

Bucksnag Hunting Club

Visitor Information

The Bucksnag Hunting Club is a private duck & goose hunting club located in Garwood, Texas, which is about 90 miles west/southwest of Houston and near Eagle Lake, Texas. Our web site is at www.Bucksnag.com. The Bucksnag club house phone number is **(979) 758-3019** and email address is bucksnag@gmail.com. For GPS purposes, it is located at 507 Arthur Street or across the street from the Garwood US Post Office.

The Bucksnag Hunting Club was formed as a private club in 1968. The Bucksnag Tradition includes a unique clubhouse comfortably furnished; hearty country style meals served daily for members and their guests, and some of the best Migratory Waterfowl 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 a safe & enjoyable hunting experience and continue the tradition of legal migratory waterfowl hunting.

The hunting club house is a 1910 Boarding Hotel with many of the original hotel furnishings. The first floor has a dining room, commercial grade kitchen, bar, 2 living rooms and 3 large screen TVs. Bedrooms are on the second and third floors & occupy 2 guests each. There also is a six bedroom – six bath lodge building adjacent to the house to accommodate 2 guests per room. The daily sleeping capacity of the club is 34 hunters.

An informal Reception time begins at around 5:30-6 p.m. Bottled water, beer and soft drinks are provided. Plan to bring your own wine and/or liquor if you want to indulge in those beverages. Wine glasses are provided.

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

We have Wi-Fi on all floors, but bring your smartphone chargers.

Now the technical details.

You will need a Texas hunting license and the Bucksnag does not sell hunting licenses at the lodge. **Hunting licenses** can be obtained on-line at Texas Parks and Wildlife using a credit card or call them. It is always best to purchase your license days before you hunt. An out of state license is also available online. You will also need a **Federal Migratory Waterfowl Stamp** as well. 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, although trends have been more towards duck hunting on the prairie. The guides scout 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. At dinner, the Club Manager or Senior Guide will usually recommend hunting either ducks or geese with each group, 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, if available, but please communicate with the club manager. It is recommended that you bring the appropriate hunting gear and shotgun shells to be prepared to hunt either ducks or geese. Also, the Sandhill Crane season opens around mid-December.

Ducks are hunted in blinds (permanent or popup) or at times just sitting on a brushed levee next to a rice field pond. For geese we will be lying in fields or sit on a levee. It is recommended to wear camouflage waders not only to keep dry but also to keep warm as well as a waterproof camo-hunting jacket. 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.

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 muddy waders back at our trucks in the field and put on a pair of shoes to keep the vehicles cleaner inside 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 430-5 a.m. to get dressed to go. A light breakfast of cereal, fruit, pastries and breakfast bars is served with juice & coffee.

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 consumption is allowed before or during the hunt. If any member of a 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, Sandhill Crane 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.

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.

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 50+ 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 roads & we 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, if you are rusty, is to shoot some sporting clays before the hunt. There are excellent such places near the Bucksnag that our Club Manager can recommend for you ahead of time. 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 to the House/Lodge, shower (if needed) and have a full breakfast/lunch. The daily hunter club use cycle ends with the meal which usually concludes around 1030-11 AM 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.

We have excellent **gun cleaning facilities** in a separate building from the House or Lodge. It is safe, air conditioned & heated and is well used.

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 settled before departure or billed to the member to include the nightly fee for room and food, the guide fee allocation 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 \$35 per hunter and the chef & kitchen help is about \$15 combined.**

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 & coffee thermos	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	4	Phone chargers
5	Belt	5	License & federal stamp		
6	Camo hat	6	Face mask		
7	Old Shoes for after hunt	7	Shooting Ear plugs		
8	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 or smartphone		
		13	Plastic bags to pick up spent shells		