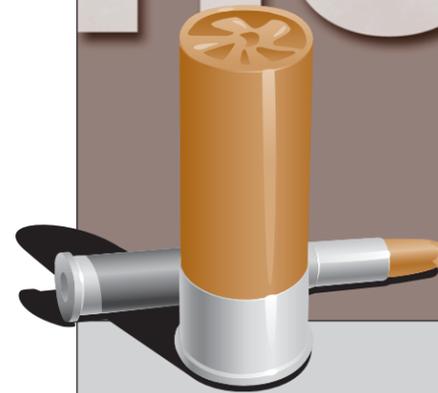


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Thanks are due to Anheuser-Busch, Inc., for funding this Super Combo customer newsletter so that no state funds were needed for printing. Anheuser-Busch has sponsored this newsletter for six years, and their financial support of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation has resulted in millions of dollars of funding for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department conservation and outreach programs, including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Expo, Budweiser ShareLunker program, Public Dove Hunting program, Coastal Fisheries Bay Team and "Flat Out Fishing" workshops. The Big Time Texas Hunts program (see enclosed brochure) is also sponsored by Anheuser-Busch. This long-standing corporate support provides much-needed dollars to help the department accomplish its mission of keeping Texas a great place to hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors.

Here in Texas, those who cherish the outdoors know that richness of opportunity and the value of experience are worth more than all the gold and silver in the world. What really counts are the memories of a day spent catching a stringer full of pan fish with your youngster on his or her first freshwater fishing trip; the pounding of your heart as the biggest white-tailed buck you've ever seen cautiously approaches your ground blind; or the taste of salt water splashed across your face as a 28-inch speckled trout douses you in one last attempt at freedom before you guide it into your net.

Whether you are wing shooting doves or quail; chunking lures at largemouth bass; rattling up big bucks; chasing reds in the saltwater flats; or any number of outdoor pursuits, the Super Combo is your ticket to these wonderful opportunities for just a few pennies per hour.

Super Combo licenses go on sale Aug. 15 wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold. You can also buy online on the TPWD Web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/licenses or by calling toll-free at (800) 895-4248.

Not only does the Super Combo save money for the Lone Star State's outdoor enthusiasts, but funds from license sales also provide revenue for conservation and preservation of our natural resources. Unlike sales taxes, hunting and fishing license revenue is dedicated by law for fisheries and wildlife conservation, including programs that stock millions of fish in lakes and bays across Texas and manage habitat for deer, turkey, dove and other game. Your license dollars also fund law enforcement to keep the playing field level, to make sure everybody follows the rules so you can enjoy the outdoors when your turn comes.

These experiences and countless others like them are almost priceless for those who spend their hard-earned dollars and limited free time in the great outdoors.

And while the price of almost everything keeps going up, you can still lasso an "all-in-one" Super Combo license for just \$64. The Super Combo provides all the individual licenses and tags you need to pursue just about any hunting or fishing activity here in Texas.



Renew your Super Combo Aug. 15th!

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



The Art of Conservation

For more than a quarter of a century, Collectors Covey has published some of the finest wildlife and sporting artists. When you purchase special edition Texas wildlife stamp sets or prints from Collectors Covey, a share of the proceeds goes to support TPWD conservation efforts. Each year a set of collector stamps features artwork of a migratory game bird, upland game bird, saltwater fish, freshwater fish, archery and a native nongame species. Each set costs \$20 and makes a great gift or personal collectible. Collector's prints are also available for \$145 unframed. Visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/shopcovey to shop for this year's collection!

Visit Our Web Site

The TPWD Web site has a wealth of information, including: **Free outdoor e-mail updates!** TPWD offers free e-mail updates about hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation news. Choose from trout stocking schedules, public hunt drawing updates, red tide bulletins, public meeting notices, emergency site closings, hunter education classes, landowner workshops and more. See the "Sign up for e-mail updates" envelope icon on the TPWD home page at www.tpwd.state.tx.us (TPWD follows Public Information Act guidelines; your e-mail address will not be provided to any outside organization).

Video on the Web! Our Web site features video clips from our award-winning TV series about state parks, fishing and more at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/video

2007-2008 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 2007-2008 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. 29-Oct. 7
Dove (Please report leg bands to 1-800-327-BAND) see Important Notice	North Zone Central Zone South Zone Special South Texas Zone	Sept. 1-Oct. 30 Sept. 1-Oct. 30, Dec. 26-Jan. 4 Sept. 21-Nov. 11, Dec. 26-Jan. 12 Sept. 1, 2, 8 & 9, Sept. 21-Nov. 11, Dec. 26-Jan. 8
Early Teal-Only see Important Notice	Statewide (all counties)	Sept. 15-30
White-tailed deer	Archery General: *Special Youth Season North Texas (200 counties) Panhandle (6 counties) South Texas (30 counties) Late Antlerless and Spike Edwards Plateau (39 counties) South Texas (30 counties) Muzzleloader (23 counties)	Sept. 29-Nov. 2 Oct. 27-28, Jan. 19-20 Nov. 3-Jan. 6 Nov. 17-Dec. 2 Nov. 3-Jan. 20 Jan. 7-20 Jan. 21-Feb. 3 Jan. 12-20
Mule deer	Archery General: Panhandle (36 counties) SW Panhandle (7 counties) Trans-Pecos (19 counties)	Sept. 29-Nov. 2 Nov. 17-Dec. 2 Nov. 17-25 Nov. 24-Dec. 9
Javelina	(Approximately 43 counties) (Approximately 50 counties)	Oct. 1-Feb. 24 Sept. 1-Aug. 31
Squirrel	%Special Youth Season East Texas (51 counties)	Sept. 29-30 Oct. 1-Feb. 3, May 1-31

Squirrel (continued)	Other Open counties (see County Listings in current Outdoor Annual)	Sept. 1-Aug. 31
Lesser Prairie Chicken	By property (by permit only) (see current Outdoor Annual)	Oct. 20-21
Pheasant	Chambers, Jefferson & Liberty counties Panhandle (37 counties) Statewide (all counties)	Nov. 3-Feb. 24 Dec. 1-30 Oct. 27-Feb. 24 Sept. 29-Nov. 2
Quail	Archery Fall Season: *Special Youth Season	Oct. 27-28, Jan. 19-20 Nov. 3-Jan. 6 Nov. 3-Jan. 20
Rio Grande Turkey	North Zone (122 counties) South Zone (26 counties) Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg & Willacy counties	Nov. 3-Feb. 24
	Spring Season: North Zone (101 counties) *Special Youth Season	Mar. 29-May 11 Mar. 23-24, May 17-18 Mar. 15-Apr. 27 Mar. 8-9, May 3-4 Apr. 1-30
	South Zone (54 counties) *Special Youth Season	
	I-Turkey counties (11 counties)	
+ Eastern Turkey	Spring Season Only East Texas (43 counties)	Apr. 1-30
Chachalaca	Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr & Willacy counties	Nov. 3-Feb. 24
Rabbits and Hares	No closed season.	

* In all counties that have an open season for those species.
% In all counties that have a Oct. 1-Feb. 3 and May 1-31 Open Squirrel Season.
+ Rio Grande and Eastern Turkey may be hunted in these counties.
Important Notice: Texas dove and early teal season dates are tentative pending federal approval. For final dove seasons, check the Texas Outdoor Annual when it comes out in July. For teal, see the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Web site after season dates are final in late August.

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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT
"To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

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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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Game Wardens: Conservation's Front Line

Why are fishing and hunting so great in Texas? There are many reasons (our state is naturally blessed, for one thing). But here's one factor:

Every day, every night, for many decades, Texas game wardens have epitomized community-based conservation law enforcement. They put their lives on the line. They take educational messages to schools. They save lives during hurricanes and floods. And they do it all with irrepressible humor and a positive, can-do outlook.

Sometimes they pay the ultimate price. This happened May 30, when Teyran "Ty" Patterson lost his life trying to recover a drowning victim in the rain-swollen Paluxy River. It happened March 17, when Justin Hurst was killed in the line of duty by a suspected poacher on his 34th birthday.

Justin and Ty's stories illustrate not only the danger our game wardens face daily, but also how their role has expanded. Ty's sacrifice underscores a water safety role which came to national prominence in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Justin began his TPWD career in 1995 as a wildlife biologist, specializing in waterfowl management along the mid-coast, before he became a game warden in 2002.

Long gone are the days when game wardens focused solely on "poaching."

Today's game wardens must be educators and trainers, flood rescue specialists, boating safety officers, and environmental crime investigators. Game Warden Academy cadets must possess a college degree and many now come with wildlife or fisheries science backgrounds.

Such broad responsibilities require quality training. Since the 1970s, cadets have trained at an aging facility in Austin.

This fall, we are beginning a multi-million dollar fundraising effort to build a new, state-of-the-art training facility.

We have an outstanding new location in Hamilton County, thanks to an agreement with the Police Activities League. Now we need to raise the necessary funds to build needed facilities.

Texas Game Warden Training Center plans include a new education building with library, computer lab, classrooms and 100-seat auditorium; an armory to securely store firearms and house a Fire Arms Training Simulator; a gymnasium for fitness and defensive tactics training; a water rescue building with a 25-meter heated pool for aquatic survival and rescue training; an emergency vehicle operations course; a firing range and cadet cabins for lodging during each academy.

The new center will be financed through a combination of private donations and corporate sponsorships, and every Texan has a role to play in this endeavor.

Look for complete information on the Texas Game Warden Association Web site at www.texasgamewarden.com or phone toll-free (800) 322-8492.

Texas game wardens have helped many people in many places. Now they could use our help. Please help.



Robert L. Cook, TPWD Executive Director



Study to Guide Eastern Wild Turkey Management

Proof that TPWD's eastern wild turkey restoration initiative is a booming success can be found in the woods, where wily gobblers can now be heard in more than 40 East Texas counties.

The ambitious undertaking to return eastern wild turkeys to suitable habitat in Texas was made possible through a cooperative partnership between TPWD, private landowners and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Systematically over a 10-year period beginning in the mid-80s, TPWD released more than 7,000 eastern wild turkeys onto sites with sufficient habitat to support a turkey population. Using funds from hunting licenses and turkey stamps, TPWD defrayed the trapping costs of other states that supplied wild-trapped turkeys to Texas. The NWTFF helped coordinate trapping and shipping logistics between the states.

And, while turkeys continue to flourish in many areas of East Texas, there are places where the birds have not done as well as biologists had anticipated. The TPWD staff is evaluating the old release site data for clues and framing current research to help evaluate why some releases worked better than others. Biologists will be looking to a group of researchers from Stephen F. Austin University to help solve the mystery. During the next three years, researchers will be using radiotelemetry tracking devices to document movements, habitat usage and reproduction of recently-released turkeys on three different sites in Nacogdoches, Anderson and Houston counties. About 80 wild-trapped turkeys from Tennessee and South Carolina were stocked at each location.

As with the previous sites where turkeys were released, no turkey hunting will be allowed for several years on those properties. Private landowners volunteer their land and resources to assist in the effort. There is still plenty of hunting elsewhere for both eastern and Rio Grande turkeys in Texas, and to maximize opportunity, the TPWD Commission adjusted season dates in South Texas starting with the 2008 spring hunting season, which will open March 15.

Bay Team Seeks Flounder Pounders This Fall

TPWD is inviting anglers to join the Coastal Fisheries Bay Team at special events on the middle and upper coasts this fall. The program, launched in 2005, recruits experienced anglers to help catch brood stock for fish hatchery programs. This fall, the focus is flounder. "Since fish population levels have been down in Texas bay systems, we are gearing up for hatchery production with the southern flounder," said Robert Adami, TPWD coastal fisheries biologist, adding that all flounder larvae will be stocked back into the bay from which their parents came. Bay team participants will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a Garmin Etrex GPS unit, Shimano Cruxis Reel, Boga Grips and a Shimano Calcutta 200B on a Texas Tackle Factory Rod. Regardless, every participant will receive a T-shirt and commemorative lure. The prizes, equipment and program are made possible through support from Anheuser-Busch, Inc. For details, contact Adami at Robert.Adami@tpwd.state.tx.us or (361) 215-7340.

All bay team tournaments for this fall will take place from 6 a.m.–12 p.m. at:

- Pleasure Island, Oct. 20, S.A.L.T. Club
- Port O'Connor, Nov. 3, Froggies
- Aransas Pass, Oct. 27, Conn Brown Harbor
- Texas City, Nov. 10, Boyd's One Stop

New, Lower Laguna Madre Regulations to Aid Declining Seatrout

New, lower bag and possession limits for spotted seatrout ("speckled trout") in the Lower Laguna Madre will begin Sept. 1, 2007. The TPWD Commission in April voted to lower both the bag and possession limit to five fish.

The reduction in the daily bag limit addresses a downward trend in the spawning stock biomass of spotted seatrout in the Lower Laguna Madre—a trend that runs counter to steadily increasing populations elsewhere on the coast.

Of particular concern to TPWD biologists is that spotted seatrout spawning stock biomass currently is about half what it was at the time of the 1983–1984 freeze, which resulted in a major kill of spotted seatrout and other species along the lower coast. A greater number of reproducing fish can help stocks recover faster after such a catastrophic event.

"As we moved into this year, for the first time our spotted seatrout catch rate for the Lower Laguna Madre has fallen below the statewide average," said TPWD Coastal Fisheries Director Larry McKinney, Ph.D. "Spawning stock biomass continues to go down and we don't see that trend turning around unless we do something."

The new regulation applies to the entire Lower Laguna Madre, from Marker 21 in the Landcut to South Bay, including the Brownsville Ship Channel and Arroyo Colorado, and to the base of the jetties at East Cut near Port Mansfield and Brazos Santiago Pass at South Padre Island. The Gulf beaches are not included in the area, but any boats fishing in Gulf waters and landing their catches within the regulation boundaries would be subject to the lower bag limits.

Congratulations to the Winners!

Each year, the Big Time Texas Hunts program raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for wildlife conservation and public hunting opportunities. Please see the enclosed brochure for all the details on this year's great hunts. Hunters are selected through a random computer drawing. Following are last year's winners:

- Grand Slam** Danny Joe Bennett, Victoria, TX
- Premium Buck Hunt** Larry Leschper, Sharpsburg, GA
- Exotic Safari** Denver Dale Eichler, Sandia, TX
James Ray Hrabovsky, Victoria, TX
- Gator Hunt** Garrett E. Taylor, San Antonio, TX
- Big Time Bird Hunt** John T. Kennedy, Lufkin, TX
- Waterfowl Adventures** Bob Alan Carroll, Kerens, TX
- Whitetail Bonanza** Samuel Cardenas, San Antonio, TX
Brian C. Lauster, Graham, TX
Houston P. Sterne, Victoria, TX
Eddie A. Long, Joshua, TX
Claudia Hopkins, Bourne, TX
Mark Glynn, Bryan, TX
Stephen B. Harpold, Kerrville, TX
Michael C. Coker, Tyler, TX
Layton L. Hobbs, Houston, TX
Wallace Benton Hughes, Spring, TX



Bass Classic, ShareLunker Program Connect at Lake Fork

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic presented by Enterprise Rent-a-Car, held on Lake Fork in April 2007, is the latest testament to the quality of bass fishing in Texas. The Professional Anglers Association teamed up with Toyota, TPWD and other sponsors to showcase great fishing, promote conservation and raise money for youth outreach in the first-of-its-kind tournament.

Lake Fork has produced not only the current state record largemouth bass but also the six largest Texas bass and 35 of the top 50. While TPWD inland fisheries biologists manage the fishery, their work would not be possible without angler support through fishing license purchases.

Also due credit are the Sabine River Authority, which works closely with TPWD in the management of the lake, and the almost universal catch-and-release ethic among anglers and guides on Lake Fork.

Reservoirs all over Texas benefit from what happens on Lake Fork, which has produced more than half the entries into the Budweiser ShareLunker program, which allows anglers to donate live fish for hatchery programs. Offspring from the 13-pound-plus ShareLunker females are stocked statewide. The resulting genetic diversity and spread of Florida largemouth bass genes has resulted in 55 public bodies of water producing ShareLunkers.

Operation World Record, a TPWD selective breeding program, uses Budweiser ShareLunkers to pass on lunker genes to hatchery offspring in an attempt to produce more and bigger bass in Texas. These fish are stocked into public waters, and someday you might find one on the end of your line.

The Great Outdoors on TV

The *Texas Parks & Wildlife* television series airs weekly half-hour episodes on all Texas PBS stations. Here are a few examples of outdoor episodes coming up this fall: White Bass Fishing, East Texas Squirrel Hunt, Toyota Texas Bass Classic, The Quail Question, Night Fishing, Wade Fishing and Texas Ducks. See complete listings and airtimes online at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tv