

OUTDOORS / CALENDAR



David Green's lab, Sister, does what she's trained to do, flush quail. Green sends in Sister behind his pointers and after hunters are positioned to safely shoot a rising covey.

SIKES From 10C

On the wingshooting scale, bobwhite packages with David Green's InFlight Outfitters are a bit pricey compared with hunting doves or ducks. But these are not fair comparisons.

Behind the gate of Twin Oaks Ranch is 6,800 square feet of shameless luxury. Taking up more than 200 square feet of the lodge is a sparkling kitchen, which should tell you something about the hospitality of this resort.

At the other end of the lodge, past the pool table and shuffleboard table, near the massive stone fireplace you'd expect to see there, is an intimate eight-seat theater, replete with a big wide screen and amply padded captain's chairs with inset cup holders. It wouldn't surprise me if there were buttons on the armrests to vibrate and recline each chair. We didn't watch a movie.

But yes, this is one of those destinations businessmen brag about.

I felt privileged to visit the ranch with Portland's Charlie Hoge and Wes Hoskins, along with the ever-cheerful Pat Roberts of Corpus Christi. These gentlemen, who likely are not easily impressed, were indeed impressed. On the eve of our hunt, they told me so while lounging around a stack of mesquite logs smoldering in a sunken fire pit out back.

By this time, some of us had sufficiently embarrassed ourselves at the compound's professional-grade skeet and trap range, dined on a hearty meal and mellowed for the evening. It was a relaxing scene with good company in a comfortable setting — again, the way you'd imagine such a place to be.

The lodge has overnight accommodations for 12 guests, two in each room and a dining area has space for 24.

The surrounding ranch is just as

QUAIL OUTFITS

- David Green's InFlight Outfitters — 960-3556 (info@inflightoutfitters.com)
- Luther Young — 296-3331
- John Johnson — 729-9320
- Woody Touchstone — 318-0993
- Hugo Ford — 949-2040
- Jim Atkins — 851-1962
- John Witte — 729-1051
- Scott Carter — 543-4039
- George Foulds — 729-3214
- Wild Horse Lodge — 584-3098

NEW QUAIL BOOK

Texas Quails, Ecology and Management
Edited by Texas A&M-Kingsville's Leonard A. Brennan, endowed chair for quail research at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute Available through Texas A&M University Press (www.tamu.edu/upress)

impressive. It's about 2,000 acres of low-fenced and well-managed and diverse wildlife habitat. Green oversees about 200 whitetail, give or take. He enhances the property's natural offerings with cottonseed feeders for the deer.

Part of the ranch's wildlife program includes supplementing several fields with bob white quail. I understand that this is not for everyone. Some folks who wouldn't think to scoff at catching redfish or bass added to a lake or bay by Texas Parks & Wildlife biologists might reject the similarity in mixing pen-raised upland birds with native fowl.

To offset this, Green has created the best quail-raising facility possible, next to nature. His pens are made of soft netting stretched over a metal frame that measures nearly 100 yards long, 20 yards wide with a 20-foot webbed ceiling.

And he feeds his birds supercharged protein chow to keep them lean and

strong. No fat and lazy birds here.

Purists still might argue that we shouldn't chase quail unless nature provides them. But realistically, quail hunting ranches are costly to maintain and at times cannot afford to gamble on nature. Green has a staff of five at the ranch full-time. And I'm not just referring to the money spent on posh lodges, but also the extra effort to sustain habitat that'll grow healthy coveys.

Because of natural and manmade hardships that are difficult or impossible to avoid, quail populations have diminished dramatically. And the folks who have quail often charge high fees to pay for their operations.

Without supplemental birds during droughts, these hunting businesses would be forced to lay dormant until nature bestows a huntable quail crop. This is one of those ebb years for South Texas quail. There are bright spots supporting healthy populations this year, but only a few.

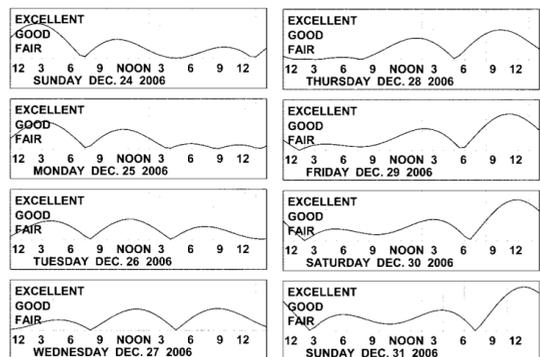
Because of poorly timed rainfall, Twin Oaks did not enjoy one of its better wild quail hatches this year. If Green doesn't seed his fields with birds, we might lose another wild quail ranch.

Instead, when two English pointers locked in tightly on a dry patch of tangled brush early Tuesday and Green commanded his black lab Sister to "flush 'em out," we watched at least a dozen quail thunder skyward and fly high and fast in every which way. Shots rang out as children's hearts beat within adult chests.

Did we wonder whether those birds were wild?

Nope. We simply reloaded and followed the dogs to the next covey.

Outdoors writer David Sikes' column appears Thursdays and Sundays. Contact him at 886-3616 or sikesd@caller.com



VEKTOR TABLES

The Vektor Fish and Game Activity Tables are computer-generated time tables that indicate feeding and migration patterns based on positions of the sun and moon.

SOUTH TEXAS FISHING GUIDELINES

ROCKPORT SALLY MOFFETT

Cool weather fly fishing can be quite productive during sunny days on the flats. Find super shallow water with deepwater access. Cast white/chartreuse clousers or natural colored crab imitations. Lure throwers try weedless gold spoons, small crankbaits or soft plastics. Try Redfish Bay, Estes Flats, East Flats and the flats of Shamrock. Remember to use a slow presentation in cooler water.

— Contact Sally at 205-0624 or sally@captainsally.com



LAGUNA MADRE/BAFFIN BAY JIM ONDERDONK

We've been seeing scattered trout in Baffin Bay. So I'd recommend drifting deeper structure such as Center Reef while throwing plum, rootbeer, red-flake or chartreuse soft plastics on a sixteenth-ounce jigsawhead. Work these lures very slowly right up against drop-offs and along the edges of submerged rocks. We've been seeing good numbers of trout along the rocks of Black Bluff, too.

— Contact Jim at 774-7710 or capt_donk@yahoo.com



PORT ARANSAS/ARANSAS PASS CURT THOMAS

Start out in Copano Bay, searching the drop-offs and reefs for trout. Use live shrimp under and Alameda Rattling Float or dark soft plastics with lightweight jigheads. As the day warms, look for redfish feeding in seagrass and potholes. Drift or anchor up with live finger mullet, cut bait, mud minnows. We've been catching better fish on Carolina-rigged mud minnows with a slip sinker.

— Contact Curt at 463-9163



PORTLAND/INGLESIDE DON MILLER

Start out drifting along the outside of Dagger Island, targeting depths of four to five foot. We've been throwing live shrimp under Alameda Rattling Floats or using soft plastics for trout and redfish. Try throwing a pumpkinseed/chartreuse soft plastic or even a topwater plug. Also try the inside flat of Dagger Island if the tide isn't too low. And also drift Estes Flats with shrimp, soft plastics or a gold spoon.

— Contact Mark at 775-1124 or dmmiller@cableone.net



FRESHWATER (COLETO CREEK) JOHNNY HARRISON

I'd get an early start and throw a weightless watermelon seed Senko or Super Fluke-type lure. Concentrate on depths of anywhere from one to three foot near the island on the main lake. Target submerged vegetation. This should produce bass into the morning with or without cloud cover. Later, try the outside edges of the same vegetation in depths of four to five foot. Use a Texas-rigged junebug or redbug worm well into midday.

— Contact Johnny at cabins@coletocreekcabins.com



Local Sports Calendar

BASEBALL

Corpus Christi Baseball Umpires Association is looking for umpires interested in calling high school baseball games for the upcoming season. Contact Martin Navarro at 249-3028.

Kingsville High School is looking for varsity baseball games March 14-17. Call Coach Rick Soliz at 522-9223.

BASKETBALL

The IWA freshman basketball team is looking for games and tournaments. Contact Coach Frances Flanagan at flanaganf@iwacc.org

CHEERLEADING

Padre Youth Football League is screening cheer coaches and looking for a cheer coordinator for next season. PYFL is a Pop Warner Football Association. Call Abe at 510-3455

CYCLING

Cycling group meets every Sat. and Sun. at 8 a.m. Ride lengths are 20-50 miles at a pace of 15-20+ mph. Saturday rides meet at Jason's Deli (Saratoga and Staples), and Sunday rides meet at Lamar Park Shopping Center. Info: 993-7000.

FITNESS

Noon Fitness Program for all ages at Ben Garza Gym (1815 Howard) offered by the Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department. The program is offered Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. through May 31. Gym offers free weights, treadmill and an aerobic room with access to workout videos. Cost is \$5 a month or a daily drop-in fee of \$1. Info: 884-2194 or 826-3588.

FOOTBALL

Coastal Bend Corpus Christi Football League is now taking application for coaches for winter football. Season begins upon interest of coaches. All games will be played at 2801 McArdle. Divisions include Freshmen 5-6 Sophomores 8-9 Juniors 9-10 Seniors 11-12. All players included; no weight limit except for running backs and tight ends. Info: Felix Cornejo at 563-0079 or fcom53088@aol.com, or at www.eteamz.com/cbccyfl

Coastal Bend Corpus Christi Football League is now holding registration for its first annual adult co-ed season. Entry for teams will be \$400 for 6-8 game season. Games

begin second week of December. All games will be played at 2801 McArdle. Info: Felix Cornejo at 563-0079 or fcom53088@aol.com or Marcus Williams at 658-0099.

Corpus Christi Youth Football League is taking applications for coaches in Pee Wee, Junior Varsity and Senior Varsity. Call 851-8952.

The Grandstands is offering an adult flag football league beginning in January. Four-game format, every team makes the playoffs. Deadline to enter: Jan. 10. Fee: \$325. Call office at 854-9994 or Raul Dominguez at 765-6306.

Padre Youth Football League is screening football coaches, cheer coaches and is looking for a cheer coordinator for next season. PYFL is a Pop Warner Football Association. Call Abe at 510-3455

GOLF

Alice 50 Plus Golf Club is seeking new members age 50 or older. Tournaments held second Saturday of each month. Info: 664-7033.

Alice 60 Plus Golf Club is seeking new golfers age 60 or older. Tournaments held first Tuesday of each month. Cost: \$5 per year. Info: 664-7033 or 460-1603.

Corpus Christi Golf Association is seeking new members. Monthly tournaments are held the second Saturday of each month at Oso Golf Course. A meeting and putting tournament are held the Thursday before the golf tournament. Info: 826-8011.

Corpus Christi Over 50 Golf Association is seeking new members. Tournaments are held on the third Saturday of each month. Info: John at 850-9039 or Pat at 993-9406.

Oso Senior 60 golf tournament is at 8 a.m. Dec. 27 at Pharaoh's Golf Course. Format: Select drive, one-low net. Call 826-8010 before 1 p.m. Dec. 26. New members welcome.

Weekly Winter Texan and Retiree Scramble held every Wednesday at 9 a.m. at L.E. Ramey Golf Course in Kingsville. Entry fee: \$21 includes cart, green fee, and expenses. Call 592-1101.

KICKBALL

CC Adult Kickball League, Fall 2006 Womens League and Co-ed League now accepting teams. Info: 549-0538 or 991-0356.

MARTIAL ARTS

Adult Gung Fu: Ages 14+, offered Mon, Wed and Fri at 7 p.m.. \$65 / month. Info: Weapons at Hand, 857-6983.

Aikido classes by the Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department from 5:30-7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Ben Garza Gym for adults 17 and older. Fee is \$28 per month. Call 884-2194.

American Free-Style Karate classes for teens and adults offered by the CC Park and Recreation Department on Mon. and Thur., 7:30-9 p.m.; and Sat. from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Cost: \$23/month. Info: 855-0392.

Judo classes by the Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Ben Garza Gym for ages 12 and older. Class is free for ages 12-16 and \$15 per month for ages 17 and older. Call 884-2194.

Karate lessons every Tuesday and Thursday at the Robstown-Nueces County Community Center. Fee is \$25. Info: 387-5904.

Lopez Judo Academy has judo classes from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the Corpus Christi All-Star Gym on Holly and Kostoryz. Monthly fees are \$50 with a \$50 registration fee. Info: Louis M. Lopez at 853-7944.

Martial arts classes by the Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department for children and adults. The children's class for ages 12-16 is 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Ben Garza Gym. The classes for ages 17 and up are 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Ben Garza Gym. All classes are free. Call 884-2194.

MMA: Ages 15+, offered Mon - Thurs at 8 p.m. Price range: \$55 - \$75 / month. Info: Weapons at Hand, 857-6983

Tae Kwon Do classes by the Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department for children and adults. The children's class for ages 6-16 is 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Ben Garza Gym. The classes are free. The classes for ages 17 and up are 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursdays at Ben Garza Gym. The classes are \$20 per month. Call 884-2194.

Tracy's/Dragon Hand Kenpo Karate studio, ages 6, and up. Info: 215-0624.

RUGBY

Corpus Christi Rugby Football Club is always looking for new players and practices from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the youth football fields at the corner of McArdle and Everhart, with games at 2 p.m. Saturdays at Haas Middle School. Info: 877-8575 or www.corpuschristirugby.org.

SOFTBALL

City of Corpus Christi Greenwood Softball Complex fields available for practice, tournaments and leagues. For information on renting the fields, call 826-3588.

CC Senior Softball Association seeks players for 50+, 55+, and 60+ leagues. Games are played on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights at Kiwanis Field. Info: 852-8416.

CC Senior Softball Association seeking men over 60 to play slow pitch softball. Games are played Monday and Friday at Kiwanis Field. Info: Geno 852-8416.

Corpus Christi Parks & Rec Department is looking for non-profit groups to run the Greenwood Softball Complex concessions during weeknight league games, weekend city rental tournaments or city-run tournaments. Call 826-3588.

Falfurrias coed tournament on Jan. 13-14. Entry fee: \$175. Three games guaranteed. Info: Carlos Hernandez at 455-6890 (daytime M-F), 325-2890 (after 5 p.m.) or 215-1394 (cell).

Falfurrias High School is looking for teams to fill its varsity tournament on March 1-3. Class 5A & 4A JV teams and 3A, 2A, and A varsity teams. Info: Coach Pete Trevino at 701-2858 or 325-5681.

The Grandstands is offering a spring softball league open to men's, women's and coed teams, beginning in January. Four-game format, all teams advance to playoffs. Fee: \$250. Deadline to enter: Jan. 10. Call office at 854-9994 or Raul Dominguez at 765-6306.

Softball for Seniors for women over 35 and men over 58. Info: Sharon 815-8058 or Ricki 877-3640.

SWIMMING

Bay's Edge Aquatic Team is a USA swim team open to all levels of swimmers. Practices are held at the Natatorium, Tuloso-Midway Aquatic Center, and Portland Aquatic Center. Info: 241-4649 or beat.usswim.net.

Coastal Bend Swimming practices at the Natatorium Mon.-Fri. from 6-7:30 p.m. Year-round USA swim team open to all levels. Tryouts are free. Info: 939-7356.

Club Estates Adult Swim Instruction. Lessons available Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Info: 991-0402.

PADI Open Water through Dive Master Training. Open Water Scuba Certification \$250 includes use of equipment. Info: 229-3483.

Swim lessons offered by the CC Park & Recreation Department Aquatics Division year-round at the CC Natatorium. Lessons are offered on Tues./Thur. or Wed./Fri. for four weeks or on Sat. for eight weeks. Fee is \$35/session per student. Info: 880-3158 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) or 878-2337 (6-9 p.m.).

YMCA classes for six months-adult on Mon.-Wed.-Sat.. Fee is \$20 (2-week session) for YMCA member, \$25 (2-week session) for non-members, free to YMCA family members. Info: 882-1741.

TENNIS

Beginners classes for men, women and mixed doubles. All classes will last approximately one hour. Cost: \$36 plus \$3 court fee per month. Info: Paul Cass, 882-6013.

H-E-B Tennis Center is offering adult tennis lessons for men and women in beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Info: 882-6013.

'Tennis-Exercise-Boot Camp' extreme tennis workout class. Tuesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays 7-8 p.m. Cost: \$10 per class. Info: Paul Cass, 882-6013.

VOLLEYBALL

CC Parks & Rec Adult Leagues for coed "B" and "C" and men's open divisions. Late registration (\$125/team) through Dec. 20 at City Hall, 3rd floor. All games at CC Gym (3202 Cabaniss). Info: 851-1612.

WATER AEROBICS

CC Parks & Recreation Department will offer water aerobics classes at the Corpus Christi Natatorium on Mon.-Wed.-Fri. from 6-7 p.m. Classes will also be held at Oso Pool on Tues. and Thur. from 9-10 a.m. The cost is \$4/class or a monthly pass is available for \$35 for unlimited classes at the natatorium or \$25 for unlimited classes at Oso Pool. Monthly passes for both pools are \$55. Info: 880-3158.

SUBMISSIONS

Bulletin Board items are published every Sunday on a space-available basis. To be included these items must be received by noon on Friday. Items must be submitted in writing, by fax (885-0535), e-mailed to ctsports@caller.com or mailed to: Caller-Times Sports, P.O. Box 9136, Corpus Christi, TX 78469.