



For Immediate Release: August 2, 2011

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### **Texas Big Game Awards to Feature Sportsman's Celebration with Combined Region Event**

**ABILENE, Texas** - The Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA) is hosting the Trans Pecos, Cross Timbers and Panhandle regional awards ceremony in Abilene for the fifth consecutive year, August 6. "The TBGA generates an economic impact of \$97,000, bringing in 500 attendees. We are glad to support this event and are pleased with the growth over the past four years – growing from one region to hosting three," stated Debi Schultz, sports sales director for the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau. Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the TBGA Sportsman's Celebration for these three regions will also take place on Saturday at the Abilene Civic Center.

"This TBGA Sportsman's Celebration will be very unique, as this show will be an opportunity for landowners and hunters from across three regions to be recognized and awarded for the top big game taken in different counties," explained David Brimager, Texas Wildlife Association's (TWA) vice president of Hunting Heritage. "With the help and support of our co-sponsors, the 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 distinctive. 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, as well as Trans Pecos. Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet the newly elected TWA president, Glen Webb, who lives in Abilene.

If that isn't enough, all attendees will have the opportunity to visit the *Frontier Texas!* museum at a discounted rate. Located in downtown Abilene, *Frontier Texas!*, a 14,000 square-foot facility on 6.4 acres, allows visitors to relive the Old West. *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, a prairie thunderstorm and a lovely spring evening filled with fireflies.

The TBGA wildlife trophy exhibit and raffle is open to the general public, August 6, from 4-6 p.m. and is only \$5. The banquet and dinner is sold out.

**About the Texas Big Game Awards:**

Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> season, the Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA) is a partnership of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) that continues to be the leader in recognizing the contributions that landowners, land managers and responsible hunters make to managing and conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat on Texas' private lands. The Texas Big Game Awards program is designed to recognize 1) the quality of big game animals in Texas, 2) the hunters who harvest these animals, 3) the land managers who produce these animals through their management efforts, 4) the importance of our hunting heritage, and 5) the achievements of young and new hunters. For additional information on the Texas Big Game Awards, please visit <http://www.texasbiggameawards.com/>.

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