

NEWSLETTER





4th Annual Joe Krout Essay Contest

Hunt Sponsored by H-H Ranch, Heidi Wyatt, Pipe Creek, Texas

www.hbarhranch.com

"What it means growing up with TBOT"

350 words minimum.

Deadline: Monday, September 12, 2016
Hunt Sponsored by H-H Ranch, Heidi Wyatt

Hunt Date: TBD www.hbarhranch.com

Must be a TBoT member, Youth age 12-16.

Must have Hunter Education Certificate and valid Texas Hunting License.

H-H Ranch rules apply.

Contact Heidi Wyatt cell (210) 260-4342

or e-mail: hpage311@aol.com

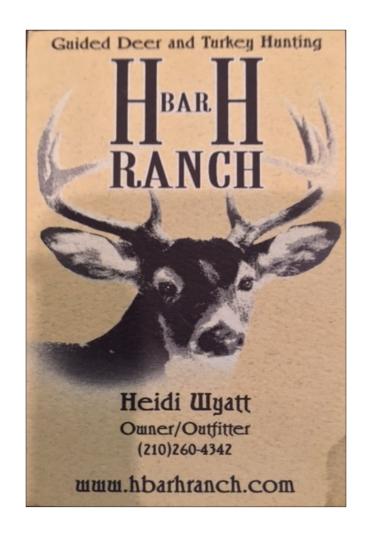
Minimum draw weight of 30#.

Must be accompanied by one adult.

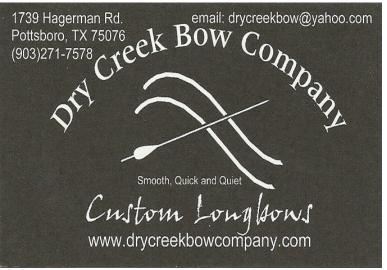
Mail or email to Bud Murphy

204 Oxford Loop, Princeton, Texas 75407

hodat1957@yahoo.com









Connie Balusek and Melissa Stephens



Sheryl Kanaga

(Picture on Front Page)

I have been shooting traditional archery equipment for 15 or 16 years. My favorite traditional class is Selfbow with wood arrows. To me a Selfbow is the most traditional and most difficult to shoot. I like the challenge and the feeling of accomplishment when I finish a round with my Selfbow.

Sheryl is the 2006 Hill Country Shootout Ladies Overall Winner.



Holly Middleton

This is a Roland Jenkins take-down recurve bow I got as a birthday present. I have been shooting traditional ever since! I am absolutely in love with traditional archery now.



Kris Johnston

Carol Lockhart



I first shot a recurve bow in 1962, back in the days of field archery, near Spokane, Washington. Then other things in life distracted me from archery for about 35 years.

In 1997 my husband Dan bought me a Great Plains recurve, which I shot on and off for a few years. My first longbow was a Winterwind (1998?), and the one that I have been shooting for perhaps 12 years is a 21st Century.

Since I use only wood arrows, my favorite class is Longbow Traditional. I was glad when TBoT added the Senior Women's class, though, because for several years I have been the "grandma" on the circuit.

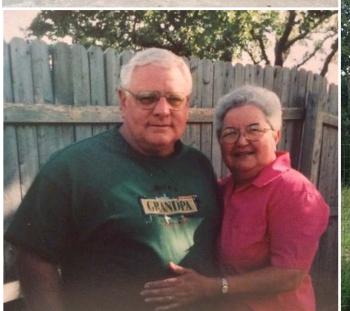
At tournaments, people recognize me as the lady in pink, and my fletchings are hot pink--easy to find in case I miss. I usually try to wear one of my t-shirts that say "Anita Mulligan, The Pink Princess" because I do need a mulligan...

I thank God for the great number of friends that I have made over the years. When I first started shooting in Texas, my goal was to shoot until I was 60 years old. Now, I hope to keep shooting as long as my health allows and I can drive myself to

tournaments!



I have not been hunting since Dan died eight years ago, but who knows? Maybe I will go in 2016.





Featured Veteran:

Francine DeRhodo

I picked up my first bow in Jan 2016 and haven't looked back since.

My first bow was a Samick Sage Recurve.

My first competition was an ASA quickly followed by the Denton TBOT. I was hooked on TBOT after that. I loved it and loved the people!!

I currently have 4 bows, 2 recurves and 2 longbows. My favorite one to shoot is my Pink and Black longbow by GW Flanagan (both wood and open classes).

My two favorite shoots so far have been The Hill Country Shootout and the Texas State Longbow Championship!

I look forward to many more in the future as this is now a permanent part of my life. The people I've met along the way have truly enriched my life!! My only regret is that I didn't find it sooner!!

Francine DeRhodo, U.S. Navy, Retired 1994-2014

I enlisted in the Navy on Nov 9, 1994. I went to boot camp in Great Lakes, IL (I don't recommend that part of the world during winter BRRRR).

I graduated boot camp and went off to A School in Millington, TN. This is where I was trained to become an Aviation Electronics Technician. (AT).

Upon graduating A School in August of 1995, I went to my first command at NAS Dallas in Grand Prairie, TX and worked on the Fire controlled Radar systems for the F-14 Tomcat.

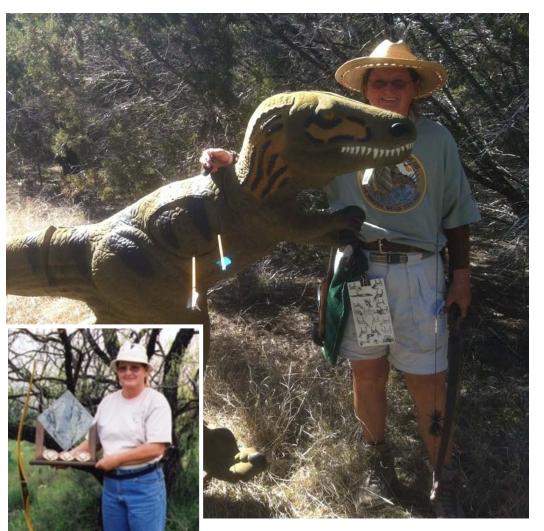
In 1998, I made the transition from NAS Dallas to NAS JRB Ft Worth and transitioned from F-14's to F-18's. The Hornet.

In 2002 I transferred to

Whidbey Island, WA to VP-69 and worked on the P-3 Orion. In 2008 I transferred back to NAS JRB Ft Worth and back to supporting the F-18's.

In November, 2014 I retired from the Navy.





Lisa Freeman

Lisa began shooting in 2000.

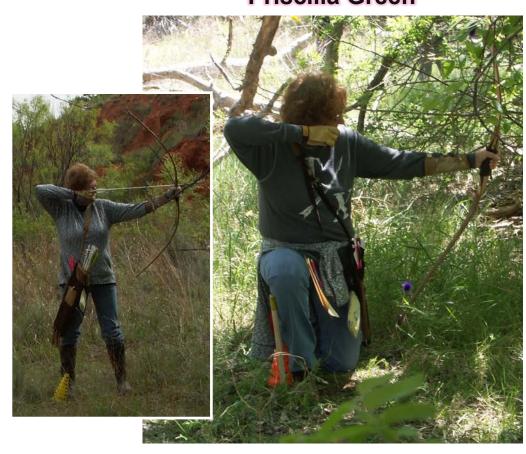
She attended a few Texas Parks and Wildlife programs called "Becoming and Outdoor Woman" and took an archery class at one of them.

Her favorite bow is Longbow with wood arrows. Lisa says "When I shoot a long shot and see my arrow hit where I want, it's like opening a present on Christmas morning."

The picture (bottom left) is from the 2003 Hill Country
Shootout where Lisa took three-first place and her first Ladies
Overall.

Priscilla Green

HCS Ladies Overall
2016 Lisa Freeman
2015 Lisa Freeman
2013 Shana Sattler-Wilson
2012 Shana Wilson
2011 Shana Wilson
2009 Lisa Freeman
2008 Heidi Wyatt
2007 Lisa Freeman
2006 Sheryl Kanaga
2004 Lisa Freeman
2003 Lisa Freeman
2002 Heidi Wyatt
1999 Annette Walding





Memphis Texas 14th Annual TBOT Shoot and 4th Annual Primitive Championship

(Left to Right) Megan Alexander, Mary Smith, Kathy Hagler,

Jada Garrett, Priscilla Green and Kay Williams



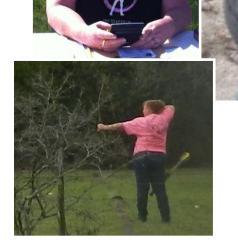


Heather Ray Favorite: Bob Sarrels Longbow



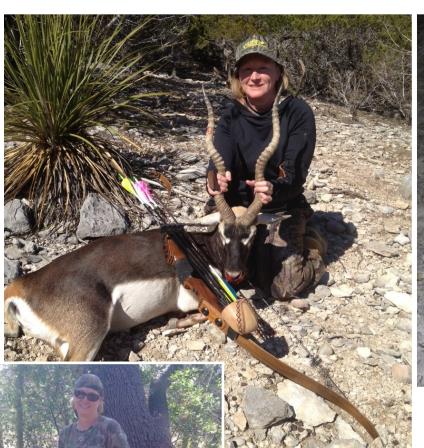
Mary Smith

This is me Mary Smith, shooting at Archers for Christ Paris TX, with my Larry Brown arrows and my Lonnie Dye composite. I've been shooting since I was about 8 years old, and after a 2 year break from the sport I came back strong. Now at age 16, I plain to be better than I am now and I love to see all the new competition I'm getting from entering the lady's classes. I don't know why I ever stopped in the first place I love this sport and always will:)



Rhonda Buchhorn

Favorite:
Longbow with Carbon Arrows





Brenda Stein

Favorite Recurve: Bob Lee Favorite Longbow: Sarrels Carbon Express Predator 800





Debbie Keeling, Daughter Codi Haines and Grand-Daughter Abigail Haines



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Shooting Red-eared Turtles Through Ice By Bob Morrison

"Boys, you're mighty welcome to try your luck, but I don't think you'll have any luck today. But go head; just close the gates; I don't want to chase cattle over my place because you left a gate open."

We thanked him and said we'd be sure to close the gates. And headed for cattail livestock tank (pond). We parked several hundred yards from the tank dam.

While Greg loaded his shotgun, I put on my arm guard, finger tab, strung my bow, and wedged four flu-flu arrows, tipped with MA-3 broad-heads into the bow quiver.

"Ready? Before we get to the dam to jump shoot the ducks, we'll each grab a handful of dry broom weed and use'em to cover our faces as we ease up to the top of the dam. On the count of three, we'll stand up and shoot. O.K."

"Yep," Greg whispered while grabbing broom weeds.

We crab-crawled up the dam and peeked over. Guess what? No ducks. The tank was iced-over, with about an inch of ice.

"Well, what do you know?" I exclaimed. "Everything is frozen. No wonder the rancher laughed when we asked to hunt. Well, let's walk around the tank just for kicks."

The first thing we noticed were the red-ear turtles under the ice near the shoreline.

"What are they doing, Dad?" Greg asked.

"Gosh, guess they're looking for a hole or break in the ice to get some air. Don't if that's why; I've never seen that before," I answered.

"Well," Greg answered, "our hunt is down the drain. Let's go."

"Maybe not. I've never shot turtles through the ice. My MA-3 tipped arrows should go through the ice without being deflected. Of course, this adds another problem with shooting through the ice: deflection and reflection. It's guessing exactly where to aim to allow for these. Anyway, I'm going to try a few shots. If you'll handle the camera, I'll fling a few arrows at'em. Maybe I'll get lucky.

"What about getting your arrows back? I wouldn't want to get my feet wet and cold just to get an arrow. I'd come back later after the ice thawed and get the arrows; they should be floating near the shoreline."

It, indeed, was tricky judging where to aim to hit the target. I, though, after a few missed, I got lucky and nailed a red-ear.

"One's enough for me," I told Greg. "Let's stop to thank the rancher and to tell him he'll have to chop ice so his cattle can get water; also about the turtle shoot."



Second arrow went above turtle. Notice turtle below bubbles left by the arrow passing over the turtle's back (Photo by Greg Morrison)



Shooting through ice, arrow was low. Notice turtle just beyond arrow's entrance through the ice.

(Photo by Greg Morrison)



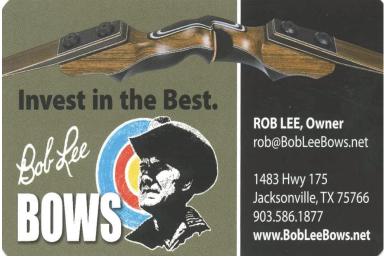
Bob Morrison aiming at a turtle scavenging beneath an iced-over livestock tank (pond). Temperature is 28 degrees. (Photo by Greg Morrison)

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TBOT 2016 Shoot Results at www.tbot.org



Archers For Christ • TBOT January 30-31, 2016

Fredericksburg Archery Club • TBOT Saturday, February 20, 2016

www.fredericks burgarchery club.com



Denton Archery Club • TBOT February 20-21, 2016

www.dentoncountyarchers.org

Clifton Archery Club • TBOT Saturday, February 27, 2016

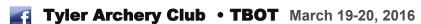


Canyon lake Archery Club • TBOT Saturday, March 12, 2016

www.canyonlakearcheryclub.net







Cherokee Archery Club • TBOT Saturday, March 26, 2016

South Plains Archery • TBOT April 2-3, 2016

www.southplainsarchery.com



TBOT 23rd Annual Texas Hill Country Shootout and 18th Annual Texas Youth Traditional Championship April 9-10, 2016 Bugscuffle Ranch, Vanderpool, Texas



Timber Creek Archery Club • TBOT April 16-17, 2016

www.tbot.org

Rolling Plains Sportsman Club • TBOT April 30-May 1, 2016

www.bugscuffle.com

www.sportsmanclub.org

30th Annual Glen Parker Stick Bow Round Up (Non-TBOT) May 14-15, 2016 Camp TaKuLa, Chester, Texas Bill Decker 409-543-2490 bdecker@nederlandisd.org

Abilene Bowhunters Association • TBOT June 25-26, 2016

www.abilenebowhunters.

Mid Summer Melt Down Concho Valley Archery Association • TBOT July 9-10, 2016

Buffalo Field Archery • TBOT Sunday, July 17, 2016 Cancelled www.buffaloarchery.org

TBOT 2016 Remaining Shoots

Collin County Bowhunters Association • TBOT July 16-17, 2016

www.collincountybowhunters.org

5681 Co Rd 1042, Blue Ridge, TX 75424 Sat Daylight to Dark Sun Score cards in by 2pm Steve Seals cmr2ducks@sbcglobal.net TBOT N TX Rep. Todd Smith 469-853-5670 todd.moah@gmail.com

Hill County Bowhunters • TBOT Saturday, July 23, 2016

www.hillcountrybowhunters.com

Gates open 8am cards in by 3pm 540 CR 258 Liberty Hill, Texas Paul at 512-942-970 TBOT South Texas Rep. Glenn Buchhorn 210-559-8266 txbowhunter64@hotmail.com

Sagebrush Traditional Archery Club hosting Traditional Tri-State Championship for Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico July 23rd & 24th, 2016 (Non-TBOT) 5 miles East of Wellington, Texas on Hwy 203. Durk Green 806-205-2626 landshark@windstream.net

Bastrop County Bowhunters • **TBOT** Saturday, August 6, 2016

www.bastropbowhunters.com

Gates open 8am cards in by 3pm 3551 FM 535, Red Rock, Texas HM Soles 512-773-8336 TBOT South Texas Rep. Glenn Buchhorn 210-559-8266 txbowhunter64@hotmail.com

Banana Bend Archery Club • TBOT Saturday, August 13, 2016

3600 Hadden Rd, Baytown, Texas **www.bananabendarchery.net** TBOT East Texas Rep. Bobby 409-658-4719 taylor5901@sbcglobal.net

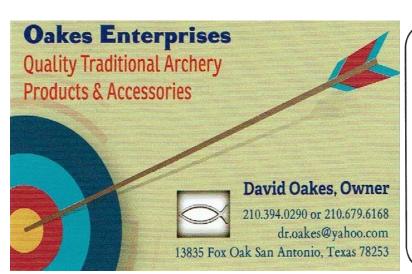
Devil's Mountain Archery Club • TBOT September 10-11, 2016

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TBOT West Texas Rep. Butch Gleghorn 325-944-3517

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BOB MORRISON

Chasing Carp To Set Texas Fresh Water Body Records

A cowbody truism, "There's not a horse that can't rode; not a cow-body that can't be throwed!" holds true for bowfishing for Water Body Records. They can be made; they can be broken.

When the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department announced a new program "Water Body Records" for non-game fishes, around 1994, bow-fishing enthusists yelled acceptance loudly, for the Texas bowhunters now had chances to be recognized for setting records. Of course, this new program didn't affect state bowfishing records. It was, however, a boon for all bowfishing anglers to be recognized.

I started chasing non-game fishes records seriously on April 27, 1994, and submitted an 8-lb., 13-oz., European carp shot at Lake Leon's Polliwog Slough. The carp was a Water Body Record.

On June 1, 1995, at 7:45 a.m., I resigned from the Department of Biological Sciences, Tarleton State University. I had arrived at Tarleton on May 25, 1966, 29 years and five days, without any fanfare, and I left the same way. No regrets.

Beginning on April 22, 1995, until September 19, 1995, I made 21 bowfishing trips, concentrating mainly on Lakes Leon and Proctor. During that time, I shot 52 carp, mainly wading from daylight until 9 a.m. Sure, I probably could have shot many more carp, but I kept all I wanted. Had to leave "some for seed."

On April 8, 1997, while walking along the western edge of the flooded borrow ditch next to FM 3237, just west of the Brazos Power Plant at Palo Pinto Lake, I slipped upon a mob of small male carp harassing a female wallowing nearby. I stopped her and the next generation with an arrow through her mid-section. Another Water Body Record: 4.81-lbs.



Bob Morrison of Stephenville, TX, with a 14-lb., 6-oz. carp shot at Lake Eddleman, Graham, TX., on 5/8/01, for a Water Body Record. (Photo by Alice Morrison)

On Mother's Day - and my mother's birthday - May, 13, 1997, the carp romped and hustled wallowing partners. I strung ten of'em within an hour. The shots ranged from 4 to 9 yards; also, I scored a double (my first, ever). The largest carp among the ten, weighed 5.68-lbs. Another Water Body Record.

On August 18, 1998, on the Nolan River, on the east side of Bryon Stewart Park, west of Cleburne, TX, I shot a Water Body Record carp, weighing 10.50-lbs. This was one of the easiest records I'd taken. I drove into the park, stopped, walked to the river bank, and looked over into the water. Several yards below among the aquatic vegetation, the carp was vacuuming the algae along the muddy bank. Twang! Thunk! It was over; new record.

By chance in a passing conversation, Roger McQueary, Stephenville City Park maintenance supervisor, mentioned the large carp in the Bosque River that flows through the park. My ears perked up. I hoped he didn't notice because hunting isn't allowed in the park.

Early on the morning of December 3, 1998, I slipped along the Bosque searching for carp. I was in luck. The past days of unusually warm weather aroused the carp.

The fishing arrow, tipped with a Shur Shot point, impaled a 12-lb., 10-oz. carp. at five yards. Another Water Body Record.

Sometimes the year starts out fine ... everything clicking along smoothly ... and then ... well, as an old rancher once said about one of his prize horses that wasn't such a price. "Yeah, he looks good, but isn't worth killing. He's a four-gaited horse: Started, stumbled, farted, and fell!"

The year started early with a Water Body Record. On February 25, 1999, in the tailrace below DeCordova Bend Dam, on the Brazos River, south of Granbury, TX, I shot a 5-lb., 14-oz. carp.

The carp swarmed along the retaining wall below the dam, trying to jump the large concrete saw-teeth barrier into the pool below the dam. It was a matter of waiting until the convoy swam within range. I had to limit my shooting because I had to shoot nearly straight into the concrete, and most of the time if you missed, the arrow shattered against the wall. You have to arise early to beat the early-morning anglers.

I walked carefully down the slippery pink granite rocks to the low-water dam below the Hwy. 16 bridge in downtown Llano, TX. It was 7 a.m., April 27, 1999. It would be an hour before the curious tourists and dedicated catfishermen perched on the rocks overlooking the river.

The carp were doing aquaticrobics in the turbulent water below the dam. The backwash shot them to the surface and held them momentarily before they slipped below the surface, only to repeat the jumping. It was quick and fancy snap-shooting.

One carp lounged too long at the edge of the fast water, and the Shur Shot tipped fishing arrow put an end of her playfulness. She pulled the scales down to the 7-lb., 13-oz. mark ... another Water Body Record for the files.

Continuing toward home after Llano, I stopped at the low-water bridge in downtown Brady, TX, and harpooned a 10-lb., 10-oz. carp munching among the water weeds. I made a fruitless trip to Lake Pat Cleburne on May 25, 1999. On the way home, I stopped at the Tres Rios Resort - so-called because it sits on the point where the Paluxy River and Squaw Creek converge with the Brazos River, just east of Glenrose, TX.

The two female managers looked skeptically when I asked if I could bowfish for carp.

"Never heard of that kind of request before," the larger woman said. "I don't know about it either," she went on after I explained what I had in mind.

I told them I'd only be there for a short time, and I would pay the daily fee or whatever they charged for use of a picnic table.

"You can shoot the bow or whatever you do if you'll promise not to tell anyone where you killed the fish and won't throw them on the bank to stink up the place. We'll let you hunt for \$5. Fair enough?" she asked.

I promised I'd stay no later than noon, and I would not mess up the place.

I had not been on the bank of Squaw Creek more than fifteen minutes when a ribbon of muddy water passed by. I saw the carp grubbing steadily upstream. I padded quietly to within seven yards and put the fishing arrow through the fish's mid-section. The carp weighed an even 6.0-lbs. I dropped the record fish into a plastic bag, it into the ice-chest, and quickly left the resort.

I'd read Bob Hood's article in the outdoor section of the Ft. Worth Star Telegram Newspaper about the twin lakes at Graham, TX: Graham and Eddleman. I checked the Water Body Records for non-game fishes taken from either lake. None were listed on my three favorite non-game-fishes: buffalofish, carp, gar.

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3512 Lovell Ave Fort Worth TX 76107 I left home at 5:30 a.m., June 9, 1999, and drove to Graham. The lake's surface was choppy and the water a light chocolate color. Nothing stirred the shallows at Lake Eddleman. I asked an old trotliner at the boat ramp how to get to Lake Graham. As confusing as his directions finding the tailrace were, they were adequate, but from where he sent me, I couldn't get there ... no roads.

On the way out of the boon docks, I stopped briefly to watch two jet boat jockeys showing off.

Pulling away from the sandy beach, I glanced toward a flat covered with weeds. The glistening back of a carp parted a patch of weeds and swam slowly into another. I unloaded quickly and dispatched the fish, with a 12-yd. shot. The Water Body Record carp weighed 14.0-lbs.

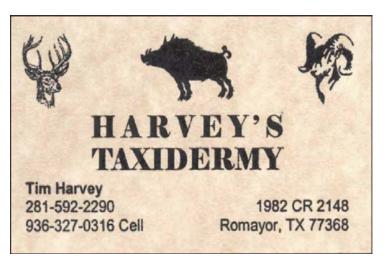
On May 3, 2000, I visited Lake Jacksboro, TX, and had breakfast at the Green Frog Cafe. I asked directions to the lake., which happened to be less than a mile from the cafe.

The carp were spawning. I shot a 4.75-lb. sow, for a Water Body Record.

On the morning of May 10, 2000, I drove to Evant, TX and on into Lampasas, TX. I would bowfish the Sulphur Creek in the city park. Only River Carpsuckers were active. I drove toward Naruna and stopped between the two golf courses, at the low-water crossing over the Sulphur.

Golfers were teeing off when I shot a 6.2-lb. female carp in a long, reed-stuffed hole of water above the crossing. The trio of golfers stopped and watched while I landed the Water Body Record. I left quickly before their curiosity turned into animosity.

On May 30, 2010, I drove to Lake Coleman. The morning was foreboding. The lake was extremely



low. Nonetheless, I had driven nearly 100 miles, and I wanted to bowfish. I parked and started walking the dry, rocky banks, looking for grubbing carp. I missed the first carp but nailed the second ... the 4.8-lb. male set a Water Body Record.

After Lake Coleman, I checked the road map. Clyde Lake wasn't too far up IH20. I could stop, fling a few fishing arrows, and continue home.

The neat, small, city lake was nearly dry, probably fewer than 250 acres left. I knocked on the caretaker's door. An elderly man with a 3-day growth of whiskers answered. I introduced myself and asked if I could bowfish for carp.

"Yeah, I guess you could; there's plenty," he answered.

"Any place in particular where there might be more than any other place?" I questioned.

"Naw, find'em anywhere."

"Well, I'd like to bowfish for a few hours. What do you charge for a half day?"

"Nothing. The lake's in bad shape. Can't charge the way "tis." he replied.

"Thank you. I'll park out of the way and walk to the bank and leave in a couple of hours."

I missed the first three carp and killed the fourth at the intake valve of the city water. The small carp weighed a measly 3.0-lbs., but heavy enough to set a Water Body Record.

On July 16, 2001, I set a Water Body Record for Lake Daniels. This was my second trip to the attractive lake, settled in the valleys of three forested hills.

I baited three areas and then stalked the western shorelines, watching for carp fins in the shallows. I made an extremely long shot of sixteen yards, only to have the carp tear loose.

Nothing was around the first two baited sites. A lone carp had found the third spot. An arrow through its fore-end blunted its craving for fermented mash. The small fish depressed the scales just to the 3-lb. mark ... enough to go into the record book.

August, 2001, heated up, and on the 23rd., I spent five hours sweating like a race-horse traisping back and forth between three bait sites spaced along a shallow inlet off the main body of Sweetwater Lake.

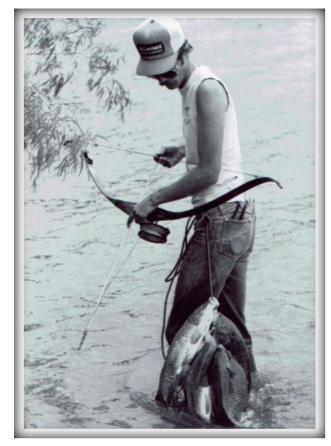
I saw a swirl at the third baiting spot. A lone carp had finally found the bait. I drew and waited for a broadside shot. The shot was farther than I like to shoot, but by now, I didn't hesitate. The arrow flew into the fish. It made a frantic dash for the deep water. I checked the run, only to have the arrow pull free. The short barbs of the Shur Shot didn't hold in the soft tissue. I went to the pick-up truck and replaced the point with a Talon, which has a long, single barb.

By 2 p.m., I had rebaited twice. I decided after the third baiting I would wait one hour; if the carp didn't show, I'd leave.

A mud trail appeared at the second baiting spot. At first, I thought it was a catfish. A closer look, and I knew it was a carp. The Talon anchored the 5.4-lb. carp at ten yards. I brought in the Water Body Record and went home.

Bowfishing is my favorite bowhunting sport.

Records are made and records are to be broken. My! My! But what fun 'tis to set a record, while doing something you really enjoy and puts a dent in an obnoxious species population that ruins the habitats of desirable sport fishes.

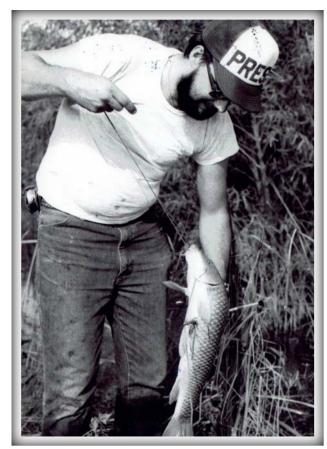


Harold Stephens of Stephenville, TX, at high noon on Lake Proctor, TX, checks the flooded willows and weedy vegetation for European carp. (Photo by Bob Morrison)









Gary Fritcher (deceased) of Stephenville, Tx, dresses a nice carp. One of his favorite carp recipes is carp patties. (Photo by Bob Morrison)

VANDERPOOL, TEXAS

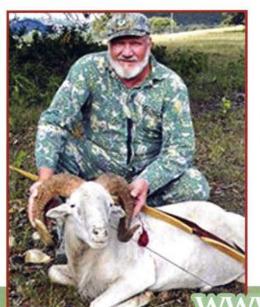


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Youth Longbow

Maryann Heffley 245

Youth Recurve

Blake Mestas 196 Keaton McInturf 78

Ladies Longbow Wood

Francine DeRhodo 245 Mary Beth Smith 230 Rainer Taylor 215 Meagan Alexander 206 Melinda McGurri 205

Ladies Longbow Open

Cynthia Heffley 255 Francine DeRhodo 252 Meagan Alexander 245 Maryann Heffley 233 Prissy Green 227 Loren Willson 196 Jada Garrett ns Melinda McGuire ns

Ladies Recurve Open

Francine DeRhodo 245 Melinda McGuire 228 Jada Garrett 225 Shelia Hill 198 Kay Williams 118 Kathy Hagler 148 Cassie Morgan 140 Kay Harbour?

Ladies Recurve Wood

Francine DeRhodo 250 Jada Garrett 246 Kay Williams 167 Kathy Haglee 150

Ladies Composite

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Ladies Selfbow

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Senior Ladies

Kay Harbour 205

Seniors Men

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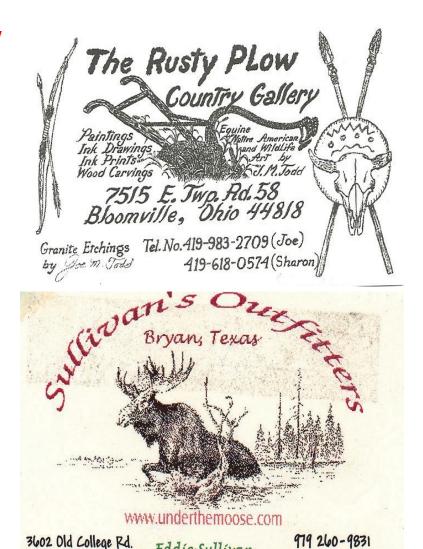


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Swamp Rabbit Hops Across County Lines

by Bob Morrison

The Swamp Rabbit, <u>Sylvilagus aquaticus</u>, is the largest of the "cottontails", with an eastern range beginning at the Red River in Montague County, curving southward in an irregular sigmoid curve, west to Medina County in the Hill Country, and continuing southward to Aransas County on the Gulf coast. It shares this range with the Eastern Cottontail, <u>Sylvilagus floridanus</u>.

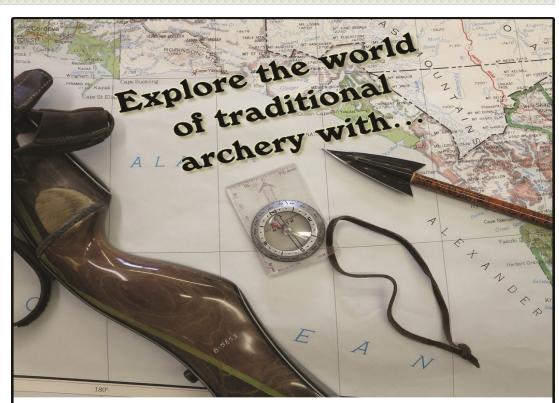
The "Swamp" looks like an overgrown cottontail, weighing from three to six pounds, as compared to the Eastern Cottontail's two to three pounds.

The first time I shot a "Swamp" near the coastal city of Port Arthur, I thought I had shot a

Goliath cottontail! When I told a Lamar University colleague of the big cottontail I had killed using the bow, he laughed and said "That wasn't a cottontail; it was its cousin, a Swamp Rabbit. I checked with Dr. William Davis of the A&M Wildlife Department, and he verified my colleague's identification of the rabbit. Whatever the species, it fried up good. During the three vears teaching at Lamar University, the Morrison family ate a lot of chicken-fried "Swamps."

When I moved from Beaumont to Stephenville, I continued bowhunting cottontails. I hunted along the Bosque River and open fields west of Stephenville, which is now part of the city.

One April afternoon while rabbit hunting on the seasonal Blanket Creek, in Brown County, near the small town of Zephyr, I shot what I thought was an unusually large cottontail. Out of curiosity, I field-dressed the rabbit and took it to Dr. H. Garner, a Tarleton State University mammalogist, and asked him to identify the rabbit. Immediately, he became excited and wanted to know where I had killed the rabbit. "Surely", he said "You didn't kill it around Stephenville." He reared back in his desk chair and asked if I were sure I hadn't killed it in East Texas. Finally, I convinced him that I had and told him the location.



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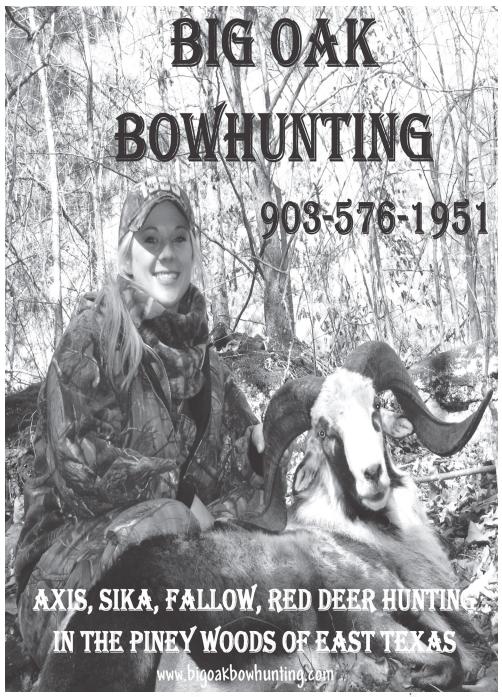
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"Well," he said. "You have extended the western range of the species by five counties. You should go back and do a survey to get an idea if the rabbit were a fluke or if there is a flourishing population of the species."

I never hunted the area again; nor did I make a survey as Dr. Garner suggested. Also, I have not heard, read of a hunter killing a very large cottontail around Zephyr, or one found dead on a highway. Perhaps, the rabbit was a release, an escapee, an accidental migrant from its normal range.

I only regret that I did not take a photo, but at the time, it was just another rabbit. I had killed lots of "Swamps".







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