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Hunting show, teal season good for outdoorsmen (08/19/09)



By Luke Clayton

The bean counters tell us the economy is still in a slump, but if you attended the Texas Trophy Hunters show this past weekend in Fort Worth, you'll probably agree that when it comes to hunting and the outdoors, we're living in the boom years!

The rows at the show were packed with people eager to talk to outfitters, plan hunts and purchase the latest in hunting gear. If you were anywhere near booth 313, where Mike and Lori Ford were set up, introducing their Rio Rojo Rancho in Red River County to the show's patrons, you might have experienced a bit of a delay. Ford had one of the new GhostBlinds (www.ghostblind.com) set up and the innovative new mirror blind drew quite a crowd. The blind has a series of panels with mirrors on the outside and camouflage on the inside, with backpack straps. The blind weighs less than 20 pounds. Game approaching the blind will see a reflection of whatever is in front of the blind.

If you enjoy predator hunting, you will love watching "Ultimate Predator" (www.UltimatePredatorTV.com), a new DVD by Chris Robinson and his staff. Check out the Web site to see a preview of the video. The footage highlights over 40 night hunts for bobcat, coyote and ringtail. The DVD contains the best footage of night predator hunting that I've ever seen.

While walking the aisles, I was pleasantly surprised to see that one of my long-time favorite hunting ranches, Squaw Mountain Whitetails (www.starbuckwhitetails.com), located north of Jacksboro, is once again a hunting ranch. More than 20 years ago, when I was beginning my career as an outdoors writer, I hunted the ranch on many occasions. The ranch was used for private hunting until the Wieser Brothers purchased it and opened the storied old ranch to the public again. I'm looking forward to once again visiting the rugged hills where I taught my older son to hunt.

TEAL HUNTING TIPS- Teal season opens in mid-September and it's time to think ahead and plan our hunts. Teal are the easiest ducks to decoy.

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