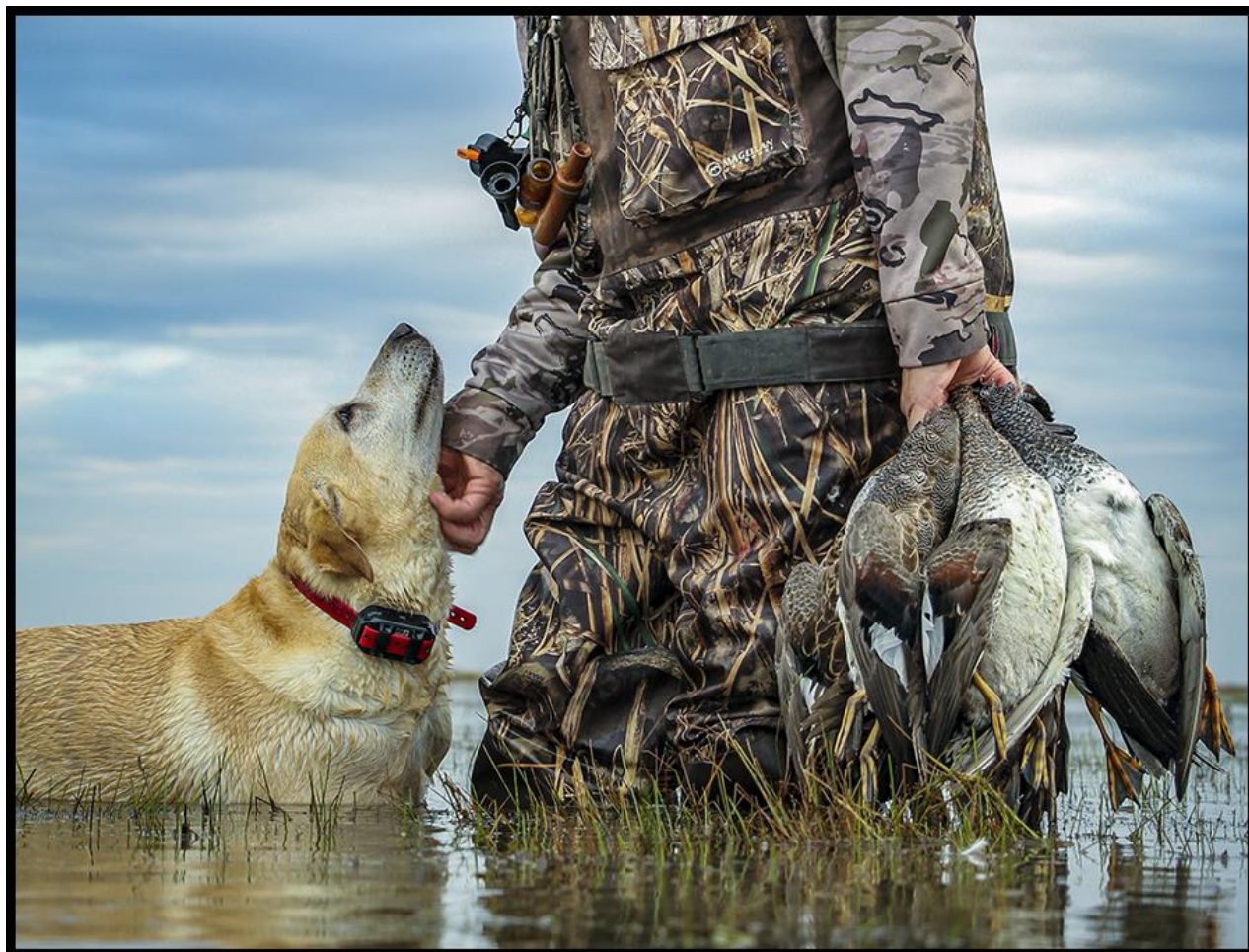




November 7, 2022

To All THC Members



Franklin Collins Dog "Hazel" with a Limit of Gadwalls - Herlin Pond

Doesn't Get Much Better Than This - 124 Guns & 124 Full Duck Limits

The show does not get much better than this. Many witnessed some of the biggest flocks of ducks they have ever seen, circling their duck blinds in swarming peppered clouds. Others gazed skyward in wonderment at the winged squadrons while ducks plopped in their decoys from every angle in reckless abandon. Mornings like this are rare, very rare, especially when most, if not everyone in the club, got to witness the bounty we were blessed with this past weekend. November opening straps are normally filled with bluewings with an occasional pintail or shoveler, but this opener it was an amalgam of species with many groups harvesting double-digit species. We even harvested a couple of mallards, our allocation of mallards for the season, lol.

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Waiting

"Heck of crop of birds we have. It was like an Argentina dove shoot on Saturday morning at the club. In fact, there were more ducks at THC than in Argentina!"

- Tom Johnson THC Member

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Austin Propes, Dick Davis, & Ryan Colwell - Middle Pond Limits

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Bryan Earle, Ryan West, & Ryland West - Forrest East Pond Limits

(For the game wardens perusing this photo, let me clarify the white box, it is not an electronic duck caller! Rather it is a Turtle Box for playing ZZ Top after the hunt.)

For the Opening Weekend of Duck Season (Nov 5-6) 748 birds were harvested by 124 guns for an average of 6.0 birds/gun/day (BGD) or 24.0 birds/4-man blind/day. Thirty-three groups out of thirty-three groups shot full duck blind limits, for a success rate of 100% and to my knowledge there has only been one other Saturday/Sunday full limits across the board, but back when we had half the hunters.

Full group limits were shot on the following ponds during the Opening Weekend of Duck; Andi, Benelli (2), Bluewing, Brooks, Forrest East (2), Forrest Middle (2), Forrest West (2), Gadwall (2), Greenwing, Herlin, Mallard, Northern Roost (2), OM Marsh (2), OM Middle (2), Pintail, Remington, Road (2), Shoveler, Southern Roost (2), Swale, Thunder, Widgeon (2). Twenty-three different ponds produced limits.

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- For Saturday 502 birds were harvested, including 4-specks, by 83 guns for an average of 6.1 birds/gun/day with 22/22 groups shooting full limits, 100%.
- For Sunday 246 birds were harvested by 41 guns for an average of 6.0 birds/gun/day with 11/11 groups shooting full limits, 100%.

To Date: 2,643 Birds Harvested



**Forrest West Pond Limits
Connor Baumann, Colton Payne, & Cory Baumann**

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**Andi Pond Limits
Chance Patton, Matthew Warren, John & Austin Nicholson**

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Eye-In-The-Sky

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Deep in Ducks

John Bernard, Will Spicer, John Silvinski - Saturday Greenwing Pond Limits



Mark Spicer, Hunter Steele, John Barnard - Sunday Benelli Pond Limits

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First Greenhead of the Season!

**May be Ho-hum for Those in the Northern Latitudes of Walleyes and Grouse,
But a Big Deal Here @ Thunderbird!**

Collaborative Efforts of Hunter Steele & Mark Spicer

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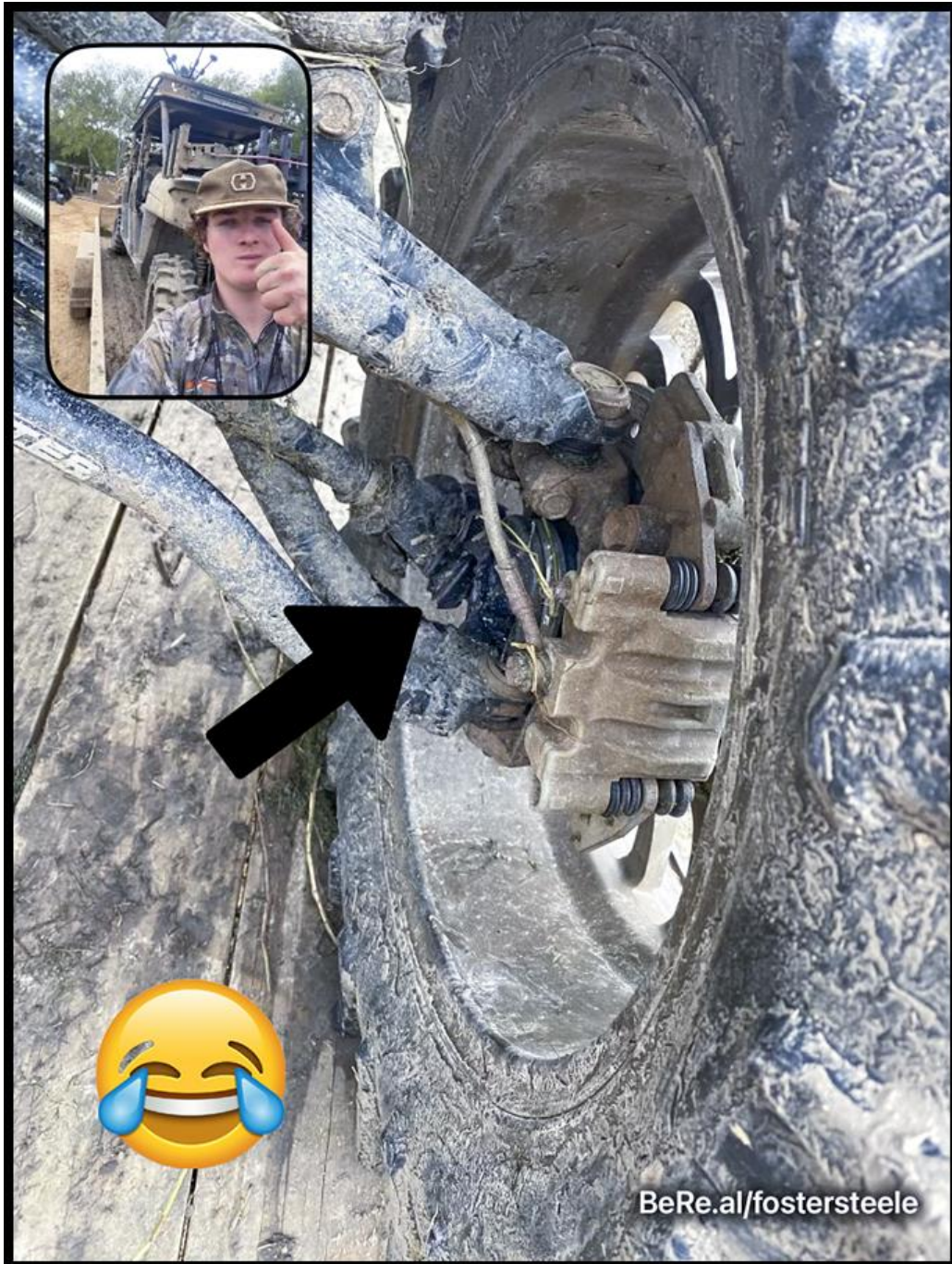
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I Asked My Youngest Son, Forrest, to Send Me Any Photos
He May Have Taken on Saturday



He Sent Me This, Cha-ching!

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And Yet Another ATV Breakdown, Good to Have Friends with Long Tow Straps

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The Craig Jones' Air, Land, & Sea Club

Mr. Jones set out to be the first in his newly formed Air-Land-Sea Club, but... At 7:59 I receive the first text, "Shot a limit of teal in the marsh." At 10:12 I receive the second text, "Just caught a good-sized flounder." At 18:13 I receive the third text, "Pork chops on the ground." "Done!" Texts and photos were lighting up my phone all morning long so I didn't really have time to scrutinize the claim to being first in his own club and certify the achievement. Then it dawned on me, flounder season is closed and he had to release the fish! The award was quickly disavowed. Brag-n-rights still open!



Late-night Butchering

Craig Jones on the Knife and John Bonham Multitasking with Beer in Mouth and Two Hands Husking Hide

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The "Preacher" at the Pulpit



THC "Congregation"

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Northern Roost Limits

Wayne Manchester, Grant Hortenstine, Kyle Counce, & Theo Presswood



Brooks Pond Limits

Tim Harvey, Robert Riddle, & Gavin Johnson

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Pond Rotation - Tuesday Evening Draw

As we have done in the past, just the Northern Properties will be open for the Wednesday hunts. We have more options than last season with additional ponds capable of producing good hunts such as Mallard, Pintail, Brooks, Crawfish, Southern and Northern Roost ponds, and down the road the Nellie Ponds. After this coming Wednesday's hunt, we will have to evaluate whether we need to change up the Sunday rotation. I.e. Close properties up north on Sunday in order for the Northern Properties to have three days of rest instead of the current two day rest.

Please note, the Tuesday evening draw will always be remote.



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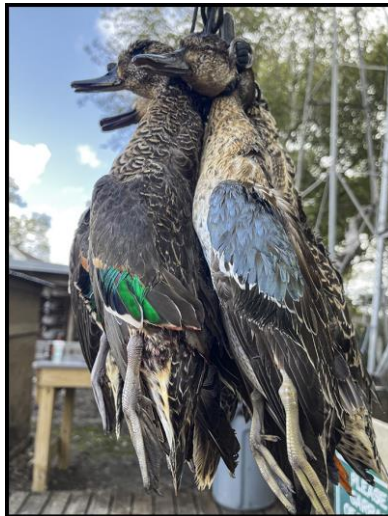
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**Forrest East Pond Limits
Mike Mixon, Andrew Lewis, & Tim Bliss**



Greenwings & Bluewings Equally Abundant This Weekend

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Steve Brien with a Solid Redfish & John Barnard with a Large Throwback Flounder

OM Fishing

No sooner did I mention that fishing has been rather slow at the OM culverts when the switch turned on over the weekend. Steve Brien stops me with a Cheshire-catlike grin on Friday, "They were stacked! Never seen the likes of it before, a large school of big redfish on the surface, clobbering bait being swept through the culverts. Caught big legal redfish until we were blue in the face. Kept one for supper." Then on Saturday, the redfish moved out replaced by a fall run of large female flounder—large-sized flounder are almost entirely composed of females. Flounder are having a tough go, just like the pintails, and the season is closed for flounder from November 1 through December 14. Multiple reasons for the flounder's decline, but one plausible explanation is the warm winter's we have been having over the past couple of decades. With many reptiles and some fishes, including flounder, their sex can be determined by the temperatures in their surrounding environment. Flounder exhibit this "temperature-dependent sex determination" influenced by warm or cool water temperatures. During a critical period in early juvenile development genetic females can and do develop into males dependent on temps. One scientific abstract I read on the Southern Flounder along the Texas Gulf Coast found that temperatures above 18 °C during development result in male skewed sex ratios.

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High Hunt for the Weekend - 24 Ducks & 4 Specks @ the Thunder Pond
Clint Fowler, Hana Fowler, & Derek Nicholas



Case Reeves & Starks Cockrell

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This Young Lad Seems "Enthralled" with All the Campfire Swaggering Friday Night



More Swaggering, Six Ducks with Seven Shells

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**Remington Pond Limits
George Rau Jr., Dr. Likover, Tim Bliss, & Steve Barre'**



Steve Mahood & Tom Johnson - Southern Roost Limits

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The OM Marsh Rats

Looking Ahead

We will have a good rest on the Southern Properties for this Saturday's hunt, only half of OM was hunted, and both HL and H were rested in full. Saturday afternoon Travis saw large numbers of ducks dropping into big rafts of ducks already on the water at both the Andi and Herlin Ponds. On Sunday afternoon the first of the geese began to arrive, barking and yodeling over the Lodge. With south winds being forecast all week until Friday's front the migration of new birds will be stalled, but very favorable weather conditions are on tap for this coming Saturday's hunt with north winds to 25 mph and 50% chance of rain. Of course that will all change as the weatherman sticks his head out the door this weekend. I do believe that weathermen are breeding grounds for politicians!



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**My Favorite Pirate
Stu Whitehair**

Stu Shrimp Feast

Come rain or shine we will be having the Stu Shrimp Boil right after the Draw this coming Friday at the Lodge. Bring a side, drink beer, suck shrimp heads, be jolly, and share with others tall tales of Stu. Ask me about the "Hog Head Incident" and the "Alligator Wrestling Match!"

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And Waiting

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Why We Do It

Todd and Travis,

I have hunted waterfowl for over 50-years. Since coming to Texas 16 years ago, I have hunted with many different clubs and outfitters, including Larry Gore, Paradise, Coastal Prairie, and Riceland.

We had some good hunts and some great hunts, but it was never consistent. Also, in some clubs, the guides would pick the best ponds and the members either hunted with the day hunters (sometimes 10-12 in a blind) or the members got the left over and over-shot spots.

I'd like to thank you and your entire team for your dedication and effort that make Thunderbird successful. It is by far, the best and most consistent hunting of my life. This club is first class and it shows in the quality of the properties and the professional and fair way the members are treated. No one gets preferential treatment (except landowners and PLEASE keep them happy).

I don't know how many more years I have to hunt, but God willing, I will be spending them with Thunderbird as long as y'all will have me.

THANK YOU!

Roy Labourdette



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