

Bucksnap Hunting Club Visitor Information

The Bucksnap Hunting Club is a private duck & goose hunting club located in Garwood, Texas, which is about 90 miles west/southwest of Houston. It is near Eagle Lake, Texas, which is known for its goose hunting. We have a web site at www.Bucksnap.com. The Bucksnap club house phone number is **(979) 758-3019** and email address is **bucksnap@gmail.com**.

The Bucksnap Hunting Club was formed as a private club in 1968. The Bucksnap Tradition includes a unique clubhouse comfortably furnished; hearty country style meals served daily for members and their guests, and some of the best duck and goose hunting in the country. The Club is particularly proud of its reputation of providing an atmosphere where all members are proud to bring guests, friends, family, and children to have an excellent hunting experience and continue the tradition of migratory waterfowl hunting.

The hunting club house is in a 1910 boarding hotel with many of the original hotel furnishings. The first floor has a dining room, commercial grade kitchen, bar, and 2 living rooms. Bedrooms are on the second and third floor. There is also a fairly new trailer house adjacent to the hotel with 4 bedrooms & 2 baths. The daily sleeping capacity of the club is 30 hunters.

Cocktail hour and appetizers begin at 6 p.m. Beer and soft drinks are provided. Plan to bring your own wine and liquor if you want to indulge in those beverages. Wine glasses and cork screws are available for your use.

Dinner is served at 7 p.m. and is delicious and filling. Both before & after dinner, there is a HD satellite TV, card tables, comfortable front porch with rocking chairs and a fire pit in the large back yard. Each hunter can turn in whenever they care to do so. For those who stay up, we ask that they be courteous and respect that some hunters are sleeping in the floors above them.

Now the technical details.

You will need a Texas hunting license and the Bucksnap does not sell hunting licenses at the lodge. Hunting licenses can be purchased in Eagle Lake or any Academy or sporting goods store. You can also purchase it on-line at Texas Parks and Wildlife using a credit card or call them at 800-895-4248. The TPWD phone license service is available 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is best to purchase your license days before you

hunt. A 5-day out of state license is available on the Texas Parks & Wildlife Development website. You will also need a Federal Duck Stamp as well. They cost \$15 and we generally keep a few on hand for purchase. If you have an out of state hunting license with a Federal duck stamp on it, remember to bring it so you do not have to buy another Federal stamp here.

It is hard to predict whether ducks or geese will be the best hunting. The guides look at the fields and ponds the late afternoon before the hunt and see where the most birds are.

We rotate hunting the fields so the birds are not driven away from all of our leased hunting land. We also have very large roost ponds on our land that we generally do not hunt. At night at dinner, the Club Manager or Senior Guide will usually recommend hunting either ducks or geese based upon what is best available.

If you definitely want to hunt ducks or geese, note it on your reservation form and tell the Club Manager the night before the hunt. You can hunt whatever you prefer. It is recommended that you bring the appropriate hunting gear and shotgun shells to be prepared to hunt either ducks or geese.

Ducks are hunted in blinds or at times just sitting on a bank levy next to a rice field pond. For geese we will be lying in fields or laying on a bank levy. It is recommended to wear camouflage waders not only to keep dry but also to keep warm and a waterproof camo-hunting coat that has a removable liner. You will be trying to blend in with brown and yellow harvested rice fields. It can be hot or cold on the prairie so be prepared for both.

You will need a camo hat and a light pair of camo gloves. For geese, you also need a facemask or face net so that the sun does not reflect off your face. The sun reflects off all exposed skin so everything needs to be covered. Camouflage clothing is needed to blend in with fields so the hunters are not readily visible to flying birds.

You will be reminded by the guides to cover up with the natural cover as much as possible and not to move until the guide calls when to shoot. Any movement by anyone in the hunting group can scare the birds away and poor camouflage also flares them.

Bring an old pair of loafers or shoes other than what you wear in the hunting club that you can wear when you return from the hunting field. We generally take off our dirty waders at the truck in the field and put on a pair of shoes to keep the truck cleaner and to be more comfortable.

For hunting ducks, it is recommended to use 12 gauge 3 or 3.5 inch, number 2, 3, or 4 steel shot. For geese, 10 or 12 gauge 3.5 or 3 inch BBB or T's steel shot are recommended. Note that 2 ¾ inch shells are much less effective especially with geese.

Hunt Day:

The routine is that we will be awakened around 5 a.m. to get dressed to go. A light breakfast of cereal, fruit, pastries and breakfast bars is served with juice & coffee.

In a duck hunt there are usually 4 to 6 hunters and in a goose hunt 6 to 10 hunters. The hunts usually go until 10 to 10:30 am unless the hunters limit out earlier.

Geese: The limit on geese has been 20 snow, blue and Ross geese, 3 Canadian geese, and 2 white fronted geese per hunter. The most successful hunts on snow geese are in November or early December.

Ducks: The daily bag limit for teal season has been 5 or 6. The daily bag limit for the regular duck season has been 6 ducks and with certain limitations. The guidelines will change from year to year.

Sandhill cranes: There is a sandhill crane season, and it has been growing in popularity. The season generally ranges from the Saturday before Christmast to the end of January. The most successful hunts are the first week or two of the season. The daily bag limit is 2 per day.

After the hunt, birds will be cleaned (breasted), on your behalf, by a nearby bird picker and put in a freezer at the club with the hunters' name.

Hunting/Field Safety Procedures

Safety is the number one priority in the field while hunting. There has never been a hunting accident at Bucksrag and we want to keep that record forever. The guide has control of the hunt to assure a safe hunt. No alcoholic drinking is allowed during the hunt. If any member of the hunting party is seen drinking, the hunt is immediately ended and all hunters in the party must leave the field.

The guide will position the hunters to provide the best opportunity for the group to be successful. Each hunter should conceal themselves to blend in with the field. Geese and ducks are very wary of unusual objects or reflections in the field. For geese, each hunter should use a facemask or face net so that the sun does not reflect off your face. The sun reflects off all exposed skin so everything needs to be covered. Camouflage clothing is needed to blend in with fields so the hunters are not readily visible to flying birds.

You will be reminded by the guides to cover up with the natural cover as much as possible and not to move until the guide calls when to shoot. Any movement by anyone in the hunting group can scare the birds away and poor camouflage also scares them. The guide will tell the hunters when to shoot. This is to assure that the birds are in range and to provide all hunters in the group an opportunity to shoot. Each hunter should wait until the guide "calls the shot" to be fair to all hunters in their group. If a member of the group is not well camouflaged or is moving a lot, the guide will ask the hunter to try to cover up

more, etc. If a hunter shoots prior to the “shot being called” the guide will ask the hunter to wait until the shot is called.

If the birds are not flying over the hunters, the guide may move the hunters to another position to provide better hunting results.

The Bucksnag Hunting Club has maintained a 40+ year excellent relationship with the landowners because we have been good stewards of their land. After every hunt, we police the area and pick up all spent shells and any other items that may have been dropped. We make sure we don't block & close all gates that we open to get to the field and minimize any disruption to the cattle or other farming activities.

A good idea to prepare for the hunt is to shoot some sporting clays the afternoon before the hunt. There are excellent such places near the Bucksnag that our Club Manager can recommend for you. A reservation is usually required. This is a good method to get newer hunters comfortable with handling and shooting their shotgun.

After the Hunt

After the hunt, the hunters come back, shower (if needed) and have a full breakfast/lunch. The meal usually includes chef prepared dishes such as scrambled eggs, bacon, potatoes, and another lunch type dish such as chili, gumbo, chicken & noodles, etc. It is all very good. The daily hunter club use cycle ends with lunch which usually concludes around noon and the hunters are free the rest of the day if they are hunting the next day or depart if they are finished with their hunt. Garwood is a very small town with virtually no amenities, but Eagle Lake, Columbus & El Campo are each within 15–30 minute driving distance or a good nap is frequently taken.

The charges at the club are billed to the member to include the nightly fee for room and food, the guide charge per hunt, and the bird cleaning charges. Tips for guides and house staff are at the discretion of each hunter. For your reference a typical guide tip is about \$30 per hunter.

If you have questions, email or call The Bucksnag Hunting Club at Bucksnag@gmail.com or 979-758-3019.

Bucksrag Duck/Goose hunting check list

Hunting Clothes	Field	Evening
1 Camo shirts	1 Carry-bag	1 Wine if wanted
2 Jeans for under waders	2 Shotgun	2 Liquor if wanted
3 Long underwear if cold	3 Steel shells (3" or better)	3 Ear Plugs for snoring
4 Heavy socks for waders	4 Pocket flashlight	
5 Belt	5 License & federal stamp	
6 MAX-4 Camo hat	6 Face mask	
7 Old Shoes for after hunt	7 Shooting Ear plugs	
8 MAX-4 Camo water proof coat	8 Sun glasses (non-glare)	
9 Camo Waders – light weight ,unless very cold	9 Gloves - camo	
	10 Yard Guard-in early season	
	11 Mosquito repellent-if needed	
	12 Camera	
	13 plastic bags to pick up spent shells	