

# Sportsman's Restaurant offers 'Best Food in Texas'

The sign at Sportsman's Restaurant on Boothe Drive in Eagle Lake reads "The Best Food in Texas". Owners Janie and Doug Schwemm have been offering some of the finest food available in the area for over 20 years.

The Schwemms and their staff work very hard to live up to their motto—"Dedication to Excellence".

The Best Food in Texas is not just a slogan to be taken lightly. Sportsman's has received statewide recognition in such publications as Best Hometown Restaurants in Texas, Best Country Cafes in Texas, the Ronald McDon-

ald Cookbook, Day Tours of Houston and the front page of the *Houston Chronicle's* Friday Restaurant Review.

The restaurant also has been featured in the *Houston Chronicle's* Sunday magazine "Texas" as well as KTRK-Channel 13's "Good Morning Houston," highlighting such dishes as seafood gumbo and Janie's New Orleans bread pudding with bourbon sauce.

The staff are past recipients of the prestigious Epicurean Award in Sealy. Sportsman's topped all the restaurants in a 50-mile radius.

Sportsman's offers a full-service menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner (except on Sunday when they close at 1:30 p.m.)

Breakfast items range from the Magnum plate to homemade biscuits and gravy.

Lunch includes a full menu plus a plate lunch special.

Dinner again has a full menu ranging from appetizers to hearty steak meals, quail and lite selections for those watching their waistlines.

Nightly specials vary from Coconut or Louisiana Shrimp to specially prepared hand-cut ribeye

steaks and baked or fried flounder.

Be sure to check the "Specials Board" just inside the entrance. You never know what Janie and Doug will be offering for their customers' enjoyment.

## LODGE

The Schwemms also offer their

Sportsman's Hunting Lodge. The only place to be, says Doug. Call him or Janie for information about accommodations.

For more information about the restaurant, catering or the Lodge, call 979-234-3071 or write 201 Boothe Dr., Eagle Lake, TX 77434.

## Look, listen to know your ducks...

Habitat, action, color, shape and voice - all help distinguish one species from another.

Shallow marshes and creeks normally attract few divers; large, deep bodies of water are not usual feeding grounds of puddle ducks.

The maneuvers of a flock in the air can help indicate the species. Mallards, pintails, and widgeons form loose groups; teals and shovelers flash by in small bunches; mergansers often appear in single file; canvasbacks shift from waving lines to temporary V's; redheads "boil up" in short flights from one end of a lake to the other.

Closer up, individual silhouettes can show large heads or small, broad bills or narrow, fat bodies or slender, long tails or short. Trained observers also identify ducks from the wing beats; they may be fast or slow, short rapid flutters or long strokes.

At close range, color areas can be

positive. Depending on light conditions they may or may not appear in their true color, but their size and location are a key to the identity.

The sound of wings can be as important as that of voice. The pinions of goldeneyes whistle in flight; the swish of wood ducks is different from the steady rush of canvasbacks. Not all ducks quack; many whistle, squeal or grunt. Experience can teach you the difference.

**Pintail:** Found in every flyway, most plentiful in the west.

Extremely graceful, fast flier, fond of zig-zagging from great heights before leveling off for a landing. Equally agile on land; visits croplands to glean food.

Drakes whistle; hens have a hoarse quack.

**Mallards:** Most common duck. Extremely hardy; wintering as far north as it can find open water. Flocks

often leave the water in early morning and late afternoon to feed in nearby harvest fields, returning to marshes and creeks to spend the night.

The flight is not particularly rapid; voice of the hen is a loud quack; the drake, a lower-pitched kwak-kwak.

**Black Duck:** A bird of the eastern States, using the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways.

Shy and wary, regarded as the wariest of all ducks.

Often seen in company of mallards, but along the Atlantic coast frequents the salt marshes and the ocean much more than mallards.

Flight is swift; usually small flocks, in V's or angular lines.

Voice is duplicate of mallards.

**Gadwall:** Not plentiful anywhere; greatest numbers in the Central flyway, fewest in the Atlantic flyway.

The only puddle duck with white (See Ducks, Page 12)



Mike Fisher, owner of Tailfeathers Guide Service, invites you to hunt with him. With over 35 years of experience guiding waterfowl hunters, I believe in making your hunt the best hunt possible. The location on the Eagle Lake prairie 60 miles west of Houston, includes rice fields, flooded timber and prairie ponds for duck hunting, as well as plowed ground, rice and oat fields for good hunting.

All duck hunting is done from blinds... yes REAL blinds, fiberglass pit birds and stick up blinds with tops, seats, floors and gun rests. No sitting in the water on buckets. **We shoot decoying birds... NO skyblasting!** If you are tired of hunting with "guides" who don't know a Pintail from a Porcupine, "guides" who spend more time calling their dog than ducks, then give Tailfeathers a try! Hunt with guides who love to hunt, hunt every day and will do their dead-level best to make sure you kill birds, and have a great hunt.

Tailfeathers has the highest bird per man average during Snow Goose only season... **more than any club** in Colorado County. **No Brag... Just Fact.** We offer quality hunts at fair prices.

Hunters meet at the Sportsman's Restaurant in Eagle Lake, starting at 4:30 a.m. Here you have the opportunity to eat breakfast and get your equipment organized for the hunt. If you need to purchase a license, stamps or other necessities, Johnny's Sport Shop is located next door.

Please feel free to call for additional information or special requests.

## Tailfeathers Guide Service

Guided Duck & Goose Hunts Since 1983 — *We Kill Ducks - Not Time*  
Mike "Duck" Fisher

### Available Guided Hunts:

- **Duck and Goose:**
  - Experienced Guide, Dog, Decoys and Parkas furnished
  - No minimum number of hunters
  - \$145.00 per person

### •Early Teal Season:

- Experienced Guide, Dog and Decoys furnished
- \$85 per person

### •Doves:

- September-November
- \$40 per person

### •Afternoon Hunts Provided by Top Flight Hunting Preserve

- Pheasant
- Quail
- Chukar
- Available by appointment only

### •Taxidermy at B&S Bird Taxidermy, Eagle Lake

### What you will need:

#### •Licenses

- Texas Hunting License
- State and Federal duck stamp

#### •Guns and Shells:

- 12 or 10 gauge preferred
- Non-toxic shot
- 2' OR 3' for Big Ducks; 4 or 6 for Teal; BB or BBB for Geese

#### •Clothing:

- Camouflage clothing
- Face mask, gloves, waders or hip boots
- Weather very unpredictable; prepare for hot or cold
- Flashlight
- Camera

#### Sporting Goods:

- All types available at Johnny's Sport Shop conveniently located in Eagle Lake

#### •Bird Processing

- Available from our friends at Prairie Waterfowl Hunts

#### •Accommodations:

- By Request

### Reservations:

**Call Duck: 979-732-2997 (Mobile: 979-732-7549)**

• Confirmed with 50% deposit • 30 Day notice for full refund • References on request

P.O. Box 426, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0426

www.tailfeathersguideservice.com