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The OUTDOOR MAGAZINE of TEXAS

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2006-2007 Hunting Seasons Calendar

Cut out on dotted line, fold in half, laminate and carry for convenience. Folding in half again will make it wallet size.

Proposed 2006-2007 Hunting Seasons

Alligator	22 counties (by permit only) Remainder of the state	Sept. 10-30 Apr. 1-June 30	
Pronghorn Antelope	by permit only	Sept. 30-Oct. 8	
Dove (Please report leg bands to 1-800-327-BAND)	North Zone Central Zone South Zone Special South Texas Zone	Sept. 1-Oct. 30 Sept. 1-Oct. 30, Dec. 26-Jan. 4 Sept. 22-Nov. 12, Dec. 26-Jan. 12 Sept. 2, 3, 9 & 10, Sept. 22-Nov. 12, Dec. 26-Jan. 8	
Early Teal-Only	Statewide (all counties) see Important Notice		
White-tailed deer	Archery General: *Special Youth Season North Texas (200 counties) Panhandle (6 counties) South Texas (30 counties) Edwards Plateau (39 counties) <i>Late Antlerless and Spike</i> South Texas (30 counties) <i>Late Antlerless and Spike</i> Muzzleloader (23 counties) <i>Antlerless and Spike Only</i>	Sept. 30-Oct. 29 Oct. 28-29, Jan. 20-21 Nov. 4-Jan. 7 Nov. 18-Dec. 3 Nov. 4-Jan. 21 Jan. 8-21 Jan. 22-Feb. 4 Jan. 13-21 Sept. 30-Oct. 29	
Mule deer	Archery General: Panhandle (36 counties) SW Panhandle (7 counties) Trans-Pecos (19 counties)	Nov. 18-Dec. 3 Nov. 18-26 Nov. 25-Dec. 10	
Javelina	(Approximately 43 counties) (Approximately 50 counties) %Special Youth Season	Oct. 1-Feb. 25 Sept. 1-Aug. 31 Sept. 23-24	
Squirrel	East Texas (51 counties)	Oct. 1-Feb. 4, May 1-31	
	Squirrel (continued)		Sept. 1-Aug. 31
	Lesser Prairie Chicken	By property (by permit only) (see current Outdoor Annual)	Oct. 21-22
	Pheasant		
	Quail		
	Rio Grande Turkey	Archery Fall Season: *Special Youth Season	Nov. 4-Feb. 25 Dec. 2-31 Oct. 28-Feb. 25 Sept. 30-Oct. 29 Oct. 28-29, Jan. 20-21 Nov. 4-Jan. 7 Nov. 4-Jan. 21
	Other Open counties (see County Listings in current Outdoor Annual)		
	Chambers, Jefferson & Liberty counties		
	Panhandle (37 counties)		
	Statewide (all counties)		
	North Texas (122 counties) South Texas (26 counties) Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg & Willacy counties		Nov. 4-Feb. 25
	Spring Season: 4-Turkey counties (153 counties) *Special Youth Season		Mar. 31-May 13 Mar. 24-25, May 19-20 Apr. 1-30
	1-Turkey counties (11 counties)		
	Spring Season Only East Texas (43 counties)		Apr. 1-30
	Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr & Willacy counties		Nov. 4-Feb. 25
	Rabbits and Hares	No closed season.	
	+Eastern Turkey		
	Chachalaca		

* In all counties that have an open season for those species.
% In all counties that have a Oct. 1-Feb. 4 and May 1-31 Open Squirrel Season.
+ Rio Grande and Eastern Turkey may be hunted in these counties.
Important Notice: The dates for a nine-day season are Sept. 16-24, 2006; however, there is a possibility that federal action could result in a 16-day season. If that is the case, the season would begin one week earlier and run from Sept. 9-24, 2006. TPWD will make every reasonable effort to notify the public when the final teal season dates are known. After July 25, contact the department for final teal season dates by calling (800) 792-1112 or visiting the TPWD Web site at: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/season/2007/animal_listing/

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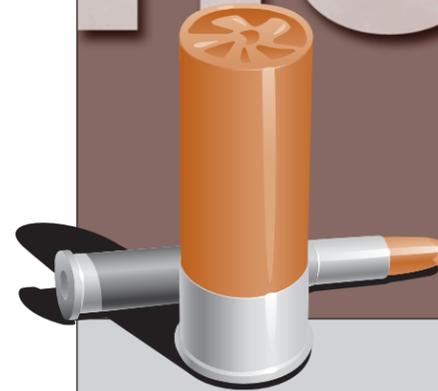
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
All inquiries: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4800 or visit our Web site for detailed information about TPWD programs:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

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hook & buffet

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Thanks are due to Anheuser-Busch, Inc. for funding this customer newsletter, without having to use any state funds for printing. Anheuser-Busch has sponsored this newsletter for five years, and their financial support of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation has resulted in millions of dollars of funding for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department conservation and outreach programs. Anheuser-Busch has been a proud sponsor of many programs, including the Budweiser Share-Lunker program, Flat Out Fishing, Public Dove Hunting program and the Coastal Fisheries Bay Team. Big Time Texas Hunts (see enclosed brochure) is also sponsored by Anheuser-Busch. The Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo also depends on the support of Anheuser-Busch, who has been a top sponsor for the past 13 years. The long-standing support of Anheuser-Busch provides much-needed dollars to the department in order to accomplish the mission of keeping Texas a great place to hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors.



The thing about memories is they have a tendency to fade over time. But, even those long forgotten memories can be triggered by a unique sound, smell or image. It might be the sound of a barred owl that brings back evenings spent with hunting buddies around a fire ring at the deer camp. Or the distinctive aromas as you pass by the seafood section at the market that conjure early mornings at the boat ramp.

If those kinds of memories are growing fainter and fainter, while the mere smell of fresh cut grass or the hum of a computer hard drive fills your senses, then it's time to make your "To Do List" for an unforgettable year in the outdoors.

Flip to the back of this newsletter. See the 2006-2007 Texas Hunting Calendar? Start "Saving the Dates" right now! Block out the opening weekend of dove season. Clear your appointment calendar for several days in

November or December and make a note to go sight in your rifle ahead of time.

While you're at it, book a long weekend on the coast this fall when the big reds are running. Do the same for next spring and plan to head for any of the more than 50 lakes that have produced Budweiser ShareLunkers.

Before you head out, be sure to renew your Super Combo license. It's the only license you need to pursue all your hunting and fishing memories. The Super Combo goes on sale on August 15 and can be purchased at most major sporting goods stores and TPWD law enforcement offices. License purchases can also be made at TPWD's Web site (www.tpwd.state.tx.us). Remember with your Super Combo license you're ready to hunt and fish whenever and wherever you want, because it comes with all the needed state stamps. With the Super Combo, life really is better outside!

ANHEUSER  BUSCH

Renew your Super Combo Aug. 15th!

Purchase licenses online at:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

No Water, No Wildlife

Whether you like to hunt upland birds or fish shallow water bays, whether you're up along the headwaters of a Panhandle river or down where it flows into a coastal estuary, the foundation of our outdoor life is water.

Laws passed in the next few years to divvy up the water pie in Texas will have profound effects on hunting and fishing for decades to come, and sportsmen and women have a right to speak up on this issue.

Here's an important point that may not be widely understood: good land management is one of the best tools we have to conserve water. Let me explain.

Growing up along Lost Creek on a small ranch south of Abilene, I learned that if private landowners like my family overgraze our land or let it become infested with water-sucking plants like mesquite or cedar, people downstream in Austin may not have water to drink. Spring-fed creeks like Lost Creek and rivers like the Pecos and the San Saba will dry up, providing no water for people, fish, wildlife or agriculture. The bare, baked ground that results from continuous overgrazing will cause rapid rainfall run-off and soil erosion and deposit vast quantities of sediment into our rivers, lakes and bays, seriously undermining water quantity and quality.

If, on the other hand, we provide abundant ground cover on our rangeland through deferred-rotation grazing and use prescribed fire to control undesirable brush species and stimulate native grasses and forbs, the rain that falls on the vast private lands of Texas will slowly filter through those plants and soak into the protected soil.

Through good land and watershed management, Texas becomes a huge sponge, absorbing and conserving water from the Panhandle to the Gulf Coast.

Across Texas, our wildlife and fisheries biologists are working with ranchers and water planners to try and make sure there's enough clean water for people and wildlife.

What can you do to make a difference? Install low-flow showers and toilets. Be more conscious of when you use and how you use water in your homes and businesses. Plant native vegetation. Become more knowledgeable about water issues facing our state and communities. Get involved in regional water planning committees.

In our lifetimes, good, clean water will become an increasingly rare and costly commodity. We need to start treating every drop as precious, for our sake and for wildlife's sake.



Robert L. Cook, TPWD Executive Director

Good Seagrass = Good Fishing

A regulation designed to protect fragile seagrass in the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area (RBSSA) went into effect this spring. Information signs at boat ramps, as well as boundary and entry signs within the bay, will alert boaters that it is illegal to uproot seagrass within the 50-square-mile area between Rockport, Ingleside and Port Aransas.

Boaters are still free to access all portions of the RBSSA with any type of boat or motor, so long as they can do so without digging a trench or "prop scar" through the grass beds.

Boaters who use the RBSSA – and visitors from across the state outnumber locals two to one – are urged to lift their motors and drift, pole or troll to deeper water before attempting to get a boat on plane. After an initial education period, anyone who violates the new regulation may face fines of up to \$500.

TPWD biologists say the five species of seagrasses found in Redfish Bay are fundamental to the health of the fishery there. For fish it's the nursery, the roof over their heads and the grocery store all rolled into one.

On the Net: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/seagrass/>

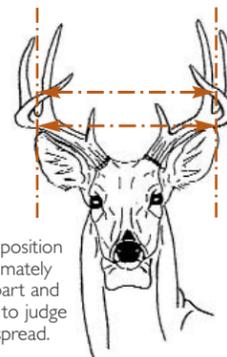
TPWD Adds 40 Counties to Special Buck Harvest Rules

Deer hunters in 40 counties in East and Central Texas will be under new special buck harvest regulations this fall as part of changes to this year's hunting and fishing regulations.

The antler restriction regulations are currently in effect in 21 counties in the Oak Prairie ecoregion and have been effective in improving the age structure of the buck herd, increasing hunter opportunity, and encouraging landowners and hunters to become more actively involved in better habitat management.

Under the regulation, a lawful buck is defined as any buck having at least one unbranched antler or an inside antler spread of at least 13 inches. The bag limit in the affected counties would be two lawful bucks, no more than one of which may have an inside spread of greater than 13 inches.

Counties affected by this regulation include: Austin, Bastrop, Bell, Bosque, Bowie, Brazoria, Burleson, Caldwell, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Colorado, Comal (east of IH-35), Comanche, Coryell, Delta, DeWitt, Eastland, Erath, Fannin, Fayette, Fort Bend, Franklin, Goliad, Gonzales, Gregg, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Harrison, Hays (east of IH-35), Hopkins, Houston, Jackson, Karnes, Lamar, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Marion, Matagorda, Morris, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Somervell, Titus, Travis (east of IH-35), Upshur, Victoria, Waller, Washington, Wharton, Williamson, Wilson and Wood counties.



LEGAL
at least one
unbranched antler



LEGAL
at least one
unbranched antler



LEGAL
inside spread of
13 inches or greater



ILLEGAL
this buck meets
none of the criteria

Congratulations to the Winners!

Each year the Big Time Texas Hunts program raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for wildlife conservation and to provide more hunting opportunities. Please see the enclosed brochure for all the details on this year's great hunts. Winners of last year's program were selected through a random computer drawing of applicants. Here are last year's winners:

Grand Slam George Schultz of Bullard, TX

Exotic Safari John Ayers of Houston, TX
Jeffery Hickman of Houston, TX

Premium Buck Hunt Thomas Roughton of Austin, TX

Waterfowl Adventures Kirk Keller of Kingwood, TX

Gator Hunt Joel Stewart of Los Alamos, NM

Big Time Bird Hunt Nathan Virden of Plano, TX

Whitetail Bonanza Kenneth Langston of Coppell, TX
Terry Roan of Denton, TX
Scott Hilderbrand of San Antonio, TX
Scott Jungmichel of San Antonio, TX
Thomas Belzung of San Antonio, TX
Donovan Donnelly of Port Lavaca, TX
Pat Green of Sinton, TX
Ellie Giries of Sugarland, TX
Aaron Decker of Red Oak, TX
George Branam of Hurst, TX

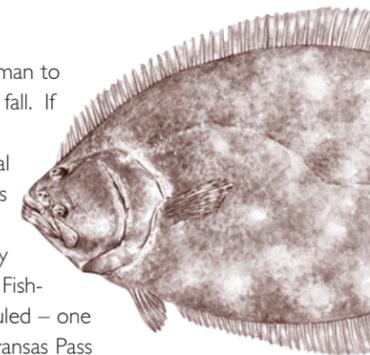
TPWD Seeking Flatfish Fanatics

TPWD is seeking flounder fisherman to help restock state hatcheries this fall. If you're a skilled angler you could become a member of the Coastal Fisheries Bay Team and help Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. catch southern flounder for its hatchery breeding program. Four Coastal Fisheries Bay Team events are scheduled – one each at Sabine Lake (Oct. 21), Aransas Pass (Nov. 4), Texas City (Nov. 11) and Port O'Conner (Nov. 18).

Each event is open on a first-come, first-serve basis to 30, two-angler teams, and all entrants receive Bay Team hats and t-shirts. Entrants bringing in live fish are eligible for prize drawings for a Shimano Calcutta 200B on a Texas Tackle Factory Rod, a Garmin Etrex GPS and a Boga grip scale.

For more information, or to become a member of the Coastal Fisheries Bay Team, please E-mail Robert Adami at robert.adami@tpwd.state.tx.us or call (361) 939-8745.

On the Net: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/programs/cfbt/>



Lunker of a Season!

The 2005-06 Budweiser ShareLunker season ended April 30 with 32 entries, the most 13-pound-plus fish since 33 were entered in 1991-92 and the third-highest total ever.

Lake Alan Henry led with nine fish weighing a total of 124.23 pounds for an average of 13.80 pounds. Lake Fork's six fish totaled 85.04 pounds and averaged 14.173 pounds. Lake Amistad produced four fish weighing 55.54 pounds, an average of 13.885 pounds each. One of those fish weighed 15.68 pounds and was a new lake record. Amistad also produced Budweiser ShareLunker No. 400. Lake Conroe took the crown for highest average weight with three fish that weighed 43.5 pounds in the aggregate and averaged 14.5 pounds.

The average weight of the 32 entries was 13.77 pounds, just 0.08 of a pound less than the 20-year average of 13.85 pounds.

In addition to Amistad, four other lakes saw new water body records set. Lake Lewisville contributed only one fish to the program, but it was a 13.63-pound lake record, the fourth such since June 2005. Lake Ratcliff, in the Davy Crockett National Forest, has new record of 13.65 pounds. San Augustine City Lake's new record fish weighed 13.13 pounds. Lake Alan Henry's new record was also the third-largest entry of the year, an even 15 pounds.



Check Your TV Listings

The following programs are scheduled to air on PBS this fall on the Emmy award-winning *Texas Parks & Wildlife* TV Show. Complete listings and show-times are available online at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tv

 **GUADALUPE BASS**

 **SPORTING CLAYS**

 **WING SHOOTING**

 **SNOW GEESE**

Also: Sighting Your Rifle, The Art of Fishing, Texas Bass, Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, Fishing Knots and a whole lot more.

Internet Resources

The TPWD Web site has a wealth of information. Here are a few new items of interest:

Your free E-mail subscription to the outdoors! Finally a free E-mail Subscription Service that offers E-mail updates on outdoor and conservation topics you choose and are most interested in! Whether you want to receive E-mails when there are trout stockings, state park pass discounts, updates on public hunt drawings, new job postings, stories from the current issue of the *Texas Parks and Wildlife* magazine, or you just want to be notified when there is an emergency site closing, you can sign up for these and much more on the new TPWD E-mail Subscription Service. Plus you can change your online profile at any time to add or delete topics. Just visit our Web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us today. TPWD adheres to the Public Information Act which ensures that your personal E-mail address will not be provided to any outside organization or company.

It's the 15th anniversary of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo on Oct. 7th and 8th. Don't miss this premier outdoor event in Texas:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/expo/