

**JACK COUNTY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**P O Box 923 • Jacksboro Texas • 76458**

Minutes of General Membership Meeting  
held January 21, 2011

The general membership meeting of the JCWMA was held at the Painted Acres Ranch Conference Center, 3392 Hwy 380 West, four miles west of Jacksboro on Hwy 380. Approximately 27 members and guests were in attendance. Venison chili, cookies, and iced tea were served. After a short visitation, the meeting was called to order at approximately 6:20 pm by President Bill Beall.

Bill noted that Ron Sewell allowed us to again use the ranch conference center for our meeting. Bill also reminded members that the website [www.JCWMA.org](http://www.JCWMA.org) is for member interaction – questions; bulletin board for hunting leases, etc. Bill noted that the website can handle pictures now, so he encouraged members to submit pictures of deer harvested or seen on game cameras to him to get placed onto the website.

Secretary/Treasurer Pat Kneblick noted that the minutes of the February meeting and the Treasurers report were available in paper copy on each table. She then provided a report on the finances of the association, noting that membership dues and the uncashed Texas Brigade check added \$490.00 to the beginning balance of \$1561.11. After payments for the web hosting, a gift for outgoing President Keith Reeves, and meeting expenses, totaling \$637.26, the current balance of the association funds is \$1413.85.

Pat also announced that the 2011 membership forms were available and she could take 2011 dues payments after the meeting.

Bill then announced our lineup of speakers, and Heath Lusty came forward.

**Heath Lusty, Jack County Agricultural Extension Agent**, described the Texas Brigade program, a wildlife management and leadership course for high school age students. The 2010 JCWMA sponsorship wasn't used because our youth had a family emergency at the last minute and could not attend.

Mike Campsey made a motion that the JCWMA try again in 2011 and sponsor a youth for \$300 again this year. Becky Dye seconded the motion and Bill Beall called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Heath continued his presentation, noting that he left multiple copies of the 2010 Jack County Extension Office summary of activities on the back table so that members could see what his office had accomplished during the past year. Heath also announced that anyone needing their Private Applicator's License could attend the training and testing in Jack County on February 17.

Heath then discussed continuing and ongoing feral hog control efforts. He described a county grant program for which Jack County applied and did the submission work during October 2010. For the three submitted items, Jack County had 212 hogs taken during October, provided 3 education programs to 84 people, and got commitments of 9000 acres for the program. Other counties, perhaps as many as 60, also applied. The highest point-getting county will receive \$25,000 toward feral hog abatement efforts. If Jack County receives the grant award, it would reimburse for contract work, generally Wildlife Services for fly-overs and trapping.

In response to questions from the members, Heath noted that when looking at cost per head, shooting from a helicopter is cheaper than any other method. He said that it is estimated that Texas has over 2 million feral hogs. Heath also said that there's no scientific evidence to indicate that the presence of hogs reduces the presence of rattlesnakes. Members had a brief discussion of the value of diesel fuel on corn to attract hogs into traps while repelling other wildlife and the hogs' love of creosote.

**Jennifer Barrow, Wildlife Biologist at TPWD**, provided a handout of the deer harvest in Jack County. She reminded us that the antler restrictions went into effect in 2009 and that we saw a 90% fawn drop in 2007. According to Jennifer, those two occurrences are causing a good crop of maturing bucks, noting that the deer count showed a 10% increase in 3-1/2 year old bucks harvested. However, she pointed out, and everyone agreed, that the plentiful acorn crop this year caused the deer to stay in the woods and not come to the feeders, so hunting wasn't as productive this year. Jennifer said that the deer are still eating acorns. From the buck counts this year at the lockers, Brown County had the most illegal bucks taken, but many of those were just shy of the legal limit.

Regarding feral hogs, Jennifer said that Parks and Wildlife is researching chemical control remedies; however, they must find something that would be specific to hogs and not adversely affect other wildlife. She also said that the Forestry Service has hog tournaments in the Decatur area, and they were looking to bring it into Jack County. If you are interested, you may contact her for more information.

A question was asked about predator counts. Jennifer said the Parks and Wildlife no longer do official predator counts and that the last one was done in 2008. Jennifer spoke about the different surveys they do, including the two regulatory surveys in Jack County. She noted that Parks and Wildlife manages deer by region, not county. The average found by surveys is 22 acres per deer,  $\pm 7$  acres. This means that in an excellent habitat area, it might be 15 acres per deer, and on poor areas, it might be 29 acres to sustain a deer.

In response to a question about spotlight methods for hogs, the group discussed hog lights at feeders, red lights, and night vision as successful methods.

Jennifer said that the National Turkey Federation will be holding its annual banquet in February and she will get the information to Bill for members interested in attending.

A question was asked about raspberry ants. Heath said that they are not in our area, but around the Houston area. He also noted that their danger is shorting out electric boxes as

they are greatly attracted to them The raspberry ants do not seem as aggressive toward people as the fire ants.

Jennifer was asked about the Parks Department's involvement in the list of 100 plants that are supposedly unacceptable for Texas. Jennifer said she only knew what she heard on the news.

Jennifer said that there is a pilot study to reintroduce horned lizards, aka horny toads. If the pilot works, they will need more places for the horned lizards, so if you have red ant mounds, sandy soil, and are interested, let her know.

Bill came forward after Jennifer finished and thanked our guest speakers at the meeting. He also noted that one of members, Maurice Graham, was selling shirts at the back of the room (Maurice came forward and modeled the shirt), and that another member, Greg Lewis, who is in the landscape business, could help set up shooting lanes and with other feeder issues.

Bill and Jennifer spoke about Jennifer's plan to have a deer necropsy at the October meeting so that the membership could learn what the organs of a healthy deer look like prior to hunting season.

A final discussion was had on a safety issue, the trigger of the Remington 700 series rifles. Several members spoke about experiences whereby the gun fired when the bolt is closed or the safety is released, without the trigger being touched. Awareness of gun safety was echoed by all who spoke.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm.

*The Jack County Wildlife Management Association (JCWMA) is a voluntary non-profit organization, formed on February 17, 2001, to promote a voluntary county-wide and beyond cooperative effort to help improve Jack County's habitat and wildlife through education and sound management practices.*