

# POST OAK SAVANNAH WILDLIFER

TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE



July 2011 Information for landowners and hunters in and around the Post Oak Savannah Volume 3, number 1



Photo by Billy Lambert

*Annual deer surveys will determine the effects of the drought on this year's fawn crop.*

## DEFINE 'QUARTERLY'

*Billy C. Lambert, Jr.*

I'm back! As many of you have no doubt noticed, I've been a little delinquent in getting the newsletter out. In fact, the last issue came out right at 2 years ago. It seems that instead of providing a "quarterly" newsletter, the *Post Oak Savannah Wildlifer* will be a "when Lambert gets around to it" newsletter. I could probably come up with a myriad of detailed and sorrowful excuses, but hopefully future issues will come out on a more-regular basis. The distribution list for the newsletter now contains over 600 folks. Feel free to distribute to any and all that are interested in reading it.

Since the last issue, Tim Siegmund has been hired as the new regulatory biologist for the Brazos Valley area and

covers the 7 southernmost counties in District 5 (Brazos, Burleson, Falls, Grimes, Madison, Milam, and Robertson counties). Tim is finishing up his Master's thesis after conducting black bear research in East Texas and is a welcome addition to the area. You can reach Tim at 979-845-5798 or at [tim.siegmund@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:tim.siegmund@tpwd.state.tx.us).

Some things don't change. "A lack of rain combined with 100+ degree daily temperatures is taking its toll on habitat." This was a statement from the last issue of the newsletter 2 years ago, so apparently we haven't missed much. The southern end of the Post Oak finished up last year with a 10-inch rainfall deficit and we began this year with another 12-

inch deficit. A recent 2-incher provided some much-needed rain, but we are far from where we need to be. Hopefully the rains will pick up.

It is once again almost time for fall deer surveys in preparation for the upcoming hunting season. As always, if you have questions regarding habitat or wildlife management, or need assistance with the surveys, give your local biologist a call. You can go to [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/technical\\_guidance/biologists/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/technical_guidance/biologists/) to find county biologist contact information.

## Quotable Quote

*There can be no doubt that a society rooted in the soil is more stable than one rooted in pavements.*

**Aldo Leopold**

*If you would like to unsubscribe to this newsletter or if you received this e-mail from someone other than TPWD and would like to subscribe, please send an e-mail indicating such to [billy.lambert@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:billy.lambert@tpwd.state.tx.us)*

# PLANT Profile

## SUNFLOWERS

(*Helianthus spp.*)

Tim Siegmund



Photo by Tim Siegmund

A common site in fallow fields and reclaimed cow pastures, sunflowers are hard to miss. With specimens standing upwards of 10 feet tall and bristling with brightly arranged yellow flowers, they are quite conspicuous upon the landscape. Along with their penchant for being noticed, this group of species has great use as a wildlife and agricultural resource. The two most common species that are commercially available for establishment and subsequently the most widely distributed in Texas are annual sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) and maximilian sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*).

### Annual Sunflower

Annual sunflower is a native plant that has been under cultivation since before European settlement. It is believed that this plant was domesticated by pre-Columbian Native Americans. The earliest record in what is now the US is a site in Tennessee that grew domesticated sunflowers an estimated 3,800-4,000 years ago. As European settlers came to the Atlantic coast they found fields of sunflowers. Specimens and seed were collected and planted in the gardens of Europe. It was eventually cultivated and different strains were created to form the bulk of the commercial sunflower crop that is grown today for bird seed, seed oil production, and snacking seeds. Roughly 3 million acres are planted to commercial sunflowers each year in the United States.

Native annual sunflower can be distinguished from other sunflower species by the large triangular-ovate to ovate-lanceolate leaves, usually 2-7 inches wide. Plant height ranges from 1 to 12 feet, with wide spreading hairs along the peduncle (stem supporting the flower head). And, as the name suggests, it has an annual lifecycle (most other sunflower species are perennial plants living and growing for multiple years). The flower head is typically 1 to 5 inches with 20-25, 1 to 2 inch long bright yellow rays that surround the central brownish disk flowers that produce seed. Multiple seed heads are common from the branching stems. The wedge-shaped seeds produced are generally no

larger than ¼" in length, gray to brown in coloration, with stripes or spots. There are about 350,000 seeds per pound.

Annual sunflower prefers full sun, is tolerant of most soil types, and is adapted to droughty conditions. Seeds can stay dormant in the soil for years waiting for disturbance, moisture, or other factors to trigger growth. Planting can be established with a prepared seed bed and a planting rate of 3-5 lbs/acre for a pure stand or 0.5-1 lb if part of a range mix. Seeds should be planted at a depth of no greater than 1", with ¼" to ½" being optimal. Seed can be broadcast or drilled, depending on equipment available, November-January to allow cool soil temperatures to break seed dormancy. Annual sunflower can only be established by seeds so after establishment, periodic breaking of the soil through shallow disking in October-November may be necessary to maintain stands naturally.

This plant is not favored white-tailed deer forage, but its leaves, shoots, and flower heads will be utilized, especially when young and tender. Flower heads are generally consumed once mature with seeds. Annual sunflower is generally not susceptible to disease and pest infestations. It will support large numbers of diverse insect species for turkey, quail, and songbird consumption. This, coupled with large amounts of seed production, make this plant an excellent choice for wildlife plantings.



Photo by Tim Siegmund

**UPCOMING Event!****Land Conservation Tools to Aid Farmers and Ranchers Workshop**

Sponsored by Connemara Conservancy

Friday, October 21, 2011, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 Family Life Center at the First United Methodist Church  
 200 W. 8th Street, Bonham, TX 75418 (east of church)  
[www.fumcbonham.org/bonhamlifecenter](http://www.fumcbonham.org/bonhamlifecenter)  
 Free registration

Topics: Tools to aid landowners in protecting properties and saving taxes; conservation easement basics: landowner considerations and costs; income and estate tax implications of conserving land; USDA NRCS programs; landowner perspective on donating a conservation easement

**Maximilian Sunflower**

Maximilian sunflower is a native, upright perennial sunflower named for German botanist Prince Maximilian von Wied-Neuwied. This species can grow from 0.5 to 9 feet in height. Leaves are alternate in arrangement, often sickle-shaped, and grow up to 12" long and 2" in width. The flowers are raised on stalks from the main stem and are 2 to 3.5 inches across with 20-40 yellow ray florets surrounding numerous brown disk flowers in the center. The flowers are often densely clustered on the upper portion of the stem and produce seeds ¼" in length starting in late July through about mid-October.

Maximilian sunflower prefers full sun, is tolerant of most soil types, and is adapted to droughty conditions, but needs at least 18 inches of rainfall. Seeds can be established on a well prepared seed bed and broadcast or drilled using 3 lbs seed/acre for pure stands or 0.5-1 lb if part of a range mix. Seeds should be planted ¼"- ½ " in depth from November- February to break seed dormancy and for optimal establishment of stands. Excessive grazing by livestock or deer can prevent establishment and late season mowing may help the following year's vegetative growth. Sound rotational grazing strategies can assist in the long term survival of Maximilian sunflower stands.

Since Maximilian sunflower is a perennial plant it can spread via seeds or rhizomes which means over time it can form dense colonies. This species is also highly preferred forage for both livestock and white-tailed deer. It is therefore necessary to implement a rotational grazing scheme or defer grazing during the plants early spring growth if seed production is desirable. Native stands of Maximilian sunflower are often indicative of good range conditions and grazing management. This species will often disappear under continuous grazing pressure from livestock or in the presence of high density deer populations. Deer utilization of these plants decreases as the plant matures and becomes more lignified (woody). Just as with annual sunflower this plant supports insect life that can serve as a

food resource for many game and non-game birds, and provides seeds which are beneficial for turkey, quail, dove, and resident/migratory songbirds.

As anyone who has dove hunted in a sunflower field can attest; sunflower fields can serve as important feeding sites for resident and migratory mourning doves. Mowing/shredding strips through these fields can assist in recovery of game, providing bare ground for feeding, and allowing seed to shatter from mature plants. Shredded strips should be generally twice as wide as unmowed strips to aid in recovery of game. Deferring fall plowing until after October is also beneficial for doves to allow for maximum uptake of sunflower seeds available.

Leaving standing stems of dead sunflowers over winter can provide additional screening and roosting cover for wintering birds using the fields. These dead stems provide protection from aerial predators, and insulation against the cooler temperatures that occur during the winter months. These standing stems can also assist in the forming of vegetative colonies of Maximilian sunflower if the roots are left undisturbed from year to year.

So, whether utilizing these plants for landscaping, wildlife viewing, or wildlife harvesting you can't go wrong. As the summer and fall months continue look around the countryside and enjoy the brilliance of these plants both visually and biologically.



Photo by David K. Northington

# BIOLOGIST Bio

**David Sierra** was born in Kentucky but moved to Texas at a young age. While growing up in El Paso, he developed his love of the outdoors exploring the desert and mountains of the area. With the encouragement of his father, his fascination for wildlife grew from a hobby to a career choice.

David attended Texas A&M University and graduated with a Wildlife Science degree in 1975. Upon graduation, he began work with Texas Parks and Wildlife as a seasonal employee working on peregrine falcons, coastal birds, and alligators in the Non-Game Program. In December of 1975, he became a regulatory wildlife technician working for 7 years in the Panhandle and Trans Pecos regions. In 1982 he was promoted to Wildlife Biologist and moved to Sulphur Springs where he worked for 22 years in a group of counties in northeast Texas as part of the Trinity/Brazos Regulatory District. In 2004, David was promoted to his current position as the District 5 Wildlife District Leader and moved to Tyler.

As the current District 5 supervisor, he oversees and coordinates regulatory wildlife operations in a 30 county area that includes monitoring wildlife populations, setting wild-

life regulations, and assisting private landowners with management of wildlife and habitats. David also continues to be involved in native prairie restoration, promoting native plant use, public hunting leases, non-game issues, and wildlife restoration.

With 35 years of service, David has worked his way up through the ranks in the Wildlife Division, gaining experience in almost every ecoregion of the state, to become one of our most valued and seasoned wildlife professionals and leaders. David is the longest standing TPWD veteran on staff in Region III at this time. David's interests and hobbies include photography, aviation, hunting, shooting sports, fly-fishing, birding,

and studying martial arts. He married his wife Irene in 2007. Contact David at 903-566-1626 or by email at [david.sierra@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:david.sierra@tpwd.state.tx.us).



# WILDLIFE Profile



Photo by Billy Lambert

## MOURNING DOVE

(*Zenaida macroura*)

Billy C. Lambert, Jr.

Given the decline of the bobwhite quail, the mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) is probably the first bird that youngsters learn to recognize by call. The distinctive call and the easily-identifiable features make the mourning dove one of our most recognizable and popular birds.

The mourning dove is one of the most abundant and widespread of all North American birds and is one of 7 dove species found in Texas. Others include white-tipped dove, white-winged dove, Eurasian collared dove, ruddy ground-dove, common ground dove, and Inca dove. There are 5 subspecies of mourning dove (3 found in the US) ranging from Canada through all 50 states and south through Mexico into South America.

Mourners are a small-medium sized bird around 12 inches in length and weighing 4-6 ounces. The long and tapered tail is very distinctive, with outer feathers displaying white tips. The wings have black spotting. The legs and feet are pink-red in color with feet made for perching (3 forward toes and 1 reversed toe).

While there are slight differences between males and females, it can be difficult to discern the sex of a mourning dove. Plumage for both sexes is gray-brown above and lighter underneath with a pinkish hue. Adult males also display a bluish crown on top of the head and iridescent pinkish feathers on the neck and upper "shoulders". Juveniles of both sexes are slightly darker than adults and have a scaly appearance due to buffy-tipped feathers.

Mourning doves are found in a variety of habitats and have adapted well to human encroachment and urbanization. Preferred areas include open to semi-wooded areas close to agricultural grain crops (wheat, milo, corn, sunflower, etc.). Doves tend to avoid heavily-wooded or forested habitats.

The vast majority of the dove's diet consists of seeds. Agricultural crops aside, common food items include sun-

flower, croton (aka goatweed or doveweed), ragweed, and many other seed-producing grasses and forbs. As seeds are ingested, they are stored in the crop where they are digested with the help of grit (fine rocks, gravel or sand) picked up along roadsides. The grinding action of the grit in the crop helps to break down the tough seeds.

Mourning doves form strong pair bonds and breeding normally occurs during spring and summer, although active nests have been documented in every month in Texas. Breeding occurs in all 50 states. Dove nests are simple structures that appear very flimsy and are usually made from twigs. Most nests are located in trees or shrubs 6-10 feet high, although doves will nest on the ground.



Photo by Billy Lambert

Mourning dove almost always have 2 eggs per clutch, but can produce as many as 6 broods per year in warmer climates. High reproductive rates are important given the high annual mortality (approximately 60% annual mortality for adults and 70% for juveniles). Incubation lasts 2 weeks and both sexes tend to the young both before and after hatching. Young birds are initially fed milk produced in the crop by both sexes. This “crop milk” is very high in nutrients with more protein and fat than is found in cattle or human milk. After 3 days, the crop milk is replaced with seeds and fledging occurs in about 2 weeks.

Habitat management is relatively simple as doves tend to be very adaptable and occupy a variety of habitats. Of primary importance is the availability of seeds and seed-producing plants. This is easily accomplished with the presence of annual forbs or weeds that commonly appear following periodic soil disturbance (disking, dozing, grazing, etc.). Bare or sparsely-vegetated ground is also important for searching out the seeds, and predation increases dramatically if doves are forced to forage in thick vegetation. The same can be said for water sources. Doves prefer water holes with ample bare ground leading to the water edge.

Mourning doves are hunted in 36 of the lower 48 states and is the leading gamebird in the US. An estimated 1 million dove hunters harvest approximately 17 million birds annually from an estimated population of 350 million. Texas boasts the highest fall bird population (40+ million birds), the highest number of dove hunters (300,000), and the highest dove harvest (5 million birds) in the nation. Dove hunting accounts for one-third (approximately \$316 million) of the money spent annually by Texas hunters.

Management of the mourning dove is conducted through the US Fish and Wildlife Service with state assistance. Seasons and bag limits are set by individual states but within federal guidelines. Similarly, annual dove surveys follow federal protocols but are conducted by state personnel. There are 133 call-count survey routes in Texas. A disturbing long-term trend indicates that the US dove population may be decreasing (especially in the Central and Western management Units) by as much as 0.5% per

year. But, it is unclear if the population is actually declining or if the dove surveys are being impacted by urbanization (dove calls can be more difficult to detect as the noise level associated with urbanization increases).

In order to gain more understanding of dove survival and harvest rates important for population modeling, a nationwide dove banding study was initiated in 2003 (previous harvest and survival rates were based on banding information from the 1960's and 1970's). As of 2010, right at 15,000 mourning doves have been banded in Texas. Of those, 542 have been harvested and reported. Despite having one of the highest harvest rates in the US, the Texas band recovery rate is only 0.36, one of the lowest in the nation (average is 0.55). From the data collected so far, only 10% of mourning doves survive to 3 years of age, and only 1% make it to 5 years old. But, interestingly, the oldest dove ever recovered in Texas was 9 years old and the oldest ever recorded was banded in Georgia and was 31 years old.



Photo by Billy Lambert

*A relative newcomer to the Texas landscape, it is unknown what potential effects the non-native Eurasian collared dove might present to native dove populations.*

As a migratory bird, it is also interesting to see where the doves are distributed relative to where they were originally banded. From the data collected so far, of the 542 recovered doves banded in Texas, 95% were recovered in Texas. Locations for the remaining recoveries include Alabama, Kansas, Louisiana, Mexico, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and South Dakota. At a time when most are migrating south, one bird banded near Paris, TX flew 900 miles in 90 days straight north and was harvested in South Dakota.

Also interesting are how many birds banded in other states are subsequently harvested in Texas. Of the 822 banded birds harvested in Texas since 2003, 54% were banded in Texas. The remaining 375 birds were banded in 21 different states. Most were banded in the Midwest, including Kansas (70), Iowa (63), Oklahoma (54), South Dakota (44), and Nebraska. Surprisingly, 2 birds banded in Pennsylvania have been harvested in Texas.

As the hot, dry days of summer progress towards fall, many hunters anxiously await the opening of dove season. As you go out this fall, be sure to keep an eye out for the small leg bands. You may be surprised where that bird came from.

## BIRDING WITH INFRARED-TRIGGERED CAMERAS

**Billy C. Lambert, Jr.**

Wildlife biologists are supposed to know everything. Well, I proved them wrong. Bird identification has never been one of my strong suits. Sure, I know the common species and the game birds, as well as a few of the other interesting species. But, when it comes to the smaller passerines and neotropical migrants, questions regarding their identity usually result in nonspecific maybes.

The main problem, it seems, is that birds rarely hold still long enough to get the bird book out and my recollection of identifying features apparently leaves something to be desired (after all, my last ornithology class was some 20 years ago). In the old days, ornithologists would just shoot the bird and then identify it, but that seems a little harsh. Catch-and-release is important when birding.

Many outdoor enthusiasts these days, especially deer hunters, are familiar with infrared-triggered cameras. But, while they have definitely proven useful for deer surveys and to see what is coming to the deer feeder, cameras can also double as a useful birding tool, especially for identification.

As a case in point, a few months ago I put out a watering device for wildlife on my property. Rather than a traditional-style birdbath, I used a 50-gallon plastic tub and buried it at ground level for a more “natural” presentation. Then, I placed a cinderblock in the tub that sat just under the water level when the tub was full (both for a bath perch and as a way to crawl out if something fell in). Since the tub was located only 20 yards outside my office window, I could easily keep tabs on wildlife visitations.

Almost immediately, I noticed substantial use by birds, even more so than I typically saw at a traditional bird bath.



Photo by Billy Lambert

*Female northern cardinal and rose-breasted grosbeak*



Photo by Billy Lambert

*Yellow-breasted chat*

There were little green birds, blue birds, yellow and black birds, red birds, mutli-colored birds (those are my favorite), and drab little brown birds. As it turns out, I had put the tub out right smack in the middle of the spring migration and sure enough, there were many that I wasn't familiar with.

A good example was the rose-breasted grosbeak which winters outside of the county and breeds from Oklahoma northward, spending very little time in Texas (just during migration). And then there was the yellow-breasted chat, a bird that my field guide lists as fairly common all across the US, but had managed to go unidentified by me for 42 years. Regulars at the water also included painted buntings and cedar waxwings, species I already knew and were familiar with, but never get tired of looking at.

Initially, I kept a digital camera handy and would take several pics when an unknown visitor would show up. Then, with the help of my trusty bird book and a very patient TPWD ornithologist (Cliff Shakelford), I began to identify and learn how to recognize many species that I was previously unfamiliar with. And, I found that since I now had some sort of personal experience with a particular bird, it was much easier to remember identifying features, making it more recognizable in the future.

Wanting to continue to improve upon my learning process, I needed a better way to get close-up photographs rather than take digital pics through a window. Plus, there was always the question of what was coming in when I wasn't looking or when I wasn't in the office. The infrared-triggered camera was the perfect solution to both. I mounted the camera on a stake at ground level about 18 inches from the edge of the tub and the results were even better than I had expected.



05/30/2011 09:11:55 ☾ 84F

05/16/2011 08:22:06 ● 64F

*Painted bunting and blue jay*

*Tufted titmouse*

Within the first 30 days of using the camera, I had identified (again, with the help of Shackelford) 26 different bird species along with many squirrels, rabbits, fox, raccoons, and deer. What started out as simply putting out a watering device for wildlife has now turned into a full-blown obsession with attempting to see how many different species I can document on the property.

Equipment and expense for the set-up is fairly minimal, especially if you already have the camera. Just about any of the standard cameras on the market today should work fine. I have noticed that the camera I'm using has a fairly slow trigger speed, meaning that some animals come and go without tripping the camera (the small size of the birds may be a factor as well). But, while I may be missing a few individual opportunities, the birds (as well as other animals) usually frequent the water enough to have their photo taken at some point. By setting the camera to trip every minute and to take multiple photographs per event

when something is there, I promise you'll end up with many more images than you know what to do with.

Where you place the water/camera will also be important, especially if you are looking for a particular species, as different species utilize different habitat types. My current setup is placed at the edge of an upland wooded area with a thinned understory adjacent to a clearing. Placing the water container in thick woods, bottomland habitat, or open grasslands will most likely each result in a different assemblage of birds using the water, which will be important if trying to document as many species as possible.

The camera setup appears to work very well, both for seasoned bird veterans and for those that are just learning. Plus, it will count as a survey technique for those with the wildlife tax valuation. So get out there and get the camera running, you may be surprised at what's out there.



Photo by Billy Lambert

05/11/2011 15:39:35 ▣ 93F



Photo by Billy Lambert

06/30/2011 08:16:27 ☾ 79F

*Swainson's thrush, painted bunting, northern cardinal, Inca dove (left to right)*

*Many species other than birds will use the water source, such as this white-tailed deer doe and fawn*



## RESEARCH Summary

### WHO'S YOUR DADDY?

Billy C. Lambert, Jr.

Randy W. DeYoung, Stephen Demarais, Kenneth L. Gee, Rodney L. Honeycutt, Mickey W. Hellickson, and Robert A. Gonzales. 2009. *Journal of Mammalogy*, 90(4):946–953.

In hunting camps across the US, much speculation exists regarding which bucks do the breeding in white-tailed deer populations. Many assume that only mature bucks breed and that a relatively few of the largest bucks father most of the offspring. Alternative theories speculate that young and/or inferior bucks perform at least some of the breeding duties; hence the commonly-heard statements of needing to “remove that gene from the gene pool” or removing a deer from the population “before it gets a chance to breed”.

But, while the debate raged on, little actual information had been collected on free-ranging deer to verify or dismiss the theories. Beginning in 1998, research spearheaded by Dr. Randy DeYoung gave us our first look into which bucks are actually doing the breeding and how successful they are. In some aspects, the results are surprising.

The initial research was conducted on 3 separate areas. By using 3 relatively diverse properties, the researchers hoped to be able to examine how the differing aspects, such as sex ratio and age structure, affected the outcome of the research.

The first area was part of the King Ranch in South Texas and is low-fenced and managed for trophy-class deer. Buck harvest is comparatively minimal and, for the most part, is restricted to mature males only. During the time frame of the research, the sex ratio was estimated to be 2.7 does per buck. The buck age structure was high, with 57% of the bucks estimated to be 3.5 years of age or older.

The Noble Foundation Wildlife Unit in Oklahoma is a 3,000-acre high fenced research area with regulated and intermediate buck hunting pressure. Estimated sex ratios throughout the study were less than 2.5 does per buck. The estimated number of bucks aged 3.5 years old or older was 30%.

The last area was an 8,000 acre area of the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi (very similar to much of the Post oak Savannah). This is a low-fenced public hunting area with intense buck hunting pressure and high buck harvest. The sex ratio was very high with an estimated 7 or more does per buck

post-season. Only 19% of the bucks were estimated to be 3.5 year of age or older.

To conduct the study, the researchers used a panel of microsatellite DNA loci to assign paternity (don't worry, I don't know what it means either; let's just say that they used genetics to match the offspring with the parents). In order to collect the tissue samples needed, deer were captured using helicopter and net guns, drop-nets, or by using hunter-harvested deer and deer harvested via collection permits. Deer were aged using tooth wear and replacement.

For the King Ranch, a total of 439 deer were sampled. Forty-six males fathered 70 offspring (29.5% of the sampled offspring) for an average of only 1.6 fawns per buck. Seventy percent of the fawns were sired by bucks that were 3.5 years of age or older. For Noble, a total of 502 deer were sampled. Sixty-one males fathered 154 offspring (49% of the sampled offspring) for a similar average of only 2.5 fawns per buck. Likewise, 67% percent of the fawns were sired by bucks that were 3.5 years of age or older. On Noxubee, a total of 278 deer were sampled. Sixteen males fathered 20 offspring (12% of sampled offspring) for an average of only 1.3 fawns per buck. A much lower 32% of the fawns were sired by bucks that were 3.5 years of age or older.



Photo by Billy Lambert

From the data, it is appears that 1 of the long-held theories was proven correct. The bulk of the breeding is performed by older age class males, at least in areas where they actually exist. Younger bucks do manage to do some of the breeding, more so in situations where the sex ratio is skewed towards

females and relatively few mature bucks exist. But, by managing for a high percentage of mature bucks and a tight sex ratio, breeding by juvenile bucks can be minimized to some degree.

While one theory was proven correct, there was no evidence on any of the study sites that the majority of the breeding was accomplished by only a few dominant breeders. In fact, across all 3 properties combined, each successful buck (some were not successful at all) was responsible for an average of only 1.8 fawns each. Saving one particular buck in the herd as a “breeder” or attempting to cull “inferior” deer for genetic purposes appears to be questionable.

Advances in genetic research have yielded interesting information in recent years regarding white-tailed deer breeding success. Future issues of the newsletter will review research on which individual bucks, based on body and antler size, are more successful.

## TROPHY Corner



Photo provided by Sharon Lane

Sharon Lane harvested this fantastic buck from Navarro county last season. The deer has 22 scorable points, gross scores 202 7/8, net scores 200 2/8, and has been accepted into the Boone and Crockett record book.



Photo by Billy Lambert

R. J. Murphrey, 3 years old, was on his first ever fishing trip with dad, Brent, in Leon county and managed to boat this nice sunfish.



Photo by Irene Hamel

Sixteen-year-old Ariel Hamel caught this nice largemouth bass, her first fish, at the Tyler Nature Center in Smith county last summer with David Sierra providing assistance.

## UPCOMING Event!



The Lonestar Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation will hold their annual fundraising banquet at the Brazos Center in Bryan, TX at 6:00 pm on 9 August 2011. Help support wild turkey research, management, and restoration and meet **MICHAEL WADELL**, star of Realtree Roadtrips and The Bone Collector.

Silent and live auction items, door prizes, and many raffle items are all up for grabs. Highlights include an African safari for 2, Winchester Ranger 24-gun safe, over 20 rifles, shotguns, and pistols, many limited edition prints and sculptures, feeders, hunting blinds, knives, and many more outdoor-related items. Plus, display your shooting skills at the Laser Shot hunting simulator and visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Operation Game Thief Trailer.

Tickets include membership to NWTF and meal with open bar. Purchasers of a table (gold or platinum) are allowed early access for a private meet-and-greet with Michael Waddell. Also, Gold table sponsors have a chance to win a gun (drawing from table sponsors only) and Platinum table sponsors are *guaranteed* to win a gun. For more information, contact Darrin Allen at 979-219-0286.

**Come out for a night of fun and entertainment while supporting the National Wild Turkey Federation!**

## UPCOMING Event



# TEXAS BIG GAME AWARDS



*Sportsman's Celebration*

## TBGA REGIONS 5, 6, and 7

July 30, 2011, 3 pm – 9 pm  
College Station Hilton

**Come see some of the largest deer harvested from the Post Oak Savannah, Pineywoods, and Coastal Prairie!**

**Contact David Brimager 210-826-2904 to register  
[www.texasbiggameawards.org](http://www.texasbiggameawards.org)**

Executive Director  
Carter P. Smith

Editor, *Post Oak Savannah Wildlifer*  
Billy C. Lambert, Jr.

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*"To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."*

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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 web site for detailed information about TPWD programs:

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