

Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival April 12, 13

Personnel at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service volunteers will be conducting special guided tours of the refuge during the fourteenth annual Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival, April 12 and 13.

The celebration was conceived in 1995 through cooperative efforts from the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, Houston Audubon Society, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in an effort to enhance the awareness of this imperiled bird.

The entrance to the refuge is on FM 3013, about 6.5 miles northeast of Eagle Lake. The first

lek tour leaves promptly at 7 a.m. with tours leaving after that time as vans fill up.

Additional guided tours begin at 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. on both Saturday (April 12) and Sunday (April 13).

The early morning tours have a chance of possibly seeing Attwater's prairie chickens on the "booming" grounds, but there is no guarantee.

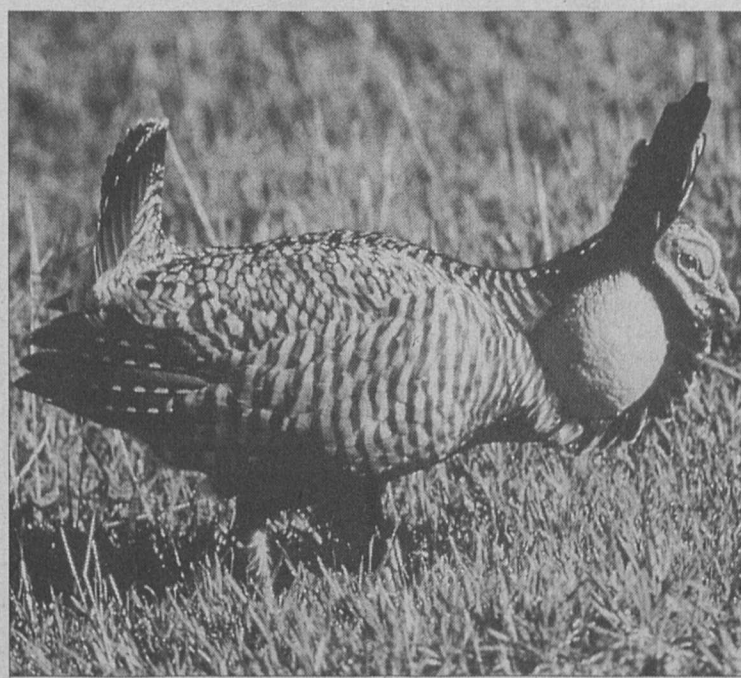
All tours will take visitors into an area that is normally closed to the public and will touch on such topics as refuge management techniques, prairie chicken recovery efforts, and coastal prairie ecosystem issues.

Tours are expected to last less

than 2 hours, and will begin at the refuge Visitor Center.

The refuge is hosting additional events as well. Birdwatchers, whether experienced or beginners, can enjoy a walking tour from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. each day.

Following the walk, hop on a van and tour the refuge's Teal Marsh and Pintail Marsh from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. each day. These guided tours will be led by experienced birders Doris Laughlin and Jane Meldahl.



Pictured above is an Attwater's Prairie Chicken.

Blinn To Host Concert Featuring Candelaria

Dr. Leonard A. Candelaria, who has performed in concerts and recitals around the world, will present a recital March 17 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Brenham, sponsored by the Blinn College Division of Fine Arts and the Blinn College Foundation.

Candelaria, who is an associate professor of trumpet and artist in residence at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, will be assisted by Blinn music faculty members Dr. Craig Garrett, trumpet, and John Dujka, piano, and by Linda Patterson, the music director and organist for St. Peter's.

The concert is free and open to the public. The church is located at Airline Drive and Hillcrest Drive.

The concert will feature major classical trumpet works from the baroque through the 20th century, including such sacred music as Johann Sebastian Bach's "My Spirit Be Joyful" and Jackson Berkey's "Homage to Thomas Campion" and such contemporary works as Joseph Turrin's "Caprice."

Also on the program are Giuseppe Tartini's Concerto in D, Antonio Vivaldi's Concerto in C for Two Trumpets, George Gershwin's "Someone to Watch Over Me" and Rafael Mendez's "La Virgen de la Macarena."

Prior to joining the UAB music faculty, Candelaria spent 28 years as a faculty member of the College of Music at the University of North Texas where he earned the title of Regents Professor of Music and was the recipient of the Shelton Excellence in Teaching Award.

In 1993 he was elected president of the 6,000-member International Trumpet Guild and in 2003 he was awarded the ITG Award of Merit by the officers and board of directors.

Candelaria has performed in the United Kingdom, Russia, Norway, the Republic of the Ukraine, Spain, and throughout the United



States.

Most recently, he has presented recitals and master classes at the University of Costa Rica and served as a featured artist for the inaugural conference of the Chinese Trumpet Guild at the Central Music Conservatory in Beijing. He also presented concerts and master classes at the music conservatories in Weihai and Tianjin, China.

More than 50 of Candelaria's former students — include Garrett who is the director of jazz studies at Blinn — have held trumpet teaching appointments in universities and conservatories in the USA and abroad.

His students have performed with the Dallas Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Baltimore Symphony and New

Mexico Symphony, among others, as well in the big bands of Buddy Rich, Stan Kenton, Maria Schneider, Maynard Ferguson, DIVA, the Airmen of Note, the U.S. Army Blues and the U.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors.

Candelaria appears in concerts and master classes as a performing artist for the Edwards Instrument Co., a division of the Getzen Company.

TPWD Discusses Wild Turkey Diets, Habitat

Today wild turkeys can be found throughout Texas, but less than 100 years ago that was not the case.

Overharvesting, coupled with expanding human populations in the 19th century, had major impacts on turkey populations.

As settlers expanded westward, turkey habitat was affected in various ways.

The first game laws in Texas protecting turkeys occurred in 1903, when a bag limit of 25 turkeys per day was established over a five-month season.

Very liberal laws and little enforcement led to all-time lows in the turkey population by the 1920s.

In 1919, the legislature reduced bag limits to three bearded gobblers per season.

Since then, tougher restrictions and enforcement, coupled with restocking efforts, have enabled populations to increase greatly.

Successful restocking efforts were mainly due to the release of wild-trapped birds, not pen-raised birds.

Landowners should not restock turkeys by releasing pen-raised birds.

This practice is harmful to existing populations and is against the law.

Texas is home to three different subspecies of the American wild turkey: the Rio Grande, eastern and Merriam.

The Rio Grande is the most abundant of the subspecies and can be found in south, central, and north Texas.

Rios typically can be found in areas of the state that average between 18 and 35 inches of rainfall annually.

Highest populations are normally found near river and creek drainages.

The eastern subspecies is found in the eastern one-third of the state in areas of the Post Oak Savannah, Pineywoods and Gulf Coast Prairies.

Eastern turkeys are located in areas that exceed 35 inches of annual rainfall.

Merriams are found in small, isolated populations in mountainous regions of far west Texas where rainfall ranges between 15 and 23 inches annually.

Normally, eastern turkeys are slightly larger and darker in appearance than the Rio.

Eastern gobblers average 19 to 21 pounds, while Rios average 16 to 18 pounds.

Hens are roughly half the size

of the gobblers.

Gobblers grow characteristic "beards" that grow with age, and roughly 15 percent of hens also have beards.

Turkeys are primarily herbivorous, but during certain times of the year, they depend heavily on insects.

Major food sources during the spring and summer include insects, buds, flowers, weeds and grasses.

The diets of poults (young turkeys) are nearly 100 percent insects for the first two weeks of life and then decreases as they age.

During the fall and winter, turkey diets tend to contain more mast (acorns, pecans, etc.), fruits and green forage such as clover, oats and wheat.

On average, turkeys will live for two to three years, with highest mortality occurring in the eggs and poults.

Annually, mortality rates are highest for gobblers during the breeding season and for hens during the nesting season.

Hens nest on the ground, and incubation is 28 days.

During this period, the hen seldom leaves the nest.

Turkey populations are heavily dependent upon annual recruitment, so adequate nesting and brooding habitat is critical.

Typical habitat for turkeys varies by season.

Regardless of subspecies, a vital part of nesting and brooding habitat is knee-high herbaceous cover.

Hens like to nest along roadsides and fencerows and on edges of woodlands.

Brooding habitats consist of knee-high grasses and weeds, so that broods can forage for insects while having "screening" cover from mammalian predators, as well as overhead avian predators. Prime fall habitat consists of areas with high mast production.

Preferred areas would be river and creek bottoms.

Depending on subspecies and location, roosting habitat can be critical.

Eastern turkeys are rarely limited by roost sites, but the Rio Grande turkey can be limited if there is a lack of roost trees.

Next week, the management of nesting and brood rearing habitat will be discussed in detail.

To contact a local biologist, see tpwd.state.tx.us/wildlifebiologist.

County Commissioners To Ponder Property Purchase

The Colorado County Commissioners Court will meet March 13 at 3 p.m. in the Colorado County Courthouse at 400 Spring St. in Columbus.

The court will deliberate and consider action on the following items:

1. Agenda as posted;
2. Closed session. Deliberate

purchasing property located in Columbus pursuant to Texas Government Code Sec. 551.072.

3. Return to open session.

4. Authority to make an offer to purchase property located in Columbus and appoint representative to negotiate an offer subject to commissioners' approval.

5. Adjourn.

Wildlife Association To Meet On March 15

The Colorado County Wildlife Management Association (C.C.W.M.A.) will hold their spring meeting on Saturday, March 15, at the K.C. Hall in Columbus at 4 p.m.

There will be a catered barbecue meal served, along with other activities.

Vendors related to Wildlife Management, deer, hog and hunting in general will be present with their items.

There will be games for the children and bucket raffles for an assortment of outdoor gear and more.

There will be a big raffle for a variety of prizes, including guns.

Raffle tickets can be purchased from C.C.W.M.A. members or at the door the day of the meeting.

Allen Cain, a wildlife biologist from Pleasonton, Texas will be the keynote speaker, and his presentation will be on Aging Deer on the Hoof.

Bring a shoulder mount of a buck harvested in Colorado County (any year) and get a free

meal ticket.

Proceeds from the event help fund scholarships for Columbus, Rice and Weimar students each year.

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WHAT CAUSES PERIODONTAL (GUM) DISEASE

Plaque is a sticky film of bacteria that clings to teeth and gums. Even if you brush and clean between your teeth every day, you may not completely remove plaque, especially around the gumline. The bacteria in plaque create toxins that injure the gums and underlying bone. Over time, these toxins can destroy gum and bone tissue. Plaque that is not removed completely every 24 to 48 hours hardens into a rough, porous deposit called tartar, or calculus. Tartar that builds up below (under) the gumline can lead to chronic inflammation and infection.

If you schedule regular dental checkups, your dentist can detect developing periodontal disease before the gums and bone supporting your teeth are irreversibly damaged. Periodontal diseases are progressive-left untreated, the condition will worsen.

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