

1981 DU Shotgun Donated To Study Club Auction



David R. Wintermann is shown with the 12 gauge Weatherby Shotgun, a 1981 Ducks Unlimited special edition, which he and Mrs. Wintermann (left), have donated to the Eagle Lake Study Club for the benefit of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Steel Shot Rule Challenged

By Jeff Franks

A lawsuit has been filed in the 98th District Court, Travis County, by Muldoon Hunting and Fishing Club, Inc. challenging the validity of the state's nontoxic steel shot rule. This regulation was promulgated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission in an effort to reduce lead poisoning of migratory waterfowl by requiring the use of steel shot to hunt ducks, geese, and coots in the upper Gulf Coast Region north in this area.

A trial date of Oct. 19, 1981 has been set to allow a final resolution of the lawsuit prior to the opening of the regular migratory waterfowl hunting season on Nov. 7, 1981. This trial will determine whether the Parks and Wildlife Department may enforce the steel shot rule during the upcoming season.

There is no question that lead shot is toxic to waterfowl and despite the outcome of pending litigation, hunters can show their support for the conservation of

strangely should be avoided. Rubber gloves should be used while skinning fur-bearing, and contact with fleas or ticks on the pelts also should be avoided, Brownlee said.

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transmit a variety of diseases, including rabies, plague, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia and leptospirosis.

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Hunters - Earn Cash For Reporting Law Violators

Concerned Texas sportsmen soon will have a way to report game law violators and receive cash rewards for doing so.

The new program, called "Operation Game Thief," was authorized by the 75th Texas Legislature and is being launched by a group of prominent outdoorsmen and conservationists who are willing to pay to see poaching brought under control.

No state funds will be used in any facet of Operation Game Thief. Donations from individuals and organizations will pay for the reward program and operation of a 24-hour toll-free telephone line terminating at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's headquarters in Austin.

Announcement of the program's official starting date and telephone number will be made shortly, Tension said.

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to provide free help filling out tax returns for people who cannot afford to pay for tax help. The IRS is looking for individuals and organized groups such as clubs and volunteer organizations to help.

Participants receive three days training in filling out

1040A and relatively simple tax returns. They then set up VITA sites throughout the state to help low income, non-English speaking, and handicapped people fill out their returns for free.

Those interested in volunteering for VITA at Houston, call 954-0440; or toll free, 1-800-492-4830.

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Despite the loss, Darden said he wouldn't make any changes if he had it to do over. "The only thing I might change would be to pass a little more," he said. "I was something that will pick up more than four or five yards at a time, bigger gains cut down on plays and on chances to make mistakes."

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Rice Belt DU Dinner Is Another Big Success

Houstonian Bill Kurtz Wins Jimmy Reel Sportsman's Award

The Rice Belt Chapter of Ducks Unlimited held another very successful dinner at the Houstonian Hotel on Wednesday night of last week and DU dinner officials are still tallying funds for the national Ducks Unlimited organization.

The festivities began with a social hour and snacks followed by a sumptuous and delicious barbeque dinner and sausage dinner served to over 900 persons by Staff Catering of El Campo.

The prizes offered at the event were some of the finest ever and twenty outstanding items, ranging from shotguns to hunting and fishing trips to paintings, highlighted the evening with Tommy Pilkington serving as auctioneer.

A popular feature again this year was a "silent auction" of a number of beautiful paintings.

Bill Kurtz of Houston, left, is shown receiving the 1981 J. R. (Jimmy) Reel Sportsman's Award from a former award winner, George W. (Sonny) Summers of El Campo. The award-winner was named at the Rice Belt Ducks Unlimited Dinner held at the Houstonian Hotel on Wednesday night of last week. Kurtz has been active in organizing buy-outs of Houstonians who come annually to the Rice Belt gathering.

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