

**AUGUST 2019**

**We promote the advancement  
of land stewardship through  
ranching, science, and education.**

## FROM THE CEO

# The Right Equipment

NEAL WILKINS

On Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> we held our third annual *Three Minute Thesis* competition (3MT). For the university graduate students doing research with East Foundation, this is an opportunity not only to show-off their work, but to do it in a manner that communicates and catches people's attention. In the 3MT competition, students must distill their research findings into a three-minute oral presentation. Their job is to make their work interesting and relevant while explaining the impact of their research to non-scientists. You can look forward to seeing videos of the winners on our social media. This is just one of the ways we are investing in future professionals, equipping them to be the next generation of professional land stewards and scientists.

When working with the East Foundation, a graduate student is challenged not only with communicating with non-scientists, but we encourage them to broaden their exposure to other disciplines and then learn to perform in a work

environment that combines science, policy, and management. This is the right equipment for professional land stewards, and it is the right equipment for natural resource scientists in the coming decades.

But... doesn't this sound like we are trying to get students to become less specialized? And isn't graduate school the time for becoming more specialized – the time when a young wildlife biologist concentrates on waterfowl ecology, herpetology, cervid nutrition, or avian genetics? Along with these specialties they get to learn the jargon that can turn their sub-discipline into an exclusive club. So why would we want to mess with this natural order of things?

In his recent book, *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*, author David Epstein shows how strict specialists thrive in environments structured with well-defined rules, simple goals, and clear measures of progress. Golf and chess are such environments – Tiger Woods and Garry Kasparov are life-long specialists and they

each thrived in their area of specialty. Epstein describes another environment where the rules are complex, goals are muddled and shifting, and there are few clear measures of progress. In this latter domain it is the generalists – those trained in a variety of disciplines and exposed to a lot of situations – that perform best. This is the situation that best represents the world facing ranchers, and other land stewards. It is also the world faced by most natural resource scientists.

## OLD PROFESSORS

I entered graduate school at Texas A&M in 1984 under Dr. Wendell Swank's guidance – he advised my graduate program and chaired my committee. Wendell Swank had graduated from Texas A&M in the early 1950s, he was a wildlife biologist in Arizona and ultimately served as the Director of Arizona Game & Fish Department from 1964 to 1968. He then went on to direct the United Nation's administration of the wildlife program for the then-



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### LOCATIONS

#### Hebbronville

310 East Galbraith Street  
Hebbronville, Texas 78361

San Antonio Viejo Ranch  
474 East Ranch Road  
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200 Concord Plaza Drive, Suite 410  
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emerging nations of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika in Africa. He experienced first-hand the benefits of having been exposed to a wide range of situations. Back at Texas A&M, he wrapped up his career as a wildlife management professor and I was among the last of his graduate students.

My initial goal as a graduate student was simple – I was to become a bobwhite quail specialist. Dr. Swank really seemed less interested in the specifics of my bobwhite research than he was on broadening my exposure to a variety of policy ideas, exposing me to other disciplines, and coaching me through other distractions like learning to deal with professional conflicts.

Sandra and I were newly married, we moved into an apartment in College Station for maybe eight months before we went to South Texas so that I could stay in a small trailer on a ranch near the town of Ben Bolt – this was La Copita Ranch. For my graduate research, I radio-tracked birds around the clock measuring how they used different habitats, and ultimately how different grazing scheme’s influenced the bird’s reproduction and survival. I spent huge blocks of time in the field measuring habitat variables. While I stayed at La Copita, Sandra move into an apartment in Corpus Christi and worked as a nurse at Memorial Hospital. She brought home enough money for us to survive. During my time living at La Copita, my diet was primarily wild game – rabbits, venison, javelina, doves and quail. Sometimes I would go along with Ben Koerth to catch trout, redbfish, and flounder in the Laguna Madre.

When I ran into problems with my quail research, Dr. Swank mostly let me figure it out on my own – “be resourceful” he would say. He also impressed upon me that part of my duty was to provide labor

and assistance to all the other students and researchers that came to the ranch. Duties also included helping work cows, fix fences, guide hunters, and clean game. After almost two years of field research, we moved back to College Station so I could write a thesis and finally get a job. While back on campus I would make sure to check in daily with Dr. Swank. At the time, he was doing some work on determining the status of Jaguars throughout their range in Latin America – he was telling me about some part of the project and I remember him making a point – *“It’s easy to use scientific jargon – if we are to make a difference we must put science and management into words that regular people can comprehend.”* That message stuck with me.

Later that year we moved to Jackson, Tennessee. I worked for the Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service where I used very little of my specialization in South Texas Bobwhites. My work was to organize forest landowner associations for wildlife management – and this is where the skills of a generalist served me well. What Wendell Swank knew – and eventually taught me – was that the world of natural resource management was an environment where generalists can have an advantage.

P.S. Although I didn’t know it until later, Wendell Swank was intentionally looking after me by making sure I did not turn into a mere specialist. He also looked after me in other ways, including once trading me over 50 pounds of his fresh-caught Alaskan halibut for 50 pounds of my venison – perhaps the best trade I ever made. Wendell G. Swank retired in 1989 and spent his spare time hunting quail in Arizona. He passed away on January 2, 2015.

## PROJECT PROFILE

# A Bird in the Hand is Worth Two in the Bush... Or is it?

TYLER CAMPBELL

South Texas is a hotspot for northern bobwhites and the recreational pursuit of this gamebird is a major economic driver throughout this region. Recently, scientists with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute predicted that an annual bobwhite harvest prescription of 20% of the estimated population would be sustainable. However, these models have not been validated in the field using real-world data. We initiated a ranch-scale experiment in 2018–2019 to test whether a bobwhite harvest prescription can be implemented to result in sustainable population management on the East Foundation’s 15,000-acre Buena Vista Ranch. This research will continue for at least two more years and fully capture rainfall variability that characterizes this region.



© Wyman Meinzer

A northern bobwhite quail hides in the grass on the East Foundation Ranches.

### What we did:

- Conducted helicopter quail surveys in early November, mid-December, early February, and early March of the 2018–2019 season to determine population estimates.
- Performed three experimental bobwhite harvests totaling

20% of the estimated population, accounting for wounding loss; harvest was evaluated from November–December, December–January, and February–March of the 2018–2019 season.

- Trapped, banded, and released bobwhites from un-hunted pastures on the nearby San Antonio Viejo Ranch from late December 2018–early April 2019 to assess the long-term effects of harvest on reproduction.

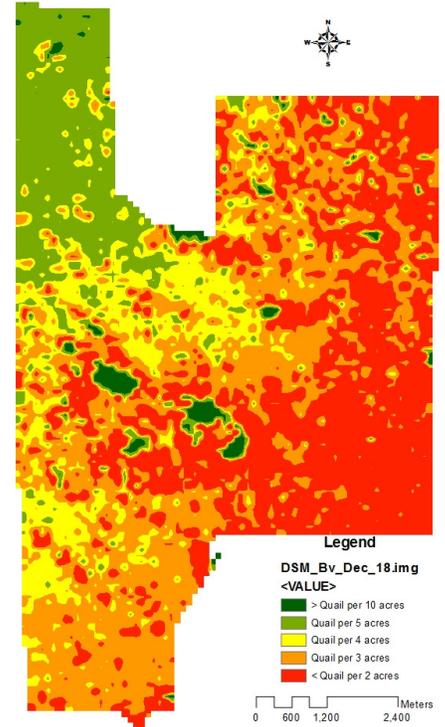
### What we found:

- Bobwhite population estimates peaked in December and declined through March.
- 59 hunts were conducted resulting in 337 retrieved quail; these removals achieved our harvest prescription from the November 2018 survey.
- A total of 168 hours of hunting occurred and the average number of retrieved quail per hunt was 5.7.
- Age ratios were similar between hunted (62.6% juvenile) and un-hunted populations (62.3% juvenile).

### What this means:

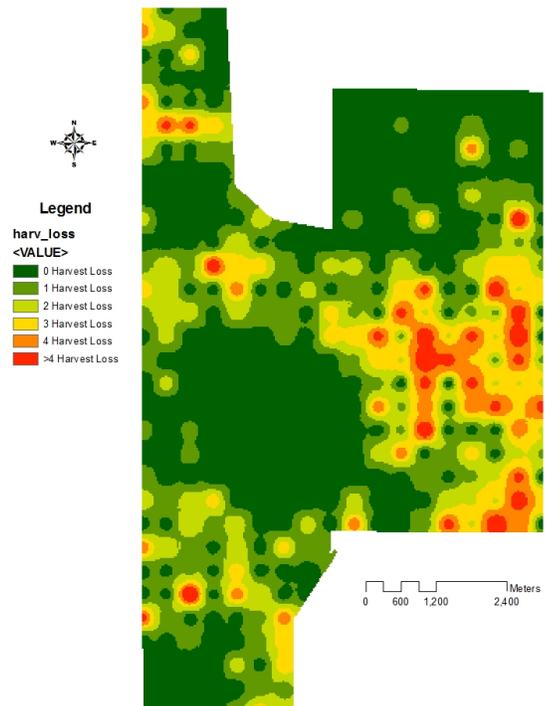
- With some effort, a 20% harvest prescription is logistically feasible; data collected over the next

### Density Surface Model - December 2018



Density surface model for bobwhites in December 2018 on the Buena Vista Ranch.

### Total Harvest Loss Distribution

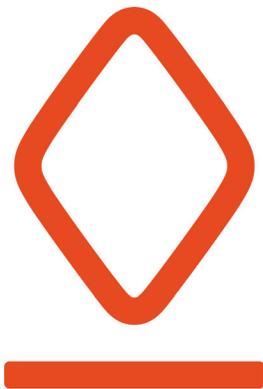


Total harvest loss distribution during 2018–2019 season on the Buena Vista Ranch.

several years will determine if is sustainable.

- Above average rainfall in September and October resulted in late hatching; for example, 18% of bobwhites were still paired up during the November surveys.
- Similarities in age ratios between hunted and un-hunted populations was expected; additional years of monitoring age ratios will help landowners and managers understand quail reproduction and help explain the sustainability of harvest prescriptions.

**Partners: Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville; Dr. Lenny Brennan (Principal Investigator) and Abe Woodard (PhD Student)**



## ALUMNI PROFILE



MICHAELA RICE

A Minnesota Native, Michaela Rice deeply connects to the writings of Sigurd Olson, an author, environmentalist, and advocate for the protection of wilderness. In *The Singing Wilderness*, Olson describes how he has “heard the singing in many places, but I seem to hear it best in the wilderness lake country...”. Michaela has spent extended periods of time in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, where she has felt the presence of something greater than herself. This inspired her to pursue a career studying wildlife and advocating for conservation. Michaela earned her B.A. in Biology at Gustavus Adolphus College, a small liberal arts college in southern Minnesota. During her time there she started off studying endangered plant species, and then got involved with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Receiving a graduate research position at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK) studying population genetics and stress hormones on wild caught white-tailed deer was a very exciting opportunity. Her work with the East Foundation and TAMUK was continuing a

project started in 2011, where researchers captured deer on four East Foundation ranches throughout South Texas. They were introducing new questions in the second phase, as they wanted to better understand the genetic structure of deer across a relatively large geographic area. They also partnered with Pennsylvania State University to examine the stress response of deer that were captured by helicopter.

Now, Michaela works at the Minnesota Zoo as a Zoo Camp Educator and a zookeeper and volunteers at the University of Minnesota Raptor Center. She loves working with animals and trying to improve their physical and mental well-being and sharing the process with the public through education.

### In her own words:

“The East Foundation provided me with a pivotal opportunity to lead a large and involved research project in the field and in the lab. I was able to learn so much about my strengths and weaknesses as a leader and as a biologist, and work with so many beautiful people from across Texas.

Not only did I experience positive relationship building, I got to experience nature in a whole new way. South Texas wildlife is so unlike the pine trees and lakes of northern Minnesota. The fields of wildflowers in the spring after a wet winter was something I never expected to see in the rangelands. It was incredible. I desperately miss driving around on San Antonio Viejo in the early morning, watching the dew on the grass and spider webs glisten in the rising sun.”

## RANCHER RESOURCES

# Water Quality for Livestock and Wildlife — Why It's Important

TODD SNELGROVE

It's August in Hebbronville, Texas — high temperatures are north of 100°, the wind is like a blast furnace most days, and we haven't had enough rain to settle the dust since early June. So goes life in the Wild Horse Desert of Texas.

This region of gently rolling sandhills and grasslands spotted with brush mottes receives less than 24 inches of rain in a normal year. Given the wild extremes we see in annual rainfall we are very often well above or well below normal — in our case the trend is toward the below normal end. This combination of land dominated by deep sands and little rain creates a set of conditions most Texans are unfamiliar with — there is little or no surface water in the Wild Horse Desert — no lakes, no rivers, and tanks; or *presas*, that dry up quickly when the weather turns hot and dry. The only reliable source for us and others who live and work here is groundwater.



© Wyman Meinzer

A windmill against the sky is often the only sign of water nearby during the harsh South Texas summer.

Over the last five years we have spent significant time, effort, and resources in developing our

groundwater resources. Water is life — a well-maintained water network is essential to the well-being of the wildlife and cattle living in the Wild Horse Desert. Most of our work has focused on ensuring we have adequate water quantity and distribution across our ranches by retiring old windmills and wells, replacing them with modern solar and electric systems, and developing high volume wells with the capacity to provide water to thousands of acres through pipelines. It may seem like our biggest concern is the amount of water we have access to; however, of equal importance is the quality of our groundwater. This is not a new concept. Ranchers have known this for years as can be seen in the names of many of our water wells — *Agua Buena* (good water), *Agua Dulce* (sweet water).

If water quality is poor, cattle may have health problems. They may drink less leading to dehydration and stress; or, they may ingest contaminants that lead to performance issues. From a water quality perspective, the single biggest issue we deal with is “salty” water. Cattle and wildlife; when they are accustomed to it, can tolerate higher salinity levels than humans; however, even they have their limits. As we develop our water resources, we are increasingly taking water quality into account. We do this by testing every well; old and new, that we consider for developing. In areas where we do not have ready access to good water, we must get creative

## Upcoming Events

AUGUST 16

Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, Professional Advisors, and Partners Meeting at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute in Kingsville.

SEPTEMBER 17-18

East Foundation Board Meeting at the Hebbronville Office.

SEPTEMBER 19

Landon Schofield will present *Eco Expert* at the Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve in Corpus Christi.

SEPTEMBER 21

National Golden Spur Award at the National Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock.

SEPTEMBER 24

East Foundation Investment Committee Meeting at the San Antonio Office.

SEPTEMBER 25-27

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Policy Conference in San Antonio.

SEPTEMBER 28

East Foundation will host the South Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's meeting at the San Antonio Viejo Ranch.

— usually in the form of miles of waterlines. This is especially true on the western and southern portions of the San Antonio Viejo Ranch or on our coastal El Sauz Ranch.

**Where can I learn more?** Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has published great resources on water quality tests and what they mean for you. These resources include how to collect water samples, where to send them, and how to interpret the results.

These resources can be accessed online at:

**What's in my water?**

<http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/publications/E-176.pdf>

**Description of Water Analysis Parameters**

<http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/publications/SCS-2002-10.pdf>

**Water Testing Information**

<http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/>

**Water Quality and It's Relationship to Livestock**

[http://publications.tamu.edu/WATER/PUB\\_water\\_Water%20Quality%20Relative%20to%20Livestock.pdf](http://publications.tamu.edu/WATER/PUB_water_Water%20Quality%20Relative%20to%20Livestock.pdf)

At the East Foundation we do what's right by the land and the life that depends on it. In the Wild Horse Desert; where water is the key to life, we are committed to providing plenty of reliable and high-quality water to the life that depends on it — wildlife, cattle, and human alike.

# EMPLOYEE PROFILE



CARRIE GOMEZ

Born and raised in San Antonio, Carrie Gomez is a native Texan. When she was 19, she and her husband went to Colorado to visit a relative and ended up moving and living there for 14 years. Although they loved Colorado, they missed their families and returned to San Antonio in 1984.

Family is a big part of what makes Carrie who she is. Growing up, her parents instilled in her and her twelve siblings, unity, love, respect, and to care for each other. She continues to emphasize those traits to her children, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Carrie feels exceptionally blessed to have such a large family, including her mother who is 97. They all live in San Antonio.

Carrie serves as the Accountant for the East Foundation where she is responsible for day to day accounting functions including accounts payable, payroll, general ledger accounting, and accounts receivable. She works hard to learn more about the East Foundation legacy and what East Foundation is doing to fulfill the mission of promoting land stewardship through ranching, science and education.

Carrie especially appreciates her family of coworkers at the East Foundation. She enjoys working with everyone because of their professionalism and the respect and care they show for each other and their families.

Prior to joining the East Foundation, Carrie worked for the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority and assisted the Comptroller with the day to day operations of the accounting department. She retired from North East Independent School District in 2010 after 20 years of service, 17 of which were in the Accounting department. For the nine years before her retirement, she was the Accounts Payable Supervisor.

Carrie enjoys family gatherings, barbecuing, and trips to the beach. She is an avid dancer, loves music, and spends her free time volunteering at her church.



# RAINFALL REPORT

## Don't Shoot the Messenger

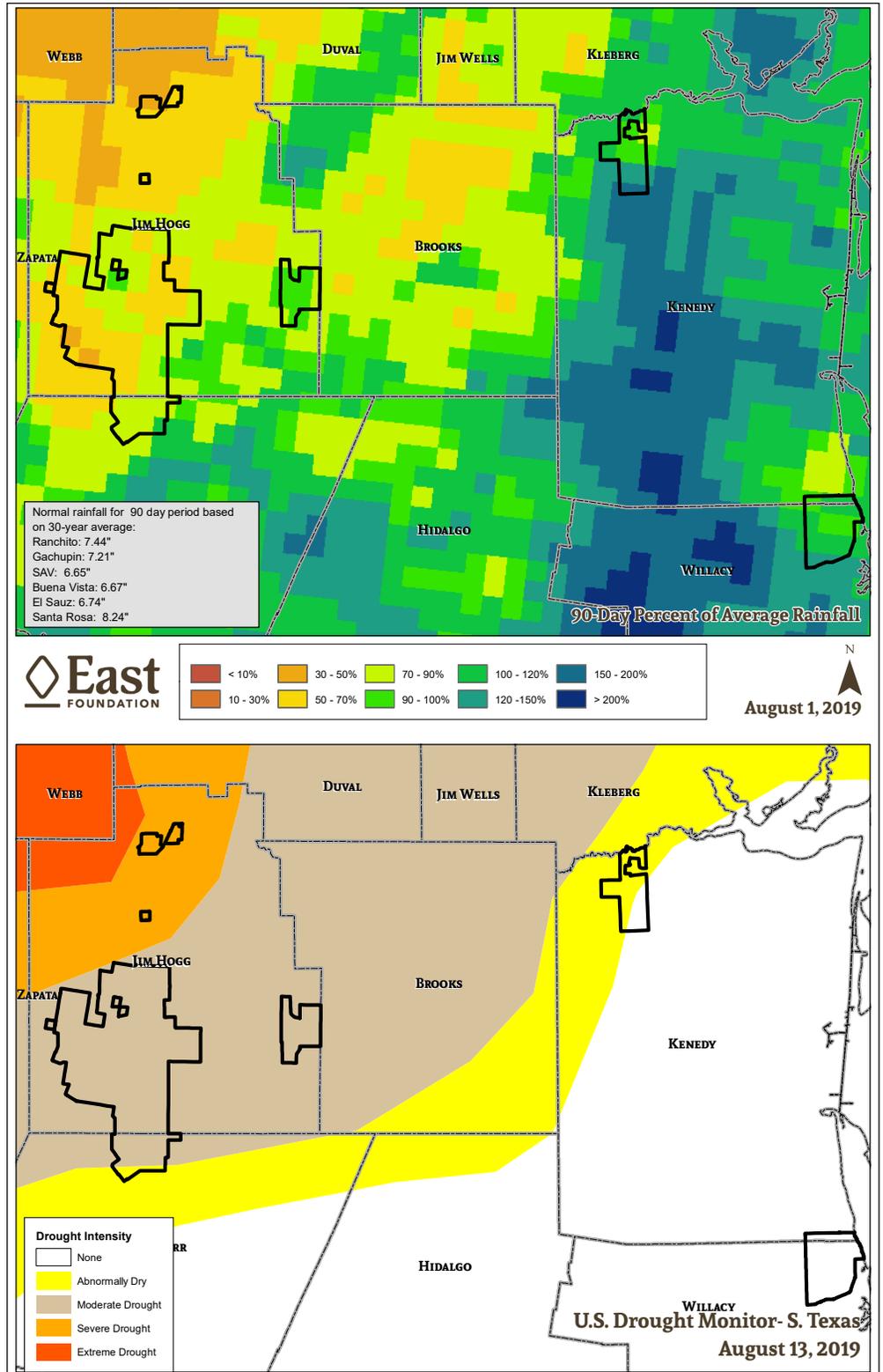
ALLIE BIEDENHARN

Recognizing the role rain and drought play on the south Texas landscape we generate a monthly snapshot of the U.S. Drought conditions and a short-term percent of normal rainfall for East Foundation Ranches.

The 90-day percent of normal rainfall is an indicator of short-term drought conditions. Looking at the most recent rainfall data for south Texas, the majority of the San Antonio Viejo received around 60-70% of normal rainfall for the May-June-July time period. Closer to the coast, the El Sauz and Santa Rosa ranches have received normal to slightly above normal rainfall for the same time period.

While almost all south Texas went into the summer sitting at just above normal rainfall the recent hot and dry weather pattern has started crisping things up and triggered the return of drought. The San Antonio Viejo has fallen into moderate drought conditions and is teetering on the edge of severe drought. The El Sauz and Santa Rosa; although dry, have not slipped into drought conditions yet.

For more information on drought and other weather events or to view information specific to your part of the state please visit: <http://climatexas.tamu.edu/drought/maps/index.html>.



# In Partnership With Las Huellas

TINA BUFORD

Partnerships are invaluable to the East Foundation because they produce synergy. Joining forces with like-minded organizations allows us to be more effective and efficient.

Selecting the right partner is important to us. First, our missions must align and second (and equally as important) the individuals that built and sustain the organizations we partner with must be committed to educating future generations about stewarding the natural resources we are blessed with. For the past five years, our partnership with Las Huellas Association has exceeded our expectations.

Behind the Gates. Together, we have enlightened hundreds of Valley youth for the first time on what happens behind the gates of a working ranch. This educational experience allows students to connect private land management to the quality of their lives.”



Students participate in Behind the Gates at El Sauz Ranch due in part to sponsorship from Las Huellas.

- **Wildlife Research:** Las Huellas supports Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute in their pursuit to develop fever tick treatment options for Nilgai.
- **Scholarships:** Las Huellas grants scholarships to students seeking a career in the wildlife management and conservation.

All of this could not be possible without a dedicated board willing to roll up their sleeves and raise funds at their annual fund raising banquet. This event is *the sportsmen’s event* where men and women come from across the Valley to support the efforts listed above. This event is typically held in Brownsville during March. For more information please visit [www.lashuellas.org](http://www.lashuellas.org).



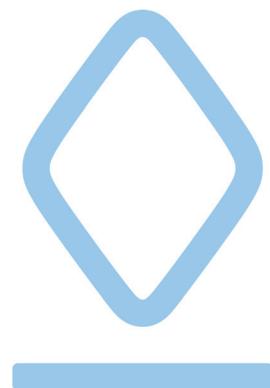
Las Huellas Association is dedicated to educating all people, especially the youth of South Texas, about conservation, management, and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitat to ensure the preservation of our cherished resources for future generations.

“East Foundation is a perfect match for Las Huellas,” said Ronnie Humphreys, board member of Las Huellas Association. “Las Huellas is a unique association that likes to create FIRSTS for all people we encounter. That’s why we participate in East Foundation’s

Other FIRSTS Las Huellas Association supports:

- **Loma Alta Youth Hunter Education Program:** This program is an advanced hunter education and gun safety course designed for local youth. Last year Las Huellas introduced gun safety and hunting ethics to almost 100 participants.
- **Turkey Releases:** With over 100 wild turkey and hatchlings released to date, Las Huellas is dedicated to the reestablishment of the local turkey populations.
- **Kids Hooked for Life:** This annual event introduces the youth of South Texas to the joys of fishing. Over the years, they have gifted more than 3,000 rod and reel combos.

Partnerships in the business world can be used to share in the profits. With our partnership the “business” is education and the “profit” is future generations that value open space and wildlife conservation. Thank you Las Huellas for all you do in advancing wildlife conservation through education!



## RANCH REPORT

# The Dog Days of Summer

GILLY RIOJAS

The typical south Texas summer is hot and dry. This year has been no exception. This summer we worked spring calves, shipped grass yearlings, and pulled bulls out of our spring cow herds. In June and July, we marked and branded the calves that were born to our spring herds. Those spring herds make up 56% of our production cow herd. The calves in those herds will be turned back out with their mothers and won't be worked again until this fall when they'll be weaned.

This was the first year that East Foundation Ranches purchased and turned out stocker steers on our ranch lands.

We purchased 328 Mexican sourced steers and 203 native sourced steers. The Mexican sourced steers were turned out from February 11 until June 4. They weighed 429 pounds going in and were shipped weighing 632 pounds, for a total gain of 203 pounds or an average daily gain of 1.8 pounds. They performed well and are now located in the Texas Panhandle in a custom feed yard.

The sourced steers were on pasture from February 16 until July 26. They weighed 578 pounds going in and were shipped weighing 808 pounds, for a total gain of 230 pounds or an average daily gain of 1.44 pounds. They were sold as grass yearlings to a commercial feed yard in the south plains of Texas.

This stocker steer program allowed us to utilize beneficial forbs throughout winter and early spring. Utilizing stocker cattle in highly sensitive areas allows us to protect certain native pastures, to utilize productive forbs, and offers flexibility in our grazing program.

As summer ends, we are saying goodbye to our eighth class of interns over the last six years. We have had 18 students complete our internship program, usually during the summer and typically mid-May to mid-August, although we have had two intern classes that were in spring semesters from mid-January until the first of June. This summer we were excited to have three interns; Will Oliver who will study Animal Science at Texas A&M, Ryan Lopez, a Wildlife Biology student at Texas Tech University, and Alyssa Ramos, a recent Ag-Business graduate from Sam Houston State.

Interns on the East Foundation Ranches participate in a variety of jobs on our ranches from working cattle to collecting forage data, and even going on patrol with our security department. We want our interns to experience the day to day operations of the Foundation and try their hand at every job the East Foundation offers on our ranches. We develop students to become the best land stewards and natural resource managers that they can be.

It has been amazing to see our impact as past interns have become professionals succeeding in their careers. For the East Foundation, this is only the beginning. We are excited to see the students we are able to impact and mold in the future.

## Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 27-28

East Foundation and the Witte Museum will attend the Texas Association of Environmental Education conference in Galveston to present on the Land Stewardship Ambassadors program.

SEPTEMBER 29

Andrea Montalvo will present *Using Distance Sampling to Monitor Northern Bobwhite Densities Throughout a Large-Scale Grazing Impact Study*, at the American Fisheries Society & The Wildlife Society Joint Conference in Reno, Nevada. East Foundation will staff a booth at the Expo.

OCTOBER 1

Masi Mejia will present at the Laredo Environmental Summit on environmental solutions in the area and recruiting for the Land Stewardship Ambassadors program.

OCTOBER 3

East Foundation will staff a booth at the South Texans' Property Rights Association Annual Meeting and Fundraiser in Kingsville.

OCTOBER 3

East Foundation will sponsor a Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition at the TSSRM Annual Meeting in Kerrville and staff a booth at the Expo.

# Bobcats and Budgets

CHRIS HUFF

Well, I usually start my article off with a weather report, but Matt Robinson pretty much covered the weather situation in his Security Report. If you don't know Matt very well, you will figure out just what kind of fellow he really is when you see the photo of him hanging out in his redneck swimming pool with his closest friend.

## BUDGET TIME

This time of year all of our directors and managers are busy developing and submitting their budget proposals to Nicolas Rangel, our CFO and then to our CEO, Neal Wilkins, for final consideration. We also stay busy finalizing projects that were funded for this fiscal year.

## EAST FAMILY HOUSE LANDSCAPE CLEAN UP

We started off by removing the old fencing around the house that was grown up with all kinds of shrubs and vines that obscured the view of the house. We then removed some trees around the house that could cause possible damage to the roof. We plan to eventually install an irrigation system around the house so we can maintain the lawn and trees more effectively and efficiently.



The East Family House has a clean and clear lawn after some shrubs and vines were removed.

Part of our cleanup efforts around the SAVR headquarters was the dismantling of some old lean-to sheds and a water storage tank that were no longer functional and were major eye sores.



The Field Operations team, Rafael Guerra, Jason Haynes, and Sergio Vasquez work together to dismantle a lean-to shed.

## EAST FAMILY CEMETERY

Our fence crew removed the old pipe fencing around the East Family Cemetery and constructed a new cedar fence around the cemetery. We then installed an irrigation system and removed some unwanted trees. Our groundskeeper, Rafael Martinez, has embraced this project and has done an excellent job of maintaining the cemetery.

## REPLICA OF VINTAGE SLICK WIRE FENCE

Our fence crew constructed a replica of a vintage slick wire fence along the side of the road leading to the East house to prevent vehicles from parking in the area between the house and the cemetery. The fence was constructed using

old slick wire that was commonly used for fencing in the late 1800's and early 1900's. We also placed a couple of old metal ratchets on each side of the entrance to the cemetery. These ratchets were used to tighten the slick wire that was threaded through holes in the posts.

## BOBCATS IN A WELL

On another note, while Jason Haynes and his wife were driving around the ranch one afternoon, they decided to check on some hand dug wells that we had recently secured with fencing and warning signs. To their amazement, they saw a bobcat sitting on a ledge half way down the well. As they were taking photos of the cat, they noticed something moving at the bottom of the well. Upon

further investigation, they noticed two baby bobcats at the bottom of the well.



Look closely and you will see a mother bobcat at the bottom of this hand dug well.

## TIP FOR THE DAY

Do something nice for someone. It will make you both feel good.

## SECURITY REPORT

# Conditioning without Air Conditioning

MATT ROBINSON

Summer heat in South Texas is extreme. We hear daily to be careful of the heat, stay hydrated, the heat index is extreme, wear light clothing, wear a hat, stay out of the sun, heat stroke, heat exhaustion, etc., etc. What did we do before air-conditioning? Has it gotten hotter? Do we work harder now?

As with most people of my generation, I grew up with no air-conditioning. My home had no air-conditioning, the school I graduated from had no air-conditioning, most cars had no air-conditioning, and school buses had, you guessed it, no air-conditioning. We had fans and we sweated. Everyone did. I spent my summers hauling hay and not from an air-conditioned tractor. We hauled the regular square bales you had to pick up in the field and stack in a barn. We did it in the heat of the day and it made us stronger. The high school football coaches loved this because it kept us in shape for football.

That being said - **I like air-conditioning!** My personal rule is, *If money is short, we can cut back on everything except air-conditioning and food.* I now think it is the end of the world if the electricity is off and there is no air-conditioning. How will I stand it? How will I sleep? I have become so dependent on air-conditioning that it effects how I live and work. I have tried to not become so dependent on air-conditioning, but it feels sooo good until I step out of the truck and the heat slams me in the face. As a Game Warden, I never really noticed a problem because I was usually outside in a boat or in a patrol vehicle with the windows

down, so I could hear shots fired, etc. Now I spend a lot of time in a truck with windows up and the air-conditioning turned on.

I say all this to lead up to passing along at least one way that I have learned to adjust to working in the heat. Because, let's face it - whether it's summer or not, there is work to do and we are the ones that have to do it. I have learned that if I am going to be in and out of air-conditioning performing my duties, I am affected less by the heat if, when I am in the truck, I leave the air-conditioning off, roll the windows down, and allow my body to acclimate to the temperature. I guess my point is: good or bad, air-conditioning has become part of our lives. Be aware of how it affects you and what you do. Try to not overheat, stay hydrated, slow down, wear a hat, and get in the shade if you can, but **work hard.**



Security Manager, Matt Robinson cools down after a long, hot day at work.

Then go swimming with your friends!

## Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 13-15

Texas Cattle Feeders Association Annual Convention in Fort Worth.

OCTOBER 17-18

East Foundation will staff a booth at the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Holt Cat Symposium on Excellence in Ranching in Kingsville.

OCTOBER 19-20

Deer Capture at El Sauz Ranch.

OCTOBER 21-25

Behind the Gates at El Sauz Ranch.

OCTOBER 26-27

Deer Capture at Santa Rosa and Buena Vista Ranches.

OCTOBER 28-30

East Foundation will staff a booth at the Annual Meeting of the Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors in San Antonio.