

TEXAS HAWKING ASSOCIATION
32ND ANNUAL FIELD MEET
JANUARY 13 – 16, 2012
ABILENE, TEXAS

MEET PROGRAM

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President's Welcome



Dear THA members, fellow falconers, families, and guests,

Welcome to Abilene! 2012 marks THA's 41st Anniversary and a time to celebrate Texas falconry! I hope you will join me in thanking all those who came before us to help ensure falconry as a legal field sport in Texas. We now have much improved regulations governing falconry in Texas. I am ever mindful and

appreciative of the people who started THA to create the first set of falconry regulations in Texas

All indications are that this meet will again be even better than previous THA Meets. Your THA officers and volunteers have been working hard to ensure everything has been planned for and there are no surprises. Please take time to thank those who work so hard to make these meets successful each year.

As always, enjoy yourselves and be safe while here in Abilene. Please get in touch with me if you need anything at all or have concerns.

Regards,

Chris Davis, President
Texas Hawking Association
(817) 921 – 3776
(817) 480-2046

A Message from the Meet Coordinator



The Texas Hawking Association proudly welcomes you to the 32nd Annual THA Field Meet in Abilene, TX.

Many people worked hard to make this a great meet. These include Lynne Holder, who put the banquet together and Steve Oleson, who did the artwork. Sheldon

Nicolle secured our lodging, and Pierre Bradshaw, with able assistance from Jim Coody, watches our birds in the weathering yard. Mr. Coody who also handles the registration. Krys Langevin, THA Rafflemeister, will once again help the club produce our main source of revenue. If you are enjoying the meet, please thank them.

This verbiage from last year's program (and the year before) still applies:

As always THA members and guests are encouraged to be considerate of the cleanliness and care of their respective rooms while at the Meet. Please cleanup after ALL falcons, hawks, dogs, husbands, wives, children, relatives, etc. In general, treat the place like you would your own home. Your assistance will help ensure we are welcomed back with the reasonable room rates we count on and enjoy. This is one of the most effective ways we can control our out of pocket expenses while we have a GREAT time in Abilene. It's also just plain old Texas good manners, so please help us help you by being a considerate guest.

While visiting this year we hope you all make new friends, see old friends, take a landowner hunting, take an apprentice or someone interested in falconry hunting, welcome our out of state falconers and guests and help them find game, but most importantly, we hope you thoroughly enjoy yourself. The THA meet is a celebration and we all have good reason to celebrate this year.

If you have any questions, problems, or recommendations, please let me know.

We wish you a safe and enjoyable weekend....

Regards,
Chuck Redding
THA Southern Director
713.560.0517

Schedule of Events

Friday Jan. 13, 2012 at the Whitten Inn

- 10:00AM - 5:00PM: Weathering Yard
- 4:00PM - 7:00PM: Late Registration
- 6:00PM - 7:00PM: Happy Hour - Meet & Greet
- 7:00PM - 7:30PM: Welcome and **THA**nks Awards Presentations
- 7:30PM - 9:30PM: Presentations by Manny Carrasco and Diana Durman-Walters
- 9:30PM - 11:00PM: Meet & Greet *Continued*, Vendors, Dr. Greg Moore

Saturday Jan. 14, 2012 at the Whitten Inn

- 7:00AM - 5:00PM: Weathering Yard
- 11:00AM - 2:00PM: Late Registration

Saturday Jan. 14, 2012 at the Taylor County Expo Center - Display Building (See maps below)

- 5:00PM – Doors Open to Members
 - 5:30PM - 7:00PM: Raffle and Vendor Sales Open to Members
 - 7:00PM - 7:30PM: Dinner Served
 - 7:30PM - 8:00PM: THA Business & Awards
 - 8:00PM - 8:30PM: Keynote Speaker – Ed Pitcher
 - 8:30PM - 9:00PM: Raffle and Vendor Sales Continued (30 min.)
 - 9:00PM - 10:00PM: THA Raffle and Auction
 - 10:00PM: Closing
- (**All times are approximate?)

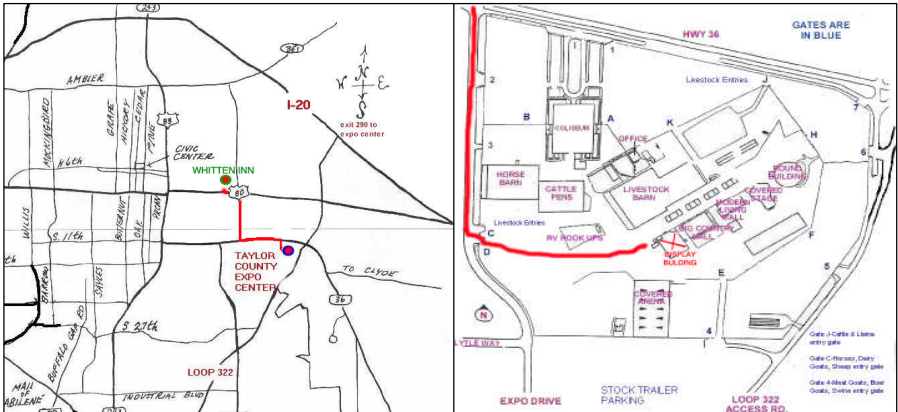
Sunday Jan.15, 2012 at the Whitten Inn

- 7:00AM - 5:00PM: Weathering Yard
- 8:00AM - 10:00AM: Open Business Meeting

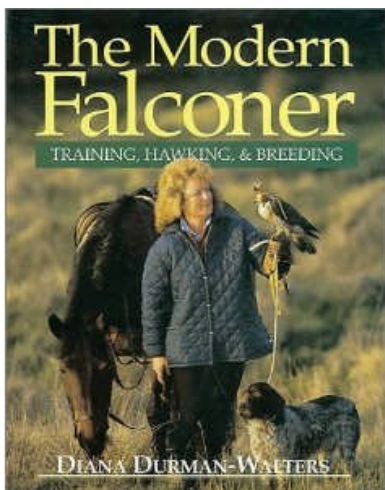
Sunday Jan.15, 2012 Dinner Out

- 7:00PM: THA Dinner Out

Please Note: This year THA will be using the larger Display Building to hold our banquet and raffle. Previously, we have used the Big Country Hall located next door. Please look for the THA banner.



Friday Evening Guest Speakers: Diana Durman-Walters and Manuel Carrasco



Last year, Diana Durman-Walters was kind enough to speak on Friday night, telling us about her life raising falcons with Nick Fox's organization. Commencing with a timely request by a THA member, we invited her back to speak about falconry dogs, which you won't want to miss. Diana is known worldwide, and is the author of *The Modern Falconer*, a fine book which covers the spectrum of falconry topics.



Also on Friday night, THA's own Manuel Carrasco (Manny) will talk about falconry in the Middle East, and the *International Festival of Falconry*, which Manny recently attended. For many seasons, Manny has flown a spectacularly successful female red-tailed hawk called Dakota, especially skilled at catching fox squirrels.

Finally, Dr. Greg Moore offered to do a veterinary Q&A for THA members, so have your questions ready.

2012 Keynote Speaker – Ed Pitcher



THA is honored to have Ed Pitcher as the 2012 THA Keynote Speaker.

The following text is provided courtesy of The Ontario Hawking Club's website:

Ed Pitcher got into falconry in 1969 at the age of 23 when he met a falconer with a prairie falcon. The encounter lit a fire in him that still burns hot. Since that time he has become one of the more influential and philosophical falconers of our time. Outfitted with a background in biology and his superb memory, he has developed a unique view and free-thinking mental approach to the training of falcons that includes many innovative, insightful, and progressive concepts.

Ed's name in the world of falconry has always been synonymous with the flying of falcons to the extreme limits of visibility and altitude. He has flown a variety of falcons including gys, merlins, prairies and many types of peregrines including black and red-naped shaheens, barbary, peales and anatum. He has hawked lesser and greater prairie chickens, sage grouse, sharp-tails, huns, and pheasants. He also enjoys duck hawking.

Ed's much-awaited and recently published book "The Flying of Falcons" describes his philosophy of flying falcons in a way that mirrors their natural development. It challenges some of the traditional preconceived ideas about how to fly birds. Ed outlines his style as a liberal attempt to develop the individual talents of each hawk: "My management of falcons centers on providing a beneficial environment to the falcon and slowly developing a relationship with it that eventually frees the bird from the scale, allowing it to fly out of opportunity rather than the necessity to eat".

Ed is a natural story-teller and will share with us the stories behind his unique approach and his insights on how to get the most from your bird.

Weathering Yard Rules

Weathering Yard Warden: the primary function of the Weathering Yard Warden is the safety and welfare of the birds left in his/her care. To this end the Weathering Yard Wardens shall have complete governing authority and enforcement over the weathering yard. This includes but is not limited to hawking furniture, bird placement and the overall conditions in which birds are maintained within the weathering area and the behavior required of individuals while they are within the weathering area. In short, whatever Pierre Bradshaw SAYS, GOES!

Weathering Yard Schedule: The Weathering Yard hours of Operation shall be posted by the weathering yard Warden and in the meet program/schedule of events. Any falconer leaving his hawk out past weathering yard hours, will do so at his own risk and may result in loss of weathering yard privileges.

Perches: Perch heights should be no higher than the height of the hawk using that perch, and the configuration should be such that no more than a 4 foot by 6 foot area will be required for bating and perch recovery. *(This may be modified or changed at the discretion of the Weathering Yard Warden depending on space available, number of birds in the weathering area, or to accommodate Eagles.)*

Tid-bitting: Tid-bitting and feeding of birds in or adjacent to the weathering area is prohibited.

Dogs: those who must bring dogs near the weathering area must have them on leash at all times and have someone to maintain control of them while they are in the weathering area taking up birds.

Eagles: a separate, safe accessible area shall be maintained for weathering Eagles. If no such area is provided, then Eagles shall be placed in the common weathering area with other raptors.

Additional Notes: Fishing leaders and similar equipment is not allowed on tethered birds except for kestrels, merlins or sharpies.

Spring clips/quick releases/threaded links are not acceptable in the yard.

Portable perches that cannot be securely anchored in the ground will not be allowed.

Weathering Yard Hours:
Friday Jan. 13, 2012..... 10:00AM - 5:00PM
Saturday Jan. 14, 2012..... 7:00AM - 5:00PM
Sunday Jan.15, 2012 7:00AM - 5:00PM

If for any reason you are delayed in getting back to the weathering yard or need my assistance please don't hesitate to call.

Thanks,
Pierre Bradshaw – (214) 476-7861

Where to Hunt

One the most important aspects of a field meet is acquiring permission and access to land to hunt our birds. If you feel THA should be more active in securing access to land please consider volunteering to lead the effort for next year.

In past years THA members were able to secure access and permission to properties in and around Abilene and the Anson area, and maps to these locations were available in the hotel lobby. This year, as in 2011 we have had little participation from THA members and few if any maps will be available. THA falconers will have to secure permission before they hunt. This will involve more time, but if possible please provide any contact information to one of the officers, assuming consent of the landowner.

Important Names and Numbers:

Name	Cell Number
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Officers:

Chris Davis – <i>President</i>	(817) 480-2046
Jay Lehmer – <i>VP</i>	(214) 726-5156
Jim Coody – <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	(903) 456-4345

Directors:

Pierre Bradshaw – <i>Director-at-Large</i>	(214) 476-7861
Jack Brady – <i>Northern Director</i>	(254) 396-0787
Chuck Redding – <i>Southern Director</i>	(713) 560-0517

Board/Committee Members:

Krys Langevin – <i>Rafflemeister</i>	(817) 528-9743
Dustin McCoy – <i>Apprentice Coordinator</i>	(512) 669-0414
Axel Schardt – <i>Outreach Coordinator</i>	(817) 304-6566
Pierre Bradshaw – <i>Weathering Yard Warden</i>	(214) 476-7861