



## WCWS Semi-Annual Meeting

August 21, 2010

Washington County Fairgrounds  
Events Center

Social will begin at 6:30 pm with catfish and all the trimmings served at 7:00 pm.

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

Please RSVP to the AgriLife Extension Office by August 16—(979) 277-6212

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

Our guest speaker for the evening will be **Carter Smith**, Executive Director for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Prior to his selection as TPWD executive director in January of 2008, Smith had been with The Nature Conservancy of Texas since 1998, serving as state director since 2004. Prior to his promotion to state director, Smith served as Director of Conservation Programs where he was responsible for conservation, external affairs and science programs. Before working at the Nature Conservancy, he was the first executive director of the Katy Prairie Conservancy and continues to serve on their Advisory Board.

Smith is a native of Central Texas and began his professional career in 1992 as a management intern at TPWD, assisting in the Private Lands and Public Hunting programs. He has a wildlife management degree from Texas Tech and a master's degree in conservation biology from Yale University.

He has served on a number of conservation-related boards of directors and advisory councils, including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's State Parks Advisory Board, the Natural Resources Conservation Service's State Technical Committee, the Texas Land Trust Council, Texas Tech University's Natural Resources Management Advisory Board, and Texas A&M University's Sea Grant Program. Smith is a private landowner and his family has owned farm and ranch properties in Edwards, Gonzales and Williamson counties.

ALSO...

*At this August meeting we will consider an amendment to the articles of the current WCWS bylaws. Previous notice regarding the details of these changes will be mailed to each member in advance of this meeting.*



# WASHINGTON COUNTY Wildlife Society

## **OFFICERS for 2010:**

Richard Thames, Society President, (979), 278-3053  
John Anderson, Society Vice Pres., (979) 289-0041  
Tom Yates, Society Treasurer, (979) 836-7941  
Judy Deaton, Society Secretary, (936) 878-9900

## **WMA DIRECTORS for 2010:**

### **Greenville WMA**

Brian Burke, Director, (979) 836-5258,  
gaelbrian@hotmail.com  
Robert Lehmann, Vice-Director, (979) 421-0520,  
rlehmanndeer@yahoo.com

### **Sun Oil Field WMA**

Colby Finke, Director, (979) 836-1041  
Clint Duch, Vice-Director, (979) 277-5109

### **Rocky Creek WMA**

John Anderson, Director, (979) 289-0041,  
sjanders@airmail.net  
Waldo Nienstedt, Vice-Director, (979) 289-2393

### **Post Oak WMA**

Judith Deaton, Director, (936) 878-9900,  
Judith\_deaton@yahoo.com  
Debbie Wellmann, Vice-Director, (979) 277-3740,  
debbiew@brenhamisd.net

### **Sandtown WMA**

Wes Davenport, Director, (979) 278-3220,  
wesdaven@industryinet.com  
Richard Thames, Vice-Director, (979) 278-3053,  
rbthames@industryinet.com

### **Mt. Vernon WMA**

Greg Schomburg, Director, (979) 836-2568

### **New Years Creek WMA**

Jack Taylor, Director, (936) 878-9942,  
jackandsandytaylor@gmail.com  
Tom Yates, Vice-Director, (979) 836-7941,  
tmy@hughes.net

## **RESOURCE CONTACTS:**

Larry Pierce, County Extension Agent-Agriculture/  
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Stephanie M. Damron, Natural Resource Specialist II,  
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Veronica O'Donnell, NRCS, (979) 830-7123 ext. 3,  
veronica.odonnell@tx.usda.gov

Gael Burke, WCWS Office Secretary  
(979) 836-5258, secretary@wcwildlife.org

Ken Fletcher, WCWS Webmaster,  
(512) 567-8721, webmaster@wcwildlife.org

Ann Thames, WCWS Newsletter,  
(979) 203-3455, newsletter@wcwildlife.org

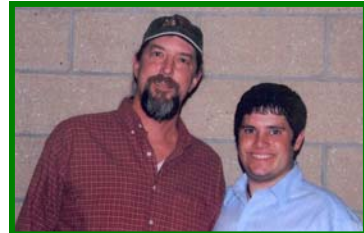
Operation Game Thief, (800) 792-4263

 This newsletter printed entirely on recycled paper

## President's Remarks

This time of year is always busy, hopefully you were able to get your spring food plots planted for deer and other wildlife.

On May 3rd, WCWS was honored to award its second \$500 scholarship to **Trevor Dickschat** from Brenham High School. Trevor is enrolled at Texas A&M University this fall where he will pursue a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology/Management. We look forward to awarding additional scholarships to other Washington County High School graduates in upcoming years.



*Richard Thames and Trevor Dickschat at BHS Scholarship ceremony*

We'd like to thank the current membership for their renewals and the 35 new members that recently join this year. Personally I'd like to extended a special "thank you" to **Gary and Kay Fannin** of Rocky Creek WMA who have become our most recent **Lifetime Members**. With everyone's support we are able to pursue are mission of enhancing and preserving wildlife through landowner stewardship.

We also would like to welcome **Ken Fletcher** as our new webmaster and thank **Sara Byman** for all her work, please visit the website at [www.wcwildlife.org](http://www.wcwildlife.org).

We hope that you will consider registering for the 2nd Annual Water Conservation Conference "What's Your Water Footprint?" in September. A registration form can be found on pg. 4 of this newsletter.

## Lone Star Land Stewards Awards

Charlotte von Rosenberg and 8 other landowners from different ecological regions across Texas received Lone Star Land Steward Awards on May 26, 2010 at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Austin. The event was sponsored by TPWD, the Private Lands Advisory Board and the Sand County Foundation.

Quebe Farm in Washington County has been owned by the same family for 122 years. Practices such as rotational grazing, prescribed burning, and selective removal of invasive species are used to restore and maintain diverse native blackland prairie for a variety of grassland species. A 12-acre prairie remnant on the property that has never been plowed serves as one of the most diverse examples of native blackland prairie in the county. Charlotte has hosted many educational programs for Texas AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M University, local Master Naturalists, Native Plant Society, Texas Wildlife Association and others. In 2007 Charlotte opened a bed and breakfast on the farm to share her dedication and love of the prairie with photographers and nature enthusiasts."

The Lone Star Land Stewards Awards recognize land managers, wildlife management associations, corporations and non-governmental organizations for outstanding habitat management and wildlife conservation. In Texas, more than 90 percent of land is privately owned, making the work of landowners essential for our habitat management.



*Charlotte von Rosenberg (WCWS/Sun Oil WMA member), Peter Holt, TPW Commission Chairman (L), and Carter Smith, TPW Executive Director (R)*

# The Future of Water—Rainwater Collection for Wildlife and Landscaping

Third and Final Article in a Series by Wes Davenport, Director, Sandtown WMA

Last issue we talked about Rainwater Collection for personal use as a potential solution to the increasing scarcity of water. In this issue we will address rainwater collection for landscaping and wildlife. Many of these techniques can be used either in an urban or a rural setting. The idea of passive collection is to reduce runoff and put more water into the ground so it can be used by plants or recharge aquifers. Designing the landscape to hold or slow water movement down reduces storm water and increases the bank of water available for plants. The primary goal is to insure that the majority of water falling on your property stays on your property, soaks into your land and eventually winds up raising the water table under your property instead of running off into streets, roads, rivers or bayous.

In healthy landscapes, precipitation infiltrates into vegetated soil thereby sustaining the ecosystem. It percolates through the filtering soil to maintain a continual, moderate base flow, recharges groundwater supplies, and discharges moderately into surface waterways. In contrast development, compacted soils and drought hardened surfaces increase runoff and decrease the quantity of water that remains on your land.

Conventional storm water management, by rushing water downstream, aggravates flooding, reduces groundwater and drinking-water supplies and encourages erosion, flooding, and habitat destruction. Increased storm water runoff causes stream bank erosion, carries suspended sediments that can cloud water causing aquatic plant death that along with the introduction of runoff borne pollutants can lead to water quality degradation and affect the health of humans, domestic animals and wildlife.

We can significantly reduce the negative effects of runoff through the use of rainwater collection techniques such as:

- Rooftop collection
- Rain gardens
- Agricultural terraces
- Diversion of flash floods into ponds
- Blocking Gullies; and
- Berms across hillsides or around individual plants

Wildlife needs adequate water for survival. Wildlife obtain water from creeks, rivers, ponds and lakes, from plant life and from prey. Using deer as an example: depending upon temperature, humidity, forage type and physical state, consumption can range from  $\frac{3}{4}$  quart to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  quarts per day. Water sources should be no more than 1 mile apart.



Water sources can be puddles, creeks, rivers, lakes, stock tanks, basins, barrels, water troughs and anything else that will hold water. Rain water collection can be as simple as establishing berms that will hold water in place, creation of a stock tank to hold more water longer, collection of water from the roof of an outbuilding in rainbarrels or in larger tanks and allowing it to fill a trough or basin controlled by a water level switch or meter or building a small tin roof collection surface that fills a rainbarrel which then fills a basin controlled by a level switch.

An excellent resource for those wanting to collect rainwater for wildlife is the book, *Harvesting Rainwater for Wildlife*, by James Cathey, Russell A. Persyn, Dana Porter, Monty Dozier, Michael Mecke, and Billy Kniffen. It was published in 2008 and is available from the Texas AgriLife Extension Bookstore ([agrilifebookstore.org](http://agrilifebookstore.org)).

Whether you collect rainwater for personal use, landscaping or wildlife, you will be doing your part to preserve the environment, reduce storm water runoff and insure the availability of sufficient water for our future needs.

**Remember, every raindrop is important!**



# What's Your Water Footprint?

Register and find out at:



**2nd Annual**

## South Central Texas Water Conservation Conference

### When

September 25, 2010

### Where

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

### Cost

**\$15 Before 9/1**

**\$20 After 9/1**

(Fee includes lunch)

For More Information

### Contact:

Washington County AgriLife

Extension Service

(979) 277-6212

Or online at [wcwildlife.org](http://wcwildlife.org)

### Conference Agenda

8:30 – 9:15	Registration and coffee
9:15 – 9:45	Introduction and recap of last year's program
9:45 – 10:45	How We Use Our Water Nora Mullarkey, Water Conservation Supervisor, LCRA
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:00	Your Personal Water Footprint Dr. Diane E. Boellstorff, Assistant Prof. — Water Resources, TAMU
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	Pollution Costs Snehal Patel, JD, Chief Environmental Reg. Sec., Harris Co. Atty's Office
2:00 – 3:00	Technology to Create More Water Jorge Arroyo, Director, Innovative Water Technologies, TWDB

Name(s) - show each name as you want it to appear on your name tag.

Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (print CLEARLY): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment:

- Check (payable to "WCWS")
- Cash payable at Washington Co. AgriLife Office or,
- Register ONLINE with credit card at [wcwildlife.org/](http://wcwildlife.org/)

### Registration Fee (Please Check):

- \$ 15 (Before 9/1)       \$ 20 (After 9/1)

**\*After 9/15 - REGISTER AT THE DOOR\***

If registering by mail,  
send form and payment to:  
**Water Conservation Conference**  
c/o WCWS  
1305 E. Blue Bell Rd., Suite 104  
Brenham  
Or call (979) 277-6212



Washington County  
Wildlife Society



Texas Wildlife  
Association



Gideon Lincecum  
Master Naturalists



Bluebonnet  
Master Gardeners



LaBahia Chapter  
Native Plant Society





## 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.

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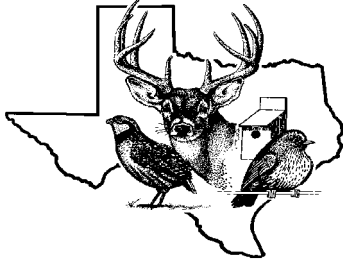
**Stephanie Damron**  
**Texas Parks & Wildlife Department**  
**1305 East Blue Bell Road**  
**Brenham, Texas 77833**

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





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



## Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*)

The Mountain Lion is a large, slender cat with a smallish head and noticeably long tail. Its fur is a light, tawny brown color which can appear gray or almost black, depending on light conditions. Contrary to popular belief, there are no black panthers in North America; no one has ever captured or killed a black Mountain Lion. Mountain Lions are also called cougars, pumas, panthers, painters, and catamounts.

Mountain Lions are relatively uncommon, secretive animals. They are carnivores that prey on a variety of animals; some favorites include deer and wild hogs. Other prey animals included in the Mountain Lion's diet are rabbits, jackrabbits, javelinas, and rodents. Some lions occasionally kill livestock or dogs.

The Mountain Lion is solitary, except during breeding. Their young (typically 2-3 cubs) can be born almost any time of the year. Females usually breed every two to three years.

Mountain Lions generally are found in remote mountains, canyonlands, or hilly areas with good cover.

The Mountain Lion has the widest distribution of any wild cat, from Canada to South America. Formerly distributed throughout North America, the Mountain Lion is now found mostly in the remote areas of the western U.S., as well as western Canada and much of Mexico. A small population still exists in southern Florida, where the species is considered endangered. In Texas, the Mountain Lion is found throughout the Trans-Pecos, as well as the brushlands of south Texas and portions of the Hill Country. Sighting and kill reports indicate that Mountain Lions now occur in more counties than they did 10 years ago and appear to be expanding their range into central Texas.



Photo © TPWD