

Colorado County Habitat Gets Funding For Home

Colorado County Habitat for Humanity joins national home-building effort in 2010

Funding awarded for one home in the Colorado County area and 2,000th home celebrated in Minnesota

Colorado County Habitat for Humanity learned recently that it has been awarded \$42,136 to build one home in Colorado County.

This grant, providing 65 percent of the cost of construction, comes from Minneapolis-based Thrivent Financial for Lutherans because of that organization's unique partnership with Habitat for Humanity International, called Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity.

Colorado County Habitat for Humanity is celebrating their award in conjunction with an international milestone that was observed Dec. 4, 2009, in Minneapolis, Minn., when the 2,000th Thrivent Builds home (worldwide)

was dedicated. Construction also began on the 2,001st home, kicking off the start of the 2010 partnership between the two entities.

The four-year Thrivent Builds alliance was announced in September, 2005 and has helped construct approximately six percent of Habitat homes built in the United States from 2006 through 2009.

Ongoing in 2010, the Thrivent Builds partnership continues to ensure Thrivent Financial as one of the largest non-government supporters of Habitat for Humanity International.

At the December 4 event in Minnesota, Thrivent Financial announced its commitment of an additional \$15 million to Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity in 2010, continuing its support of Habitat's mission for a fifth year and raising its cumulative support over five years to \$140 million.

The 2010 commitment will make possible the construction

of 181 homes in 37 states, including the home built by Colorado County Habitat in Eagle Lake.

"The Thrivent Builds alliance is helping Colorado County Habitat increase the number of families served in our community," said Christine Moore, Executive Director. "The timing of the partnership is perfect since we are beginning the family selection process for our 2010 homes."

On January 9, 2010 at 10 a.m. at the Eula and David Wintermann Library in Eagle Lake, we will host a Prospective Homeowner Orientation for families interested in learning about owning a Habitat house. This is the first step in the selection process."

Moore added, "It is very rewarding to know that we have two families celebrating Christmas in new homes this year and another family anticipating Easter in their new home."

Their lives changed when they attended the Homeowner Orientation last January, completed the application, and were selected as partner families. They are forever grateful for the opportunity to purchase a simple, decent, affordable Habitat house."

Colorado County Habitat for Humanity, Inc. (CCHFH) is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry working to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness in Colorado County, Texas.

The goal of the organization is to partner with donors, volunteers and prospective homeowners to create decent, affordable housing for those in need and to make shelter a matter of conscience with people everywhere.

Since it's incorporation in 1995, CCHFH has built 8 houses and hopes to build 10 more in the next 5 years. For more information, visit www.coloradocountyhfh.org.

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Weekly Migratory Bird Report

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Dec. 9, 2009

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

South Zone Duck: Snow blanketed the coastal prairie over the weekend, but goose hunting did not improve much.

Blowing snow filled decoys with ice and made them droopy and stationary in the wind.

A small crop of young snow geese have made decoying action very tough; and, specklebellies have wised up as well.

Success has been hit-or-miss and mud and water-filled fields have made the effort unjustifiable for many seasoned goose

hunters.

The good news is duck numbers are incredible across the coastal prairies, and the second opener on Dec. 12 should be a banger.

More mallards have shown this week along the coast. Green-winged teal concentrations have improved as well.

Many goose hunters have reported tons of decoying pintails over white spreads. Bay hunters saw another influx of divers on saline shorelines.

Prospects are excellent for ducks, fair at best for geese.

High Plains Mallard Management Unit: The cold front pushed

lots of new ducks and geese to the Panhandle.

Decoying action has been steady for geese, with some 40-bird hunts reported.

Both Canada geese and snow geese have been making up the bag around Dumas and Etter.

Duck hunting has been excellent as well, except for shallow ponds that iced over during the weekend. Lots of mallards and gadwalls have worked feed lot

ponds and playas.

Sandhill cranes are still around and have been steady over decoys. Pheasant hunting has been outstanding as well. Prospects are very good.

North Zone Duck:

There is no shortage of water in the North Zone; and, since the recent front, no shortage of ducks. More mallards have shown on lakes, sloughs, rivers and reservoirs.

A freeze-up in the northern states sent greenheads south in search of open water. Wood duck numbers are good in backwater timber.

Big water areas are holding lots of diver ducks like ringed-necks, scaup and canvasbacks. The prairies around IH-10 have plenty of water and lots of green-winged teal, shovelers, pintails, gadwalls and wigons. Prospects for the entire North Zone look solid for the second opener Dec. 12.



Shiner Big Buck Standings

The following is the unofficial weekly results of the 27th Annual Shiner Businessmen's Club Shiner Area Big Buck Contest for Week 6, as of Dec. 14.

Gonzales County

1. * Willie Simper * of Gonzales, 13-pointer, 21 7/8-inch spread, 13-inch longest tine, 4 1/4-inch right antler circumference, 52 1/8 total points;

2. Lea Ann Wyant of Gonzales, 9-pointer, 23 3/4-inch spread, 9-inch longest tine, 4 1/2-inch right antler circumference, 46 1/4 total points;

3. Edward Holdridge of Magnolia, 8-pointer, 22 1/2-inch spread, 11 3/4-inch longest tine, 4-inch right antler circumference, 46 1/4 total points;

4. Donnie Valis of Shiner, 10-pointer, 20 1/2-inch spread, 10 7/8-inch longest tine, 4 1/4-inch right antler circumference, 45 5/8 total points;

Colorado County

1. Richard Grobe of Columbus, 13-pointer, 17 3/8-inch spread, 13-inch longest tine, 4 3/4-inch right antler circumference, 48 1/8 total points;

2. Wayne Zimmerhanzel of Columbus, 11-pointer, 20 5/8-inch spread, 9 1/2-inch longest tine, 4 3/4-inch right antler circumference, 45 7/8 total points;

3. Anthony Janda of Weimar, 9-pointer, 18 5/8-inch spread, 8 3/4-inch longest tine, 5 5/8-inch right antler circumference, 42 1/8

total points;

4. Ronnie Stock of Weimar, 8-pointer, 16 5/8-inch spread, 10 1/4-inch longest tine, 4-inch right antler circumference, 38 7/8 total points;

Dewitt County

1. John Vashbinder of Moulton, 10-pointer, 19 3/4-inch spread, 9 1/2-inch longest tine, 3 3/4-inch right antler circumference, 43 total points;

2. T.J. Matula of Shiner, 10-pointer, 15 3/4-inch spread, 9 3/4-inch longest tine, 4 1/4-inch right antler circumference, 39 3/4 total points;

3. Robert Fojtik of Moulton, 11-pointer, 16 1/2-inch spread, 8-inch longest tine, 4-inch right antler circumference, 39 1/2 total points;

4. James Hurta of Cuero, 8-pointer, 16-inch spread, 9 1/2-inch longest tine, 4 1/2-inch right antler circumference, 38 total points;

Lavaca County

1. Stephen E. Grahmann of Hallettsville, 13-pointer, 15-inch spread, 7 3/4-inch longest tine, 4 1/4-inch right antler circumference, 40 total points;

2. Allan Raabe of Moulton, 10-pointer, 17 1/2-inch spread, 8 5/8-inch longest tine, 3 3/4-inch right antler circumference, 39 7/8 total points;

3. Michael Blaschke of Shiner, 8-pointer, 17 3/4-inch spread, 9 5/8-inch longest tine, 3 5/8-inch right antler circumference, 39

total points;

4. Dwayne Drozd of Hallettsville, 8-pointer, 17-inch spread, 9 1/2-inch longest tine, 3 1/2-inch right antler circumference, 38 total points;

Fayette County

1. Andrea Janda of La Grange, 16-pointer, 19-inch spread, 10 1/2-inch longest tine, 4 1/2-inch right antler circumference, 50 total points;

2. Amanda Ditta of La Grange, 10-pointer, 19 1/2-inch spread, 11-inch longest tine, 4-inch right antler circumference, 44 1/2 total points;

3. Harold Mica of Flatonia, 8-pointer, 18 7/8-inch spread, 11 7/8-inch longest tine, 4-inch right antler circumference, 42 3/4 total points;

4. Charles Scrubar of West Point, 9-pointer, 18 3/8-inch spread, 10 1/2-inch longest tine, 4 5/8-inch right antler circumference, 42 1/2 total points.

Texas Open - North Zone

1. Logan Brown of Lockhart, 9-pointer, 22 1/4-inch spread, 9 7/8-inch longest tine, 5-inch right antler circumference, 46 1/8 total points;

2. Ottilia Meyer of Columbus, 9-pointer, 20 3/4-inch spread, 11 1/4-inch longest tine, 5-inch right antler circumference, 46 total points;

3. David Driskell of Waelder, 10-pointer, 19 7/8-inch spread, 9-inch longest tine, 4-inch right antler circumference, 42 7/8 total points;

4. Alois Palinek of Wharton, 10-pointer, 19-inch spread, 8 7/8-inch longest tine, 4 3/8-inch right antler circumference, 42 1/4 total points;

Texas Open - South Zone

1. Frank A. Wojtek of Richmond, 13-pointer, 21 3/4-inch spread, 9 3/8-inch longest tine, 5-inch right antler circumference, 49 1/8 total points;

2. Ronnie Kostelnik of Hallettsville, 11-pointer, 21 3/8-inch spread, 10 1/8-inch longest tine, 4 3/8-inch right antler circumference, 46 7/8 total points;

17 & Under Youth Division

1. Mary Kubicek of Moulton, 10-pointer, 17 1/2-inch spread, 10 1/4-inch longest tine, 5 1/4-inch right antler circumference, 43 total points;

2. Richard Thiele of Gonzales, 9-pointer, 19 5/8-inch spread, 9 1/8-inch longest tine, 5 1/8-inch right antler circumference, 42 7/8 total points;

3. Colton Blackwell of Cuero, 10-pointer, 20 3/8-inch spread, 8 1/4-inch longest tine, 4 1/8-inch right antler circumference, 42 3/4 total points;

4. Chase Blackwell of Cuero, 8-pointer, 21-inch spread, 9 3/8-inch longest tine, 4 1/8-inch right antler circumference, 42 1/2 total points.

Cotton Production Up Twelve Percent

Texas Upland cotton production for 2009 is expected to total 5.0 million bales, up 12 percent from 2008 and up two percent from last month forecast, according to figures released by the Texas Field Office.

Statewide harvested acreage is estimated at 3.7 million acres, 14 percent more than last year.

Yield is expected to average 649 pounds per acre compared with 657 pounds last year, and up from the November forecast of 636 pounds.

Production on the Southern High Plains is estimated to total 2.85 million bales, up 48 percent from last year's production.

Average yield, at 676 pounds

per acre, is seven pounds less than a year ago.

The Northern High Plains crop, estimated at 1.1 million bales, is five percent more than last year.

In the Low Plains, production is estimated at 660 million bales, two percent less than last year.

United States Upland cotton production is forecast at 12.2 million bales, down one percent from last year and up one percent from the November forecast.

Yield is expected to average 774 pounds per acre compared with 803 pounds in 2008.

Harvested acreage is estimated at 7.59 million acres, three percent more than a year ago.

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