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MEDIA RELEASE

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Texas Big Game Awards To Feature Sportsman's Celebration with Combined Region Event

San Antonio-The Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA) is trying something new this year for its traditional regional awards banquets. Annually, the program hosts an awards ceremony per region (there are eight regions total), but this year, the program will try something new by hosting the Cross Timbers and Panhandle regional ceremonies at one combined show. Celebrating its 18th year, the TBGA Sportsman's Celebration for these two regions will take place on Saturday, September 19, at *Frontier Texas!* in Abilene.

"This TBGA Sportsman's Celebration will be very unique, as this show will be an opportunity for landowners and hunters from across two regions to be recognized and awarded for the top big game taken in different counties," explained David Brimager, Texas Wildlife Association's Vice President of Hunting Heritage. "With the help and support of our co-sponsors, the Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), we are able to continue to recognize the contribution these private landowners, land managers and responsible adult and youth hunters make to managing and conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat on Texas' private lands."

Many exciting activities make this event unique. Not only can you see some of the best whitetails taken in the Cross Timbers region of the state, but also some of the biggest whitetails, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope taken in the Panhandle region of Texas. Another opportunity for attendees will be the chance to meet Texas State Photographer of the Year Wyman Meinzer who will be keynoting the awards dinner with a special presentation.

And if that isn't enough, all attendees will have the opportunity to visit the *Frontier Texas!* museum. Located in downtown Abilene, *Frontier Texas!*, a 14,000 square-foot facility on 6.4 acres, allows visitors to relive the Old West with the help of state-of-the-art technology. *Frontier Texas!* brings the frontier to life and lets visitors meet people who played out their lives on the Texas frontier. Cutting-edge technology puts a visitor in the middle of attacks by Indians and wolves, stampeding buffalo, a card game shootout and a prairie thunderstorm, and even a lovely spring evening filled with fireflies.

The TBGA event is open to the general public. The wildlife trophy exhibit, auction, and *Frontier Texas!* museum will be open from 4 - 8 p.m. The TBGA banquet and dinner will be from 7 - 9 p.m. Entrance to the day's events, not including the banquet, is \$5. The cost for the dinner is \$12 per person with seating being limited, so book your reservation today. Food and beverages will be provided for all pre-registered guests.

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