

THE OWNER'S ASSOCIATION AT INDIAN CREEK

February 19, 2007
Volume 4 Issue 1

Published by Patty Yarbrough

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

Fire

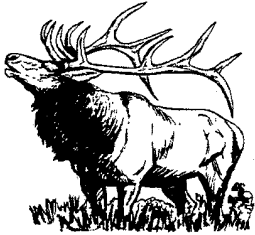
Rocksprings (830) 683-4111
Barksdale (830) 234-3473
Camp Wood (830) 597-6100

Border Patrol (830) 683-2255

EMS

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

Sheriff & Highway Patrol
830) 683-4104



Message from the Association President:

Hello Indian Creek land owners! I hope everyone had a great hunting season. We have had a lot happen this season...from water problems, poaching, illegals, to electrical issues. Let's address them one at a time...

Water

We have had to send Emmett out several times these past few months due to freezing problems. It's been cold out and we need everyone to wrap their valves, if you have not done so already. Also, any main pump that may not be closed in, needs to be...if anyone knows of a pump that is not closed in, please notify a board member.

Poaching

Early this season we had a poaching problem involving two landowners largely due to lack of communication between the landowner and a guest. It's very important that guests know boundaries and rules of the ranch.

Illegals

Several groups of illegals have been reported this season and arrests have been made. Please report all episodes to the border patrol and our Security Chairman, Chuck Bocock.

Goals

We have a few goals this year...first and foremost is getting road work done. Jimmy Yarbrough is going to be checking into getting estimates for that and hopefully that will occur soon, so it's very important to get those dues in quickly. Second is the election of a new Secretary/Treasurer before October. Anyone interested in the position should contact the board with nominations. We are also looking into other ways to raise money to help with the finances. Mike Ashby has had two guns donated for a raffle, but we have yet to set the price per ticket or how many tickets will be sold. The drawing will probably be held in October at the annual meeting.

Picnic

A quarterly picnic is set for Saturday, March 10th at 1:00pm at the Airstrip. This will be a pot luck affair. We will have a grill going for whoever wants to bring burgers, hot dogs, etc. Anyone wishing to help, please contact me by email or phone...ddelich@austin.rr.com or 512-431-5940



Vice President's Report

Hello fellow members,

Well, another hunting season in the record books. I hope you and your hunting partners had an enjoyable season. I had the pleasure of seeing my son shoot his first Elk and he got to see first hand, just how much work is involved after you shoot an animal that size. This was my fifth hunting season and I can honestly say our game management practices are paying off. Each year I have seen more deer than the last and I have started seeing 2nd and 3rd generation Bucks. The future looks promising!

I have a few projects to work on this year and I will be updating you as the year progresses. The main one is road maintenance. I hope to have bids ready to present to the board by the end of March. I would appreciate an email or phone call with any locations you feel need to be addressed. Please give me the phase and tract number and a brief description. We have limited funds, so I will address the major areas first. Next is the water system, I will meet with Emmit King and get his recommendations for reducing our expenses. Next is finding a contractor to build the gate for Phase VII. Bill Cox has agreed to pay for the gate (Thanks to our Past-President Jim Trotter).

We will be changing the gate combinations to (2506) on the weekend of March 10, 2007. Please keep this combination confidential to members and guests only. If you have a contractor working on your ranch, install a secondary lock and remove it when they have completed. I am asking you to please close all gates so we can reduce the traffic throughout the ranch.

The Board has decided not to retain the services of Chapperal Wildlife in the same capacity as last year. With the tax laws changing and each individual responsible for their own 1d1 status, Michael's survey could not be used as one of the exemptions. We do, however, feel it is important we retain someone to help us manage the wildlife on Indian Creek Ranches. We will be soliciting bids from various services and plan on having someone selected by September in order to perform the 2007 survey. Michael Gutierrez of Chapperal Wildlife is available for any landowner who would like his expertise or guidance on their property. He can be reached at 210-288-0008.

I look forward to seeing you at our quarterly meeting!

• OWNERS ASSOCIATION AT INDIAN CREEK CONTACTS:

1. President – Dan Delich (512) 323-2525 e-mail: ddelich@austin.rr.com, 1711 Pecos Valley Cove, Round Rock, Texas 78664
2. Vice President - Jimmy Yarbrough (210) 362-6320 e-mail: jry4275@aol.com, 2793 Valencia Lane, Schertz, Texas, 78154
3. Secretary/Treasurer – Bill Wilson (210) 536-1871 e-mail: wilsonwr@earthlink.net, 161 Sage Drive, Universal City, TX 78148
4. Wildlife Game Biologist - Michael Gutierrez (210) 288-0008 or e-mail: mgutierrez10@satx.rr.com, 5222 Charolais, San Antonio, Texas, 78247
5. Water Emergency Contact – Emmit King (830) 591-3807 (cell) or (830) 597-3324 (office)
6. 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

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Hello everyone! I hope you all had a great holiday season. Before I present the final financial report for 2006, I want to give a quick "pitch" to anyone out there that may be thinking of running for Treasurer this year. If you have Microsoft Office on your computer system, I've made a number of spreadsheets and invoice templates to make your life a lot simpler. I'll also be glad to work with the new Treasurer for as long as it takes to make sure the transition is as smooth as possible. The job may seem overwhelming, but the tools I've made will simplify it quite a bit.

On another note, everyone should have received a survey form from the Edwards Central Appraisal District. According to them, this information is used to help justify a reduced rate from the state for Edwards County. Currently no evaluations are to be scheduled this year, however they would like your contact information should they have any questions on the survey. The form is confusing. I met with Cotton Ploesser at the District office and have some clarification on some of the survey items:

- Fill out Part 1 and the applicable parts of Part 2 and Part 3 (remember, lease hunting is prohibited in Indian Creek)
- Fill out Part 4 as follows (remember, this is cost per acre – also your time doesn't count, only the actual dollars spent):
 - Ground expense: Amount actually spent (per acre) on feed, predator control (e.g., traps), brush clearing, and other things to aid in wildlife management.
 - Water: Amount actually spent on wildlife water systems. You can add the following amounts (per acre) based on what we spent as an Association (thru your dues).
 - 2005: \$1.26
 - 2006: \$1.55
 - Fencing: self explanatory
 - Management: What you paid to have others manage your property for wildlife. For most of us, this would be nothing, BUT you can add what we spent for our wildlife biologist. The per acre figures are below:
 - 2005: \$0.28
 - 2006: \$0.85 (includes 2 quarters from the previous year)

Let me know if you have any questions!

Now on to the real Treasurer's report... We had a lot of expenses in 2006, and 2007 has already started out with a major expense - the replacement of the water pump in Phase I. We still have more winter left, so I hope things ease up a bit soon. The landing strip taxes are also going to jump from about \$13 a year to \$300 annually because we don't qualify for any type of agricultural or wildlife exemption on the 18-acre tract. Things should settle down soon, but I encourage any of you who haven't sent in your annual dues yet to do so as soon as you can. We want to get some road maintenance done this year, and the sooner we get the funds, the quicker we can begin. We appreciate your help!

Below is the final report for 2006. As you can see, we had record expenses, primarily in the water maintenance area. We've asked Emmet King to submit bids to upgrade the connections on our system to help reduce the costs in future years. I also want to thank those of you who paid the 2006 Special Assessment early – it helped keep us from going in the "red." With the increase in dues this year, we expect to collect about \$30,000 in dues and about \$6,600 more for the 2006 Special Assessment. This special assessment is being tracked separately, and will be used for the needed road repairs this year.

If you have any questions, give me a call at (210) 536-1871 (work) or (210) 658-6814 (home). Remember, dues are due by March 8, 2007. Thanks!

Final Treasurer's Report for 2006

Balance forward from 2005	\$ 2,513.03
Total Income in 2006 (includes prior year collections,	\$ 29,616.25
Annual assessments (includes prior year):	\$ 24,266.25
Elk drawing:	\$ 2,950.00
2006 Special Assessment:	\$ 2,400.00
Total Expenses in 2006	\$ 30,553.91
Water System Maintenance:	\$ 16,361.74
Wildlife Biologist (includes 2 qtrs in 2005):	\$ 9,000.00
Pedernales Electric Bills:	\$ 4,222.72
Annual Meeting:	\$ 691.36
Grounds Maintenance (signs, locks, etc.):	\$ 143.35
Property Taxes	\$ 12.54
Administrative Supplies:	\$ 122.20
December 31, 2006 Balance (People's State Bank):	\$ 1,575.37
Amount Dedicated to Road Repairs:	\$ 2,400.00
Amount Available for Other Expenses:	(\$ 824.63)

Current Association Dues Outstanding

Outstanding dues from 2003/2004	\$ 918.62
Outstanding dues for 2005	\$ 244.34
Outstanding dues for 2006	\$ 21.62

WILDLIFE COMMITTEE REPORT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/NEWS

Hopefully a successful hunting season was had by all. Please turn in your harvest records and year end activities for wildlife management.

First elk harvest lottery setup and completed for this hunting season. Over \$2900 raised for the general fund.

Edwards County Tax Office revisited the ranch in September with guests. Terri and I have been investigating the WHIP program which grants matching funds for wildlife enhancement projects.

We had some poaching on the ranch in early December and the game warden has been contacted to pursue criminal charges. Each and every landowner is responsible for controlling his/her land and what goes on there.

Any guests you have need to know boundaries, what is harvestable and abide by our covenants. That is the only way we can move forward together as an Association.

WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Hogs, can we talk hogs Take the quiz below first and then we will talk hogs

1. Hogs were first brought to the United States by:

- (A) Hernando de Soto in 1539
- (B) Christopher Columbus in 1492
- (C) A disillusioned wildlife biologist from San Antonio (know him?)

2. The feral hog is classified as a game animal in:

- (A) Texas
- (B) California
- (C) New Mexico

3. The state with the largest feral hog population is:

- (A) Texas
- (B) Florida
- (C) California

4. Feral hogs are carriers for both swine brucellosis and pseudo- rabies:

True or False

5. Average litter size for feral hog sows is:

- (A) 4-6
- (B) 8-10
- (C) 10-12

6. The best developed sense in feral hogs is:

- (A) eyesight
- (B) hearing
- (C) smell

7. Feral hogs have been known to feed on:

- (A) young lambs and kid goats
- (B) fawns
- (C) quail and turkey eggs
- (D) all of the above

8. Legal control methods for feral hogs in Texas include:

- (A) hunting
- (B) trapping
- (C) catch dogs
- (D) toxicants

9. Feral hogs are good to eat.

True or False

10. What are some good baits to attract feral hogs to traps?

- (A) Corn and Milo
- (B) Horse and mule feed
- (C) Raspberry flavored Jell-O
- (D) All of the above

BONUS ?. Should I stock feral hogs on my property?

- (A) Absolutely
- (B) Absolutely not
- (C) Only if you want to win the admiration of surrounding landowners

How did you do? A total of 8-10 correct answers and you qualify as a "hogologist". 5-7 correct answers and you are above average and can "root" with the best of 'em. 3-4 correct answers and you may need to sign up for Feral Hogs 101. Less than 3 correct answers and well, don't go into the hawg woods alone!

ANSWERS

(1)

(A) Hernando de Soto is credited with bringing the first true pigs to the Atlantic Coast of Florida but in Texas it is rumored that the problem started with the 2 pigs from Lonesome Dove.

(2)

(B) The feral hog is the number 1 big game animal in California. Although not a game animal in Texas, a hunting license is required to hunt or trap them.

(3)

(A) Texans can boast of having the largest feral hog population with 1-2 million, followed by Florida (500,000) and California (100,000 - 200,000).

(4)

(True) Feral hogs are carriers of both swine brucellosis and pseudo rabies, as well as tuberculosis and hog cholera.

(5)

(A) However, in exceptionally good years of food availability, litter size may be larger. Females first breed at 8-10 months, and usually have two litters per year. Young are born in a one-to-one ratio.

(6)

(C) Although the sense of smell is their best defense, hearing is also well developed, eyesight comes in third, but it's not as bad as many people think!

(7)

(D) Their impact on livestock and wildlife has been documented. Several studies are underway to determine the extent of their damage on ground nesting birds. One reason feral hogs (a.k.a. "buzzards of the forest") have been so successful is because of their appetite for almost anything

(8)

(A,B,C) There are no toxicants approved for controlling feral hogs.

(9)

(True) Feral hog is one of the leanest, tastiest meats. Proper field dressing followed by adequate refrigeration go along way toward the preparation of excellent bar-b-que or sausage. However, as with all pork products, meat should be thoroughly cooked before serving.

