

Passing buck brings in doe for expectant mother

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By RAY SASSER / The Dallas Morning News

Hundreds of novice bowhunters are successful in Texas each fall, but few are eight months pregnant. Molly Holley bagged her first deer with a bow Nov. 14. It was the first time she'd been archery hunting.

Holley is the wife of Naval officer Steve Holley Jr., recently back from his second tour of duty in Iraq. Steve grew up in Lake Highlands and is a Naval Academy graduate. He's also a dedicated archery hunter. Before he left for duty in April, Steve Holley bought his wife a bow and showed her how to use it. She's been practicing.

The Holleys are stationed in San Diego, but they're in the area for the holidays, moving back and forth between their family homes and the Holley family ranch in Brown County.

"Molly passed up a young buck and shot a mature doe," said Steve Holley Sr. "She accomplished two management practices her first morning out. Steve [Jr.] was coaching her. He said it was his proudest moment. I told him to just wait until their child is born."

Bass getting larger: The big bass reports continue their uptrend at Lake Fork, where the Trophy Bass Survey for October revealed 125 fish bigger than seven pounds and nine bigger than 10 pounds. Only one 12-pounder was reported, but the overall catch was much better than last October, when 54 bass bigger than seven pounds were reported.

Better cooking: Internet savvy deer hunters should check out www.best-venison.com. Michigan meat processor Dave Firnett started the Web site filled with practical tips on handling, freezing and cooking venison.

"It has bothered me that there is so much emphasis on quality deer management that a lot of hunters forget about quality deer eating," said Firnett, whose site includes frequently asked questions.

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