

Clifton Tyler's Club...

The oldest goose hunting club in Eagle Lake

Preparing for waterfowl hunting season each year goes far beyond leasing land and hiring guides for Clifton Tyler. "One of the most often asked questions is why hunters can't hunt the natural ponds that form on the prairie," Tyler commented.

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 his crew rework those natural pond areas so they will hold water, at least for the season. Once drainage lines are

closed, 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, 20 to 30 ponds are created each year.

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

Tyler and his guides know where that water is and put hunters into an area a field or two away. This placement enhances the morning's hunt and explains the

reason hunters need to be in the fields well before shooting time. They want to make sure all is ready when the birds come off the water.

Clifton 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 30 years.

He has put that experience into his own duck and goose hunting club known as the Clifton Tyler Goose Hunting Club. It has thousands of acres of top rice land scattered across the Eagle Lake and Garwood prairies.

The rice prairies of Eagle Lake and Garwood are the winter home

for the largest concentration of wild geese in the world.

"Run and Shoot" provides some of the best hunts of the year. All hunters enjoyed the action very much.

"I was surprised by the number of successful decoying hunts. It had always been thought that by Feb. geese are too smart to decoy. This simply is not correct," Tyler said. "With proper conditions, we have enjoyed some outstanding decoying shoots. I believe that the main factor is a lack of hunting pressure during that time of the year. The geese are calm and inclined to maintain their anticipated flight patterns."

The Tyler Hunting Club will again offer the "Run and Shoot" which is for snow geese only. This will take place during late Jan. and Feb. when there's not much pressure in the fields, allowing the hunters and guides greater mobility. It is also meant to be a fun time for everyone involved.

The price is \$100 per man which will allow those thinking about hunting geese, but not sure if that's what they would like to do, to take part in the experience without incurring a large expense.

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. Decoys, white spreads and parkas are furnished. Every guide has his own trained retrievers. Tyler, who has lived in this area all his life, has experienced guides available for the hunter.

For reservations, you may contact Ida or Clifton Tyler at 979-732-6502 (Columbus); write to 103 Mesquite, Columbus, Texas 78934. Or you may visit their web site at <http://www.texasgoosehunt.com>.

MIGRATORY BIRD REPORT

The following migratory bird report, prepared by Bink Grimes for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, was updated Oct. 15.

COASTAL PRAIRIES: Another round of heavy rain dumped buckets of water on the prairie and recharged roost ponds just in time for the fall migration of geese. Specklebellies are arriving daily, despite mild conditions and highs in the 80s. Snow geese should begin arriving in the next 14 days.

Good duck numbers are being spotted on rice ponds and freshwater impoundment projects. Still a lot of bluewing teal hanging around.

Dove hunters are seeing huntable numbers of birds, though limit shoots are not fast and furious.

Prospects are good.

Check *The Headlight* for an updated report every week.

Since 1905

First National Bank

has been serving

Eagle Lake and Colorado County

with the finest in

Banking Service and Community Leadership

- ◆ Complete Checking and Deposit Plans
- ◆ Personal Loans for Auto, Home and Recreation
- ◆ Home Mortgage, Commercial, SBA and Agricultural Loans
- ◆ Mastercard, Visa and Instant Cash Cards for your 24-Hour Banking Convenience
- ◆ On-Line Internet Banking at www.fnbeaglelake.com

THE FIRST *National Bank*

Member **FDIC** 979-234-5591 • 100 Commerce • Eagle Lake

"The Bank of Friendly Service"



GASOLINE

AUTOMOTIVE

SERVICE

J&L AUTOMOTIVE

FM 3013 Eagle Lake 234-5352
Behind D&V Town & Country Store
For All Your Automotive Repairs

DELGADO'S WRECKER SERVICE

Light, Medium & Heavy Duty
"Our Business Is Always Picking Up"
Complete Auto Body Repairing & Painting
Local & Long Distance • Licensed Storage Facility
24 HOUR Service 979-234-5794
1920 FM 102 North, Eagle Lake 1-800-273-8746

LARRY'S SUPER SERV Store & Grill

Hwy. 71 758-3207 Garwood
Larry & Diane Smidovec, Owners