

OUTDOORS

STORY & PHOTOS BY
David Sikes



LANDCUT HUNTING

A reader asks whether it's legal to hunt deer at the Landcut, south of Baffin Bay. From the Texas General Land Office: You can legally hunt submerged land and spoil islands east of the Landcut. West of the Landcut is private property. From Texas Parks & Wildlife Department: It is against the law to hunt from a floating boat. Also, I recommend hunters stay away from Padre Island. The boundaries of the Nation Seashore are not well marked and it is against the law to hunt or possess a firearm within the park.

Only on
Caller.com

Check out David Sikes' blog "In the Outdoors" on fishing, hunting, conservation, anything else he writes about, or anything you'd LIKE him to write about.
At Caller.com

What's Up

CB FLY FISHERS MEETING

The Coastal Bend Fly Fishers has scheduled its next meeting for 7 p.m., Dec. 28 at the Ancient Mariner restaurant, 4366 Alameda, Florida fishing guide John Stark is the scheduled guest speaker. Call Paul Swacina at 883-9643 or e-mail pswacina@floridaflyfish.com.

SOUTH BOAT SHOW

The Coastal Bend Marine Dealers have scheduled their 50th show for Jan. 28-21 at the American Bank Center. Show times will be 3-8 p.m., Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 11 and younger. Represented at this year's show will be Gulf Coast Marine, Gundersland Marine, Huff Marine, Portland Marine, South Texas Marine, Rockport Marine, along with more than 70 booths offering hunting and fishing products, and something extra "for the girls." Seminars include the angling insights of J.D. Batten with Channel 3 Outdoors, Sid Walsh Guide Service, kayaking insights from the folks at Wind & Wave Water Sports, cooking demo by Chef Jay Moore of AranzaZu restaurant and a boating course called "Safely in Command" by John Brough with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Artist Dinah Bowman will help imprint fish on free T-shirts for each child at the show. Texas A&M's Wetlands on Wheels also will entertain and educate children. Bob's Custom Tackle will clean reeds and replace line. Visit www.ccbostshow.com.

FLY-TYING ROUNDTABLE

Anyone interested in fly fishing is invited to a free evening of fly tying, fly swapping and story telling on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Members of the Coastal Bend Fly Fishers club and prospective members of the club are encouraged to attend. These informal gatherings begin at 6 p.m., and generally run until 9 p.m., at Seaworthy Marine, 102 Fulton Beach Road in Fulton. Bring your own refreshments and fly tying stuff. Contact Stacy Lynn Trimble at 727-9100 or stacy.seaworthy@hotmail.com.

BIG BROTHERS & SISTERS

The Big Brothers and Big Sisters nonprofit organization is looking for corporate participation and underwriters for its upcoming fishing tournament sponsored by AEP Texas, scheduled for April 28, 2007. Tournament organizers need money, sponsors, angler teams and volunteers. You could register for the competition either as an individual or as a team. The boat fee for a four-angler team is \$400. Individual entry fee is \$125. If your company would like a presence at this fundraiser event, sponsorship levels range from \$250 to \$2,500. Contact Tony Orlando at 588-8500 or Charlie Mader at cmader@bbs.org.

TROUT MEETINGS

Texas Parks & Wildlife biologists are considering a dramatic change in rules regarding the harvest of speckled trout from the Lower Laguna Madre, between the Mansfield Channel and Mexico. This could result in lowering the daily bag limit, changing the minimum length or both. Trout regulations north of the Mansfield Channel would not be affected. Other proposed changes include increasing the minimum length on sheepshead and expanding a rule that prohibits airboats from rallying or harassing schools of fish. To gather public feedback and to help determine the exact language of these proposals, TPW officials have scheduled a series of 7 p.m. meetings. Schedule: Jan. 3, Port Isabel Community Center, 213 Ybarra; Jan. 4, Port Mansfield Chamber Pavilion, 101 East Port Drive; Jan. 4, Dickinson Marine Lab, 1562 FM 517 in Dickinson; Jan. 5, Lion's Field Adult & Senior Center in San Antonio, 2809 Broadway; Jan. 10, Room 1003 Natural Resources Center at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, 1003 Ocean Drive. Call 825-3356.

A HUNTING PACKAGE WORTH THE PRICE



Charlie Hoge stands ready while watching one of David Green's English pointers work a quail field at Twin Oaks Ranch near Dinero.

LUXURY ON THE WING

Twin Oaks Ranch's InFlight Outfitters offer hunters every amenity — and a quail-raising setup that compliments nature itself

Speckles and patches of brown on white against brambles and brush are a joy to behold.

And for me, this never grows old. Embodied within this lean breed of English pointer, which can nearly upend anyone who stands against its charge, is the eagerness of a tireless bird sniffer. And on the heels of these pups, wingshooters who appear stoic and shiny in their blaze and boots would have trouble disguising their own enthusiasm.

And why would they want to? An autumn dawn with a lifting fog and a Labrador by my side gives license in our culture to relax and revel in what God has made. Speaking for myself, if my tongue could wag and my ears could flap in the breeze they surely would during a good quail chase.

When anticipation suddenly is broken by the pounding rhythm of a dozen wings, we reveal the children within us. Some hunters handle the rise of a covey better than others can.

My behavior is fairly transparent, which means I shoot with the accuracy of a child at times.

It takes a while for me to settle down. Truthfully, I hope I never do. Several wingshooters shared this wish with me in a field just north of town this past week. Twin Oaks Ranch near Dinero is about 50 miles from downtown Corpus Christi — but it's a continent away from the corporate hum of any city.

Please see **SIKES 11C**

Pat Roberts (left) and Charlie Hoge (right) prepare to shoot at a covey of bobwhite quail as it rises from a field about 50 miles north of Corpus Christi.

ALSO INSIDE
Contact info for InFlight Outfitters & other South Texas quail outfits. **11C**



In'no'va'tive Everglades • In'no'va'tive Ramcap • In'no'va'tive Flats Cat • In'no'va'tive Design
by Dougherty

Blue Water Ships Stores

10121 So. Padre Island Dr.

Since 1954 Mon-Fri 8am-5:30pm
Sat 10am-4pm

GULF COAST MARINE

www.gcmboats.com

937-7800

HONDA MARINE

2006 EVERGLADES 243V

Powered by Honda 225 Four-Stroke Motor. w/sliding windshield, storage w/stereo w/speakers, tandem axle aluminum trailer. List \$78,166.

Sale Price \$65,995/\$559⁰⁷ mo.

EVERGLADES 20

All New Center Console Flats Cat - 8' draft, 40 gal. fuel, 4 fold-down seats, reversible helm seat, hot/cold cooler, 40 gal & 28 gal livewell, patented "RAMCAP" construction, powered by Honda 115HP "fourstroke", alum drive-on trailer. List \$37,281.

\$31,995 / \$270⁰⁷ mo.

10% Down + TEL, 7.75% APR, 180 Mo. W.A.C.

EVERGLADE 260

The Biggest 26 Center Console on the Market w/No First Fit & Finish of any Boat. (GA 2677) Beam 9'7" Draft 20" Fuel Capacity 200 Gallons. Fiberglass Hard Top w/Custom Washboard, 50 Gallon Fish Box, 25 Gallon Trash Water, Leaning Post/Seat, 60 Gallon Live Well, Twin 225 HP Honda 4 Stroke, Triple Axel Trailer. List \$138,000.

Sale Price \$139,995.

*Always wear a personal flotation device while boating and read your Owner's Manual.