

THE OAKRIDGE JOURNAL

ORIA EMPHASIS

The Oakridge Ranch Improvement Association, in conjunction with the ORIA Neighborhood Watch & Security Committee, wish to announce the Section Captains for our Neighborhood Watch. Should you need any information, please don't hesitate to contact your Sections's Captain.

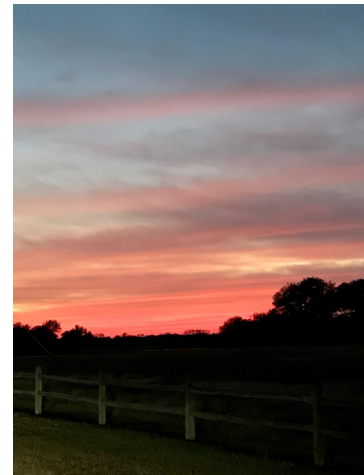
- Section 1: Deanna Jeske
- Section 2: Terri Prasatik
- Section 3: Deanna Jeske
- Section 4: Terri Prasatik
- Section 5: J. D. Ray
- Section 6: Angie Konvica
- Section 7: David Mitchem
- Section 8: Lisa Kelly
- Section 9: Judy Wolfford
- Section 10: Jean & Mackie Herring
- Section 11: Lisa Kelly

Please do not delay in calling 9-1-1 if you notice any out of the ordinary happenings in the Ranch. And don't forget your mobile phone has a camera at the ready to document what you see, license plate of strange vehicles, persons, etc. Each of us can be our neighborhood's best defense. We have wonderful neighbors here at Oakridge Ranch! And we look forward to the year ahead and meeting & getting to know our newest neighbors.

ORIA Board Meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of each month (except December) at 2 PM at the Oakridge Community Center. Meetings are open to all Oakridge landowners and you are encouraged to attend.



2017 December Snow & Winter Sunset



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OAKRIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The OVFD Auxiliary is excited our first Chili Cook-Off in support of the OVFD held on November 4th, 2017 was a huge hit. It was held here at the Ranch and we had several of our neighbors from the surrounding area in attendance along with our Oakridge Ranch landowners, totaling about 90 in attendance! We had 9 contestants who made a wide variety of types of chili. Congratulations to our first year's winners were Ray Poole & Doug Jeske! We collected a total of \$3,185 and were able to buy a tandem trailer for OVFD for the purpose of transporting the now fully-equipped Polaris to brush & forest fires. Thanks to everyone who helped make our Chili Cook-off successful and thanks to those who attended & contributed!

Our next OVFD Auxiliary meeting is February 17th, 9 AM at the Community Center and weather permitting, we'll also clean up Oakridge Road.



**2017 Chili Cook-off Winners
Ray Poole & Doug Jeske**



1073 Polaris fully-equipped on trailer



*OVFD Mailing Address: 1904A Oakridge Road,
Weimar, TX, 78962.*

Don't forget! If you are planning on burning a brush pile - it's imperative that you call Colorado County Sheriff's Office at the Administrative line at 979-732-2388 to inform them you are about to begin your burn. Also, please contact OVFD to be on stand-by at your burn. And make sure your brush piles are away from any trees, even dead trees, that can take your fire upward making it easier to spread out of control! Remember: "Only you can prevent wildfires."



DEER HARVEST UPDATE:

As of January 2, 2018, we have checked in 9 forked bucks, 2 button bucks and 30 doe for a total of 41 deer. Permits have been issued to 66 landowners and 12 replacement permits. The General Season ended January 7. **NO BUCKS can be taken except with a muzzle-loader or by a youth** during the remainder of the season.



2018 WINTER BIRD CENSUS

The Winter Birding Census will be held on Saturday & Sunday, the 3rd & 4th of February, 2018. Participants can bird either morning they wish. If you are interested in joining in, please contact Amy Hardy, ORWMA Birding Chairperson, at amyhardytx@gmail.com for additional information. The Birding Census will conclude with a lunch at the Hardy home on Sunday, Feb 4th. A list of birds can be found on the ORWMA website on the post about this event.



2018 ORWMA OFFICERS

President: Jack Jetton
Vice-President: Earl Fly
Secretary/Treasurer: Deanna Jeske
Events Co-Chairs: Jean Herring & Carrie Jetton
Website / Communications: Brenda LaVergne
Facebook Page: Jack Jetton
Turkey: David Mitchem
Predators: Douglas Mason
Birding: Amy Hardy
Habitat: Vernon Wallace

REMAINING DEER SEASON FOR 2018

DOE SEASON: September 30, 2017 to February 28, 2018

* Does may be taken with an Oakridge Ranch **MLD permit ONLY**.

Note: All **unused doe permits** will be collected by ORWMA at the end of the season.

BUCK SEASONS: The TPWD seasons, restrictions, and bag limits for Colorado County apply (See the current TPW Outdoor Annual booklet).

Muzzleloader Season – January 8 – 21, 2018

All deer taken must be checked in with an ORWMA Deer Checker or the TPWD Wildlife Biologist. All Deer must be field dressed prior to checking in.



PREDATOR CONTROL SIG (“SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP”)

How many of you have walked out in the morning or driven in for the weekend to find this? This is fresh hog damage done to my yard [hog damage picture to the right]. Many of you are aware that ORWMA has a Predator Control SIG that is chaired by Mr. Douglas Mason, our local hog dog guy. What you may not know is he is a committee of one. With the increased number of permanent residents and weekend cabins here in Oakridge, the encounters with feral hogs have increased. This year alone Mr. Mason has captured 476 hogs (30+ at my place). Mr. Mason has received numerous requests to place a hog trap on landowners' property. The problem is ORWMA only owns 2 traps and they are both in constant use and he doesn't maintain a collection of personal traps. ORWMA has proposed fund raising to buy or build a couple more traps but that will still fall way short of demand. We would like to encourage landowners to purchase or build their own traps and ORWMA will assist in suggestions for purchasing or building a trap and where to place it, setting the trap, keeping it baited, and checking it regularly. PLEASE, NEVER SET A TRAP AND LEAVE IT UNATTENDED.



Hogs don't just do damage to the land. They are truly predators along with coyotes, bobcats, foxes, and racoons.



These predators not only threaten other wildlife like deer fawns or turkeys (nests and poults) but domestic livestock like calves, lambs, goats, chickens, ducks and even our pets such as cats or small dogs. We recognize that the predator/prey relationship is the natural way of things and after all, that's why most of us left the city, to escape to nature; however, we do have to maintain a balance. All of these predators along with skunks, bats, and opossums can be carriers of rabies and Colorado County is a high potential rabies area. Part of our wildlife management plan we submitted to Texas Parks and Wildlife includes predator control. We would like to capture as much data as possible on predator issues. If you have found it necessary to dispatch any coyotes, bobcats, or racoons, please send me an email (jackwjetton@gmail.com) and let me know. ORWMA will try to help landowners that may have a nuisance predator problem. If you need assistance or just some friendly advice on how to handle the problem, contact Mr. Douglas Mason or myself, Jack Jetton. [Pictures provided by Jack Jetton]

ORWMA has put 2 hog traps at the community center and we are still shopping for the best deal on buying some new ones.



TURKEY SIG (“SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP”)

Last year we conducted an impromptu turkey observation by asking property owners to report sightings of wild turkeys on the ranch. The request was approximate number of turkeys sighted and the general location of the sighting. Those results were 226 birds sighted at various locations around the ranch. The largest groups of turkeys were spotted in the vicinities of East Branding Iron and on Big Buck.

This year I'd like to do the same thing again. If you would, from January 1, 2018 thru March 31st, please report sightings, the general location of the sighting and the approximate number of birds. You can email this info to me or call me. If I don't answer my phone, please leave a message and please leave your name as well. In addition, we would like to have a harvest count also. [Harvest is April 1-30, 2018 only.] All of this data will be reported to our county wildlife biologist as well as the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf).

Sometime this year I'm going to get the President of this region's NWTf to come out here and give a talk about the overall general condition & population of wild turkeys in this region of Texas. I'm sure he is full of knowledge and will be anxious to answer any questions that we will have about habitat, nesting, harvest, etc. and what we can do, as land managers to assist the turkey population in Oakridge.

Many thanks to R.C. Lumpkin for heading up the Turkey SIG for last year, he did a very good job and had some great ideas.

David Mitchem - Chairman, Turkey SIG
barbaradavid1989@gmail.com
[979-484-9240](tel:979-484-9240)



Pictures taken by Brenda LaVergne