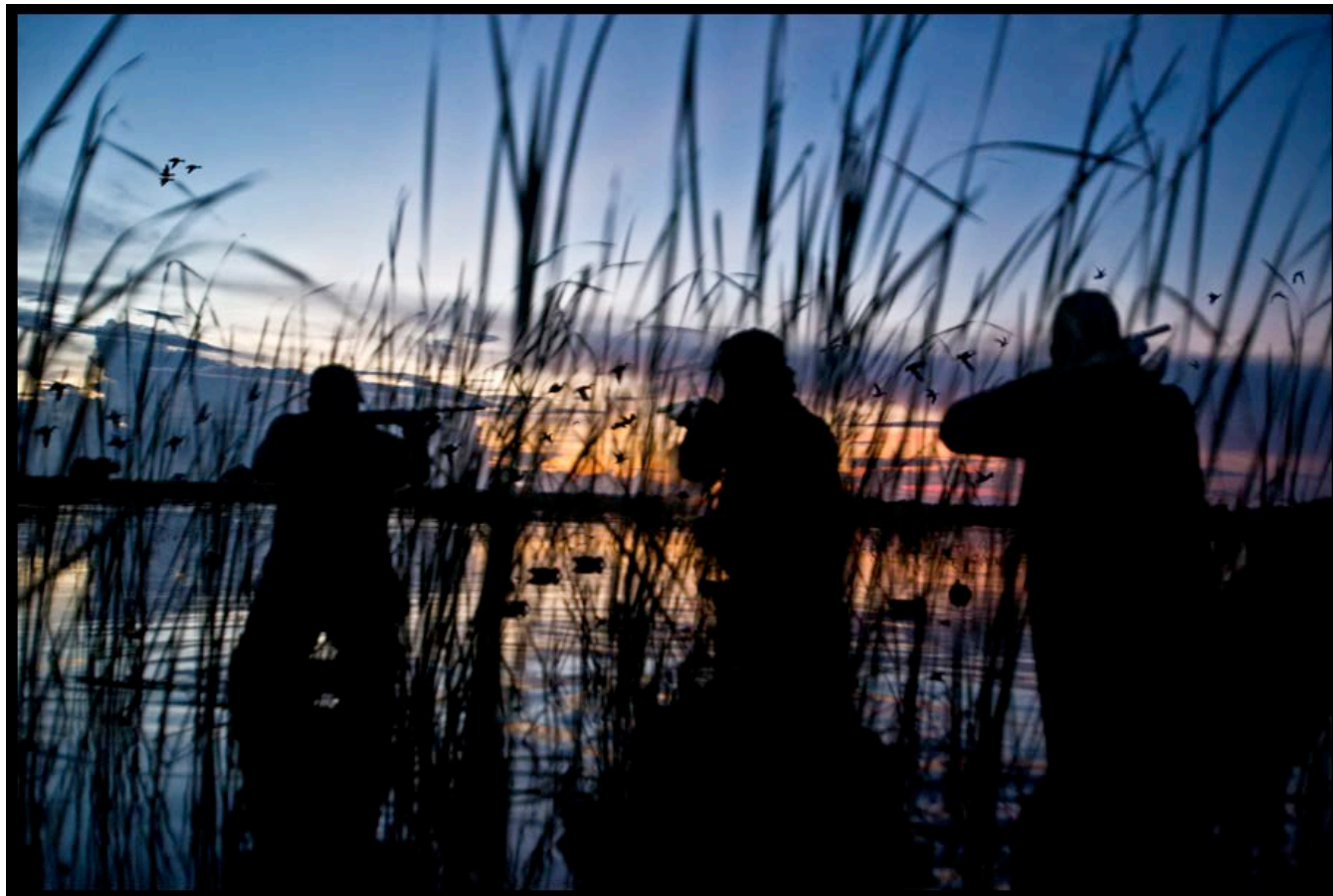




September 26, 2016

To All THC Members:



Early Morning Action on the Pintail Pond

2nd Full Week of Teal Season

As predicted our hunting slowed down the final week of teal season with a lack of bird-delivering-fronts; a total of 59 guns bagged 266 birds for an average of 4.5 birds/hunter/day*. Limits of teal were shot on the following ponds; Gadwall, Pintail (2), Northern Roost, Toby, Mattie (2), Bear, Remington, and Marsh (3).

The 2016 teal season saw 211 guns harvesting 1,085 birds for an average of 5.1 birds/hunter/day. Up from the previous two seasons in which we produced 4.9 birds. Top producing property was the Northern with 16 limit hunts - and we didn't even have the Nellie Pond flooded! Top five producing ponds; Northern Roost (8), OM Marsh (8), Toby (5), Mattie (5), and Widgeon (4).

*One scratch hunt.

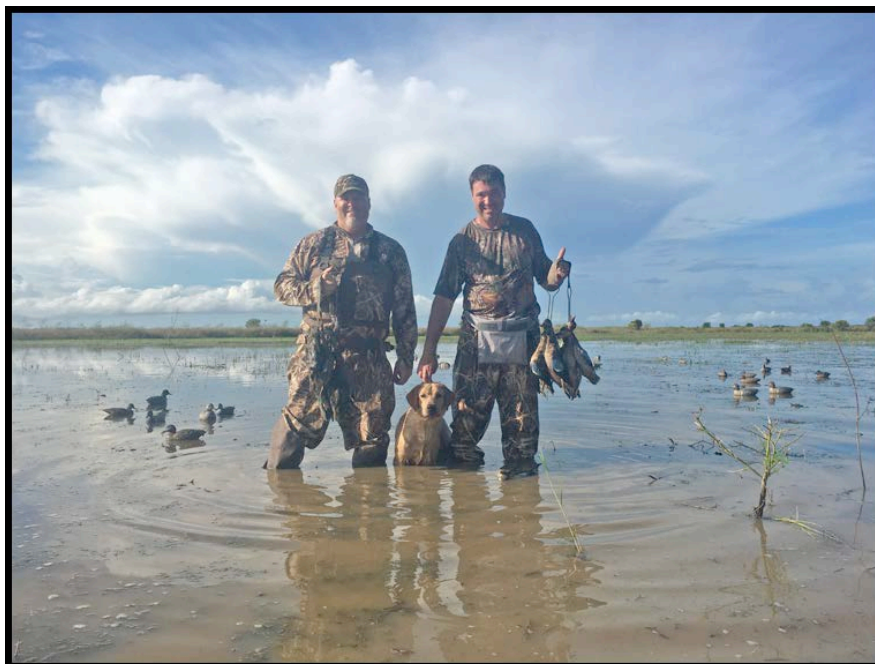
1539 South Mason Road, Suite 74, Katy, Texas 77450

Todd Steele 713.705.2370 (todd.steele@sbcglobal.net) - Travis Peterson 832.457.2109 (travis@oplawns.com)

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Trey Baker, Travis Peterson, John Nicolson, & "Bo" - Limits from the Pintail Pond



**Lewis Nicolson, "Sky" & Glenn Hayes - Limits from the Bear Pond
This was the first hunt for Lewis & "Sky" at THC
Cannot think of a finer ambassador than Glenn to introduce them to the club**

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Pond Updates

Almost all of our ponds are growing a fabulous amount of plant food. I also noticed snails galore in a couple of the ponds, worthy matter later in the season.

Rod North

We have pumped the Fish Pond deep to attract dive ducks in the abundant Coontail and Pondweed. Sunday I switched the water flow back into the Mattie Pond.



**"Chester", Chris Cool, Travis Peterson, and Trey Baker
Limits from the Remington Pond**

Radley

You name the duck food and all of these ponds are producing it, a smorgasbord of aquatics and emergent, including escargot.

Northern

Bree is to be disced this week along with the upper sections of the Northern Roost. The Northern Roost is a wall of seeded out barnyard grass that we will disc landing strips for the ducks. Drainpipes are to be installed in the Nellie Pond tomorrow.

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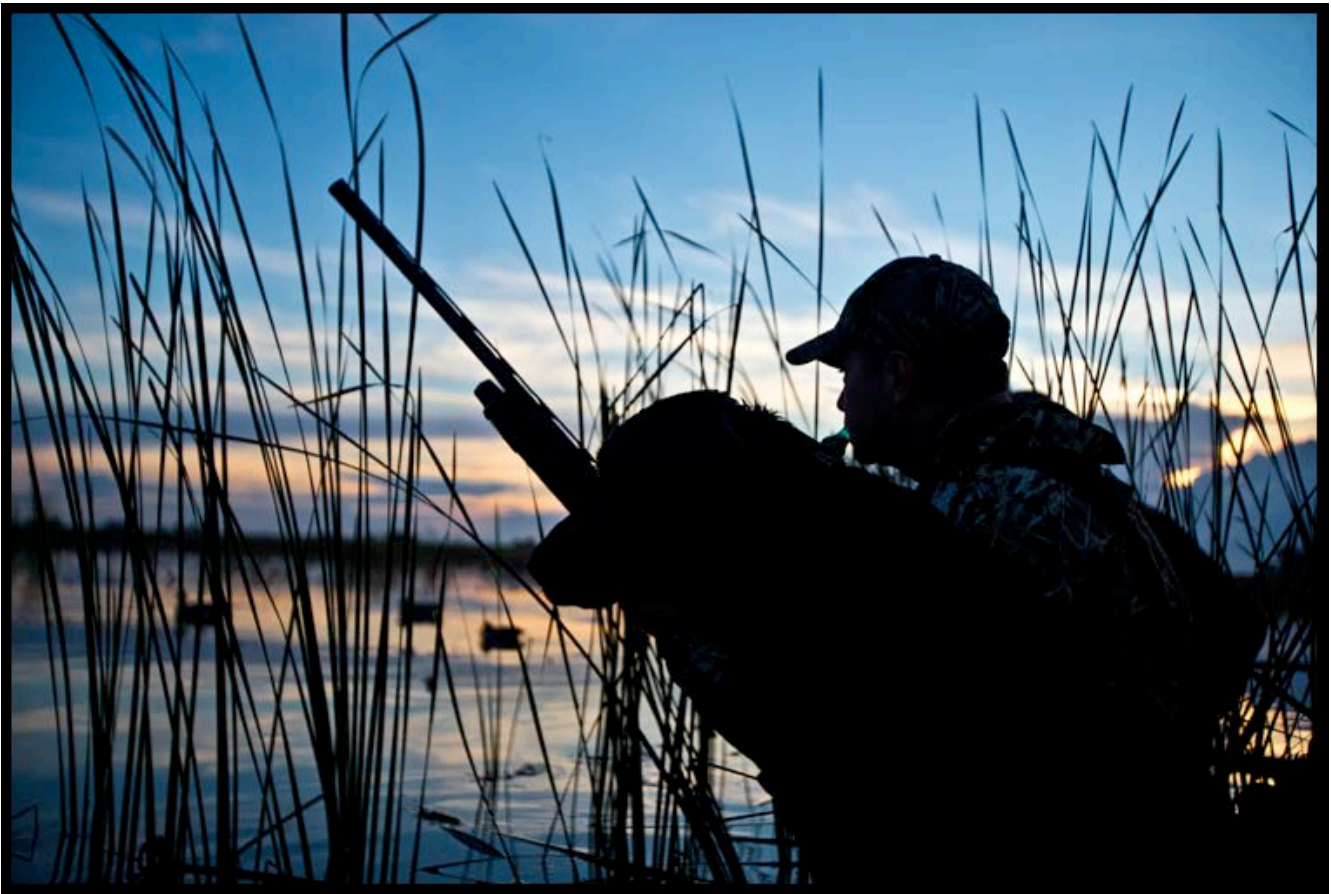


Harrison

Pumping continues into the Shoveler Pond to flood the shallows with abundant Toothcup. Aquatics of all sorts are now growing in abundance in the deeper end of the pond. Too early to tell about the new pond Greenwing and whether it will yield duck food, but the water is certainly clear enough to produce. I was about to drain the muddy waters of Bluewing and repump it but surprisingly when you reach down in the shallows there is an abundance of plants coming up. Best to leave Mother Nature alone on this one.

Oak Meadows

Yesterday we brought in a large 4-wheel drive tractor with a wide shredder into the waters of Swale and Castle Ponds to mow down the seanybeans and sedges. The inside levees of Middle were disced four times to give the birds open water, the outer section remains flooded with good stands of Duck Potato and Southern Naiad coming up through the flooded grass. The Bay Pond is a 40-acre mat of Widgeon Grass. The jury is still out on the Winchester Pond, I have drawn down the water to hopefully stimulate Toothcup, Duck Potato, and Barnyard Grass. The Lodge Pond, A.K.A. the Unruly Pond, has food in it for the first time in three years. I saw the drilling rig at the OM well yesterday so hopefully the well will be up and running shortly.



"Bo" & John Nicolson

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OM Fish'n

As predicted the redfish fishing was red hot at the OM culverts this past weekend. Tides are forecast to be strong this weekend with double tides on Thursday / Friday and a strong incoming /outgoing tide on Saturday / Sunday. Light north winds for the week will lead to excellent water clarity at the culverts.

I like to fish the incoming tide. Once again the secret is natural presentations of a moving bait, whether it is shrimp on a popping cork or mullet on the bottom with a slip sinker. You do not want the bait to sit still nor do you want the bait to move to fast and unnatural. If you fly-fish for freshwater trout the presentation of flies is very similar to fishing baits at the culverts. No drag in the line, just a bait traveling along naturally in the current.



**Redfish from OM Culverts
A number of "oversized" reds were caught as well**

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Trey Baker with 3-man Limit of Redfish from OM Culverts - Saturday



Travis Peterson with 2-man Limit of Redfish from OM Culverts - Friday

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Dove Hunting

A few hardy gunners went out last Friday in the drizzle and managed to knock down limits of doves at Oak Meadows. As you read this Oak Meadows is being pounded by rain (3-inches so far) so what I am about to tell you may not be relevant by this weekend. The discing and shredding around both the Castle and Middle Ponds will probably attract more doves as the season progresses as this is exactly what doves are looking to feed in. We have also shredded the two large fields above the Remington Pond that may also attract doves - a lot of seed placed legally on the ground. The large fallow field to the east of the Swale Pond has good stands of crouton so this could as well be a dove magnet. I will keep your dove manager, Rob Sawyer, posted on what I see and where you can hunt without driving ducks off of the property.

I received one report about a number of dove just south of the lodge that I will check out this week and pass the information on to Rob.



**A Touching Moment, Travis Giving Back to Nature
Don't try this a home, pelicans can be really dangerous!**

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Work Party - Saturday October 1

Perfect weather is on tap for this coming Saturday, low humidity, north winds, and temperatures starting out at 65 degrees. We will be working on duck blinds this coming Saturday, starting at 7 AM at the lodge, more details later in the week.

Best regards,

Todd Steele & Travis Peterson



THUNDERBIRD HUNTING CLUB CALENDER

- Ever Friday - Excessive food, libations, tall tales, and good times at the lodge
- October 1 - Duck Blind Work Party @ Lodge 7:00 AM
- October 8 - Duck Blind Work Party @ Lodge 7:00 AM
- October 21, 22, & 23 - Boy Scouts Fishing / Landowner Beach Cleanup @ Oak Meadows
- November 4 - Fish, Shrimp, Oyster Fry @ Lodge Friday before Opening Weekend
- December 3 - Rework Duck Blinds @ Lodge 7:00 AM
- February 1 - 2017-2018 Invoices Go Out
- February 1-28 - 2017-2018 Deposits Due
- March 1 - Thunderbird Memberships Open to Wait List
- March 1 - 2016-2017 Thunderbird Membership Expires

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Outstanding Photo Courtesy of Matt Kaminski from DU - Sunset from the THC Porch

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING CALENDER

- October 29 - Opening of Snipe Season
- November 5 - Opening of Duck & Goose Season (1st Split - South Zone)
- November 5 - Opening of Goose Season (Eastern Zone)
- November 5 - Opening of Rail & Gallinules Season (2nd Spilt)
- November 13 - Closing of Dove Season (1st Spilt - South Zone)
- November 27 - Closing of Duck Only (1st Split - South Zone)
- December 10 - Opening of Duck (2nd Split - South Zone)
- December 17 - Opening of Dove Season (2nd Spilt - South Zone)
- December 17 - Opening of Sandhill Crane Season (Zone C)
- December 18 - Opening of Woodcock Season
- December 28 - Closing of Rail & Gallinules Season (2nd Spilt)
- January 22 - Closing of Sandhill Crane Season (Zone C)
- January 23 - Closing of Dove Season (2nd Spilt - South Zone)
- January 29 - Closing of Duck Season (2nd Split - South Zone)
- January 29 - Closing of Goose Season (Eastern Zone)
- January 30 - Opening of Light Goose Conservation Season
- January 31 - Closing of Woodcock Season
- February 12 - Closing of Snipe Season
- March 19 - Closing of Light Goose Conservation Season

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