

# POST OAK SAVANNAH WILDLIFER



TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE

April 2015 Information for landowners and hunters in and around the Post Oak Savannah Volume 7, Number 1



Photo by Billy Lambert

## SPRING FLOWER TIME

*Billy C. Lambert, Jr.*

Well, another hunting season has come and gone. Although not quite as impressive as the previous year, several outstanding deer were harvested this season, both statewide and in the Post Oak. As of this writing, it appears that at least 3 deer from the Post Oak should qualify for the Boone and Crockett Club, pending the 60-day drying period. Plus, judging by the number of photos that appeared in my inbox, many young hunters were able to harvest their first deer, which is always nice to see.

An abundance of fall and winter precipitation should equate to a good spring wildflower display and better-than-average habitat conditions throughout the area. This, in turn, should result in healthy and productive wildlife populations. Those that were able to sneak in some late-winter prescribed burning should see added benefits as well. Precipitation for the Brazos Valley area currently sits at roughly 4 inches above normal. Hopefully the rains will continue throughout the spring and summer.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter. As always, feel free to distribute to any and all that are interested in reading it.

*If you would like to unsubscribe to this newsletter or if you received this e-mail from someone other than TPWD and would like to subscribe, please send an e-mail indicating such to [billy.lambert@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:billy.lambert@tpwd.texas.gov)*

# PLANT Profile



Photo by Billy Lambert

## *Indian Paintbrush*

*(Castilleja indivisa)*

**Billy C. Lambert, Jr.**

In your best Rod Serling voice - *Every year, thousands of hideous and sinister beings slowly emerge from the ground and proceed to terrorize the countryside, deliberately and intentionally strangling the life of those closest to them in an attempt to provide nourishment to their growing bodies.* OK, so maybe I watch too much television. But, it's all true though. Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja indivisa*) is a parasitic plant that often robs the root systems of neighboring plants for needed nutrients.

Also known as scarlet paintbrush, Texas paintbrush, Texas Indian paintbrush, and entireleaf Indian paintbrush, Indian paintbrush is an annual or biennial plant common throughout most of Texas as well as Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. A member of the snapdragon family, paintbrush thrives early in the year, from March through May or June, peaking in April. It is commonly seen amid other early-season flowering plants including bluebonnets, winecup, and phlox.

Primarily occurring in open areas, Indian paintbrush can be found in fallow fields, pastures, grassy meadows, wooded savannahs, and roadsides. Although it tends to grow best in full sunlight, the plant does have some shade tolerance. Likewise, paintbrush can grow on a variety of soil types with the exception of poorly-drained clay soils such as occur in frequently-flooded bottomlands. Paintbrush also seems to prefer slightly acidic soils, but not exclusively. For reasons not entirely known, paintbrush does well and is very prolific in some years, while the same area may not be as productive in other years.

A relatively small plant, several unbranched and erect stalks, reddish in color, form a cluster that rarely exceeds 18 inches tall. The linear leaves occurring on the lower portion of the plant are green and 2 – 3 inches long. Higher on the plant, the leaves are much smaller and bristled. The most noticeable parts of the plant are the striking reddish-orange 'blooms' that many assume are the flowers. The actual flowers, however, are light green, small, and hardly noticeable. But, the real flowers are surrounded by a clus-

ter of petal-like bracts, or sepals, that give the plant its striking appearance. The most common color is red, although white and yellow varieties occur occasionally. Combined, the flowers and bracts create spikes that range from 3-8 inches. Flowers are pollinated by butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees.

Flowering occurs in the spring and seeds are formed within a capsule at the base of the flower. The black or gray seeds are very small, with approximately 4 million seeds per pound. As an annual plant, paintbrush is propagated only by seed and this high seed production is very important for establishing plants in successive years. The seeds germinate during the fall and winter (requiring cold tempera-



Photo by Billy Lambert

tures) prior to growth the following spring. While good seed-to-soil contact is needed at the surface, it is important that seed not be buried when planted.

As mentioned previously, Indian paintbrushes are considered hemiparasitic, meaning that they can pull needed moisture and nutrients from the root systems of other host plants located nearby (some plants, however, are able to successfully grow without the assistance of other plants). The root of the paintbrush originates as a taproot. But, early in development, small, branching roots are formed that radiate from the taproot. These branching roots create structures, termed haustoria, that attach to the roots of other plants. Host species vary, but are often other forbs (such as bluebonnets) and grasses.

Not really noted as a beneficial forage plant for wildlife or livestock, Indian paintbrush does provide an important nectar source for early-migrating hummingbirds and insects, including butterflies, bees, and others. The aesthetic value is also important. But, from a horticultural standpoint, paintbrush may not be a good choice as transplanting is difficult due to the root relationship with other plants.

### Quotable Quote

*"The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant, "What good is it?" If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not."*

**Aldo Leopold**

## TROPHY Corner - Youth and First Harvest



Photo by Chad Catching

Luke Catching harvested this nice doe in December from Madison County.



Photo by Nick Philipello

After a month of hunting just this deer, Rylie Philipello was able to take this unique 12-point from Brazos County.



Photo by Jordan Austin

Emily Massey killed her first deer, a very impressive 12-point, from Madison County.

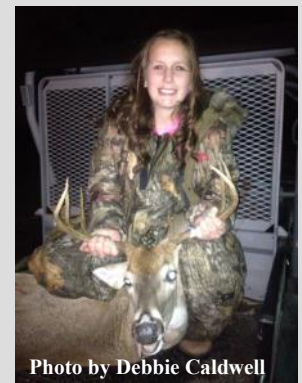


Photo by Debbie Caldwell

Macey Caldwell, 13 years old, took this nice 8 point in Robertson County.



Photo by Glenn Dodd

Reagan Kutach, 9 years old, harvested this nice 8-point from Milam County for his first deer.



Photo by Debbie Caldwell

Ten year old Riley Caldwell killed her first deer, an 8-point with a 23-inch spread, in Robertson County.



Photo by Phillip Dodd

Milam County produced another great 8-point first deer, this time for 8 year old Hayden Dodd.

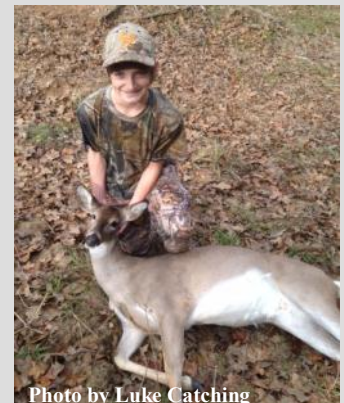


Photo by Luke Catching

Jake Catching harvested this nice doe in December from Madison County.

## BIOLOGIST Bio

**Larry D. LeBeau** is a wildlife biologist based in Tyler, Texas working for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. In LeBeau's 22 years of service to the department, he has served as a Wildlife Technician at the Cooper and White Oak Creek Wildlife Management Areas, Area Manager at the Old Sabine Bottom Wildlife Management Area and Regulatory Wildlife Biologist serving Wildlife District 5 and northeast Texas. LeBeau is currently the Site Manager and Facility Coordinator for the Regional Complex in Tyler and also provides technical guidance to Smith County landowners and wildlife managers.

LeBeau grew up in Southeast Texas and traveled to Lubbock, Texas to attend Texas Tech University. LeBeau received his B.S. degree in Wildlife Management in 1989 and thereafter began his career in natural resource management. His first position was working for T. Boone Pickens in the Texas Panhandle conducting wildlife management activities on his three ranches and guiding quail hunts.

"Hunting bobwhite quail behind some of the best pedigreed short-haired pointers in the business is truly one of the best hunting pleasures any sportsman will ever experience." After four valuable years of experience in the private sector, LeBeau moved to public service by accepting a position with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 1993.



Photo by Alexa LeBeau

LeBeau has a passion for the outdoors, both professionally and recreationally. LeBeau enjoys meeting with landowners and demonstrating various management techniques to achieve goals and objectives on private lands. He is very active in conducting outdoor educational programs for youth and strives to get young minds involved with natural

resource management and conservation. LeBeau is responsible for many wildlife population surveys including the Mid-Winter Waterfowl Surveys, alligator surveys, and annual spotlight deer surveys.

LeBeau serves as prescribed burn boss for District 5 and attempts to get landowners involved with reintroducing fire back into the Post Oak Savannah landscape.

LeBeau loves to fish. "Lake Sam Rayburn is second to none when it comes to bass fishing and with any spare time, that's where you'll find me." Long weekends along the Texas Coast chasing redfish and speckled trout are also a favorite and cooking his catch for a crowd just adds to the enjoyment. When it comes to hunting,

one of the best dates of the year for LeBeau is September 1<sup>st</sup> and the start of the new hunting season and annual family dove hunt. "It has been a treat to have my daughters hunt dove with me and for them to share the same passion for wing shooting as me." Larry can be reached at 903-566-1626 or at [larry.lebeau@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:larry.lebeau@tpwd.texas.gov).

# TEXAS DEER STUDY GROUP

*The Hunter's Role in Deer Management*



**USDA NRCS**  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



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SHADY RETREAT  
Artwork courtesy of Mike Childress and TBGA

**DAY 1** Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. & dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.

- The Hunter's Role in Deer Management
- Impacts of Predators on Deer Populations
- A Timeline of Deer Management
- Managing Deer with Other Species in Mind
- The Value of Early Succession Habitat
- East Texas Deer Management
- A Look Into the Deer Management Regulation Process: How and Why Regulations are Made
- Facts and Myths About Regulations During Hunting Season
- Deer Management: From a Landowner Perspective
- Forest Management for Deer
- Native Vegetation Restoration for Wildlife
- Round Table Discussion: Promoting Hunter Ethic

**DAY 2**

- Field Tour at Big Woods on the Trinity

*\*Agenda subject to change\**

**Date:** April 9-10, 2015

**Location:** Ben E. Keith Conf. Room  
2019 West Oak Street, Palestine, TX

**Fees:** Includes 2 meals and handout materials

Pre Registration (Before 4/1) - \$75

Late Registration (After 4/1) - \$100

*No refunds after 4/9*

#### Hotels

Comfort Suites : (903) 723-0284  
Hampton Inn and Suites: (903) 723-0016  
La Quinta Inn and Suites: (903) 723-1387

NAME:

Organization or Ranch Affiliation (if applicable)

Address:

City, State, Zip, COUNTY

Phone

Email (print CLEARLY)

Register online at

[www.texas-wildlife.org/  
resources/events/texas-deer-  
study-group-2015](http://www.texas-wildlife.org/resources/events/texas-deer-study-group-2015)

Mail form and payment to:

TWA-TDSG  
3660 Thousand Oaks Dr., #126  
San Antonio, TX 78247

Do you plan to attend Friday's Field  
Day at Big Woods on the Trinity?  
\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Early (Before 4/1): \$75

Late (After 4/1): \$100

Amount enclosed:

Payment Form:  Check  Visa  
 AmEx  M/C

Make Checks payable to: TWA-TDSG

Credit Card Number

Exp. date Security code Billing Zip

Signature

\*For registration confirmation and all future communication regarding Texas Deer Study Group\*

For more information, contact  
Clint Faas (cfaas@texas-wildlife.org) or (979) 541-9803

# WILDLIFE Profile



Photo by Bill Reaves

## COYOTE

(*Canis latrans*)

Rick Knipe

One summer day, not long ago, I was standing knee deep in the frigid riffles of the Rio Grande River just below the continental divide, fly-casting upstream to a pod of wild trout sipping hatched mayflies from the surface of a pool. Occasionally, I'd glance away from the water to admire the untouched wilderness scenery and comb for wildlife. It was late afternoon when a tuft of hair and the tip of an ear caught my eye.

Half a football field away, up the gentle slope of the river, a lone, spindly, Engelmann spruce, struggling to survive an unforgiving alpine environment, broke the landscape. Hunkered down on the far side of the spruce, peaking through sparse needles on a branch, was the profile of a pair of coyotes, bluffing a hide. I watched them cocking their heads left to right, studying me with intense fascination and curiosity – what I was doing standing in their river waving a long skinny stick.

It is believed the common name “Coyote” comes from the Aztec word *coyotl*, which means “barking dog”. In addition, the scientific name of the coyote, *Canis latrans* is Latin, *Canis* for “dog” and “*latrans*” for “howling” or “barking”. Smaller than the wolf and larger than a fox, body color varies, but typically the coyote is light brown to gray with rusty sides, legs, feet, and ears with ashen undersides and a bushy, black-tipped tail. Overall, the appearance resembles a large collie or a small German shepherd, minus the bushy tail, and is often challenging to identify from certain breeds of dogs.

Unlike the dog and wolf, which runs with their tails upright, or level like the fox, the coyote runs with the tail held down between their long legs. At shoulder height, the coyote stands 15-20” has a body length of 32-40”, a 12-15” tail, and normally weighs between 18-40 pounds. On occasion, individuals can weigh as much as 50 pounds.

Highly adaptable and widespread, coyotes inhabit urban and suburban areas, deserts, grassland, woodlands, agricultural

areas, mountains and elevations up to 12,000. Mixed habitats or “edges” are most preferred with large expanses of contiguous forestland least desirable. The past half century, coyotes have adapted well to suburbia.

Habits vary subject to locality, and coyotes may be nocturnal or diurnal depending on prey activity and human disturbance. They travel alone, in pairs, or packs consisting of a mated pair and offspring. Coyotes range throughout the U.S. and Canada and Central and South America. Coyotes have been known to live up to 18 years in captivity, and 14 years in the wild, but most live 6-8 years. Home range size is variable depending on location, seasons, and individuals. Some coyotes tracked with telemetry collars traveled more than 400 miles in several days. Territorial boundaries of about 4-8 square miles are scent-marked with urine and defended by packs. Roaming coyotes will urinate or defecate on “scent posts” which may be a fence post, power pole, stump, bush, rock, dried cow patty, or a bare spot, and leave their mark.

Intelligent and versatile hunter-scavengers, coyotes are best described as opportunistic omnivores. They usually hunt alone for mice, squirrels, rabbits and other small mammals, domestic livestock, birds, snakes, lizards, insects, frogs, eggs, fruits, vegetable matter, and garbage.



Photo by Bill Reaves

Coyotes also feed on carrion and store uneaten food under leaves and soil. Stomach analysis from one study indicated 76 percent of their diet consisted of rabbits (33%), carrion (25%), and rodents (18%).

Fast runners, coyotes can travel 25-30 mph and may reach 40 mph for shorter distances to catch larger prey. Occasionally, several coyotes may down a larger animal such as an elk or deer, especially if the prey is weak or sick (although they can take adult animals as well). In Texas, predation of white-tailed deer fawns is common. A formidable swimmer, there is no hesitancy to enter water in pursuit of prey. Coyotes have even been observed fishing.

Dens occur in brushy thickets, culverts, hollow logs, riverbanks, hillsides, under large rocks, or tree roots that create a cavity where the female gives birth. Females may dig their own den or enlarge the den of another critter.

A monogamous animal, courting often occurs 2-3 months before mating, with pairs staying together for many years or even for life. In late pregnancy, the male often hunts singly and brings food to his mate. Coyotes have one litter per year and breeding occurs mid to late winter. Gestation is 63 days on average, with a typical litter size of 4-6 pups born blind and helpless. The eyes open at 8-14 days. Pups nurse for 2-3 weeks then emerge from the den while both parents and older siblings feed the young (pups) regurgitated food. Pups can walk at 20 days and run at six weeks of age. At 5-7 weeks pups are weaned and become independent at 6-9 months. Once the pup leaves, the mother abandons the den but will often return year after year in the spring to use the same den.

Tracks of the forepaw are roughly 2 1/4" long, round to slightly oval. Claws are usually present, inside toe slightly larger than the outside, and the hind paw is slightly smaller. Prints are left as a straight line of single tracks with hind paws falling near or directly on fore prints when walking, often wiping out the forepaw tracks. Frequently trots with body turned to the side leaving a 2 X 2 track pattern. Stride when walking 12-15", and when running, 24-30".

Vocalizations of the coyote vary, but the most recognizable, performed at dusk, dawn, or during the night, is characterized by a string of barks and yelps, followed by an extended howl and ending with short, sharp yaps. This call alerts members of the band of their locations and when separated, aids to reunite them. A single call usually rouses other individuals to join in, resulting in a chorus of high-pitched howling and yipping and heard sometimes for miles away. Barking alone, like a dog, appears to be a threat display employed in defense of a den or a kill.

The coyote-dog hybrid, known as "coy-dogs" occur through the coyotes range. Consequently, because the breeding season of hybrids is arbitrary, most are unable to reproduce back into the coyote populations.

With declining populations of predators, including grizzly and black bears, mountain lions, and wolves, man has become the coyote's greatest foe. Mountain lions, eagles, hawks, great horned owls, and other coyotes may take pups. Coyotes are often wrongly accused of killing lambs, pigs, poultry and pets. Despite years of being trapped, shot, and poisoned, coyotes have maintained their numbers and significantly expanded their range. In the 1970s and 1980s, coyote pelts became quite valuable, but following the crash of the fur market the demand has declined.

And so clever is the coyote. One Arizona winter over a period of several months, a crafty old male meticulously uncovered, dug up, and sprung a string of #3 double spring Victors I'd set along a high desert wash. But this day, a Monday, would be very different, he finally miscalculated and took that compromising misstep.

## LINKS OF INTEREST

Information and forms pertaining to the Agricultural Tax Appraisal Based on Wildlife Management:

[www.tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/private/agricultural\\_land/](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/private/agricultural_land/)

Online application system for drawn Texas Parks and Wildlife public hunts:

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/public/public\\_hunt\\_drawing/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/public/public_hunt_drawing/)

Website containing wildlife cams from around the nation:

[www.thewildlifecam.com/](http://www.thewildlifecam.com/)

Identification guides for wildlife and plants:

[www.discoverlife.org/nh/id/](http://www.discoverlife.org/nh/id/)

Texas Parks and Wildlife boat registration renewal:

<https://apps.tpwd.state.tx.us/bora/home.seam>

Texas Parks and Wildlife Texas River Guide:

[www.tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/habitats/rivers/](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/habitats/rivers/)



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**Activities To Include:**

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Wild Game Cooking Class

Hunter Education Class

Airgun Range hosted by Lufkin NWTF Chapter

Operation Game Thief Exhibit, Texas Game Wardens

TWA Conservation Legacy Youth Educational Programs

Project Wild Activities for Youth

TPWD Wildlife and Habitat Seminars

**Schedule of Events, all times approx:**

1pm Trophy Check-in Open

2pm-5pm Seminars and Activities

5pm Awards Dinner

6pm Awards Presentation

7pm Announce Raffle Winner and Show Closes

**Those Interested in Taking Hunter Education While At the Event:**

9:00am – 4:00pm Hunter Education Class

Contact Donnie Kee: phone (936) 635-4416.

Cost is \$15, no checks. Anyone under 17 will need a parent or guardians signature to take the class.





## RESEARCH Summary

### GOOFY STUFF FOUND ON DEER - Part 1

*Billy C. Lambert, Jr.*

I know, it's not exactly the hard-hitting, thought-provoking, and articulately-written title that will place me among the elite of the world's great writers, but it at least got you to read the first paragraph which is all I was really after. If I had titled it "Stuff that makes you gag," you probably would have stopped reading.

Each hunting season, biologists around the state receive many e-mails and phone calls from hunters related to parasites, injuries, or abnormalities with the animals that they've harvested. Some are relatively common, while others are rarely seen and hard to explain, even for biologists.

Fortunately, there are a variety of qualified individuals and entities that are able to shed some light on miscellaneous ailments or conditions that periodically occur with deer (and other critters as well). Examples of such agencies include the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab, Texas A&M Vet School, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, Texas Animal Health Commission, and many others. Most of the folks associated with these agencies, though, are pretty smart, so the downside is that they tend to give detailed answers with lots of big words (some of which I still haven't seen on word-of-the-day toilet paper). So beware.

#### Coloration

Most deer look like deer (how's that for hard-hitting analysis). But on occasion, interesting variations in coat color do pop up. Examples include melanism, piebalds, and albinos, as well as light-colored non-albinos (leucistic) and adult deer with light spots reminiscent of fawns. Other examples might include skin disorders (bacterial, fungal, etc.) and other hair loss events or behaviors.

Probably the easiest color variation to start with is albinism (bottom right photo), which is simply a recessive genetic condition that results in the complete absence of melanin (one of the skin pigments). Melanin is important for protecting the eyes and skin from UV radiation. This, and the fact the albinos are more visible to predators, results in greatly reduced survival rates for albino deer.

Leucism (top right photo) is a similar recessive condition that results in a lighter-than-normal coloration due to reductions in all skin pigments (not just melanin). The main visu-



Photo by David Curtis

Photo James Blakely



www.thejump.net

www.cutestpaw.com

al difference from albinos, though, is that leucistic deer have dark eyes, as seen in this example from Polk County. Many have seen the piebald deer (top left photo) taken near Palestine in 2008. A piebald is a partially-leucistic deer that has irregular patches of normal coat color combined with areas that lack pigmentation.

The most rare of the color variations is melanism, which is caused by an excess of melanin, and results in darker-than-normal coat coloration. Examples can range from a slightly darker appearance to completely black, such as occurred with this Pennsylvania deer (bottom left photo above). Despite its rarity, there is an area in the Texas Hill Country that seems to have a much higher incidence of melanistic deer compared to the remainder of the whitetails range in the United States. John Baccus, Adjunct Professor at Texas Tech University and Regents' Professor and Distinguished Professor at Texas State University is one of the leading authorities on melanistic deer.

Another interesting color anomaly occurs when an adult white-tailed deer exhibits spots similar to that of a fawn. Although I couldn't find estimates for how rare this condition is, or really what even causes it, I have only personally seen it once in Madison County. Both photos on the next page were also taken in Texas, the second a 6.5-year-old



Photo provided by Alan Cain



Photo by Ragan White

doe from Red River county. Many folks question if this condition might be the result of a cross between a white-tailed deer and an axis, sika, or fallow deer, but these types of hybrids are not possible.

While on the subject of spots, an interesting coat 'variation' that I had never seen before occurred in the fall of 2010 in a subdivision near The Woodlands. A white-tailed deer fawn was born very late that year (late August or early September) in a 4-foot fenced yard that the small fawn could not escape (not intended). The homeowner noted the late birth and called me. The same landowner called me several months later to say that the doe was still coming to the yard to care for the fawn and that it was still spotted (pic taken in late March 2011). As most fawns lose their spots within the first 3 or 4 months, it seemed highly unusual for a fawn to retain its spots for the first 6+ months. I sought the assistance of several folks smarter than myself, and Dr. Dave Hewitt with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville came up with the most likely cause: "Interesting, assuming it is a whitetail (which it looks like). Fawns lose their spots when they grow their winter coat. I wonder if this fawn has some hormonal abnormality that is preventing it from responding to changes in day length. Will be interesting to see if its coat changes later this spring when deer get their summer coats. In

addition, your idea that the late birth was involved may be correct. Perhaps the fawn was born late enough that it did not respond to the shortening day length and thus did not grow a winter coat. If the fawn fails to grow a summer coat, it probably has some physiologic abnormality. If the fawn sheds normally and grows a summer coat, that would be evidence it was simply born too late to grow a winter coat." After approximately 7 months, the deer did switch to a summer coat and finally lost its spots.



Photo by Ken Cassady

### Skin Conditions

Aside from genetic reasons for coat color variations, other factors can affect a deer's appearance. The following photo, taken in Milam County, is a good example. According to Dr. John Fischer with at Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the University of Georgia: "I agree that it looks like an abnormal skin condition rather than a color anomaly as in a piebald deer. It is tough to say what is causing it---possibly mange due to Demodex, although it doesn't look exactly like most cases. Other possibilities include a fungal infection (ringworm) which is very uncommon in deer, or a bacterial infection due to Dermatophilus, although this is generally seen in fawns rather than adults. Sorry I cannot be of more help. With a carcass or some skin samples from a carcass, we might get a bit closer to the diagnosis."



Photo by Karl Wuensche

Here is another example from Anderson County (photo next page). According to Dr. Bob Dittmar, a Wildlife Veterinarian with TPWD, "It's a little tough to get a good look as is in shadow, but my first guess is dermatophilosis, which is a superficial bacterial infection of the skin. This usually has

scabby patches of hair that are pussy looking when plucked out. It likes moist weather, can spread to other deer and is transmissible to humans. Can be spread by biting insects. Could also be some sort of fungal infection (i.e. ringworm) or some type of mite infestation though I think this is less likely. All these generally run their course and get better. It's nearly impossible to make a good diagnosis from pictures so if landowner wants to pursue, harvesting one of the deer and getting good samples would help."



Photo provided by Jim Langford

Another example below, from Burleson County, with further explanation from Dr. Dittmar: "My impression of this photo is that dermatophilosis is a possibility but would lean more toward some other type of skin infection (dermatitis). I think I would consider some irritation to the skin that might be initiated by insects (flies, gnats, mites or as you mentioned fire ants) or possibly some type of plant irritation. It appears to affect mostly the head and lower body so contact with plants could explain that. There appears to be some mild secondary infection. This could cause itching, or whatever is the primary cause could cause itching, leading to excessive scratching that is causing the open sores."



Photo provided by Steve Reed

### Shedding and Grooming

Other common examples of out-of-the-ordinary coat appearance include the normal shedding events that occur each year in the spring and fall as well as grooming behaviors. Each fall, usually around late August to October in our

area, deer shed their summer coat and replace it with a winter coat. During this transitional phase, it is not uncommon to see deer that appear "patchy," with some parts of the body in the summer brown pelage and some parts with the grey winter pelage. Here is an example from a few years ago in Milam County.



Photo by Dave Skinner

Likewise, in the spring, a similar phenomenon occurs. But, when switching from a winter coat to a summer coat, oftentimes a deer will appear "shaggy." For this example from Burleson County, my response was: "Looks like 2 things may be going on. First, it looks like the deer are switching coats from their winter coat to their summer coat (most obvious in the daytime photo), causing a fluffy appearance as the hair starts coming out. The individualized clumps look like the deer are pulling the hair out, which in a pen setting sometimes indicates a protein deficiency, but in your case, I'd guess it is just normal deer-to-deer grooming, and since the coat is coming out because of the coat change, it's coming out in clumps. Another possibility is parasites/flyes bothering the deer (more grooming again). But, whatever it is, I doubt there is anything to worry about, just goofy-looking deer for a few weeks."



Photo by Michael Martensen

Here is another example (next page) of what appears to be grooming activity along with my response: "Looks like other deer have been pulling her hair out. You see it quite a bit in pens. Reasons are not entirely known, but guesses usually revolve around a grooming thing, some sort of social interaction, or nutritional reason (protein deficiency).

Looks painful when they do it - a deer will walk up to another, grab a mouthful of hair, and yank it out, then repeat. The ‘puller’ usually swallows the hair.”



Photo by Mike Rubner

### Parasites

When considering both internal and external, a discussion of parasites alone could get pretty lengthy, so we’ll just cover a few of the common ones that folks have seen and questioned over the last several years.

Just about everybody is familiar with the common external parasites that commonly occur on deer, including ticks, midges, mites, fleas, lice, and louse flies. But this one was interesting because most people are not able to get a close look at antlers while they are actively growing. During growth, there is considerable blood flow to the antlers, and as such, they are susceptible to tick infestations. This deer had to be put down in Robertson County last year due to injuries, but also had several ticks attached to the antlers near the bases and brow tines.



Photo by Billy Lambert

Another common condition that always seems to generate questions deals with cutaneous fibromas, which are wart-like structures that can be found anywhere on the hide of a deer. While unsightly, most are temporary and have no last-

ing effect on the deer and the meat is not affected. The cause is actually a virus transmitted by biting insects. The fibromas can occur singly or in clusters and eventually fall off with no permanent damage. On rare occasions, the number of fibromas can be so extreme that normal body functions can become impaired, sometimes resulting in death. The first example, from Milam County, shows a typical occurrence of fibromas, while the second example, from Leon County, illustrates an extreme case.



Photo by Dominic Izzo



Photo by Rick Knipe

5.31.1999

Moving to internal parasites, most folks are concerned when a worm shows up in the deer that they just harvested and there are many potential possibilities (lungworm, flukes, meningeal worms, arterial worms, etc.). Most possess no harmful effects to humans. The following, near Athens, TX, is a good case in point (next page). Hunters harvested a doe and donated it to a shelter. While processing the animal, these *Setaria* abdominal worms were found. The meat was considered inedible and was disposed of. To be sure of the parasite identification, I checked with Dr. Don Davis, Associate Professor with Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University: “I concur with your diagnosis. Looks like *Setaria* to me. Too bad they disposed of the carcass. No public health concerns.”



Photos by David Stewart

“Lumpy Jaw” is another relatively common condition that many hunters have noticed and reported. The facial swelling along the lower jaw can be the result of other factors, but the majority of cases are the result of food impaction with the root cause being arterial worms. Severe cases can lead to tooth loss, infection, deformed jaws, abscesses, and death. The two examples below are from Brazos and Navarro Counties.



Photo provided by Tim Siegmund

Photo by Aubie Nash

Probably the most common “what’s wrong with my deer” question that pops up each year deals with nasal bots, which are the larval form of the deer botfly (similar in appearance to small bumblebees). While some references suggest that the eggs of the fly actually hatch in the uterus of the adult female fly and are then deposited on the nose of a deer, others indicate that an egg sac is deposited directly on the nose of the deer. Regardless, the tiny larvae enter through the deer’s nostrils and travel up the nasal passages to the base



Photo by Billy Lambert

of the tongue and retropharyngeal pouches within the head of the deer (sounds like a bad science fiction movie). Fully-developed larvae then exit the deer to complete their life cycle and transform into adult botflies. Interestingly, the adult flies do not have mouth parts and are incapable of feeding, so they must breed quickly before they die. Although unsightly, presence of nasal bots in harvested deer is common and the meat is not affected.

Although not normally noticed by many hunters due to where they are located, the presence of large tapeworms, when found, can be a little disconcerting. Upon necropsy of this deer in Polk County, the biologist discovered 2 tapeworms in the small intestine, one 10-foot long and the other 12-foot long. Deer are an intermediate host of the canid tapeworm, the variety most commonly found in deer. The cycle begins as canines pass eggs along with feces. The eggs are then consumed by deer as they forage and the larvae migrate to the viscera. Canids then consume the worms as they feed on infected deer, and the cycle repeats. According to Dr. Davis, “Tapeworms are generally not very pathogenic as long as they mature in the intestines and there are not too many of the worms in the host. If, however, the worms end up in the wrong part or organ of the host, that can be very serious”.



Photo by Chris Gregory

Well, since by now we’re all probably feeling a little queasy, we’ll hold off on the rest of the fun stuff until a future issue of the newsletter. Part 2 will deal with growths, injuries, potential diseases, and other miscellaneous ailments with deer. I know you can’t wait.

## TROPHY Corner



Photo by Carolyn Dorner

Ronnie Dorner harvested this potential Boone & Crockett deer from Milam county with a bow. Pending the drying period, the 20-point grosses 203 3/8 and nets 195 5/8.



Photo by Aaron Flencher

Amanda Flencher shot his brute of a buck with a crossbow in Burleson county. The 11-point weighed in at 190 pounds and scored 133 2/8.



Photo by Robert Herrera

Donald Bilnoski harvested this large non-typical from Grimes county. The deer had 14 scorable points, a live weight of 188 pounds, and gross-scored 160 inches.

## NEW TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE APP

### *My Texas Hunt Harvest*

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is excited to announce the launch of the new *My Texas Hunt Harvest* official app. Starting with this year's spring turkey season, Texas hunters can now voluntarily report and track their harvested game easily from a smartphone or tablet. Hunters can also log harvests for all resident game species, including white-tailed deer. The information collected will help Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists assess annual harvest and manage healthy game populations across Texas. With *My Texas Hunt Harvest*, hunters can:

Log your harvested game animals, including all resident game species.

View their harvest history, including dates and locations of every hunt.

After a one-time login, easily access their TPWD customer number for future reference.

Eastern turkey hunters can complete their mandatory check-in without actually visiting a physical check station. Spring 2015 will be the final season that check stations are available. Turkey hunters may also report their online harvest at:

[www.tpwd.texas.gov/turkey](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/turkey)

Download *My Texas Hunt Harvest* to test it out yourself! And share the app with your fellow hunters and land-owners. The app is available at Google Play for Android devices and will be available at the App Store for IOS devices in the very near future. If you don't have access to a smart device you may also report your harvest at:

<https://apps.tpwd.state.tx.us/whs/>

Note: The electronic reporting options do not fulfill tagging requirements for any game required to be tagged, or requirements for completion of the harvest log on the back of the license as it applies to white-tailed deer.

## LAMBERT, WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER

*Billy C. Lambert, Jr.*

*While the actual intent of the newsletter is to educate and inform, after that last article, I figured we needed a break...*

My name's Lambert. I'm a photographer. A wildlife photographer. A *professional* wildlife photographer. I'm also poor. They say artists, such as myself, need to suffer in order to transfer all that suffering into creativeness in their work. I'm not exactly sure who 'they' are, but I wish they'd get off my back. If I suffer any more, my skin might fall off. The odd thing is that I am, without a doubt, the best wildlife photographer the world has ever seen. At least that's what my mommy told me.

It seems, though, that people who actually buy photographs all seem to have a different creative style than myself. As an example, for some strange reason, they tend to like photographs that are in focus, and correctly exposed, and weird stuff like that. It doesn't make any sense to me. Whatever happened to creativity? I have decided the only way to bring these people around is to plead my case in writing in front of the world. I have to do it in writing because nobody will buy my photographs.

My wildlife photography career started off at an early age, back in the days of the 110 and disc cameras. I had always enjoyed hunting and fishing with my Dad, and what better way to remember those occasions than with photos? While out hunting one day, a doe walked out at about 150 yards. "Hey," I figured, "why don't I take its picture, get famous, and sell pictures for the rest of my life?" I carefully pointed the camera, composed the photograph, and snapped the picture with shaking hands. After all, my future as a rich and famous person might very well depend on this photo.

When the pictures came back from the developer, I excitedly flipped through and found my first wildlife photograph, some trees with a dot underneath (disc cameras didn't have zoom capabilities). Soon, I had hundreds of professional-quality images of deer and birds and insects and fish and things: trees with dots in them, sky with dots in them, and water, yes, with dots in them. Well-meaning people soon were raving about my dots; said they were the best dots they had ever seen. I was hooked.

When I went off to college, I majored in wildlife management so I would constantly be around photography subjects. Soon, my photographic capabilities were known throughout the department, even though they had never actually seen any of my masterpieces. I had casually mentioned that I occasionally took a picture or two and many of the better outdoor publications frequently requested my photos. Not

realizing that I'm basically a dishonest person, they believed me. One day, the scheduled speaker for the wildlife club meeting canceled, so they asked me to give a presentation and display my photos. I was honored. Here was my first big opportunity to strut my stuff.

I began the talk with assorted photos from my Near-Miss Collection, photos where the animals were in the viewfinder a split second before I snapped the picture, but had mysteriously disappeared by the time I actually took the photo. By the confused look on everyone's faces, I knew they were having trouble grasping the creative genius that made these pictures so special.

Undaunted, I moved on to my insect photos, some of my personal favorites. I had learned years ago, that because bugs are unpredictable and move around so much, the best way to get their picture was to step on them first. They don't move a whole lot after that, and you can generally put them in any position or setting that you want. In the beginning, I wiped away all of the gooey stuff that usually results from stomping a bug before I took the picture. But, that was messy and time-consuming, not to mention the fact that it made me nauseous. So, I decided to just leave the goo in because it might just add that certain something to an otherwise boring photo. Many times an interesting mosaic or abstract effect resulted. My "Roach Underfoot" was a big hit, as was "Squished Mosquito on Face." But the best was "Squirting Caterpillar Goo." A few people had to leave the room after that one, I assume, because they were so touched by the experience.

I then moved on to my Road-Kill Collection, a stunning assemblage of wildlife species shortly after their demise. Some of the better photos included "Unlucky Speed Bump - A Tortoise with Bad Timing", "The Real Reason the Chicken Didn't Cross the Road," and "Hey Diddle Diddle,



Photo by Billy Lambert

*My first wildlife photograph, circa 1980*

## UPCOMING Event!

### LONESTAR LONGBEARDS National Wild Turkey Federation

May 14, 2015

Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, TX

The Lonestar Longbeards will hold their annual NWF fundraising banquet at the Brazos Center in Bryan, TX at 6:00 pm on 14 May 2015. Dinner, open bar, silent and live auction items, door prizes, and many raffle items including rifles, shotguns, pistols, limited edition prints and sculptures, and various hunting equipment. For more information, contact Darrin Allen at 979-219-0286.

the Cat and the Chevy". I ended the presentation with "Semi Meets Slow Herd of Hogs," an incredible display where I had to join multiple photos together to get it all in. Many in the audience were now in tears. By the end of the presentation, they sat stunned and speechless. I now knew that I had the talent and capabilities to bring out emotions in people. I figured I'd better go professional.

So, I began calling photo editors for all of the big-time magazines. I prematurely explained to them that I was a professional, and that I had hundreds of magazine-quality photographs ready for publication. In fact, I told them, I had just presented my photos to a large group of critics and fans, and they were 'overwhelmed'.

The magazine people were extremely interested and were willing to pay top dollar, so I sent them all of the photos I had. You should have seen the nasty letters they sent back. Some of them even used profanity. Apparently, they didn't seem to think that dead animals suited their purpose. I don't know why, alive or dead, it's the same animals! They don't look any different! Actually, maybe some of the road-kills weren't anatomically complete, but still, *most* of the pieces were there!

They also didn't understand the artistic significance of my near-miss photos. Surely you, the reading audience, can understand the beauty in looking at wildlife photographs with no wildlife in them. The key is to just imagine what was there a split second before. You can plug in any sort of wildlife you want! I get chills just thinking of it. But, you just can't please these arrogant photo-buyers. Since I was determined to be successful in the field of wildlife photography, I decided to try and give them what they wanted - tasteful pictures with live animals in them.

Realizing that I needed good equipment in order to compete in the cut-throat world of photography, I went out and

bought a brand-new 35mm SLR camera with 2 lenses. Textbooks and manuals will tell you that SLR stands for Single Lens Reflex. After I bought it, however, I realized that SLR really stood for Substantial Loan Required. I paid \$400 more for the camera setup than I sold my first car for. Having not bought a new camera in many, many years, I was overwhelmed with all of the new features. Those new features are now commonly referred to by me as "those buttons, dials, and knobs," as in "I don't know what all of those buttons, dials, and knobs do." I tried to read the manual, but it didn't make any sense. It was as if it was written in Spanish. Then I realized it was written in Spanish. Apparently, manuals are written in multiple languages now.

Probably my greatest achievement in the world of wildlife photography came many years back while on a ranch in South Texas. I took an absolutely stunning picture of a white-tailed deer, a deer that probably would have been the new world's record non-typical. The exposure was immaculate, the focus so sharp you could see individual particles of mist as the deer exhaled. The subject was expertly placed slightly off-center and was framed with beautiful blooming vegetation. If there would have been film in the camera, it would have been even better.

I knew that not actually having the photograph would probably pose a problem when I tried to sell it to all the major outdoor magazines. They're all such perfectionists. Undaunted, I drew the picture out on a piece of notebook paper as best as I could remember it and shipped it off. It was good, too. You'd be surprised what a good set of crayons can do in the hands of a skilled wildlife photographer. I still haven't heard back from anybody, though. I guess they're still stunned.







**BEDIAS CREEK**  
**SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT #428**  
 120 South Elm, Suite #110, Madisonville, Texas 77864 (936) 348-2173

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Agriculture Land Workshop**  
***“Getting the MOST out of Your Acreage”***

Friday, April 24, 2015 ‘Kimbrow Center’ 113 West Trinity, Madisonville, TX 77864

Registration \$20 ..... 8:30 a.m.  
 View Sponsor Exhibits – Donuts & Coffee sponsored by:

Welcoming Comments and Overview ..... 9:00 a.m.  
 Welcome: Charlie Price – Chairman Bedias Creek SWCD  
 Overview: Karen Hadaway – Director Bedias Creek SWCD

PASTURES AND FORAGE CLOVERS- *Vanessa Corriher-Olson*..... 9:30 a.m.  
 Forage Extension Specialist, Texas A&M University [VACorriher@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:VACorriher@ag.tamu.edu)

NATIVE GRASS PLANTING SOLUTIONS– *Timothy Siegmund* .....10:30 a.m.  
 Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife [Tim.Siegmund@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Tim.Siegmund@tpwd.texas.gov)

DEVELOPING A WILDLIFE PLAN FOR AG VALUATION- *Billy Lambert*. .....11:30 a.m.  
 Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife [Billy.Lambert@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Billy.Lambert@tpwd.texas.gov)

Lunch - .....12:30 - 1:00 p.m.  
 -- View Sponsors Exhibits -- acknowledgments- see listing on back of agenda

TREE HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT- *Michael Easley*.....1:00 p.m.  
 District Forester II, Texas A&M Forest Service [MEasley@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:MEasley@tfs.tamu.edu)

GRAZING STRATEGIES FOR SMALL ACREAGE- *Jason Hohlt* .....2:00 p.m.  
 Rangeland Management Specialist, USDA-NRCS [Jason.Hohlt@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Jason.Hohlt@tx.usda.gov)

Closing Comments – CEU (2 GEN) - ..... 3:00 p.m.

**‘VISION’ IS WHEN YOU SEE IT AND OTHERS DON’T ‘FAITH’ IS WHEN YOU DO IT AND OTHERS WON’T**

*‘Sponsors’ Supporting this Program are listed on the Back of this Page*



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*Oakwood*   *Flynn*   *North Zulch*   *Bedias*   *Madisonville*

[BediasCreek@swcd.texas.gov](mailto:BediasCreek@swcd.texas.gov)   *Assisting land owners and land users with conservation challenges and programs.*   <http://bedias-walker.tx.nacdn.net/>

# Don't Undermine Turkey Restoration in Texas!

## Releasing Pen-Reared Turkeys is Illegal

Jason Hardin

Texas and most of the country has been very successful at restoring wild turkeys to their historic range and beyond. Texas currently has the highest density of Rio Grande turkeys in the country and routinely has some of the highest densities of turkeys, turkey hunters, and turkey harvest in the U.S.

Texas is home to three subspecies of wild turkeys. In addition to a huge population of Rio Grande's, Texas also has Eastern wild turkeys and a small number of Merriam's wild turkeys. Merriam's are so few in number and so closely associated with Rio Grande turkeys that this subspecies is actually managed as a Rio Grande from a regulatory standpoint.

Despite years of effort, the restoration of the Eastern wild turkeys in Texas has not been as successful as in other states where the Eastern wild turkeys range. Early restoration efforts focused on releasing pen-raised birds, but these efforts met with extreme disappointment due to the low survival rates among pen-raised birds. This approach hampered the wild turkey's comeback for nearly two decades. Because of what was learned from these early attempts and other concerns, like disease, it is illegal to release pen-raised turkeys into the wild in Texas.

Unfortunately, many landowners are not aware or have ignored the regulations regarding the release pen-raised turkeys into the wild. This illegal activity increases the risk of diseases being introduced to existing wild turkey populations, can pollute the native genetic diversity of existing populations, can lead to predators more actively pursuing

turkeys, and can hamper ongoing wild turkey restoration efforts currently being conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

There appears to be a recent increase in the release of pen reared turkeys into the wild by well-meaning landowners as well as individuals who are knowingly violating the law. Unfortunately, these activities are pulling both law enforcement and biologists away from true restoration in order to address these pen-raised turkey issues.

TPWD recently reopened the Eastern wild turkey restoration program. However, TPWD will not release wild turkeys into areas occupied by pen-raised turkeys. TPWD Game

Wardens will also actively prosecute individuals releasing pen-raised turkeys into the wild.

For questions regarding wild turkey restoration, please visit with TPWD's wild turkey program leader, Jason Hardin at [jason.hardin@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:jason.hardin@tpwd.texas.gov).



Photo provided by Jason Hardin

This photo was taken in Van Zandt County in 2012. The homeowner asked, "Are these wild turkey?" as he took a photo with his smart phone and fed the birds by hand. The answer was a resounding "NO".



## Land Stewardship Practices for Wild Turkey

Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area  
 16149 North US Hwy 287  
 Tennessee Colony, Texas  
 May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015

- |               |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 - 9:00   | Registration, coffee and snacks                                                                                                                                 |
| 9:00 - 9:20   | Introduction to the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area – Jeff Gunnels, TPWD, Gus Engeling WMA Area Manager and Truman Lamb – Anderson County Extension Agent |
| 9:20 - 9:50   | The importance of private land stewardship for wildlife management – Mike Marshall – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - IRNR                                        |
| 9:50 - 10:20  | Biology & management for eastern wild turkey – Dr. Jim Cathey – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service                                                            |
| 10:20 - 10:30 | Break                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Wild turkey re-stocking and restoration efforts in East Texas – Jason Hardin – Texas Parks & Wildlife Department                                                |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | Native grass restoration and assistance programs – Tim Seigmund – Texas Parks & Wildlife Department                                                             |
| 11:30 - 12:00 | Questions & Answers about the wildlife tax valuation process – Tucker Slack – Texas Parks & Wildlife Department                                                 |
| 12:00 - 1:00  | Questions and Lunch                                                                                                                                             |
| 1:00 - 1:15   | GPS/GIS technology used for wildlife management – Kyle Hand – Stephen F. Austin State University                                                                |
| 1:15 - 1:30   | Travel to field site                                                                                                                                            |
| 1:30 - 2:15   | Using GPS technology in science to gain information on wild turkeys – Kyle Hand/ Tucker Slack                                                                   |
| 2:15 - 3:00   | The use of timber thinning to improve turkey habitat – Luke Lewis – National Wild Turkey Federation                                                             |
| 3:00 - 3:45   | Managing and maintaining grasslands with prescribed fire – Jeff Gunnels – TPWD                                                                                  |
| 3:45 - 4:00   | Questions, wrap up and evaluations                                                                                                                              |

**FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
 THE GUS ENGELING WMA AT 903-928-2251**

## Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Wildlife Division Region 3, District 5



## GUS ENGELING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

### *1st Friday Wildlife Habitat Management Workshop*

The Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area will host habitat workshops monthly from May thru August on the first Friday of each month. The workshops will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the Gus Engeling Wildlife Conservation Center. Attendees will receive a brief overview and history of the property and then will be taken on a guided tour of the WMA with a wildlife biologist. The tour will show attendees proper habitat management practices for the Post Oak Savannah Ecoregion. Attendees will see areas that show the progression of prescribed fire in various habitat types ranging from historically burned to entry level burns. Hardwood timber management techniques, strip disking and other mechanical treatments, harvest management, grazing management, and herbicide application will also be discussed. The workshops will be informal and open to discuss any further topics of interest by attendees. For more information, contact the Gus Engeling WMA at 903-928-2251.



# Wildlife Habitat Management Calendar

**Resource Links:**

**Texas Parks and Wildlife:**  
www.tpwd.texas.gov

**Texas A&M Forest Service:**  
www.texasforests.tamu.edu  
/main/default.aspx

**NRCS Texas:**  
www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension:**  
www.agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:**  
www.fws.gov

**Ragan White**

1509 CR 33900  
Powderly, TX 75473

903-784-2610

ragan.white@tpwd.texas.gov

**January**

Prescribed Fire (Cool)  
Native Grass Planting  
Hardwood Tree Planting  
Light Disking and High Mowing  
Feral Hog Removal  
Brush Control (Grazing)

**February**

Prescribed Fire (Cool)  
Native Grass Planting  
Hardwood Tree Planting  
Light Disking and High Mowing  
Feral Hog Removal  
Brush Control (Grazing)

**March**

Prescribed Fire (Cool)  
Native Grass Planting  
Hardwood Tree Planting  
Overseed Legumes (Warm)  
Feral Hog Removal  
Brush Control (Grazing)

**April**

Native Grass Planting  
Overseed Legumes (Warm)  
Avoid Grass Cutting (Fawns, Turkeys)  
Feral Hog Removal  
Remove Livestock from Wildlife Area

**May**

Avoid Grass Cutting (Fawns, Turkeys)  
Feral Hog Removal  
Remove Livestock from Wildlife Area

**June**

Prescribed Fire (Warm)  
Tame Grass Herbicide Work (Warm)  
Avoid Grass Cutting (Fawns, Turkeys)  
Feral Hog Removal  
Waterfowl Planting

**July**

Prescribed Fire (Warm)  
Tame Grass Herbicide Work (Warm)  
Brush Control  
Feral Hog Removal  
Waterfowl Planting  
Deer Surveys

**August**

Prescribed Fire (Warm)  
Tame Grass Herbicide Work (Warm)  
Feral Hog Removal  
Waterfowl Planting  
Deer Surveys

**September**

Reserve Hardwood Trees  
Overseed Legumes (Cool)  
Feral Hog Removal  
Deer Surveys & Stand Maintenance  
Mow around Ponds (Dove)

**October**

Reserve Hardwood Trees  
Overseed Legumes (Cool)  
Feral Hog Removal  
Tame Grass Herbicide Work (Cool)  
Harvest Management Deer  
Plant Wildflowers

**November**

Prescribed Fire  
Prepare Fire Guards  
Feral Hog Removal  
Deer Harvest

**December**

Prescribed Fire  
Prepare Fire Guards  
Feral Hog Removal  
Deer Harvest



Executive Director  
Carter P. Smith

Editor, *Post Oak Savannah Wildlifer*  
Billy C. Lambert, Jr.



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*"To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."*

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All inquiries: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4800 or visit our web site for detailed information about TPWD programs:

[www.tpwd.texas.gov](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov)

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