

Bee County Wildlife Management Association

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



December 2007 Newsletter

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.Bee-County-Wildlife.org>

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BCWMA ANNUAL BANQUETTE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2008

Our 2008 Annual Meeting, Banquette, Election and Fund Raiser will be held on a Saturday evening this year. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and dinner is at 7:15. This is expected to be the largest wildlife oriented event to be held in Bee County in years. Our 2007 meeting was attended by 185 people, and we expect the 2008 event to exceed that. In addition to another interesting speaker and a great dinner, we will have a live auctions and raffles for a large number of items.

Our dinner speaker will be Dr. Stuart Stedman, Chair for White-tailed Deer Research, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute.

To support the fundraiser we are requesting donations of cash or merchandise from businesses and individuals. BCWMA established an annual scholarship program in 2007 (with funds from the 2007 fundraiser) to provide financial assistance to Bee County students that pursue degrees in wildlife related programs. We awarded \$2,500 in direct scholarships and contributed an additional \$3000 to our endowed scholarship fund, for a total of \$5,500 in 2007. The funds raised at this event will continue to support the scholarship funds and other ongoing activities of the Association like the Hunter's Welcome event, the 4H Shooting Club, this newsletter and the web site, among other things.

BCWMA is an IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization. Part or all of donations may qualify as a deductible item on tax returns, donors should consult their CPA.

This is an excellent way to advertise your business or organization. Donations to the silent and live auctions and raffles will be accompanied by a sign recognizing the individual or business donating the item. Donors will also be listed in the event program. Wildlife related vendor booths are encouraged, and a number of vendors displayed last year.

Donations of items of any value are appreciated. Large items such as bird or deer hunts, fishing trips, guns, feeders and blinds will be used in the live auction and are especially needed. A partial list of donors to this year's fundraiser follows below.

The banquette will be held at the Bee County Exposition Center, Beeville, Texas. Tickets are \$12 for adults through February 18. Starting February 19 tickets will be \$20. Children 12 and under are \$6 anytime. Tickets are available at the Bee County Extension office, 210 E. Corpus Christi Street. You can also mail your check and reservation information to BCWMA at P. O. Box 447, Beeville, TX, 78104 or call Larry at 361-362-0430. All board members listed at the end of this newsletter will also have tickets. To donate items or cash you can also call this number. This event is open to the public and anyone interested in wildlife is welcome and encouraged to attend.

We suggest you invite friends and neighboring property owners, and even pay for their tickets if necessary. It is an excellent way to introduce them to BCWMA and get them working with BCWMA and you to better manage our wildlife.

ANNUAL MEETING DONORS & AUCTION ITEMS

Jerry Dunn – Guided Choke Canyon Fishing Trip
South Texas Implement – Stihl Weed Eater
Tasajillo Ranch – 1 Day Guided Doe Hunt for 1 Adult or 1 Child with Parent
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Shell Rapid Lube – Oil Change
Hunting & Recreation Business Mall (Larry Jones) – 300# Protein Feeder
Allied Feed – 200# Hill Country 20% and Crystalix Deer Tub
Dr. Hogue – Framed 13” x 19” Photograph – “Kenya 2007”, Print #4
Bee Motor Sports - \$100 Gift Certificate
Jamie Garza - \$300 Cash (application TBD by BCWMA)
Pogue Seed – 5 Bags of Buck Buffet Seed
Al Brothers – “Aging & Evaluating Whitetails” Book
Bee Ag – 500# of Corn
Bee County Co-op – 500# of Milo
First National Bank – Stainless Steel Ice Chest Filled with Hunting Items
Hogue’s Jewelry – Fancy Gift Basket with Outdoor Sports Items
Mad Matters – 2 Framed Wildlife prints
Liska Construction - “Aging & Evaluating Whitetails” Book & 500# of corn
Liska Construction – Spike Deer or Doe Hunt
Wicker Basket – Gift item
Chili’s - \$25 Gift Certificate
NWTF (National Wild Turkey Federation) Sculpture
And more to come...

BCWMA PRESIDENT RESIGNS

Our President, Pat True, resigned November 6th for health reasons. Pat has had heart problems for some time and decided it was time to step down from the Board and as President. He is a founding member of BCWMA and was in his second term as President. He will be missed and we wish him well. Vice President Randy Walls has taken over as interim President until our February elections.

BOARD MEMBER ELECTION NOMINEES

Current candidates for election or reelection to the Board include:

Mary Sklar, our Secretary, who was elected to a one year term last year and has served us well.

Randy Walls, who is completing his original three year term. Randy was Vice President and is now President, having stepped it to fill the remainder of Pat True’s term.

Open – this position is to fill the expiring term of Joe Doreck who has decided not to run again.

Open – This position is to fill Pat True’s position who resigned earlier in the year.

If you are interested in running for the Board, or know someone who is, please notify Randy Walls ASAP at 361-287-3376. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

LOCAL 4H SHOOTING CLUB RECIEVES FACILITY DONATION FROM BCWMA

The BCWMA Board voted to donate \$1,000 to the Beeville 4H Shooting Sports Club for use in the construction of a new shooting range on the Bee County Exposition Center Grounds. The Board of directors feels strongly that assisting with this project is in keeping with the mission and values of the Wildlife Association. The Board’s position follows: “Through this program Bee County youth develop life skills, self-worth, and conservation ethics. They learn the principles of responsible hunting, the vital role hunting plays in wildlife management, and how to safely use firearms. Considering the pressure our young people are under to use drugs, join gangs, and generally destroy their lives, this program, and programs like it offer them effective and viable alternatives.”

Youth members of the 4-H Shooting Sports Club have been shooting on the Bee County Expo grounds for many years in an open pavilion. Shooters range in age from age 9 through 19. During the 2007 shooting season club membership peaked at 22 young people who were assisted by club managers and many parents and volunteers. Certified Coaches/Safety Officers are required at all competitions and practice sessions.

The current pavilion has several limitations that the new range will eliminate. Conflicting usage is one. For example, shooting practice in preparation for state and national competitions should



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begin in mid January but must currently wait until after the Jr. Livestock and Homemakers show ends in early February. This year (2007) the pavilion was not available until the last half of February. In addition, moving target backstops in and out on almost a weekly basis requires considerable time and manpower and the use of a tractor. Lighting must be disassembled and then reassembled. A dedicated facility will eliminate all these problems and increase team competitiveness by allowing adequate practice time. The club also hopes to start bringing shooting competitions to Beeville.

Construction costs for the proposed and very modest facility are estimated at between sixty and seventy thousand dollars. The 4-H Shooting Sports Board of Trustees has secured a 25-year lease for property located on the county owned expo grounds. Two concrete pads will be poured on a 100' by 100' area and will have metal covers installed. One of the concrete pads will be approximately 30 ft. by 75 ft. to accommodate shooters, spotters, coaches, and observers. The other will contain the targets and backstops. Concrete sidewalks will connect the two areas.

BCWMA urges individuals and businesses in Bee County to join them in helping to build this new facility. To make a tax-deductible contribution, send a check made payable to "Beeville 4-H Shooting Sports Bldg. Fund." to Donnie Montemayor, Bee County Extension Agent, 210 East Corpus Christi, Street, Beeville, TX 78102.

BCWMA "HUNTER'S WELCOME" EVENT A SUCCESS

Well guess what, there really was a free lunch this year, and BCWMA provided it. We held a Hunter's Welcome event at the Beeville Community Center at noon on the opening day of the 2007 hunting season (November 3) and it was attended by between 70 and 80 people, many of whom were hunters but not members of BCWMA. All it took to get in was a 2007-2008 Texas hunting license. This event exposed a lot of people to the principles of quality deer management and the vital role WMAs play in benefiting wildlife. We also gained a few members and one sponsor. We will repeat this event in 2008.

In addition to its educational benefits, BCWMA held this event to show community appreciation for the positive impact local and visiting hunters have on the economy and wildlife of Bee County. Hunters inject significant dollars into the local economy in the form of motels, food, gasoline, hunting leases, vehicles, ammunition and supplies. Hunter knowledge and cooperation is critical to effective wildlife management, and in an increasing number of cases hunters are more informed, and more willing to participate in, responsible harvest practices than some landowners. Hunter license fees and taxes pay for the majority of all conservation programs in Texas and the US. We need and appreciate their presence and assistance and this event was a small way of saying thank you.

Nationally recognized wildlife expert Al Brothers conducted the technical portion of the meeting and based on audience reaction, questions, and follow up after the meeting it was a huge success. Our thanks once again for the continued support Al provides to BCWMA. We are very fortunate to have this great resource available to us.

HELP! I'VE FOUND AN ORPHANED WILD ANIMAL

By Scott Mitchell, TPWD Biologist, Victoria

We often get calls about people finding orphaned animals and wanting someone to take care of them or even wondering if they can keep them and raise the animal themselves. Well my advice on this is as follows.

What to do if you think you have found a wounded animal.

If you have found an animal that you think may be orphaned, or possibly injured, we first recommend observing the animal, from a distance. If your cat brought it in your house in its mouth, or it just flew in front of you and you hit it with your car, then chances are the animal is indeed injured and you probably don't need to observe it first.

However, if you think an animal may be orphaned, there's a good chance that it is not. Wild animals are extremely good parents. Remember, they have a biological drive within them that tells them to do nothing in this world but procreate and raise offspring.

We must also realize that parents need to eat, too! Although a good deal of wild parents 'tag-team' feeding themselves, some wild parents are solely responsible for raising their young, so there are going to be times when the offspring are left alone. If you observe the young animal from a



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361-362-0430

The magic bullet in deer management is trigger restraint!

Macy Ledbetter

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website at
www.towma.org**

distance (i.e., not visible or audible to the wild parent), chances are the parent(s) will come back. If you are near the young, however, or allow children or pets near the young, the parent(s) may not come back Finding a fawn is the best example of this.

A doe will leave her fawns for hours at a time and the fawns will lie very still and quiet while mom is away, leading us to believe they may be ill or injured. Unless you know for sure that the doe has died, it is very unlikely that the fawn is truly orphaned. Imagine how disappointed the doe would be to come back and find her fawn 'kidnapped'! Again, the best approach is to observe. Don't try to interfere unless you're sure the animal has been orphaned or injured.

We also recommend replacing displaced young with their parent(s). The most frequently encountered example of this is a disturbed bird's nest. If a nest has fallen from its location, even if it has become totally destroyed, and the parents are around, they will resume care of their young. A good makeshift nest is a plastic berry basket, but just about anything will do. If you are able to reach the location from which it fell, it is best to 'scoop up' all the nestling birds and put the nest back. If the location from which it fell is inaccessible, or gone (i.e., a felled tree), put the nestlings in a makeshift nest in a protected area, away from predators and humans.

Remember that wild animals should stay wild and not all animals that are taken in by rehabilitators live to be wild again. Give the parents a chance to raise their young and most will. Wildlife rehabilitators are available in your area. They who work to insure orphaned animals make a successful recovery to become wild again. So if you truly have an orphaned animal, there is help, but be extra cautious for all concerned.

EVENTS

February 23, 2008 - BCWMA Annual Meeting, Election and Fundraiser. 6:30 to 9:00PM, Bee County Expo Center, Beeville. See separate item above for more information or visit our website at <http://www.bee-county-wildlife.org>

BCWMA Officers & Directors

President, Randy Walls, 361-287-3376
Secretary-Treasurer, Mary Sklar, 361-782-5853

BCWMA Directors

Joe Doreck, 361-456-1125
Jamie Garza, 361-334-3770
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Newsletter Editor & Webmaster
Larry Jones, 361-362-0430

BCWMA Member Application

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Cell #: _____
Address: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____
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Enclosed is (circle one) \$20 Member \$100 Life Member \$250 Sponsor

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