

Bee County Wildlife Management Association



Enhancing Quality and Quantity of Wildlife Habitat and Populations in Bee County, Texas

Special December 2005 Holiday Newsletter



Merry Christmas...
Long, long ago

Winds thro' the olive trees
Softly did blow,
Round little Bethlehem
Long, long ago.

Sheep on the hillside lay
Whiter than snow;
Shepherds were watching
them,
Long, long ago.

Then from the happy sky,
Angels bent low,
Singing their songs of joy,
Long, long ago.

For in a manger bed,
Cradled we know,
Christ came to Bethlehem,
Long, long ago.
--Author Unknown

HOLIDAY EDITION

This brief holiday edition is a year end update and an opportunity for your Association's board and officers to thank you for your support in 2005. BCWMA has been in existence for 20 months this December, and we have had a very good first *full* year. Membership increased to 100 members/ranches, member land mass has reached 100,000 acres, and we conducted a number of excellent educational meetings and field days. We also launched a fire ant control program with state wide implications.

The implementation of our 2004 and 2005 harvest recommendations and overwhelming landowner support has already had a positive and visible impact on the deer herd in the Hwy 202-59 area. We are seeing more bucks this year and a larger number of two year olds than in the past. Some two or three year old 8 and 10 pointers are being seen. The next few years and especially the future should be very good for this area, and with trigger restraint and good management it can spread to other areas of Bee County as well.

Thanksgiving is behind us, we hope you had a great one. We wish you a wonderful and very Merry Christmas and a terrific New Year!

2006 ANNUAL MEETING, BANQUETTE AND ELECTION

Be sure to mark your calendar for our annual meeting on February 10, 2006, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. If you don't make another meeting all year you need to attend this one.

Our keynote speaker will be **Bill Armstrong**, recently retired GM of the Kerr Wildlife Management Area. If you want the FACTS about whitetail genetics, spike bucks, and habitat management, you need to hear Bill's message. Bill spent seventeen years involved with or managing the TP&W whitetail deer research facility in Kerrville and can back up what he says. There are a lot of *opinions* about deer management and genetics, but if you want research-based *facts* come listen to Bill.

We will also be having our annual Board of Directors Election, Hog and Coyote Contest winner drawings, door prizes and great barbeque. We had about 90 people at this meeting last year and we are hoping for an even larger turn out this time. Location will be the Bee County Exposition Center (previously called the Coliseum).

Tickets are \$8 each and are available at the Bee County Extension Office, by mail by sending your check to Larry Jones, P. O. Box 447, Beeville, TX 78104, or from any board member. Tickets are also available at the Mineral Store. Make your reservations early and bring your family and guests.

THREE BOARD MEMBER TERMS ARE EXPIRING

Three board member slots will be voted on and filled at our February Annual Meeting. The terms of Adam Coronado, Pat True, and Larry Jones are expiring.

Director terms are three years, but initial terms were staggered when we organized

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* Buddy Turner -
OGT Program
Director

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in 2004. The above Directors all had two year terms. Association officers are elected by the Board and are selected from the nine Board members.

If you are interested in running for a Board member position, or want to nominate someone that you think would be an asset to the Association, please contact President Tom Keller at 361-375-2924. We will list the nominees in the January newsletter along with brief bios on each candidate. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

COASTAL BEND PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION

The value of fire as a habitat management tool has been stressed many times in this newsletter and elsewhere. To facilitate and increase its use throughout the Coastal Bend a prescribed burn association has been formed. Please review the enclosed NRCS brochure for more information on the benefits of fire and what it can do for your property and wildlife.

We expect the CBPBA to include about nine area counties, among them Bee, Refugio, Victoria, Live Oak, San Patricio, Nueces, Goliad, and Karnes. As equipment is acquired by the association we would like to have two or three regional equipment staging areas for ease of access by members conducting burns.

For more information or to join contact CBPBA Secretary Larry Jones at 361-362-0430 (ljones@hrbizmall.com) or President Kirk Feuerbacher at 361-220-2520 (ckfeuer@tisd.net).

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC COMPLETES FILMING IN BEE COUNTY

BCWMA and UT Austin are getting National and International television exposure. Our fire ant control initiative and Forid Fly introduction program will be part of a National Graphic Television Special (the Explorer Series) to air in 2006. Filming was conducted during the week of December 4th at Tom and Mary Keller’s KC Ranch near Mineral, at the Mineral Store, at the Sandra and Larry Jones ranch on Hwy 202, and at the hospital in Beeville. Additional segments were shot at the UT Labs in Austin where we infected our flies. We will advise you of the airing schedule when we get the information.

We mentioned in a previous newsletter that we were successful in establishing a population of South American Forid flies in Bee County. This particular fly is not from Brazil, but rather from Northern Argentina. The Brazilian flies we worked with apparently did not survive the 2005 drought. The Argentina flies are, however, alive and well on the Lucky S & L Ranch on Hwy 202 and are aggressively attacking Brazilian ants while ignoring native Texas fire ants.

BCWMA will be addressing the Spring, 2006 meeting of TOWMA (Texas Organization of Wildlife Management Associations), updating them on the BCWMA Forid fly introduction program and instructing them on how to start a similar program in their regions of the state.

BIRDS, BUCKS AND BULL EVENT

The Bee County Exposition Center is holding their first annual hunting oriented event January 7, 2006. Their “Birds, Bucks and Bull” flyer is enclosed and we encourage you to attend.

The Exposition Center folks have been extremely supportive of our organization over the last year and a half, and we want to return that support by having a lot of our members at their event. It promises to be a lot of fun. BCWMA will have a booth and there will be a number of vendor displays as well. We hope to see you there.

BCWMA MEETING SCHEDULE

- **December, 2005 - No Meeting**
- **January, 2006 - No Meeting**
- **February 10, 2006 - FRIDAY EVENING - 7:00pm to 9:00pm - Annual**

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Meeting, Election and Banquette - See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

- April 1, 2006 - SATURDAY - Forage, Food Plots, and Supplemental Feeding.
- September - details to follow
- October - details to follow

Our next board meeting will be held December 16 at 3:00pm at the County Extension Office and is open to the public.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

January, mailed on or before January 15 to precede early February Annual Meeting

March, mailed on or before March 15 to precede early April meeting

August, mailed on or before August 15 to precede September meeting

October, (mailed on or before October 15 to precede late October meeting)

Other notices will be sent if circumstances warrant.

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BCWMA Officers

President: Tom Keller, 361-375-2924

Vice President, Ellis McKinney, 361-358-3137

Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Frank, 361-877-4831

BCWMA Directors

Adam Coronado, 361-542-6485

Van Bruns, 361-358-2007

Joe Doreck, 361-456-1125

Bill Frank, 361-749-7763

Larry Jones, 361-362-0430

Tom Keller, 361-375-2924

Ellis McKinney, 361-358-3137

Pat True, 361-548-5059

Randy Walls, 361-287-3376

D. Montemayor, (ex-officio, non voting) 361-362-3280

Newsletter

Larry Jones, 361-362-0430, ljones@hrbizmall.com

BCWMA Member Application

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Cell #: _____
Address: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Member's Cooperative Agreement

I own / manage (circle one) land on county/state road _____ containing _____ acres

(Note: This information is confidential. It is simply used to determine total acreage enrolled in the co-op)

I agree to cooperate with the goals and bylaws of the Bee County Wildlife Management Association.

This agreement does not give any unauthorized person the right to trespass on the above property.

I am in no way obligated to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department of BCWMA. I may or may not agree with the management practices recommended. The only thing I have agreed to is that I recognize the need for wildlife management in order to improve the wildlife on my property.

This agreement is valid as long as I am a dues paying member of the BCWMA.

Enclosed is (circle one) \$20 Member \$100 Life Member \$250 Sponsor

Signature: _____

Make checks payable to BCWMA and mail to P. O. Box 1967, Beeville, TX 78104 Date: _____

BCWMA
Bee County Wildlife Management Association
P. O. Box 447
Beeville, TX 78104

