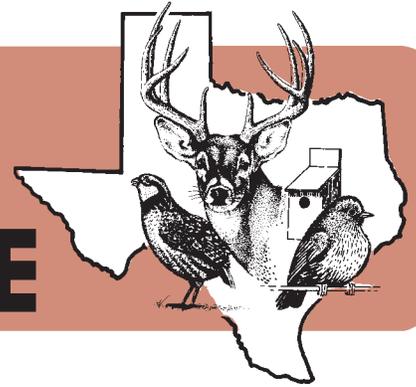


Making Tracts for TEXAS WILDLIFE



Fall/Winter 2005 • Wildlife Division

Cave Creek Wildlife Management Association Receives Lone Star Land Steward Award for 2005

Outside the big cities, out where the deer and the antelope still play, the Texas natural landscape is under siege. It's a slow motion war that gradually frays and fragments the land as human beings expand into what used to be open range.

On the front line are the traditional ranching families, private land stewards who use their money, spunk and ingenuity to roll with the punches of change and try to protect the best of what's left – and there's still a lot of good left. Joining them are the growing ranks of a new breed of rural landowners who live in cities, many of whom also want to help, though they may be newer to the task.

The Cave Creek Wildlife Management Association in Gillespie County is recognized as the first wildlife management association in this region of Texas. The co-op was organized in 1983 by Duery Menzies and Milo Shult with the Texas



Ronnie Ottmers (left) and Sam Segner (right), officers of the Cave Creek Wildlife Management Association, accept the 2005 Lone Star Land Steward Award.

Young hunters from the 2004 Cave Creek "Super Hunt."



A&M Ag Extension Service to encourage community involvement in native wildlife management efforts. Currently, there are 45 landowner members controlling 22,400 acres in Gillespie County. Properties range in size from 3,000 acres down to 45 acres.

The association encourages deer management in a variety of ways. They hold an annual Big Buck Contest, the reduced hunting lease license for participating tracts and the annual Hunters Chili Supper on the eve of opening day of deer season.

But by far the co-op's most ambitious project is their participation in the Texas

Youth Hunting Program's "Super Hunts" for about 50 youth each season.

Cave Creek was nominated for the LSLSA by Dr. Wallace Klussmann for their "exceptional effort in support of the Texas Youth Hunting Association."

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2005 Legislative Updates for Landowners: *What's New*

by Linda McMurry, TPWD, Austin

While the 2005 Legislature may not have solved the school funding issue, it nonetheless did pass several pieces of legislation of interest to landowners. The first one, **HB1568** by Geren, added wildlife management to the Agriculture Code. Prior to this, wildlife management was considered a qualifying agricultural practice under the Property Tax Code, but was not listed as such under the Ag Code.

HB1364 by Williams should result in the preservation of small-plot hunting opportunity by preventing municipalities from prohibiting the use of firearms and archery equipment on agricultural lands as municipalities expand.

HB505 by Hilderbran makes it an offense for a person to knowingly discharge a firearm and allow the projectile to travel across a property line onto someone else's property.

SB1273 by Jackson, created the Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program. This creates a mechanism for willing landowners to sell the development rights on their working farms and ranches while retaining both their ownership and their ability to continue farming and ranching. Currently, the majority of conservation easements are donated. This program, which requires no funding by the state, will enable Texas to leverage private funds and donations with matching federal funds for purchases of development rights on working landscapes. The program will be housed at the General Land Office.

Just as important to landowners are the bills that did not pass. **HB560** by Miller would have regulated the placement of hunting blinds on private property.

HB326 by Goodman related to animal cruelty. The current law has three separate provisions that make it clear the animal cruelty law does not apply to an ethical hunter, trapper or fisherman in

pursuit of wildlife. This bill would have eliminated two of those provisions and weakened the third, creating the potential to convert every hunting and fishing violation, no matter how minor, into a felony offense.

SB1766 would have effectively privatized a significant number of white-tailed deer in Texas by moving the Scientific Breeder Program over to the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Game Bird Stamp Changes to Aid Conservation

by Tom Harvey, TPWD, Austin

When hunters buy Texas licenses this fall, they'll purchase new game bird stamps mandated by recent legislation.

SB1192 replaces three game bird stamps with two new ones. The \$7 white-winged dove stamp and \$7 waterfowl stamp are now combined into a single \$7 Migratory Game Bird Stamp required to hunt ducks, geese, white-winged doves, mourning doves, white-tipped doves, sandhill cranes, woodcock, snipe, rails and gallinules. The \$5 turkey stamp has been replaced by the \$7 Upland Game Bird Stamp required to hunt turkey, quail, pheasant, chachalaca and lesser prairie chicken. TPWD estimates the two new stamps will generate up to \$1.5 million per year for conservation work.

Mourning dove hunters who were not required to buy the white-winged dove stamp are now required to have the new Migratory Game Bird Stamp. This new stamp probably will affect only about 40 percent of dove hunters, because about 60 percent of all dove hunters already purchase the white-winged dove stamp or a combo license that includes it. By the

same token, TPWD estimates that only about 40 percent of quail hunters would feel the economic impact of the new Upland Game Bird Stamp.

The stamp upgrade addresses changing conservation needs. Mourning dove breeding surveys show a long-term population decline and research is needed to find ways to help. In contrast, whitewings have expanded their range considerably since the whitewing stamp was created in 1971. In spite of this, TPWD has not been empowered to allocate whitewing funds to research on mourning doves. Likewise, quail and other upland game birds, in addition to the wild turkey, will benefit from funds generated by the Upland Game Bird Stamp.

Conservation groups lined up behind the stamp change. TPWD's Game Bird Advisory Board and the Texas Quail Council helped craft the stamp change concept. Other groups supporting the legislation include Ducks Unlimited, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, the Texas Audubon Society, the Dove Sportsman's Society, Sportsmen Conservationists of Texas, the Texas Wildlife Association and the Texas Farm Bureau.

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Richards Ranch Named Statewide Lone Star Land Steward for 2005

The Richards Ranch in Jack County has been named this year's statewide Lone Star Land Steward by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The Lone Star Land Steward Awards recognize private landowners for their accomplishments in habitat management and wildlife conservation. The program is designed to recognize landowners, educate the public and encourage participation in habitat conservation.

A new partner in the awards program, the Sand County Foundation, also presented the Richards Ranch with its Leopold Conservation Award for Texas. For the first time, the Wisconsin-based foundation is providing cash awards to Lone Star Land Steward Award recipients, including \$1,000 for each regional winner and \$5,000 for the statewide steward. The statewide steward will also receive a crystal award from the foundation.

The Hackley family was surprised with all others in attendance at the May 25 land steward awards banquet in Austin to learn they would receive the state's highest recognition for private land wildlife conservation. Their 15,333-acre Richards Ranch shows how some traditions still run deep, having been owned by the family since 1865. John Hackley, the ranch's general manager for the past 25 years, is a direct descendant of ranch founders James and Elizabeth Hensley. Hackley's son, Brent, represents the sixth family generation to have loved, managed and benefited from the ranch. The seventh generation, Brent's pre-school children, are being mentored by their father, grandfather and great-great-uncle and are waiting in the wings.

Livestock is still the ranch's primary management emphasis and rotational grazing has doubled the conventional stocking rate in most years while increas-

ing the biomass and diversity of grasses, which benefits groundwater by improving water infiltration through the soil. Recreational uses include hunting, birding, wildlife photography and ranch heritage tours, which provide important revenue for the ranch. The Hackleys have freely shared their management successes and failures via field days, training seminars and ranch tours conducted for other land managers. They have also freely provided hunts to youth and women to help promote hunting among non-traditional user groups.

"Families like the Hackleys exemplify a tradition of stewardship that may not be fully appreciated outside the ranching and wildlife communities, but which is critical for the future of wildlife," said Joseph B.C. Fitzsimons, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission chairman, who presented the land steward awards. "No one will have more impact on the future of Texas wildlife than the people who are closest to the land that sustains them both. Stewardship requires stewards and the Hackleys are some of the finest there are."

This year's awards gained a new cachet through association with famed ecologist Aldo Leopold and the Sand County Foundation.

"The next generation of environmental activists is private landowners working on lands they own and control and motivated by incentives and voluntary action, not the government and the courts," said Brent Haglund, foundation president. "Governments cannot own or control enough land to adequately protect our natural resources."

Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) is considered the father of wildlife ecology. A Wisconsin forester by background, he became a renowned scientist and university scholar, philosopher and writer. Leopold's "A Sand County Almanac" remains one of the world's best-selling natural history books. On his farm and throughout his career, Leopold championed land stewardship, calling for a new "land ethic" that values the ecological web of life, land and water. His cornerstone book "Game Management" (1933) defined the fundamental skills and techniques for managing and restoring wildlife populations.

Based on that original private land stewardship enterprise, the foundation's mission today includes "providing public recognition of outstanding private conservation leadership and rewarding responsible stewards to inspire others by their example."



The Hackley family accepting their award as the 2005 Lone Star Land Steward Statewide Award winner.

Itsy-Bitsy Spider

by Jim Dillard, Technical Guidance Biologist, TPWD, Mineral Wells

There's nothing I like better than driving down an old dusty gravel country road here in the Cross Timbers, away from the hustle and bustle of traffic. I take roads less traveled every chance I get in my comings and goings because I never know what I might see just around the next corner. On paved roads, even rural ones, it seems there's always someone in a bigger truck in a bigger hurry than I am, right on my bumper and looking for room to pass. If there was some critter on the road around the next curve, by the time I get there, they've either run it off or run it over. Slow moving animals like armadillos, snakes, turtles, toads and tarantulas are particularly vulnerable and no match for an F-250 diesel pickup headed to town.

When it comes to spiders, there's nothing itchy-bitsy about the Texas brown tarantula, *Aphonopelma hentzi*, found here in the Cross Timbers. It belongs to the Mygalomorph family of hairy spiders. At over three inches when fully grown, these large black and brown hairy spiders will get your attention. Little Miss Muffet would probably not have sat next to one of these for very long either.

The name tarantula originated in the small town of Taranto on the southern coast of Italy some 600 years ago. A large European wolf spider found in that area was called a tarantola. It was thought that its bite caused tarantismo, a disease marked by periods of melancholy and then death. Elaborate frenzied dance set to music called the tarantella was thought to prevent death. Tchaikovsky even included a song entitled 'Antidotum Tarantulae' (treatment for spider bite) in the ballet Swan Lake. When early settlers of the southwestern United States and Mexico encountered large hairy spiders, they also called them tarantolas, thus the name tarantula evolved.

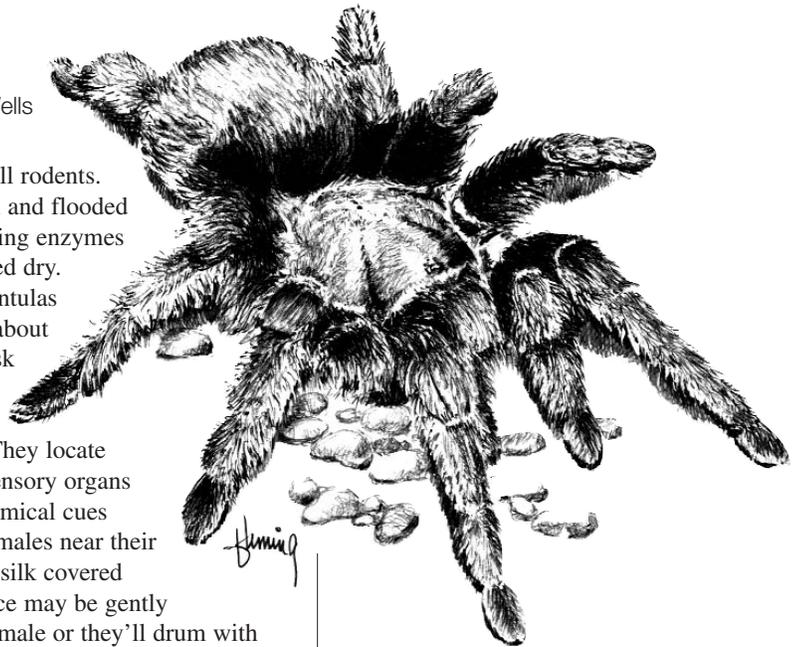
Tarantulas spend most of their lives in underground burrows, emerging only for eating or mating. Some individuals may live their entire lives within a few yards of their digs. They mature in 8-10 years and females may live to be 30. Mature tarantulas usually molt their exoskeleton once a year. Foraging is usually at night when they prowl about short distances looking for beetles, grasshoppers, millipedes, other

spiders or small rodents. Prey are bitten and flooded with predigesting enzymes and then sucked dry.

Most tarantulas seen walking about at dawn or dusk are males searching for females. They locate mates using sensory organs that detect chemical cues released by females near their burrows. The silk covered burrow entrance may be gently tapped by the male or they'll drum with their legs on the ground until the females emerges. If she isn't receptive to his advances, he might turn into her next meal. If things go right, she'll leave her burrow and allow the male to approach her and raise the upper part of her body (cephalothorax). With specially equipped hooks on his first pair of walking legs, he'll hold back her fangs, mate and then skedaddle. Once a male matures, it doesn't molt again and will die within a year.

The female will tunnel under a rock and lay 600 to 1,000 eggs in sheets of silk and remain with them for 6-7 weeks until they hatch and eventually scatter to start the cycle all over. Burrows are soon dug by the young and enlarged as they grow. Few survive to reach maturity since they are tasty tidbits for predators such as birds, lizards, snakes, frogs, toads, skunks, armadillos and raccoons.

Adults are not without their enemies. The tarantula hawk (*Pepsis formosa*), a large 2-inch blue-black wasp with orange wings, is a tarantula's worst nightmare. They require a spider to serve as host for their larvae and nothing fits the bill better than a nice plump tarantula. Once a female tarantula hawk locates a tarantula's burrow, she'll go in and force the spider out into the open and the fight is on. Wandering males may also be attacked. The wasp usually wins and stings the spider with potent venom that immobilizes it within a few seconds. She'll then drag the spider to her underground burrow and deposit an egg on its abdomen. The grub will feed on the tarantula in the sealed burrow until it's consumed and a mature wasp develops. The sting of a tarantula hawk is



extremely painful to people, so don't provoke one. Another enemy is the small-headed fly of the family Acroceridae that lays its eggs on tarantulas. Like ticking time bombs, they eventually hatch and their maggots eat into the spider and devour it.

For the most part, tarantulas mind their own business, but when provoked, defend themselves in several ways. Most formidable is when they assume a threatening posture by raising their front legs and expose their fangs. This is enough to discourage some predators. If that doesn't work, they'll use their hind legs to brush off specialized urticating hairs on the top rear of their abdomen that contain venom. The resulting cloud of fine hairs causes severe irritation to the mucous membrane of mammals, including us. They may cause pruritis (itching) or urticarial lesions (sores) if not treated. Cellophane or masking tape can be used to help removed them from the skin. The venom of our tarantulas is actually no more potent than that of a bee sting. If handled carefully, these gentle giants of the spider world are usually not aggressive – just let them crawl on their own and don't pick one up from above or you may get nailed. My advice: leave them the heck alone and they'll leave you the heck alone!

Tarantulas are much maligned by myth and movies. In 1955, Clint Eastwood saved the day by destroying a 100-foot tall hairy spider with napalm in the movie *Tarantula*. Think I'll just continue to yield right-of-way to tarantulas crossing dusty gravel country roads here in the Cross Timbers.

Meet TPWD's Technical Guidance Biologists

Jim Dillard

Jim Dillard is a wildlife biologist with TPWD and has been employed by TPWD for over



39 years. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Science. Since that time, he has worked for TPWD as a wildlife biologist on the Statewide Mourning Dove Project in Austin and as a district wildlife biologist in the Panhandle Regulatory District and in Possum Kingdom Wildlife District since 1973.

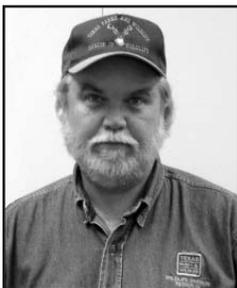
In 1995, Jim was promoted to technical guidance biologist under TPWD's Private Lands and Habitat Program. He works in a 20-county area of Northcentral Texas in the Cross Timbers and Prairies and Lower Rolling Plains Ecological Regions, providing wildlife and habitat management recommendations and assistance to private landowners.

Jim is a certified wildlife biologist by the Wildlife Society and a member of the Wildlife Society, Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Society for Range Management, Native Prairies Association of Texas and Texas Wildlife Association. Jim also writes a column published each month in the *Mineral Wells Index* and other North Texas newspapers and several newsletters entitled *Cross Timbers Wildlife News*.

Jim lives in Mineral Wells and can be reached at (940) 325-7746 or jdillard@mesh.net

Gary E. Homerstad

Gary began his career with TPWD at the Kerr WMA in 1971 and for part of that time worked under the supervision of an area manager named Bob Cook.



In 1973 his career path took him to San Angelo where he worked as a wildlife biologist in the old Permian Basin Regulatory District. In 1976 he became the area manager of the Black Gap WMA. The

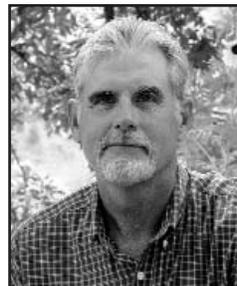
decade of the eighties found him assigned to the Las Palomas WMA in the Rio Grande Valley where he and his wife Kathie raised three young ladies. While in the "Valley," he assisted the South Texas Regulatory District and worked with numerous landowners in developing wildlife management plans. For the past sixteen years he has lived in Victoria and has worked as a technical guidance biologist in both South and South Central Texas.

In his 33 years with TPWD, Gary has gained a wealth of experience working with numerous wildlife species in several ecological areas. He helped pioneer brush habitat restoration techniques while in the Valley. His most gratifying accomplishment has been working to organize and promote the cooperative concept of wildlife management that has resulted in the formation of the Texas Organization of Wildlife Management Associations.

Gary can be reached at (361) 576-0023 or gary.homerstad@tpwd.state.tx.us

Mike Krueger

Born and raised in Guadalupe County near Seguin, Mike Krueger is a 1975 graduate of Texas A&M at College



Station with a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Science, and additional post-graduate work in range and wildlife sciences at Texas A&I University, Kingsville.

From 1979 until 1985 Mike had a career with the National Forests in Texas, first as a range conservationist in Decatur and later as a wildlife biologist in Lufkin. In 1985 Mike joined TPWD as a wildlife biologist in Lufkin, becoming a technical guidance biologist in 1989.

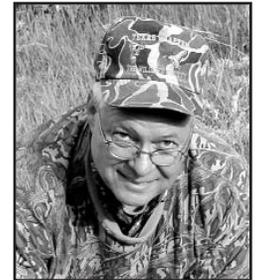
In 1992 Mike became the technical guidance biologist in Lampasas where his primary job duty is providing technical wildlife management assistance to individual private landowners and landowner cooperatives in a 26-county area of the western Blackland Prairies, northern Edwards Plateau, southern Cross Timbers, and southern Rolling Plains regions of Central Texas (Johnson, Hill, McLennan, Hood, Somervell, Bosque, Coryell, Bell,

Erath, Comanche, Hamilton, Lampasas, Burnet, Eastland, Brown, Mills, San Saba, Callahan, Coleman, McCulloch, Runnels, Concho, Coke, Tom Green, Sterling and Glasscock counties).

Mike can be reached at (512) 556-4172 or mkrueger@n-link.com

Gene T. Miller

A 1974 graduate of Texas A&M, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries



Sciences (Wildlife Ecology option), Gene Miller spent his first three years after graduation as an infantry and artillery officer in the 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force of the United States Marine Corps. Re-entering civilian life in 1977 as a wildlife management technician and later as an area manager with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Gene was involved with the public hunting program, providing technical guidance to private landowners; white-tailed deer and Eastern wild turkey restoration, black bear and raccoon research and habitat development; as well as wildlife/forestry management for deer, turkey, bobwhite quail, rabbits, squirrels, waterfowl, woodcock and furbearers.

In 1986 Gene began his career with TPWD as a fish and wildlife technician initially working in the Pineywoods region (Lufkin) doing similar types of projects. In 1989 Gene became a technical guidance biologist in TPWD's Private Lands and Public Hunting Program where he is responsible for working directly with landowners and sportsmen concerning wildlife management practices in the High Plains and Rolling Plains regions of Texas and to effect extensive liaison with other state, federal and private conservation organizations.

Gene is an active member of Arden Road Baptist Church, Amarillo; active lay ministry volunteer at Randall County Jail, Amarillo; active member of Texas Chapter, the Wildlife Society; and Certified Wildlife Biologist (the Wildlife Society). He and

(Continued on page 6)

Meet TPWD's Technical Guidance Biologists *(Continued from page 5)*

his wife Marie have two daughters, Leslie Anne and Amanda Leigh.

Gene can be reached at (806) 655-3782 or gene.miller@amaonline.com

Joyce Moore

A Hill Country native, Joyce Moore joined the Private Lands program in April of 2004 and currently provides technical assistance in the western portion of the Edwards Plateau. As a 22-year veteran of TPWD, she is the first female biologist to hold a technical guidance position. A graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University with a Bachelor of Science in Forest Wildlife Management, Joyce first spent 21 years as a regulatory biologist in the South Texas Brush Country where her responsibilities included data collection, interpretation and outreach, and technical assistance to a variety of private individuals and landowner groups. Her current area of responsibility includes the counties of Kerr, Bandera, Real, Edwards, Val Verde, Kimble, Sutton, Crockett, Schleicher, Reagan and Irion counties, along with northern Uvalde, Kinney, Medina and portions of Gillespie, Mason and Menard counties. Joyce is active in the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society and recognized as a Certified Wildlife Biologist with that organization. She currently resides in Harper, Texas, while continuing to operate the family ranch in a neighboring county along with her husband and young son.

Joyce can be reached at jmoore@ktc.com

Micah Poteet

Micah Poteet is a technical guidance biologist for the Pineywoods Ecological Area and is based in

Lufkin. He received his B.S.F. from Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) in 1987 and his M.S.F. from SFASU in 1990.



Prior to coming to TPWD Micah was employed as a wildlife biologist with the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission from 1990-93. He has been employed with TPWD since 1993 as TPWD liaison to the U.S. Forest Service (1993-94), regulatory wildlife biologist (1994-2000) and technical guidance biologist (2000-present).

Micah's primary job responsibility is to provide technical assistance to private landowners to enhance habitat and wildlife populations. His professional interests include integrating timber and wildlife habitat management, eastern turkey restoration and white-tailed deer management.

Micah is currently a member of both the Texas chapter and national chapter of the Wildlife Society. He has been certified as a Certified Wildlife Biologist by the Wildlife Society in 1998. He also maintains a membership in the National Wild Turkey Federation, National Rifle Association and Texas Wildlife Association.

Micah can be reached at (936) 639-1879 or tpwdpoteet@inu.net

Mike Reagan

Mike Reagan is a technical guidance biologist for the Eastern and Central Edwards Plateau, and is stationed in Wimberley. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Science from Texas A&M University in 1970. After serving two years in the Army, including one year in Vietnam, he began working with TPWD in 1972. Mike spent 10 years working as a regulatory biologist in the Edwards Plateau, and 10 years as assistant white-tailed deer program leader in Austin.

Mike began working as a technical guidance biologist in 1993, and now assists over 100 landowners on more than 300,000 acres of land in Central Texas. He is a member of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, the Texas Wildlife Association and the Texas Wildlife Management Council.

His primary responsibilities are to provide wildlife and habitat management assistance to landowners in the Edwards Plateau. This area includes the counties of



Llano, Mason, Gillespie, Kendall, Blanco, Williamson, Travis, Hays, Comal, Northern Bexar and Southern Burnet.

Mike can be reached at (512) 847-1226 or reagan@wimberley-tx.com

Calvin Richardson

Calvin Richardson is a technical guidance biologist in the Trans-Pecos region, responsible for working with

private landowners and managers on some of the largest ranches in the state. Richardson's territory (District 1) stretches from Midland, south to Dryden and west to El Paso, encompassing the western edge of the Edwards Plateau, the Permian Basin, and the mountains and basins of the Chihuahuan Desert.

Richardson earned a Bachelor Degree (1982) in Wildlife Science from Texas A&M and worked as a research technician on a predator management project in 1983. He then worked as a range and wildlife assistant for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in Uvalde (1983-86). After earning his Master Degree in Wildlife Ecology from Texas A&M in 1986, he continued his career with the Extension Service in Range, Wildlife and Total Resource Management (Uvalde and Corpus Christi). He left Texas for a short time and served as associate wildlife specialist with the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service in South Carolina (1990-92).

In 1993, Richardson returned to Texas and began his career with TPWD as a wildlife biologist in Amarillo and then Lubbock. In 1997 he became technical guidance biologist in Midland, where he still works today assisting landowners on more than 1.2 million acres.

Calvin enjoys fishing, upland bird hunting and big game hunting, especially with a bow and arrow. He is an Official Measurer for the Boone & Crockett Club, serves on the Texas Big Game Awards Scoring Committee and is a member of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

Calvin can be reached at (915) 520-1570 or wildlife@planetlink.net



(Continued on page 7)

Jimmy Rutledge

Jimmy Rutledge graduated from Texas A&I, class of 1979. Joining



TPWD in 1986, Jimmy began his 19-year career with TPWD in East Texas stationed at Livingston, in Polk County. After spending time in San Antonio, and at the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area, he became the technical guidance biologist for South Texas in 1996.

Stationed in Carrizo Springs, Jimmy can be reached at (830) 876-8229 or jimmyrut@awesomenet.net

Matt Wagner

Matt Wagner has worked for TPWD for over 17 years. He is the technical guidance biologist for the Central Post



Oak Savannah region. Matt provides technical assistance to landowners within a nine-county area from Anderson to Brazos County. He currently administers about 180 wildlife management plans on private lands totaling over 440,000 acres. Matt received a M.S. degree in Range Science from Montana State in 1985, and a B.S. degree in Range Science from Texas A&M in 1980. As a Fellow with the National Water Research Institute, he is currently finishing a Ph.D. in Regional Planning at Texas A&M University, where he team-teaches a course in habitat management on private lands.

Matt has served on the Board of Directors for the Texas Section Society for Range Management and as Committee Chair of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. He also serves in an advisory role for the Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management at Texas A&M. His interests include habitat management, ecological economics and natural resource policy affecting private lands.

Matt is a certified Wildlife Biologist and a certified Professional in Rangeland Management.

Matt can be reached at (979) 845-5798 or mwagner@tamu.edu

Wildlife Regulations Bullets

NEW: A migratory game bird stamp endorsement (\$7) is required to hunt any migratory game bird, including mourning dove.

NEW: An upland game bird stamp endorsement (\$7) is required to hunt turkey, quail, pheasant, lesser prairie chicken or chachalacas.

2005-2006 Hunting Seasons

DOVE	(PLEASE REPORT LEG BANDS TO 1-800-327-BAND)	
	North Zone	Sept. 1-Oct. 30
	Central Zone	Sept. 1-Oct. 30, Dec. 26-Jan. 4
	South Zone	Sept. 23-Nov. 10, Dec. 26-Jan. 15
	Special South Texas Zone	Sept. 3, 4, 10 & 11, Sept. 23-Nov. 10, Dec. 26-Jan. 11
WHITE-TAILED DEER	Archery	Oct. 1-30
	General:	
	*Special Youth Season	Oct. 29-30, Jan. 21-22
	North Texas (200 counties)	Nov. 5-Jan. 1
	Panhandle (6 counties)	Nov. 19-Dec. 4
	South Texas (30 counties)	Nov. 5-Jan. 15
	Edwards Plateau (39 counties)	
Late Antlerless and Spike	Jan. 2-15	
South Texas (30 counties)		
Late Antlerless and Spike	Jan. 16-29	
Muzzleloader (23 counties)		
Late Antlerless and Spike	Jan. 7-15	
MULE DEER	Archery	Oct. 1-30
	General:	
	Panhandle (36 counties)	Nov. 19-Dec. 4
	SW Panhandle (7 counties)	Nov. 19-27
Trans-Pecos (19 counties)	Nov. 26-Dec. 11	
JAVELINA	(Approximately 43 counties)	Oct. 1-Feb. 26
	(Approximately 50 counties)	Sept. 1-Aug. 31
SQUIRREL	%Special Youth Season	Sept. 24-25
	East Texas (51 counties)	Oct. 1-Feb. 5, May 1-31
	Other Open counties	Sept. 1-Aug. 31
PHEASANT	Chambers, Jefferson & Liberty counties	Oct. 29-Feb. 26
	Panhandle (37 counties)	Dec. 3-Jan. 1
QUAIL	Statewide (all counties)	Oct. 29-Feb. 26
RIO GRANDE TURKEY	Archery:	Oct. 1-30
	Fall Season:	
	*Special Youth Season	Oct. 29-30, Jan. 21-22
	North Texas (123 counties)	Nov. 5-Jan. 1
	South Texas (26 counties)	Nov. 5-Jan. 15
	Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg and Willacy counties	Nov. 5-Feb. 26
	Spring Season:	
	4-Turkey Bag Limit (153 counties)	Apr. 1-May 14
	*Special Youth Season	Mar. 25-26, May 20-21
	1-Turkey Bag Limit (11 counties)	Apr. 1-30
+EASTERN TURKEY	Spring Season Only – East Texas (43 counties)	Apr. 1-30
CHACHALACA	Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties	Oct. 29-Feb. 26
RABBITS AND HARES	No closed season.	

* In all counties that have an open season for those species.

% In all counties that have an Oct. 1-Feb. 5 and May 1-31 Open Squirrel Season.

+ Rio Grande and Eastern Turkey may be hunted in these counties.

New Publication Available from TPWD

The Private Lands and Public Hunting Program of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will be releasing a new brochure for landowners.

Available in mid-November, *Using Wildlife Management as a Qualifying Agricultural Practice* is designed to answer basic questions about qualifying for this popular tax option.

To obtain a copy of this brochure, contact TPWD or your local biologist.



Operation Game Thief

Texas' Wildlife Crime-Stoppers Program

You can make a difference

by reporting poaching, pollution and dumping, arson in state parks, and intoxicated boaters! Up to \$1,000 may be paid for information leading to arrest and conviction of a person for a violation of our state's wildlife and fisheries laws, as well as for certain laws related to environmental crime, arson, and intoxicated boaters.



Reward Hotline (800) 792-GAME

Support anti-poaching efforts by becoming a member of the Operation Game Thief Program (call 512-389-4381 for membership information) or by sending your tax deductible donation to Operation Game Thief, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

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