

CBPBA Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association

May 2010 Newsletter

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You may submit items for inclusion in future newsletters by emailing them to ljones@hrbizmall.com

CBPBA WEBSITE NOW ON LINE:

<http://www.prescribedburn.org>

BURN EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

CBPBA has a fully equipped burn trailer available for rent at a very nominal fee. The Nature Conservancy also rents burn equipment. Visit our website or go directly to the Rental page here: http://www.prescribedburn.org/prescribed_burning_resources/rent_burn_equipment.html

2010 ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

Our Annual Meeting was held in February. We elected new Board Members and enjoyed a presentation by Tim Reinke, NRCS. Attendees received a free CBPBA logo cap, complements of the association. The new 2010 Board of Directors is listed in the sidebar, for pictures and more information visit our website (see the drop down menu under "About CBPBA"). Please contact any of them with questions or comments concerning CBPBA or prescribed burning.

The new Board met immediately following the general meeting and elected officers for 2010. Stan Reinke is now President, Jim McKibben VP, James Cravens Treasurer, and Larry Jones Secretary.

SUMMER BURN SCHOOL PLANNED

We are planning a two day summer burn school and demo burn. Day one will be classroom training with a burn on day two if conditions are favorable. The school will be held in late July or early to mid August depending on conditions at the time. We are looking for a demo burn site of 200 plus acres. If you have such a property and are interested in hosting the burn contact one of the officers.

A notice will be mailed when details are finalized and it will be in our website. CEU credits will be available for Pesticide Applicators and Certified Prescribed Burn Managers.

CBPBA GATE SIGNS ON ORDER – AVAILABLE SOON

We will be providing full color, heavy duty aluminum, 18" x 24" gate signs to paid members and to CBPBA sponsors. The first sign will be free to members, and additional signs will be available for a \$30 donation to cover our cost.



The signs are on order and should be available in early June. They will be available at CBPBA burn schools and meetings, at TNC offices in Victoria and Corpus Christi, and from Larry Jones in Beeville (362-362-0430).

CBPBA OFFICERS

President

Stan Reinke
361-570-0228
Victoria

Vice President

Jim McKibben
361-882-6611
Nueces

Secretary & Webmaster

Larry Jones
361-362-0430
Bee

Treasurer

Chico Cravens
361-526-1552
Refugio

CBPBA DIRECTORS

Terry Blankenship
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Victoria

Tom Keller
361-375-2924
Bee

Scott Mitchell
361-649-3821
Calhoun

Charles Tatton
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361-526-4007
Refugio

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (GFO) COMMITTEE FORMED

We have formed a Board of Directors sub-committee to explore grant and funding opportunities available to CBPBA. Director Gary Homerstad is the chair.

CBPBA is supported by various organizations and individuals dedicated to improving wildlife habitat in Texas. Getting fire on the ground is one of their tools. The Coastal Bend Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Foundation (NWTFF) funded our \$12,000 Burn Trailer, Lucky J Ranch added \$3,000 for additional equipment, and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Fire Learning Network (FLN) provide significant funding annually. TOWMA, the Texas Organization Of Wildlife Management Associations, pays trailer insurance. Without the support of these organizations CBPBA would not be able to function effectively.

The GFO committee will pursue additional funding that will allow us to expand operations. One opportunity is with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. They fund some prescribed burn cost share programs in conjunction with Texas AgriLife. We are working to determine if the program fits our mission and capabilities.

Since CBPBA is a completely volunteer organization, and our volunteers all have jobs and other commitments, time is at a premium. Conducting burns, schools, and running the organization require members to take time away from other interests and families. Additional funding and administrative support will allow us to better meet *our* goal of getting more fire on the ground in South Texas.

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM PROPOSED

We are developing a program we hope will be of interest to VFDs in our twelve county area. We plan to provide \$500 scholarships to VFD personnel to attend a Texas Certified Prescribed Burn Manager School. The five day school will be held at the Welder Wildlife Foundation near Sinton.

Many VFDs across the country assist landowners with prescribed burns. They help prepare burn plans, inspect burn site preparations, gain exceptions to burn bans, provide standby fire equipment at burns, and in some cases conduct burns. VFDs usually charge moderate fees for their services, providing a welcome source of additional funds to their department, and low costs to landowners. Helping burn provides training opportunities for firefighters and false alarm callouts are minimized.

Fire fighters are taught to put fires out. The certified burn manager program compliments this knowledge by teaching how to plan, prepare for, and conduct safe large scale burns. Enhanced weather knowledge and its effects on fire is but one of the benefits to be gained.

CBPBA will fund two, \$500 scholarships, and TNC/FLN has agreed to fund two. Area Wildlife Management Associations may be willing to fund one or more as well. CBPBA members and the public can attend by paying for the course themselves. The \$500 fee includes materials, daily lunch, and drinks. Lodging is not included, but the Sinton location should be convenient and allow most participants to return home at night.

More information will follow as the program develops, but we hope to conduct the school yet this year. If it is successful we will continue the program in future years. Contact Larry Jones at 361-362-0430 if you need more information or to apply.

SUMMER FIRE...TO BURN OR NOT TO BURN

By Stan Reinke, President, CBPBA

Those of us who live on the Gulf Coast recognize that there are often times when we cannot burn due to excessive green vegetation in the fuel bed. This excess green vegetation may be present during the summer or during the dormant season (January-March). Excessive green fuels often occur during the winter

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713-817-3601
Aransas

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD

Clifford Carter
361-576-9296
Victoria Co.

CBPBA LOGO CAPS NOW AVAILABLE – call for info

HOW TO JOIN CBPBA

Join CBPBA now by sending your check for \$25 (annual dues) along with the completed application on the mailing label page of this newsletter to the address shown.

The following organizations support CBPBA:



when the preceding fall has been wet and an abundance of cool season annuals are present. Because of cooler temperatures and typically higher humidity levels, it is often impossible to burn pastures with heavy loads of green fuel during the cooler parts of the year.

Often times summer conditions (hot and dry), especially in late July and August, lend themselves to warm season burns because of the absence or greatly reduced amount of green fuel. If we are going to employ summer burning as a tool we will be experiencing fire line conditions of extreme high temperatures and moderate to low relative humidity levels. Burning under these conditions requires careful planning and additional precautions as compared to "cool season burns".

If we are going to burn when air temperatures are greater than 90 degrees and relative humidity levels are 50% or less, a much more experienced crew should be present. The potential for spot fires is significantly greater under these conditions and the opportunity for fire escapes is much more prevalent. In addition to a more experienced crew, more crew members will be needed to conduct the burn. Heat related stresses on crews during summer burning is significantly greater requiring that crew members change jobs frequently during the burn and also be pulled off the fire line to allow some rest and replenishment of body fluid levels. It is essential that crew members frequently drink plenty of water and "sport" drinks to replenish water and electrolyte levels. Ice water chilled bandanas or towels should be present on site to assist crew members in cooling down as they are rotated off the fire line.

Another consideration for summer burning is additional fire suppression equipment. At least two and more realistically three high volume pumpers should be available if needed for escapes. Additional ATV's with 15-20 gallon sprayers may prove helpful as well.

Summer burning should be considered when 1) cool season vegetation would prevent late winter burns, when 2) excessive woody vegetation reduces the fine fuel load or when 3) the primary goal is to suppress woody vegetation. Summer fires will do a better job of top-killing woody plants than will late winter fires in most instances.

Things to consider when contemplating summer burns include:

1. Plan well ahead because large and more experienced crews will be necessary to safely conduct the burn.
2. Additional suppression equipment will be needed.
3. It may take your pasture longer to recover following a summer burn than it will for a late winter burn.
4. Expect better woody plant suppression with a summer fire but not more woody plant mortality.
5. If woody cover for wildlife is a major consideration, expect significantly less cover on the burned pasture for 8-12 months.

Summer fire is a tool that we can safely employ on the Gulf Coast of Texas as long as necessary precautions are taken. If you decide that a summer burn will help meet the goals and objectives on your pasture begin planning now. If additional help is needed, contact one of the CBPBA directors and we will assist with planning, equipment and support personnel.

IN CLOSING

Remember Dr. Butch Taylor's slogan (Texas AgriLife Research Station - Sonora)
"Happiness is smoke on the horizon!"

Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association
P. O. Box 447
Beeville, TX 78104



Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association

New Member Application

Please print carefully so we can read your information

Land owner's name: _____ Ranch name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone number: _____ EMAIL Address: _____

My property is located in _____ County(s)

ANNUAL DUES (per calendar year or part thereof) are \$25.

Make checks payable to CBPBA and mail to P. O. Box 447, Beeville, Texas, 78104

For more information call 361-362-0430 or visit our website at <http://www.prescribedburn.org>