Must Haves for Texas Hunters, Anglers

When gearing up for hunting and fishing this fall, be sure to include two items from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that won't take up any more space and offer access to a world of resources: The Texas Outdoor Annual mobile app and the My Texas Hunt Harvest app.

While hunters and anglers may be familiar with the printed Outdoor Annual booklet that has been a staple of tackle boxes and glove compartments for years, they may not be aware that the Outdoor Annual is now available as a mobile app. TPWD has developed this mobile app to give customers more choice in how they access important regulations information.

Updated hunting, fishing and boating regulations for the new season are now available in the Texas Outdoor Annual mobile app. Unique benefits of the app include: offline access to regulations once the app is downloaded, the ability to view your license within the app, location-based information on hunting seasons and freshwater fishing locations (including water body specific regulations, access points and fishing reports), along with other in app features. The free app is available in app stores, at OutdoorAnnual.co.

Reports, along with other in app features. The free app is available in app stores, at OutdoorAnnual.co.

With the My Texas Hunt Harvest app, hunters and anglers can satisfy reporting requirements for eastern turkey, white-tailed deer and alligator gar harvest, as well as complete electronic on-site registration for most public hunting areas. Additional hunting, fishing and boating regulations for the new season are now available in the Texas Outdoor Annual mobile app. Unique benefits of the app include: offline access to regulations once the app is downloaded, the ability to view your license within the app, location-based information on hunting seasons and freshwater fishing locations (including water body specific regulations, access points and fishing reports), along with other in app features. The free app is available in app stores, at OutdoorAnnual.co or by testing TPWD OA to 468-311 to receive a download link.

Get the My Texas Hunt Harvest app at tpwd.texas.gov/myhunt. The app works without a data signal as long as it has already been downloaded to the device. Reportar en inglés o en español. The app is also bilingual and available works without a data signal as long as it has already been downloaded to the device. Reportar en inglés o en español. The app is also bilingual and available.

Expert Tips: Coming Home Safe From The Hunt

Last year, Texas had the lowest number of firearm-related hunting incidents (17) since the mid-1980s. With over 1 million licensed hunters, hunting is safer than most recreational activities (nssf.org), in large part because of hunter education.

But even one tragic accident is too many. Thinking “Safety first!” and avoiding these common mistakes is the key!

1. Careless Handling: Make sure the muzzle of your firearm is pointed in a safe direction at all times, especially in and around vehicles. This #1 rule is critical while handling all firearms. Also, keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to fire, and unload when not hunting.

2. Snagging on Game Outside of a Safe Zone of Fire: The most common firearm-related accident while dove or quail hunting, taking shots outside of your “safe zone” is second only to careless handling. Be constantly aware of other people and your surroundings. Wear blaze orange to be seen. Know what is in front of and beyond the line of fire.

3. Hog Hunting Mishaps: Hog hunting has become wildly popular in Texas. Being familiar with modern sporting rifles and handgunds and being extra cautious during hours of diminished light are two considerations when hunting these wily animals.

For more information, go to www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntered.

New Outdoor Annual – Texas Parks & Wildlife

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HUNTING GUIDE

Revamped Mobile Apps

Must Haves for Texas Hunters, Anglers

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NEW Location!

Come see us at 341 I-45 West (service road) in Fairfield, Texas.
New Regulations: Air Guns and Arrow Guns

Alligator, game animals, furbearers, squirrels, and non-migratory game birds (except Eastern Turkeys) may be hunted with air guns and arrow guns provided:
- alligators, big horn sheep, javelina, mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, and turkey (except Eastern Turkey) may be taken only with pre-charged pneumatic arrow guns, or pre-charged pneumatic air guns;

--pre-charged pneumatic air guns must fire a projectile at least .30 caliber in diameter and at least 150 grains in weight with a minimum muzzle velocity of 600 feet per second or any combination of bullet weight and muzzle velocity that produces muzzle energy of at least 215 foot pounds of energy.

-squirrels, pheasant, quail, and chachalaca may be hunted with air guns that fire a projectile at least .177 caliber (.45mm) in diameter producing a muzzle velocity of at least 50 feet per second.

--arrows or bolts used with an arrow gun must conform to the same standards for projectiles for archery.

--air guns may not be used to hunt deer or turkey during archery season.

For more information, check with your local game warden or the Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife.

Expectations High for Archery-Only Hunting Season Opening Sept. 28

The hot, dry conditions that have been gripping most of Texas could make Saturday’s archery-only white-tailed deer season opener a challenge for bowhunters, yet those who know how to work the conditions can still find good hunting. For the first time this fall, hunters are required to report all antlerless deer harvested in 21 south-central Texas counties—see details below.

Although dry conditions should encourage deer to frequent feeders more consistently and more often, the hot temperatures may curtail movement during much of the day except for the periods around dawn and dusk,” said Alan Cain, TPWD white-tailed deer program leader. “Until cooler temperatures arrive and deer movement picks up hunters may consider using game cameras to narrow down peak deer movement near their favorite hunting location and increase chances of success.”

Cain explained that good rains early in the fall of 2018 helped set the stage for an excellent crop of winter weeds lasting well into the spring. The excellent habitat conditions continued into early July and were critical in providing the nutrition bucks needed to maximize antler growth.

While the archery-only season kicks off this weekend and runs through Nov. 2, the general gun season opener is still more than a month away on Nov. 2. A special youth-only weekend season is set for Oct. 26-27. The general season runs through Jan. 3, 2020 in North Texas and Jan. 19, 2020 in South Texas. A late youth-only season is also slated for Jan. 6-19, 2020. For additional information visit: www.Tpwd.com/TMDT.

New Mandatory Harvest Reporting Required for Antlerless Deer Harvest

The Department of Parks & Wildlife announced new mandatory harvest reporting rules for antlerless deer this fall.

Required for Antlerless Deer Harvest

Antlerless Deer: Antlerless deer may be taken by hunting license tag during archery, muzzleloader, and youth-only seasons, except on properties where antlerless MLDP tags have been issued then take is by MLDP tag only. Antlerless deer may also be taken by hunting license tags during designated periods in the General Season, see General Season section below for specific dates.

MLDP: If MLDP buck tags have been issued for a property, harvest is by MLDP tag only and all bucks must be tagged with a MLDP tag. If MLDP antlerless tags have been issued for a property, harvest is by MLDP tag only and all antlerless deer must be tagged with a MLDP antlerless tag. The landowner or designated agent are responsible for providing MLDP tags to the hunters on MLDP properties. All hunters using MLDP tags are required to possess a Resident or Non-resident General hunting license.

Archery Only: Sept. 28 - Nov. 1, 2019

General Season: Nov. 2, 2019 - Jan. 5, 2020

Antlerless Deer: November 2-17, antlerless deer by MLDP tag or hunting license tag. Nov. 18 - Jan. 5, antlerless deer by MLDP tag only.

Youth-Only: Early Youth-Only Season Oct. 26 - 27, 2019 Late Youth-Only Season Jan. 6 - 19, 2020

Muzzleloader: January 6-19, 2020
New Regulations: the license point-of-sale system, the Outdoor Annual App or the My Texas Hunt Harvest App (for hunters). You still must display it in any of these ways: (1) an electronic photo of your license, (2) an emailed receipt, (3) via your account within show proof-of-license. Now hunters and anglers can use an electronic image of their license as proof-of-license and show/process of re-purchasing the same license items bought during the previous three years. TPWD has also made it easier to New this year are enhancements to make the licensing process simpler and faster. “Expedited checkout” speeds the hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is a required $5 administrative fee for each phone or online Hunters are reminded to purchase their 2019-20 hunting license before heading afield, available online at The Gulf Coast is drying out quick but freshwater flows into the bay systems have sparked an above average amount of submerged aquatic vegetation currently growing in places that are typically much more saline. Marsh complexes up and a possession limit of 15 in the Eastern Zone only. possession limit of 18. Bag limit for Canada geese will be five

Did You Know? In Texas, It Is Unlawful To: --use aircraft (including drones, except by activity-specific permit) to harvest game in the air. --use dogs to hunt deer in this state. --discharge a firearm on or across a public road or hunt from public roads. --use a computer, or operate a facility that uses a computer, to assist in remote firearm or archery hunting, if the animal being hunted is located in Texas.

NS FRESHWATER FISHING 903-388-4131

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New This Year: FISHING Effective September 1, 2019

--Except on Falcon Reservoir, anglers now need to report alligator gar harvest within 24 hours using the My Texas Hunt Harvest mobile app.
--New rules for harvesting alligator gar on the Trinity River include a 4-foot maximum length limit, a nighttime prohibition on bow fishing, and a drawing to allow a limited number of anglers to harvest one per year over 40 inches.
--New largemouth bass length and daily bag limits are in effect on Lake Lakewood, Mil Creek Lake, and public waters located in Hardin, Newton and Liberty counties.
--Anglers can now harvest up to five Alabama bass of any length from Alan Henry Reservoir.

SALTWATER FISHING 903-388-4131

--To streamline regulations for the entire coast, there is a coast-wide 3-fish bag limit on spotted seatrout.
--When fishing for sharks in state waters, anglers are required to use non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks, except when fishing with artificial lures.
--The minimum size limit for cobia is increasing to 40 inches total length.
--The private recreational red snapper season in federal waters is now managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Source: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

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Waters earlier in the year. Submerged aquatic vegetation should be growing rapidly this time of year and aquatic bugs, teal will be seeking. The upper ends of these reservoirs will still be a great place to check for migrating teal despite high temperatures and strong dry winds have really wreaked havoc on the standing water across much of the Panhandle the temperates and prospects for teal season around the state, TPWD waterfowl biologists report: --The Gulf Coast is drying out quick but freshwater flows into the bay systems have sparked an above average amount of submerged aquatic vegetation currently growing in places that are typically much more saline. Marsh complexes up and a possession limit of 15 in the Eastern Zone only. possession limit of 18. Bag limit for Canada geese will be five

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Texas A&M-Commerce
Brings Quail Back to Texas

California Valley Quail can survive where bobwhites have perished

Texans usually don’t like when Californians move here, but these newcomers are quite a bit different. Research by a Texas A&M University-Commerce scientist has shown that a species of American quail – the California Valley Quail – will prosper in just about every part of Texas. These hearty birds are expected to attract new hunters and substantially help ease struggling communities out of tough financial situations.

Dr. Kelly Reyna, professor of wildlife and conservation science at Texas A&M-Commerce, said his research shows that bobwhite quail in Texas have declined by 80 percent in the past 50 years. Bobwhite quail do not fare well in the face of expanding residential areas and increased agriculture. But California Valley Quail are more resilient, and they could replenish Texas’ dwindling population of quail.

Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp said Dr. Reyna’s research could be the foundation of a renewed quail hunting industry in Texas and the beginning of a steady stream of new money for state and county governments.

“Before I was chancellor, I was the comptroller of Texas, and I know the financial benefits of a robust hunting industry,” Chancellor Sharp said. “Kelly’s research may just be the key to bringing back one of my favorite childhood pastimes, while also generating state conservation dollars.”

Dr. Reyna’s research further shows that bobwhite quail are highly susceptible to heat and lack of water. He found that just four days of high heat will significantly reduce the hatching success of bobwhite quail. Increased agriculture and new development also aggravate the problem by reducing the amount of covered areas and habitat, he added.

But the California Valley Quail are much more adaptable than their bobwhite cousins, Dr. Reyna said. Their native range runs from Mexico to the northern United States, and they have a proven ability to survive in a variety of habitats and climates. They also can live in a wide assortment of landscapes from agricultural land to suburban neighborhoods.

California Valley Quail already have been successfully introduced all over the world in areas such as New Zealand, Argentina, Hawaii and British Columbia.

Dr. Reyna said he expects the same positive results in Texas.

“While it’s really been encouraging about this process is the high survival rate,” Dr. Reyna said from a ranch northeast of Dallas. “We’ve seen that they’ve done really well out here.”

About The Texas A&M University System

The Texas A&M University System is one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation, with a budget of $6.3 billion. Through a statewide network of 11 universities, a comprehensive health science center, eight state agencies, and the REELIS Campus, the Texas A&M System educates more than 153,000 students and makes more than 22 million additional educational contacts through service and outreach programs each year. System-wide, research and development expenditures exceeded $996 million in FY 2017 and helped drive the state’s economy.

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Squirrel Hunting: Small Game, Big Opportunity

Everything is bigger in Texas, particularly where hunting’s cultural heritage is concerned. However, when it comes to game animals, there’s one critter that stands head and shoulders above the rest—the squirrel—yet carries a hunting legacy outspanning that of the state’s prized white-tailed deer.

Throughout the eastern half of the state, not long ago, squirrel hunting was more than a pastime—it was a social ritual where large family groups gathered in the fall at hunting camps. As land use practices changed and deer numbers improved, squirrel hunting has faded into the woods. The good news is the challenge and opportunity to pursue the sly bushytail is still there for the taking.

Two species of squirrels (gray or “cat squirrels” and red or “fox squirrels”) are considered game animals in the Lone Star State, and once you’ve pursued them you’ll understand why. They are agile and skittish, and the only season on squirrels in Texas is in the fall at hunting camps. As land use practices changed and deer numbers improved, squirrel hunting has faded into the woods. The good news is the challenge and opportunity to pursue the sly bushytail is still there for the taking.

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New in Texas: Garden Accents

- Archery-Only

Continued from 2-C

Late season deer hunting opportunities and county specific regulations, consult the 2019-2020 Outdoor Annual of hunting and fishing regulations. Now this fall, hunters in parts of south-central Texas will be required to report all antlerless deer harvest in Austin, Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Dewitt, Fayette, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Karnes, Lavaca, Lee, Haller, Washington, and Wilson. Counties also included in that change are Goliad, Jackson, Victoria, and Wharton counties north of U.S. Highway 59 and Comal, Hays, and Travis east of IH-35. Any antlerless deer harvested during the archery, youth-only, muzzleloader, and the 4-day during the general season is required to be reported to the department within 24 hours of harvest using either the “My Texas Hunt Harvest” mobile app (for iOS and Android) or on TPWD’s My Texas Hunt Harvest web page.

Anyone can get the “My Texas Hunt Harvest” app at tpwd.texas.gov/myhunt. The app works without a data signal as long as it has already been downloaded to the device. The app is also bilingual and available in Spanish to customers who use Spanish as the main language setting on their phone or other mobile devices.

Hunters are also reminded to review the TPWD chronic wasting disease regulations for information about CWD testing requirements and carcass movement restrictions for the 2019-2020 season. Also as a reminder, Texas hunters harvesting deer, elk, moose, or other susceptible species in other CWD-positive states must also comply with carcass movement restrictions when bringing those harvested animals back into Texas. Additionally, the Texas Animal Health Commission has mandatory testing requirements that apply to elk, red deer, aika, moose, and muledeer.

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Hunting Seasons:
Freestone County, Texas

ALLIGATOR
General Season: Apr. 1 - June 30, 2020
Bag Limit 1 per person per year

DOVE
Daily Limit: 15 white-winged, mourning and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, to include no more than 2 white-tipped
Possession Limit: Three times the daily bag limit

Falconry: Nov. 16 - Dec. 2, 2019
Daily Bag Limit: 3 in the aggregate
Possession Limit: Three times the daily bag limit

DUCK
Duck Daily Bag Limit with Gun: 6 in the aggregate, to include no more than
- 2 white-tipped
- 5 mallards (only two may be hens)

Daily Limit: 15 "dusky" duck (mottled duck, Mexican-like duck, black duck and their hybrids are closed the first five days of the season in each zone)
- 1 "dusky" duck (mottled duck, Mexican-like duck, black duck and their hybrids are closed the first five days of the season in each zone)

Including no more than:
- 2 canvasback
- 2 redheads
- 3 scaup
- 3 wood ducks
- 5 mallards (only two may be hens)

Daily Bag Limit: 5 Early Canada geese; 5 regular dark geese (to include no more than 2 White-fronted geese); 20 light geese in the regular dark geese (to include no more than

Light Geese (Conservation Order): Only No bag limit, no possession limit.

QUAIL
Daily Bag Limit: 15
Possession Limit: 45

Mearns’ (Montezuma) Quail: No open season.

RAILS, GALLINULES AND MOORHENS
Regular Season: Sept. 14 - 29, 2019; Nov. 2 - Dec. 25, 2019
Daily Bag Limit: 15 King and Clapper Rails in the aggregate; 25 Sora and Virginia Rails in the aggregate; 15 Mearns (Common Gallinules) and Purple Gallinules in the aggregate
Possession Limit: Three times the daily bag limit

Falconry: Jan. 27 - Feb. 9, 2020
Daily Bag Limit: 3 in the aggregate
Possession Limit: Three times the daily bag limit

SQUIRELL
Daily Bag Limit: 10
Possession Limit: 20
Youth-Only: Sept. 28-29, 2019

TEAL
September Teal Only Season: Sept. 14 - 29, 2019
Daily Bag Limit: 6 in the aggregate
Possession Limit: Three times the daily bag limit

WHITE-TAILED DEER
Archery Only: Sept. 28 - Nov. 1, 2019
General Season: Nov. 2, 2019 - Jan. 5, 2020
Antlerless Deer: November 2-17, antlerless deer by MLDP tag or hunting license tag, Nov. 18-Jan. 5, antlerless by MLDP tag only.
Youth-Only: Early Youth-Only Season Oct. 26-27, 2019
Late Youth-Only Season Jan. 6 - 19, 2020

Muzzleloader: January 6-19, 2020
Bag Limit: 4 deer, no more than 2 bucks, and no more than 2 antlerless, all seasons combined.

Antler Restrictions: The bag limit in this county is two legal bucks, but only ONE may have an inside spread of 13 inches or greater.

Antlerless Deer: Antlerless deer may be taken by hunting license tag during archery, muzzleloader, and youth-only seasons, except on properties where antlerless MLDP tags have been issued, then take is by MLDP tag only.

WILSON’S SNipe (Common Snipe or Jacksnipe)
Regular Season: Oct. 26, 2019 - Feb. 9, 2020
Daily Bag Limit: 8 Possession Limit: Three times the daily bag limit

WOODCOCK
Daily Bag Limit: 3 Possession Limit: Three times the daily bag limit

Falconry: Jan. 27 - Feb. 9, 2020
Daily Bag Limit: 3 Possession Limit: Three times the daily bag limit

Light Geese (Conservation Order): Only No bag limit, no possession limit.

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