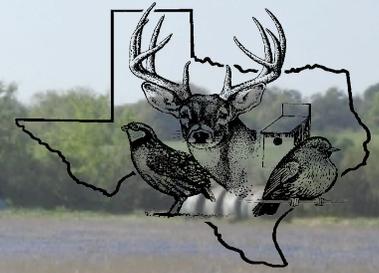


WASHINGTON COUNTY

# Wildlife Society

1305 E. Blue Bell Rd., Brenham, Texas 77833

Telephone 979-277-6212 Fax 979-277-6223 [www.wcwildlife.org](http://www.wcwildlife.org)

## Annual Summer Meeting and Raffle Fundraiser

Friday, August 23, 2013  
Washington County Events Center

### Building a Model for Excellence in Natural Resource Literacy

Margaret Lamar, WCWS member in Greenvine, will speak on a new effort underway with the Lake Somerville Resource Management Partnership. One of the primary focus areas of the Partnership is to increase education opportunities at Lake Somerville through innovative programs. The effort aims to build on community partnerships to develop a coordinated, multi-county approach to excellence in Natural Resource Literacy that will serve all children, land owners, and citizens for generations to come. If we can fully understand and care for our place, then we can instill those values in our children and be an example to all of those communities who are looking to do the same.

**Social will begin at 6:00 pm with catfish, chicken tenders and all the trimmings served at 7:00 pm.**

**\*\*\* Free Will Donation Dinner \*\*\***

**If you plan to attend, please call the AgriLife Extension Office by August 19th  
(979) 277-6212**

**A dessert table will be available if you would like to bring your favorite dessert.**

Margaret Lamar is committed to connecting communities to outdoor experiences and education. Through her private consulting business, she works with organizations locally in the Washington County area as well as statewide and nationally to increase participation in outdoor education. She currently works with the Lake Somerville Resource Management Partnership and with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Lewisville Lake to increase community access to Corps lakes. She has recently been the Director of Education for Houston Wilderness, a 24-county conservation organization. She is a founding leader in the Get Outdoors Houston! initiative and a member of the steering committee for the Partnership for Texas Children in Nature. She also serves as the leader of the Nature and Wellness team for the international organization, Children & Nature Network. She has spent 22 years creating educational programs that have reached students across the U.S. She has returned to Washington County to live with her husband and two sons on their land in Greenvine, and her favorite thing to do is to walk through dry creek beds with her boys.



**WCWS Contact Info:****OFFICERS for 2013:**

Cindy Lyles, Society President, (979), 251-4720,  
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 Doodle Johnston, Society Vice Pres., (979) 278-3855,  
[cj\\_cattle@yahoo.com](mailto:cj_cattle@yahoo.com)  
 Devin Holum, Society Treasurer, (281) 807-0679,  
[bismark98@yahoo.com](mailto:bismark98@yahoo.com)  
 Monterey White, Society Secretary, (979) 836-3418,  
[whiteoakfarm@gmail.com](mailto:whiteoakfarm@gmail.com)

**WMA DIRECTORS for 2013:****Greenville WMA**

Gene Bishop, Director, (512) 771-3322, [gbishop@austin.rr.com](mailto:gbishop@austin.rr.com)  
 Gary Lee, Vice-Director, (713) 208-5970, [glee2614@comcast.net](mailto:glee2614@comcast.net)

**Sun Oil Field WMA**

Ward McDonald, Director, (979) 836-0823  
 Jim Dickson, Vice-Director, (713) 817-1482,  
[james.dickson29@gmail.com](mailto:james.dickson29@gmail.com)

**Rocky Creek WMA**

Waldo Nienstedt, Director, (979) 289-2393  
 Jon Knapp, Vice-Director, (979) 289-5533, [jknapp@pachouston.com](mailto:jknapp@pachouston.com)

**Post Oak WMA**

Devin Holum, Director, (281) 807-0679, [bismark98@yahoo.com](mailto:bismark98@yahoo.com)  
 Bill Deaton, Vice-Director, (936) 878-9900,  
[williamdeaton8181@gmail.com](mailto:williamdeaton8181@gmail.com)

**Sandtown WMA**

Doodle Johnston, Director, (979) 278-3855, [cj\\_cattle@yahoo.com](mailto:cj_cattle@yahoo.com)  
 Paul Layne, Vice-Director, (713) 598-8822, [kels618@aol.com](mailto:kels618@aol.com)

**Mt. Vernon WMA**

Rob Johnston, Director, (832) 368-8076, [robj709@gmail.com](mailto:robj709@gmail.com)

**Vice-Director - OPEN****New Years Creek WMA**

George Bishop, Director, 713-305-5510,  
[george\\_bishop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:george_bishop@sbcglobal.net)  
 Monterey White, Vice-Director, (979) 836-3418,  
[whiteoakfarm@gmail.com](mailto:whiteoakfarm@gmail.com)

**RESOURCE CONTACTS:**

Larry Pierce, Texas AgriLife Extension Agent-Agriculture/Natural Resources, (979) 277-6212, [lw-pierce@tamu.edu](mailto:lw-pierce@tamu.edu)  
 Stephanie M. Damron, TPWD Natural Resource Specialist II, Washington & Waller Counties, (979) 277-6297, [stephanie.damron@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:stephanie.damron@tpwd.texas.gov)  
 Ben Garcia, NRCS District Conservationist, (979) 830-7123 ext. 3, [ben.garcia@tx.usda.gov](mailto:ben.garcia@tx.usda.gov)  
 Debbie Wellmann, Washington Co. Appraisal District, (979) 277-3740, [debbiew@brenhamisd.net](mailto:debbiew@brenhamisd.net)  
 Mark Marzahn, Washington Co. Environmental Dept. Director, (979) 277-6290, [mmarzahn@wacounty.com](mailto:mmarzahn@wacounty.com)  
 Ann Thames, WCWS Newsletter, (979) 203-3455, [newsletter@wcwildlife.org](mailto:newsletter@wcwildlife.org)  
 Richard Thames, WCWS Membership Committee, (979) 278-3053, [rbthames@industryinet.com](mailto:rbthames@industryinet.com)  
 Eddie Hines, WC Game Warden, (979) 412-3140, [eddie.hines@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:eddie.hines@tpwd.state.tx.us)  
 Operation Game Thief, (800) 792-4263

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

It is with great pleasure and an honor that I get to write The "Presidents Remarks". Though we joined the Washington County Wildlife Society in 2007, this will be a very new and exciting challenge for me. I am looking forward to attending all of the different co-op meetings so that I may meet and hear from you and find out what you would like to see happen here in Washington County. I am also looking forward to the WCWS Annual Summer Meeting on August 23rd. Doodle Johnston, director of Sandtown WMA, has been working hard on getting raffle items for our fundraiser and I would personally like to say thank you! He has some great prizes and I hope that each of you will either buy one or two raffle tickets and/or sell as many raffle tickets as you can. The proceeds from the raffle will help fund our scholarship program for graduating seniors in Washington County.

As Society President I was recently given the opportunity to hand out four scholarships to Brenham High School students. The recipients were Colby Seeker, Faith Nutt, Jon Wellmann and Payton Warmke. All four have a keen interest in wildlife and want to make a career in wildlife biology and/or natural resource management.

I hope you will join me at the Annual Summer Meeting and listen to Margaret Lamar speak on the formation of a youth learning center at Lake Somerville.

Thank you all for allowing me to help lead Washington County Wildlife Society into the future.

Sincerely

*Cindy Lyles*



**ADDRESS CHANGES:** For address changes, or to be added or removed from our mailing list, please contact **Lindsey Franklin**, (979) 277-6212, [lindseyfranklin@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:lindseyfranklin@ag.tamu.edu).

## Texas Big Game Awards Holds Successful Sportsman's Celebration in Brenham

By Justin Dreibelbis, Hunting Heritage Program Director, Texas Wildlife Association

The Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA) held their Region 5,6,7 Sportsman's Celebration on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Fireman's Training Center in Brenham. The event saw nearly 450 hunters and landowners from the Pineywoods, Post Oak Savannah and Coastal Prairies regions of Texas make their way to Washington County to celebrate the strong outdoor heritage that Texans hold so dear.

The afternoon was filled with a number of different activities including a 4-H Shooting Sports archery range, a Texas Youth Hunting Program Skills Trail, and a falconry demonstration hosted by Lynne Holder. Many local groups and businesses stepped up to support the event including Rob's Fun Center, Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, Blue Bell Creameries and the Washington County Wildlife Society.

"The Brenham area is a wonderful place to host this event because the community understands the importance of wildlife conservation and how important hunters are to that effort, said Justin Dreibelbis, Director of Hunting Heritage Programs for the Texas Wildlife Association. We are excited about returning in 2014 for what we hope is an even bigger and better event."



TBGA is a partnership between Texas Wildlife Association and Texas Parks and Wildlife that began in 1991. The purpose of the program is to promote awareness about wildlife management and the role that ethical hunting plays in habitat conservation, and to foster cooperation among stakeholders who ensure that our state's wildlife habitat is conserved forever. The program awards and recognizes those individuals who harvest quality big game animals in Texas, the land managers who manage the habitat that supports these animals, the importance of our hunting heritage, and the achievement of young and first-time hunters.



For more information on TBGA visit our website at [www.TexasBigGameAwards.org](http://www.TexasBigGameAwards.org) or call at (210) 236-9761.

## IS IT SAFE, LEGAL AND ETHICAL?

### Hunters should ask three questions before they shoot.

By **Terry Erwin**, Hunter Education Manager at Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. for Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine, October, 2011

**S**hoot or don't shoot? Skilled hunters can quickly assess whether any shot is safe, legal and ethical, but it takes knowledge and experience to determine the answer. Try your hand at these scenarios, and be ready to make those important split-second decisions in the field.

**Scenario One:** In the distance, you see a deer standing. Using binoculars, have you made sure to observe carefully what is in front of and beyond the deer before you make the decision to pull the trigger? Is the field of view clear of hunters, obstructions, buildings and roadways, as well as other deer or animals? If so, then the shot is safe.

Now that you have determined that the shot is safe, is it legal? Check the antlers. Texas has a 13-inch antler restriction in at least 113 counties. Make sure the inside of the antler spread is outside the ears, and that you can see at least a couple of finger-widths of daylight between the outside edge of the ears and inside edge of the antlers. See the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's *Outdoor Annual* for clarification ([www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/annual](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/annual)).

**Scenario Two:** You are dove hunting and see several doves sitting in a tree. Should you shoot? Let's assume it is a safe shot. It is legal, but not often ethical. Normally we shoot a dove in flight, giving it a chance to get away. A new hunter who has hunted hard all day without much luck can make the decision about whether to shoot or not. Either decision — to shoot or not to shoot — is acceptable, but not shooting is preferred.

Students in Texas' hunter education course walk down a mock hunting trail to test themselves with shoot-or-don't-shoot scenarios. Hunter education is mandatory in Texas (as it is in every other state, in one form or another) and is a vitally important process. Instructors often use the hunter skills trail as hands-on hunter education training for both adults and young people.

The hunter skills trail is a sequence of scenarios set up to simulate a real hunting experience. Individuals or small groups are led through the trail and asked to react to these scenarios. The instructor evaluates students' reactions, either immediately or at the trail's end, and encourages small group discussion. Students must rely on their knowledge and skills to answer three questions: 1) Is the situation/shot safe? 2) Is the situation/shot legal? 3) Is the situation/shot responsible or ethical?

Participants must respond to the scenario by shooting or declining to shoot.

The hunter skills trail may be the first "hunting trip" for beginning hunters. It gives novices a chance to evaluate a variety of hunting situations, as well as practice muzzle control, loading and unloading firearms, field carries and other basic skills. These exercises let students practice what they have learned in the classroom. The hunter skills trail teaches students to think about the real consequences of their own actions and the actions of others.

Are you an experienced hunter interested in sharing what you have learned over the years? Become a hunter education instructor. For details, call (512) 389-4999 or go to [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning).



© TPWD

Washington County Wildlife Society will host the 6th annual Youth Hunter Safety Event in October at Nails Creek State Park, Lake Somerville. Contact Stephanie Damron for information on how you can volunteer to help with this event.

## **Early Bird Gets The Worm! Bird Walk**

**Saturday, July 13  
5:30 am - 7:00 am**

James Parker's property at 1016 County Road 110 Giddings, TX

The dawn chorus is the best time for hearing birds sing. That's the reason for the early morning, and to help in beating the heat!

Come prepared to walk through fields and woods. Also, bring good optics if you have them.

Please be prompt as we'll not be able to wait for stragglers. For more information contact TPW-Biologist, Greg Pleasant at [tpwbiologist@bluebon.net](mailto:tpwbiologist@bluebon.net) or at 979-540-2744.

**BRENT ORTEGO**

*TPWD Diversity Biologist  
Conducting Walk*

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

KEETON EHRIG  
Extension Agent-Lee Co.  
Agriculture/NR



Sponsored by  
Texas Parks & Wildlife  
Lee County Wildlife Association  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service



Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend and who may need auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations are asked to contact the Lee County Extension office at (979)542-2753 at least five days prior to the event so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

## **Membership Committee Report:**

As WCWS continues to grow the need to make changes regarding the membership roster has been a point of discussion. We are in the process of replacing our current software with a program which will allow us to interact with Society members and directors. Because of these changes the board has decided to put a membership renewal policy in place which is consistent for our members. Starting with the year 2014, we will send out renewal reminder notices in December of each year, by email and regular mail, to our members with dues to be paid in January. At some point, after January, an overdue notice will be sent to help collect the dues for that year. This will help with budgeting and give us a good idea of the available funds for the year. Every membership is appreciated and gives us the opportunity to help with the education and conservation of wildlife in Washington County. WCWS is proud to be able to award scholarships to Washington County high school students. With your continued support of this Society we can add to the 11 scholarships already awarded since 2009.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding this new policy, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Richard Thames  
Membership Committee Chair  
979 278-3053  
[membership@wcwildlife.org](mailto:membership@wcwildlife.org)

Lone Star  
Water Forum



Presents

5th Annual Event

# Water for the Future

Is a Groundwater Conservation District Right for Us?

An Open Debate: Public vs Private Options



Saturday, October 5, 9:00am—4:00pm  
Washington County Fairgrounds Event Center  
Registration: \$25 - Lunch included  
Contact: AgriLife Extension, 979-277-6212

Also presented by:



Washington County  
Wildlife Society



Texas Wildlife  
Association



Gideon Lindecum  
Master Naturalists



Bluebonnet  
Master Gardeners





# Young Naturalist - Animal Tracks

Wild animals do not always show themselves in the daytime when we are outdoors looking for them.

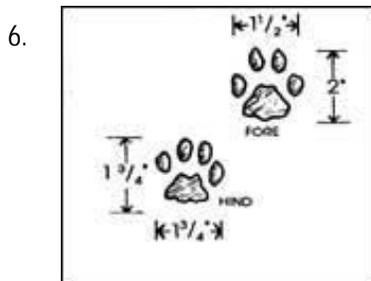
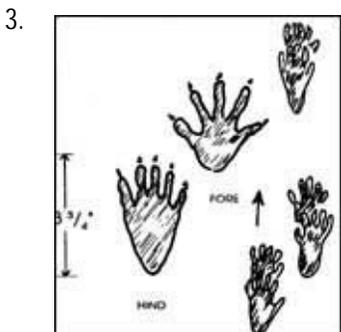
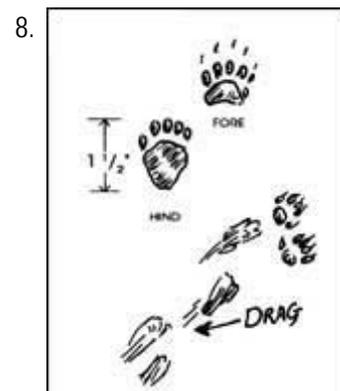
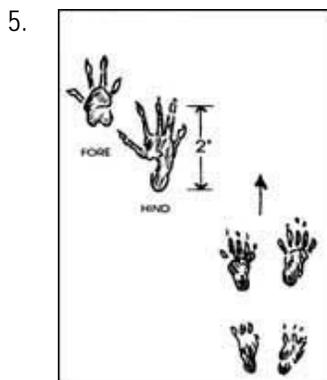
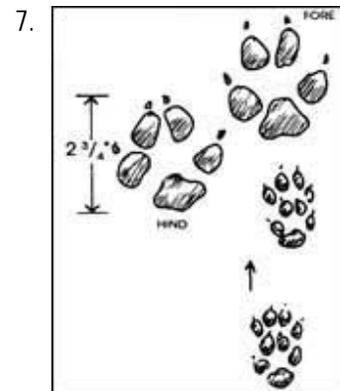
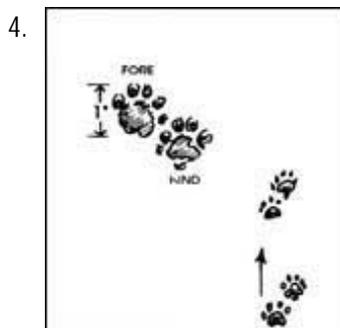
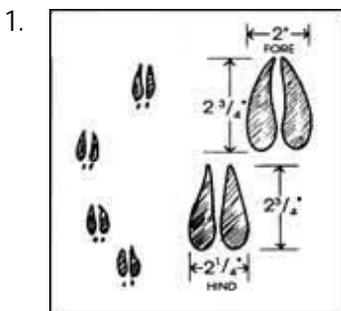
One reason, of course, is that our noisy walking and talking warn them we are near and they hide. Another reason is that the nocturnal or night creatures sleep and rest during the day and only begin to prowl in search of food and water when night falls and we are back home.

However, there is still a way to enjoy these animals you can't see. Learn to read the record they leave behind—their tracks. Examine the size and shape of tracks and before long you should be able to tell which wild creatures made them.

As you spend more time with tracks, you also may be able to read a story from them. You will see where the animal stopped to nibble at some food. Or you may see where a predator picked up its trail and carefully stalked it. The chase also may be written on the ground, along with the escape or catch.

To test your skill at reading tracks, match up these common Texas animals with their footprints. *Answers on the following page.*

## Bobcat, Coyote, Fox Squirrel, Opossum, Raccoon, Ringtail, Skunk, White-tail Deer



**Animal Tracks Answers:**

1.



White-tail Deer

2.



Opossum

3.



Raccoon

4.



Ringtail

5.



Fox Squirrel

6.



Bobcat

7.



Coyote

8.



Skunk

You are never too young or too old to explore the world of nature. Anyone can be a young naturalist, regardless of age. All you need is a large helping of curiosity; the desire to know more about your surroundings and the creatures that share them; and perhaps, in the case of a very young naturalist, the help of someone older who cares.

## Incidental Deer Observations

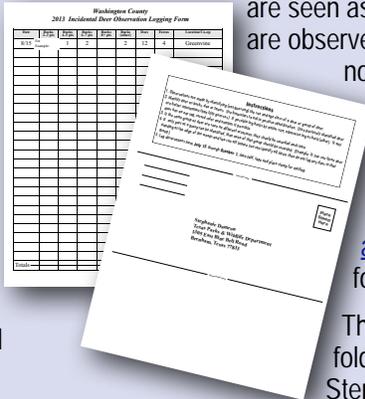
By Stephanie Damron, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

We are quickly approaching the time to log deer sightings. This activity is very important especially if you use census as a practice for your 1-d-1 wildlife valuation.

Incidental observations of white-tailed deer are used to determine herd composition (percent of Bucks, Does, and Fawns in the herd) and is often viewed as the most valuable data collected on a deer herd. A good sample of incidental observations can reflect the overall health and growth of the herd.

Observations can be made at any time during daylight hours with the early morning and late evening being the most productive. Observations can start **July 15** and be recorded through **October 1**.

Observations are made by **identifying** (not guessing) the type of deer observed. White-tail deer should be identified as bucks, does, or fawns. If possible, bucks should be broken down according to antler points. If it is not possible to count the points, list in the *Bucks (other)* column on the observation form. A pair of binoculars will be required to make positive identification.



These observations can be made during routine activities within your location, but making a special effort to collect this data will be more productive. If the same group of deer is seen on different occasions they should be recorded each time they are seen as this will not affect the ratio. But if a group of deer are observed and only part of the group can be identified then none of the group should be recorded.

Be careful as to indicate within which co-op area the observations are recorded, ranch names or road names are not needed. Co-op boundaries can be found at <http://www.wcwildlife.org/wmas-and-coops/> or you can contact **Stephanie Damron** for assistance.

The logging form enclosed in this newsletter can be folded and taped for mailing and returned to Stephanie Damron, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, for analysis. Any questions concerning this process should be directed to Stephanie at (979) 277-6297. Additional forms may be obtained at the TPWD office located at 1305 East Blue Bell Road.

Again, this an important activity for anyone with 1-d-1 wildlife exemption and you are encouraged to participate.

### Observations from our members:



Killdeer and chick. Cecil Rives, Sandtown member. January 2013



Wild Turkeys in back yard. James and Jeanine Presswood. Sun Oil members. January 2013

## Firefly, Lightening Bug (Photinus sp.)

**L**ightning Bugs are winged beetles. Adults are 7/16 to 9/16 inch long, elongate and very soft-bodied, with the pronotum extending forward over the head, resulting in the head being largely or entirely concealed when viewed from above. The pronotum is reddish-yellow with a black spot in the center. Brownish-black wing covers have a light yellowish area entirely around them except in front. The luminous lower end of a male Firefly's abdomen is yellowish-green, whereas the female has a smaller splotch. It is these "taillight" segments where living light is produced. Eggs secreted in the earth may show a touch of luminescence.

Like many other insects', fireflies' life cycle includes egg, larval, and adult stages. Adults lay eggs on or just under the soil. Because they eat critters like worms, slugs, and snails, most larvae are found in rotting wood or leaf litter or on the edges of streams and ponds. Their mouths suggest that they eat other bugs, and scientists know that some fireflies eat other fireflies, but it's likely that they eat plant nectar and possibly other foods, too. You're likely to see adult fireflies over lawns and meadows and at the edges of woods or streams.

And as they grow, they more or less stay where they were born. Some species are more aquatic than others, and a few are found in more arid areas—but most are found in fields, forests and marshes. Their environment of choice is warm, humid and near standing water of some kind—ponds, streams and rivers, or even shallow depressions that retain water longer than the surrounding ground. Fireflies also love long grass. They're nocturnal, and during the day they spend most of their time on the ground. At night, they crawl to the tops of blades of grass and fly into tree branches to signal for mates. Long grass conceals the fireflies better and allows them a better vantage point for signaling at night, and over-mowing your lawn may disturb your firefly population.



Like Fourth-of-July fireworks, cool swims on hot days, and lazy vacations, fireflies are a sign of summer. But fireflies are disappearing from marshes, fields and forests all over the country—and all over the world. Development and light pollution could be the culprits.



Washington County Wildlife Society  
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