



Texas Big Game Awards

Landowner of the Year Awards

Presented By:



A beloved part of our state's heritage is the access hunters enjoy to some of the most magnificent, thriving wildlife populations found anywhere in the United States. A key contributor to this heritage has been the strong relationship that exists among sportsmen, sportswomen, landowners, and state government.

In order to preserve this legacy for future generations, the Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) worked together to develop the Texas Big Game Awards in 1991. Now celebrating its 21st season, the purpose of the TBGA is to promote awareness about wildlife management and the role that hunting plays in habitat conservation and to foster cooperation among the stakeholders who ensure that our state's wildlife habitat is conserved forever.

Because 97% of the land in Texas is privately owned, encouraging landowners to actively manage their property for healthy wildlife is the best way to guarantee that the habitat of all species remains an enduring part of our native ecosystems for generations to come.

Therefore, new for the 2011-2012 Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA) Sportsman's Celebrations, the TBGA is proud to announce the creation of the TBGA Landowner of the Year Awards, presented by Capital Farm Credit.

Objectives

- To recognize TBGA landowners for excellence in habitat management and wildlife conservation on their lands
- To encourage youth and adult education, as well as participation in promoting responsible habitat management and improved ecosystem health

- To promote landowner awareness and acknowledge the best stewardship practices in the TBGA's eight Regions
- To illustrate the important role of Texas' private landowners in the future of our natural resources

Eligibility

- TBGA encourages nominations for ranches/landowners from natural resource agencies, conservation organizations, the general public, or from the ranches/landowners themselves.
- Nominees must have accepted entries in the TBGA program, as well as have their ranch listed as an awardee through the official TBGA entry forms.
- Considerations will include the number of TBGA awards the ranch/landowner has produced, number of youth and first-timers experiencing the outdoors, habitat and wildlife management projects related to the property, and more. See the "Selection Criteria" section of the application for more information.
- Nominees are considered for awards based on the TBGA Region in which their land is located. Up to 8 regional awards may be awarded each year, and one overall statewide landowner of the year is recognized.

Nominations

- Nominations will be accepted from October 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012.
- The landowner must accept the nomination in order to be considered for an award.

Winner Selection

- TWA Hunting Heritage Committee (TWAHHC) members may visit the nominated properties and evaluate each nominee.
- The TWAHHC will recommend and choose a winner for each of the 8 TBGA Regions, as well as recommend and choose the overall statewide landowner of the year.
- Statewide winners will be placed into the TBGA Landowner Hall of Fame and be ineligible to win the award again for a period of five years.

TBGA Awards Recognition

- Each regional award recipient will receive a special award from the TBGA.
- Each regional award recipient will receive an official reflective gate sign designating them as a TBGA Landowner of the Year recipient.
- The statewide top applicant will receive a special commissioned TBGA bronze.
- Each of the winners will be awarded at a specified TBGA Sportsman's Celebration.



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Landowner of the Year Award Application

Ranch Name:

Owner:

Operator:

County:

Region:

Acreage:

History of the Ranch:

Land Management Goals:

Unique ways that the property aligns with the TBGA message..."Hunting = Habitat":

Ranking Criteria will be based on the below categories for the 2011-2012 hunting season.
Please list the number of participants/days for each category:

Total TBGA Entries –

Youth Division or Wounded Warrior Hunter Participants –

Total First Harvests –

Natural Resource Education Programs (# of days) –

TPWD Approved Management Plan – Yes No

Nomination forms must be mailed to:

**Texas Wildlife Association
c/o TBGA**

2800 NE Loop 410 Suite 105

San Antonio, TX 78218

Phone: 210/826-2904

Website: www.TexasBigGameAwards.org