

TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S NEWS

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The Newsletter of The Texas Sportsman's Association

"Dedicated to educating the public about the need for protection, conservation and improvement of fish, game and other wildlife, grasslands, and forests and to safeguard the freedoms that enable these pursuits."



How Kelsea and Ruger learned to hunt wild hogs

By **KELSEA TOWNSEND**

Ruger was just a little pup when I got him. I brought him to the house and taught him the basics like sit, stay, to come when he was called and the word out.

Then he discovered a hog. It was an accidental thing. We had our dogs outside training. He got through the fence and started baying,

I guess hog hunting came natural to him. The feral hog was bigger than two-month-old Ruger and it rolled him like a ball. I guess it made him mad. He then went straight in for the grab and he has been grabbing ever since then. So I knew Ruger would turn out to be a great hog dog.

The training process needed to start when he turned three months old. It all began when we started going to Mr. Douglas Mason's for training. He told us to put the dogs in the pen with the feral hogs, we then had to go into the pen to guide our dogs

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A note from the President



Greetings Members:

Even though we have been experiencing some triple-digit temperatures lately, the most exciting time of the year for most outdoor folks is rapidly approaching. We have been planning the Fall Fundraiser and we will talk more about that in detail at the end of this message. In early July, I had some much needed knee surgery and had been recuperating at home for a few weeks when my wife said she wanted to go shopping on Saturday. I was tired of sitting around and told her I wanted to go along. She reluctantly agreed and we both knew, after many years of experience that I wouldn't last long. Her idea of shopping and mine are light years apart. Guys, we make a list and park as close as we can and run in and grab what we need and may speak to a friend and we are out of there! Well, I am here to tell you that there is a whole other culture out there. I observed for many hours, shoppers gathering, trying on items, and leaving with maybe an item or two.

Now bear with me as I know this is supposed to be about the outdoors and I am going to come back to that shortly. As I was observing, I felt a panic attack coming over me as I was noticing the Summer Clearance sales and the Fall Foliage and Halloween decorations everywhere and I felt like OMG did I miss hunting season? I opened the door to the outside and it was 108 degrees! It turned out I lasted about five hours and ruined her shopping day. Now, sportsmen and sportswomen, if we could refine our hunting skills as well as these shoppers shop, there would not be a trophy safe anywhere.

The analogy here is that in shopping and hunting the harvest is not always the only reward as the hunt for the perfect trophy adds to the overall enjoyment when the stars finally are aligned.

I had a conversation with our local TP&WD biologist Mark

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TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION

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Visit TSA On Line!

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<http://www.texassportsmansassociation.org>

The website is maintained by
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Fire in the hole

BY KENDAL HEMPHILL

Those of you who like to obtain your wild game meat without the distraction of obeying pesky laws concerning hunting might not like this column so much. Then again, rednecks seem to love it when Jeff Foxworthy makes fun of them, so you never know. At least I never know.

This week our topic is: Dumb Poachers. Someone at American Hunter magazine goes to the

trouble every year to compile a list of poachers who have been caught doing really stupid stuff, and I happen to have managed, through sheer skill and good management, to get hold of this year's list, barely two weeks after it became available to the rest of the world.

Poaching stories are the wildlife world's equivalent of the Darwin Awards, which are honors given to those who have managed to dispose of themselves in the stupidest ways they can manage. Poachers often survive their encounters with the



long arm of the law, so these aren't actually improvements to the gene pool, but many of these lawbreakers lose their right to hunt for long periods, so there's at least a silver lining, though slightly tarnished.

To be honest, these poachers are just the crop from September 2012, so there will no doubt be many more before the year is out. Sadly.

Our first entry actually includes a husband and wife team, Gerald and Karen Brown, who fell for the old Robotic Deer ruse in Sarasota County, Florida. Game wardens often employ the use of a stuffed deer with motors and servos installed, so the tail, and sometimes the head, can be moved remotely. This makes the deer look remarkably like a stuffed deer with a moveable head and tail. People who like to hunt the "Long Pasture" often blast away at these decoys, especially if alcohol is involved.

Gerald and Karen were charged with discharging a firearm in public, hunting out of season, shooting wildlife from a road, trespassing, and being stupid. At least, according to American Hunter, they were both spared the embarrassing inconvenience of having to explain to their spouse how they ended up in jail. The bright side isn't always illuminated much.

Louisiana, whose license plates declare it a "Sportsman's Paradise," is home to five fellows who evidently forgot that paradise is not always in season. Yoan Hernandez-Casanova, Rico Hernandez, Juan Munoz, Miguel Farradas and Yandry Almeida were apprehended when game wardens, acting on a tip, caught them cleaning some game in their backyards. This is not, of course, against the law, unless the game happens to be out of season. This game was out of season.

Authorities found, in all, six whistling ducks and eight rabbits that were not whistling, resulting in some heavy fines and jail time. In addition, wardens seized three firearms they believe were used to obtain the ill-gotten game. Yoan and Yandry were

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Looking Down From the Saddle

By HERMAN W. BRUNE

Tapping the public tap: the Rainy Day Fund

Editor's Note: This is an edited transcription of a radio interview with Ducks Unlimited rep Kirby Brown heard on the "News from the Camphouse" on KULM 98.3 FM.

Brune: Outdoorsmen realize the significant amount of lobbying that goes on during the legislative session pertaining to conservation. They also know that much of what they do is essential to the mainstream Gulf Coast economy. Conservation impacts agriculture, municipalities, industries along the Gulf Coast, as well as, wildlife. As per The Texas Water Plan, everyone should realize that the interests of conservation organizations greatly serve the Texas public. Kirby, would you please tell us how Ducks Unlimited (DU) plays into this scenario?

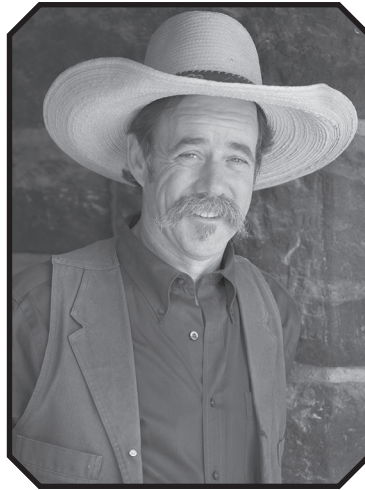
Brown: DU just celebrated their 75th anniversary last year. They now have 13 million acres of wetlands in conservation. DU realizes that in Texas the water issues are primary focus when talking about waterfowl habitat. Presently, we're concerned with the Brazos and Colorado River Basins. We're in drought conditions and it threatens the coastal wetlands and rice community complex. The levels of the Highland Lakes are at 36 percent. Buchanan and Travis Lakes are at a combined storage of 725,000 acre feet. The lowest those lakes have ever been was during the drought of record during which they were at 600,000 acre feet. So, we're trying to prepare for a drought worse than a drought of record. They never want to get below 600,000 acre feet. If that happened, it triggers mandatory 20 percent cutoff requirements for municipalities, electrical generation companies and everyone that uses water along the rivers. And that would stay in effect until we get rain — and one of these days it will rain.

DU brought me in as the water guy. I'm a conservation outreach biologist that's serving as their water guy with state agencies, river authorities, the legislature, and the governor's office. It is an interesting job because I want to help folks and help our wetlands.

Brune: The connection that is so eminent and often overlooked is the kinship of conservation, the economy, and industry. Mainstream people should wake up and see that the hunting and fishing conservation organizations such as DU are highly instrumental in the efforts that sustain and preserve a vibrant economy.

Brown: That's exactly right. Wildlife tourism, fishing, etc. needs freshwater inflow in the bays and estuaries. That freshwater is also essential to waterfowl. And then naturally, that freshwater sustains industry. Part of our effort is to ensure that the lower river basins are treated as fairly as the upper basins. It all must be in balance and we must find win-win solutions.

When the Texas legislature met they were looking to fund the state water plan. That was something that has been talked about since the late 1990s. The water plan is a result that started with Lt. Governor Bob Bullock in SB 1. Then there was SB 2 that



was brought by Senator Brown. After that came Senators Armbrister, Averitt, and now we've got Senator Hegar involved.

Now, we may not support everything that's in the state water plan. There's some stuff about bottomland hardwoods in Northeast Texas and building reservoirs that is not our concern. Our primary concern was to look at the plan as a whole, get it passed, and then if we need to fight individual battles we'll fight those battles. But let's fund the plan and start working on insuring water in the future. Thirty percent of the plan is moving to water conservation. Ten percent of

the funding is going to agriculture. Much of the funding will address infrastructure rehabilitation. We've got some cities leaking more water in old pipelines than they're using. That's almost criminal nowadays with the precious value of water. Water is one of those utilities that we've been able to keep low in price, and that price doesn't reflect its cost. At some point society must come to the understanding the true value of water. We must have water for agriculture, municipalities, industry, energy and wildlife.

There were two water funding bills moving through the legislature. One was brought by Senate Natural Resources Chairman Senator Frazier, who lives on the Highland Lakes, and the other by the house Natural Resources Committee Chairman Representative Ritter. The Speaker of the House, Lieutenant Governor and Governor Rick Perry are all behind the idea of funding an infrastructure that will help provide Texas with water. We felt that funding the plan would happen, and the SWIFT Fund was created. It's the State Water Implementation Fund of Texas. It will be comprised of \$2 billion from the state's Rainy Day Fund. It's a one-time deal. The money will be loaned to communities. It will allow communities to get state bond ratings and borrow money at a lower interest rate. That \$2 billion dollars will be recycled through loans and in 50 years, with matching funding from local entities, you'll see about \$27 billion generated from the original \$2 billion, and an actual \$54 billion in total funding towards water infrastructure.

Now, the legislature thought they had the authority to take \$2 billion out of the Rainy Day Fund, but the attorney general said no. Taking that money must be included in the state budget, which had already been developed. So, at the end of the session legislators got behind Sen. Williams' SJR 1 which is a constitutional amendment that allows the people of Texas to vote on the water funding as a constitutional amendment.

There are actually communities in West Texas with less than 60 days left in their water systems. The TCEQ has lists of communities in bad need of rehabilitated water systems and water wells.

Brune: Has the LCRA, DU, or any state agencies advocated

(Continued on Page 7)

White wing area expands, possession limit raised for dove season

Texas dove hunters should see plenty of opportunity this fall as conditions are shaping up for an above average season, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

Dove season kicks off Sunday, Sept. 1 across most of the state.

Texas dove hunters number upwards of 250,000 and collectively bag between 5-6 million doves during the 70-day season.

Thanks to new rules approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this year, hunters can possess up to 45 birds — three times the daily bag limit. Previously, the possession limit was twice the daily bag. Daily bag limits still apply.

The USFWS also approved for this year an expanded Special White-wing Dove Area in South Texas. The SWWDA will now extend east along its current boundary and continue south along I-H 37 from San Antonio to Corpus Christi, effectively doubling its current size.

“For the last two decades, white-winged dove populations have steadily expanded both their numbers and their geographical extent,” said Dave Morrison, Small Game Program Director with the TPWD.

To take advantage of the

earliest possible opening dates for the special area, the season will run Sunday, Sept. 1 through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2, and then reopen Saturday, Sept. 7 and Sunday, Sept. 8.

The daily bag limit during the combined four-day season is 15 doves in the aggregate to include no more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves and hunt-

ing during the early season in the SWWDA is permitted only from noon to sunset.

Dove season in the North and Central zones will run concurrent from Sept. 1-Oct. 23 and Dec. 20-Jan. 5. The South Zone dove season is set for Sept. 20-Oct. 27 and Dec. 20-Jan. 20, with the regular season in the SWWDA Sept. 20-Oct. 23 and Dec. 20-Jan. 20.

According to Shaun Oldenburger, TPWD’s Dove Program Leader, hunters can expect to see an increase from last year in dove numbers.

“It appears that breeding dove numbers have increased from last year in many regions of the state,” he said. “Increased precipitation helped improve dove production and generate ample food supplies. It should be a good season.”



Texas Sportsman's FALL FUNDRAISER



Sunday, Sept 29, 2013

Columbus KC Hall – Columbus, TX

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (No Admittance Charge)

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For Raffle tickets contact any TSA Member or the following:

For information on the Texas Sportsman’s Association contact

David Gohlke, President, at (979) 234-2860

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PATIENCE PAYS OFF — TSA member Kyle Scott arrowed this mature gobbler on Good Friday while hunting alone on his lease southwest of Hondo, Tex. Kyle started hunting turkeys a few years ago and was able to call him in and make the shot. He had hunted for several days and this is a great accomplishment!

Entries for Big Time Texas hunts now available; deadline Oct. 15

Eight premium Big Time Texas Hunts drawings are now up for grabs through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The most exclusive offering is the Texas Grand Slam; one lucky winner receives four guided hunts for Texas' most prized big game animals — white-tailed deer, mule deer, pronghorn and desert bighorn sheep.

New this year is the Wild Hog Adventure, the chance for a long weekend hunt for wild boar in East Texas. Other hunt packages include trips to hunt whitetail deer, game

birds, alligators and exotic big game animals.

Entries may be purchased online at tpwd.texas.gov/buyentry for the discounted price of \$9. Entries are also available for \$10 at stores that sell Texas hunting and fishing licenses or by calling 800-895-4248.

Deadline for entry is Oct. 15 and winners will be announced by early November.

Proceeds from Big Time Texas Hunts support wildlife conservation, habitat management, and public hunting.

Hunting, fishing licenses on sale

Current year Texas hunting and fishing licenses (except year-to-date fishing licenses) expired Aug. 31, and new licenses for 2013-14 are on sale now.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department issues about 2.1 million hunting and fishing licenses annually through the agency's 28 field offices, more than 58 state parks and at over 1,600 retailers across Texas.

Licenses may also be purchased online through the TPWD Web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/buy or by phone (800-895-4248) with a \$5 convenience fee required for each transaction. Call center hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. The online transaction system is available 24/7. A transaction receipt may be printed at the time of purchase for online and a confirmation number is provided for phone orders, and the physical license is mailed separately.

Confirmation numbers will verify that a license has been purchased, which is sufficient for dove hunting, but will not allow hunters to take fish or wildlife that require a tag.

*What are you waiting for?
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Not a member yet? Well, it's high time you joined. Fill out the membership application on page 6, send it in and get involved in Texas Sportsman's Association!



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Stories, photos for Newsletter

Texas Sportsman Assn. members are encouraged to submit stories and/or photos for the Newsletter. Submissions may be mailed to Texas Sportsmans Association, P.O. Box 26, Columbus, TX 78934, or email editor@industryinet.com.

Central Texas hog hunting trip turns ugly in a hurry

By ALLEN BRUNE

When you are hunting wild animals, you should pay attention to what you are doing ...

I was driving through Centerville today and decided to call my buddy Randy. He was at the Langley Ranch recovering from getting charged by a 175-pound boar.

He's not in much shape to type so I told him I would post up his story.

I've hunted with Randy before. He's a big ol' country boy and not afraid to get down and dirty with a hog. We tracked my son's boar one night and had to get busy with a Glock .40. He hog hunts for a living. But the odds caught up to him a few days ago.

He had a few hunters in for a donated hunt for the Leukemia Society (or something like that). Hunter made a bad shot on a big boar with a .300 Win Mag. They went in after him and couldn't find him. Randy had walked the



Randy put up quite a fight, but needed a little time in the emergency room after tangling with a 175-pound hog. One surgery and 56 stitches later, he's on the mend. The picture below shows what he normally looks like.

area a couple times. He had the hunter and his wife with him. He climbed up on a fallen pine tree and jumped down to the other side. As soon as he hit the ground the boar was on him.

Randy fought him off for awhile by kicking him but the hog didn't act like most of them (hit you and run off). He just kept charging. And kept charging. And kept charging. Soon Randy was bleeding from the thigh, wrist, and hands.

He was losing a lot of blood and finally got pizzed off.

He was able to grab the hog's head and pin him by getting a knee on his neck. He yelled at the hunter several times to shoot the hog. "HURRY UP! I NEED SOME RELIEF!" Finally the guy snapped out of his shock and came up and put the hog down.

Randy started tying off wounds the best he could and got his wife to drive him to the
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Texas Sportsman's Association
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Fire in the hole

(Continued from Page 2)

also ticketed for having funny names.

But America, apparently, is not the only place you can find rednecks. China has its fair share, judging by our next entry. Six Chinese guys were arrested on suspicion of poaching five black bears. The taking of bears can be a lucrative business over there, since certain bear parts, such as gall bladders, are considered to be aphrodisiacs. Personally, I doubt it, but it doesn't matter what I believe. Those gall bladders are worth big bucks on the black market.

The interesting part of this story is that, after searching the poachers' homes, authorities believe they were killing the bears with homemade explosives. Which makes me wonder how you can tell, while whipping up a batch of DIY IEDs in your DEN, how you can be sure you won't blow up the bear's gall bladder along with the rest of him, thereby negating the effort of killing him in the first place? But that's me.

We must venture outside the confines of September to find our most impressive Dumb Poacher of recent fame. Colton Lapp has probably broken some records in the area of illegally taking game. And bear in mind that the following list only includes the infractions Colton was CAUGHT at.

First, Lapp was convicted of a poaching charge in April 2011. Then, in December, he earned an accessory charge when he was caught with a friend who actually committed the indiscretion. Bad enough, so far, but it gets worse. Between his December 19 accessory conviction and December 28 of 2011, Lapp went out and poached five (FIVE) more deer.

Lapp is the first person in Wyoming to be convicted of a poaching felony. His plea agreement, besides requiring him to attend a boot camp program, bans him from hunting in Wyoming and 37 other states for the rest of his life.

At this point I'm supposed to say "let this be a lesson to you if you like to hunt illegally." But I'm not dumb enough to believe that anyone dumb enough to commit such crimes is smart enough to listen to advice. So I won't say that.

What I WILL say is, if you're going to poach game, don't do it in Mason County, where I live. And if you do it in Mason County, please don't use explosives. I'm already deaf enough as it is ...

Kendal Hemphill is an outdoor humor columnist and public speaker who has never used dynamite on rabbits. To date. Write to him at PO Box 1600, Mason, Tx 76856 or jeep@verizon.net.

Looking Down from the Saddle

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using more groundwater?

Brown: All of the local Groundwater Conservation Districts are responsible for water management plans. They can't stop someone from drilling a well, but they can implement their management plan. The LCRA may allocate funds to someone trying to get off of using LCRA water, but in the end everyone is subject to the balance of the management plans.

DU wants folks to know that we are in favor of funding the Texas Water Plan and believe that it's a one-time deal that will fund Texas water infrastructure into the future.

Weiser, Wittner enjoy the Texas Brigades experience

Sam Weiser of New Ulm and Dauson Wittner of Industry participated in the Texas Brigades summer leadership camps in June and July.

They were among 156 high school students taking part in this award-winning leadership development program.

The Texas Brigades' mission is to educate and empower youths with leadership skills and knowledge in wildlife, fisheries and land stewardship to become conservation ambassadors for a sustained natural resource legacy.

There were seven Brigade camps this summer: two Buck-

skin Brigades, two Bobwhite Brigades, Bass Brigade, Waterfowl Brigade, and the newest addition, Ranch Brigade. Participants must be between 13 and 17 years of age, and submit a complete application for consideration.

Dates for 2014 will be available by Jan. 1.

Participants are available to give presentations to schools and civic groups.

For more information, visit www.texasbrigades.org or contact Helen Holdsworth, executive director, at 855-TX-BRIGS, or email hholdsworth@texas-wildlife.org.

Hog hunt goes bad

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hospital in Crockett. One surgery, 56 stitches, and a whole bunch of antibiotics later, he is back at home recuperating. The doctor said the tusks just barely missed the main artery in his wrist and it would have got real bad, real quick if that got cut.

He said, "I reckon I'll have to

start carrying a pistol again." But he said the hog was on him so fast he didn't even see him coming and wouldn't have had time to draw.

I'll let the pics do the rest of the talking. Glad you're OK, brother. I know you'll be out bloodtrailing again by the end of the week!

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Texas Sportsmans Association members receive the TSA Newsletter quarterly. They're all interested in the outdoors, and can provide advertisers with a targeted group of active, involved consumers!

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RUGER shows this wild hog just who's in charge of this pen.

Hog huntin' dog

(Continued from Page 1)

around the seven acres.

When they found the hog we had to encourage them to keep baying while we stood there. If they grabbed a pig we would have to pull them off, leg the hog, and take it away from them so they couldn't see it. We would do it repeatedly every week and that's how we would train the dogs.

There are rights that need to be protected that come with hunting with these dogs. I would like to see Texas get hunting dog laws like Louisiana has. Dogs cannot read "NO TRESPASSING" signs and some people don't get that. It would be very nice to be able to go on to another's property, unarmed, and retrieve your dog or a wounded animal.

Another right I believe should be protected is hog hunting with dogs. These dogs are bred like they are for a reason and that is to hunt hogs.

There is no stopping them when it comes to them hunting. I am a firm believer that this right needs to be protected. As a proud member of the TDHA I will stand up for these dogs and their rights.

I love the woods because the woods is where I can go to

learn the ways of the feral hog and the hog dog. When you're in the woods you are where the dogs can teach you the things you don't know. It is really a safe haven for me; it's where I belong. I guess my love of the woods is unexplainable and I wish I could be there all the time. Hog hunting is my hobby and my love but someday I would like it to be my job.

I believe more kids and adults should get into hog hunting. I believe that if they found out the new responsibilities that come with owning a dog and the work they will put into the dog they will have a new concept of the sport and pay more attention to it. I believe people will want to get out more once they realize how proud they will be watching their dog learn and grow and get excited over the smallest things such as the first time their dog gets on the trail baying its heart out. That first time will mean a lot to the owner because it shows the owner all the time and effort they put into the dog was worth it.

I myself, as a hog hunter for almost four years now, encourage each and every person to get out and hog hunt!

President's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

Lange this week and we talked about range conditions for waterfowl and other migratory birds as well as our local whitetail deer herd. There were a couple of changes made to the teal season bag and possession limits. You may take six teal which is up from four birds and the possession limit was increased to 18. There were no other major changes to our local regulations. We talked about the fact that we had fair spring rainfall and that the deer herd is in good shape. I started my MLD observations and have not collected enough data to say how the antlers are going to be. I see a lot of young 12 to 13 inch eight points and saw one group of four mature bucks at about 80 yards and three of them were 16 or better.

As I mentioned last year, we had seven 10-points in this same area and I hope most of them survived as the mature buck harvest numbers were way down last year and my neighbors did not report any harvest. I see some Live Oak acorns, but not like last year and we are still losing our pin oaks that have been dying off during this drought. We went from green to dust in July and have not received any rainfall for six weeks on my properties. Mark said that the upcoming dove, deer, and waterfall season in our area looks better than usual and we will be holding out for some much needed rain.

Our Fall Fundraiser will be held on Sept. 29 at the Columbus KC Hall this year. I apologize to all my fellow archers and Colorado County Fair supporters as we are conflicting a little. Come out and enjoy a noon meal and try to win some prizes and meet with friends and then we can go back to the woods later in the afternoon.

All current members should have received some raffle tickets by now. Keep in mind that this is our only fundraiser for the year. Thanks to many fine sponsors, we have a real nice list of prizes. Let's be sure to thank these sponsors at every opportunity!

At the fundraiser, we will have our annual raffle tickets available. RW and Tori will conduct the penny raffle again and a silent auction will be held as well. Members, if possible, please bring a dessert, door prize and something for the silent auction.

Aaron Weishuhn and Victoria Maertz will be awarded the 2013 C.F. "Buck" Kollman scholarships and Ernest Thuman will be awarded the lifetime license as the winner of the TP&W check station drawing. We will again sponsor the check stations this year and this will be the last one for a while. Please be sure to check all legal bucks as this is the only real data the biologists receive for evaluating the success of their program. It is free and they offer some nice prizes for winners! I do not know what Ernest checked, but last year's winner checked a spike.

Keyser's Market will cater brisket and sausage meal with potatoes and beans. We held the price to \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 children 6 to 12 and kids under 6 eat free! Now you can't beat that! Having a meal with family and friends and free entertainment!

See you there!!

David Gohlke

Not a member yet?

Fill out the membership application on page 6 and get involved in TSA!