

Texas Passport June 2016

[Ask a Game Warden: Jurisdictional Differences](#)

Wednesday, June 1st, 2016

Game Wardens and State Troopers are state peace officers; although assigned to specific areas, they enforce laws and regulations wherever needed statewide.

Sharon Cundiff of Williamson County contacted us to ask about the difference between Wardens' and Troopers' jurisdictional areas. We reached out to Game Warden Travis Porter, in Tarrant County, to help sort things out.

43—One of the main differences between State Troopers and Game Wardens are that Game Wardens have the added ability to enforce wildlife and natural resource rules and regulations throughout the state as well. Game Wardens are the law enforcement off the pavement. Most of the time, we get off the roadway, and that's where we enforce most of our rules and regulations. Texas Law grants us the ability to enforce those laws anywhere wildlife lives, roams, or can be found—with a few limitations. These laws are designed so that we can enter private and/or public property to enforce hunting, water safety, natural resource laws and regulations, when the situation is called to do so. Game Wardens use these abilities to promote and regulate safety among those who are fortunate enough to be able to enjoy the outdoors, and to help conserve natural resources for future generations.

Click on the [Contact Us link at passporttotexas.org](#) to submit your Ask a Game Warden question.

Lone Star Law featuring Texas Game Wardens airs on Animal Planet Thursdays at 9 p.m. CT.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation supports our series and helps keep Texas wild with the support of proud members across the state. Find out more at [tpwf.org](#).

[How to Humanely Dispatch a Fish](#)

Thursday, June 2nd, 2016

Like to fish? Then you should know this Saturday, June fourth, is Free Fishing Day in Texas.

People don't need a fishing license to fish on that first Saturday in June.

Great news, right? Texas Parks and Wildlife aquatic training specialist, Caleb Harris, says everyone can fish free in state parks with fishing opportunities any day, but Free Fishing Day opens all public waters for your angling pleasure. Harris says when you reel in a fish you intend to keep, there is a humane way to dispatch your catch before it becomes dinner.

Most people say that the kindest way to care for a fish that you want to keep [for dinner] is to put it on ice as fast as possible.

The cold temperature, says Harris, causes the fish's bodily functions to slow down...way down.

The ice will anesthetize it; it'll be virtually painless at that cold temperature; the fish will get cold and will slowly pass. So, yeah. If you have a boat, and you have the ability to bring an ice chest, you know—catch the fish—if you intend to keep it, make sure it's a legal size, and put it right on ice.

When you get the fish home, you'll want to immediately filet it and either cook it up right away, or freeze it. Find a video on how to filet fish, and a link to information on [the best way to freeze fish](#) at passporttotexas.org.

National Fishing and Boating Week

Friday, June 3rd, 2016

Experience the thrill of reeling in a fish, or the joy of boating with family and friends during National Fishing & Boating Week, June 4 through 12th.

We're going to encourage people to get out on the water.

Frank Peterson is President and CEO of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase participation in fishing and boating.

By helping increase that participation, [we] build awareness for the need to conserve and protect our aquatic resources.

The way anglers and boaters help protect aquatic resources is by doing what they love to do.

By using the resource and buying equipment and buying licenses, putting fuel in their boat, registering their boat... there is excise taxes paid on that equipment that goes directly toward sport fish restoration.

Peterson says National Fishing and Boating Week kicks off in Texas and across the country on June 4th...and in Texas you can always fish free at State Parks.

A lot of states are starting to do that now, and we encourage that. Because the more people we can get fishing at a younger age, the more they'll fish as an adult. And through participation they're helping conserve that resource, and that's very important so that resource is there for the future.

Go to takemefishing.org for more information.

The Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program supports our series.

Angler Legacy Program

Monday, June 6th, 2016

If you're a seasoned angler, put your skills to good use.

We really encourage the avid angler to introduce fishing to at least one new person a year. And there'd be no better time to do that than during National Fishing and Boating Week...

National Fishing and Boating week is now through June 12th, and it's a project of the non-profit Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, or RBFF. Frank Peterson is president and CEO. He invites anglers who are passionate about sharing the sport with others to join the Anglers' Legacy Movement.

If they go to our website takemefishing.org, they can join the anglers' legacy movement. We have over 213-thousand ambassadors around the country who have taken a pledge to introduce fishing to someone new.

On average members of the Anglers' Legacy movement introduce more than three new people to fishing each year.

Another interesting stat on our Ambassador program is that over 70% of the people they introduce to the sport are under the age of 18. So they're helping to ensure the future of angling and boating in this country.

So introduce someone to fishing this week.

That would be a great week to just say, hey, I'm going to do something for young people; I'm going to do something for the sport.

Go to takemefishing.org for more information about the Anglers' Legacy Movement. That's our show for today...

[Statewide Wild Game and Fish Cooking Classes](#)

Tuesday, June 7th, 2016

Cooking what you harvest can be intimidating for the new hunter. Of course, first thing is proper care in the field. And we have instructions for that on the Parks and Wildlife website. But in the kitchen? How do you coax the best flavor from these wild proteins?

If you haven't eaten game, it does taste different than commodity meats, but that's not a bad thing. Wildlife eat a diet more varied than domestically raised animals—and those flavor profiles show up in the meat. Because game is free range, the meat is naturally lean, and requires different preparation methods.

Before fall hunting season begins, sample and even try your hand at cooking wild proteins at the game and fish cookery classes at Central Market Cooking Schools, in collaboration with Texas Parks and Wildlife.

The cooking schools are in Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Fort Worth, Dallas, Plano, and Southlake. And classes are coming up in July, September and November. Most are hands-on, and each covers the best preparation methods for the featured game. You'll learn recipes for quail, duck, venison, and wild boar, as well as fish and seafood.

A Parks and Wildlife representative will be on hand to talk about wildlife management and conservation, as well as public hunting lands, and how folks can get started hunting and fishing in Texas. Classes fill fast. Learn more when you log onto passporttexas.org.

[Get to Know Coastal Fisheries](#)

Wednesday, June 8th, 2016

Texas Parks and Wildlife achieves its conservation and regulatory goals via input from its various divisions, including [Coastal Fisheries](#).

We work mainly on the coast with saltwater fishing, conservation, habitat, wildlife, marine life – anything that's along the coast.

Julie Hagen is social media specialist for Coastal Fisheries. Researchers from the division's eight field offices do their work on the water.

They are going out into the bay systems, into the Gulf. And they're monitoring our marine resources: the fish, the habitat... They're constantly going out and doing surveys. And so, they're testing the water for salinity; they're gathering fish and different marine life, collecting their weight, their sizes, and their ages. We're collecting all that data for a very large dataset that we use for marine monitoring resources.

Once collected, the data doesn't languish on a spreadsheet collecting dust.

With all the data that we get, we can go back, and if we need to make any changes to the regulations—we can do that. For instance, we were seeing the flounder population decreasing over the past few decades. So, we made some changes, and we're seeing the population go up.

Monitoring, surveys and adjusting regulations allows TPW to maintain healthy coastal ecosystems for all.

So, we're constantly making sure that we have the right regulations in place so that we can still go out and fish, but that we're also not harming the resource.

The Next Steps: Hunting 101 Classes

Thursday, June 9th, 2016

Would-be hunters born on or after September 2, 1971 must successfully complete a [Texas Hunter Education](#) training—where they learn firearm safety—in order to legally hunt. But the learning doesn't have to stop there.

In our advanced hunter education efforts, [you'll learn] everything from dove hunting, to deer hunting and turkey hunting—and all the kinds of hunting that goes on in Texas. You can learn more about the species, about its habits, behaviors. Where to go hunting and the time of year to go hunting for those species.

Steve Hall is hunter education coordinator for Texas Parks and Wildlife. Hunters have an opportunity to expand their understanding of the species they hunt.

We're launching a Hunting 101 program that enables folks to really learn more about individual species or methods, such as bow hunting and muzzle loading.

The new Hunter 101 program will launch this summer.

We've been testing dove hunting 101, turkey hunting and hog hunting 101 workshops already. So, we're going to launch this summer 2016—mostly for dove hunting, in preparation of the dove hunting season. And we're doing that in partnership with the Texas Dove Hunter's Association. All of these Hunting 101's will be in partnership with conservation organizations. All of them, of which, are located in Texas as well.

Find hunter education information on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

TPW TV 30th Anniversary – Wyman's Camera

Friday, June 10th, 2016

It's been 30 years since the Texas Parks and Wildlife television series hit the airwaves.

My name is Richard Roberts, and I was executive producer of the Texas Parks and Wildlife TV series from 1989 to 2013.

Producers past and present are returning to the series all year to talk about their favorite stories.

And one of my favorite stories I worked on was an early story I did with photographer Wyman Meinzer. And he just sort of invited me into his world and let me participate in that.

[Wyman]: In this part of Texas, I can sort of see what it used to be like. It's my only touch. It's my only connection with Texas 100 years ago. It's almost like, in another life—I was there.

[Narrator]: As a young man, Wyman Meinzer began a search for that other life. In the early 1970s, he lived alone hunting and trapping. Making his living on the land. What he learned during that time, would serve him well in the years to come. [camera clicks] Today, Wyman Meinzer, makes his living with a camera. Specializing in the wildlife and landscapes of north Texas. [camera click]

View this vintage segment from the Texas Parks and Wildlife TV series on PBS the week of June 12. [Check your local listings.](#)

[Give Dad the Texas Outdoors for Father's Day](#)

Monday, June 13th, 2016

Few people on our gift giving lists are harder to buy for than our fathers. Most men don't want friends and family to make a big fuss over them on special days – but we're going to do it anyway, Dad. So get used to it.

On Father's Day – June 19 — show Dad what he means to you by giving him the gift of the great Texas outdoors.

How do you do that? You could buy him a Texas State Parks Pass (which is really like a gift for the whole family); it allows Dad unlimited access to all state parks for a year, discounts on camping, as well as discounts at state parks stores.

You could take Dad on a picnic at a state park or natural area. We have suggestions for creating a memorable picnicking experience – including recipes to try out — at texasstateparks.org/picnic.

If your dad likes to get out on his own for some quiet time with nature – because let's face it, you can be a handful – and doesn't already have a limited use permit from Parks and Wildlife, getting him one gives him access to a million acres of public land in Texas, where he can hike, mountain bike, watch wildlife, fish, and in some cases do a little primitive camping.

Texas is a big state that offers a wide range of recreational opportunities. Doesn't your dad deserve Texas?

[Surveying Wildlife](#)

Tuesday, June 14th, 2016

Wildlife biologists collect data on game and non-game species using field surveys. One survey method does not fit all species.

For instance, deer surveys. We go out at night in the truck and spotlight for them. In that case we are looking for the animals themselves. There are other surveys that we do; for instance, otter surveys. In that case, it's very rare to actually see an otter, and so we're actually out there just looking for tracks and signs of otter.

Biologist, Heidi Bailey says they use the data to understand a species' status and struggles; this includes threatened and endangered animals.

We want to determine if the populations are holding steady, or if we're lucky, increasing, or if they're on a decline we definitely want to know that as well.

Survey data on game species allow biologists to make recommendations regarding best management practices.

In some cases, it will help us to know if we need to change the bag limits. If we've got an over population of deer in a particular county and the density's way too high for a healthy habitat, we may go ahead and increase the bag limit, or change season dates—we may lengthen the season or shorten the season. So, we've got a whole bunch of tools that we can actually manipulate the populations with based on the survey data.

More about wildlife surveys tomorrow.

Wildlife Surveys Support Species Management

Wednesday, June 15th, 2016

Wildlife biologists use data from field surveys to manage the state's game and non-game wildlife populations.

One thing that's important to remember is that we're never going to count every single animal.

Biologist, Heidi Baily, says the public sometimes confuses "survey" with "census". The latter implies a tally of all individual animals in a population. Instead, biologists look for trends.

We like to put it in context of the years behind us and look at it in relation to that. And determine what the trend is doing: are we on a steady incline; is the population decreasing; is the sex ratio improving? Things like that.

As the majority of the state is in private hands, landowners are encouraged to conduct wildlife surveys on their property.

We can actually go out there and teach them how to do surveys on their own property. Usually, when we go out, we have a look at their habitat, and we'll visit with them about the things that they're concerned about, and what they want to manage for. And then we can actually teach them ways to go ahead and monitor their own populations. They'll forward the results of those surveys to us for any kind of habitat or population management recommendations.

Learn more about wildlife surveys on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

Brush Piles for Backyard Birds

Thursday, June 16th, 2016

If you're a suburban or urban bird lover who maintains an extremely tidy landscape, don't be surprised if interesting birds don't flock to your yard.

Yeah, tidy yards don't always attract good birds. Wanted birds.

Cliff Shackelford is Texas Parks and Wildlife's non-game ornithologist.

A lot of people have their golf course looking lawn and they just get great tailed grackles in some of these cities. But, what we recommend for urbanites is keep a little brush pile.

When you're doing yard work, instead of sending fallen branches and deadwood, or cuttings from pruning trees or shrubs to the landfill, use them to create a sanctuary.

For some birds that like thickets and hiding places, those brush piles are good. And, also think about in the breeding season; there's nest material that they can break off from those brush piles.

Don't worry about your HOA—just keep the bush pile in the backyard away from prying eyes. And in rural areas, create habitat for thicket-loving birds by leaving shrubs and brush growing along fence rows.

There are a lot of birds that really like that cover. A lot of native sparrows and wrens and quail and things that like the brushy edges. So, keep brush piles when you can and keep your fence rows brushy when you can.

The bigger the brush pile the better for the birds, but even a small brushy patch is better than nothing. That's our show...

[Ask a Game Warden with Brent Deen](#)

Friday, June 17th, 2016

Texas Game Wardens are licensed peace officers who protect the citizens and natural resources of Texas.

It was a dream of mine to one day become one.

We reached out to Texas Game Warden Brent Deen, in Val Verde County, to answer a question from listener, Laura McKissack of Austin, who asked: "What draws people to this line of work?"

I grew up hunting and fishing, and I think I was around eight years old when I realized what a game warden was. Which was someone that my dad said was out there to protect our state resources, and allow future generations to be able to grow up and enjoy them. After being in the military for 8 years I was able to obtain my degree. My wife and I were stationed over in England, and we had our first son; I realized I didn't want to deploy anymore and miss out on his life. So we talked about it and we decided [it was time] for me to get out and pursue my dream of being a game warden, which fortunately, I was able to get in my first time [applying to the Academy].

Game Warden Brent Deen is dedicated to his community and his career.

If any kids are thinking about being a game warden, just tell them to get in contact with one of their local game wardens; it's definitely the best job in the world.

Go to passporttotexas.org, and **[click on the contact page](#)** and submit your question to *Ask a Game Warden*.

[Buescher State Park](#)

Monday, June 20th, 2016

Located adjacent to Bastrop State Park, Buescher State Park in Smithville is home to towering pines, picturesque yaupons, deer, raccoons and even mountain lions.

We work as the Lost Pines Complex. And, we work hand-in-hand with our guests. If they come to Bastrop, they're more than welcome to come to Buescher with their pass.

Adam Bain is site manager at this Central Texas getaway.

We have a scenic corridor; it's a 12-mile road. A lot of that was burned with the wildfires in 2011, but people still like to take that road between the parks. They also use that for biking; we get a lot of bicyclists between the parks, and they use that road as a bicycling path.

Although lesser known than Bastrop, Bain says Buescher is a popular destination, offering camping, fishing, hiking and mountain biking—something not available at Bastrop.

It is very much a destination. Our revenue has increased over the past four years significantly. Ten to 15 percent a year; that is a big increase. And where do the people come from who visit Buescher? We do get a lot of people from the Houston and Austin areas. And San Antonio as well—Boy Scout groups come from San Antonio. But mainly Houston and Austin.

Next time you're traveling on Texas Highway 71 between Houston and Austin, Adam Bain invites you to [drop by Buescher State Park](#). Currently the trails are closed due to the wildfire in October of 2015, with plans to have them open this August.

We're off the road enough that people may not know we're there. So, come out to Buescher; take in fishing, get on a kayak or go running and hiking on our trails.

Guns: Lock 'Em if You've Got 'Em

Tuesday, June 21st, 2016

Experienced hunters and gun owners understand the [importance of firearm safety](#).

Basic firearm safety begins with firearm safety in the home.

Steve Hall, hunter education coordinator for Texas Parks and Wildlife, says *Project Child Safe* is a program that helps firearm owners maintain high standards of safety in the home.

It's a long-standing program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, and it provides free gun locks to anyone that needs to secure their guns in the home. So, we'll be able to offer those through Hunter Education, through the Game Wardens, and through many outlets in Texas, because of a donation by the Cabela's Outdoor Fund to the [National Shooting Sports Foundation](#).

Hall says Parks and Wildlife will distribute free gun locks to parents when they become available later this summer.

We should be receiving locks this summer in preparation for the busy hunter education season starting late July-August. We'll have information on those locks [on the website] once Texas parks and Wildlife Department receives them.

Texas Parks and Wildlife offers hunter education classes throughout the year to help would-be hunters—and even non hunters—how to handle and store firearms safely.

Find Hunter Education classes on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

[The Challenges of Dove Surveys](#)

Wednesday, June 22nd, 2016

Field surveys are necessary when creating management strategies for game species. Some species are easier to survey than others.

Our [dove surveys](#), for instance, have to be done under some pretty finite weather conditions.

Heidi Baily is a wildlife biologist in east Texas. Weather can put a damper on successful completion of surveys.

The winds can't be blowing all that much. We don't want to survey right before or after a rain, because it can affect the amount of birds that we see. So, sometimes it makes it tough to actually get them done.

But they do get done...along a 20 mile route.

We'll get out there to the beginning of our survey line, about a half an hour before sunup. We've got a 20 mile route that we run—exactly the same way every year. As a matter of fact, some of the routes have been around for a couple of decades. At the start, we'll get out of the truck, and we'll sit, look and listen for three minutes, and we'll record what we see or hear. Then we'll drive a mile and we'll do the same thing. And that process is repeated over the 20-mile route.

Although when we talked, the dove survey was a couple of weeks away, Heidi Baily said she wouldn't be surprised if this spring's violent weather impacts dove populations.

Doves build a really flimsy nest, so if you get a good hard wind, or some of these huge hail storms that we've been having, even though doves will re-nest—we might have low reproduction this year.

We'll know more after biologists collect and analyze survey data.

[Even Non-Hunters Buy Federal Duck Stamps](#)

Thursday, June 23rd, 2016

Waterfowl hunters aren't the only ones buying [the federal duck stamp](#). Non-hunters across the state are spending \$25 on the stamp to support conservation.

The federal duck stamp, which was never intended for postal use, is intended for wetland conservation.

Parks and Wildlife non-game ornithologist, Cliff Shackelford.

And even though it's intended for duck hunters, it's benefiting so many non-game birds. So, I recommend bird watchers and nature enthusiasts buy a duck stamp.

Hunting is only one way to use the stamp.

It makes a great gift. And for yourself, it's a great way to go visit National Wildlife Refuges, where there's an entry fee. That duck stamp will get you and your carload of birdwatchers in for free.

The Aransas National Wildlife Refuge is the winter home of endangered whooping cranes. The land was purchased in 1937 with duck stamp money.

So, just three years after the inception of the duck stamp, it was used to buy the Aransas Refuge at a time when there were only about 15 whooping cranes left. Now we have a little over 300. And so many other birds benefit from the duck stamp. When we're protecting wetlands for ducks, we're also saving habitat for grebes and rails and common yellow throats, and lots of shorebirds, and lots of other things that are not game birds, but really benefit from wetland conservation.

Coastal Fisheries Gets Social (Media)

Friday, June 24th, 2016

Social media has improved Texas Parks and Wildlife's ability to communicate with the public.

I think Social Media is just a great way to network and connect with people.

Julie Hagen is the social media specialist for the Coastal Fisheries Division.

Right now we just have a Facebook page, and we also use the Texas Parks and Wildlife main [social media] pages to also get out some pictures and different videos that we're doing. But, our Coastal Fisheries Facebook page is a great place for people to come and ask questions; we answer all your questions. Or, just [come by] to see what other people are doing. Tell a story. Like a picture. Send us your own pictures. If you catch a nice fish and you want to show it off, send it to us—we'll post it on the page.

Visitors to the [Coastal Fisheries Facebook page](#) enjoy behind-the-scenes photos of researchers in action.

It's fun to see what they do. They have very different jobs; they get to go out on the water every single day—collect data. And it's really interesting to see a different side of Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Julie Hagen encourages community among Facebook fans.

I want to create a community on Facebook where people can go and respond to other people's comments. If they ask a question and an angler knows—'Oh, where's the best fishing spot in Rockport?'—well, I'd love someone in the Facebook community to come along and say: 'Hey, I'm from Rockport. This is where I love to fish.' Those interactions are my favorite because sure we can give you some ideas, but there's so much knowledge people have on their own, and having a space for them to come and share that with other people is really important to us as well.

Control Breeding Sites to Control Mosquitoes

Monday, June 27th, 2016

Apply sunscreen this summer, and while you're at it, apply products with DEET or essential oils that repel *Aedes aegypti*, a mosquito, suspected of spreading Zika virus.

It's an introduced species, and it is most common around the eastern half of Texas.

Austin-based entomologist, Mike Quinn, says one way to lessen exposure to *Aedes aegypti* is based on the time of day you're out and about.

*The *Aedes aegypti* is a day biting insect, so it's a little different [than other mosquitoes].*

While reports of the virus in the US are travel related, pregnant women are encouraged to use caution, as zika has been linked to neurological issues in newborns. Quinn says the insects breed in standing water.

The Aedes isn't a long distance flyer. So, controlling breeding sites on our property can be a very effective way to reduce the mosquito. And, it's what we call a container breeding mosquito. And it's in pots and barrels and toys and bottles; it can breed in a very small amount of water—a tablespoon or less even. But, it takes about a week under optimal conditions to go from egg to adult. So, doing a weekly cleanup of property—checking for water sources; changing out the birdbath water on a weekly basis is a good way to keep the population down locally.

Find links to more information about *Aedes aegypti* and the zika virus on the passport to Texas website.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation supports our series and helps keep Texas wild with the support of proud members across the state. Find out more at tpwf.org.

Zika Virus and the 2016 Olympics

Tuesday, June 28th, 2016

The Summer Olympic Games set for this August are causing some concern, as host country, Brazil, is the epicenter of a Zika virus epidemic.

We don't really know when it came to Brazil. I think it was first identified in May 2015; it may have even started earlier than that.

The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito spreads Zika, which has been linked to birth defects in newborns when expectant mothers are infected. Austin-based entomologist, Mike Quinn, says reported cases of the virus in Texas are travel related only. And, if you plan to travel to Brazil for the Olympic Games—what precautions should you take?

The same precautions you would take here in Texas: wearing long sleeves, long pants, applying some mosquito repellent. But, if you're pregnant, you might talk to your physician. And...ah...you know...they show most of it on TV, so there is that. So, assess your own risk and take precautions.

Using products containing DEET may prevent mosquitoes from landing on you for up to five hours.

But just wearing long sleeve shirts and long pants—you can just put a little mosquito repellent on the back of your hands, and the back of your neck so you can have a few exposed areas. So, you don't have to put it all over your arms and legs and everything.

Citronella and Eucalyptus oils are also said to deter biting insects. Safe travels.

Firearms: Locked (up) and (un) Loaded

Wednesday, June 29th, 2016

If you own a firearm, you owe it your family and your community to keep it stored properly when not in use.

All firearms in the home should be locked, and separate from the ammunition; [the ammunition] preferably in a locked location as well.

Steve Hall, hunter education coordinator at Texas Parks and Wildlife, also says when not in use, always keep firearms unloaded.

And so, [we want to] make sure that kids don't do like we did when we were kids: "Oh, what's this? Let's load that, and let's put this in there..." [These are] the kinds of things that you don't want kids doing with firearms that lead to accidents.

Curious children have unintentionally harmed themselves and others with firearms supposedly "hidden" in dresser drawers, garages, under beds, and top shelves of closets.

The good news is, that because of hunter education and because of all the firearm safety taught by organizations like the NRA and the National Shooting Sports Foundation, accidents in the home have gone down. And so, there's a safety record that's a lot better than it was in the 60s and 70s; but still, one accident is too many. So, we're trying to promote safety at all cost.

Owning a firearm is a full time responsibility. Always lock it up. Find more firearm safety tips and hunter education classes when you log onto the Texas parks and Wildlife website.

The Wildlife Restoration program supports our series and supports shooting sports and hunter education in Texas.

[TPW TV – Helicopter Crash Survival Training](#)

Thursday, June 30th, 2016

Texas Game Wardens always hone their skills; and in a segment airing the week of July 3, the Texas Parks and Wildlife TV series on PBS takes you on their HUET training.

H-U-E-T. Stands for Helicopter Underwater Egress Training.

Producer, Bruce Biermann, says game wardens are not immune to the dangerous situations in which they often find themselves.

Our game wardens get into a lot of precarious situations whenever there's flooding and they have to go out and rescue people. And part of their training is what to do if they, themselves, get in trouble. For example, the helicopter goes down over a body of water.

A controlled pool environment at NASA was the site of the training. Using multiple GoPro cameras, Biermann takes viewers into the helicopter-like structure, and under water with the game wardens.

I think I had six tiny little cameras on the game wardens' helmets, all over the inside, on the outside. So, it really gave the viewer the effect of being in the water with them. So, when the unit flips upside down, you're going upside down through the water with them. The audio...where it sounds like you're above the water, and then gurgle...gurgle...when it goes underneath... So, it really takes the viewer deeper into what the game wardens are feeling when they're training.

View this segment on the **[Texas Parks and Wildlife TV show](#)** the week of July 3. Check your local listings.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation supports our series and helps keep Texas wild with the support of proud members across the state. Find out more at **tpwf.org**.