

BCWMC

Bee County Wildlife Management Co-op

June 2004 Newsletter

Did you know...

...private landowners own 94% of the land in Texas?

...fragmentation of large family owned farms and ranches may pose the greatest single threat to our wildlife habitat and to the long-term viability of agriculture in Texas?

...wildlife management associations are groups of private landowners voluntarily working together to improve wildlife habitats and associated wildlife populations?

...it is crucial to find ways to keep contiguous tracts of land together and to find ways for all landowners to participate in conservation?

Tidbits

"Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow cycles of nature, is a help."

May Sarton

JUNE MEMBER MEETING

Twenty One people attended our first formal member meeting on June 1st and five new ranches joined the association. Macy Ledbetter, TP&W Game Biologist for Bee, Live Oak, and McMullen counties was guest speaker. He talked about game management and made some excellent points, including:

- No matter what individual species you manage for, you are also managing for many others, including non-game animals and song birds.
- Managing for quail and deer helps all species.
- While assisting countless ranchers over many years he has "never met a person who wanted to mess up their land or ponds" - everyone wants to make them better. We have a common goal!
- One ranch managing for wildlife is good, but when adjoining landowners manage together the impact is much greater.
- Bee County has the genetics for trophy size "South Texas" deer.
- Deer must be allowed to reach their 5th, 6th, and 7th year if you want trophy animals; shooting younger animals because "if I don't the neighbors will" is self defeating. Co-ops help develop trust between neighbors and sound management plans that result in trophy animals.
- Last year was the best year in a long time for wildlife, and 2004 is shaping up to be as good or better. With this great wildlife base proper management *now* will pay off for years to come.
- On predator control: "you can never eliminate them, only control them - you just kill the dumb ones and educate the rest. Managing their numbers benefits the prey species and yet some predators are still there for those of us who enjoy seeing them."
- Feral hogs will kill and eat (not necessarily in that order) many fawns during the next 30 days or so while they are being born.

Macy is available to provide technical guidance to landowners, including the development of specific management plans for individual ranches. The service is provided at no charge and on a "time available" basis by TP&W. He can be contacted at 361-786-4510.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We currently have 28 paid members, 24 of which are Life Members. You DO NOT have to own property to join. Anyone interested in improving the quantity and quality of wildlife in Bee County is WELCOME. Tell your hunters, they may want to join as well. Contact an officer or board member (see side bar) for applications.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND DUES

Regular annual dues are \$20 per calendar year. Life Memberships are available for a one time fee of \$100. Life members who join during 2004 become CHARTER Members.

All members will receive a Bee County Wildlife Management Association gate sign (see separate item for details) identifying them as members of the co-op.

GATE SIGNS

The Association gate signs have been ordered and should be available after June 23 at the Bee County Extension Service Office, 210 E. Corpus Christi Street, Beeville (corner of Buchanan and Corpus Christi, old library bldg.) Each member is entitled to one free sign and can buy additional signs for \$20 each while this initial order lasts. They will also be available at the August 10th

<p><i>“Success is relative. It is what we can make of the mess we have made of things.”</i> T. S. Eliot</p> <p><i>“I believe in God, only I spell it nature.”</i> Frank Lloyd Wright</p> <p><i>“When the character of a man is not clear to you, look at his friends”</i> Japanese Proverb</p> <p><i>“Ninety percent of the politicians give the other ten percent a bad reputation”</i> Henry Kissinger</p> <p><i>“People will accept your ideas much more readily if you tell them Benjamin Franklin said it first”</i> David H. Comins</p> <p><i>“I think that I shall never see a billboard lovely as a tree. Perhaps, unless the billboards fall, I'll never see a tree at all.”</i> Odgen Nash</p> <p>Officers President: Tom Keller 361-375-2924 Vice President Ellis McKinney 361-358-3137 Secretary-Treasurer Bill Frank 361-877-4831</p>	<p>meeting. The signs are 18” x 24”, made of heavy gauge .063 aluminum, and are white with black lettering. There is a space where you add your individual ranch name with stick-on vinyl letters.</p> <p><u>POND MANAGEMENT RESOURCES</u> Several members have expressed interest in obtaining professional help with their ponds and tanks. The State of Texas no longer provides assistance on private waters but some publications are available. Go to http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fish/infish/ponds/ for downloads. Local, for hire, technical assistance is available from Jon Herrmann of Herrmann Fish Farm in Robstown. They have an electro fishing boat and can develop pond population assessments and recommendations as well as help with water analysis, vegetation control, and aeration. Of course they also sell fish for stocking. Contact them at 361-387-7819. Adjoining landowners can sometimes split the day rate consulting costs, depending on what is done on each property. <u>We plan to have a Field Day/Demo with Jon on an area pond early in 2005.</u> Another excellent resource is Pond Boss Magazine. Additional fisheries consultants advertise in that magazine. Contact them at 1-800-687-6075 for subscription information and other pond management information.</p> <p><u>TEXAS ORGANIZATION OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS (TOWMA)</u> We have joined TOWMA and you, as a member of the Bee County Wildlife Management Co-op, are automatically an associate member of TOWMA and are welcome to attend all their meetings. TOWMA is an organization which brings together wildlife management associations throughout Texas to achieve common goals and objectives through synergy - where the sum is greater than the parts. TOWMA represents over 60 associations in 33 counties of Texas with over 3000 members that control 1.5 million acres. They:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold major biannual meetings (symposiums) in February and August • Represent all wildlife associations by serving on TP&W’s Private Lands Advisory Committee and White-tailed Deer Advisory Committee, plus a member normally attends the TPWD Commission meetings • Monitor legislation that may impact small landowners, wildlife or Wildlife Management Associations and testify in their behalf as necessary. Maintain non-profit 501(C)(3) status to receive grants and donations on behalf of member associations. • Maintain a website for member information at http://www.towma.org <p><u>CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Our Local Meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>July 8, 2004</u> 3:00PM - 4:30PM - <u>Board Meeting</u>, Bee County Extension Service Office, open to all members. • <u>August 10, 2004</u> - 6:00PM to 8:00PM - <u>Membership Field Trip</u> Program: Dr. William Ocampaugh on establishing food plots and the varieties of food plants that are doing well here. Texas A & M Research Center, Hwy 59, Beeville. • <u>September 7, 2004</u> - 7:30PM - 8:30PM - <u>Membership Meeting</u> Program: Supplemental Feeding and Deer Nutrition Bee County Extension Service Office. • <u>October 5, 2004</u> - 7:30PM - 8:30PM - <u>Membership Meeting</u> Program: Deer Management, Including Aging and Harvest Standards. • <u>November 9, 2004</u> - 7:30PM - 8:30PM - <u>Membership Field Trip</u> Program: Care and Processing of Deer and Feral Hogs • December, 2004 - No Meeting
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Directors

Adam Coronado
R. W. Dirks
Bill Frank
Larry Jones
Tom Keller
Ellis McKinney
Charles Smith
Pat True
W. T. Young
D. Montemayor*
*(ex-officio, non voting)

Newsletter

Larry Jones
361-362-0430

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**OPERATION
GAME THIEF
1-800-792-GAME**

“There is no stronger deterrent to a poacher than the knowledge that his peers find his philosophy and actions unacceptable to the point that they will report him to the game warden.”

** Buddy Turner -
OGT Program
Director **

- January, 2005 - No Meeting currently planned
- February, 2005 - **Annual Membership Meeting and Meal**, details to follow later

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - State Wide

August 12,13,14, 2004 - TOWMA Wildlife Symposium (Texas Organization of Wildlife Management Associations)
YO Resort, Kerrville, Texas
<http://www.towma.org>

August 13, 14, 15, 2004 - Texas Trophy Hunters Extravaganza
One of the largest hunting related trade shows in Texas.
San Antonio
http://www.ttha.com/hx/extra_sa.html

October 2, 3, 2004 - Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo
This is a great, multi-faceted wildlife event at TP&W Headquarters in Austin.
<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/expo/> - 512/389-4472

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

JUNE:

Control grazing to provide nesting cover.
Leave some standing winter crops around the edges of fields.
Use caution when mowing to avoid wildlife mortality, including fawns, turkeys and quail, and leave some uncut strips.
Establish warm season food plots.
Spot fertilize as needed.
Clean hummingbird feeders every three or four days.

JULY:

Continue to establish warm season food plots.
Continue to spot fertilize as needed.

NEWSLETTER: USPS vs. EMAIL

We much prefer sending your newsletter by email. It saves paper, time, postage, printing, and the labor required to hand fold, tape shut, and add postage to the newsletter. It also gives you direct access to the web links we will publish from time to time when we think they might be of interest to you. If you can receive email please send your address to ljones@hrbizmall.com with a quick note requesting your newsletter be emailed. If we have your email address on file you will have received this copy of the newsletter that way. THANK YOU in advance for your help!

NEWSLETTER CONTENT SOLICITATED

Please submit information about coming events and topics that you think would be of interest to other co-op members. Email (ljones@hrbizmall.com), FAX (361-162-1309) or call (361-362-0430) Larry Jones

WEB LINKS OF INTEREST

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/wild/> **Fact Sheets** on many species of Texas wildlife provided by TP&W
http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/consERVE/private_land/agricultural_land/media/pdf/prop11guidelines.pdf
Agriculture **Property Tax Conversion** for Wildlife Management
<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/news/tpwcal/> **TP&W State Wide Events Calendar**