

HEROES' CORNER

Want to share your great hunting or fishing adventure with the *Lone Star Outdoor News* family? E-mail your photo and caption information to editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com, or mail to: Heroes' Corner, *Lone Star Outdoor News*, 8588 Northwest Plaza Drive, Suite 315, Dallas, TX, 75225.

TED BIGGERS, and his sons **BRADFIELD, 11**, and **WILLIAM, 12**, along with their black lab, Buck, shot mallards, green-winged teal and a shoveler on a duck hunt at Riverview Farm near Sulphur Springs recently. Landowner Steve Farve donated the hunt to the Dallas Ducks Unlimited auction. This was the boys' first duck hunt over decoys.



J.T. HOWARD JR. of Hempstead shot this 10-point buck on an archery-only lease in La Salle County. The buck was shot at 11 yards.



PERRY LOWERY, with a 3-point, 5-year-old deer from Williams Ranch in San Saba. The deer was shot with a bow at 8 yards.



GRANT PILAND, shown here with his father, Todd, poses with the six ducks he bagged on his first duck hunting trip.



JUDAH EPSTEIN recently traveled to the Amazonian region of the Los Llanos in Venezuela and fished for piranha.



JANIS DAEMMRICH with a 23 1/2-inch redfish caught off the Big Oak Motte area of the King Ranch shoreline outside Port Mansfield.

BORDERING TEXAS



ARKANSAS

Largest Elk Ever Bagged in Zone A

In the recent December elk hunt on his property, Ronnie Ramsey, of Harrison, killed a bull elk with an 8-by-9 rack. It had the most points of any elk taken in the seven years of elk hunting in Arkansas and is the largest bull taken in hunting Zone A.

Ramsey was acquainted with the big bull. "I have taken a lot of photos of it this year," he said.

He was hunting from a tree stand in the afternoon. "I had been there about two hours, and some deer came in. Then I saw the deer get alert. Four elk came in and started running around. Then after two or three minutes, they drifted back in the field, and the bull came in."

Ramsey shot once with his .270-caliber Browning rifle, and the elk "dropped in its tracks."

Ramsey, 47, and an automobile agency owner, has 800 acres in the Hilltop area of southwestern Boone County that he operates as wildlife habitat. Elk use it, along with deer, turkeys, occasional bears, squirrels, rabbits and assorted nongame animals and birds.

Harrison said his secret is to give the elk plenty of groceries. Arkansas's elk in the Buffalo River country of the northern part of the state have demonstrated what other

species of wildlife in the state have shown for decades. Readily available food supplies and adequate protection are a key to good numbers of healthy animals.

Ramsey's 800-acre tract has just 40 acres or so open. The rest is wooded. "We have records of 10 years of wildlife habitat management. It's a lot of work. We work the food plots year-round, but it pays off. We plant things like BioLogic, alfalfa, lots of clover and orchard grass. On some of our food plots, we use orchard grass in the center and clover on the edges," he said.

Ramsey's elk hunting was in Zone A, the private land portion of the annual Arkansas elk hunt. This is land in Boone, Newton and Carroll counties where some landowners and livestock raisers don't like the competition from elk for pastures used for cattle grazing and hay production.



LOUISIANA

Fishing Seasons for Red Snapper Announced

The recreational fishing season for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will open at 12:01 a.m. April 21. The season will remain open until midnight Oct. 31 to coincide with season dates in federal waters. The size limit for red snapper taken by recreational fishermen will be 16 inches minimum total length, with a daily bag limit and possession

limit of four fish per person.

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission also authorized Secretary Dwight Landreneau of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change or modify opening and closing dates for the recreational red snapper season in Louisiana waters to comply with changes or modifications in season dates in federal waters.

The Commission also authorized the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change or modify opening and closing dates for the commercial red snapper season in Louisiana waters to comply with changes or modifications in season dates in federal waters.

For more information, contact Harry Blanchet at (225) 765-2889 hblanchet@wlf.louisiana.gov.



NEW MEXICO

Poacher Fined and Sentenced to Community Service

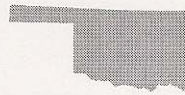
An Aztec, N.M., man who confessed to poaching a very large mule deer buck, removing its antlers and leaving the carcass to rot was ordered by a judge to serve 323 hours of community service, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish announced in January.

Reggie Bell pleaded guilty Dec. 29 before Magistrate Carla Vecovi Dial to illegal killing, illegal possession and unlawful transportation of big

game. Bell initially received the maximum fine of \$1,500 and was ordered to reimburse the state \$250 for the deer. He also voluntarily forfeited his rifle and will face revocation of his hunting and fishing privileges for illegally killing the deer while he was cow elk hunting in the Cox Canyon area north of Aztec in late November or early December 2003.

Bell was charged after two tips to Operation Game Thief. The first tip led officers to the buck's carcass Dec. 5, 2003. The second tip, in December 2004, led officers to Bell.

With antlers measuring 37-inches wide, with 9 points on one side and 11 points on the other, the buck was familiar to area residents and hunters, including one person who had drawn a sketch of the large antlers. That sketch was placed on the Department's Web site, www.wildlife.state.nm.us, in hopes of generating information after the widely publicized case produced few leads.



OKLAHOMA

Furs for Sale

Hunters and trappers will have a chance to sell their bounty at a pair of fur auctions hosted by the First Oklahoma Trappers and Predator Callers Association.

The auctions will be held Feb. 5 and March 5 at the Okmulgee Fairgrounds.

Both events will begin at 8 a.m.,

and the auction will start at 9 a.m. The buildings will also be open the day before each sale from 2 - 5 p.m. for dealer set-ups and for harvesters to store furs.

"Not only are the auctions the best places to come and get a good, fair price for your furs, they are also great places to come and see what trapping is all about and learn from experienced trappers," said Bill Jackson with the First Oklahoma Trappers and Predator Callers Association.

To participate in the auction, sellers must have a current Oklahoma trapping and hunting license. Sellers must also be members of the First Oklahoma Trappers and Predator Callers Association. Furs may be stretched and dried or "green." All bobcat pelts must be affixed with an export tag before they can be sold or shipped. Personnel from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation will be present to provide tags, if necessary. Individuals selling furs at the March 5 auction should consult the 2004-05 Oklahoma Hunting Guide regarding possessing pelts after the close of the furbearer season.

In addition, sellers who bring furs that belong to another person must possess that person's hunting and trapping license, as well as a letter signed by that person authorizing them to sell his or her fur.

Likewise, fur buyers are required to possess an Oklahoma fur buyer's permit in order to purchase unprocessed fur. For more information, contact Bill Jackson or Dee Jackson at (918) 336-8154.