

Current hunting season may be suitable for framing

The 1987-88 hunting season appears to be one of those rare vintage, bountiful periods to be savored by

Texas sportsmen now and remembered fondly afterward.

Favorable weather patterns during the past two years have revitalized habitats across the state and hunters now are reaping the harvest, wildlife officials said.

White-tailed deer populations are hovering around all-time high levels, mule deer are increasing their numbers in West Texas, turkeys continue to be abundant and quail have rebounded dramatically from critical lows three years ago. Pheasants also have benefited from the improved range conditions.

Hunters sought nuisance alligators

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Nuisance Alligator Control Program was expanded last year to include the assistance of contract hunters. Following review of the pilot program during the past two years, the use of nuisance control hunters will be continued in some areas of Southeast and East Texas with modifications to better resolve any alligator problems encountered by citizens in those areas, according to Bruce Thompson, TPWD alligator program leader.

Nuisance control hunters are required by the contract to remove designated nuisance alligators, sell alligators and parts as prescribed and pay the TPWD an amount based on the length of each alligator times the price bid per foot by each hunter contracted. Contracted hunters are allowed to retain any additional revenue from the sale to defray the cost of providing assistance.

Texas' white-tailed deer hunters had high expectations for the season that opened Nov. 14, since last season's harvest of 445,000 deer was an all-time high. Reports collected during this season's mid-point indicate they have not been disappointed.

"We're apparently having an excellent season, despite unseasonably warm and rainy weather during the early part," said Horace Gore, white-tailed deer program leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Gore stopped short of predicting another all-time harvest, but said the current season may rival 1986 in

terms of both quantity and quality. "The body condition and antler development of deer has been excellent this year, and some bucks of near record-book quality have been taken in South and West Texas," said Gore.

Gore said a better than expected acorn crop, combined with warm weather, may have held the total harvest down somewhat in the popular Edwards Plateau region of Central Texas this fall. "The deer apparently are not responding well to feeders so far," he said. Hunting also has been somewhat slow in parts of East Texas, which also may be a result of habitat

and weather conditions, he added.

While it is too early to predict the total harvest, Gore said he believes hunters will take approximately 20 percent more antlerless deer in the 80 counties now under the "either-sex" system of bag limits. In those counties, hunters no longer are required to obtain antlerless deer hunting permits from landowners; rather, they attach the appropriate tag from their hunting license to the carcass of any antlerless deer taken.

"Last year about 125,000 deer were harvested in those 80 counties, and I hope that number will increase to about 150,000 this season under the either-sex program," Gore said. The department will conduct a survey of hunters and landowners in the 80-county area after the season, to determine if the either-sex concept achieved its goal of increased antlerless harvest, Gore said.

Bids will be accepted through January 28. Necessary bid documents which include deadlines, terms and conditions of the contract program are available from the department by contacting Pam Maxwell, (512) 389-4859, 420 Smith School Rd., Austin.

Registration dates set Spring semester classes begin January 18 at Wharton College

Wharton County Junior College registration dates have been announced for spring semester daytime and evening classes in Wharton and the Richmond Satellite campus as well as evening classes in Bay City and the South Texas Nuclear Plant. Classes begin January 18.

Regular registration for evening classes, at Wharton County Junior College in Wharton is Monday, Jan. 11. Report to the registrar's office between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Registration for day classes is Tuesday, Jan. 12. Report to the registrar's office between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. or between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. A schedule of classes and times are available in the registrar's office.

Evening courses being offered at WCJC campus in the area of Office Education include Beginning Typing, Intermediate Typing, Introduction to Business and Advanced Typing. Criminal Justice classes offered are Traffic Law, Police - Community Relations, Patrol Administration.

A free catalogue and listing of all evening and daytime courses may be obtained by contacting the college at (409) 532-4560.

Area students certified LVNs

Shirley Haga and Brenda York, both of Eagle Lake, and Rhonda Sands of East Bernard were among the class of 1987 Vocational Nursing at Wharton County Junior College to successfully complete and pass the examination by the State of Texas for licensure as Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs).

WCJC will be taking applications for the Vocational Nursing program for interested students at the end of January. The testing will start Jan. 25 and every Monday thereafter at the Johnson Health Occupation Center. A pre-entrance test will be given at that time by appointment only (\$3 fee). Call 532-4560, ext. 276.

Obituary

Rose Marie Brumbelow Marx

Rose Marie Brumbelow Marx, 51, of Mena, Arkansas, died Wednesday, Dec. 16 in a Ft. Smith, Ark. hospital. She was born on July 18, 1916 in Danbury, Texas, a daughter of Walter and Crystal Follet Brumbelow. She graduated from Eagle Lake High School with the class of 1934. She was married to Alfred Marx Jr. on June 17, 1936 in the First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake. She had made her home in Polk County Arkansas since 1973, moving to Mena, Arkansas from St. Louis. She was a secretary at Sterling Machinery Co., and a member of the New Faith Assembly Church.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 18 from the Geyer-Quillen Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Norman Ward officiating. Burial was in the Rocky Cemetery.

Survivors include her widow,

Sydney Marx Jr., of Mena, Arkansas; a son, Randall Alan Marx, daughter-in-law, Catherine Merritt Marx, and grandson, Ryan Philip, all of Austin; parents, Walter and Crystal Brumbelow of Mena, Arkansas; a brother and sister-in-law, James and Judy Brumbelow of Houston, and numerous uncles, aunts, cousins and a host of friends.

Attending the funeral from out of town were Mr. and Mrs. Paul Marx of Rosenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence German of Brookshire, Miss Evelyn German of Houston, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Blume of Orange, Mr. and Mrs. James Brumbelow of Houston, Randall Alan, Catherine and Ryan Philip Marx of Austin, and others.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their great loss.

Thursday, December 31, 1987

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wishing you happiness every minute of every day the whole year through!

Potter Ford Tractor Co.
Columbus
732-6201

May the New Year bring to you all your fondest wishes and hopes and may luck follow you throughout 1988.

A.J. Struss Auto
Eagle Lake

Thursday, December 31, 1987

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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The Right Mix For '88!

Savor a New Year enhanced with the spice of life! We've greatly enjoyed our association with you in the past.

Kevin Court Apartments

Heidi Mills (Manager)
and Residents
Eagle Lake

Here's wishing you a glorious New Year, filled with health, success and happiness.

Rice Industries, Inc.
Officers, Directors and Staff
Eagle Lake

Many outdoor records set during 1987

The year 1987 was one of superlatives for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the state's outdoor resources and the people who enjoy those resources.

Many of the big outdoor news stories of the year resulted from the department's activities. However, the weatherman provided some of the best news of 1987, as hunting and freshwater fishing both enjoyed a renaissance made possible by an extended period of timely rainfall and mild weather.

As we say goodbye to calendar year 1987, here are some of the events that made the news as seen by the department's five program divisions:

Wildlife

The Wildlife Division welcomed a new director in early 1987. Shortly after his arrival in March, Charles Allen launched the Type II Wildlife Management Area program to create more public hunting opportunity in the state. In its initial year the program garnered more than 431,000 acres, and purchasers of a \$35 annual permit are allowed to hunt on any or all the tracts during the open hunting seasons.

The 1986-87 white-tailed deer hunting season was the best ever, setting records for total harvest, antlerless harvest, hunter numbers, hunter success and percentage of antlerless deer in the total harvest. High deer populations, a long season and more hunter awareness of the need for control of the antlerless segment of the herd contributed to the record harvest.

The commission approved establishment of the either-sex system of white-tail bag limits in 80 Texas counties for the 1987-88 hunting season, and created additional opportunity for hunting antlerless deer by expanding the early antlerless season in East Texas and the late antlerless season in South Texas.

The desert bighorn sheep restoration program got a shot in the arm during October 1987 with the importation of 25 sheep from Nevada. The animals were stocked on a private ranch in the Van Horn Mountains of southwestern Culberson County.

The eastern turkey restoration program also experienced its biggest year in 1987. The department obtained 76 wild-trapped birds from other states and stocked them in suitable habitats in East Texas. The imported birds, plus additional turkeys trapped and relocated from Texas sites, boosted the total stocking to more than 100 for the year.

The commission expanded opportunity for Rio Grande turkey hunting by authorizing a 23-day spring gobbler season for 1988. The season formerly was 16 days.

Favorable weather conditions fueled a boom year for quail populations in Texas, and hunters reported

the best success in years across most of the state's quail range. At the Chaparral WMA, hunters harvested 8,600 quail the first 4 weekends of public hunts, and the season's harvest is expected to be an all-time record for the 15,300-acre area.

Fisheries

Several innovative programs to help the state's fish hatchery system were launched in 1987. "Operation Shute a Lone Star Lunker" and "Veteran Brooder" programs.

Freshwater fishing improved noticeably during 1987, especially in the western half of the state where two to three years of higher-than-average rainfall had leveled lakes and provided improved fish habitat.

About 50 new state fish records were certified during 1987. Highlighting freshwater records was a six-pound, eight-ounce smallmouth bass caught at Lake Whitney during November, and a five-pound, 12-ounce rainbow trout caught from the Guadalupe River in 1986 was certified in early 1987. Scores of saltwater records were set, with the largest being a 1,121-pound, four-ounce tiger shark. The shark was the largest fish ever caught off the Texas coast and weighed on certified scales.

The department's popular rain-run trout stocking program, funded by sales of \$5 State Trout Stamps, was expanded to 17 public sites and eight state parks for the winter fishing period of 1987-88. State parks being stocked this winter are Meridian, Cleburne, Buescher, Tyler, Bonham, Ft. Richardson, Blanco and Rusk.

There was good news from Texas' saltwater bays during 1987, as more than \$222,000 in fines were collected. More than \$53,000 in rewards has been distributed to 278 callers, with all reward money being provided by donations from individuals and organizations.

The Law Enforcement Division's game wardens shouldered a new responsibility in 1987 with establishment of the Type II Wildlife Management Area program. The efforts of game wardens in enforcing game laws and assisting hunters helped the new program have a successful first year.

Resource protection

The department's ability to protect rare plants, animals and natural communities was enhanced by the transfer of the Natural Heritage Program from the General Land Office.

Resource Protection staff assisted the Governor's select committee in evaluating site proposals for the superconducting Super Collider. Staff continues to provide technical guidance to ensure the protection of fish and wildlife resources.

The division expanded its involvement in water development is-

Another new park located on an excellent fishing lake was opened during 1987, Lake Lob Sandlin State Recreation Area, a 640-acre wooded site on the shoreline of Lake Bob Sandlin, was opened in November. The Tius County lake is noted for its excellent largemouth bass, crappie and catfish fishing.

A Navy torpedo bomber was delivered to the Admiral Nimitz State Historical Park in Fredericksburg during August. The Admiral Nimitz Foundation and participating industries made possible the transfer of the plane by ship from the Naval Air Museum at Pensacola, Florida. The park is located in downtown Fredericksburg.

A statewide fundraising campaign to assist the Battleship "Texas" was launched during 1987. Corporations teamed with public schools and organizations throughout the state to collect recyclable aluminum cans. Funds generated from sales of the cans to recycling centers will be used to put the battleship in dry dock for repairs. The ship, commissioned in 1914, currently is moored at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Park at Houston.

Restored Fannin Inn at Anderson was opened to public visitation. The inn, established during the Republic of Texas era, was restored to the period of 1850 to 1867.

Law enforcement

Operation Game Thief, the department's telephone hotline system for reporting game law violators, completed six years of successful operation during 1987. Since the program's inception in 1981, approximately 5,600 calls have been made to the toll-free number, 1-800-792-GAME. Of this total, 557 resulted in the arrest of 1,129 violators and 1,171 convictions were obtained. More than \$222,000 in fines were collected. More than \$53,000 in rewards has been distributed to 278 callers, with all reward money being provided by donations from individuals and organizations.

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sues, appearing before the Texas Water Commission to advocate protection of bottomland hardwoods, instream flows, wildlife habitat and unique paleontological resources.

Bay and estuary research was a high priority in 1987. In cooperation with the Texas Water Development Board, the staff is developing fisheries data, studying effects of salinity on estuarine vegetation and conducting freshwater inflows.

Several new research efforts related to water quality were started in 1987. Particular effort was devoted to two rivers with histories of recurring fish kills — the Trinity River below Dallas-Ft. Worth and the Pecos River. Additional studies of pesticide contamination of fish and sediments in the lower Colorado River has been started with several other state and local agencies.

Happy New Year
Feliz Año Nuevo
from...
His & Hers
Mary, Jesse,
Prisca & Bea
307 Allen 234-3675

GOOD LUCK in '88
May you enjoy a healthy and happy New Year.

Columbus Livestock Market
George Hagan, Don McAlister & All the Employees

Let's ring in a New Year of peace, prosperity and happiness. Our thanks, friends.

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Happy New Year!

Best wishes for a terrific New Year from all of us to all of you.

From Manager Lisa Galvan and Staff of
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100 Boothe, Eagle Lake

A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

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Sheridan Lumber Company
The Walker Family

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A joyful New Year's greeting to all of our wonderful friends and customers.

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Presenting
1988

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Eagle Lake

It's a brand New Year — we hope it's filled with happiness and prosperity.

W.C.L. Builders & Son
W.C.L. Muffler Shop
Wilfred Luedecke & Family — Tim Luedecke & Family

We hope for you and yours, a New Year of happiness in every way. We're especially proud of the good will and friendship you have shown us.

City of Eagle Lake
City Officials and Employees

Here's wishing you and yours 366 days of health, happiness and prosperity. You've been great, friends.

THOMAS CLINIC

610 S. Austin Road Eagle Lake

Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Thomas	Dr. and Mrs. Russell Thomas
Dorothy Baker	Becky Gonzales
Jane Booker	Alma Larmer
Sylvia Contreras	Larry Morales
Joyce Rhodes	Wendell Ward
Judith Satsky	Grace Wick
Virginia Ward	

Happy New Year!

Eagle Market
Dorothy & Harrison Walker
Dorothy & Leonard Walker
Tommy Galvan

Thanks for making our last 365 days so nice.

Happy New Year, friends!

W.M. THOMAS, JR. INSURANCE AGENCY
Doris, Kitty & Temple

1987