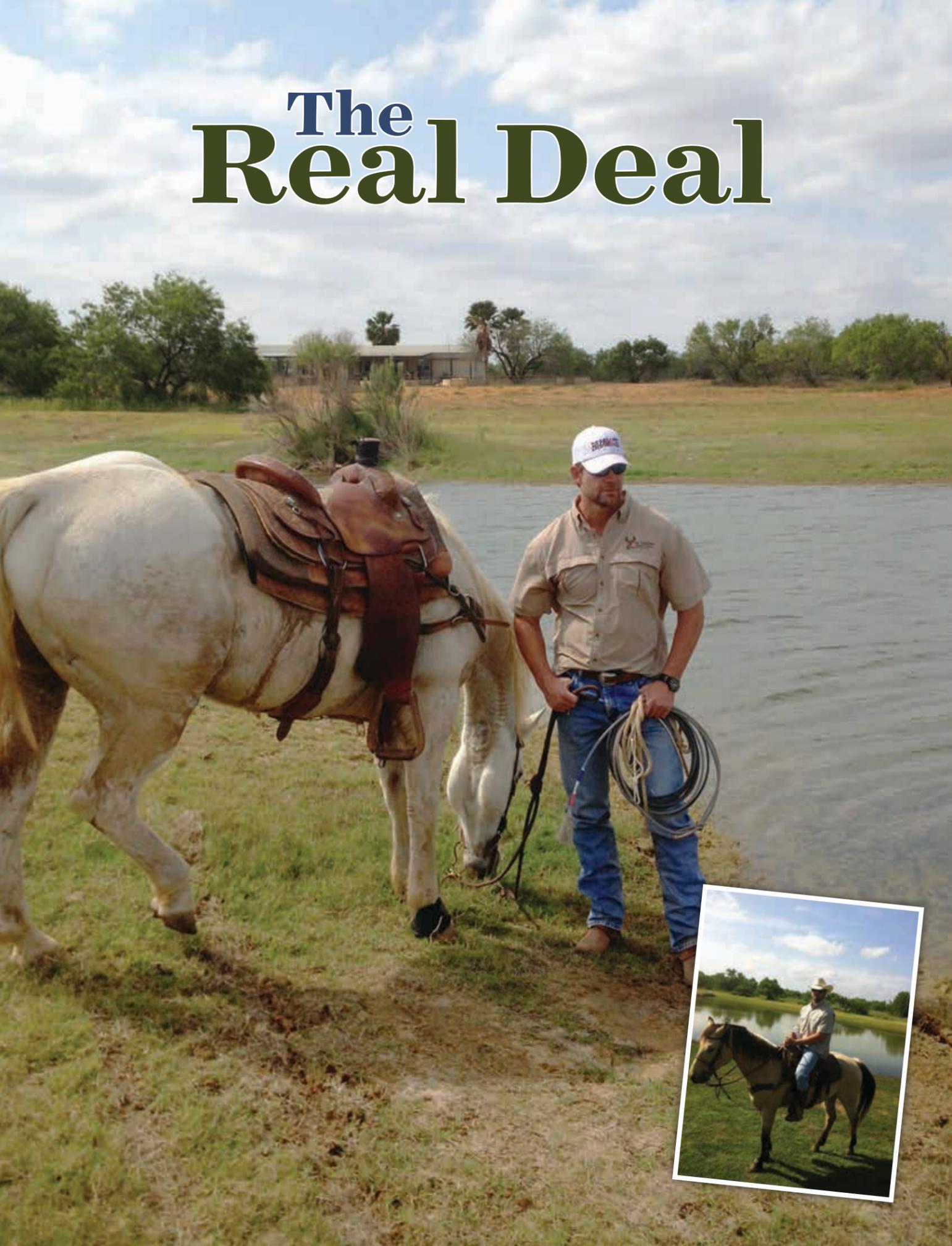


# The Real Deal



By **Phaedra Rodgers**, resident writer

As most of us in Texas know, the beginning of fall doesn't usually usher in cooler temperatures as soon as we'd like. But despite the stubborn heat, early fall brings good news for football fans and even better news for outdoorsmen and women. September means hunters spring to life with the onset of hunting season.

Among Texas traditions, few are as synonymous with our culture as ranching and hunting. If you think roping, branding and horseback riding are things of old cowboy movies, think again. An unassuming everyday guy wearing street clothes doesn't mean he's not the real deal; it just means he's in disguise. However, there are only a few folks left in our society who epitomize the traditional ranchmen who make ranching a lifestyle versus a recreation. There's one in particular who walks the walk and talks the talk — jeans, cowboy hat, boots and belt buckle included.

Meet Sam Shackelford, a seventh generation Texan, southern gentleman and, most notably, an outdoor enthusiast. Sam grew up in Austin and graduated from the University of Texas. After starting and selling his own business interests over the years, he finally had a clean slate to charge a new career trajectory.

On that note, you could say the events that unfolded for Sam these last few years were kismet. He went from working day in and out in Austin to now doing what he loves to do most: spending considerable time on his ranch in south Texas, especially now that it's

being featured on the Outdoor Channel's *The Bucks of Tecomate*, *Realtree's Monster Bucks* and *Realtree Outdoors*. And if you can't find him there, he's out helping other folks search for a ranch of their own. As an agent for the elite Republic Ranches brokerage firm, Sam gets the best of both worlds by not only being out in his element, but also helping others find their piece of heaven.

**You and your ranch are often guests on the Outdoor Channel. Please tell us how that came to be, and what viewers can expect.**

I've been an avid hunter since I was a child, having shot my first deer when I was 7 years old. Most everyone who knows me knows that being an outdoorsman is who I am at the core. On that note, I ran into a good friend who suggested I meet Jordan Shipley, the former UT and professional football player who's also an experienced outdoorsman. Jordan had just been hired to host the *Bucks of Tecomate* show and was looking for places to film. Once we were introduced, we instantly became friends. Having similar interests, we were able to hit the ground running with filming the show.

As far as what viewers can expect, they can expect a real life free-range and un-staged hunt when I am involved. Our hunts, much like our personalities, are very unpredictable. You can make a great shot with a bow or a terrible shot with a rifle and the viewers will see exactly as it unfolds. We have done things



as off the wall as filming ranch workouts, stripping down to our drawers to pull a deer out of a pond, to music around the campfire with good ol' conversation.

**You say that hunters and ranchers are some of the most avid conservationists. That may seem contradictory to people; can you please explain what you mean?**

Both ranchers and hunters have to improve the native habitat for the animals to survive. From a rancher's standpoint, I build stock ponds and create improved grasslands for grazing and quail habitat. I also do control burns, manage brush piles and eradicate overgrown brush.

As a hunter, I have done many things on our ranch for conservation. For example, I have done quail watering systems, supplied corn and protein feeders throughout the ranch that supplement the deer, hog, quail and native wildlife during drought periods. We have worked hand in hand with the oil and gas companies to shake and stack brush piles along easements to create native habitat for the wildlife.

Hunters harvest deer, quail, dove and hog and keep records to ensure we are keeping the population at a sustainable rate. We consume all that is harvested and often donate meat to underprivileged citizens in nearby towns.

I believe that no one truly owns land, that some of us are fortunate enough to occupy land while we are here. It's our job to be stewards of the land and leave it as good or better for future generations.

**How would you advise someone who's interested in owning a ranch, perhaps for the first time, to ease into such an endeavor?**

If they've never owned a ranch, then I would recommend leasing land for a couple of years to see if they like it.

If you get on a lease, normally there is a ranch foreman that runs it. My advice would be to ride around with him as much as possible to get familiar with the ranch. I would encourage a first time buyer to visit with other ranch owners to discuss ownership, costs, etc. I always advise my clients to get on Lands of Texas to understand geographical variances and pricing throughout Texas.

**You've had success with starting and selling your own business ventures. Outdoors aside, what other facets of life are critical to your success? And on that note, how do you personally define success?**

First and foremost, having a relationship with Jesus Christ, and trusting His plan is crucial to my life and my success.

I have a really good mother who always told me I could do whatever I put my mind to. My wife of 22 years, Jill, has always supported me and been on my side. I attended the University of Texas when all the odds were stacked against me due to not having any money. I had to work to pay for college, but that taught me to go for things and not let obstacles get in your way.

I was in a Bible study several years back, and the question was posed, "Who is going to be crying at your funeral?" This question really made me think about what is important in my life. The bottom line is nothing in this world matters if you don't have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Secondly, you have to be a good husband and father. I define success as being remembered as a godly man who loved his family with all of his heart and led them through not only his words but also his actions.

**If you want to reach Sam, please email him at shack@republicranches.com.**



Get to know your neighbors better by having your family or yourself featured in the next available issue! Email us at [donna.m@n2pub.com](mailto:donna.m@n2pub.com).

# News You Can Use

## Yard Of The Month Nomination Contest!

Now is the time to nominate your neighbors as Yard of the Month! All you need to do is email an address to [donna.m@n2pub.com](mailto:donna.m@n2pub.com) and we will mail out a nomination note, as well and swing by to take photos. Anonymous nominations are welcome!



## Community Ambassadors Are Wanted!

If you or your kids need a project, we are looking for you to help with this magazine. Contact Donna for details.

## New To The Neighborhood?

The Davenport community magazine is one of the best ways to get to know your neighbors. Email [donna.m@n2pub.com](mailto:donna.m@n2pub.com) to be featured in our Meet Your Neighbors column and added to our event email list.

## Save The Date

**What:** Meditation Training with Ragini Khanjee, resident

**Where:** Body Business Health Studio in Davenport Village

**When:** Tuesdays at 6:40 p.m.

**RSVP:** Limited spots available. Please email [donna.m@n2pub.com](mailto:donna.m@n2pub.com) to save your spot.



**What:** Serasana Open House

**Where:** Serasana in Davenport Village

**When:** Sept. 15, 6 - 8 p.m.

**Why:** Join us in welcoming Serasana to our neighborhood. Serasana is a studio with yoga, acupuncture, massage and a tea bar. This very special open house will include beverages and bites!

**RSVP:** Please email [donna.m@n2pub.com](mailto:donna.m@n2pub.com).

## Send In Your Contributions Today For The Next Issue!

The publication relies on neighborhood involvement to remain chocked full of great stories! Here are a few examples of what we are looking for:

**Athletes:** Recruiting kids and adults! We want to share your athletic accomplishments, whether it's learning to ride a bike, shooting hoops, running a marathon or anything in between.

**Share about your family:** Email us to learn how to help turn your neighborhood into a community!

**Have a cute pet?** Share your funny stories! To have your pet(s) highlighted in this publication, email us today.

**Kids:** Would you like to be the rock star of your neighborhood? Contact us to show off as Kid of the Month or Young Achiever!

**Attention Business Owners:** Did you know that you could highlight your business for free in this publication? What a great way to introduce your services to your neighbors!

**Do you love to cook?** Send in your favorite recipe to share with your community.

Email [donna.m@n2pub.com](mailto:donna.m@n2pub.com) today to reserve your spot. We look forward to hearing from you!