

# Schwemms Offer Hunting Accommodations

The Sportsman's Hunting Lodge is located 1-1/2 miles north of Eagle Lake, "The Goose Hunting Capital of the World."

Quietly tucked away off Farm Road 102, you're sure to fall asleep to the sound of geese singing, wake up to a beautiful sunrise and more geese.

The Lodge is nestled on six acres of country land so you can even see birds before your first cup of coffee.

After a long day's hunt, come back and relax on one of the comfortable couches and watch your favorite football game. Or, if you prefer, there are card tables for that late night poker game.

"Mama" likes to hunt, too, so she added a mud room for your convenience. This way, she can enjoy squeezing the trigger of a 12 gauge instead of a 409 bottle.

Enjoy the viewing porch and shooting area. There's even a dog

kennel and plenty of storage space for all your huntin' gear.

The lodge sleeps ten comfortably with air conditioning and heating units. Check in time is 3 p.m.;

check out at 12 noon.

If you're too tired to cook for yourself, let Janie and Doug do it for you. Award-winning Sportsman's Restaurant is near downtown Eagle Lake, right next to Johnny's Sport

Shop. Opening at 4 a.m. and serving breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, you're sure to never go hungry before or after a hunt.

With over 40 years of combined dedicated to food and hospitality,

the Schwemms guarantee you a true Sportsman's experience in Eagle Lake.

Call Doug or Janie at 979-234-3071 for reservations.

## Hunting Guidelines From TPWD Continued

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of the Red River. There are other exemptions as well. The full text of this law may be found in Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 90 at: <http://tlo2.tlc.state.tx.us/statutes/pw.toc.htm>

-fish on privately-owned waters, fish in public water from private land, or hunt on privately owned lands without the permission of the owner or the owner's agent. Under the Texas Penal Code (§30.05) it is an offense for any person to enter property that is fenced, posted with a sign(s), or marked (purple paint)

without the express permission of the owner.

Posts or trees bearing purple paint marking of not less than eight inches in length and not less than one inch in width at not less than three or more than five feet from the ground constitute notice that the property is posted.

A person who hunts without landowner consent and kills a desert bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, white-tailed deer, or mule deer commits an offense that is a Parks and Wildlife Code state jail felony.

Upon conviction, your hunting and fishing license is automatically revoked.

You are not required to have a fishing license to fish in private waters in Texas; but, if you are on private property while fishing in public water, a fishing license is required.

-discharge a firearm on or across a public road.

## Try Squirrel Hunting For A Day Of Fun

Picture it: flashes of rusty brown and gray bouncing along a limb high overhead and the rustling of damp leaves under a big oak followed by the unmistakable crack of an acorn shell.

For many generations of Texans, squirrels have provided an introduction to hunting.

This autumn has the potential to both rekindle squirrel hunting memories and create new ones.

"Unlike hunting many other game species, which require a greater level of patience and skill, squirrel hunting success can be achieved at a casual pace," said Mike Berger, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife division director.

"That's what makes it an ideal pursuit for young people and newcomers to hunting. It's a great way to pass along the hunting tradition."

Because squirrels rely mainly upon hardwood mast, (acorns, pe-

cans and hickory nuts), as their primary food source, East Texas offers the most hunting opportunity.

But pecan-timbered river bottoms and creek in other parts of Texas also hold plenty of squirrels.

"All you have to do as a starting squirrel hunter is find a locale with good oaks where you can get around and see," said Carl Frentress, a TPWD biologist and lifelong squirrel hunter.

"Go out at daylight and just sit still and listen and look for movement. Some prefer to walk and locate squirrels that way, but if you pick a good spot sometimes they'll come to you."

There are two species of squirrel in Texas — the gray squirrel (or cat squirrel) and the fox squirrel.

The fox squirrel has the widest range and can be found along creek and river bottoms throughout much of Texas. Ideal fox-squirrel habitat in East Texas is mature mixed pine and hardwood forests.

Cat squirrels are limited to the eastern portion of Texas and can be found in abundance in mature stands of hardwoods.

They tend to be early risers, so hunters working the bottoms for cat squirrels should plan on getting afield early to catch the cat squirrels in action.

Fox squirrels on the other hand tend to forage later in the mornings. And according to seasoned squirrel hunters you don't necessarily have to be in prime bottomland hardwoods to get in the squirrels.

Although squirrels do the best in habitats dominated by mature hardwoods, squirrels can exist in a variety of wooded habitats.

This means even an enjoyable day in the woods may be a close as your neighbor's woodlot. (With

their permission of course!)

Some hunters prefer to use shotguns loaded with No. 6 or No. 4 shot, but the serious hunter may opt for a .22 rimfire rifle.

Frentress prefers a rifle for a couple of reasons.

"If you really want to have a great time and enjoy yourself and see a lot of squirrels, hunt them with a rifle," he suggested.

"Squirrels are nervous creatures. I'm convinced it's not the noise from shooting that scares squirrels, it's the shotgun pellets rattling through the trees.

"If you're worried about your ability to shoot a rifle or are using iron sights, then a shotgun may be the way to go. In my opinion, nothing beats a .22 semi-automatic with a four-power scope.

"Squirrel hunting with a scoped .22 is also good practice for gaining confidence in shooting off-handed and/or at a moving target, which may be necessary during a deer hunt."

Another tip is use camouflage. Frentress recommends wearing camouflage from head to toe. On public land, hunter orange is mandatory, but it's a smart idea for safety anywhere, anytime.

"The main thing is you don't want to crowd your neighbor," said Frentress.

"If you're hunting on public land and come across another hunter who's already in place, just go find another spot. In hardwood forests, squirrels are everywhere."

Because squirrels depend on available food supplies, finding likely haunts along hardwood bottoms, creek beds and draws is the challenge.

In damp forest floors, squirrels will also feed on dogwood fruits and mushrooms.



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