

Pond preparation important for Clifton Tyler's Club

When C. H. (Clifton) Tyler prepares for the waterfowl hunting season each year, his preparation goes far beyond leasing some land and hiring a few guides.

"One of the most often asked questions is why hunters can't hunt the natural ponds that form on the prairie," Tyler said last week.

The answer may surprise you. "Because there aren't any," he said.

They hamper farming operations, so in working land farmers cut drainage slopes so the natural prairie formations will not hold water.

Each year, Tyler and crew re-work those natural pond areas so they will hold water, at least for the season. Once the drainage lines are closed, the hunting operations depend on rain to fill them. If not, Tyler said he would even go to the expense of having water pumped in.

All in all, Tyler said that 20 to 30 ponds are created each year.

Ponds for holding

Even after the ponds are covered with birds hunters aren't allowed to stalk their prey at the water's edge. Tyler said the ponds are for attracting the birds into certain field areas, and to hold them there. Without water the birds would pass on through.

Tyler and his guides know where that water is, and put hunters into hunting areas a field or two away. That enhances the morning's hunt and also explains the reason hunters need to get into fields well before shooting time. They want to make sure they are ready when the birds come off the water.

Tyler has a long history of working with visiting hunting groups, and has been one of the top duck and goose guides in this area for more than twenty years. He has put that experience into his own duck and goose hunting club known as the Clifton Tyler Goose Hunting Club. It has many thousands of acres of up meadow scattered across the Eagle Lake and Garwood prairies. The nice prairies of Eagle Lake and Garwood are the winter home for the largest concentration of wild geese in the world.

Tyler's club can accommodate up to 60 hunters with a four-party minimum. A guide will be provided for each hunt from legal shooting time until noon only. Decoy, white spreads and parkas are furnished.



Clifton Tyler, owner of Tyler's Hunting Club, has been one of the top duck and goose guides in this area for more than 20 years.

Tyler's hunting season headquarters is the famous Farris 1912 hotel in Eagle Lake. Lodging can be arranged there or at one of several hotels and motels in the area. Breakfast is served at 4:30 a.m. at the Farris 1912.

For reservations you can contact Tyler at (409) 234-2691 or 732-6502 in Columbus or write to Clifton Tyler Goose Hunts, 1216 Walnut Street, Columbus, Texas 78934.

Tyler has lived in this area all of his life and has been a professional

10 commandments of firearm safety

Accidents with firearms don't just happen. They are caused by ignorance, carelessness or disregard for safety rules. Abide by the "Ten Commandments of Firearm Safety" each time you handle a firearm. Don't let a needless tragedy ruin the enjoyment of hunting.

1. Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun.
2. Watch the muzzle! Be able to control the direction of the muzzle even if you should stumble.
3. Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions and that you have only ammunition of the proper size for the gun you are carrying.
4. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger; know the identifying features of the game you hunt.
5. Unload guns when not in use. Take down or have actions open; guns should be carried in cases to the shooting area.
6. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot; avoid all horseplay with a firearm.
7. Never climb a fence or tree, or jump a ditch with a loaded gun; never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.
8. Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or at water; at target practice, be sure your backstop is adequate.
9. Store guns and ammunition separately and beyond the reach of children and careless adults.
10. Avoid alcoholic beverages before or during shooting.

Attention landowners

Attention all landowners, if you leave your land for hunting, you are required to have a shooting preserve license.

This policy will be strictly enforced. Any questions, call Buddy Mills at 234-3383.

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A step back in time...The Farris 1912

The 1987-88 hunting season marks the 11th goose hunting season for The Farris 1912 since completion of total restoration of the landmark hotel by the William Farris family. To attest to the popularity of this favorite hunting lodge the bulging guest register at the hotel is filled with names of guests from every state in the union as well as numerous foreign countries.

Owners Bill and Helyn Farris continue to strive to add facilities and services that will enhance the hotel and provide the ultimate in convenience, pleasure and comfort for the goose hunters visiting the area each season.

Available again this season will be a hunting, lodging and meals package for individuals or corporations in need of reservations with central billing. The Farris 1912 offers hunting reservations with top quality guides and hunting clubs on the prairie or with the hunting club of your choice along with centralized billing and statements. Call the hotel office for full information and prices.

Larger dining facilities have been created in order to more than double the hotel's seating capacity for

meals. This arrangement of dining areas provides additional spaces for private dinners, meetings and parties. Bill and Helyn are particularly excited about the changes as it means the original dining room and pantry are now being used in the same manner as it was used when the hotel first opened its doors in November of 1912.

The hotel shopping area is sporting a fresh look also for the season opening. Slim-line flower display refrigeration assists the shop's floral patrons in quick stop flower and plant purchases. New lines of jewelry, wildlife art, collectible fashion jewelry, antiques, wine and fruit baskets and assorted gift and Christmas items are featured.

RECIPES FROM THE FARRIS 1912 HOTEL cookbook continues to be the most popular single item in the hotel shop. This collection of "Mrs. Helyn's" recipes is into its second printing. The cookbook is available for local purchase or may be ordered by mail or telephone.

With "out of this world" Texas and regional food that has been recognized by such prestigious publications as Southern Living,

Scene Magazine, Ford Times, Texas Monthly and Texas Homes, as well as numerous well-known travel guides and books, meal time at The Farris is an "eat all you can hold affair." The menu varies from day to day with Mrs. Farris and her capable kitchen crew attempting at all times to fill requests from returning guests for their favorite dishes.

Reservations are recommended for any non-lodging guests at mealtime though drop-in guests are always welcome and will be seated if possible. No tipping or gratuities are permitted or expected at The Farris at any time.

Comfortable lounge areas throughout the hotel and guest house give lodging guests areas for television, games, business conferences or just lazing around. A spirit of camaraderie complete with tall hunting tales usually prevails.

Within the hotel courtyard complex are the main lodge and its adjacent 1920's vintage Bentley-Farris Guest House. The 1912 building contains all lounging, dining and shopping areas on its first floor, with 16 bedrooms and a large mezzanine on the second floor. The Bentley-Farris guest house pro-

vides a motor unit for those who prefer at-door parking or ground floor rooms. Each suite in the guest house has a private entrance, bath with shower, and sitting room complete with wet bar, refrigerator and television. Both buildings are totally heated and cooled by central systems for year around comfort.

The main lodge, as well as the guest house, is carpeted throughout and furnished with turn of the century furnishings and an unusual collection of antiques. However, all give the comfort of today coupled with the charm of 1912.

For overnight guests, The Farris 1912 offers only the American Plan (all meals) for the winter season. The daily tariff also includes all snacks, fruit, set-ups, hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks. Pre-pay-

ment is required. All major credit cards are accepted. Free airport pickup at the Eagle Lake Municipal Airport is available if arrangements are requested prior to arrival.

Arrangements may be made with the hotel office for a meeting room if guests desire to combine a conference with a hunting trip. This must be done prior to arrival, please.

Dining is available for non-lodging guests. Hunter's breakfast is served from 4:30 a.m. to 5:30 a.m.; lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; and the dinner hour seating is 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Beer, wine and set-ups are available. Reservations are recommended.

For more information or brochures, please contact the hotel office or Bill and Helyn Farris at 409-234-2546.

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Mystery bumper sticker

Above is a reproduction of a bumper sticker recently discovered in the Eagle Lake area.



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