

Jack County Wildlife Management Association
P. O. Box 923, Jacksboro, TX 76458

Minutes of General Membership Meeting held August 23, 2008

The August meeting of the JCWMA was held at the Youth Fair Barn, Jacksboro. Approximately 30 members and guests were in attendance. The 1:00 p.m. meeting was called to order by President Keith Reeves.

Keith Reeves welcomed everyone and discussed the association's recent Jacksboro Summerfest participation. Keith began by thanking Ralph Nations of Lewisville and Leslie Hathorn for spending the entire time with him manning either the inside display booth or food trailer. Also given special thanks were Mike Campsey and Heath Lusty, who participated above and beyond the call of duty. The purpose of the JCWMA participation was to provide wildlife information and hopefully to raise funds to sponsor a local youth in the Texas Brigades program (www.texasbrigades.org) next summer. Member Rod Heltzel provided deer photos and antlers for display and several other members also contributed their time.

Needless to say, it was **HOT!** And, although a success in member participation and getting to know one another, there was not a large crowd turnout for fundraising. The JCWMA did sign up the several new members.

Keith Reeves provided the food trailer and sold hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, tea & water. Keith then generously donated the \$365.00 in food sales without meeting all of his expenses. The JCWMA also received \$67.00 in donations. 72 hats were purchased and 13 were sold, so we still have plenty for the future. Hats are available for \$10.00 each.

Keith then introduced our guest speaker, Russell Stevens, Wildlife Biologist & Range Management Consultant, Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation (www.noble.org). Member Mike Campsey has used the expertise of the Noble Foundation to assist in managing both his ranching and hunting operations. The topic was establishing successful contiguous management areas and creating big bucks on small acreage. Russell Stevens used two wildlife management areas located in Oklahoma and along the Red River as examples.

Russell began by saying that many of us own or hunt on smaller properties but have no control once the deer jumps the fence. One of the ways assure quality deer is to form a cooperative with your neighbors which would encompass the deer's larger range area. He stressed that with a cooperative, no individual would lose their property rights – that there would be no hunting on a neighbor's property.

The first step is to know your neighbors, establish trust and develop initial goals. It is also important to involve a biologist. A biologist can help set realistic goals, and develop the best management guidelines and harvest strategy based on your local conditions. Be

willing to compromise and adopt as guidelines only those practices that all members are willing to abide by. It is also important to be patient. There is usually at least two to three years before one begins noticing the change in quality of the deer.

Another factor that Russell mentioned was the importance of consistent data collection. There are many types of data collection or surveys and the coop should choose one and use it consistently at the same time each year. Without data, a biologist cannot provide recommendations. Discussion centered around spotlight surveys and trail cameras in addition to maintaining accurate records of each year's deer harvest. One person in the coop should be responsible for maintaining these records.

Last but not least, have FUN. After the initial forming stage, be sure to get together at least once a year to review the previous year's results and to discuss any issues. Russell indicated that having a potluck dinner didn't hurt either!

If anyone is interested in forming a coop in their area please contact your quadrant director or the JCWMA in addition to your neighbors. We may be able to assist in contacting others in the immediate area who might be interested in joining your coop.

A free Field Scoring and Aging clinic will be conducted for anyone interested on October 11th at 1:00 p.m. by Rod Heltzel, licensed deer breeder, TPW #1514. Please contact Leslie Hathorn, 940.229.8033, for reservations and location.

The membership was reminded that the www.JCWMA.org website "forum" is available to post questions and an advertising section has been added.

A motion was made to adjourn & seconded.

Following the meeting, several members checked out a small helicopter parked outside the building. Connie Taylor uses it to conduct predator control, cattle herding and game surveys on larger areas. If you have a need for her services, she can be reached at 940.769.2736 (home) or 940.452.6159 (cell).

The JCWMA would also like to welcome the new members who signed up at our August meeting.