

FROM THE CEO

“Our Mission is to support wildlife conservation and other public benefits of ranching and private land stewardship. Our mission is achieved through research, education and outreach.”

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November 2018

Along the Tom Lea Trail

In case you missed it, October 2018 was “Tom Lea Month.” Tom Lea, who passed in 2001, was arguably Texas’ most outstanding artist, illustrator, and writer. His legacy is maintained and celebrated by the Tom Lea Institute in his home town of El Paso. For many of us in South Texas, the most prominent legacy from Tom Lea has been his two volume history of the King Ranch, Published in 1957 – a masterpiece that he researched, wrote and illustrated.

Tom Lea made footprints in South Texas two decades before his publication of *The King Ranch*. In the late 1930s he began to travel with J. Frank Dobie as he was doing his field research for *The Longhorns*, a 1941 book featuring Dobie’s writing accompanied by Tom Lea’s illustrations. It was certainly during this period that Tom Lea travelled to Randado, where he would have likely learned of the East family, and where he would have seen the remnants from one of the earliest settlements in South Texas.

“El Randado” originated as a Mexican Land Grant to Antonio Garcia. Garcia received 5 sitios of land (about 22,000 acres) in 1836, and this Land Grant served as the core for what would become about 80,000 acres that later made the “Rancho del Randado.” The old town and ranch headquarters is near the current intersection of State Highway 16 and FM 649 – about 30 miles south of Hebbronville. The town

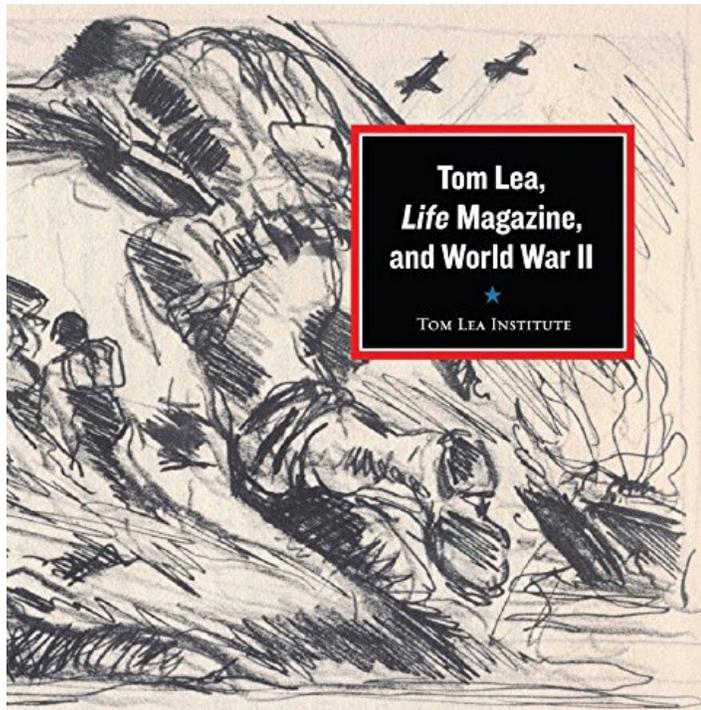
of Randado was once one of the largest population centers in the area. In fact, an early voting map of Jim Hogg County (from about 1913) notes that Randado was the largest population center outside Falfurrias.

By the time Tom Lea and J. Frank Dobie visited Randado, the population had declined and the ranch was divided among family heirs of Hipolito Garcia. But the ranching heritage must have still been alive. The culture of vaqueros was still there and the remnants of longhorns and wild mustangs were still around. The old Catholic Church and some of the remnants of El Randado are still there to this day.

Publisher Carl Hertzog printed the writings and artwork from Tom Lea’s time in Randado from the summer of 1940. The original 1941 printing of Lea’s *Randado* was limited to 100 copies – an original copy is a prize for any collector of sensible Texas books.



Because of Tom Lea's time in Randado, Hebbbronville is one of fifteen sites along the "Tom Lea Trail." The "Tom Lea Trail" includes locations throughout Texas and New Mexico. Because of Randado, Hebbbronville represents the southernmost community along the Tom Lea trail. To find out more go to <https://tomlea.com/>.



Some of the original Rancho del Randado is part of the San Antonio Viejo Ranch, and Tom Lea's time at Randado certainly included some time with Tom T. East, as he was a friend of J. Frank Dobie's.

What to Read:

Tom Lea, Life Magazine, and World War II

By Adair Margo and Melissa Renn, 2016

Tom Lea Institute

The Winter of 1941, barely over a year after his Summer at Randado, Tom Lea was aboard a US Navy Destroyer in what would be the first of several excursions into the battlefield of World War II. Until November of 1945, Tom Lea illustrated the details of war for Life Magazine. In this fine book, Adair Margo and Melissa Renn thoughtfully present the context of many of Tom Lea's most impacting images of war. It's a great book.

Note: Many thanks to Adair Margo (Founder) and Holly Cobb (Executive Director) of the Tom Lea Institute for reminding me of the importance of Randado to Tom Lea's legacy.

- Neal Wilkins

PROJECT PROFILE

Training the Next Generation: Hands-On Learning for the Future of Wildlife Conservation

Students are more than boots on the ground for the research performed by the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute. In the era of online degrees, there is simply no substitute for the hands-on experience gained from field research. Applied research is especially difficult in our environment. One must work long hours in unpredictable and often unpleasant weather, surrounded by snakes, ticks, chiggers, mosquitoes, Africanized bees, and other nasties. The vegetation is covered with thorns, or poisonous. One must surmount flat tires, broken equipment, oilfield traffic, and ornery livestock, and somehow stay on schedule despite droughts, hurricanes, and wildfires. One must respect the property and the wishes of the private land stewards

who allow us access to conduct the research. For graduate students, the journey is punctuated by tedious laboratory work and GIS or statistical analyses, followed by preparation and defense of a highly technical thesis or dissertation. Finally, graduate students are expected to prepare one or more scientific and popular articles about their work. Clearly, all of this requires a passionate and detail-oriented person with a strong work ethic.

How can students learn and demonstrate the qualities expected of a professional biologist? Much of the learning is hands-on, in the field. We strive to involve undergraduates in our research when possible. Our ultimate goal is for aspiring biologists to gain the much-needed experience to pursue a job or the demands of graduate school. With the support of the East Foundation, the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute has touched the lives of many current and future wildlife biologists. One recent study, termed the 'deer

capture project,' has been especially impactful. Despite a rather unassuming title, the deer capture project has impacted hundreds of aspiring wildlife biologists during the past seven years.



Neal Wilkins, CEO of the East Foundation, gives students an orientation to the San Antonio Viejo Ranch.

Formed in 2007 from the estate of Robert C. East, the East Foundation mission is to support wildlife conservation and other public benefits of ranching and private land stewardship. Research, education, and outreach are the pillars of a three-legged stool for the Foundation, where each has equal priority to the East Foundation's mission. Therefore, the ideal research study would combine each of the three pillars. From a research standpoint, the most insightful studies are long-term, so that we can observe how our south Texas environment affects the animals and plants under different conditions. 'Long-term' may mean at least five, and ideally ten years or more. Some research activities provide the perfect outdoor laboratory for hands-on learning, especially research that involves the capture and handling of white-tailed deer. This is because deer captures require a large team of volunteers to transport and restrain deer, record physical and antler measurements, sample blood, hair, and tissue, and release the deer unharmed. There are many diverse 'jobs' – opportunities for hands-on learning – during captures, some of which require little skill, others that can be learned in a few hours' time.

This background set the stage for a great partnership: a long-term study that requires a large pool of volunteers a few times of year, with diverse opportunities to handle animals and participate in research for a range of skill levels – a perfect match for the goals and expertise of the East Foundation and the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife

Research Institute. The deer capture project began in the fall of 2011. During four consecutive weekends, the team of scientists from the Institute and Foundation capture deer on four south Texas properties owned and operated as cattle ranches by the East Foundation. We recruit undergraduate student volunteers from wildlife programs, including Texas A&M-Kingsville, Texas A&M-College Station, Sul Ross, Tarleton State, Texas State, Stephen F. Austin, and Texas Tech. Each year during 2011–2018, we involved about 75 undergraduates, who captured and sampled over 400 wild deer; in the seven years of the project, nearly 500 student volunteers and over 2,800 captures. The data have formed the basis for a doctoral dissertation, a master's thesis, and numerous presentations to both lay and scientific audiences. We have quantified the influence of soil type on body mass and antler size, the influence of rainfall and age on fawn recruitment, the effect of drought and lactation on stress hormones, and investigated the genetic similarity within and among populations. All students learn about the results of the research and thereby deer ecology in South Texas. They are also able to interact with and learn from the East Foundation and the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute staff and faculty. It is harder to quantify the influence on student education, but the experience has opened the door to a valuable learning opportunity, an investment in the future of conservation that we believe will be repaid many times over.



Sampling saliva from a doe captured on the East El Sauz ranch for a study of stress hormones.

Partner: Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville

- Randy W. DeYoung

Reprinted with permission from Caesar Kleberg Tracks Summer 2018.



Tori Haynes

Tori Haynes is a native Texan who has enjoyed the outdoors with her family and friends since she was born. She attended Texas A&M University-Kingsville for her undergraduate degree in Range and Wildlife Management. Throughout her undergraduate years she was active in wildlife organizations and diverse internships which enhanced her knowledge and skills. She was given the opportunity to pursue her master's degree at Texas A&M University-Kingsville within the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute with Dr. Sandra Rideout-Hanzak and Dr. Alfonso Ortega-Santos.

Tori's master's research on the East Foundation's El Sauz Ranch focused on producing prescribe fire recommendations for gulf cordgrass-dominated rangelands

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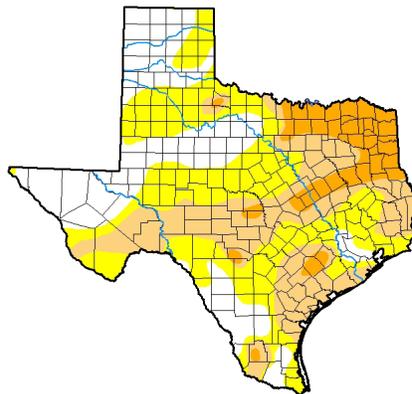
RANCHER RESOURCES

Topsoil and Rain

With Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the new year just around the corner I took a little time to reflect on the last year. Needless to say, it has been a roller coaster year or; as I've mentioned in a previous newsletter, a year marked by "extremes."

In November of 2017 the National Drought Mitigation Center U.S. Drought Monitor classified the northern portion of the San Antonio Viejo Ranch as "Severe Drought" with the rest classified as "Moderate Drought" reflecting the below normal rainfall we had received throughout 2017.

U.S. Drought Monitor
Texas



December 5, 2017
(Released Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Intensity:
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Moderate Drought
 D2 Severe Drought
 D3 Extreme Drought
 D4 Exceptional Drought
 The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
 David Simeral
 Western Regional Climate Center

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Drought persisted and spread to the other ranches through the first half of 2018 till a late-June "tropical" rain event brought drought-busting heavy rain to much of south Texas. From June 19th to June 22nd East Foundation ranches received 5 to 9 inches of rain across the San Antonio Viejo Ranch and 15 to 20 inches on the coastal El Sauz and Santa Rosa Ranches.

The rest of the summer was pretty typical for south Texas — hot and dry with only scattered showers. Fortunately, we were blessed to catch several of these

showers. September and the start of our fall rainy season brought a welcome change in the form of cooler temperatures and near record rainfall. Since the middle of August, we received the following rainfall totals across East Foundation ranches:

- San Antonio Viejo Headquarters: 11.9"
- Coloraditas Grazing Research and Demonstration Area: 15.1"
- El Sauz: 12.3"
- Santa Rosa: 17.1"
- Buena Vista: 22.6"

The fall rains brought us to 1.5 to 2-times our annual average across all ranches and a welcome abundance of forage and respite from drought.

In a year of extremes where rain; or the lack there of, was constantly at forefront of our thoughts I am reminded of a saying that popped up on my social media feed recently:

“Despite all of our accomplishments we owe our existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains.”



Results of heavy rain are evident at Santa Rosa Ranch.



Increased growth at Santa Rosa Ranch.

Topsoil and rain — those ingredients when combined with a little sunshine provide the basic recipe

for sustaining life. I am sure Robert and Lica East; and their mother Alice G. K. East understood this better than most. It likely explains their deep love of the land and why they fiercely protected it.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote, “While the farmer (in our case the rancher) holds the title to the land, actually it belongs to all the people because civilization itself rests upon the soil.” In carrying out our mission, the East Foundation helps to preserve and protect for the public, the wildlife, ranching heritage, and land the East family loved. The knowledge gained from our research encourages landowners to be wise stewards of this great habitat, resulting in lasting benefits to all the people of the State of Texas.

- Todd Snelgrove

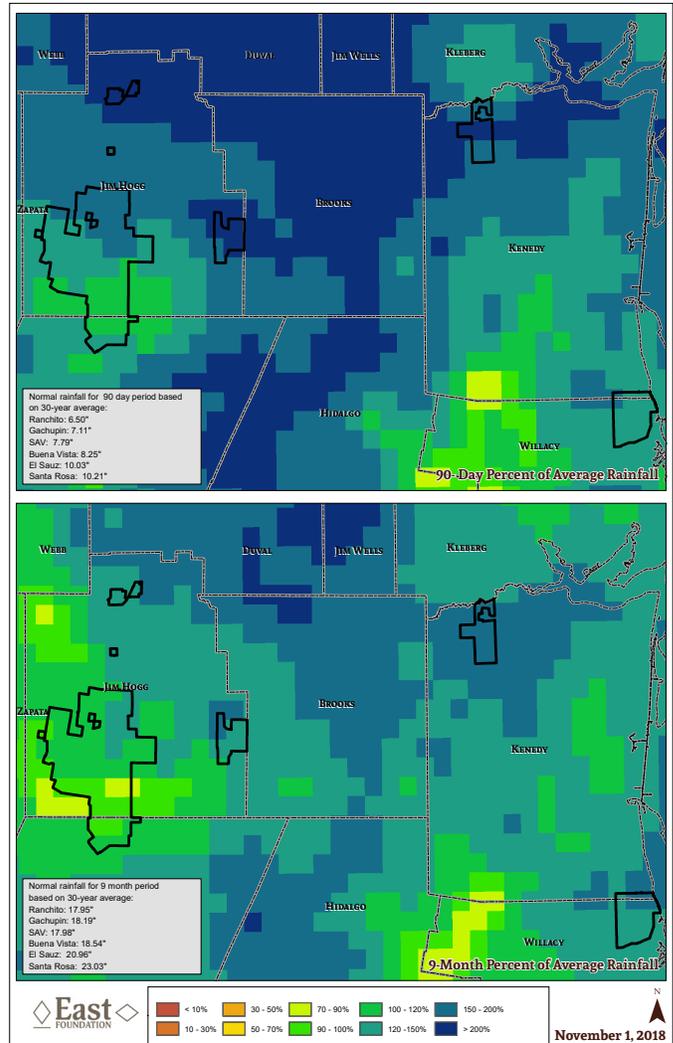
RAINFALL REPORT

Recognizing the role rain and drought plays on the south Texas landscape we generate a monthly snapshot of short- and long-term percent of normal rainfall for East Foundation Ranches.

The 90-day percent of normal rainfall can be considered an indicator of short-term drought conditions. Rainfall for the August-October time period was well above average with most areas receiving 1.5 to 2-times their average. On some ranches like the Santa Rosa or Buena Vista it approached 3-times the average.

The 9-month percent of normal rainfall is a better indicator of long-term drought conditions and captures at least one of our two critical pulses of seasonal rainfall (late-spring/early-summer and/or fall). As can be seen from the rainfall estimates, most of the region has received above normal rainfall. This breaks the trend of drought conditions that started in the spring of 2017.

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



in South Texas to increase utilization by livestock. She monitored the distribution of livestock using GPS collars and the improvement of nutritive value in gulf cordgrass following two different seasons of burning. This research provides valuable information on the proper season to conduct prescribe fire in gulf cordgrass rangelands to maximize benefits to cattle in South Texas. After completing her master's degree in Range and Wildlife Management, Tori accepted a position with Texas Parks and Wildlife in Port O'Connor, Texas as the natural resource specialist on the Powderhorn Wildlife Management Area.

In her own words:

"I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to work with the East Foundation. Their programs of research, education and outreach are remarkable, and their staff are highly knowledgeable. I will cherish the relationships established and the experience working with this foundation for the rest of my life. They provided me with great support, help, and guidance throughout my project. I truly admire the East Foundation's contribution to wildlife conservation and private land stewardship."

RANCH REPORT

As we roll into November the prospects of cooler weather are getting closer. Unfortunately, as I write this it is still 90 degrees. Fall is a busy time of year for the East Foundation Ranches with weaning season and cattle workings in full progress. From September first until the middle of December, most of our workings will concentrate on working our spring cattle herds, the cows that had calves from February to April. We wean those calves usually from October to December.



© Wyman Meinzer

We're also working the Coloraditas herd. We brought them back to the San Antonio Viejo ranch from an off-location premise. We worked two herds in Casa Verde, one herd in the Venada, El Sauz, and we'll finish up at Santa Rosa. In between these workings of course is cleaning up remnant cattle, shipping out calves and yearlings, and of course our usual daily routines. All the ranches have been blessed with beneficial rain starting in the early fall and it has been impressive to see how

the rangelands have changed. The cattle and calves have benefited from this rain also and it looks like we will have a higher than normal amount of forage going into late fall and winter.

One of our focus objectives was to have most of our herds in systematic breeding systems so that their performance could be measured. We have focused on developing two herds, a spring herd and a fall herd. Over the last few years we have been working hard to put our cattle into these herds.

Why we are doing this? How does this impact what we are doing? Why is this relevant to the cattle industry? Our focus when putting cattle into breeding herds is to ensure that these herds can have dependable and measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPI). KPIs include breeding percentage, weaning weights, weaned calf percent, and gathering rates. They are used to measure our herds performance with other operators throughout the state. KPIs allow us to see trends and relationships for our overall herd performance. Measuring KPIs impacts what we are doing because it allows us to adjust our management strategy based on performance and environmental conditions.

We can look at long term breeding percentages in comparison to historic rainfall data. We can build trends and track our long-term performance to see how the quality and performance of our cattle is getting better. Understanding KPIs will allow us to make decisions that will ultimately better our rangelands. If we are concentrating on the most efficient producers, we will be

EMPLOYEE PROFILE



Matt Robinson

At the East Foundation, we are lucky to work with someone as funny, and caring, and kind as Matt Robinson. In his own words, here is his story:

I was born at a very young age... on January 1, 1957, 50 seconds after midnight. My mom said she won a ½ gallon of milk for me being the first baby born in San Antonio that year.

I guess I was destined to be in law enforcement. I have been carrying a gun for quite a while.



I grew up in Floresville where I graduated high school in 1975.

Con't. adjacent.

able to utilize our rangelands in a healthier manner that should not result in over-grazing.

All of this is relevant to the cattle industry because it is our job to be able to supply data and KPIs to other producers and showcase our cattle herd performance over time. The only way that this can be measured and achieved is through detailed record keeping, inventory control, and accountability. As we move forward and collect more data our KPIs will serve as a way to measure our herds successes and

long-term progress. This information will then be shown to producers and used as a base line model for cattle performance in South Texas.

KPIs will serve as a great management tool to measure our progress and to assess the performance of our herds. We look forward to gathering and analyzing this data as time progresses and building long term trends that will improve the management of our operations.

- Gilly Riojas

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

(Continued)

I graduated from Texas A&M College Station in December 1979 with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science.

I started working in summers when I was in high school for John Connally as a ranch hand and continued until I graduated college. I then became a ranch hand with the title Assistant Ranch Manager.

In 1982, I was accepted into the Game Warden academy. I caught game and fish violators for 31 years. I was stationed in Kleberg County from 1982 to 1989. Mills County from 1989 to 1993. I missed Kleberg County and transferred back, where I finished my 31 years.

I have two wonderful, smart and beautiful daughters. Elizabeth (my favorite oldest daughter) who is married to Billy (from Montana) who is a Navy pilot and just made Captain. They gave me three beautiful granddaughters. Emily who was born in Washington, May who was born in Japan, and Molly who was born in Rhode Island. They have just returned to Texas from a tour in Belgium. Elizabeth is returning to school to become an occupational therapist.

Rachel (my favorite youngest daughter) is finishing up with a Ph.D. program at UTSA. I am not sure I get the terminology right but her degree is in Cellular Molecular Biology. Rachel is dating John (from Montana) who is an Air Force pilot who just made Captain.

What is it with my girls and pilots from Montana?

In 2013, I retired as a Game Warden to take the job as Security Manager for the East Foundation. My duties vary a great deal. Besides the normal activities you would associate with security, I try to be available for whatever needs to be done. I want everyone associated with the East Foundation to know they have someone they can depend on 24/7. Whether it is a fellow employee, neighbor, or law enforcement officer. Truthfully, when I took this job, I thought I would get the security department set up then move on to full retirement in a couple of years. Well, I have been here five years now and see no end in sight. Now it would be like leaving family.

In my spare time, I try to stay in shape by cycling. I started cycling in 1988 after I got in a foot pursuit with a poacher and realized I needed to be in better shape. I took up cycling and have ridden thousands of miles over the years. I find it helps with physical fitness but get the most benefit from the mind clearing and stress relief benefits. I also enjoy woodworking with Mesquite. If it can be made of wood, I try to make it out of Mesquite. Anyone that knows me very well, knows that my favorite pastime is aggravating everyone around me. I just cannot help myself. I guess it is in my genes. If you see my wife, it is ok to give her your condolences.

FIELD OPERATIONS REPORT

In my last newsletter, I made a comment that if you need rain, you should ask The Good Lord for it. Well, our prayers were answered. We have had anywhere from 18 to 27 inches on our Foundation properties. What a blessing! At one point during the recent rains, I sent Neal a message telling him how the rains reminded me of the rains we used to get in the old days and he responded, "OK Noah!" Obviously he thinks I am a lot older than I really am.

As always, with abundant rains comes plant growth and the influx of insects, some desirable and some not so desirable. Some of the not so desirable insects include ticks, mosquitos, mealy bugs, wasps, army worms and those pesky butterflies that mess up your windshield and clog up your radiator. Also, in some cases bees are considered undesirable insects. They are normally considered desirable but sometimes when they take up residence in our homes and work places they can cause problems. Because bees are pollinators, they have a positive impact when growing fruits and vegetables. According to the American Beekeeping Federation, one third of all food Americans eat is directly or indirectly derived from honeybee pollination.

There are about 20,000 different species of bees in the world. Bees live in colonies that contain the queen bee, the worker bee and the drone. Bees store their venom

in a sac attached to their stinger and only female bees sting. Certain species of bees die after stinging because their stingers, which are attached to their abdomen, have little barbs or hooks on them. When this type of bee tries to fly away after stinging something, part of the abdomen is ripped away. This is where the saying "bees can only sting you once" comes from. It does not matter whether they can only sting you once when a hive may contain a thousand bees. Honey bees are normally not aggressive unless you are too close to their hive; however, Africanized "killer" bees are very aggressive and attack in larger numbers. They have been known to chase people for over a quarter of a mile.

When we are faced with unwanted bees, a person must make a decision how to remove them. Some options to consider include extermination of the bees or safely relocate them using a professional bee keeper. Bee extermination is normally cheaper than the relocation process. Relocation of bees can be expensive depending on the location of hive and the time it takes to remove the bees and the honeycomb. In some cases it is not even possible to get to the bees due to the location of their hives.

Over the last couple of months we have had bees in one of our camp kitchens, in the trailer of our cattle hauling truck, in one of our feed bins and in several



AnnMarie Blackburn receives the People's Choice Award at the East Foundation 3MT® competition.

PAST MEETINGS & EVENTS

August 8:

We opened our Education Pavilion with a ribbon cutting at the San Antonio Viejo Ranch.

August 17:

The East Foundation held its annual Research Partners meeting and 3MT® competition at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Center in Kingsville. Winners included Faith Hardin (TAMU-Director's Award), Jason Lombardi (TAMUK-Director's Award Runner Up), AnnMarie Blackburn (TAMUK-People's Choice Award), and Abe Woodard (TAMUK-Proposal Award).

September 19-21:

We staffed a booth at the Association of Nature Center Administrators Summit held at the Quinta Mazatlan in McAllen. More than 300 folks attended from across the globe.

buildings around our ranches. Because there are no professional bee keepers in our area and the bees were causing an immediate danger to our employees, we choose to eradicate the bees as soon as possible.

Below are some photos of Matt exterminating some unwanted bees.



Do you know why bee suits are typically white in color? The answer is because white isn't as noticeable to bees as are darker colors. The bees tend to associate the darker colors such as brown, black or gray with marauding honey-loving animals such as bears, skunks, honey badgers and raccoons. Another good thing to know is if you are being chased by bees, run in a zigzag pattern and seek shelter in a house or car. Do not jump in the water! The bees will just wait around until you come up for air. Your best line of defense while outdoors is to be on the lookout for bees and be listening for their buzzing. A honey bee flaps its wings 11,000 times a minute. If there is a hundred to a thousand bees in a hive, you should be able to hear them unless you forgot to wear your hearing aids.

Infrastructure Updates

East Family Cemetery

Field Operations and Ranch personnel recently renovated the East Family Cemetery located on the San Antonio Viejo Ranch. This renovation project included the construction of a new fence around the cemetery and installation a five-(5) station sprinkler system to maintain the grass, trees and shrubs. This project was performed by directors, managers and ranch hands during inclement conditions (rainy and cold). This was teamwork at its best. On the next page is a photo of the finished product.



Students participating in the 3MT® competition at the Texas Section Society for Range Management meeting in Lubbock.

PAST MEETINGS & EVENTS

October 10-12:

The East Foundation held its inaugural 3MT® competition at the Texas Section Society for Range Management annual meeting in Lubbock. Graduate students from 6 universities delivered 17 high-quality presentations and we also staffed a booth at this event. Winners of the 3MT® competition (all People's Choice) included Chase Walther (TAMUK-First Place), Anthony Falk (TAMUK-Second Place), and Jose Cortez (TAMUK-Third Place).

Mid-October :

The East Foundation staffed a booth at the South Texas Property Rights Association annual meeting at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Center in Kingsville and at the Annual Holt Cat® Symposium on Excellence in Ranch Management held on the campus of Texas A&M University-Kingsville.



Water System and Fencing Projects

We are in the process of acquiring electric power for Las Palmas water system at El Sauz. Once the Las Palmas well is up and running we will begin laying water lines to the designated water storage areas.

Road Projects

We recently repaired one of the main roads at El Sauz for the Behind the Gates Events. We also recently repaired the caliche roads around the San Antonio Viejo headquarters.



Headquarters Barn at El Sauz

We are still in the process of finalizing the construction documents for the El Sauz headquarters barn. This barn will provide much needed overnight lodging and storage for research and ranch personnel.

Tip of the day: While outdoors, practice sharpening your senses (eyes and ears) to avoid encounters with bees, snakes and other wild critters.

Bee Safe!

- Chris Huff

SECURITY REPORT

UDA traffic has picked up! The most activity is occurring in Buena Vista and Ranchito. Here is a picture taken by our remote security camera in Buena Vista.

I was catching quite a few groups with this camera in Buena Vista until they got smart and stole it. Too bad for them, I hid another camera and have continued to catch groups coming through.



Unfortunately, there are still many UDAs that succumb to the harsh environment and pass away. Another set of partial remains were located on the Buena Vista. I hope that someone from the group they were travelling with was able to relay the tragedy to the family of the deceased.

The Ranchito and my house are positioned between the highway 16 and FM 1017 checkpoints. Many UDAs are transported by vehicle to just south of the checkpoints where they are dropped out. The illegals then travel by foot through the ranchlands in an attempt to circumvent the checkpoints. Unfortunately for us, many end up walking through Ranchito and by my house. Border Patrol has been actively pursuing them using helicopters, truck-mounted night vision cameras and teams of agents. Seldom does more than a few days go by that there isn't UDA traffic on Ranchito. Many thanks to the dedicated Border Patrol agents that help to deter this activity.

I use remote security cameras on all of the East Foundation Properties. These cameras are basically game cameras that have the capability of sending a picture immediately to my phone. I spend many hours monitoring, maintaining and hiding these cameras. They allow me to have 24-hour surveillance in many locations at one time. They work very well for me but there are some drawbacks - they take and send pictures of everything that goes by whether it involves security or not.

I get pictures of all kinds of things.



Some you might even consider rude.



Some are hard to explain, like a buzzard chasing a skinny coyote,



or a coyote with a turkey shadow,



or a CEO running in the middle of nowhere,



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 16:
East Foundation's annual holiday celebration in San Antonio.

December 6-7:
East Foundation's quarterly meeting of our Professional Advisors on the San Antonio Viejo Ranch.

January 21:
East Foundation's annual staff day on the San Antonio Viejo Ranch.

Late January:
Annual "Behind the Gates" event on our San Antonio Viejo Ranch.

or a nilgai rumble,



and some that are important.



I spend a lot of time and effort placing the cameras where they will not be easily detected. In the five years that I have been using them, two have been taken or stolen by, I would assume, smugglers. Lisa Zoromski is a researcher who studies Nilgai on the East Properties. She has numerous cameras deployed on El Sauz and Santa Rosa. She deploys them to detect Nilgai movements so she does not hide them at all. Sometimes, I believe she gets more pictures of UDAs than I do. It is as if they hunt her cameras out so they can pose in front of them.

Thanks for the help, Lisa!

I want to prevent “BOTW!” First, I guess I need to explain where the term “BOTW!” originated. I have to give the credit for the term to, now retired, Game Warden Hector Garza. Many Game Wardens come up with colorful ways to express themselves. Hector was a leader in this category. For instance, after being on surveillance for poaching activity into the wee hours, you might hear Hector broadcast on the Game Warden radio, “I’m heading to area 2B - I’m starting to sniff my belly button”. That translates to; I’m headed home to bed, because I’m tired and can’t hold my head up anymore. As for “BOTW!”: Game Wardens are the Texas Navy. They operate boats and navigate them through the state’s waters at all hours of the day and night and in all kinds of weather. Many of these waters have unmarked channels, unmarked shallows and submerged obstacles. When operating the boats though these waters in poor conditions, it is almost a given that eventually something will be hit, or the boat will be operated into an area that is too shallow. When this happens, it is usually a surprise and an abrupt stop. This causes the occupants to have to catch themselves, so their face does not end up in the windshield. That is what Hector referred to as a “BOTW!” Now on to how this applies to the East Foundation. Since we have had so much rain in the last few months, washouts and sink holes have appeared all over the properties.



Some of them are very hard see, even though they are quite deep. Many are actually in the roadways of the Ranch.

So, as you are driving around the properties, please drive slowly, be careful and pay attention so you don’t experience a BOTW!

(Boogers on the windshield!)



Back in late summer, we assisted Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and Texas Monthly with a filming project on El Sauz. It was the “We will not be Tamed” series promoting outdoor activity. Ours was highlighting former star football player Jordan Shipley. Neal Wilkins, Trey Dyer and I were tasked with driving Jordan and the film crew around in order to film Jordan stalking a Nilgai with a bow. Although the conditions were not as favorable for hunting as they could have been, everyone persevered and made the event quite enjoyable. Somehow, Trey and I ended up in the film. We really tried to turn down our natural charisma so we did not outshine Jordan. After the film aired in September, Trey sent me these pictures from the film with closed captions.

They refer to him as “bearded man” and me as “older man”! At first, I thought that was a bit rude, then I looked at the picture again, then in the mirror. OK then, I will embrace the fact. The new, not so, superhero of the East Foundation is...yes, it is...**OLDERMAN!** Just be aware that I do not have a cape and I do not let anyone see me in my tights that have an “O” emblazoned on the chest. Remember, if you see anything suspicious on the properties or need help, you can depend on **OLDERMAN!** You can reach my crime-fighting partner, **BEARDEDMAN**, when I’m at the doctor’s office or AARP meetings.

- Matt Robinson



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