

CBPBA Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association

January 2010 Newsletter

WINTER PRESCRIBED BURN WORKSHOP & DEMO BURN

AGENDA

February 10, 2010
Friar Ag Center, Cuero, Texas
(501 Airport Rd, Cuero, TX 77954)

8:00-8:30 REGISTRATION

8:30-10:00

Fire Weather and Smoke Management

Jason Runyon, US Weather Service

Laws and Regulations for Burning

Lynn Drawe, Chairman, Texas Prescribed Burn Board

Prescribed Burning for Wildlife

Clifford Carter, Ranch Consultant

10:00-10:15 BREAK

10:15-12:00

Preparing a CBPBA Burn Plan

Greg Pleasant, Texas Parks & Wildlife

Safety and Smoke Management

John DeLeon, The Nature Conservancy

CBPBA Website – Scheduling Your Burns and Getting Burn Assistance

Larry Jones, CBPBA Secretary & Webmaster

12:00-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-5:00 WORKSHOP & FIELD BURN

A Prescribed burn on the Mike Reamy Ranch, DeWitt County

CEU Credits: 5 credits available for Certified Prescribed Burn Managers

5 credits available for Pesticide Applicator License Holders

Cost: \$15, includes lunch and materials

FMI: Larry @ 361-362-0430

<http://www.prescribedburn.org>

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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>

2010 ANNUAL MEETING, DINNER AND ELECTION NOTICE

Mark your calendar now for Tuesday, February 23, 7:00PM. We will meet in the Club room of the Refugio City Hall, Refugio Texas. (609 Commerce Street)

We will elect new Board Members and hear Tim Reinke, NRCS, discuss prescribed fire related to stocking rates and wildlife management. Cost is \$6 per person and reservations are requested so we can determine the number of

meals to reserve. Contact Larry at 361-362-0430 or ljones@prescribedburn.org. Board Member nominations will be accepted from the floor, or if you are interested in running for a position on the Board let Larry know.

Current Nominations For 2010 CBPBA Board Member Positions

Three Year positions:

1. Kirk Feuerbacher – Biologist, McFaddin Enterprises
2. Larry Jones – Rancher & owner Hunting & Recreation Business Mall
3. Gary Homerstad – Independent Wildlife Biologist/retired TPWD
4. Scott Mitchell – Wildlife Biologist, Private Ranch/ex-TPWD

Two Year positions

5. Chico Cravens - Rancher
6. Tom Keller - Rancher
7. Stan Reinke – Rancher, Ranch Consultant, retired NRCS
8. Open/Undetermined – Need nominations

One Year Positions

9. Lynn Drawe – President, State of Texas Prescribed Burn Board
10. James McKibben – Attorney and Landowner/Rancher
11. Open/Undetermined – Need nominations

PRESCRIBED BURN PLANNING FORMS NOW AVAILABLE ON LINE

You can download the CBPBA Prescribed Burn Plan forms here:

http://www.prescribedburn.org/documents/cbpba_burn_plan.pdf

BURN EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

CBPBA has a fully equipped burn trailer available for rent at a very nominal fee.

Virtually all the equipment needed to conduct a safe burn is included except for ATVs and other vehicles. 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

ABOUT US

The CBPBA is a cooperative of landowners and interested parties in 12 Coastal Bend Counties, including Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Karnes, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, and Victoria. Additional counties may be added in the future. Members share manpower and resources to help each other burn on their properties. The Association has a burn trailer available for rent at a very nominal fee that includes most of the equipment needed to conduct safe burns, including radios, drip torches, and fire suppression equipment.

WHY BURN?

Prescribed burning is one of the most effective and economical methods of brush management and wildlife habitat enhancement available to landowners. Many plants in Texas are highly burn adapted and respond very positively to burning. Burning was nature's way of maintaining a healthy and dynamic environment until man decided fire was bad. Reduced wild fires have produced uncontrolled brush expansion, degraded wildlife and livestock habitat, and reduced the quantity of useful forage available to wildlife and domestic animals.

Prescribed burning is a safe and economical habitat management tool when applied by knowledgeable people. CBPBA provides prescribed burn training opportunities and encourages the safe use of fire in the Texas Coastal Bend.

If you are interested in increasing the carrying capacity of your range land, or in improving your habitat for enhanced game management, you need to consider initiating a prescribed burn program on your property. It is the least expensive management tool available and can be very effective.

CBPBA LAUNCHES WEB SITE – WWW.PREScribedBURN.ORG

CBPBA OFFICERS

President
Kirk Feuerbacher
361-220-2520
Victoria Co.

Vice President
Jim McKibben
361-882-6611
Nueces Co.

Secretary & Webmaster
Larry Jones
361-362-0430
Bee Co.

Treasurer
Chico Cravens
361-526-1552
Refugio Co.

CBPBA DIRECTORS

Lynn Drawe
361-364-2643
San Patricio Co.

Tom Keller
361-375-2924
Bee Co.

Gary Homerstad
361-575-8007
Victoria Co.

Stan Reinke
361-570-0228
Victoria Co.

Ryan Vice
713-817-3601
Aransas County

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD

Clifford Carter
361-576-9296
Victoria Co.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, SITE MAP, JOIN CBPBA, and CONTACT US. Below this is a large banner image of a prescribed burn with the text "Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association" overlaid. A vertical sidebar on the left contains a menu with items like "Homepage", "Why Burn?", "What We Do & Why", "Prescribed Burning Resources", "Burn Scheduling Calendar", "Equipment Calendar", "Educational Information", "Photo Gallery", "About CBPBA", "Articles and Fire Information", and "Links". The main content area features a "Welcome to the Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association" message, a map of the 12 member counties (Harris, De Witt, Victoria, Jackson, Galveston, Brazoria, Bolivar, Nueces, Refugio, Calhoun, Live Oak, Bee, and San Patricio), and several "NOTICES" including a "CBPBA Burn Workshop & Demo Burn - February 10, 2010", "CBPBA 2010 Annual Meeting, Dinner & Election - Tuesday, February 23, 2010", "Bee County Wildlife Management Association 2010 ANNUAL Meeting Notice HERE", "QDMA Deer Stewardship 1 Course, Kingsville, Texas, February 27-28, 2010", "Welder Wildlife Foundation December 2009 Newsletter", and "Report on the Prescribed Burning of 1,798 over 9 days in 100 year drought conditions in South Texas". Logos for NOAA and The Nature Conservancy are also visible.

Visit our new web site at <http://www.prescribedburn.org>. You will find a number of features that may be useful, including:

- A link to a detailed FIRE WEATHER FORECAST for YOUR property
- Access to a downloadable CBPBA BURN PLAN FORM and sample plan
- CONTACT INFORMATION for state and local officials for pre-burn alerts
- Detailed information about the RENTAL BURN EQUIPMENT available
- A CALENDAR of pending area burns (you can add yours!)
- A CALENDAR showing burn trailer "available" and "reserved" dates
- A NOTICES section with timely notices of meetings and items of interest
- PHOTO GALLERY of area burns – you can upload your own photos
- NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE of past and current newsletters
- Lots of information about BURNING
- And MORE

Please check it out and let us know what you think about our website. You can email ljones@prescribedburn.org or send snail mail to CBPBA, P. O. Box 447, Beeville, TX 78104 to submit comments and items for inclusion

GRANT FROM TNC & FIRE LEARNING NETWORK FUNDS NEW WEBSITE

CBPBA extends its sincerest thanks and appreciation to Ray Guse with The Nature Conservancy and the US Fire Learning Network for the grant that made the CBPBA website possible.

In addition to the TNC and FLN grant, we also very appreciative of those members and ranches that contributed to the web site fund. Thank you!

ABOUT THE U.S. FIRE LEARNING NETWORK

The USFLN is a joint project of The Nature Conservancy's Global Fire Initiative, the USDA Forest Service and the US Department of the Interior.

In the United States and many other parts of the world, fires are behaving differently now than they have throughout history, largely as a result of human actions. An estimated 80% of U.S. forests and rangelands have altered fire dynamics. The U.S. Fire Learning Network (USFLN) is engaging dozens of multi-agency, community-based projects in a process that accelerates the restoration of landscapes that depend on fire to sustain native plants and animals. By restoring this balance, the ecological, economic and social values of the landscapes can be maintained, and the threat of catastrophic wildfire can be reduced.

Goal

By fostering innovation and transferring lessons learned to other landscape projects, scientists and decision makers, the U.S. Fire Learning Network will accelerate the implementation of ecologically based and culturally acceptable fuels reduction and fire regime restoration strategies at ecologically meaningful scales and in high-priority habitats and landscapes.

Overview

Network projects cover more than 76 million acres. Operating at local, regional and national levels, the U.S. Fire Learning Network seeks to overcome barriers to implementing ecologically appropriate fuels reduction and restoration projects using a four step process (details here:

<http://www.tncfire.org/documents/USFLN4-StepProcess.pdf>)

The Network presently comprises eight regional networks:

- Appalachian
- California Klamath-Siskiyou
- Centennial
- Florida-Caribbean Fire & Invasives
- Great Plains (*The Refugio-Goliad Prairie is a Demonstration Landscape*)
- Northwest
- South Central
- Southern Blue Ridge

There are also several demonstration landscapes, most of which are embedded within regional networks where they are demonstrating best practices for collaboration and restoration, and actively sharing what they are learning.

Links to their newsletter, the *FLN Dispatch*, the *USFLN Field Guide* and some additional USFLN documents can be found on the publications page of their website here: http://www.tncfire.org/training_usfln_networkpubs.htm.

Information about recent and upcoming workshops can be found on many of the individual USFLN pages. Documents and products from earlier workshops can be found in the workshop archive here:

http://www.tncfire.org/training_usfln_wrkshps.htm.

NEED HELP BURNING?

One CBPBA purpose is to provide reciprocal labor among members. One way for you to get help with your burns is to participate in the burns of other members so they will want to reciprocate. You should also attend CBPBA burn schools



and meetings and “meet and greet” other participants and offer your services.

In order to help with a burn you obviously have to know about it far enough in advance to plan for it. Communicating this information has been a major problem for us in the past. Consequently, we have included a “Burn Pending” communication tool in the new website.

The Burn Scheduling Calendar is located in the website at this URL: http://www.prescribedburn.org/burn_scheduling_calendar/. You can check it for scheduled burns during the winter and summer burn seasons, and you can have your own burns posted. The following explanation on how to use the Calendar is posted with the calendar and is also included here:

“This calendar provides a place to list or find information about planned prescribed burns in the Texas Coastal Bend. To have your burn posted email the information (your name, ranch name, burn location, date & time of burn, your contact phone number, and a request for assistance if you want help) to webmaster@prescribedburn.org. Allow at least 2 to 3 days for us to post it to the calendar, but remember that the earlier the information is listed the more likely it is to be seen.”

Obviously, the success of this tool is dependent on it being used by our members. We hope YOU make use of it.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY REPORT, WINTER 2010

The Nature Conservancy’s Prescribed Fire Module in Victoria is expecting a very productive winter burn season. Thanks to Clifford Carter we have nearly 13,000 priority acres to burn. One burn unit spans 3,600 acres of good condition prairie. This block is close to the Attwater prairie chicken release site and is often frequented by chicken’s wearing radio-telemetry transmitters. It’s great to be able to burn existing prairie that has not seen fire in some time so we don’t lose it to brush. There are approximately 40 radio-marked prairie chickens surviving on the Refugio-Goliad, and several of those are from the original release in 2007.

We just completed a burn plan for a 500 acre unit south of Seadrift in critical whooping crane habitat, and have nearly completed all the administrative requirements to light the fire. Due to the prolonged drought the whooper’s left their wintering grounds on the Gulf Coast in 2009 in poor condition. They are now back in the Gulf Coast from their Canadian nesting grounds but are still not in good condition. Opening up foraging habitat for the birds is a high priority for The Nature Conservancy and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Weather permitting, we will implement the burn the week of January 18th and it would be a great one to view from a boat. It is on a spoil island directly across the ICWW from Charlie’s Bait Camp. Give Ray Guse a call for information or watch the CBPBA Burn Calendar.

Once again, in mid-February, The Nature Conservancy will host a Prescribed Fire Training Exchange. We will have 20 fire practitioners from around the country working on their qualifications for Burn Boss, Firing Boss, Engine Boss, Advanced Fire Fighter and Fire Effects Monitor. These exchanges have proven to be very valuable for a number of reasons. They give us additional people to implement larger and more challenging burns, and we are able to provide lessons on the local ecological and economic benefits of prescribed fire. The visiting trainees leave the Gulf Coast with a new appreciation for the importance of private lands burning, interact and share knowledge with other fire professionals around the country, and build a broader understanding of the role of fire throughout the United States.

We hope that everyone is able to get their fire guards installed for the winter season because it looks like there is more rain coming and good fire guards may



be the limiting factor in what we believe will be a great season. Remember that there are two caches of equipment available for landowners to check out at The Nature Conservancy's office in Victoria for a very nominal fee. Call Ray to get more information.

Ray Guse, Prescribed Fire Specialist
The Nature Conservancy in Texas
361-572-8711 office
361-220-1200 cell

CBPBA GUIDELINES

Dues - \$25.00 per year. Income will purchase, repair, and maintain equipment and support activities such as meetings, newsletters and correspondence.

Fire Training Education - The Association shall conduct or sponsor one burn school each year. Members should attend a burn school to learn the basics of prescribed fire and receive training on how to operate equipment.

Fire Plans - Prescribed fires will have burn plans prepared by the rancher and reviewed by either the local NRCS office or the CBPBA prior to the burn.

Personnel - A critical number of trained personnel will be determined for each burn. The number will depend on the size and complexity of the prescribed burn as described in the prescribed burn plan.

Liability - Each rancher will be liable for fires on their property. Proof of insurance is required before CBPBA will assist in a burn and such proof should be submitted with the rancher's burn plan.

Fire Lines - Each landowner is responsible for preparing their own fire lines. Fire lines are subject to inspection before the initiation of the prescribed fire and should meet specifications outlined in the burn plan.

Equipment - Use of CBPBA equipment shall be available to all association members at the rate of \$50 for 24 hours or \$75 for 36 hours. A check out/check in form will be completed for each use to document the condition of the equipment and to determine the rate charged. Members are responsible for any damage to the trailer and equipment. Proof of liability insurance on the towing vehicle is required to check out equipment. The Trailer will be available for use by qualified persons who are not members on the CBPBA.

Fire Boss - Each rancher will be the fire boss on their own property unless other arrangements are made.

Participation - Members are encouraged to help on as many burns as possible. Participation provides members with fire-line experience, helps them become acquainted with other members with the same goals and objectives, and builds an experienced team. Participation is recorded for each burn. Ranchers must assist in at least two burns for other members before CBPBA will assist them on their land. Exceptions are made for members not physically able to actively participate on burns. Participation sheets will be available at all burns and completed forms kept on file with CBPBA.

HOW TO JOIN CBPBA

Join CBPBA by sending your check for \$25 (annual dues) along with the completed application on the mailing label page of this newsletter to CBPBA, P. O. Box 447, Beeville, TX 78104.

2010 CBPBA Membership Dues Renewal Notice

2010 dues were due January 1, 2010.

If you have not renewed yet please send your check for \$25, made out to CBPBA, to:

CBPBA
P. O. Box 447
Beeville, TX 78104

Please include this page with the information below to update your member records and assure proper crediting of your check. Please print carefully as we often have trouble reading people's handwriting (big surprise, right?)

Contact Name: _____

Ranch Name: _____

Address, street: _____

Address, City & State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email address: _____

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: _____ FAX number: _____

EMAIL Address: _____

My property is located in _____ County(s)

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

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

For more information call 361-362-0430