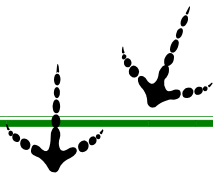




WCWS Semi-Annual Meeting



Greg Pleasant has been a wildlife biologist for TPWD since March 2001. His territory covers Lee and Fayette counties. Greg received his bachelor's degree in Range, Wildlife and Fisheries Management and has a Masters of Science in Wildlife, both from Texas Tech University. Greg is a current landowner in Lee County and gets to practice what he preaches. He enjoys learning new things and meeting and working with wildlife enthusiasts.

Greg's fascination with tracking began when he was a youngster but got a boost a couple of years ago when he had an opportunity to attend a class on identifying animal tracks. Through the remarkable teaching technique of Senior Tracker Mark Elbroch, Greg learned how to look at tracks in totally new ways. Greg's presentation will show us how to recognize wildlife presence and open up a window into the lives of shy and elusive animals.

Tracks, scat, feeding sign, beds, scent marking, trails and other types of animal sign point to which animals passed by, what they did, where they went, and much more. Seemingly barren ground becomes alive with a diversity of fascinating information.

Please join us on **Saturday, August 22nd** for this interesting and informative program. The program will be held at the **Washington County Fairgrounds - Events Center**. The social will begin at 6:00 p.m. with sirloin strip and choice of sides served at 6:30 and our speaker, Greg Pleasant to follow around 7:00 p.m.

Tracks, Scat and Sign

Program presented by **Greg Pleasant**
Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist

Saturday, August 22nd
Washington County Fairgrounds
Events Center



The cost of the meal will be \$5 per person and a dessert table will be available if you would like to bring your favorite dessert to share.

Please RSVP to the
Texas AgriLife Extension Office
by August 14th— (979) 277-6212



WASHINGTON COUNTY Wildlife Society

OFFICERS for 2009:

Richard Thames, Society President, (979) 278-3053

Ralph Lilly, Society Vice President, (936) 878-9944

Tom Yates, Society Treasurer, (979) 836-7941

Judy Deaton, Society Secretary, (936) 878-9900

WMA DIRECTORS for 2009:

Greenvine WMA

Weldon Moeller, Director, (979) 277-2677

Brian Burke, Vice-Director, (979) 251-7887,
gaelbrian@hotmail.com

Sun Oil Field WMA

Mike Busby, Director, (979) 836-5233

Colby Finke, Vice-Director, (979) 836-1041

Rocky Creek WMA

Waldo Nienstedt, Director, (979) 289-2393

John Anderson, Vice-Director, (979) 289-0041,
sjanders@airmail.net

Post Oak WMA

Ralph Lilly, Director, (936) 878-9944,
jslillytx@embarqmail.com

Judith Deaton, Vice-Director, (936) 878-9900,
Judith_deaton@yahoo.com

Sandtown WMA

Richard Thames, Director, (979) 278-3053,
rbthames@industryinet.com

Wes Davenport, Vice-Director, (979) 278-3220,
wesdaven@industryinet.com

Mt. Vernon WMA

Greg Schomburg, Director, (979) 836-2568

New Years Creek WMA

Jack Taylor, Director, (936) 878-9942,
jackandsandy@wildblue.net

Tom Yates, Vice-Director, (979) 836-7941,
tmy@hughes.net

RESOURCE CONTACTS:

Larry Pierce, County Extension Agent-Agriculture/
Natural Resources, (979) 277-6212,
lw-pierce@tamu.edu

Stephanie McKenzie Damron, TPWD Wildlife Biologist,
(979) 277-6297, slmckenzie05@sbcglobal.net

Ann Thames, WCWS Office Secretary
(979) 203-3455, semahta@yahoo.com

Veronica O'Donnell, NRCS, (979) 830-7123 ext. 3,
veronica.odonnell@tx.usda.gov

Alan Lee, Game Warden, (979) 412-3140

Operation Game Thief, (800) 792-4263

Brian Burke, Newsletter Editor

This Newsletter printed entirely on recycled paper.

President's Remarks

Summer is upon us... and it's hot! But that isn't stopping us from planning new educational events for our members.

Recently WCWS purchased 4 Moultrie digital game cameras to implement a "loan-out" program with its members. At the Sandtown Co-op Spring meeting our TPWD wildlife biologist Stephanie McKenzie Damron (newlywed on June 1st) provided a demonstration on the uses and proper technique for setting up a game camera in the field. The cameras are a fun way to see what is on your property when you're not there, and also a great tool to survey your wildlife. Each co-op will have use of them on a two month rotation, please contact Stephanie for more information.



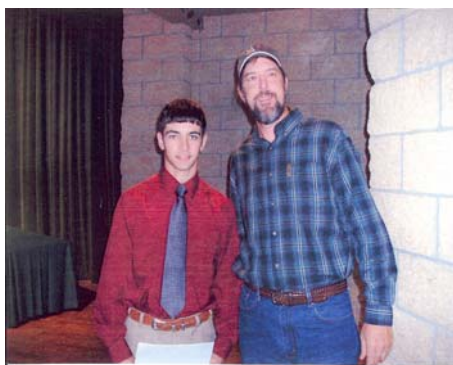
WCWS is glad to be part of several local groups to sponsor the 1st Annual - South Central Texas Water Conservation Conference titled "What Are We Gonna Do When the Well Runs Dry? - Planning for the Future". On page 3 is a registration form for a definitive conference on WATER. Its social, political and legal significance will define the 21st century. What we do about it will determine the quality of our lives. Register to attend now!

I would like to welcome 24 new members to our Society so far this year, and a special **Thank You** goes to **Stan and Sandy Lloyd** of New Years Creek Coop as our newest **Lifetime Members!**

Finally, I would like to encourage everyone to join us on **Saturday, August 22nd** at the Washington County Events Center for an informative and interesting program on Wildlife Tracking presented by TPWD - Biologist Greg Pleasant. I hope to see you then and remember to bring a friend or neighbor, you won't want to miss this program so mark your calendars.

Let's all continue our journey towards making Washington County **WILD!**

Richard Thames, WCWS President 2009



Richard Thames and Brett Hirsch at BHS Scholarship Awards Presentation.

On May 4th WCWS was honored to award its first \$500 scholarship to **Brett Hirsch** from Brenham High School. Brett is set to attend Blinn College this fall and transfer to Texas A&M - Kingsville where he will pursue a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management. Our focus is on the youth of Washington County and we look forward to awarding additional scholarships to other Washington County High School graduates in upcoming years.

What Are We Gonna Do When the Well Runs Dry?



South Central Texas Water Conservation Conference *Planning for the Future*



When

October 3, 2009

Where

Washington County Fair
Grounds Event Center
1305 Blue Bell Blvd.
Brenham, TX

Cost

\$25 Before 9/15

\$35 After 9/15

(Fee includes lunch and conference materials)

For More Information Contact:

Justin Dreibelbis

(512) 551-3004

jdreibelbis@texas-wildlife.org

Conference Agenda

8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:15	Introduction
9:15 – 10:00	The Coming Texas Water Shortage Dr. Dan Hardin, Water Resource Planning Division, Texas Water Development Board
10:00 – 10:30	Who Owns Your Water Susana Canseco, Attorney
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 11:30	Government Regulation and Hydrology of Our Areas Judge Mike Sutherland, County Judge Burleson County Gary Westbrook, General Manager Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District
11:30 – 12:15	Surface Water and Environmental Flows Mary Kelly, Attorney, Sr. Counsel, Rivers and Deltas for The Environmental Defense Fund
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 1:45	Creating Water with Good Land Stewardship David Bamberger, Environmentalist and owner, Selah Ranch
1:45 – 2:30	Ike Effect – Too Much Water Jim Blackburn, Professor Civil Engineering, Rice University and Environmental Attorney
2:30 – 3:00	Catching the Rain Drops Jim Cathey, Assistant Professor & Wildlife Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service
3:00 – 3:15	Break
3:15 – 4:00	What You Can Do Now David Braun, Chairman of the Teaming With Wildlife Coalition

(Opinions expressed are those of each speaker and may not reflect those of the organizers or the sponsors)



Washington County
Wildlife Society



Texas Wildlife
Association



Gideon Lincecum
Master Naturalists



Bluebonnet
Master Gardeners



LaBahia Chapter
Native Plant Society



Name (If registering for multiple people, provide additional names on separate sheet)

Affiliation (optional)

Address

E-mail (print CLEARLY)

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____

Method of Payment:

- Check (payable to "TWA-WCC") MasterCard
 Visa American Express

Credit Card # _____

Exp. date _____

Signature _____

Total Enclosed: _____

After 9/25 - REGISTER AT THE DOOR

Mail form and payment to:
Water Conservation Conference
C/O Texas Wildlife Association
2800 NE Loop 410, Ste 105
San Antonio, TX 78218
Or Fax to: 210-826-4933

Registration Fee (Please Check):

- \$ 25 (Before 9/15) \$ 35 (After 9/15)

Incidental Deer Observations

By Stephanie McKenzie Damron, TPWD Biologist

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 exemption.

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. These observations should be started as soon as the fawns are large enough to follow the does, about **August 1**, and may be continued until the fawns start losing their spots, about **September 15**.

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



Stephanie McKenzie Damron

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.

There is no set number of deer to be observed, however the larger the sample size the more accurate the data will be. The number of animals logged through this process continues to grow in the county thanks to county-wide participation.

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://wcwildlife.org/WC_Wildlife/Home.html or you can contact Stephanie McKenzie Damron for assistance.

The logging form enclosed in this newsletter can be folded and taped for mailing and returned to Stephanie McKenzie 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.

The Incidental Observation Form with instructions for use are on Pages 5 and 6.

TPWD Happenings

By Stephanie McKenzie Damron, TPWD Biologist

As spring ends and summer comes rolling in, biologists are working diligently to complete numerous White-wing urban dove surveys, as well as Mourning dove surveys. These surveys, which have been conducted since 1951, assist TPWD and USFWS in monitoring population trends of the two species. Deciphering population trends for Mourning dove and White-wings allow the TPWD commission, in conjunction with USFWS, to set hunting seasons and daily bag limits. Dove banding and trapping is also being conducted for Mourning dove and White-wings and will run through August 15.

On the subject of dove, TPWD just acquired a new dove lease in Waller County. For those of you unfamiliar, TPWD offers an Annual Hunting Permit (AHP) (\$48/yr) that allows an individual access to **over 1 million acres** of land for hunting, fishing, camping, and other uses. Many of these areas are open year-round for authorized persons (must possess AHP) and offer hunting opportunities for the following game: **deer, feral hogs, squirrel, turkey, dove, waterfowl, quail,**

and other legal game. Once registered, permit holders receive a map booklet listing available areas, facilities, rules, and schedules. Visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/public/> for more information.

Summer may just be settling in, but deer season is just around the corner; 4 months to be exact. If you are a landowner interested in obtaining doe permits, or Managed Land Deer Permits you will need to contact your local biologist before August 1. A wildlife management plan will need to be written and on file before a landowner can receive permits. Please contact your local biologist by August 1 for assistance.

If you have any questions please contact me at (979) 277-6297 or by email at slmckenzie05@sbcglobal.net. Thank you!

Instructions

- ★ 1. Observations are made by identifying (not guessing) the sex and age class of a deer or group of deer.
- ★ 2. Identify deer as bucks, doe or fawns. Use binoculars to aid in positive identification. (Five positively identified deer are better information than fifty guesses.) If possible log bucks by antler size, otherwise log as buck (other). If any deer has an ear tag, record color and number if possible.
- ★ 3. If the same group of deer are seen on different occasions, they should be recorded each time.
- ★ 4. If only part of a group can be identified, then none of that group should be recorded. (Example: If you see three deer standing at the edge of the woods and two run off before you can identify all three, then do not log any deer in that group.)
- ★ 5. Log observations from **August 1st** through **September 15th**, then fold, tape and place stamp for mailing.

First fold here

Place
Stamp
Here

Mrs. Stephanie McKenzie Damron
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
1305 East Blue Bell Road
Brenham, Texas 77833

Second fold here

AUGUST						
				1	2	3
				START	X	X
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
X	X	X	X	X	X	X

SEPTEMBER						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
MAIL						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

During Dry Times or Wet, I Want to Reduce Soil Erosion

By Brian Burke, WCWS Member

My wife and I bought land in Washington County after searching far and wide. Many things around here appealed to us, but our soil is one of the very most important land features to me.

Soil forms naturally in much of the world, including Washington County, but it's a slow process. The most useful soil for agricultural and wildlife pursuits is "topsoil" or "humus" which contains a large component of living organisms.

Topsoil is a valuable resource. Once you have it, it's worth keeping, but erosion can take it away quickly. Right now it's dry, and could become drier. Wind during droughts is usually the secondary cause of soil erosion in Washington County, while the primary cause of erosion here is nearly always rainfall and flowing water.

Soil erosion occurs when and where wind or flowing water concentrates more force on the soil surface than the weight of exposed soil particles. There's probably more art than science involved in defending your land against soil erosion, but some general guidelines are listed below.

Soil Erosion is Increased by:

- Steep land surface slopes,
- Creeks, streams, gullies and other surface water concentrations,
- Incomplete coverage with surface vegetation (or other protective cover),
- Traffic concentrations, including wildlife, livestock and vehicles,
- Surface soil composed mostly of sand,
- Extended periods of hot, dry weather, and
- Extended periods of excess rainfall.

Soil Erosion is Reduced by:

- Mild land surface slopes,
- Storm water controls that spread and slow surface runoff,
- Healthy vegetation to shield the ground surface, which can include trees above and groundcover below,
- Hard wearing surfaces where traffic pressures routinely damage vegetation,
- Installation of temporary or permanent manmade erosion control devices where necessary, and
- Soil enhancement or replacement to increase soil cohesion.

There are people who can help if you have a soil erosion problem on your land, including:

- The National Resource Conservation Service (originally the Soil Conservation Service); Brenham office (979) 830-7123 (veronica.odonnell@tx.usda.gov),
- Mr. Larry W. Pierce, Jr., our hard-working Texas Agri-Life Extension, County Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources; Brenham office (979) 277-6212 (lw-pierce.tamu.edu), and
- A WCWS volunteer, Brian Burke at (979) 251-7887 (gaelbrian@hotmail.com).

Regardless who you contact initially, please let me know if you have a concern about soil erosion. If this is a common challenge to our members, we want to focus on it more fully.

Brian Burke and his wife Gael have been members of the Greenvine co-op since 2008.



Members Get Involved

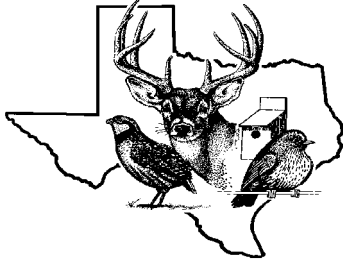


Last month Bennie and Tom Yates of New Years Creek Co-op discovered a Great Horned Owl with a broken wing. They were able to capture it and take it to a place in Austin County that rehabs birds of prey. **Nice work!**

Tom Yates is a vice-director in the New Year's Creek co-op and also serves as WCWS Society Treasurer.

Studies show that kids who play outside:

- Are healthier physically and mentally.
- Do better in school.
- Have higher self-esteem.
- Have good self-discipline.
- Feel more capable and confident.
- Are good problem solvers.
- Are more cooperative with others.
- Are more creative.
- Feel connected to nature.
- Are tomorrow's conservation leaders.



Washington County Wildlife Society
1305 E. Blue Bell Rd., Brenham, Texas 77833
Telephone 979-277-6212 Fax 979-277-6223
www.wcwildlife.org

WCWS Summer 2009 Calendar

August 22—Washington County Wildlife Society Semi-Annual Meeting

Washington County Fairgrounds—Event's Center

The social will begin at 6:00 p.m. with fried catfish and tenders with all the trimmings served at 6:30 and our speaker, Greg Pleasant to follow around 7:00 p.m.

October 3—South Central Texas Water Conservation Conference

"What Are We Gonna Do When the Well Runs Dry?" (See Page 7 for information and registration)

October 9— Hunter Education workshop

9:30a.m. to 3:00p.m. at the Shepherd Mountain Ranch near Rocky Creek. WCWS and TPWD will conduct a deer workshop to include presentations in the morning and a deer necropsy workshop in the afternoon. The workshop will be open to the public. For more information, contact Stephanie McKenzie Damron at (979) 277-6297 or by email at slmckenzie05@sbcglobal.net.