THE OWNER'S ASSOCIATION AT INDIAN CREEK

November 1, 2005 Volume 2 Issue 3

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

Fire

Rocksprings (830) 683-4111 Barksdale (830) 234-3473 Camp Wood (830) 597-6100

Border Patrol (830) 683-2255

EMS

Rocksprings (830) 683-3305 Camp Wood (830) 597-4200

Sheriff & Highway Patrol 830) 683-4104



Wild Facts

The armadillo always has four offspring of the same sex, the original fertilized egg splits into four identical eggs before growing

The greatest predator of the striped skink is the great horned owl

The American Alligator can reach lengths up to 19 feet

The female bobwhite will lay an egg a day during nesting season up to 16 eggs



PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS

SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING:

The Owners Association at Indian Creek Annual Meeting was held on October 15, 2005. Over 100 owners, neighbors, and friends gathered to enjoy Mike and Terri Ashby's hospitality at the "Old Headquarters" location. For those that didn't make the meeting, here is a summary. You were missed, see you next time!

The President called the meeting to order and all Board Members, our Association Biologist, and our Speaker (Mr. Tommy Walker, Patrol Agent in Charge of the Rocksprings Border Patrol Station) were present and introduced.

Your Association President reported on our Association progress during the past year.

- The Owners Association at Indian Creek has been registered and approved by the State of Texas as a Non-Profit Corporation.
- An Association Checking Account and Banking Relations have been established with Peoples State Bank of Rocksprings, Texas, expenditures requiring 2 Board signatures.
- Owners List were distributed and corrections recorded by Bill Wilson at the Meeting..
- Association Communications, were discussed including Quarterly Newsletters, regular and e-mail distribution. (Contact information for the Association officers is at the end of this section.)
- It was announced that A "New Owners Guide" has been created by Dan Delich and Michael Gutierrez.
- Mike Ashby and Coy Fontenot have agreed to be Co-Chairmen of the Association Wildlife Management Committee.
- Owners were reminded that the Phase Gate locking program has been initiated (codes 3030) for the security of our properties. Please keep the gates locked for your, and your neighbors, protection.
- The Owners Car Tag program was initiated and Tags were issued to Owners in attendance. Tags for absent Owners are included in this mailing.

Future Plans were announced by the President for Our Association.

- Quarterly "Gatherings" will be announced in the next Newsletter. Each Quarter the Newsletter will set a time and place for an informal get together for Owners to meet and visit with neighbors.
- An Owners Association at Indian Creek Web Site is being created. If will permit, communications, contact information, input of Game Records, and Pictures.
- Progression of Officers, election of new Secretary/Treasurer will be conducted before the Next Annual meeting. Nominees and volunteers are being accepted by the Board. Please contact any Board Member, if you are interested. Names, background, and ballots will be distributed, so that the 2007 slate of officers may be installed at our 2006 Annual Meeting.

Special "thanks" were expressed by your President to Dan Delich, Association Vice President, Jimmy Yarbrough, Association Secretary/Treasurer, and Michael Gutierrez, Association Biologist for two years of exceptional service to your Association. Appreciation was also expressed to Bill and Jackie Wilson, for their excellent efforts to

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to maintain our Owners Contact list, and to Mike and Terri Ashby for their hospitality in holding our Meeting on their property. Warm appreciation was also extended to all by the Owners attending the Annual Meeting.

Reports were delivered by Association Vice President, (Dan Delich), Association Secretary/Treasurer (Jimmy Yarbrough) and Association Biologist (Michael Gutierrez). Summaries of their important reports follow.

Mr. Tommy Walker, Patrol Agent in Charge of the Rocksprings Border Patrol Station was our Guest Speaker. He did an excellent job of explaining the activities of the Border Patrol, the services/support available from the Border Patrol, Owners rights and potential liabilities associated with illegal aliens. He responded to a number of Owners questions.

"Door Prizes," donated by Mr. Emmet King, our Association Water Contractor, were awarded, Car Tags were distributed, and the meeting was adjourned.

• OWNERS ASSOCIATION AT INDIAN CREEK CONTACTS:

- 1. President Jim Trotter (210) 828-1358 e-mail: bevo-one@swbell.net, 1 Cottesmore Court, San Antonio, Texas 78218
- 2. Vice President Dan Delich (512) 323-2525 e-mail: ddelich@austin.rr.com, 1711 Pecos Valley Cove, Round Rock, Texas 78664
- 3. Secretary/Treasurer Jimmy Yarbrough (210) 362-6320 e-mail: jry4275@aol.com, 2793 Valencia Lane, Schertz, Texas, 78154
- 4. Association Game Biologist Michael Gutierrez (210) 288-0008 or e-mail: mgutierrez10@satx.rr.com, 5222 Charolais, San Antonio, Texas, 78247
- 5. Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Bill and Jackie Wilson, (210) 536-1871. e-mail: wilsonwr@earthlink.net.
- 6. Water Emergency Contact Emmet King (830) 591-3807 (cell) or (830) 597-3324 (office)
- 7. Wildlife Management Committee Co-Chairmen Mike Ashby (972) 335-5893 e-mail Mike_Ashby@oxy.com, and Coy Fontenot (979) 830-8374 e-mail coyfontenot99@hotmail.com

With high hopes and gratitude,

Jim Trotter, President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello landowners at Indian Creek. Talk about a great turn out at the meeting wow we expected 40 to 50 and got almost 100. Its great to see that many showing so much interest. I think next year we will try to RSVP so we won't fall short on tables, chairs, and food.

To recap, all gates except phase 7 are installed and now locked the code is 3030 which includes phase 1. I just received a report that all water has been up and working just fine by Emmett. Roads seem to be holding up pretty well with the exception of one area in phase II that we are going to look into. The game recording station is up and I have high hopes that everyone will be recording all of their harvests. We mentioned a web sight for the ranch and asked for volunteers in setting it up if anyone has interest and the skills we would love to hear from you. Everyone should have their car tags with receipt of this news letter, I have noticed that they don't always fit on some mirrors but tape seems to work just fine. I hope everyone has a great season good luck be careful.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Hello fellow landowners!

It was nice to see such a large turnout for the annual meeting. Hopefully the members who were unable to attend can make one of our quarterly gatherings throughout the year.

As discussed, the following procedures will be implemented for the collection of annual dues.

- 2006 Annual dues will be mailed in the month of December and be due by February 28th.
- If dues are unpaid by February 28th a 2nd bill will be sent and must be paid within 30day's.
- If dues are not collected within the 30 day's a lock will be put on the water valve to each tract and a "Road & Water Well Maintenance Lien" will be filed with Edwards County.
- In addition to the "Road & Water Maintenance Lien" a \$300 water reconnect fee will be assessed and paid before a "Release of Lien" would be filed.
- It is the responsibility of the land owner to notify the association of any address changes.

I will be glad to send any member a copy of the legal documents we handed out at the annual meeting.

We still have outstanding dues for 2003/2004 & 2005. I will send one more invoice out in November and payment must be paid by December 31st or at least some payment arrangement. If not, I will file the "Road & Water Maintenance Lien" as discussed above.

Land Owner tags were distributed at the meeting and some members will have them enclosed in this news letter. I have additional tags if needed.

Please give me a call (210) 659-2184 or e-mail <u>jry4275@aol.com</u>, if you should have any questions or concerns.

Below is the 3rd quarter Treasurer's Report...

Peoples State Bank Statement as of 9/27/2005	\$ 5,259.97
PEC charges for July-September	\$ 1,311.12
Water Service Repairs	\$ 3,995.00
Winston Contracting "Roads"	\$ 4,125.00
Dan Delich "Annual Meeting"	\$ 378.88
Chaparral Wildlife "news letter & Game Management"	\$ 1,625.45
Association Dues Received	\$ 2,855.24
Outstanding dues from 2003/2004	\$ 3,323.33
Outstanding dues for 2005	\$ 1,530.92

Please mail outstanding dues. Make Checks payable to The Owners Association at Indian Creek. Mail to: Jimmy Yarbrough, 2793 Valencia Lane, Schertz, TX 78154.

Please give me a call (210) 659-2184 or e-mail <u>jry4275@aol.com</u>, if you should have any questions or concerns.

WILDLIFE COMMITTEE REPORT

First let us introduce ourselves as the co-chairpersons of the Wildlife Committee:

Coy Fontenot (coyfontenot99@hotmail.com)

Mike Ashby (Mike_Ashby@oxy.com)

Michael Gutierrez (mgutierrez 10@ satx.rr.com) 210-288-0008

Each Quarter during 2006, the Committee will be presenting information on the "Regulations and Responsibilities" of the Owners Association at Indian Creek and for individual owners in maintaining and preserving our Wildlife Management designation. The association has undertaken many activities thus far that contribute to the exemption status. The New Owners Guide, services made available to you by our biologist (consultations, annual census counts and harvest data collection), quarterly newsletters and providing a water system for the game on the ranch to name a few.

Texas State Tax Code (Section 23.51(7)) allows for tax deductions on land for wildlife management purposes as defined by – "actively using land that at the time the wildlife management began was appraised as qualified open space under this subchapter in at least three of the following ways to propagate a sustaining breeding, migrating or wintering population of indigenous wild animals for human use including food, medicine, or recreation". The seven ways to manage wildlife are:

- 1. habitat control
- 2. erosion control
- 3. predator control
- 4. providing supplemental supplies of water
- 5. providing supplemental supplies of food
- 6. providing shelters
- 7. making census counts to determine population

Certain requirements must be met to qualify for wildlife management first before we begin our ways to propagate and maintain namely

- 1. the land needed to be classified as agricultural or wildlife managed the year prior to starting the new wildlife management program
- 2. the land must be used to generate or support a breeding, migrating or wintering population of indigenous animals like whitetail deer or turkeys
- 3. the wildlife population must be used for human use such as food or recreation (viewing, photographing)

Indian Creek Ranch's 5 ways of participating to meet the requirements are supplemental watering, supplemental feeding, habitat control, predator control (harvesting hogs) and census counts.

In this newsletter, the details of census counts will be explained and how you as a landowner can help. In the next 3 newsletters, we will detail the remaining six ways to participate in our wildlife management program.

CENSUS COUNTS

Census counts are periodic surveys to determine the number, composition and health of the wildlife population to see if the wildlife practices are working. Some examples of census counts are spotlighting, aerial, daylight (blinds or ride around tours). Census counts each year then allow you to determine your harvest quotas for that year. You can volunteer to help with the counts when they are conducted each year or if you do individual track counts, turn in your data.

Spotlight counting at night along a predetermined route requires at least 3 surveys each year. Surveys should be for number of does, bucks, and fawns. This allows the calculation of important aspects of herd management such as buck:doe ratio and annual fawn crop. Also any exotics should be noted to see if there is an overpopulation of any species. Aerial counts using a fixed winged aircraft or helicopter are also accepted.

Harvest data is critical to the census count and overall population management of wildlife. Age, sex, weight and antler development need to be collected and recorded for each animal harvested. Predator (bobcats, coyotes, hogs and raccoons) harvests too should be recorded and turned into the mailbox at the ranch entrance. It should be noted that the focus of our predator control efforts is on the population of wild hogs that exist on the ranch. The control of raccoons will be left up to individual landowners to determine if the population on their given track needs thinning. Harvest of both bobcats and coyotes is not recommended at this time for landowners at Indian creek as there is tremendous evidence that their populations are well below what they should be. Healthy ecosystems have an balance of both predator and prey species.

What can you do to help?

- Record your deer and predator harvest data
- Record any feed or wildlife improvement expenditures
- Take pictures and document any habitat improvement projects you have undertaken and turn those records in also (cedar clearing, food plots ...)

Note from your resident biologist:

This spring the wildlife committee will be sending out a survey to each landowner to gather the necessary information I need to complete our annual report which will be turned into the tax office. In this survey I will be asking for several bits of information concerning the what you have done during the 2005 year out on your property. Please begin thinking about and gathering data to answer the following questions:

- how much money have you spent of feed in 2005, both corn and protein
- how many acres of food plots and what type did you plant
- how many acres of cedar or other habitat control did you do
- did you build any new ponds or water retaining structures or fix any old ones
- How many hogs did you kill and what were their estimated weights

Any pictures you can send me documenting any of the above actions will be instrumental in preparing my report to the tax office. I want to be as thorough as possible about this and document EVERY activity we are doing as an association.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation.

Your Wildlife Committee

