



U.S. ARMY

SWG HOSTS 9TH ANNUAL GATOR HUNT AT WALLISVILLE LAKE



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When: 11 September 2024

What: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Galveston District hosted the 9th Annual Lone Star Warriors Outdoors Gator Hunt at its Wallisville Lake Project location in Anahuac Texas, September 11, 2024.

SWG co-hosts the event with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Lone Star Warriors Outdoors (LSWO), a Texas-based nonprofit 501c3 organization, to provide outreach to wounded veterans and manage the WLP alligator population, in support of our environmental stewardship mission.

All participating veterans were selected by LSWO through an application process. LSWO is an all-volunteer organization consisting of an all-veteran board of directors offering hunts and fishing trips throughout the year for combat injured veterans.





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WALLISVILLE ALLIGATOR HUNT FOR COMBAT INJURED VETERANS

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Who: Lt. Col. Kothmann, Eric Angle, David Mackintosh, Zack Stafford, Jerry Meece, Jackson Mower, and Karly Sias

What: Lone Star Warriors Outdoors Combat Injured Gator Management Hunt

Where: Wallisville, TX

When: September 9- 12, 2024

Why: The Galveston District participated and supported the 9th Annual Lone Star Warrior Outdoors Gator Hunt for veterans at its Wallisville Lake Project location from September 9th through the 12th. A total of six combat injured veterans took part in the event USACE co-hosts in partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Anahuac Emergency Medical Services, and Lone Star Warriors Outdoors (LSWO)—a Texas-based nonprofit organization. This hunt is designed to conduct successful management of alligator populations in support of the project's environmental stewardship mission and maintain its wounded warrior outreach program.

This year, the warriors were very successful and harvested 15 alligators including a 11.5 foot male alligator. Some of the other activities besides alligator hunting were fishing, hog hunting, and a flag retirement ceremony at the Cajun Outback Lodge, a privately owned hunting lodge that was graciously donated for the event.

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SWF OPERATIONS STORYBOARD 11

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Town Bluff – Pineywoods Service Association Annual Gator Hunt/TPWD Youth Alligator Hunt:

The 12th annual Veteran Alligator Hunt was held at Town Bluff Project in Magnolia Ridge Park 13-15 September 2024. The purposes of the hunt is to honor the veterans, give them a fun event where they can see that others appreciate what they have done for the country, create a time where they can visit with other vets in similar circumstances, and help manage the resource – all while giving them a great opportunity to enjoy a great hunting experience on beautiful B. A. Steinhagen Lake.

The hunt is sponsored by the Piney Woods Service Association and runs concurrent with the TPWD Youth Alligator hunt. Four veterans took part, with 2 successfully landed gators over 11 feet long and weighing in at over 400 pounds each. The weather was great, and the food and fellowship were even better. Thanks to the lake, regional, and district staff that helped. We were also grateful to have a visit from the District commander, Colonel Kroeger, and to have Major Haynes able to participate again in this year's event.

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Town Bluff – TPWD Annual Alligator Hunt and Management Hunt: Texas Parks and Wildlife held their annual alligator hunts from 12–17 September 2024 at Martin Dies Jr. State Park in the Walnut Ridge unit. Starting with the management hunt which took place at night with bowfishing gear targeting alligators 5' and smaller. The youth hunt ran in conjunction with Veteran hunt from 14-15 September, and the general hunt was 16-17 September, with means of hunting being regular hook and line. From 12–13 September, 11 out of 16 individual hunters harvested 16 alligators at 5 feet or less. From 14-15 September, 10 of the 13 youth hunters managed to harvest a total of 10 alligators, while 2 out of 4 veterans were also successful. From 16-17 September, 10 out of 16 hunters were successful in catching alligators. The largest alligators captured during the event were both measured at 12 feet 3 inches, with weights of 421 pounds and 506 pounds.