



Oaks and Prairies Wildlifer

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

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

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District Field Notes

BY DAVID FORRESTER

This will probably be my last “State of the District” article. The Wildlife Division went through a reorganization that began September 1, 2023. We added a 5th region and 3 new districts. How did this impact us in the old District 7? The old District 7 lost Victoria, Calhoun, Refugio, and Goliad counties. Those counties went into the south Texas district. The old District 7 also lost DeWitt, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Caldwell, and Bastrop counties to a new district to the north, District 8. District 8 is comprised of Karnes, Wilson, DeWitt, Bexar, Guadalupe, Gonzales, Comal, Wilson, Hayes, Travis, Bell, Falls, Milam, Burleson, Bastrop, and Caldwell counties. The old District 7 is now labeled District 9 and consists of Jefferson, Orange, Chambers, Harris, Galveston, Brazoria, Matagorda, Jackson, Lavaca, Wharton, Fort Bend, Austin, Colorado, Waller, Washington, Lee, and Fayette counties. The new region over these two districts is the new Region 4 and has the Upper Coast Ecosystem Project and the Central Coast Ecosystem Project included. I became the Regional Director for the new Region 4 on September 1st. Currently, we’re waiting to offer new District Leader positions for District’s 8 and 9. We’ll probably be hiring new personnel for a few months going forward.

Summer did not treat us well. Range conditions probably got about as bad as things were back in 2011. I’ve seen a lot of trees that have died and even some yaupon. You know things are dire when yaupon is dying. We’ve gotten a few showers and things have improved particularly in the southern portions of the district. However, we’re still dry and in need of some good rain. On the bright side, these conditions should bode well for deer coming to feeders, so hunter success should be high this season.

Biologists have completed their deer surveys and have issued permits for deer season. Most of the Wildlife Management Associations have held their fall meetings and folks are ready for the upcoming hunting season.

As reported in the summer newsletter, we have two new CWD zones in Region 4; one in Washington County and one in Gonzales County. Drop boxes have been established near each of these zones where hunters can leave deer heads for testing.

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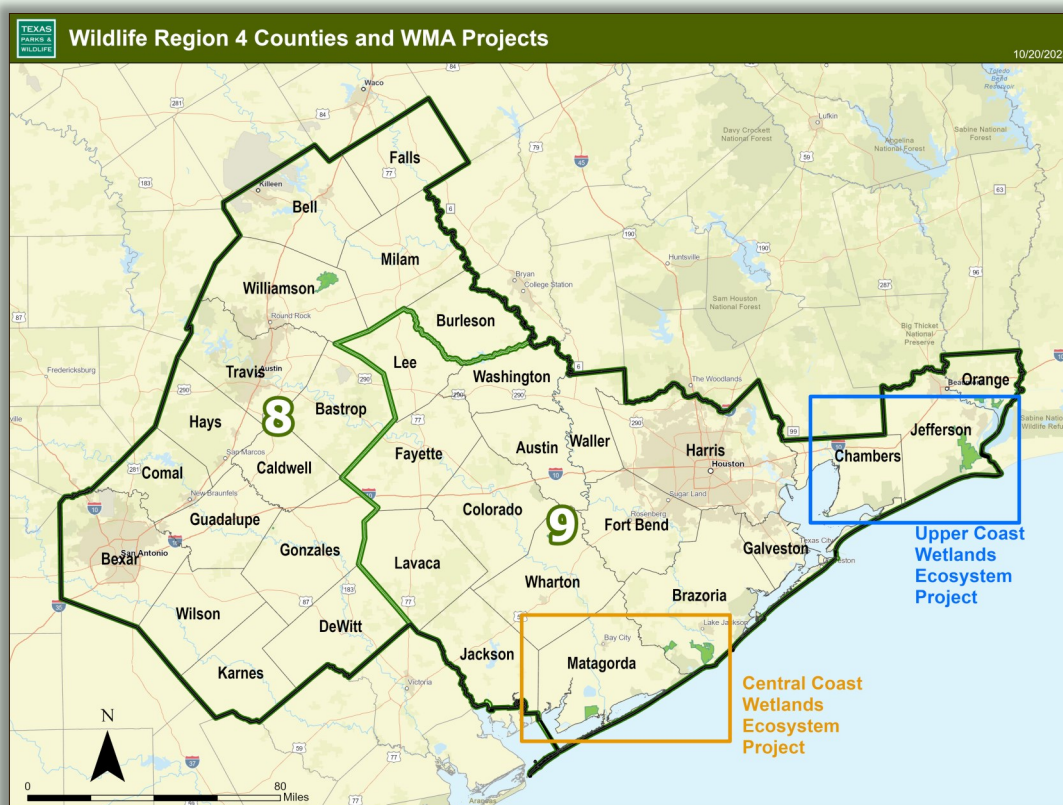
State of District, continued

We also have seasonal employees in place 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. If you need to contact either check station, the number are as follows:

- **Washington County – 830-348-9249**
- **Gonzales County – 830-348-9421**

We filled the Bastrop and Caldwell Counties biologist position. Rachel Patterson was hired and started August 1, 2023. Rachel has a B. S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University. We are excited to have Rachel 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. It appears Rachel has the navigational tools required.

This summer was extremely hot and dry. We haven't broken out of this drought completely yet, but let's hope we can get some good fall moisture. Hunting season should be good, and deer should readily come to feeders. Make sure you and yours get out and enjoy the wildlife and habitat on your piece of Texas.



David Forrester is the Region 4 Director 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.



Hunting Through the Drought

WRITTEN BY BRENT PIERCE

Texas has seen its second hottest summer on record, with several areas experiencing over 40 consecutive days of temperatures above 100-degrees. Unfortunately, we still have the potential for high temperatures to continue through October and possibly into November with only a slight chance of rain. Of course, as I write this, we just got some well needed rain, but we are going to need a lot more to pull us out of this drought. I think it's fair to say we will be going into this deer season with drought-stricken areas, which will increase deer movement and hunting opportunities. Hunting during a drought can be tough not only for the hunters but also the hunted. No one wants to hunt deer while having to deal with the heat, insects, and watching out for snakes. However, there are some advantages and special considerations that need to be considered while hunting during drought conditions.

Everyone knows that as temperatures increase and precipitation decreases for extended periods of time a deer's habitat will provide less food, water, and shelter. Obviously less rain equals less available water on the landscape. Ponds, creeks, and other areas that have held water in the past dry up and your livestock troughs will turn into wildlife watering holes. Not only will deer be relying on your water troughs, but other types of critters will be using them as well. These artificial watering sites can become not only a great scouting opportunity by setting a game camera to capture a big mature buck, but also a good place to hunt away from the feeding sites. You may even get a chance at a wise old buck that is never seen at the feeders.

During a drought deer become more visible as the vegetative cover begins to thin. Areas that once provided shelter with thick tall grasses and brush have either withered up, been grazed down by livestock, or in some cases burned by wildfire. No matter how it happens deer become more visible during a drought, especially fawns which rely heavily on camouflage in tall grass for protection from predators. Managing your vegetation is important to help not only fawns survive, but it will also help protect other wildlife and livestock. Protect riparian areas by fencing out livestock along riparian areas or leaving buffer strips in the hay field. It is also beneficial to have a drought plan in place for your livestock, so you know what to do before drought conditions set in. Managing habitat is critically important for providing protection from predators but also thermal cover for shade during these hot days.

By hunting early in the season one can take advantage of more deer movement and will see an increase in harvest opportunities during a drought. Be sure to inventory the deer herd on the property by scouting with cameras or taking note of what you see while hunting. Select deer to harvest that achieve your management goals. In doing so you can help align the deer population below or equal to the carrying capacity for the property. This can potentially benefit habitats in drought-stricken areas by decreasing habitat utilization from a population of deer that was high. The increase in deer movement can aid in the ability to select which deer to remove. Managing the deer herd by harvesting more of the post-mature bucks and does, and spikes can give other deer a chance to recover faster and improve the population.

So, while drought-stricken areas are not what we envision for deer season, it is a time to get out and hunt as early as you can. Remember to plan ahead before you brave the heat and take extra water and plenty of ice! You definitely do not want the meat to spoil after all the hard work has paid off. So, gear up and take advantage of the increased deer movement and harvest opportunities this season to help manage and protect not only the deer herd but also the habitat they need to survive.

Brent Pierce is the wildlife biologist for Lavaca and Jackson County where he started in March 2016. He grew up in Galveston County in a town called Santa Fe, TX. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Rangeland Ecology and Management with a wildlife emphasis. Brent comes to us from the private sector where he has worked on private ranches managing habitat for deer and other wildlife species, as well as, guiding hunters and managing populations.



The Importance of Doe Harvest

WRITTEN BY JON MCLEOD

Here in Texas, when we think of deer hunting, the first thing that comes to mind is a cold November morning, hot coffee in a thermos, and a Boone and Crocket buck. Well, this article isn't about that. I'm going to explain why this deer season it should be shooting does during a sweaty October morning.....then shooting a quality buck during that cold November morning.

The main reason for targeting does during hunting season is to control the deer population in a regulated manner. The practice of targeting does during hunting season plays a critical role in wildlife management by regulating deer populations. Controlled doe harvest is essential for maintaining the delicate balance between deer numbers and their habitat's carrying capacity. By managing the number of does harvested, wildlife managers can prevent over browsing and habitat degradation, ensuring the ecosystem remains healthy and diverse.

Texas Parks and Wildlife conducted a study on the rut in White-tailed Deer in Texas; the study underscores just how productive does can be ([TPWD: The Rut in White-tailed Deer](#)). During the study 92% of does statewide were pregnant, with an average of 1.5 fetuses per doe. These statistics highlight the remarkable reproductive potential of does. Even in situations where bucks may be scarce or unable to breed every doe during their initial estrous period, it's important to note that does can become receptive again in just 28 days. This rapid reproductive cycle underscores the necessity of managing the doe population to prevent exponential growth and maintain ecological balance within the deer's habitat.

Balancing the buck-to-doe ratio is a crucial aspect of deer management, and it impacts deer populations and their ecosystem in several ways. A balanced ratio enhances the rutting behavior within the deer population because there is more competition among bucks for does to breed. Bucks tend to exhibit more vigorous rutting behavior, which includes vocalizations, scraping, rubbing, and fighting. Not only does it enhance the natural behavior of deer, but it also can lead to more intense breeding competition. This competition makes bucks more visible during the rut, which contributes to a better hunting experience. An imbalanced ratio can also lead to late-born fawns in the population. When there are too many does for bucks to breed during the first estrous cycle, does will continue

Button buck: Here is a good example of a button buck, or buck fawn that could be mistaken for a doe in the late season. Photo©TPWD



to cycle until they are bred a month or two later. Late-born fawns are often smaller and have a lower potential to grow great antlers. A balanced ratio helps synchronize the breeding and birthing seasons, ensuring that fawns are born when environmental conditions are more favorable for their survival. Also, when fawns are born near the same time due to a balanced ratio, they are less susceptible to predation.

Now that we know that shooting does is beneficial, I'll explain some benefits for getting it done in October. Hunter enthusiasm is often much higher in the early season, and you're more likely to get out and hunt.

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The Importance of Doe Harvest, continued

You can't harvest anything from the couch. Also in the early season, deer tend to be less pressured and more likely to be seen when you compare them to deer in January. Another reason why the early season is a good time to target does is that buck fawns are typically still smaller than does, so you are less likely to make a mistake shooting a button buck. The final reason why you should aim to remove your does in the early season is they eat about 6-8 lbs. of forage every day. Why spend the resources to feed them for a couple more months if you're planning on harvesting them anyway? This forage is better utilized by the remaining deer to keep them healthy through the late season pinch period.

I get it, the short-term thrill of potentially bagging a great buck is hard to resist, but let's think beyond that short-term excitement and consider the long-term gains of balancing the buck-to-doe ratio by strategically harvesting does. Sure, there's a chance that we might spook a few bucks along the way, but the lasting benefits for our deer population and their habitat are well worth it. This approach isn't just about the here and now; it's an investment in the future. It means healthier deer, protected habitats, and more intense rutting competition among bucks, all leading to bigger and more impressive antlers down the line. Ultimately, it's a commitment to sustainable deer management that benefits not only us but the deer we are hunting, ensuring that future generations can enjoy these same experiences we do now.



Deer forage: Tabletop demo of approximately how much a white-tailed deer eats each day. Photo©TPWD

Jon McLeod is the District 9 Biologist for Fort Bend and Austin Counties. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 2020 with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Post-graduation, he started his career with Texas Parks and Wildlife as a Wildland Fuel and Habitat Technician where he assisted with prescribed fire and habitat improvement projects at various State Parks across Texas.

Species Spotlight: Green Heron

WRITTEN BY LAURA SHERROD



The Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) is the most widespread of the herons across Texas, but it is also one of the more difficult species to census due to cryptic coloring and secretiveness. While they are a wading species, they are very adaptable and can be found in a variety of habitats inland. You may even see them in your own backyard! They are commonly seen in trees and on powerlines when biologists are conducting urban dove surveys.

Despite “green” being part of the name, Green Herons aren’t all that green. They display a variety of colors including iridescent blues, greens, and grays, a deep chestnut to purple throat and breast with white streaking, vivid yellow eyes, and legs that vary between yellow and orange depending on the season. Green Herons are smaller and stockier than most heron species in Texas. Adults are about 16-18 inches long, which is comparable to the size of a crow. These small herons also have a long-pointed bill, which is ideal for spearing their prey. They prey on a variety of animals including fish and other aquatic species such as frogs and snakes and will even prey upon the occasional small rodent. Green Herons are unique in that they will use tools to lure in their meals. They have been known to use small fish to lure in bigger fish, and they will use tools such as twigs, insects, or even feathers to lure in their prey.

Green Herons spend most of their summer nesting season across the eastern two-thirds of Texas. While there are some year-round residents in the southern part of the state, most will migrate to warmer climates during the winter. Green Herons nest from March through July, and they build their nests from 5 to over 20 ft above the ground. Pairs are monogamous, and both take part in nest building. Males tend to collect material for the nests, while females play the biggest role in the actual nest construction. Females will lay 2-7 green eggs (perhaps this is where the “green” in the name comes into play!) and juveniles fledge from the nest in a short two weeks after hatching.

Green heron on the pond. Photo@Jean Chaka, TPWD

Habitats vary greatly for the Green Heron. Unlike most heron species in Texas, Green Herons tend to be found more often inland than along the coast. They are found in a variety of wetlands, and they seem to prefer thicker, overgrown vegetation along the water’s edge. They are very adaptable and will utilize drier areas for nesting as long as feeding grounds are nearby.

While these smaller herons display great camouflage, you should be able to spot them with a bit of observation. Whether you are exploring a wetland or your own backyard, be sure to keep an eye out for these beautiful birds!



Laura Sherrod is the Wildlife Biologist for Lee and Fayette counties. She grew up in Dripping Springs and graduated from Texas State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Wildlife Biology. Laura was hired by Texas Parks & Wildlife in 2008, where she worked with the Big Game Program until accepting her current biologist position in April 2014. Laura offices in Giddings, and she enjoys helping landowners and wildlife management associations achieve their habitat and wildlife management goals throughout Lee and Fayette counties.



Plant Profile: Turk's Cap

WRITTEN BY MEAGAN LESAK

Managing your properties for plant diversity is one of the best ways to provide birds and animals all their requirements to survive. By encouraging flowering plants, berry growing shrubs, seed producing bunch grasses, and mast trees, your habitat will be providing many of the necessary needs for our Texas wildlife. Additionally, home gardens full of native nectar and seed sources are perfect for providing nutrition as birds make their way along their migration paths. Fall migration has been in full blast over the last few weeks. Hummingbirds have been covering my Turk's cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus var. drummondii*) ever since they started making their way back south, so I thought it would be perfect to highlight it in our newsletters' plant profile.

Turk's cap is an abundant deciduous perennial shrub that ranges from east, central, and south Texas that is typically found in open woods, in damp or shaded areas, and along streams. Even though it prefers shady locations, it can adapt to a variety of sites making it an excellent garden plant. The even better note is that it is drought tolerant and doesn't need to be watered everyday like most commercial plants during droughty times.

This plant is typically 2-3 feet tall, but if conditions are good, they can grow as tall as 10 feet! It can form colonies that can spread by stolons, or horizontal stems that take root along its length to form new plants. If you choose to add this to your garden, you can maintain height by pruning after a couple years once established. If you want it to stay around waist level, cut it back to about 5 inches tall after the last frost.

The leaves are alternate at 3 to 5 inches long and about the same width. Turk's cap has several erect, unbranched, dark green stems that grow from its crown. The flower has broad, red petals that remain closely wrapped around one another at the base. It flowers from April to November. Turk's cap is an excellent nectar plant for hummingbirds, butterflies, moths, and insects. The shape of the flower helps hummingbirds pollinate this species! Birds and mammals will readily consume the fruit.

Turk's cap is a great plant for birds and humans to enjoy. Watch for it when you're out and about enjoying the outdoors!

Left: Ruby-throated hummingbird feeding on Turk's cap. Middle and Right: Turk's Cap.
Photos©Trey Barron, TPWD



Meagan Lesak is the wildlife biologist for Goliad and Refugio Counties. She received her Bachelor of Science in Range & Wildlife Management and Master of Science in Animal Science from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. A Victoria County native, Meagan began her career with TPWD in January 2019.

2023 White-tailed Deer Population Survey Results

WRITTEN BY BOBBY EICHLER



Summertime is a busy time for both Wildlife Management Association (WMA) members and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff. It is during the short period of late July through August that population data is collected for white-tailed deer. This population data is then used to set harvest recommendations by permit issuance in mid-September. Both WMA members and staff across the Oaks and Prairies region of Texas put much effort into this collection period. This is the fifth year that deer population data has been published in the newsletter, for past data refer to the October 2019 -2022 editions. As you browse through these results, there are a few points to make as well as some summarization that indicates the annual effort for these surveys.

- During the summer 2023 collection period, a minimum of 67 spotlight lines were sampled, some ran 2 - 3 times each.
- This resulted in over 2200 miles of spotlight lines being ran, with just over 172,000 acres sampled across 16 counties.
- Incidental observations collected by WMA members, as well as TPWD staff, resulted in over 224,000 deer identified to help determine buck:doe ratios and overall fawn survival.
- Spotlight surveys are most important when analyzed across the long-term and as trend data. While the survey gives us an idea of deer densities, it is obviously not 100% accurate. Individual line data for a one-year period should always be viewed looking at the 'big picture' and in conjunction with several years.
- This past summer was a below average year for rainfall, so vegetation was once again sparse.
- Deer densities vary by habitat suitability. It is meaningless to compare your part of the county with other areas in hopes of obtaining higher densities. Different areas across the landscape have different carrying capacities, and we manage to keep populations within that capacity.
- For 2023, the average fawn crop across all locations was 34% while the average for 2022 was 30%. The range for fawn crops for 2023 was 9-51% while the range for 2022 was 5-53% across the district. Long term averages for fawn crops within this district is in the 30-35% range.

Lastly, as always, we urge you to stay involved with your local WMA and volunteer during these counts. Help is always needed and appreciated, and there is nothing more educational than getting on back of a truck several times during the summer and seeing what is out there.

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2023 White-tailed Deer Population Survey Results, continued

Wildlife Management Association or TPWD Deer Management Unit Survey	County	Spotlight Surveys				Incidental Observations		
		Miles of Survey	Acres of Visibility	# Deer Seen	Acres Per Deer	# Deer Identified	Doe per Buck	Fawn Survival
Austin County WMA / DMU	Austin	16	1224	31	39	7514	2.0	35%
Austin County WMA (Welcome)	Austin	19.4	1044	68	15			
Austin County WMA (Cat Spring)	Austin	15.3	603	81	7			
Pin Oak Creek WMA	Bastrop	45.0	2250	50	45	491	1.4	36%
Paint Creek WMA	Bastrop	45.0	3000	205	15			
Red Rock WMA	Bastrop	45.0	8250	216	38	1760	1.5	35%
Clear Fork Creek WMA	Caldwell	33.0	2373	257	9	3264	1.5	34%
Tri-Community WMA	Caldwell	45.0	4155	347	12	5922	1.8	41%
Harvey Creek WMA	Colorado	24.6	1960	130	15	6731	1.7	42%
Sandy Creek WMA	Colorado	28.4	1550	85	18	11511	1.9	39%
Central WMA	Colorado	29	1762	258	7	3118	1.8	43%
Colorado River WMA	Colorado	13.6	1174	117	10	4211	1.6	40%
North East WMA	Colorado	24.2	1128	132	9	8132	2.5	38%
Oakridge WMA	Colorado	25.2	1132	505	2	5515	2.2	34%
Central DeWitt WMA-Central	DeWitt	42.0	2736	186	15	161	2.4	23%
Central DeWitt-WMA Friar	DeWitt	40.5	2512	403	6	381	2.7	22%
Central DeWitt- WMA Sandies Clear Creek	DeWitt	24.3	2076	345	6	323	3.1	21%
Central DeWitt WMA Edgar Stratton	DeWitt	50.4	2787	422	7	401	2.1	20%
Meyersville WMA	DeWitt	41.7	2946	297	10	263	2.6	37%
Western DeWitt WMA-Howard Kulawik	DeWitt	30.6	2178	225	10	218	1.7	25%
Western DeWitt WMA - Nordheim	DeWitt	38.1	2310	179	13	153	4.3	20%
Western DeWitt WMA - Cotton Patch	DeWitt	39.9	4593	294	16	292	5.8	12%
Western DeWitt WMA - Garfield	DeWitt	47.1	3888.0	213	18	182.0	7.2	9%
Buckners Creek	Fayette	90.6	3792	252	15	5297	2.2	42%
Colorado River	Fayette	7.5	719	59	12	4601	2.5	45%
Cummins Creek	Fayette	28.0	2770	170	16	898	3.6	31%
East Navidad	Fayette	48.0	4452	292	15	2276	2.70	26%
North Central Fayette	Fayette	15.0	1530	102	15	1299	1.1	40%
Rabbs Creek	Fayette	66.9	5472	707	8	3364	3.4	40%
West Navidad	Fayette	53.3	5952	196	30	1335	1.8	36%

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2023 White-tailed Deer Population Survey Results, continued

Wildlife Management Association or TPWD Deer Management Unit Survey	County	Spotlight Surveys				Incidental Observations		
		Miles of Survey	Acres of Visibility	# Deer Seen	Acres Per Deer	# Deer Identified	Doe per Buck	Fawn Survival
Thompsons Bottom WMA	Fort Bend	67.5	4230	543	8	815	1.7	40%
Guadalupe County WMA Sandhills West	Guadalupe	*	*	*	*	654	5.1	39%
Guadalupe County WMA Sandhills Nockenut	Guadalupe	34.8	1380	326	4	2482	2.6	20%
Guadalupe County WMA Darst Field	Guadalupe	*	*	*	*	3650	2.8	42%
Guadalupe County WMA Blacklands	Guadalupe	*	*	*	*	874	2.7	34%
Guadalupe County WMA Marion	Guadalupe	*	*	*	*	197	2.3	23%
Guadalupe County WMA River Bottom	Guadalupe	*	*	*	*	3991	2.1	31%
Guadalupe County WMA Sandhills East	Guadalupe	*	*	*	*	1099	2.6	30%
Guadalupe County WMA Sandhills Sawlog Youth Haven	Guadalupe	*	*	*	*	1408	2.5	50%
Goliad WMA-Ander	Goliad	23.1	1947	145	13	5983	2.4	35%
Goliad WMA-Bego	Goliad	41.1	3270	464	7	8046	3.0	33%
Goliad WMA-Berclair/Riverdale	Goliad	31.5	1398	81	17	2835	1.9	34%
Goliad WMA-Cabeza	Goliad	15.3	1674	211	8	2766	3.0	32%
Goliad WMA-NorthCentral	Goliad	36.3	2652	333	8	11823	2.2	39%
Goliad WMA-San Antonio River	Goliad	42.0	3807	331	12	3611	2.2	33%
Sandies Creek and Salt Flat	Gonzales	15	1593	14	114			
Hamon River Bottom	Gonzales	15.6	1611	47	34	1656	2.2	23%
Belmont, San Marcos River, and Northeast Gonzales	Gonzales	15	1418	28	51			
Belmont	Gonzales	*	*	*	*	3023	1.9	39%
Salt Flat	Gonzales	*	*	*	*	2256	1.8	37%
Northeast Gonzales	Gonzales	39	2553	134	19	2920	1.9	34%
San Marcos	Gonzales	*	*	*	*	1088	2.3	40%
Sandies Creek	Gonzales	*	*	*	*	830	2.7	17%
JCWMA Sandy Creek	Jackson	35	3700	302	12	4207	2.1	38%
JCWMA Texana	Jackson	30.4	2400	194	12	662	1.6	46%
JCWMA Lavaca River	Jackson	48	5972	432	14	4096	2.0	33%
LCWMA West Lavaca	Lavaca	72	6024	250	24	5204	2.5	39%

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2023 White-tailed Deer Population Survey Results, continued

Wildlife Management Association or TPWD Deer Management Unit Survey	County	Spotlight Surveys				Incidental Observations		
		Miles of Survey	Acres of Visibility	# Deer Seen	Acres Per Deer	# Deer Identified	Doe per Buck	Fawn Survival
LCWMA Honey Creek	Lavaca	48	2703	126	22	7136	2.8	25%
LCWMA West Sandy Creek	Lavaca	42	1931	217	9	3079	2.2	37%
LCWMA Vienna	Lavaca	42	2010	218	9	5707	1.5	42%
LCWMA South Central	Lavaca	45	3912	169	23	3642	2.0	44%
Blue Branch WMA	Lee	20.0	1604	104	15	588	2.1	42%
East Yegua WMA	Lee	47.7	3819	297	13	1243	1.8	39%
South Lee WMA	Lee	12.5	1137	76	15	1339	1.5	51%
Two Creeks WMA	Lee	33.0	2043	94	22	2827	4.3	41%
West Yegua WMA	Lee	11.0	1044	41	25	4165	3.1	37%
Guadalupe River North WMA	Victoria	52.7	3018	336	9	16,572	2.2	41%
Southwest Victoria WMA	Victoria	34.5	3141	356	9	2660	2.3	29%
Victoria Prairie WMA	Victoria	56.2	6342	179	35	3839	2.2	46%
Post Oak WMA	Washington	15.7	1194	52	23	965	2.0	25%
Mount Vernon WMA	Washington	14.9	1191	48	25	286	**	39%
Greenvine DMU	Washington	16.8	859	58	15	1161	5.3	30%
Rocky DMU	Washington	14.8	805	123	7	4125	2.4	23%
Sun Oil WMA	Washington	12.2	493	72	7	1238	3.9	31%
Sandtown WMA	Washington	13.3	736	43	17	272	2.6	25%
New Years Creek WMA	Washington	13.7	1194	53	21	3627	5.6	35%
Lost Prong WMA	Wharton	27	3896	235	17	3347	2.9	41%
Egypt WMA	Wharton	11.6	1265	69	18	924	2.5	35%
TOTAL		2218.8	172284			224,531		34%

* Guadalupe and Gonzales Counties - Due to urbanization some of the WMA lines are no longer conducive due to housing developments and heavy traffic. Alternative methods by members are used to estimate population densities. **Insufficient data collected to provide a buck to doe ratio.

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.

Post Oak Savannah Prescribed Burn Association

WRITTEN BY JOHN KOENIG

On August 22, 2023 a group of landowners from the counties of Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales and Wilson, agreed to form a non-profit organization for the purposes of gathering resources and personnel necessary to safely conduct prescribed burns in support of rangeland restoration within these counties.

The Post Oak Savannah Prescribed Burn Association, hereinafter referred to as POSPBA, has stated as its mission:

To contribute to the restoration and maintenance of Texas rangelands in the counties we serve, working side by side through the safe and wise use of prescribed fire.

We aspire to build an organization of landowners who desire to help one another enhance rangeland health and improve habitat for wildlife.

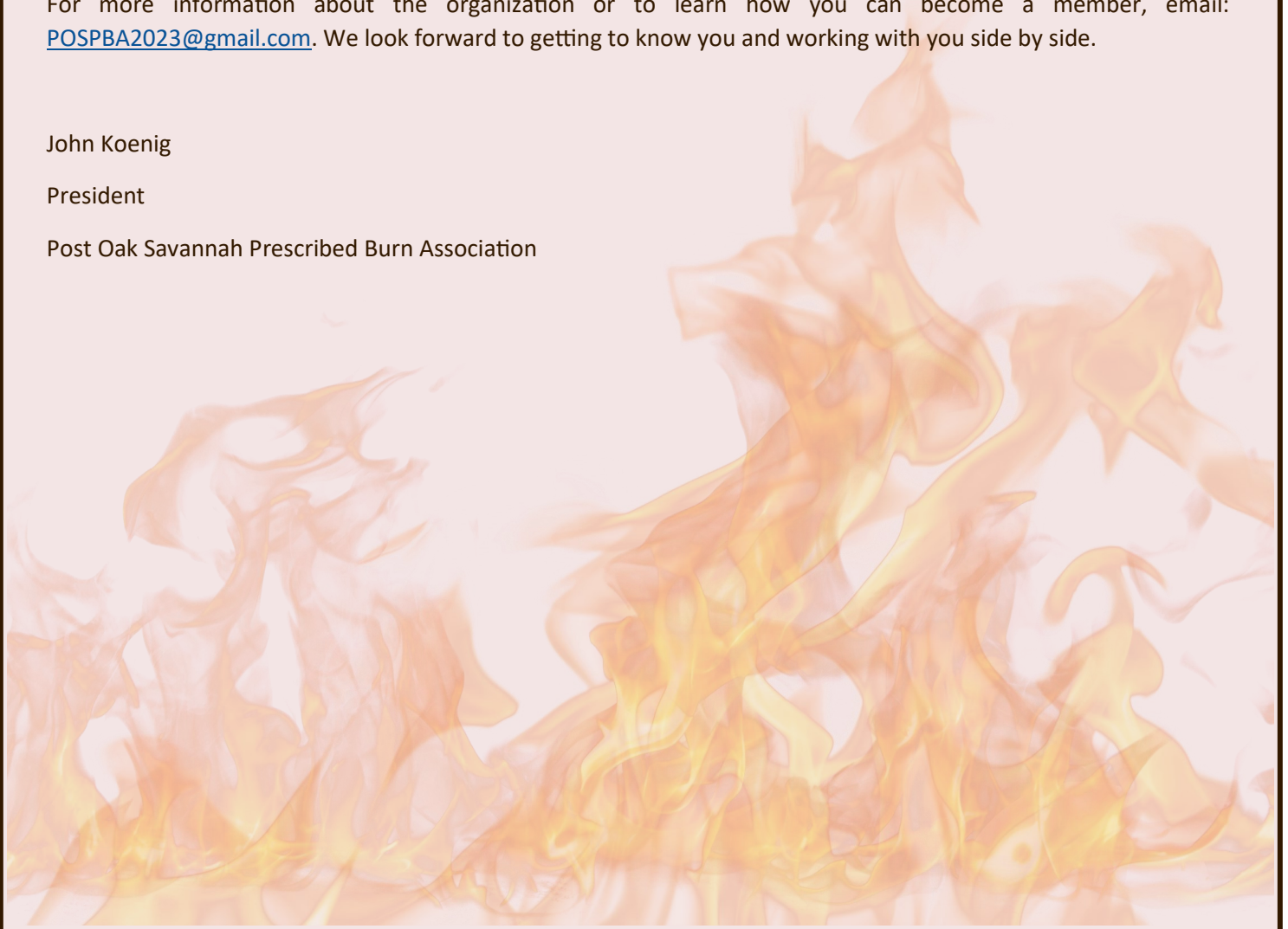
Prescribed fire is a tool that will help landowners set back brush encroachment, naturally provide nutrients for the soil, and has proven to be a key ingredient in improving rangeland health in the ecosystems that lie in the counties served by the POSPBA.

For more information about the organization or to learn how you can become a member, email: POSPBA2023@gmail.com. We look forward to getting to know you and working with you side by side.

John Koenig

President

Post Oak Savannah Prescribed Burn Association





POST OAK SAVANNAH PBA INAUGURAL PRESCRIBED BURN

WORKSHOP

REGISTER AT

POSPBA2023@GMAIL.COM

OR

214-755-8573



October 28th , 2023
8:30 AM - 4 PM
M.O. Neasloney WMA
20700 SH 80 North
Gonzales, TX 78629

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

- 28 Prescribed Burns: Preparations and Planning Workshop**
 M.O. Neasloney WMA
 20700 State HWY 80 N., Gonzales, TX 78629
 Begins at 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Contact POSPBA2023@gmail.com

NOVEMBER

- | | |
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| <p>2 CWD: What is It and Why do We Care?
 Webinar
 Begins at 6:00 p.m.
 Contact Ben Olsen at
 benjamin.olsen@tpwd.texas.gov
 CWD: What is It and Why do We Care? — Texas Parks & Wildlife Department</p> | <p>11 Explore Bowhunting
 Brazos Bend State Park
 21901 FM Rd. 762
 Needville, TX 77461
 Contact Brazos Bend State Park at 979-553-5101</p> |
| <p>4 Bastrop Field and Fun Fest
 Bastrop State Park
 100 Park Rd. 1A, Bastrop, TX 78602
 Begins at 10:00 a.m.—2 p.m.
 Contact Madalyn Miller at
 madalyn.miller@tpwd.texas.gov</p> | <p>18 Tri-community WMA Meeting
 3R Restaurant and Dance Hall
 6623 SH 304, Rosanky, TX 78953
 Begins at 2:00-3:30 p.m.
 Contact Adam Shaw at
 backin3@gmail.com</p> |

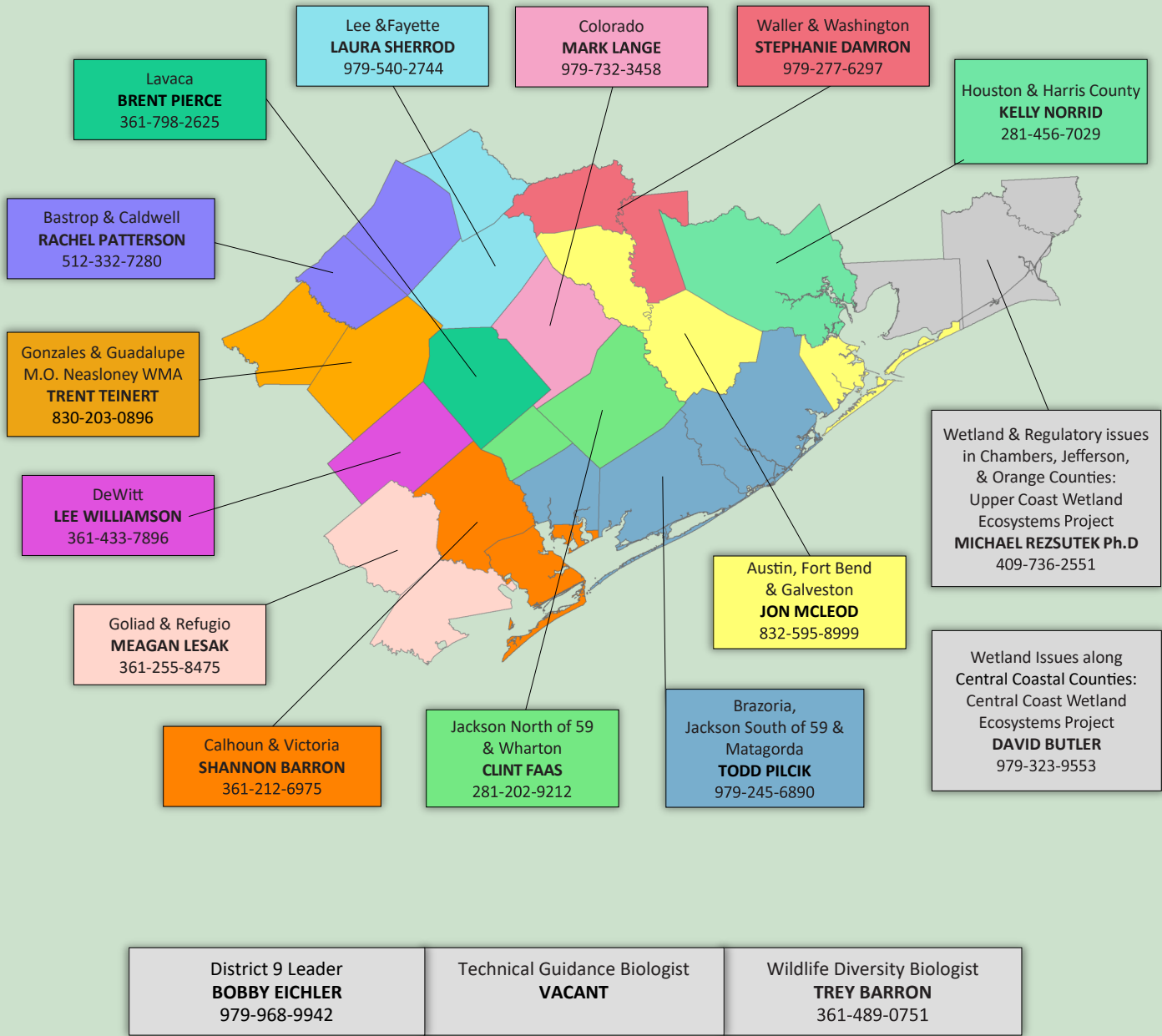
DECEMBER

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>2 Buescher Lake Bash
 Buescher State Park
 100 Park Rd. 1E, Smithville, TX 78957
 Begins at 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
 Contact Contact Madalyn Miller at
 madalyn.miller@tpwd.texas.gov
 Buescher Lake Bash</p> | <p>18 Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop
 In person or virtual
 AgriLife Extension
 607 N. Vandevener, Burnet, TX 78611
 Begins at 8:00 a.m.
 Contact Erin Wehland at
 erin.wehland@tpwd.texas.gov
 Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop</p> |
|---|--|

JANUARY

- 13 Red Rock WMA Meeting**
 Red Rock Community Center
 114 Red Rock Rd., Red Rock, TX 78602
 Begins at 6:30 p.m.
 Contact Christiane Delbar at
cdelbar@hotmail.com
[Red Rock WMA Events](#)

Our Wildlife Biologists



District 9 Leader BOBBY EICHLER 979-968-9942	Technical Guidance Biologist VACANT	Wildlife Diversity Biologist TREY BARRON 361-489-0751
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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:

www.tpwd.texas.gov

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