

Study Club Auction Slated September 16

By Betty Wilcox
For the 27th year the Eagle Lake Study Club will host an auction for Wintermann Library support on September 16.

The funds raised each year are the major support for the library budget.

There is a donation received from Colorado County and the Eagle Lake City budget each year but this is only a portion needed for the library budget.

Again this year the bakery booth will open at 5 p.m. with goodies of every description.

Come check out all the good cooks' contributions.

Jack and Judi Johnson are once again donating four tickets for the 2007 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. These are special seats for a great show.

A popular item for the ladies; Joan Matthews is offering a Bridge Luncheon for 12.

This will be a wonderful gift for your special lady.

All donations of auction items, bakery goods, or help setting up the auction are greatly appreciated.

If you have something you want to give, leave it at the library before the auction date Sept. 16.

If you need a pick up call Betty Wilcox at 234-3554 and she will set up a convenient time.

Come early and enjoy a great fried fish dinner with all the trimmings served by Austin's BBQ and the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Support two good organizations, the library and the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce. Tickets are available for \$7 each.

Plan on a fun evening and benefit your library.

The library is here for your use. Support the Wintermann Library.



On Friday, August 4, Eclipse Tae Kwon Do of Eagle Lake held a belt promotion test. Everyone performed their best and received their new belts. Pictured from left to right front row are Matthew Segura, Johnny Segura, Andy Segura, Michael Riehl; middle row, Brandon Sosa, Roberto Alonso, KJ Colson, Megan Hosman; back row: Master Gus Pennison, Pinky Krause, Philip Ferguson, Brian Norton, Jacob Hosman and Master Clay Hosman. Congratulations on your new belts!

Cornyn Hails Federal Cost Share For Rita

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) hailed an official notification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that it has modified the Presidential Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Rita in Texas to increase the federal cost share for Public Assistance reimbursements from 75% to 90%.

This increase will be retroactive to the date of the President's September 24, 2005, major disaster declaration.

Sen. Cornyn, who fought to include this funding increase in the Emergency Supplemental Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery which was passed by Congress earlier this year, said, "Increasing the federal cost share has been a top priority for me and it's appropriate that more federal dollars will be coming to Texas.

Many citizens and communities in Texas were still selflessly devoting resources to Katrina

victims when they themselves became victims of Hurricane Rita so they deserve the same support and resources from the federal government that were given to our neighbors in Louisiana.

Coming on the same day as HUD's announcement that an additional \$428 million in CDBG funding will also be coming to our state, this is a very good day for Texas and its citizens."

Sen. Cornyn joined HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson, U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady, Judge Robert Eckels, Mayor Bill White, Chester

Jourdan—Executive Director of the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission, and Walter Diggles—Executive Director of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments, in Houston to announce \$428,671,849 in additional funding for hurricane recovery efforts in Texas through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

The assistance, which comes through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), was approved by Congress earlier this year but previously unallocated.

Following Hurricane Rita, Sen. Cornyn traveled to several Texas cities affected, including three trips to Beaumont where he met with local officials and offered continued assistance.

Cornyn also met with local leaders at the Houston TranStar Center and visited the Tyler/Smith County Emergency Operations Center at ETMC-EMS.

In addition, Sen. Cornyn was at the State Operations Center in Austin to receive briefings and updates from the top state leaders coordinating the various relief efforts.



Eagle Lake Postmaster Robert McClelland, right, presents Melvin Schmitt with a 25-Year Service Award.

USDA Proposes Addition Of Brown Rice To Food Packages

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service announced proposed changes to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food packages that for the first time would add brown rice to the packages as an allowable substitute for whole grain bread.

deal of effort, and the proposed changes represent a significant step in the right direction," said Charles Trahan, USA Rice Federation Domestic Promotion Committee chairman. "USA Rice has worked hard for the last two years to secure the inclusion of brown rice in the revised packages," Trahan said.

The change, when adopted, will effectively open a new market for rice. The Federal Register notice of proposed changes to WIC reflects recommendations made by the National Academies of Sciences' Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Under the proposal, the food packages would be revised to add new foods such as fruits, vegetables and whole grains, while amounts of some current foods would be modified.

"While we are pleased with this proposal, USA Rice in its formal comments will ask for brown rice to be a primary rather than substitute whole grain," Trahan said. USA Rice commissioned research to demonstrate the specific nutritional benefits of brown rice to the WIC population, and additional research through Tufts University to show the nutritional superiority and cost-effectiveness of brown rice over other whole grains.

WIC provides nutritious supplemental foods to pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants and children up to age five.

The program also provides nutrition education and referrals to health and social services.

About 8 million participants receive WIC benefits each month.

Federal food costs for the program were \$3.6 billion in fiscal year 2005.

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Dove Season Just Around The Corner

Come August, dove hunters become creatures of habit; intently aware of silhouettes on power lines and pastures with bright yellow sunflowers. They track the bird's swift, erratic flight with imaginary shotguns.

Pre-Game Warm-up Exercises

This year, hunters have had a fairly light preseason workout and can anticipate an average dove season, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department dove program leader Jay Roberson.

This year's dove call count index, which measures dove breeding population changes, shows a decline statewide from last year's surveys.

Roberson cites continued

dry conditions throughout the core dove range in Texas for the second consecutive year as the main reason for the drop in doves calling during the surveys, with the southern region of the state seeming to have been hit the hardest.

Biologists have been conducting roadside call counts each spring since 1966, driving along the same 133 transect routes and stopping routinely to listen for the bird's distinctive call, and this year's estimates are 18 percent below the long term average.

Roberson said drought isn't completely to blame for decreased mourning dove populations.

"It's something that seems to have been going on for a long time at a rate of just under one percent a year and a lot of biologists believe it's habitat loss," Roberson said.

"This said, doves are still an extremely abundant species and numerous flights of 12 to 40 doves have been seen around Austin late in the afternoon, going to and from feeding areas. Also, whitewings are increasing in numbers across the state."

"Whitewings are not impacted as much as mourning dove because of their adaptation to urban areas," Roberson said.

"They rely more on supplemental food sources from backyard feeders and although the fields adjacent to urban areas will be just as dry as those in rural areas, whitewings should continue to provide good hunting opportunities this year."

In 2005, the whitewing population in Texas was estimated to be 2.8 million.

Dove season in the North Zone is set for Sept. 1-Oct. 30, with a 15-bird bag and not more than two white-tipped doves; the Central Zone runs Sept. 1-Oct. 30 and reopens Dec. 26-Jan. 4, with a 12-bird bag and not more than two white-tipped doves; and the South Zone is set for Sept. 22-Nov. 12, reopening Dec. 26-Jan. 12 with a 12 bird bag but not more than two white-tipped doves. Possession limit is twice the daily bag.

The Special South Texas Whitewing Zone, which now encompasses land west of I-35 and

south of U.S. Highway 90, is open to white-winged dove afternoon-only (noon to sunset) hunting the first two Saturdays and Sundays in September.

The daily bag limit is 12 birds, not more than four mourning doves and two white-tipped doves.

If current range conditions persist, say biologists, hunters should expect to find doves concentrating near watering holes and preferred food sources such as annual weeds and agricultural seed crops

"If the drought intensifies and birds are concentrated around water, some hunters may not perceive a drop in dove densities," noted Roberson.

"I would recommend hunters scout for birds using sunflower fields near permanent open water."

However, some areas have large amounts of failed grain crops standing in the fields.

When landowners till these crops into the soil will help determine dove distribution and concentration.

Most dove hunters know that dry conditions can produce some of the best hunting situations for those who do their scouting.

The reduction in mourning doves could be offset in some areas by the expansion of the Eurasian collared dove, an exotic non-game species that resembles a whitewing except for a distinctive black marking on its neck.

There is no bag limit or season restriction on collared dove, but Roberson recommends hunters retain a wing for identification purposes.

"Collared dove have expanded faster in 10 years than whitewings did in 25," Roberson noted.

"A lot of hunters enjoy hunting them; they are a larger bird and good to eat. I equate them to rock pigeons; a good way for a kid to learn to shoot in the off season, but you have to be careful because they do co exist with mourning dove and Inca dove."

Hunters are also reminded to be on the lookout for banded birds.

As part of a research effort to

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