Loveday Home On Lake Hosts A 'Ritzy, Glitzy Christmas'

Traveling back and forth between their home in England and their Eagle Lake home on 1018 Lakeview Lane, Val and Dave Loveday are busy people, but we have been assured that Christmas at their abode will be a "ritzy/glitzy" affair to remember.

Thier home is one of five featured on the Eagle Lake Civic Garden Club's "Holiday Tour of Homes" on Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Val and Dave would visit their youngest daughter and family, Vicki & Tom Kelley and two daughters each year, but when the holiday visits became longer than a couple of weeks, they decided in 2005 to build a place of their own so they could spend more time in Eagle Lake to escape the cold of the English winters.

However, when the first mosquito arrives and the alligators come out, they dash back to England for the insect-free, snake-free summer.

Their other daughter and her family, including two more grandchildren, still live in England.

The Loveday's pleasant, spacious home includes a large deck, which allows them to make the most of the outdoors and THE lake in Eagle Lake, which they so enjoy. They love the open floor plan of the house and can appreciate the views of the lake and wildlife from most of the rooms.

Val Loveday promises dazzling décor, balloons and many fun surprises to enhance their home for the holidays. A large decorated tree will be the focal point as guests enter their lovely home.

The kitchen will host an "English Christmas" containing many warm memories of past holidays in their home country.

The master bedroom and bath will be specially decorated by Lynn Rucka and the "Golden Goose Designs" in Eagle Lake. It will be hosted by the King and Queen, exhibiting their wild side, with touches of glitz and glamour and leopard!

The two upstairs bedrooms are enjoyed throughout the year by their two local granddaughters.

Sophie's bedroom will be decorated with striking purple, silver and pink décor, the latter being her very favorite color. Emma loves horses and that theme will be charmingly presented in the second bedroom with a special western motif.

Despite the four years of splitting life in two countries, it will still be the first time the home has been officially decorated for the holidays. So what is the family's favorite all-time Christmas memory? Twelve years ago, the day after Christmas and Boxing Day, little Emma was christened in England and the whole extended family from the States was there to witness and celebrate.

"Some had to sleep in closets and people were everywhere. The house and the rooms were much smaller in England, which is why we love our open area here," explains Val.

"But there would be no home tour here at all if it weren't for Tom Kelley and Rod Adkins," the Lovedays insist. Val and Dave were in England recently when Tom called to let them know a broken pipe caused flooding through their home. Tom initiated cleanup and repair prior to their arrival back home, and Rod Adkins, neighbor and insurance agent, hastened the claims process for them.

In a way, Val has achieved bringing her family full circle. Her grandfather was a native Texan who served in England during World War I.

He fell in love with Val's grandmother, never returning to Texas. His twin brother died in that war. Dave himself has a rich history with the English military, serving in the RAF for most of his life.

With interesting Texas roots but a rich English accent, Val and Dave Loveday are a gracious couple eager to welcome you "home" for the holidays.

Visit them along with five other locations during the Eagle Lake Civic Garden Club's "Holiday Tour of Homes" on Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

See www.visiteaglelake.com for more information. Tickets may be purchased from any Garden Club member or on the day of the tour only at The Prairie Edge Museum in Eagle Lake.

Weekly Migratory Bird Report

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Weekly migratory bird hunting reports are posted from early September through early February.

High Plains Mallard Management Unit (Panhandle) -- Goose season began with a bang across the High Plains. Lots of geese around Etter and Dumas, and Canadas readily decoyed over corn, milo and plowed ground. Snow geese were a little skittish with the mild temperatures and low juvenile count.

Duck numbers are solid throughout. An abundance of playa lakes has ducks scattered throughout the region. Still lots of blue-winged teal in the region. Sandhill crane numbers are outstanding, according to several outfitters.

Plowed ground and corn has been best for the large gray birds. Knox City hunters have taken limits of wigeons, gadwalls and teal. Specklebellies and Canadas have decoyed well there, too. Prospects are good.

North Zone Duck: Northeast Texas continues to be plagued by high water in bayous, rivers and sloughs.

Though some waterways have receded, many remain too deep to attract puddle ducks like wigeons, gadwalls and teal.

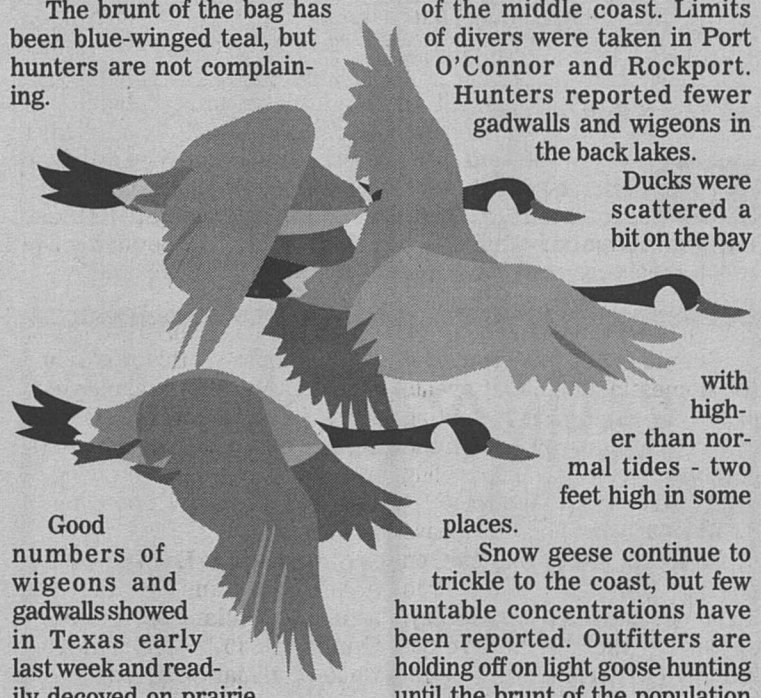
Lots of forage on the ground from summer rains, but the ducks have not been able to find it due to the abundance of water.

Lots of wood ducks in the backwaters, but many hunters have reported an abundance of snakes with the mild temperatures and flood waters. Canvasbacks and other divers have been reported on Lake O'Pines, Toledo Bend and Lake Fork. Hunting has been best in the North Zone along the IH-10 corridor of the coastal prairie.

Lots of blue-winged teal remain in Texas and have been consistent bag-fillers. Prospects are fair to good.

South Zone Duck: Duck hunters continue to enjoy steady shoots along the coastal prairies of Garwood, Wharton, Eagle Lake, Hungerford, East Bernard, El Campo and Collegeport.

The brunt of the bag has been blue-winged teal, but hunters are not complaining.



Good numbers of wigeons and gadwalls showed in Texas early last week and readily decoyed on prairie ponds. Pintails have been a bit skittish for some hunters.

Redheads finally showed on the bays and shoalgrass flats of the middle coast. Limits of divers were taken in Port O'Connor and Rockport. Hunters reported fewer gadwalls and wigeons in the back lakes.

Ducks were scattered a bit on the bay with higher than normal tides - two feet high in some places.

Snow geese continue to trickle to the coast, but few huntable concentrations have been reported. Outfitters are holding off on light goose hunting until the brunt of the population arrives.

Specklebelly numbers are fair, and some duck hunters have taken limits from blinds. Last week's weather was not conducive to goose hunting.

Prospects are good.

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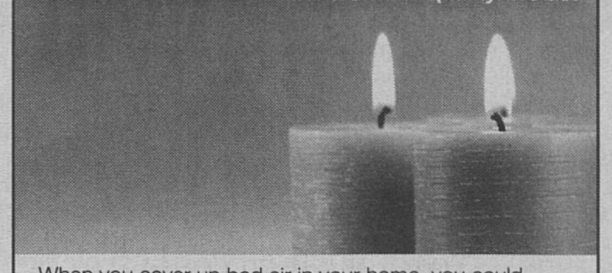

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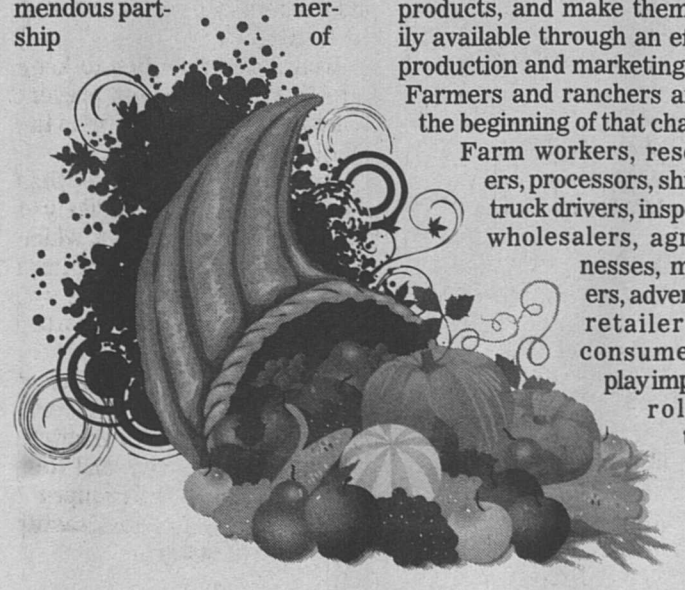
Members of the Eagle Lake Garden Club start their cleaning in preparation for the Christmas season. They ask that all storeowners clean their windows inside and out for decorations that they will soon be putting up. Pictured from left to right, Lois Ann Dzuik, Sandy Thomson and Rita Sunderman.

Thanksgiving Farm City Week

This Thanksgiving Day, as we gather with family and friends to count our blessings, let's give thanks for the bounty we enjoy not just on this holiday, but every day.

The safe, plentiful food that is available to us and the products used to produce the clothing, housing, medicines, fuel and other products we use on a daily basis, didn't just appear in a store.

They got there thanks to a tremendous partnership of farmers and ranchers, processors, brokers, truckers, shippers, advertisers, wholesalers and retailers.



In appreciation of this farm-city partnership, the President of the United States annually proclaims the week leading up to and including Thanksgiving Day as National Farm-City Week.

Rural and urban residents are "Partners in Progress" who produce the products, consume the products, and make them readily available through an efficient production and marketing chain. Farmers and ranchers are just the beginning of that chain.

Farm workers, researchers, processors, shippers, truck drivers, inspectors, wholesalers, agribusinesses, marketers, advertisers, retailers and consumers all play important roles in the incredible productivity that has made our nation's food and fiber system the envy of the world.

This week, as we celebrate Thanksgiving, the Colorado County AG Partners encourages everyone to remember the vital farm-city partnerships that have done so much to improve the quality of our lives.

Rural and urban communities working together have made the most of our rich agricultural resources, and have made significant contributions to our health and well-being and to the strength of our nation's economy.

For this, we can give thanks.

Submitted By:

Colorado County Ag Partners

Marv Ulbricht, Colorado County Farm Bureau; W. J. Kleimann, Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District #333; Janis Pfeffer, Texas AgriLife Extension Service; Ryan Schoeneberg, Texas Parks and Wildlife; Lawrence Brown, Jr., Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board – Wharton Regional Office; and Shawn Ferguson, USDA – Farm Service Agency – Colorado County

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