



Simons Provides Presentation in Durban, South Africa

Texas Wildlife Association Secretary, Greg Simons, provided a presentation at the International Wildlife Management Congress in Durban, South Africa in July, discussing the role that a membership-based organization can play in private lands conservation of wildlife. Attended by several hundred delegates from around the world, this was the fourth Congress meeting to be held since 1993, with the next meeting scheduled for 2015 in Japan. The Wildlife Society serves as the principle host of these events with various other local partners.

According to Simons, it was an enlightening experience to gain a broad perspective of global challenges facing our wildlife community. “It’s interesting being able to learn about the assortment of wildlife-related issues that various countries face, some of which are similar to ours here in Texas, such as the critical role that suitable habitat plays in sustainable wildlife populations and the challenges associated therewith, including loss and fragmentation of these lands due to competing development practices,” says Simons.



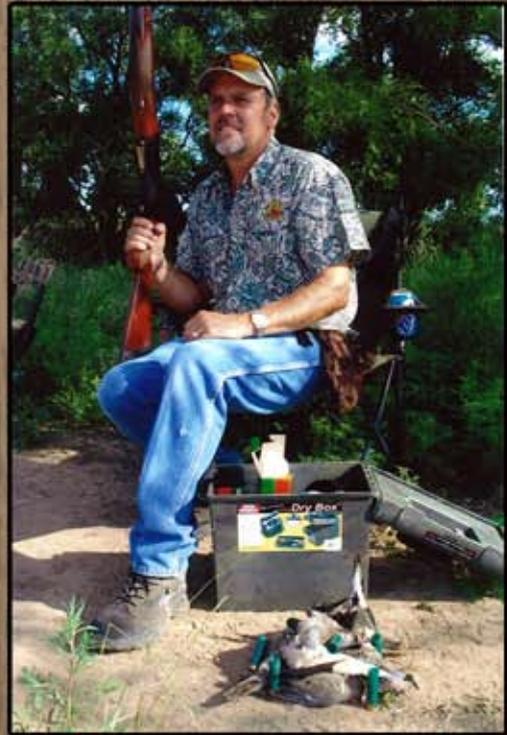
“Paul Vahldiek (Landowner/Conservatinist), Simons, and Dr. Shane Mahoney (Renowned lecturer/writer), enjoy lunch together on the bay at Durban.”

Simons also points out that he gained an even greater appreciation for the diverging realities of how regional cultural persuasions can dictate solution management approaches to complex wildlife challenges. “What is culturally acceptable in terms of principles and practices in one country, may have very little functional application in other regions due societal norms and values,” he claims.

Simons’ program provided a history and overview of TWA and its programs, while reflecting upon TWAs “Public Values of Wildlife on Private Lands Initiative” to illustrate an example of its current work. His program was part of the private lands conservation session.

Texas Wildlife Association Dove Hunt

TWA will be hosting a dove hunt on September 15 near San Angelo to benefit this organization's advocacy efforts. WSI is providing the field over which the hunt will be conducted and Crockett National Bank is generously sponsoring the lunch, which will be catered by Kenny Blanek. Fees for the afternoon shoot, including the lunch, are \$100 per hunter, with 100% of the proceeds being retained by TWA for advocacy and public policy programs. TWA was formed in 1985 to serve as an advocacy group for landowners and hunters, working toward preserving the integrity of Texas wildlife resources. For further information, contact Kirby Brown at (210)213-2805.



Year-Around Hunting Lease

We have an excellent opportunity for a corporate group looking for a large hunting lease. This 20,000 acre property is located in Crockett County, between Ozona and Barnhart. This is excellent whitetail country and much of the property is deep soils with mesquite and mixed brush, which grows some very good quality deer. There is also potential for good quail hunting once our quail numbers in Texas bounce back.

The landowner is building a new hunting 2500 square foot lodge, and this facility will be fully furnished. There is also a new barn, which will be handy for storing feed. Also included with the lease are 15 box blinds and feeders, which are already in place for your convenience. Very little prep time will be necessary to move in and begin hunting.

The lease is priced at \$5.00 per acre, and we are looking for one group to lease the entire property. For additional details, give Greg a call at (325)655-0877.



Harvest Pictures from Crockett County Lease

Lower Ranch Hunting Lease

For those of you who have been hunting with us for many years, you may be familiar with the Lower Ranch, which we used to offer guided deer hunts on. There is a portion of the property that has come available. Here are the high points.

- 4680 acres located in Coke County, between Robert Lee and Sterling City.
- Price is \$6.75 per acre with a maximum buck harvest of 10. Lessee will also be allocated a doe harvest of 15-20 does, and can hunt other game species including quail, turkey, dove, ducks (~12 ponds), and predators.
- Exiting tenant has been on property for several years, and is willing to sale stands and feeders. There is no cabin, but there is an improved campsite with electric and water for RVs.
- Very scenic with plenty of game and lots of appeal.



Late Minute Hunts Still Available



For anyone who may still be looking for a last minute whitetail hunt, we still have a few hunts available on our Longbranch, Springer, Scrub Oak, and Yturria Ranches. We are anticipating some great bucks being taken this year due to some timely rains providing us with good forage conditions. Give us a call for dates and details.

Texas Free-Range Elk

Texas is not that well known for elk hunting, but there is a growing population of free-ranging elk in the desert mountains and hills of West Texas, and some very nice bulls have been coming from this area in recent years. Over the last several years, WSI has been conducting a few elk hunts in this region, generally offering 1-3 hunts a year, with average bulls being 6x6 bulls, typically scoring 300"-330", but we have taken bulls over 350".



*Hank Dorris with 6x6 bull
taken in January 2010*



*Mark Barrett took this 330"
class bull in October 2010*

This year, with commitments from our landowners a bit earlier in the year than normal, combined with expanded area on 3 different properties, we'll likely book 8 spots, with the majority of hunting taking place during the bugle season in late September and first half of October. These will be 4 day, 4 night programs, with meals, lodging, and guide. Unlike many elk hunts in some western states, these hunts take place in low altitude conditions, with little walking typically being required, so we can accommodate most any hunter. Weather is normally mild at that time, making this a very comfortable and convenient hunt to attend. We have this hunt set up as a base fee, plus trophy fee arrangement, which is also an attractive feature for the hunter. Call Greg for additional details.



*This 335" class bull was taken with WSI on A.S.
Gage Ranch by Jeanne Castellini*



*Chip Kessler with great 6x6 bull taken in
West Texas*

A Commemorative Moment

WSI owner, Greg Simons, recently rendezvoused with his Dad and brother near Montrose, Colorado to erect a sign commemorating Greg's grandfather, Gene Gilliam. In 1959, Gilliam, along with son-in-law, Benny Simons developed a spring-site with a 10' pipe in order to have a convenient source of water for their hunting camp in the Uncompagne National Forest, which later became known as Gilliam Springs. Shortly after being diagnosed with terminal cancer in 1970, Gilliam took his two grandsons, Greg and Robby, up to Gilliam Springs to camp out, fish, and enjoy some special time together. Some 42 years later, a historical marker was erected by the Simons trio, making this a very special occasion. It's almost as if time stood still, with aspen trees still standing that bear the inscribed names from family members dating back to 1954. After erecting the sign, steaks and potatoes were cooked over a small campfire at the spring-site, while the three reminisced about old, good times. The sign will continue to serve as a landmark where family, friends, and others can visit from time to time, enjoying the cool mountain air, and carrying on a heritage of enjoying the great outdoors.



We'll call it a wrap. Don't be a stranger. Let us know if we can assist in any way.

Gracias,

Your Friends at WSI

325-655-0877

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