

Blue Goose, Fields offer more than hunting

The Blue Goose Hunting Club in Altair, located at the junction of U.S. 90A and U.S. 71, offers excellent hunting, fine dining, waterfowl gallery and clay target range.

While the hunting club offers top rated hunts during the waterfowl season, the Blue Goose Restaurant provides elegant year-round dining and the Blue Goose Gallery offers waterfowl scenery enjoyment.

The sporting clay target shooting range, located near Eagle Lake, will help the hunters improve their skills. The clays can simulate duck and goose flights. It's America's fastest growing shooting sport, and is open to the public. Afternoon shoots for hunters can be arranged. Contact the club at 409-234-3597 for more information.

John and Elaine Fields provide a relaxed atmosphere in their newly remodeled and landscaped restaurant. Blue Goose Bar has been recently remodeled and a giant screen TV added for viewing football games and tapes of goose hunting along with deer hunting.

The gallery is more than a few prints and contributes to one of the most enjoyable settings for dinner in the area. Two glass cases are recreations of hunting habitat. One glass case separates the lobby from the main dining room, providing an ambiance of serene country dining.

Diners also have a view of the second habitat area on the far wall. Interspersed are exciting recreations in print of waterfowl scenes... all are for sale. Elaine added that, during the holidays, they make attractive gifts.

The restaurant is more than the "breakfast" part of routine "bed and breakfast" offerings elsewhere. The menu has been expanded, and dinners are exquisitely prepared.

Dinner is offered from 5 p.m. on. Lunches will include barbecue chicken, beef and pork, and hamburgers. Dinner will feature fresh gulf seafood and the finest selections of hind-cut heavy beef steaks available, specially selected for the hunter.

During the season, breakfast is available from 3:30 to 5:30 a.m. and the noon meal is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., seven days a week. "All hunters and area residents are welcome," John Field emphasizes. "You don't have to be a hunter registered with our club to enjoy our food and hospitality."

So while in the area, whether visiting or hunting with one of the many clubs on the prairies, stop by the restaurant. A regular luncheon and dinner menu is available, and

once seated, ask to see the extensive selection.

Complete your meal with one of the special homemade desserts, such as cheese cake topped with strawberries.

The bar is a relaxing environment for "off-hours" get-togethers, with story swapping encouraged, no matter where you hunt.

Not forgotten is the core of the hunting season business: the hunters drawn to the area. Blue Goose guides are chosen for their experiences, their personal treatment of guests, and knowledge of the area.

The Fields lease soy-bean, rice, wheat and plowed ground from Needville to Rosenberg to Victoria and from Sealy to the Gulf Coast. Hunting can be done just 15 minutes from Hwy. 6 and U.S. 59.

Safety

Continued from Page 10

sult TPW web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Shooting Safety Rules

- Always point the muzzle of your firearm or your bow in a safe direction.
- Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or locked arrow.
- Be sure of your target and that is in front of and behind your target.
- Unload and safely store firearms or unstring conventional

- bows when not in use.
- Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition carefully.
- Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.
- Control your emotions when it comes to safety.
- Wear hearing and eye protection when shooting.
- Don't drink alcohol or take mood-altering drugs before or while handling firearms, bows and arrow.
- Be aware of additional circumstances which require added caution or safety awareness.

Hunts include parkas, huge white spreads and guides. Lodges are available for overnight stays. Bird processing is done on the premises of the club, and accommodations can be made for storing the birds until departure.

In addition to waterfowl hunting, Blue Goose is offering afternoon pheasant and quail hunts during the season. Scheduling these hunts may be done at the office of the Blue Goose.

John is a factory-direct purchaser of Federal ammunition. This year, he is featuring the new approved Tungsten shot for waterfowl hunting. This shot has more down range energy than lead. A full supply of Federal steel shot will be available in both Premium and Classic.

Finally, remember the Blue Goose for special occasions. The main dining room is available for groups at special rates for such celebrations as birthday and wed-

ding parties. If you need a special place for a holiday party, don't forget the Blue Goose Restaurant. Just give them a call at 409-234-3597.

Visitors are always welcome at Attwater

Among places to visit in the Eagle Lake area is the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, located in Colorado County about six miles northeast of Eagle Lake on FM 3013.

It is one of 16 national wildlife refuges in Texas and is administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

It is managed specifically for an endangered species. Officials remind hunters the refuge is closed to all hunting.

The 8,000-acre refuge was

established in 1972 to provide habitat for the decreasing population of Prairie Chickens. Much of the refuge became a preserve in the mid-1960s when the Nature Conservancy of Texas and the World Wildlife Fund purchased about 3,500 acres of tall grass prairie. It was expanded to include a diverse array of habitats including wetland, riparian and others.

The centerline of the San Bernard River forms the eastern boundary of the refuge. Boundary signs (See Attwater, Page 14)

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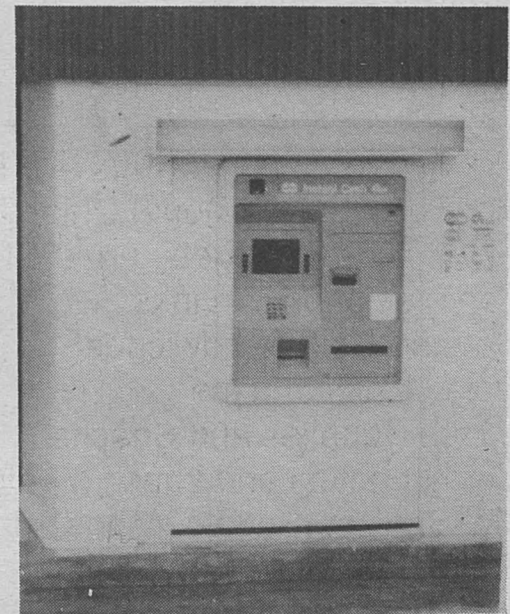
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Rain

Continued from Page 3

populations."

Right now, those populations are still lingering to the north due to mild weather conditions. But, with a few cold snaps, the birds will be Texas-bound. With any luck, the rain will beat them here.