



MAY 5-7
TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY



ATV/UTV TEST DRIVES
LIVE FIRE GUN RANGES
DUCK CALLING CONTESTS,
DOG DEMOS, FISHING,
CONSERVATION AND MORE



OFFICIAL SHOW PROGRAM PUBLISHED BY LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS



2023 INCREDIBLE DOG CHALLENGE

CENTRAL REGIONAL

TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY | FORT WORTH, TX

Friday May 5th — 1:00 PM to 3:45 PM [Qualifying and Practice Rounds]

Saturday, May 6th — 10:45 AM to 3:45 PM [Competition]

VISIT **WWW.DUCKEXPO.COM** OR THE DU EXPO APP
FOR EVENT TIMES AND DETAILS

SYNDICATED NATIONALLY ON NETWORK TELEVISION — Go to ProPlan.com/incredible to Learn More

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2023 DUCKS UNLIMITED EXPO

DUX SPONSORS 12

DUX EXHIBITORS 13

DUX SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 14

DUX MAP 15

DUX EXHIBITORS BY VILLAGE 16

DUX SHOOTING VILLAGE 17-21

BENELLI	27	NATIONAL LAND PARTNERS	7
CAN-AM	7	NORTH STAR OUTFITTING	7
CARROLL'S GUN SHOP	6	POLARIS	25
CHENE GEAR	8	PURINA	2, 28
CZ	4	REEDS SPORTS	18-20
DUCK CAMP	22	SIBERIAN COOLERS	22
DUCKS UNLIMITED	9	STREAMLIGHT	22
FIREBIRD	16	TEKCAST/CONLEY CASTING	23
FUSION THERMAL	11	TETRA HEARING	8
H&K	8	TEXAS DOVE HUNTERS ASSOCIATION	26
HERITAGE LAND BANK	5	TEXAS GUN & KNIFE SHOWS ...	23
HOFFPAUIR	3		
HORTENSTINE RANCH CO.	24		

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PAM FREDERICK	Waivers/Information

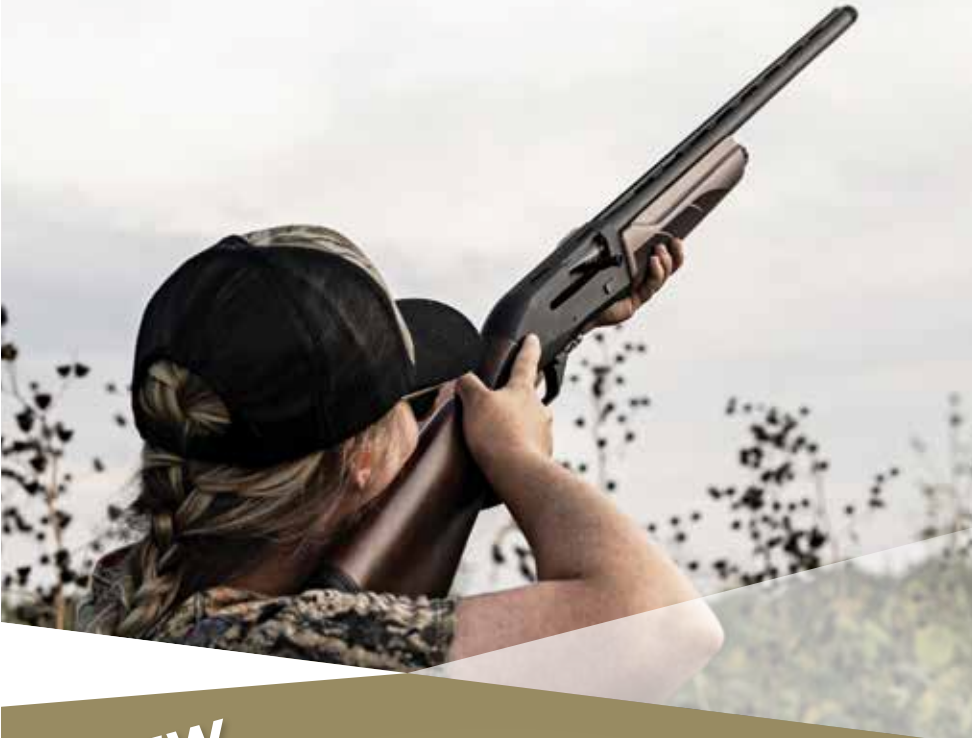
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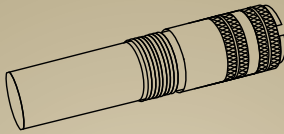
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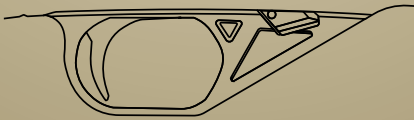
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Al Johnson
Mineola, Texas

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When Al told us he'd found just such a place for sale, all of us here at Heritage Land Bank moved quickly to find him the perfect loan. A loan that worked within his budget, so the Johnson family could make this little bit of heaven their own.

So now, when Al wants to meet, we're inclined to talk at his place rather than the office. Because, as Al told us, being out on the land is good for the soul.

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THIRD ANNUAL DUCKS UNLIMITED EXPO

RETURNS TO TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

Interactive villages for shooting, fishing, conservation, canines, and more make their return to Texas on May 5-7, 2023. Outdoor enthusiasts of all ages will be the first to see, try, and buy the most exclusive, cutting-edge outdoor gear. No matter your pursuit, The Ducks Unlimited Expo (DUX) presented by Purina Pro Plan is your one stop for Everything Outdoors™!

The third annual DUX returns to Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth on Friday, May 5, Saturday, May 6, and Sunday, May 7. This Everything Outdoors™ event is filled with hands-on demonstrations, activities, and exhibitions of industry-related products. Attendees of DUX will test their skills throughout the many villages. Both novice and experienced outdoor enthusiasts will have the opportunity to test out the industry's newest products as well as receive coaching from outdoor leaders and professionals.

Our presenting sponsor, Purina Pro Plan, brings the action with a packed schedule for the weekend. Kicking off on Friday, May 5, is the Incredible Dog Challenge Practice rounds. On Saturday, May 6 be sure to check out the televised competition, where the Olympic athletes of the dog world take on the Incredible Dog Challenge. With all this excitement, Purina Pro Plan will also be running demonstrations on agility, herding, retrieving and more throughout the weekend.

Saturday, May 6, is packed with activities, specifically, the return of the calling contests, sponsored by Higdon Outdoors. With over \$15,000

in cash & prizes, these contests attract many of the world's strongest callers. The day starts with a Texas State Sanctioned Calling Contest followed by the Ducks Unlimited Regional Sanctioned Calling Contest. Both the Texas State Sanctioned and the Ducks Unlimited Regional Sanctioned Calling Contest are qualifiers for the World Duck Calling Championship in Stuttgart, Arkansas. Wrapping up Saturday's events is the DUX Championship Series Mallard Meat Calling for both teams and individuals. On Sunday, May 7, the Championship Series continues with Specklebelly Goose calling for both individual and team.

Throughout the weekend, Texas native Travis Mears will demonstrate trick shots in the Shooting Village. DUX also offers hands-on firearms testing including Free Shoot Friday, ATV ride and drives and special appearances from outdoor personalities. Join us at the Ducks Unlimited Expo for three days of family fun and enjoy testing out the latest and greatest products from leading manufacturers in the outdoor industry.



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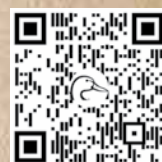
where:

Texas Motor Speedway
3545 Lone Star Circle
Fort Worth, TX 76177

dates & times:

Friday, May 5, Noon – 6 p.m.
Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday, May 7, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

tickets:



DUX tickets are on sale now at <https://www.duckexpo.com/home/tickets.html> and are \$10/adult one-day, \$25/adult three-day, kids 12 and under are free (available at the gate only).

Active/Retired Military and First Responders are free with ID (available at the gate only).

Friday half price admission with non-perishable item for Tarrant Area Food Bank.

For more information on the Ducks Unlimited Expo, please visit www.duckexpo.com.



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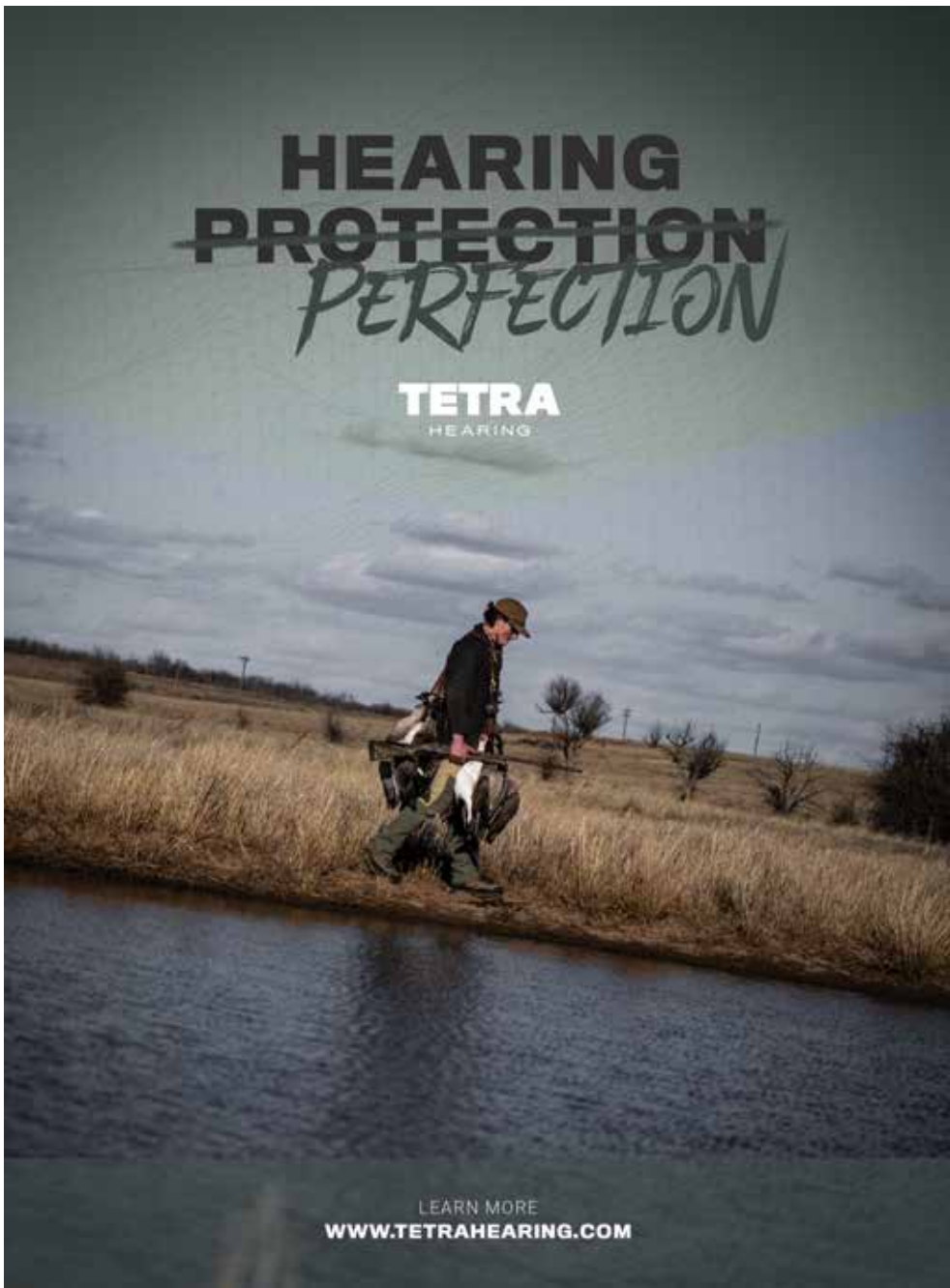
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- 2:00PM - GATES OPEN
- 2:00PM - FOOD TRUCKS, BEER GARDEN, VENDORS OPEN
- 2:30PM - COLLEGE FOOTBALL ON THE BIG SCREEN (TENN VS BAMA)
- 5:00PM - LIVE MUSIC BEGINS
- 5:30PM - VIP DINNER SERVICE
- 7:30PM - FILMS BEGIN
- 9:30PM - RAFFLE AND FILM WINNERS ANNOUNCED

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MAKING THE COMPLEX SIMPLE

Fusion Thermal's thermal optics combine power, accuracy and ease of use. The Avenger 55XR and Avenger 40 utilize the company's T3 Three Button Control System, along with the KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) menu.

"The ease of use is a big deal," said Cameron Salvaggio of Owens Outdoor Sales. "You don't want to have to look up in the dark to see what button you're hitting, especially when you're hog hunting."

What hunters will find in the new thermal series is high-end features with a "simplicity first" design.

Thermal sensors require lots of power, and the Avenger Series has ample power with the 18650 battery design, run in parallel, providing an industry-leading, eight-hour run time.

The Avenger series utilizes aircraft-grade aluminum housing, while most other brands use plastic.

"Thermals create a lot of heat, and the aluminum housing allows it to escape," Salvaggio said. "Plastic holds in the heat and can degrade the sensor and core over time, which negatively affects image quality and overall clarity."

Recently at a precision rifle expo, Salvaggio shot with all of the main brands in the thermal industry. Two steel targets were set up, one at 200 yards and one at 500 yards. Both had a heating pad on the back of the target.

"Right before the night shoot started, the 500-yard target went out, so it was unheated," he said. "There was very little differential in heat between the air, the berm and the target."

Each brand had their own bay to shoot, and consumers took turns going to each bay and testing out each thermal. Out of all of the brands, the Fusion Thermal was the only

brand that consumers could see and shoot the 500-yard target, Salvaggio said. All of the other brands stuck to the 200-yard target because they couldn't see the longer, cooler target.

"One consumer, who shot an \$18,000 scope, said you would think for 18K, you would be able to see the 500-yard target like you can with the Fusion Thermal," Salvaggio said.

Angel Padilla, of Johnny's Sport Shop in Eagle Lake, Texas, works full-time at the shop and also guides hog hunters at night with Sandy Creek Outfitters, and both sells and uses the Fusion Thermal products.

"The units perform really well in humidity and fog, which a lot of other brands struggle with," Padilla said. "You can still see the animals in high humidity. And I like the three-button system because you never have to look up to see where your fingers are."

Hunters like to record their nighttime hog hunts, and the Avenger series includes a full media package, including photo, video and audio capabilities, along with Fusion Thermal's HeatSync App to make connectivity a snap.

The Avenger series is both top quality and affordable



in the thermal scope world. The 55XR costs less than \$6,000 and the Avenger 40 is around \$4,000. And they come with an industry-leading five-year transferable warranty.

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ARCLIGHT Ultra HD Germanium Lens

High Purity for Maximum Energy

The single most expensive component of a well-crafted thermal is its germanium lens. If you skimp here, you're not even in the game. Our high purity ArCLight Ultra HD Germanium Lens is the crowning jewel of our technology package. It perfects the task of collecting and funneling infrared energy into the thermal sensor unhindered by distortion. This clean transition results in an infrared energy dump that unleashes the full potential of our WAVE thermal sensor delivering a user experience well beyond expectations.

KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) Menu

Industry's Easiest Menu System

We think you're really going to like our menu; it uses words, English words. Written for Americans by Americans. That's why we called it KISS. You've heard the phrase, and at Fusion Thermal it's the reason we can make the industry's boldest statement: Our operating system is so easy to use you'll likely never read the instructions.

T3 Control System

Don't Let Your Fingers Get Lost in the Dark

Our highly intuitive three button control system with center tower makes using your scope simple and easy. Every command is at your fingertips, and the Center Tower evenly splits the control panel, so you'll never be confused about what button you're going to press. We thought this a particularly good idea since you'll be using it in the dark most of the time.

WAVE Thermal Sensor

Same Money, Better Performance

Is it possible for one thermal scope to dramatically outperform everything else in its class? Yes, so don't make the mistake of shopping by specifications alone or you just might get burned. Our WAVE thermal sensors push the limit of what is technically possible and set the standard for image quality, ruggedness, and long life. So, before you plop down your hard-earned cash make sure you do a side-by-side to any similarly priced competitive alternative. We think you'll find the difference to be clearly obvious.

XGEN Alloy Housing

Plastic is for toys. Metal is for tools.

It's a fact, thermals produce heat, and heat is the enemy of all thermal devices. If you don't get the heat out operational performance will degrade, and long-term internal damage is a certainty. Our XGEN (Next Generation Alloy Body) shields your expensive investment in a metal clad of armor, and our high-end AL6082 Conductive Structural Alloy displaces heat at an astounding 71,900% better than plastic. You don't think of your thermal as some cheap plastic toy. Why should it be built like one?



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www.cover6outdoors.org

Crazy Bull Longhorn Skulls

(918) 616-5181

Cupped and Committed

(225) 625-4725
www.cuppedandcommittedbrand.com

Cutco Cutlery

(716) 790-7181
www.cutco.com

Decoy Central

(402) 525-8538
www.decoycentral.com

Dirty Duck Coffee Company

(816) 520-7924
www.dirtyduckcoffee.com

Dirty Texas Outfitters

(972) 310-0119
www.dirtytexasoutfitters.com

Ditale Outdoors

(951) 675-8573
www.ditaleoutdoors.com

DLM Leather Designs

(618) 704-4402
www.dlm-leather-designs.square.site

Double TT British Kennels

(620) 794-6088
www.britlabs.com

Dr. Duck Co.

(918) 906-3171
www.alluredecoys.com

Duck Tote

(662) 417-3942
www.ducktote.com

Elite Duck Calls

(501) 207-2994
www.elitecalls.net

Express Flooring

(858) 727-9243
www.expressflooring.com

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www.teamahn.com

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www.fitnfetchoutdoors.com

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www.maglite.com

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Mayville Engineering Company

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www.mecoutdoors.com

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www.missionridgerange.com

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www.moreoftexas.com

Mule Deer Foundation

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www.muledeer.org

National Wild Turkey Federation

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www.nwtf.org

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www.nitecorestore.com

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www.prodriveoutboards.com

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www.publichunter.com

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www.queencharlottelodge.com

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www.ranchroadcargo.com

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www.rhinelandcutlery.com

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www.spartanmowers.com

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SX Decoys

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www.sxdecoys.com

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DUCKS UNLIMITED EXPO

DUX HOURS:

FRIDAY, May 5

Noon to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, May 6

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, May 7

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ATV/UTV VILLAGE

ALL DAY, ALL WEEKEND

Test drive the new all electric Ranger XP Kinetic in the Polaris booth!

Test Drive Can-Am side-by-sides and the all new ATV Outlander XT 700

Free ATV/UTV test ride & drives for all those 18 years and older

CONSERVATION VILLAGE

*All seminars will be in the DU Tent

ALL DAY, ALL WEEKEND

Kids stop by the DU booth and create a custom button. Sign up your child (ages 11 and younger) for a membership and receive a DU backpack.

Visit the DU booth and get your membership. The first 100 each day will receive a Yeti Yonder Water Bottle.

Operation Game Thief

Baytown Catfish Tank - Catch a catfish and create a craft

Community Waters - Conservation Activity

Kids Activities

Get Outside - Kids Challenge - Kids Camping Gear Giveaway (1 winner per day)

Skins & Skulls - Examples of different animals skins & skulls native to Texas

Laser Shot Duck Hunting Simulator - Fun for All Ages

Texas State Parks - Meet a Park Ranger - Plan Your Next State Park Adventure!

Friday

2 p.m. DU Trivia - Test your knowledge of all things waterfowl. Enter to win prizes!

4 p.m. DU Trivia - Test your knowledge of all things waterfowl. Enter to win prizes!

Saturday

10 a.m. DU Trivia - Test your knowledge of all things waterfowl. Enter to win prizes!

11 a.m. Q&A with DU biologists

Noon DU Trivia - Test your knowledge of all things waterfowl. Enter to win prizes!

2 p.m. DU Trivia - Test your knowledge of all things waterfowl. Enter to win prizes!

3 p.m. Q&A with DU biologists

4 p.m. DU Trivia - Test your knowledge of all things waterfowl. Enter to win prizes!

Sunday

10 a.m. DU Trivia - Test your knowledge of all things waterfowl. Enter to win prizes!

Noon DU Trivia - Test your knowledge of all things waterfowl. Enter to win prizes!

1 p.m. Drawing for DU Trivia Prizes

DOG VILLAGE

Hurry and get your sample of Purina Pro Plan, while supplies last

Friday

Noon Agility and Flying Disc Demonstration

1 p.m. Incredible Agility Practice

2 p.m. Incredible Diving Dog Practice

2:30 p.m. Incredible Jack Russell Hurdle Racing Practice

3 p.m. Incredible Fetch It Practice

3:30 p.m. Incredible Weave Seeding Races

4 p.m. Incredible Freestyle Flying Disc Practice

4:30 p.m. Wildrose Retriever Demonstration

5:30 p.m. Agility and Flying Disc Demonstration

Saturday

9 a.m. Agility and Flying Disc Demonstration

10:55 a.m. National Anthem

11 a.m. Incredible Agility Competition

12:30 p.m. Incredible Diving Dog Competition

1:30 p.m. Incredible Jack Russell Hurdle Racing

2 p.m. Incredible Fetch It Competition

3 p.m. Incredible Weave Competition

3:45 p.m. Incredible Freestyle Flying Disc Competition

4:30 p.m. Wildrose Retriever Demonstration

5:30 p.m. Agility and Flying Disc Demonstration

Sunday

9 a.m. Agility and Flying Disc Demonstration

10 a.m. Wildrose Retriever Demonstration

11 a.m. Border Collie Herding Demonstration

11:30 a.m. Agility, Flying Disc and Dock Diving Demonstration

Noon Wildrose Retriever Demonstration

1 p.m. Border Collie Herding Demonstration

1:30 p.m. Agility, Flying Disc and Dock Diving Demonstration

2 p.m. Wildrose Retriever Demonstration

3 p.m. Border Collie Herding Demonstration

EXHIBITOR VILLAGE

Stop by the Texas DU Raffle tent for a variety of DUX exclusive raffles, including a new 2023 Polaris Ranger XP 1000 Camo!

ALL DAY, ALL WEEKEND

Stop by the GUNNER Kennel booth to enter for your chance to win a DU Edition G1 Intermediate Kennel and Food Crate!

Rockwall Climbing - Fun for the entire family!

Sunday

3 p.m. Drawing for the 2023 Polaris Ranger XP 1000 Camo! Come watch to see if you're the lucky winner!

FISHING VILLAGE

ALL DAY, ALL WEEKEND

Angler Education with Texas Parks and Wildlife

Water Safety US Army Corps of Engineers

Fly Tying and Casting Demos with Texas Parks and Wildlife

Bait Casting

HIGDON OUTDOORS CALLING CONTEST STAGE

Friday

1:30 p.m. Calling Contest Registration

Saturday

9 a.m. Calling Contest Registration - Registration for contest closes 30 minutes prior to start of first contest

10 a.m. Texas State Sanctioned Calling Contest - 1st place \$5,000 - World's Qualifier

Noon Ducks Unlimited Regional Sanctioned Calling Contest - 1st place \$5,000 - World's Qualifier

3 p.m. DUX Championship Series Calling Contest - Individual Mallard Meat Contest

4:30 p.m. DUX Championship Series Calling Contest - Team Mallard Meat Contest

Sunday

9 a.m. Calling Contest Registration - Registration for contest closes 30 minutes prior to start of first contest

10 a.m. DUX Championship Series Calling Contest - Individual Specklebelly Goose Contest

11 a.m. DUX Championship Series Calling Contest - Team Specklebelly Goose Contest

SHOOTING VILLAGE

ALL DAY, ALL WEEKEND

Tetra Hearing Hunter's Challenge

Introductory Archery Shooting with Texas Parks and Wildlife

Friday

3 p.m. Texas Native and Trick Shooter, Travis Mears

5 p.m. Texas Native and Trick Shooter, Travis Mears

Saturday

11 a.m. Texas Native and Trick Shooter, Travis Mears

2 p.m. Texas Native and Trick Shooter, Travis Mears

4 p.m. Texas Native and Trick Shooter, Travis Mears

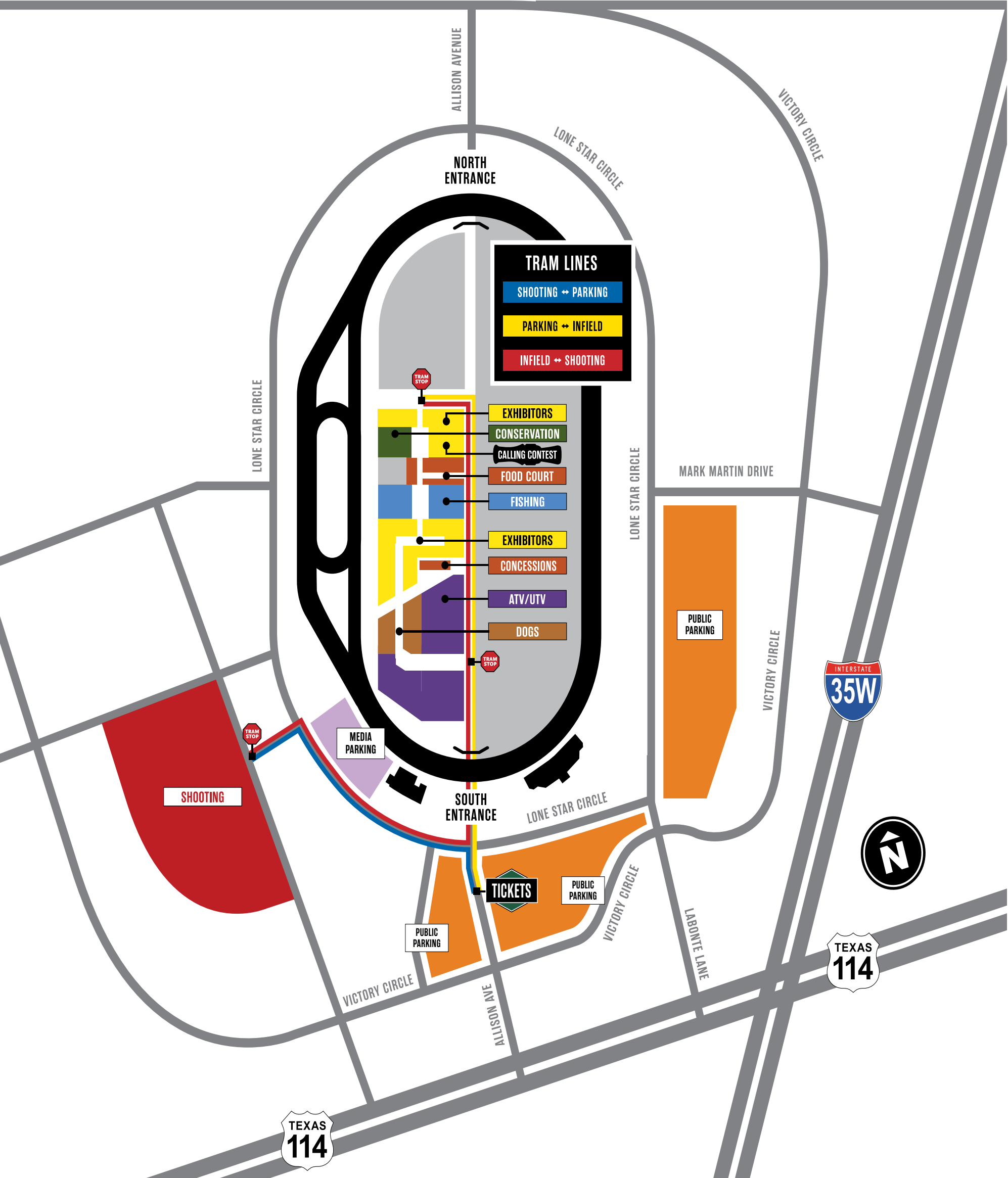
Sunday

11 a.m. Texas Native and Trick Shooter, Travis Mears

2 p.m. Texas Native and Trick Shooter, Travis Mears

TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY, FORT WORTH / MAY 5-7

**As of press time, schedule subject to change*





EXHIBITORS BY VILLAGE

EXHIBITOR VILLAGE

A-1 Locksmith Security and Safes American Airboats American Landmaster American Luxury Coach American Technology Network Army Bass Anglers Enterprise Artisans Back Down South Clothing Bayou Devieu Duck Blinds BG Calls Bio Ammunition Blind Spot Outdoors BOSS Shotshells Bow and Arrow Outdoors Brewco Marketing Group Bush Rack Canvasback Waterfowl Co. Capital Farm Credit Caprock Waterfowl Chene Gear Choctaw Country Cibolo Creek Ranch Colorado River Land Trust Combat Waterfowl Cover 6 Outdoors Crazy Bull Longhorn Skulls Cupped and Committed	Cutco Cutlery Decoy Central Dirty Duck Coffee Company Dirty Texas Outfitters Ditale Outdoors DLM Leather Designs Double TT British Kennels Dr. Duck Co. Duck Tote Elite Duck Calls Express Flooring Find A Hunt LLC Fit N Fetch Outdoors Footpharmacy Direct Fowler Hide Supply Freedom Hunters Frog Lube FT Airguns Full Plume GAIM Galveston Deep Sea Fishing Charters Gator Waders GATR Coolers Grumpy Duck Co Gun Owners of America GUNNER	Heritage Land Bank Heybo Outdoors HeyDay Outdoors Higdon Outdoors High and Dry Hometown Hero Outdoors Hortenstine Ranch Company Hunt Hoot Hurricane Marsh Outfitters Kitchen Craft Kuiu Ultralight Hunting Legendary Gear Lite Boots Locked On Sound Locked Up Outfitters Lone Star Ag Credit Lone Star Outdoor News Lone Star Quail Forever Lucky Duck Mach 1 Lithium Mag Instruments Inc. Makers Call Company Mallard Bay Outdoors Mayville Engineering Company Mission Ridge Range & Academy Mossy Oak Properties of Texas Mule Deer Foundation	National Wild Turkey Federation New World Graphics Nitecore Nomad Grills North Star Outfitting Numzaan Safaris Open Range Adventure Rigs Outdoors At Last Pacific Calls Pecos Outdoor Pella Windows & Doors Pro-Drive Public Hunter Queen Charlotte Lodge Ranch Road Cargo Reeds Sports Renewal by Anderson Rhineland Cutlery ROAM Rockin B Outdoors Rockin G Ranch Rolling Thunder Game Calls RW Coolidge Saddleback Leather Co Sellmark Silencer Central Silver Spur Hat Company	SoundGear Southern Life Forever Spartan Mowers / Intimidator Group Streamlight Striper Express Guide Service Swamp Stick SX Decoys Tactacam Tetra Hearing Texas Duck Blinds Tom Beckbe Top of Texas Taxidermy Trackabout USA Turtle Box US Law Shield Whiskey Morning Coffee Whiskey Sloughs Winchester Woodbridge Home Solutions Wren and Ivy Xcaliber Container XS Sights
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SHOOTING VILLAGE

Blaser USA Benelli Browning CZ-USA Defender Outdoors Heckler & Koch J.P Sauer and Sohn Liemke Mauser	Mayville Engineering Company Minox Mossberg Reeds Sports Savage Arms Springfield Armory Taurus Holdings Inc. Winchester
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ATV/UTV VILLAGE

Can-Am/BRP US Inc. Polaris Thumper Fab

FISHING VILLAGE

Carey and Sons Marine Texas Parks and Wildlife

DOG VILLAGE

Purina

CONSERVATION VILLAGE

Ducks Unlimited Texas Parks and Wildlife



FAQS

What is Firebird

Firebird is an instant hit recognition signal device. Ready to use. Peel and stick pyrotechnic target.

Not a Binary Kit

No ammonium nitrate. No mixing. ATF approved.

What to Expect

Robust percussion, flash and smoke makes it hard to believe it is NOT binary.

Weapons to Use

High powered pellet guns, subsonic rimfire and up.

Firebird 50BIO Detonating Targets

10 targets /pack

\$24.95/ pack

Firebird 65BIO Detonating Targets

10 targets /pack

\$29.95/ pack



SHOOTING *Village* GUN PREVIEW



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Benelli's Montefeltro Receives New Look,
Features for 2023

New for 2023, the Montefeltro is now upgraded with Benelli's newest Inertia-Driven™ System bolt for outstanding performance and exceptional reliability. A redesigned bolt handle improves bolt manipulation, even when wearing gloves. Its improved ergonomics complement the handsome walnut stock, pairing perfectly with the deep gloss blue finish on the sleek receiver and barrel. The new 2-piece shell latch makes loading the shotgun a faster and easier task.



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A5



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The Ducks Unlimited Expo (DUX) is a sportsman's paradise to see, try and buy the latest and greatest that the outdoor industry has to offer.



In the DUX Shooting Village attendees will have the opportunity to test and purchase firearms from leading manufacturers.

SHOOTING VILLAGE FAQs

What Gun Ranges are at DUX?

DUX features a Shotgun range, a Rifle & Pistol 100 Yard Range and a Rifle 300 Yard Range. Test out the latest firearms from the leading manufacturers in the industry.

Can I purchase a firearm while at DUX?

Firearms will be available for purchase at DUX. Firearm Factories are attending and each factory hosts a shooting tent on the range with firearms on display and available for live shooting. If you choose to purchase a firearm your order will be placed and processed with our DUX FFL dealer Reeds Family Outdoor Outfitters. Reeds will then ship your firearm, with free shipping, after the event to your local FFL for final paperwork and background check. You will not leave DUX with a purchased firearm, as no firearms will be transferred on-site at DUX.

What does it mean "Buy at DUX & Earn Bucks for the Ducks"?

A portion of all purchases of firearms and ammunition at DUX is donated to Ducks Unlimited. Five to ten percent of all purchase amounts made will be provided to DU in a payment, net of sales tax, credit card and delivery fees.

Is there a cost to shoot at DUX?

Friday is Free Shoot Friday. On Saturday and Sunday you can purchase \$5 shooting tickets that provide you with 5 shots per ticket redeemable at either the shotgun and/or rifle/pistol range. You also have the option to purchase an unlimited shooting pass for Saturday and Sunday. Those tickets are \$50 per day and can be used on both the shotgun and/or rifle/pistol range. All shooting tickets can be purchased in the shooting tent at the entrance of the shooting village.

Are there age restrictions for shooting?

Yes, Archery, BB, pellet, and air rifle all have no age requirements. Rifle and shotgun have a restriction of 12 & over, while pistol is restricted to those 21 & over.

Will eye and ear protection be provided?

Eye and ear protection will be provided and required by all shooters.

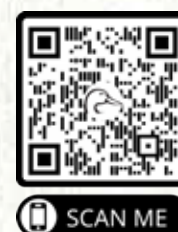
Do I need to complete a waiver to participate in shooting?

Yes, all attendees who would like to participate in any activity at DUX will need to complete a waiver each day. Visit any waiver tent to complete your waiver.

Insider Tip: Use the QR Code on this page to fill out your waiver on-line before you arrive at DUX.

Can I purchase ammunition at DUX?

There are multiple manufacturers that will be selling ammunition at DUX



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Texas Gun & Knife Association Show Dates 2023

January 28 & 29 - Abilene Convention Center
 February 11 & 12 - Fredericksburg Fair Grounds
 February 25 & 26 - Kerrville Expo Hall
 March 11 & 12 - Amarillo Civic Center
 March 18 & 19 - Abilene Convention Center
 April 15 & 16 - Kerrville Expo Hall
 June 3 & 4 - Abilene Convention Center
 July 8 & 9 - Kerrville Expo Hall
 July 15 & 16 - Amarillo Civic Center
 August 19 & 20 - Abilene Convention Center
 September 9 & 10 - Kerrville Expo Hall
 October 14 & 15 - Fredericksburg Fair Grounds
 October 21 & 22 - Abilene Convention Center
 November 11 & 12 - Kerrville Expo Hall
 December 9 & 10 - Amarillo Civic Center
 December 16 & 17 - Kerrville Expo Hall

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A DUCK HUNT TO REMEMBER

By Cash McWhorter

The 2021-2022 duck/goose season was a grind for many hunters in the south. November and December were warmer and dryer than what it takes to attract and hold waterfowl. Drought conditions that began in late summer continued to persist through the winter. For most waterfowlers seeking larger puddle ducks, reasons to even go hunting for the first two months of the season were slim.

Special hunts, though, are just that because everything needs to come together just right: conditions, birds, habitat, food, cold fronts, wind, sunshine, scouting and being in the right place at the right time. Hunts like the one I experienced for the finale of the 2022 season don't happen often. Many times, it may just be good fortune, in the right place at the right time, or paying our dues for spending time in the field.

The opportunity to harvest a limit of greenheads is undoubtedly special, but Jan. 27, 2022, worked out to be extraordinary. I invited Heath, a pledge brother from Baylor, and his youngest son, Holt, to join us, along with my 20-year hunting partner, Charles. It was a mid-week hunt, but Holt did not mind missing school, and it proved to be worth skipping on that day!

We were hunting in layout blinds over a stock pond in Kansas. We chose the pond because ducks had been assembling there all week before going to an adjacent field to eat. Unlike a typical morning hunt, we didn't get set up until 3 p.m. The area had less than an inch of rain in

the past six months, but there was a chance of snow showers.

Much to our delight, we had a few ducks work in as soon as we got set up, and shortly after, a light snow shower began and so did the right amount of wind. The snowfall picked up, and the harder it snowed, the better the ducks worked. Many waterfowlers dream of hunting mallards in certain places and conditions. Some may say it's hunting flooded green timber or pit blinds in a flooded field. To me, the opportunity to harvest waterfowl during a snow event is as good as it gets.

As the snow picked up the pace and continued to blanket the parched landscape, larger groups of ducks continued to work into the staging pond the rest of the afternoon. The initial volley was a spectacle to see. It doesn't take many groups of ducks like the ones we witnessed to have a spectacular hunt. One of our challenges was birds continued to want in while we were trying to retrieve downed waterfowl. After the initial retrieve and setting back up, we had another large group work into the snow-dusted decoys.

As the sun began to set and the snow-covered decoys began to lose their integrity, the ducks continued to pour into the neighboring cut milo field while we reflected on a hunt to be remembered for years to come.

The close of the hunt was the end of a lackluster season, but it was a hunt to remember. I am delighted Heath and Holt got to experience something so memorable. Holt is spoiled now, and he will be chasing that hunt for the next decade — or maybe a lifetime.



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SUPER BLACK EAGLE 3 IN 28-GAUGE 3-INCH

Benelli raised the bar in the growing “sub-gauge” movement with the release of eight new 3-inch chamber 28-gauge SBE 3 models.

The Benelli Super Black Eagle 3 in 3-inch chamber 28-gauge answers the growing call of waterfowlers who hunt flooded timber in the southern regions as well as the beaver dams and cattails of the north, where tight quarters favor the sub-gauge. And with more hunters seeking smaller-gauge shotguns, the new SBE 3 28-gauge 3-inch models fit the needs of waterfowlers looking for greater challenges with a scaled-to-suit gun.

The new SBE 3 models continue the unfailing performance and rugged construction that has made the Super Black Eagle the first choice among discriminating shotgunners yet to do so in a lighter weight, faster-handling package ideally suited for those decoyed birds in flooded timber. Offered in Crio-treated 26- and 28-inch barrel lengths, the 28-gauge SBE 3s are modest 5.5 and 5.6 pounds, respectively, with 47.5- and 49.5-inch overall lengths.

A total of eight models mark the 28-gauge SBE 3's introduction,

differentiated by barrel length and stock finish. Available stocks include synthetic, Realtree Max-5™, Realtree Timber, GORE OPTIFADE and Mossy Oak Bottomland.

While these 28-gauge SBE 3 models work with standard 2 ¾-inch shotshells, hunters can tap into the new class of 3-inch loads rolling off the premier ammunition lines. This diversity significantly broadens the 28-gauge SBE 3's field applications, with a single platform that is lighter, faster and easily adaptable to a broad range of hunting environments.

The SBE 3 3-inch 28-gauge comes in a custom-fitted hard case with a brace of Crio choke tubes — IC and M extended tubes and C, IM, and F flush tubes — plus a choke wrench and shim kit for drop and cast adjustment. Additional features include an upsized bolt handle, enlarged bolt release, and oversized safety for easy operation when wearing gloves. A carbon-fiber rib, contributing to the shotgun's light weight, ends in a fiber-optic red-bar front sight for enhanced visibility in low light hunting conditions.

The Benelli Super Black Eagle 3 has exceptional ergonomics, rugged



construction, and reliable cycling in the harshest environments. With its clean and consistent Inertia Drive System, refined operation, and integrated Comfort Tech 3 recoil reduction system, it is understandable why Benelli is the leader in the semi-auto shotgun class. Now, that apex performance merges with the 28-gauge renaissance to provide hunters even greater options when pursuing their waterfowl and upland hunting passions.

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