



Oaks and Prairies Wildlifer

A newsletter for landowners in the Post Oak Savannah
and Coastal Prairies Regions of Texas

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

July 2023

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Our Wildlife Biologists

District Field Notes

BY DAVID FORRESTER

We had an excellent spring with good moisture and mild days. Native vegetation was in great shape, antler production got a good start, and fawning cover was adequate. Everything was hunky dory and then we entered June. We've gotten extremely hot, and the waterworks have shut off. Hopefully, we can break this cycle soon. Right now, antler production should be good. The great conditions at the beginning of the antler growing season started things off with a bang. Hopefully, we won't lose it during the summer doldrums.

Biologists have completed their dove surveys and have started trapping doves again this summer. Both mourning dove and white-winged dove are trapped and banded this time of year. Along with the survey data, the band data collected on doves during dove season gives us a good estimate of population numbers and is used to combat any restrictions that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service might want to put on dove hunting, whether it be season lengths or bag limits. Additionally, biologists are getting ready to begin running Deer Management Unit (DMU) spotlight lines. Spotighting begins at the end of July and runs into September. Additionally, our wildlife management associations are gearing up to run their spotlight lines.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) continues to be a concern for the state. We've had additional new positive cases arise since we reported the new cases in the spring newsletter. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission met in March and accepted a new proposal for handling these positive cases that are tied to deer breeding facilities. The proposal is to establish mandatory sampling zones within a two-mile radius of the positive case. Every landowner that falls within or touches this boundary would be subject to mandatory sampling and carcass movement restrictions. This would mean that any animals harvested within the zone would need to be tested for CWD and the animal would need to be quartered out before exiting the zone. Although this is burdensome to those landowners that fall within the zone, this new proposal drastically reduces the size of the zones that have been established in the past, thereby impacting fewer landowners. Below are the two proposed zones in District 7, one in Washington County and one in Gonzales County.

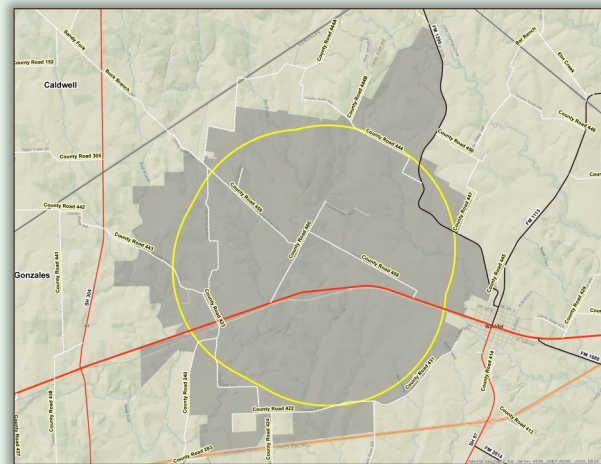
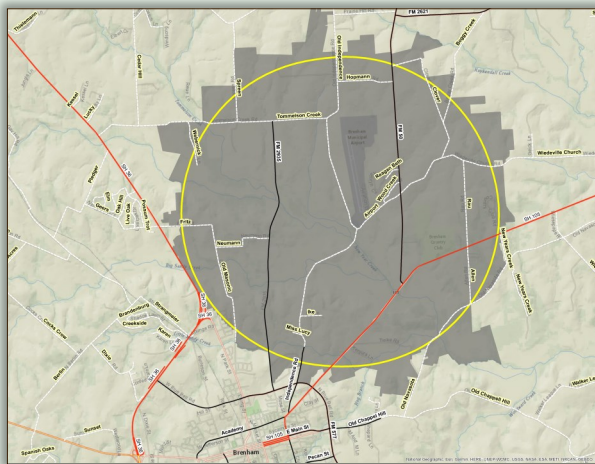
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State of the District, continued

We plan on establishing drop boxes just outside each of these zones where hunters can leave deer heads for testing. We also plan on hiring seasonal employees that can be available to pull samples and to meet landowners for testing if that proves to be an optimal way to test an animal. Along with hunter harvested animals, we want to make sure we test any injured deer or deer that may have been killed along a roadway. We'll publish the drop box locations and phone numbers when we get closer to hunting season.

Our Bastrop and Caldwell Counties biologist position is currently open. We have interviewed and should have a new biologist in place by August 1, 2023. We are excited to get a new biologist in place to work with the local Wildlife Management Associations and landowners in Bastrop and Caldwell Counties. This is a challenging position because of the diversity of things that can fall on a biologist's plate. Deer management, wildlife valuation, urbanization, and endangered species are just some of the areas that the biologist needs to navigate.

This summer has been extremely hot and dry so far. They are saying this may be the hottest July in history. Stay hydrated and concentrate activity in the early morning or late evening, but make sure you and yours get out and enjoy the wildlife and habitat on your piece of Texas.



Left: Washington County 2 mile zone. Right: Gonzales County 2 mile zone. Photos © TPWD



David Forrester is the District 7 Leader in La Grange. He has been with TPWD since 2001 when he started his career as the TPWD wildlife biologist for Fort Bend and Wharton counties. David has a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics and a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, both from Texas A&M University, and a Master of Science in Range and Wildlife Management from Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Species Spotlight: Alligators in Texas

WRITTEN BY SHANNON BARRON

American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*) have come a long way in the United States. Once overhunted and subsequently listed as endangered in 1967 under The Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966 (later The Endangered Species Act of 1973), complete protection helped their numbers rebound. Alligators were down-listed as threatened in 1977 in parts of their range (Texas included) and were range-wide removed from the endangered species list in 1987. However, protections are still in place for the 10 states where they occur. For example, 22 counties in Texas are considered core counties for the American alligator: Angelina, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Galveston, Hardin, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Trinity, Tyler, and Victoria. Core counties contain prime historical habitats for alligators in Texas. In these counties, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) engages in annual surveys and manages harvest through tag issuance to landowners. In non-core counties, alligators can be harvested during the open season at one per hunting license. A Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) tag must be obtained after harvest by sending a Wildlife Resource Document to TPWD's Austin Headquarters.

Alligators are part of the Order Crocodylia, aquatic predators of 25 species worldwide. In this Order, there are 2 naturally occurring species in the United States, the American alligator, and the American crocodile. The nearest living relatives of this Order are birds. Alligators are in the Family Alligatoridae which is comprised of 8 species worldwide and the American alligator is the only naturally occurring species in the United States. The distribution of alligators in Texas (Fig. 1) is limited by habitat and temperature requirements. Areas with the best wetland habitats such as coastal marshes, riverine wetlands, and reservoirs are most frequently used by alligators. They prefer still, quiet waters with a muddy substrate for burrowing. Alligators can tolerate saltwater for short periods of time, and they also tolerate brackish water, but fresh water is preferred.

American alligator adults are typically 5.9 to 13.1 feet in length. Hatchlings are 8.3 to 9.1 inches. The largest known alligator was recorded in Louisiana in 1890 at 19'2". The Texas state record was a male harvested from Choke Canyon Reservoir in 2013 at 14' 3" and 800 pounds. Males and females grow at similar rates until age 3 and then males grow faster as females shift energy from growth to reproduction. A Louisiana study revealed that male alligators at age 10 averaged 8.4 feet while females averaged 6.9 feet. At 20 years of age, males averaged 11.5 feet and females 8.4 feet. Reproduction occurs in late spring to early summer and females lay eggs in nests in mid-June to early July. Nest mounds are constructed of grasses, cattails, and mud. The decaying vegetation and sun provide warmth for the 9-week egg incubation. The temperature during the first 10 days of embryo development decides the sex of hatchlings with temperatures of 83° F and cooler producing females.

American alligator. Photo © TPWD



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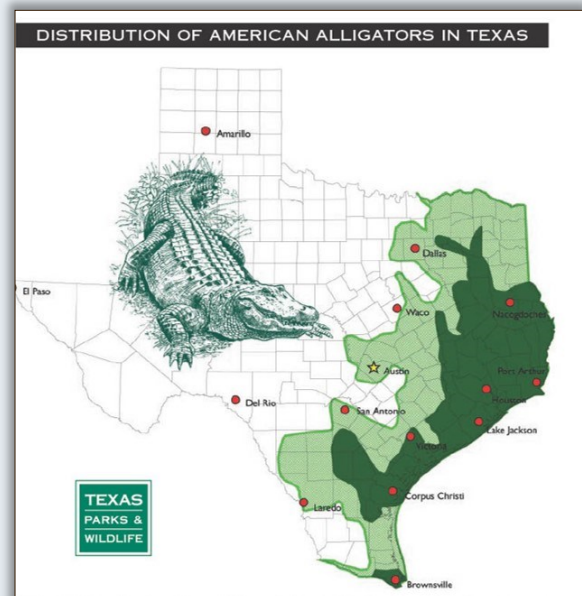
Species Spotlight: Alligators in Texas, continued

Alligators are very opportunistic feeders and will consume prey items relative to their body size. Juveniles will eat small prey including spiders, insects, crayfish, shrimp, minnows, and crabs. Large alligators will consume turtles, fish, wading birds, ducks, muskrats, nutria, otters, raccoons, carrion, and sometimes even deer and hogs. Unfortunately, they will also consume trash that is left behind or finds its way into waterways. Alligators create “gator holes” by burrowing in soft mud. The holes are ecologically important as they retain water during drought and provide important aquatic life refuges. Their behavior cycles are largely temperature dependent. For example, you will find them basking to help regulate their body temperature. They are mostly nocturnal and are largely inactive below 60° F.

While alligators are usually near water, during flooding or drought, they may appear in some strange places. Also, in spring and summer alligators are moving around to breed and find new habitats. Smaller alligators are pushed out of their former territory by larger alligators. If you find a displaced young alligator in your pond, it will often move on in a week or two. TPWD does not typically move alligators unless they pose an immediate risk to humans, such as sitting on your front porch! If an alligator is perceived to be a nuisance, this should be reported to TPWD Austin Headquarters. If the animal is deemed a nuisance, then a complaint number is issued, and the landowner must hire a nuisance control permittee to remove the alligator.

Fun Facts about Alligators:

- *They can hold their breath for up to 45 minutes*
- *Their nostrils have a valve that closes underwater*
- *Adults have 80 conical-shaped teeth that are replaced as they are lost- they may go through 2,000 to 3,000 teeth in a lifetime*
- *They have small brains with excellent vision, smell, and hearing*
- *They have a force of about 300 pounds/sq inch to shut their jaws, but little strength for opening their jaws*



Shannon Barron is the wildlife biologist for Victoria and Calhoun counties. She received her B.S. in Range and Wildlife Management from Texas A&M-Kingsville. After several internships, including 2 years at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, Shannon moved to Arizona for 13 years. There she earned her M.S. in Wildlife Conservation and Management from the University of Arizona and worked as a wildlife biologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Fort Huachuca Army Installation. Shannon reclaimed her Texas residency and began her career with TPWD in February 2018.

Predator Management as a Wildlife Tool

WRITTEN BY CLINTON FAAS

Predator management, and the discussion of whether it is needed, can turn into quite a debate. Like so many of the topics discussed in these newsletters, an in-depth dive into the subject could be a book by itself. At the end of that book the conclusion might still be the dreaded “it depends.” For many people predator management is just something you do, often without thought of why.

To begin the dive into predator management, the first step is to evaluate the goals of the property. Determining what the target species are will begin to dictate the approach toward predators. For instance, someone managing specifically for quail may have a different approach than someone managing for deer. The person that wants to maximize hunter opportunity and harvest for white-tailed deer will likely have a different approach than the person that strives to produce trophy antlers. For each of these scenarios, and everything in between, one must identify the potential predators. From coyotes and bobcats to raptors, snakes, domestic pets, raccoons, and skunks, each predator can have different impacts on their prey.



Raccoon in a rice field. Photo © TPWD

By definition, a predator is an organism that kills and consumes another organism. Although they may have impacts to our differing views of wildlife management, they play an important role in nature. For starters, they keep prey populations at healthy levels, or at least play a part in managing population numbers. This can help reduce the potential of disease transmission, reduce the impact of prey on environmental resources (i.e. habitat), reduce human-wildlife conflicts with their prey species, and increase nutrient cycling. Predators also affect prey distribution on the landscape which helps distribute pressure across the habitat. All of which help maintain healthy ecosystem function. We must remember that predator/prey relationships are a natural part of the environment that have evolved together over millennia. Looking at this relationship graphically, the rise and fall of prey populations look much like sound waves: Peaks representing high populations followed by valleys representing low populations. This cyclical pattern is natural and the result of prey relationships with the environment and the associated carrying capacity. With this cyclical pattern of prey, we also see a cyclical pattern (up and down sound waves) of predators. Much like the changing carrying capacity of a particular habitat the change in prey abundance dictates the population size of the predators. While some predators vary more than others, an awareness of these fluctuations can help predict or manage changes in the species we manage.

So again, the question arises: to control predators, or not to control predators? Whether you are looking from the perspective of a livestock producer, a wildlife manager, or both, several questions must be addressed to help answer this question.

- Which species is causing an issue and is it something you can control?
- Can predator control reduce damage from that species?
- Will control be effective and is it economically feasible?
- What other options are available to prevent damage?
- Is predation limiting local populations?
- Can the habitat support more game animals?

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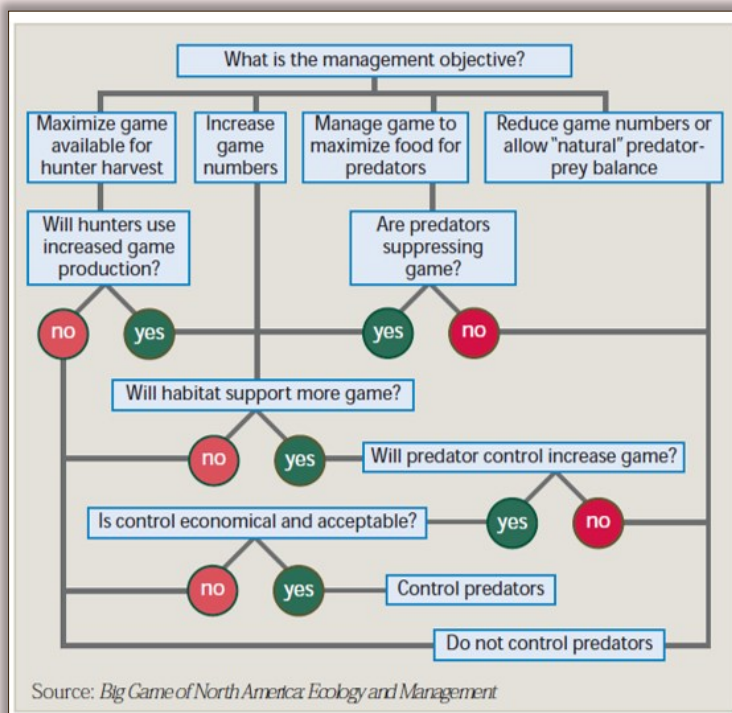
Predator Management as a Wildlife Tool, continued

The answers to each of these questions will help build the case for your management decisions. Some species may not cause large-scale losses to prey, and some, like raptors for quail, cannot be controlled through traditional methods. In some instances, the cost associated with control will exceed the expected cost of losses so management may not be feasible. Habitat must also be considered. Decreasing predators may result in an increase in prey species. If the predators are currently limiting that species, and the habitat can support additional prey animals, then control methods may allow the prey to increase nearer to the full capacity of the habitat. Figure 1 provides an example of the decision-making process and outlines when a person may choose to manage predators on their land. In this decision-making, an integrated approach to predator management is recommended. This may include prevention as well as mechanical, biological, and chemical control.

The first step in management is to identify the predators. Even without seeing them firsthand, information can be gathered from mortality events that will allow managers to identify the culprit. The type and extent of wounds, kill and feeding sites, as well as examining the carcass for wounds, hemorrhaging, bruises, broken bones, etc. can help infer what predator is responsible. After the predators are identified, attempt to monitor the population, or at minimum, begin to pay attention to the occurrence of that species. Remember, just because a predation event occurred, it does not necessarily mean immediate action is needed. Once this information is gathered, an action threshold needs to be set. Determine what is an acceptable level of damage and evaluate how losses balance with your management expenses. If this threshold is passed, consider the goals you have in mind. Be specific and ask yourself if they are realistic to achieve. Also, consider whether you can legally accomplish what you plan to do and learn what regulations there are for the control of the species in question. If the decision is made to take on predator management any number of techniques can be used. As previously mentioned, these include prevention, cultural, mechanical, biological, and chemical control. With the wide array of species, goals, and predators, management is never a “one size fits all,” but often prevention can help mediate impacts from

predation. Prevention comes in many forms, but the most effective means is quality habitat management. Providing prey animals with adequate cover allows them to utilize their natural abilities to hide and get away from predators. While cover looks and functions differently for different species, some aspects form the basis of survival:

- Fawning/Nesting Cover: helps offspring grow to a point of being able to escape from predators on their own.
- Screening/Brooding/Loafing Cover: allows animals to move about in search of food and live day-to-day without being visible from long distances.
- Escape Cover: provides the obstruction needed to get away from predators if the prey is on the run.



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Predator Management as a Wildlife Tool, continued

Biological, mechanical, and chemical control can be quite specific depending on the type of predators being managed. It is suggested that each scenario be evaluated for the manager's goals and objectives, as well as the most effective measure to control the predators in each situation. Prior to this determination, take notes of when and where the predation events took place. Make notes of sightings, predation events, animal behaviors, and any other details that may aid in choosing the best management technique. If management is implemented, keep records of what you did (when, where, and how), what worked and what didn't, and attempt to identify how future problems can be prevented.

For many people, predator management is a cultural act. It's just "what you do" for wildlife management and something taken on without much thought for timing or whether it is necessary. In some instances, there can even be unintended consequences that come from predator removal. As an example, thinking about what the predators to your predators are may change how management is approached. As a quail or turkey manager, intense removal of coyotes may give rise to increased populations of meso mammals like skunks, raccoons, and other nest predators. From a deer management standpoint, an argument can be made for not opportunistically removing predators as you see them. Without considering the current deer population and condition of the habitat, removal of predators may result in even more deer in the population leading to further habitat use. Another factor to consider is our part in deer management. If sex ratios are unbalanced, the breeding season may lengthen resulting in fawns being born over a longer period. Tighter sex ratios mean shorter fawning seasons which result in less fawn predation and potentially less impact from predators. This also means that a targeted approach to predator management during that time may make bigger impacts than the opportunistic removal mentioned above.

Regardless of whether predator management is implemented as part of your wildlife management goals, it is important to recognize that native predators are a key component in healthy ecosystems. As with the game/prey species we manage, management of predators may be, but isn't always, needed to maintain that healthy balance. Understanding the life history of predators will improve the effectiveness of prevention and management and an integrated approach to management will be the most beneficial. Various science-based management techniques can help prevent and manage issues with predators. However, even with a comprehensive plan, the best way to benefit the wildlife species you manage is with a focus on quality habitat.

"Harmony with the land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left. That is to say, you cannot love game and hate predators... The land is one organism"

--- Aldo Leopold



Clint Faas is the District 7 biologist for Wharton and northern Jackson Counties. A Wharton County native, he graduated from Texas A&M University in 2005 with a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Management and a minor in Rangeland Ecology and Management. He went on to obtain a M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from Texas State University in 2008. Post-graduation, and prior to his hire in 2017, Faas worked as a private sector biologist and Director of Conservation Programs for a statewide non-profit.

The North American Wildlife Model: Wildlife Ownership

WRITTEN BY BOBBY EICHLER

Wildlife conservation in the United States is unique compared to many other parts of the world. The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is the guiding principle in wildlife management today in the United States and also Canada. The Model consist of various laws, principles, regulations, and policies that have evolved over time. Although the model is based on tenants primarily developed during the 19th century in North America, some of its roots hark back to the Roman Empire.

The Model is based on two guiding principles; 1) fish and wildlife belong to the people and 2) wildlife are to be managed in ways that will sustain healthy populations forever. These two guiding principles are further supported by seven pillars known as the Seven Sisters of Conservation (RMEF).

The Seven Sisters of Conservation are as follows; 1) wildlife is to be held in the public trust, 2) there is a prohibition on commerce of dead wildlife, 3) the allocation of wildlife is by law, 4) there should be opportunity for all, 5) the killing of wildlife should be for legitimate purposes or non-frivolous use, 6) Wildlife is to be considered an international resource, and 7) wildlife policy should be managed by science [REMF]. Due to the lengthy discussion on each one of these principles, the goal of this article is to cover Sister #1 and the topic of public trust.

To understand the principle of public trust, one must follow centuries of law that set the precedence for the public trust doctrine.

Roman law classified property as either, 1) belonging to the gods, 2) belonging to the state, or 3) belonging to the individual. Property could also be classified as common property, meaning that it could not be privately owned and it was for the common use of everybody. Within the Roman society, wildlife was included in the property group that was to be owned by no one, thus being common property (*Organ et al. 2012*).

In A.D. 1215 the English established the Magna Carta and used portions of Roman law within its development. At this time, since the English did not like the idea of ownerless property, the ownership of public resources was placed under the king (*Horner 2000*). Under the Magna Carta, the king was entrusted with the public resources and given the responsibility to oversee it; this often meant only the wealthy and those closely aligned with the king were able to enjoy the natural resources.

In the early period of the American colonies English law was the law of the land. After independence and after the formation of the United States, there was no king to be the trustee (*Organ et al. 2012*). Also during this time of great expansion, wildlife populations were being decimated by massive habitat loss and wide scale market hunting due to no regulations. It was not until the Supreme Court decision in 1842 of *Martin v. Waddell* that public resources were entrusted to the government (*Organ et al. 2012*). This court case set the foundation for the modern Public Trust Doctrine. The Public Trust Doctrine has since become a pillar for wildlife management and conservation in the United States and Canada.

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The North American Wildlife Model: Wildlife Ownership, continued

The Public Trust Doctrine, as explained by Sax, has four fundamental concepts (Sax 1999). Concept 1 states that public trust is common law. This means that there is no legal code specific to the doctrine. All the early guidelines for the doctrine were 'judge-made law' and evolved through court decisions. Early development of the Anglo-American legal system was mainly from court rulings and common law. Concept 2 states that public trust is state law. Within this, there is no single law but many laws and the laws unifying principle is the fundamental rights of all citizens. Concept 3 states that public trust is property law. This means that states are asserting their own property rights or rights that belong to the public. Concept 4 states that public trust is a public right. The meaning of concept 4 is that trust property is owned by the public and held for the benefit of the public.

Why is it important to understand the history and basic principles dealing with ownership of wildlife? Today in the United States, game laws cover a wide spectrum when dealing with 50 states. As stated previously, the Public Trust Doctrine has been created mostly through judicial decisions and not as much on legislative decisions. In the past, this type of decision making has consistently favored the Public Use Doctrine. While the North American Wildlife Model will surely evolve more over time, it is important to understand the foundation of the model so that there are some guiding principles. In today's culture, wildlife ownership and the principle of wildlife being held in public trust seems to be under attack every legislative session throughout the United States. Whether you are for or against the Public Trust Doctrine, it is your democratic right to have a voice by letting your state and federal representatives and judges know your stance. Don't sit idly by then realize it is too late.

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Bobby Eichler is the Technical Guidance Biologist for the Oak Prairie District. He has Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Forestry both with emphasis in Game Management, from Stephen F. Austin State University. A native of Giddings, Bobby started his TPWD career in East Texas before moving to La Grange in 2007.

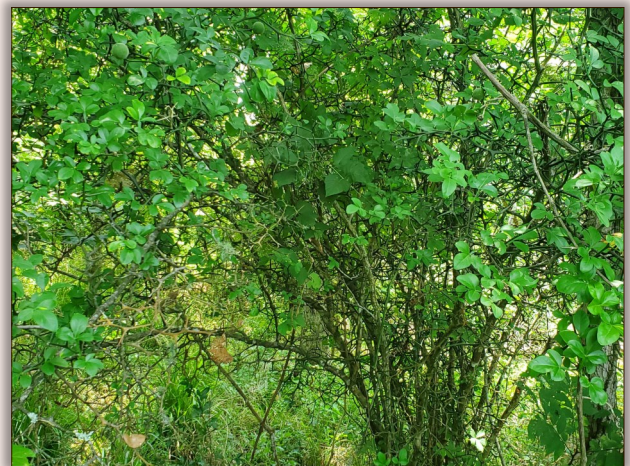
Plant Profile: Trifoliate Orange

WRITTEN BY TODD PILCIK

Trifoliate orange, hardy orange, bitter orange, or wild citrus, no matter what you call it, is a non-native, invasive plant that can quickly overtake native habitats deeming them less than desirable for people or wildlife. Trifoliate orange (*Poncirus trifoliata* aka *Citrus trifoliata*) is native to central and northern China, the Korean peninsula and Japan. It was likely originally introduced to North America to provide living fencerows, as an ornamental, as rootstock for grafted citrus or a cold tolerant citrus for northern climates. It can be found in the eastern United States from Pennsylvania to Texas. In Texas, it can currently be found in the eastern half of the state as far west as Austin and San Antonio.



Trifoliate orange is a shrub or small tree growing between 8 and 15 feet in height. Leaves, as its namesake implies, are 3 lobed. Leaves emerge pale yellow, turning glossy dark green in summer and yellow again in the fall before being shed. In spring it produces white flowers (like cultivated citrus) with 4 to 7 petals. Fruits are small (1-2.5 inches in diameter) and dark green, changing to yellow or yellowish orange in the fall. Fruits are slightly pubescent or fuzzy. They have a thick rind, are full of seeds, and lack large quantities of pulp. Fruits are edible and are sometimes used for preserves like marmalade and drinks such as liqueurs. Due to high acidity, excessive consumption may cause nausea and stomach pain. The rinds contain volatile chemicals that can cause skin irritation. Flowers and fruits aside, the stems of the plant itself are covered with large sharp thorns up to 2 inches, and the plants themselves can create impenetrable thickets. The bark on new growth is dark green yielding to a gray-green as the stems mature. The plants are cold and disease tolerant, tolerating frost and snow with temperatures down to -10° F and resistance to the tristeza virus and the fungus that causes root rot. Although the exposed portion of the plant may succumb to freeze events, the root stock readily responds with new growth. There is no other plant in this area that can be confused with trifoliate orange.



Trifoliate orange. Photos © TPWD

Trifoliate orange prefers moderately drained soils with plenty of sunlight, but it is not uncommon to find it thriving in the understory of riparian areas. This plant provides some benefit to wildlife. Pollinators including bees and swallowtail butterflies use the flowers, and occasionally birds utilize the menacing thorn structure for nesting as a deterrent for predators.

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Plant Profile: Trifoliate Orange, continued

Bulldozing or the use of tracked equipment is effective in removing mature plants and the best results are seen before fruits ripen. Any mechanical treatment should be followed up with chemical treatments. Glyphosate or triclopyr or a combination of the two is effective in controlling orange with the best results achieved by treating cut stumps. Basal treatments are also effective if you can access the base of the plant. Subsequent treatments of seedlings and resprout are necessary.

Due to the tremendous potential for spread and the very nature of its growth form, it is not recommended that this plant be propagated and should be controlled whenever it is found. If you don't like dense yaupon thickets or pastures and woodlands choked with McCartney rose, you will absolutely despise thickets of trifoliate orange. On a good note, if you currently have, or plan to convert to a wildlife tax valuation on your property, this species fits the bill for habitat control, control of exotic and invasive species and can provide a qualifying practice for years into the future.



Left: Trifoliate orange leaves. Right: Trifoliate orange stems with thorns. Photos © TPWD



Todd Pilcik is the Private Lands Biologist for Matagorda, Brazoria and Southern Jackson counties. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1994 and pursued his Masters degree at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. Todd was hired in August of 1994. He worked with the migratory program until 1999 when he accepted a biologist position in the Texas hill country covering Lampasas, Coryell and Bell counties. In 2002, he transferred to the Texas coast and is currently stationed in Bay City.

Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture (OPJV) Grassland Restoration Incentive Program (GRIP) Update

WRITTEN BY TY HIGGINBOTHAM

GRIP is a habitat cost share program that utilizes prescribed fire, fire breaks, brush management, rangeland planting, prescribed grazing, herbaceous weed control, and wildlife habitat planting to help landowners restore grassland habitat on their property with proven management practices. The program covers Austin, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Gonzales, Karnes, Lavaca, Washington, and Wilson counties (see map below) with a minimum landholding size of 50 acres and a minimum project size of 25 acres. The program was started in 2013 and has impacted over 130,000 acres throughout our entire joint venture geography with 13,335 of those acres occurring in our southern focal area shown below. Since 2018 we have 21 completed/partially completed projects totaling 4,111 acres and 3 ongoing projects totaling 978 acres.

As for our summer 2023 updates we are excited to announce that we have received more federal funds through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and were granted an adjusted gross income (AGI) waiver for 5 years. This will allow us to work with a wider array of landowners that may have missed out on cost share assistance through any federal program in the past. If you are interested in learning more about the GRIP program, please get in contact with one of the listed Quail Forever biologists below or reach out to your local TPWD or NRCS office and ask about GRIP.

Ty Higginbotham

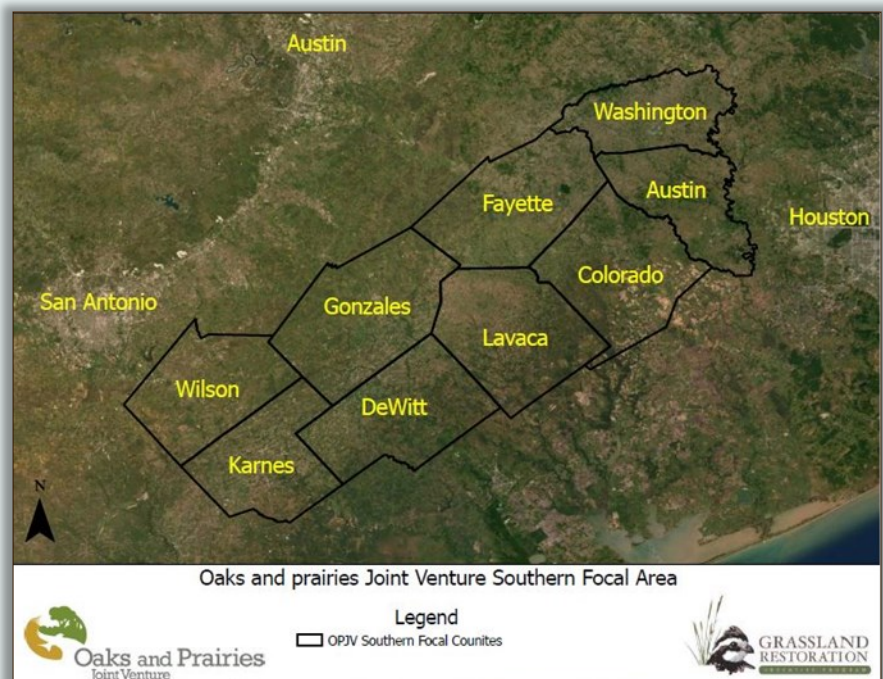
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Ty Higginbotham is the Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture Coordinating Wildlife Biologist covering the southern focal area. He grew up in east Texas, then graduated from Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 2016 with a B.S. in Wildlife Management. After college he worked as a contract range and soil conservationist for the NRCS in New Mexico before coming back to Texas in 2018 to work with Quail Forever as a Range and Wildlife Conservationist prior to his current position.

Grassland Management

From Top to Bottom

Landowner workshop by



Topics Covered

Brush Management

Sustainable Grazing

Soil Health

Native Prairie Restoration

Workshop will take place at the Friar Ag Center on August 22. Check in Starts at 8:00AM

501 Industrial Blvd, Cuero, TX 77954

3 CEU credits will be given for attendees

Upcoming Events

AUGUST

- 5 Alum Creek WMA Meeting**
Contact Roxanne Hernandez at 512-718-2286 or alumcreekwma@gmail.com or alumcreekwma.org
- 11 Feathers, Furs, and Farming Workshop Series-Hunting Safety and Lease Laws**
Weimar Civic Center
1754 IH-10 Weimar, TX 78962
Begins at 1:00 p.m.
Contact Mark Lange at 979-484-2583
- 12 Central DeWitt County WMA Meeting**
Veterans of Foreign Wars
934 US-183 Hwy., Cuero, TX 77954
Begins at 5:00 p.m.
Contact Karen Filip at cdcwma@gmail.com or <http://www.cdcwma.com/>
- 16 TPWD Town Hall Meeting Washington County CWD Regulations and Requirements**
Washington County Expo Event Center
1305 E. Blue Bell Rd., Brenham, TX 77833
Begins at 6:00 p.m.
Contact Stephanie Damron at 979-277-6297 or stephanie.damron@tpwd.texas.gov
- 18 Austin County WMA Meeting**
St. John Lutheran Church
Begins at 6:00 p.m.
Contact Jon McLeod at jon.mcleod@tpwd.texas.gov
- 18 Guadalupe County WMA Fall Meeting**
Big Red Barn
390 Cordova Rd., Seguin TX 78155
Begins at 6:00 p.m.
Contact guadcountywma@gmail.com or <https://www.facebook.com/GCWMA/>
- 19 Western DeWitt County WMA Meeting**
Nordheim Shooting Club
101 W 9th St., Nordheim, TX 78141
Begins at 10:00 a.m.
Contact Kimberly Gaus at kr@dunnservices.net
- 22 Grassland Management Workshop**
Friar Ag Center
501 Industrial Blvd, Cuero, TX 77954
Begins at 8:00 a.m.
Contact Ty Higginbotham at thigginbotham@pheasantsforever.org
- 24 TPWD Town Hall Meeting-Gonzales County CWD Regulations and Requirements**
Waelder Community Center
311 US-90W, Waelder TX 78959
Begins at 6:00 p.m.
Contact Trent Teinert at 830-203-0896 or trent.teinert@tpwd.texas.gov
- 25 Washington County Wildlife Society Semi-Annual Meeting**
Washington County Expo Event Center
1305 E. Blue Bell Rd., Brenham, TX 77833
Begins at 5:30 p.m.
Contact Stephanie Damron at 979-277-6297 or stephanie.damron@tpwd.texas.gov
- 26 Sandy Creek WMA Meeting-Colorado County**
Weimar Civic Center
1754 IH-10 Weimar, TX 78962
Begins at 10:00 a.m.
Contact Ronnie Stock at 979-732-1004
- 26 Tri-Community WMA Meeting-**
5R Restaurant and Dance Hall
6623 TX-304 Rosanky, TX
Begins at 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Contact Adam Shaw at 907-957-5257

Continued on page 12

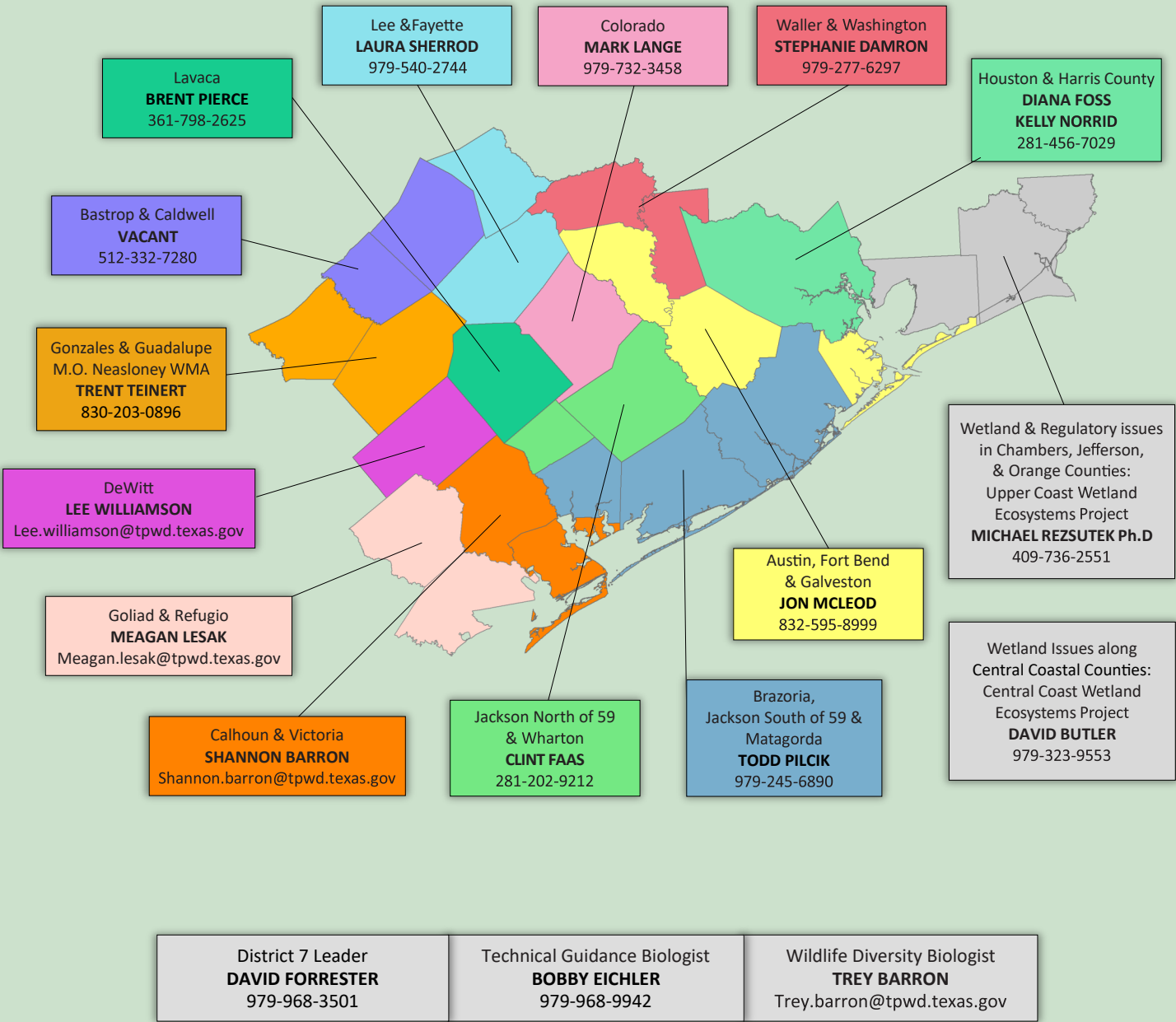
*Upcoming Events, continued***SEPTEMBER**

- 9 Jackson County WMA Fall Business Meeting**
Jackson County Services Building Auditorium
411 N. Wells, Edna, Texas
Begins at 4:00 p.m.
Business:
Annual Dues, Herd Counts, Lease Licenses,
Officer Elections, State Biologist Report
Contact:
Jackson County WMA:
Wade Watkins at 361-771-2401
Lavaca River WMA:
Alan Berryhill at 361-648-2962
Sandy Creek WMA: Jim Theiss at 713-253-1135
Texana WMA: Bryan Miska at 361-782-1631
- 17 Lavaca County WMA Fall Meeting**
Knights of Columbus Hall
321 US HWY 77 S, Hallettsville, TX, 77964
Begins at 10:00 a.m.
Contact Joel Wagner at 361-798-6506 or
lavacacountywma@gmail.com
www.lcwma.org
- 23 Goliad County WMA Fall Banquet**
Memorial Auditorium
935 South Jefferson St., Goliad, TX 77963
Check-in/Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.
Meeting is 8:30 - 1:30 p.m.
(Lunch included)
Contact Alethea Albrecht at 361-645-8204 or
alethea.albrecht@ag.tamu.edu
- 23 Meyersville WMA Meeting**
13052 S. US HWY 183 Yorktown, TX 78164
Begins at 6:00 p.m.
Contact Margaret Harrison at
magschlharrison@gmail.com
- 30 Red Rock WMA Meeting**
Red Rock Community Center
114 Red Rock Rd., Red Rock, TX 78602
Begins at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Red Rock Wildlife Management
Association (rrwma.org)

OCTOBER

- 10 Clear Fork Creek WMA Fall Meeting**
Ross' Barn
380 Sunoco Rd., Lockhart, TX 78644
Begins at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Jack Fraim at 512-934-4888
or jbfrain@mac.com
- 13 Mentored Waterfowl Hunt Orientation**
Brazos Bend State Park
Registration and Drawing Required (follow link
below to register)
Contact Jon McLeod at
Jon.mcleod@tpwd.texas.gov
[Public Hunting Workshop](http://PublicHuntingWorkshop)
- 14 Paint Creek WMA Fall Meeting**
St. Andrew Lutheran Fellowship Hall
1242 Stockade Ranch Rd., Paige, TX 78659
Begins at 6:00 p.m.
Contact Mikki Meyer at:
mikkimeyer4@gmail.com

Our Wildlife Biologists



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

All inquiries: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4800 or visit our website for detailed information about TPWD programs:

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