliminate many of the benefits they provide to the public, but also prevent them from carrying out even the most basic functions central to their conservation mission. CARE is also urging lawmakers to pass legislation authorizing the U.S. Postal Service to issue a special "semipostal" stamp, which would offer the public a voluntary way to support national wildlife refuges. Offered at a slightly higher rate than first-class stamps, proceeds from the semipostal stamp would be used to complete refuge projects that have been backlogged due to chronic funding shortfalls.

For CARE's full report and additional information, please visit www.FundRefuges.org.

Quotes from CARE's member organizations are available at www.FundRefuges.org/care/2013-CARE-Member-Quotes.pdf.

The Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) is a national coalition of 22 wildlife, sporting, conservation, and scientific organizations representing a constituency numbering more than 16 million Americans. CARE has been working since 1995 to educate Congress, the Administration, and the public about America's magnificent National Wildlife Refuge.

For more information, contact Desiree Sorenson-Groves at (202) 290-5593 or dgroves@refugeassociation.org

Bushnell Partners with Renowned Adventurist Bear Grylls on a New Simple GPS Product Line

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — Bear Grylls has proven he can find his way out of a tough situation, but the rest of us could probably use some assistance. Bushnell and Bear Grylls Ventures have partnered to introduce two simple GPS devices for adventure-goers: Bear Grylls edition BackTrack and BackTrack D-TOUR.

Following a career in the British Special Forces and myriad survival and adventure experiences, Bear Grylls understands the importance of simple survival tools. Bushnell, in partnership with the survival expert, has developed a Bear Grylls collection that includes personal GPS, optics and portable power.

The BackTrack combines advanced GPS technology with a digital compass and simple user interface that allows users to mark up to three

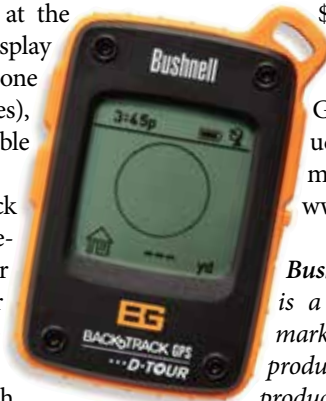


locations. Whether it's marking a trailhead or a campsite in the woods, the BackTrack provides simple distance (yards/miles or meters/kilometers) and direction to any of the

saved waypoints at the push of a button. With a backlit display and 16-18 hours of operation on one set of batteries (two AAA batteries), the BackTrack is a simple, reliable navigation tool.

Also available is the BackTrack D-TOUR, an enhanced GPS device that makes it easier than ever to record your track and find your way back. With the ability to store up to five locations, provide simple distance and direction to each waypoint, and easily record up to 48 hours of trip data, the D-TOUR is a must-have for the outdoor adventurer. In addition to a self-calibrating digital compass, the device provides time, temperature, altitude and latitude/longitude readings, as well as a trail map that allows users to retrace routes.

Following each adventure, data captured by the D-TOUR can easily be uploaded to a PC or Mac. The free D-TOUR software application overlays the route on a topographic map while providing the length and time of



BackTrack D-TOUR

Bushnell Outdoor Products is a global manufacturer and marketer of branded consumer products. The company sells its products worldwide under the Bushnell, Bee Stinger, Butler Creek, Final Approach, Gold Tip, Hoppe's, Millett, Night Optics, Primos, Simmons, Stoney Point, Tasco, Uncle Mike's, Uncle Mike's Law Enforcement, and the following eyewear brands: Bollé, Cébé and Serengeti. For information about any of these brands or products, please contact Paul Arnhold, Bushnell Public Relations at (913) 752-6105 or parnhold@bushnell.com or Mike Capps, Howard Communications at (573) 898-3422 or mcapps@howardcommunications.com.



CanCooker Appoints David Langston as Vice President of Sales & Marketing

FREMONT, Neb. — CanCooker President Seth McGinn today announced the appointment of marketing guru David Langston to the position of vice president of sales and marketing for the company. In this newly created position, Langston will be responsible for overseeing the sales and marketing departments with direct responsibility for the development and implementation of sales, branding, messaging, and market/product development efforts for domestic and international markets. This position plans, directs, and manages all sales and marketing strategies, functions, policies, objectives and initiatives. He will report directly to McGinn.

A marketing leader in the outdoor industry with more than a decade of solid experience, Langston most recently served as the director of sales and marketing at Hunter Safety System from 2005 until 2013. Prior to that, he was the director of sales and marketing for Muzzy Products Corporation from 2001 to 2005.



"David has a proven track record developing and executing incredibly successful sales and marketing plans that have produced record growth for the companies he's worked with in the past," said McGinn. "We fully expect that his unique skill set and thorough understanding of the market will enable CanCooker to excel in delivering the best outdoor cooking products and total satisfaction to our customers at both the business and consumer levels."

CanCooker, originally introduced in 2009, is a new, unique outdoor cooking device that allows you to cook a lot of food without a lot of work. CanCooker makes a complete meal for large groups, in about one hour and can work with any heat source—propane, charcoal or gas grill, campfire, stove top, or whatever high-heat source you can find. For more information, contact Karen Lutto at karen@hunteroc.com.

It's Recreational Fishing on a Global Scale in Las Vegas at ICAST 2013

Baseball Hall of Famer Johnny Bench is keynote speaker for the world's largest fishing trade show

Alexandria, Va. — This year, the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) is bringing the world's largest sportfishing trade show, the International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades, better known as ICAST, back to Las Vegas. ICAST is being held July 9 - 12, at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nev. From buyers to media to exhibitors, ICAST 2013 is expected to host close to 10,000 representatives from the international sportfishing community who conduct business, network with industry leaders and see all the latest innovations in gear, apparel and accessories.

For the first time, ICAST and the International Fly Tackle Dealer show (IFTD), the fly tackle-specific show produced by the American Fly Fishing Trade Association (AFFTA), are co-locating in the North Halls of the Las Vegas Convention Center on the same days and the same show hours. The "all under one roof" marketplace for fishing is attractive to both the domestic and the international exhibitor and attendee in terms of travel, number of shows to attend and other aspects of show exhibiting and attendance. The show will appear seamless since there will be no partition between ICAST and IFTD and one badge permits access to both shows

"The 'world's largest recreational fishing trade show' is a sure bet for domestic and international exhibitors, buyers and media," said ICAST Trade Show Director Kenneth Andres. "Throughout its 56-year history, ICAST has encompassed all aspects of recreational fishing. With the co-location of IFTD, buyers, media and all members of the global fishing industry can see everything the fishing industry has to offer."

ICAST 2013 is the only place where buyers and media can see a wide array of sportfishing manufacturers' entire product lines; save money and time by taking advantage of ICAST-only product specials; attend business-related seminars; network with industry leaders and entrepreneurs; learn about sportfishing's future with KeepAmericaFishing™; and help shape the



2014 consumer market by voting in the New Product Showcase for the "Best of Show" product categories and the overall "Best of Show."

Baseball Legend Johnny Bench is Our Special Guest Speaker

Johnny Bench, National Baseball Hall of Fame member, is the ICAST 2013 State of the Industry Breakfast keynote speaker. The breakfast is the annual event that kicks off the show's opening and is being held on Wednesday morning, July 10, from 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. in Ballroom N250 in the Las Vegas Convention Center. Tickets are required.

As one of the most impressive defensive catchers, Bench was also considered to be an outstanding hitter. A durable catcher, noted for his excellent baseball intelligence, Bench won 10 Gold Glove Awards, two Most Valuable Player Awards and the Rookie of the Year Award during his 17-year National League career. A skilled hitter, the 14-time All-Star selection belted 389 home runs and led the league in RBIs three times as a leader of the Big Red Machine teams of the 1970s. Bench was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1989, the first year he was eligible.

"We're delighted to host Johnny Bench as our keynote speaker during Wednesday morning's State of the Industry Breakfast," said American Sportfishing Association President and CEO Mike Nussman. "Johnny's said that he wanted to play major league baseball since he was four years old.

By keeping his eye "on the ball," he not only achieved his dream but ultimately became a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. His message of dreaming big and following through on your goals is a great way to kick off this year's show."

Tickets can be purchased in advance online by using your ICAST/IFTD registration; or by calling the ICAST/IFTD registration company, Experient, at (301) 694-5243.

New Product Showcase - ICAST's Flagship Feature

Sponsored by Fishing Tackle Retailer, more fishing products are unveiled during the ICAST New Product Showcase than anywhere else in the world. The New Product Showcase is the premier venue where established manufacturers and entrepreneurs alike debut their latest innovations in fishing gear and accessories. Buyers and Media-Editorial badge holders can evaluate each new product and vote for the prestigious "Best of Show" awards. Voting occurs between 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 9, and 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 10. The awards are presented during the Chairman's Industry Awards Reception, sponsored by Rapala, being held Wednesday, July 10, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., in Ballroom N250, at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

ICAST 2013 Business Seminars Conference

In order to meet the business needs of our industry, the ICAST team is evolving the seminar sessions into a "must attend" business education conference with sessions presented throughout the trade show. This year's seminars focus on a wide-range of topics, with a particular focus on buyers and the retail sector, but the sessions have a lot of information for all attendees and exhibitors. The sessions are free to all badged ICAST and IFTD attendees. The sessions are held during show hours – July 10 – 12, in Room N253, the Las Vegas Convention Center.

ICAST 2013 Show Highlights and Events In addition to the aisles of amazing gear, apparel and accessories, ICAST is also host

to special events and show floor destinations that should be on everyone's "must do" list. These include the New Product Showcase, the State of the Industry Breakfast and the Chairman's Industry Awards Reception where the New Product Showcase "Best of Show" awards are presented, the Lure Tank, the Cyber Lounge and the ASA Resource Center.

A full list and description of show highlights and events and seminars are posted on the ICAST website.

ICAST and IFTD 2013 Show Hours Las Vegas Convention Center

- Tuesday, July 9 – New Product Showcase Preview Reception (Buyers and Media only) – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 10 - 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 11 - 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, July 12 - 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For complete ICAST information, visit ICASTfishing.org. ICAST is a trade-only event and not open to the public. For more information or to arrange for an interview, contact Communications Director Mary Jane Williamson, (703) 519-9691, x227.

The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) is the sportfishing industry's trade association committed to representing the interests of the entire sportfishing community. We give the industry a unified voice, speaking out on behalf of sportfishing and boating industries, state and federal natural resource agencies, conservation organizations, angler advocacy groups and outdoor journalists when emerging laws and policies could significantly affect sportfishing business or sportfishing itself. ASA invests in long-term ventures to ensure the industry will remain strong and prosperous, as well as safeguard and promote the enduring social, economic and conservation values of sportfishing in America. ASA also gives America's 60 million anglers a voice in policy decisions that affect their ability to sustainably fish on our nation's waterways through KeepAmericaFishing™, our angler advocacy campaign. America's anglers generate more than \$48 billion in retail sales with a \$115 billion impact on the nation's economy creating employment for more than 828,000 people.

SAM "HOGBUSTER" CALDWELL LIVES TO RIDE ANOTHER DAY

Hello, TOWA and friends. Several members wondered if I survived the Herman Brune Horses, Hounds & Hogs hunt from the TOWA live auction. I did, and rediscovered an ancient truism: it is better to have hunted hogs on horseback in retrospect than to be there in person. There are certain areas of a male anatomy that resent saddle horn contusion when a horse almost goes down in a mucky hog wallow. And, a 300-mm lens bouncing around one's neck during a gallop can cause a nose bleed. And, thrashing through brush to the scene of a big, black tush hog in a creek bed, being eared by yelping dogs, waiting for the coup de gras of my knife-is a welcome item off my bucket list.

I knew Herman was the real deal when I managed to win the bid for his TOWA trip, and I opened my dictionary and found a picture of Herman Brune under, "Cowboy, Texas, genuine."

Link to the new Herman Brune Hoghunters video, as imaged and produced by Sam Caldwell. The images may be used later on Herman Brune's and Kim Herrington's video show, "Hunting Partners."

<https://plus.google.com/photos/106338170419176941016/albums/5878281420770811889/5886914328700516930?pid=5886914328700516930&oid=106338170419176941016>

And, another Brune Hunting Partners video:
<http://vimeo.com/67230492>

Another segment: This one features hog hunting as well as a bet that Herman Brune is too old to ride the 'big buckers.' Features hog hunting and killing (don't send this sequence to your PETA friends) and a Herman Brune bull ride ending, with some excellent filming by Earl Nottingham and Kim Herrington.

Great production values, and a look at a new series that could force "Swamp People" and "Duck Dynasty" off the air. I suggest you drop by the links, and send a positive comment to Vimeo at <http://vimeo.com/67230494>

Best wishes, Sam "Hogbuster" Caldwell

A NOTE FROM INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JONETTE CHILDS ON JULY 2

We just got back home last evening. Alvin suffered a heat-related seizure at work on Friday afternoon. He was halo flighted to San Antonio Military Medical Center (formerly Brooks Army Medical).

One of our sons and I went up Friday and stayed. He is doing very well. When he passed out he was driving on a ranch road and went into the brush and crashed into a big mesquite tree. His truck is totaled. We are so lucky that he is okay. It could have been very bad.

He couldn't talk, reason or understand what was going on until Sunday morning. I went to mass in the hospital chapel at 8:15 and left him with Wally, our son. I got back at 9:30 and Alvin was sitting up talking to Wally as if nothing ever happened. Imagine my relief. After three cat scans and a MRI we know there is nothing wrong with his brain.

Starting the process of getting him on his feet and back to work by our goal of July 25. He will have to be released by two, maybe three different doctors. We have to find a truck for him since the old one is totaled.

Starting tomorrow with primary care doctor and lab work. He can't drive (even if he had a vehicle) because his license has been pulled for 30 days due to the heat-related seizure he had while driving.

I'll be back to work for y'all after the Fourth of July. How many days of vacation comes with this job?

Thanks for your prayers and support,
Jonette

Emergency Zebra Mussels Order Signed

AUSTIN — Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director Carter Smith has signed an emergency order adding the West Fork of the Trinity River including Lakes Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain, and Worth to the list of water bodies under special regulations intended to help control the spread of zebra mussels.

Smith's action comes following the discovery in mid-June that veligers or larvae of the destructive invasive species had been found in Lake Bridgeport, west of Bridgeport. Lakes Eagle Mountain and Worth are also included in this emergency order because they are downstream of Lake Bridgeport and zebra mussels readily migrate downstream.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission in 2012 amended TPWD's regulations to help ensure that boats operated on Lake Lavon, parts of the Red River including Lake Texoma, and parts of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River including Lakes Ray Robert and Lewisville are drained (including live wells and bilges) before they leave those water bodies. Taking this precaution is crucial in efforts to slow the spread of this species, since contaminated boats are one of the primary ways this happens. Draining water from boats prevents the spread of a microscopic form of the zebra mussel called a veliger, which is invisible to the naked eye.

The emergency rule does create an exemption for persons to travel on a public roadway via the most direct route to another access point located on the same body of water without draining water from their boat. The emergency action would extend the applicability of the current regulation to all impounded and tributary waters of the West Fork of the Trinity River above the Lake Worth dam including Lakes Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain, and Worth.

The zebra mussel is a small, non-native mussel originally found in Eurasia. It has spread throughout Europe, where it is considered to be a major environmental and industrial menace. The animal appeared in North America in the late 1980s and within 10 years had colonized all five Great Lakes and the Mississippi, Tennessee, Hudson, and Ohio River basins. Since then, they have spread to additional lakes and river systems, including some in North Texas.



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Zebra mussels live and feed in many different aquatic habitats, breed prolifically, and cannot be controlled by natural predators. Adult zebra mussels colonize all types of living and non-living surfaces including boats, water-intake pipes, buoys, docks, piers, plants, and slow moving animals such as native clams, crayfish, and turtles. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates the potential economic impact of zebra mussels to be in the billions of dollars.

Under authority granted by the Legislature, emergency rules can be adopted if the commission or the executive director finds that there is an immediate danger to a species authorized to be regulated by the department. This emergency rule will continue for no more than 120 days from the date this notice is filed with the Texas Register. TPWD will be preparing a non-emergency rule for consideration by the commission that would go into effect by the time the emergency rule expires.

For more information on zebra mussels and how to clean, drain and dry a boat, visit <http://www.texasinvasives.org/> or contact Brian Van Zee, (254) 867-7974, brian.vanzee@tpwd.texas.gov or Mike Cox, (512) 389-8046, mike.cox@tpwd.texas.gov.



During a recent awards ceremony in Freer, Lionel Garza, founder of the Muy Grande Deer Contest, recognized these young hunters for entering an animal in his contest. The competition began 48 years ago and is the longest running deer contest in Texas. — Photo Courtesy David Sikes

CALENDAR

July 9 - 12: ICAST, the world's largest sportfishing trade show at the Las Vegas Convention Center. 2013 Show Hours:

- Tuesday, July 9 – New Product Showcase Preview Reception (Buyers and Media only) – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 10 – 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 11 – 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, July 12 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For complete ICAST information, visit ICASTfishing.org or ASAFishing.org.

July 31 - Aug. 3: Outdoor Retailer Summer Market Show, Salt Lake City, Utah; visit outdoorretailer.com for details.

Aug. 21: Texas Parks and Wildlife Annual Public Meeting, 2 p.m., TPWD Headquarters, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin. For more information, visit tpwd.state.tx.us.

Sept. 14 - 16: OWAA Annual Conference, Lake Placid, N.Y. For more information, visit owaa.org.