

[A Weed Walk on the Wild Side at WOB](#)

Wednesday, November 1st, 2017

Try as she might, Perry Foskey's efforts to grow a vegetable garden in her East Texas backyard failed.

The weeds did really well. And I just got to looking around [and wondered]: why am I fighting this? And I started doing some research on the weeds and [discovered] they were actually edible.

Foskey—who works at Washington-on-the Brazos–Barrington Living History Farm—proposed a program for the historic site on identifying edible wild plants.

I thought it would be an excellent accent for the farm, itself. And visitors have liked that program, and it's been a great success.

Dr. Mark “Merriwether” Vorderbruggen of Foraging Texas will facilitate two wild edible plant identification walks at the site on Saturday, November fourth.

Dr. Merriwether...he's been foraging for a very, very long time. His parents even did it back in the depression; they subsidized their food source with foraging. He is one of the premier foragers in this area, and we're so lucky to have him come out and teach these classes.

[The plant ID walks with Merriwether are nine to noon, and one to four on November 4th.](#)
Interested? Give Perry Foskey a call.

And, we'll be glad to put them on the list. We recommend the classes should be for 12 years of age and up. And the classes are absolutely free.

[TPW Magazine—After Hurricane Harvey](#)

Thursday, November 2nd, 2017

The November issue of Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine includes stories from Hurricane Harvey. But that wasn't the original plan.

By the time we write about something, send it off to press, get it back—months can go by. So, we had to really fast-track this November issue, and decided to remove a couple of stories. We don't have our usual travel feature or our wander list.

[Editor, Louie Bond](#), says she wanted to tell the story of Harvey from the Texas Parks and Wildlife standpoint.

We decided to forego all of the stuff that people had been seeing over and over again and just tell our own story—and that's what we did. So, we told the story from the perspective of game

wardens and rescuers, from those who were being rescued. And the impact, of course, on state parks, wildlife management areas, and wildlife, itself.

Read about Game Warden Dustin Dockery, who spent days helping others, as his own home was consumed by floodwaters. Hear from Texas Parks and Wildlife Photographer Earl Nottingham, who also covered Hurricanes Ike and Katrina.

And I asked him what was different about Harvey. And he said he believed that the Texas spirit had never been more present. People would see the logo on his truck, and they would pull up with boats in the back of their trucks and say: Where can we go? What can we do? As the crisis is happening. They didn't waste a moment.

The November issue of Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine is on newsstands now.

TPW TV–Fort Richardson: Appreciating Our Past

Friday, November 3rd, 2017

Fort Richardson, established in 1867, was the northernmost frontier fort in what is now Texas; it was established to help protect the western movement of settlers. Tim Swagerty.

The fort system was really integral in being able to settle the state. So without the fort system, we would not have had a state of Texas. We would not have been able to defend it and be able inhabit it as we do now.

The **Texas Parks and Wildlife TV series on PBS** takes viewers back in time to experience the Fort's and Texas' history. Annie Ellison.

We are giving visitors an opportunity to see what life was like back when this fort was operational. They get to see the soldiers in action and to see what activities might be available to the children who lived in the fort back in the day, it makes that connection to their history.

Having that multi-sensory experience helps to connect visitors to the fort's history, and helps them to understand why it is important to conserve that history.

Fort Richardson is really unique. And to keep it alive just as long as we possibly can, I think it is the best possible way to honor what has gone on out here and all the diverse cultures that have come through here and helped build this place.

The segment on Fort Richardson airs on the Texas Parks and Wildlife TV series the week of November fifth through eleventh on PBS. **[Check your local listings.](#)**

2017-18 Deer Season Outlook

Monday, November 6th, 2017

According to Alan Cain, Whitetail Program Leader at Texas Parks and Wildlife, the 2017 deer season is shaping up to be a good one.

We started off the winter and early spring with good habitat conditions, which sets the stage for good antler growth and good body condition and fawn production.

Late spring and early summer, Mother Nature was stingy with rainfall across the state, which Cain says, may mean only average antler growth.

But the deer population is very healthy. We have a robust deer population in Texas.

A robust deer population is good news for some rural Texas towns.

Deer hunting in Texas is a thriving industry and it really helps the rural towns out there where deer hunting is a big part of their everyday life.

Cain says in counties where deer populations are high, he encourages hunters to take the full bag limit.

And by doing so, it helps improve the habitat. If they don't want to put that meat in the freezer, they can certainly donate it to Hunters for the Hungry, or different charitable organizations around the state.

Whitetail season began November fourth in the north and south zones. The [Texas Outdoor Annual](#) provides hunters with necessary rules, regulations and bag limits. Find it on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

Chronic Wasting Disease Monitoring and Reporting

Tuesday, November 7th, 2017

Chronic wasting disease, or CWD, is a neurological illness not known to affect humans...but is eventually fatal to infected deer.

Chronic wasting disease has been a concern in Texas since 2012 since the first discovery in the Trans Pecos.

Alan Cain is whitetail program leader at Texas Parks and Wildlife. Texas has three designated CWD zones:

West Texas, and one in the Panhandle, and one in South Central Texas. In each of those zones, it is mandatory sampling of hunter harvested deer, and also mandatory carcass movement restrictions. So, hunters are encouraged to go on our Parks and Wildlife website, and check out the CWD page, where they can find more information.

Although the agency requires hunters' cooperation when monitoring CWD in the three zones—that shouldn't stop anyone from getting into the field.

Sufficient rains and healthy habitat also boosted the mule deer populations in West Texas.

We've had some good rainfall out there in West Texas, and we expect hunters to have a good season out there, probably average, just as we'd expect for the whitetail deer hunting.

Whitetail season runs through January 7th in the North Zone and January 21 in the South Zone. Mule Deer season begins November 18 in the Panhandle, and November 24 in the Trans-Pecos.

[Find CWD monitoring information](#) on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

[Campsite Considerations](#)

Wednesday, November 8th, 2017

Fall camping season is here, and Robert Owen—an avid camper who oversees the Texas Outdoor Family program—offers suggestions for [choosing a campsite for your overnight adventure](#).

What I look for in a campsite is a bit of privacy. I enjoy a quiet end of the park; a place where the family can settle down and enjoy peace and quiet of nature. Nearby nature trails – looking for a trail that offers the family something to do right off the back of the campsite is always a real benefit. Also, I always like to reasonably close to water if the park offers water so that all those recreational opportunities are there. I also look for a campsite that has level ground. There're no safety concerns like low hanging limbs or anything like that, that might interfere with my evening. And proximity to the restroom. You always want to make sure you're within a comfortable distance of the restroom.

One of the best ways to ensure that close proximity to the restroom is to reserve your campsite in advance.

Tomorrow sawing logs instead of counting sheep when sleeping under the stars. That's tomorrow.

[Items to Bring on an Overnight Campout](#)

Thursday, November 9th, 2017

Do you avoid overnight camping because you're afraid you won't get your beauty rest?

The folks that do avoid camping tend to think that it's not comfortable. Well, it doesn't have to be that way.

If you're concerned you'll be counting sheep instead of sawing logs on your overnight campout, Robert Owen with the Texas Outdoor Family Program says a blanket and pillow and a few other items will have you sleeping like a baby in Mother Nature's embrace.

I always like to bring either a foam pad to sleep on or an air mattress – and even cots are getting especially popular now. Sleeping bags often have a temperature rating on them, so you'll want to make sure that you know what your overnight lows are going to be; maybe even subtract a couple of degrees from that just to be safe, and make sure your sleeping bag is rated for that temperature. We have some tips for folks who are going to spend the night outdoors when the temperature starts to drop: air mattresses –they can actually cook you off over night. They might be very comfortable, but it's like sleeping on a pillow of cold air. If you can insulate yourself against that pillow of cold air, it's really going to make you more comfortable overnight. All that means is laying a blanket or sleeping bag below you – between you and the air mattress – and that goes a long way.

Reserve your site at your favorite state park at texasstateparks.org.

Outdoor Story: Otter Hissy Fit

Friday, November 10th, 2017

Leslie McGaha wanted to try out her new bass kayak on Sam Rayburn Lake. Shortly after she got on the water, she had company—an otter!

So it was about 9:30 in the morning and I paddled across a branch of the lake, and I was hot. And so I saw a shady spot and figured I would go ahead and park there and see what I could see. And it was amazing: I saw a giant black crawdad crawling out of the bank; I was listening to the fish noises and the birds; the gar. Then, all of a sudden there was this bright flash of silver off to my right and I thought it was a gar or a carp. I keep watching, and then I see this head pop up out of the lily pads and look straight at me. And it wasn't very happy that I was there, and he let me know. He made this sound like [makes hissing sound] And I didn't know what it was. And he went back down after he told me his displeasure and then he comes back up and he makes this noise at me again [makes noise]. So, I decided I wanted to play the game, too, and I hissed right back at him [hisses]. And then he stopped for a second and looks straight at me and he and he starts hissing, kind of like he's yelling at me. So I hissed back. So we have a pretty good conversation for a few minutes, and he pops down again, pops back up, and we start the whole thing over again two or three times before he goes on his merry way a little bit farther up the creek channel. It was just the funniest thing that had ever happened to me; it was amazing.

Share your Texas outdoor story with us; just go passportotexas.org, and [click on Outdoor Stories](#).

Interacting With Wildlife

Monday, November 13th, 2017

There's only one way to see wildlife in its natural state.

You have to spend time where the animals are.

That means outside. Richard Heilbrun, a wildlife biologist with the wildlife diversity program, says cooler fall temperatures makes extended time outdoors more pleasant and improves your chance of seeing wild things.

And with a little bit of patience; a little bit of perseverance—and maybe some education—we can really enjoy, enjoying the wildlife.

Whether you check out the critters in your backyard, neighborhood, or spend the day at a Texas state park, Richard says, there are ways to enhance the experience.

The best thing to take with you when you go out into wildlife habitat is something to enjoy wildlife with—whether it's a digital camera, a pair of binoculars, or a field guide.

A sketch pad is also fun, and slows you down even more, so you can truly savor your wildlife viewing experience. The one thing you want to avoid, however, is direct contact with the animals.

The best way to enjoy wildlife is to enjoy it from a little bit of a distance. And that camera and binoculars really help you get close without actually needing to pick up that animal. Because, unless you know what you're handling, it's really a better idea just to observe them, draw them, photograph them, and watch them.

The Wildlife Restoration program supports our series.

Go on a Nature Scavenger Hunt

Tuesday, November 14th, 2017

Most of us will overindulge during the long Thanksgiving weekend. Instead of letting the family collectively slip into a food-induced coma, get outside for some fresh air.

And maybe even have some fun in terms of a challenge or game or scavenger hunt.

Richard Heilbrun is a wildlife biologist with the wildlife diversity program. Personally, I'm intrigued by the sound of the scavenger hunt.

One of my favorite things to do with young kids is to give them a set of objectives: I want you to find a bug. For older kids: I want you to find a butterfly; I want you to find a moth; I want you to find this kind of caterpillar; I want you to observe ten different types of songbirds and tell me what they eat by what kind of bill they have.

Be sure to have a few field guides for reference, as well as binoculars, a digital camera and even a sketch book.

When you give them a challenge, it becomes a game. And they get into it and they get excited. Then, before you know it, they've spent their whole day interacting with nature, searching, discovering, and developing a sense of wonder with wildlife. And it's that sense of discovery that endears them to nature and wildlife and conservation as adults.

And it works up an appetite, too.

The Wildlife Restoration program supports our series.

Monarch Malaise

Wednesday, November 15th, 2017

Habitat loss along its migration route may be one reason the Monarch butterfly is in decline. While feeding on nectar, Monarchs pollinate wildflowers along their route, which benefits our ecosystem.

There are two primary ways that habitat supports pollinators.

Johnnie Smith oversees outreach and education at Texas Parks and Wildlife.

And one is, the adult pollinators oftentimes feed on nectar of flowers. So, flowering plants that are a food source for the pollinator is very important. But also, is the food source that the pollinator's larvae rely on as they're growing up and becoming an adult. And so, that is just as important as the flowering plants that support the adults.

For Monarchs, native milkweed is an important plant. By cultivating them in our yards, along with other nectar and larval plants, we can all play a part in their survival.

There is no effort that is too small to be counted worthy. And there's no spot of land that is too small to contain pollinator habitat. So, we really want to empower everybody—that they can make a difference. Right where you stand. Right where you live—you can create pollinator habitat, and help turn around this negative trend with the monarchs.

[Find native and adapted plants for pollinators](#) on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

TPW Magazine's Rio Grande Valley Road Trip

Thursday, November 16th, 2017

To celebrate its 75th anniversary, Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine's staff spent a week in the Rio Grande Valley to discover its stories.

It's the craziest thing we've ever done. But, sometimes crazy is brilliant. And I'm hoping that's the case here.

Editor, Louie Bond, says the issue is a tribute to the folks who started the magazine 75 years ago in the midst of a world war.

And we thought about, what part of the state of Texas could we celebrate that embodies the spirit of Texas, and the multi-culturalism, and fantastic nature opportunities? And we unanimously agreed the Rio Grande Valley was the place to go.

Their inspiration came from an old issue of Norwegian Airlines magazine.

Who had taken the entire team to the most northern location that they fly to in Norway—which was actually a tiny little town within the Arctic Circle. But, for such a tiny town, a whole magazine was devoted to it, and it was the most fascinating thing I had ever seen.

In the end, Louie Bond says the December issue of Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine is a love letter.

We call it a love letter to the Rio Grande Valley. And that's what I would like everyone to take away from it. You know, to look at the Rio Grande Valley through the eyes of a new visitor, who looks around and says: "'Wow. I cannot believe what I found here.'

The December issue of Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine is on newsstands now.

TPW TV–Texas Clipper 10 Years Later

Friday, November 17th, 2017

Ten years ago, Texas Parks and Wildlife sent a ship called The Texas Clipper to the gulf floor to serve as an artificial reef.

Texas Parks & Wildlife has taken a section of the Gulf of Mexico that was once a barren desert, and created an enormous ecosystem of 180,000 square feet of substrate, to bring new life for both the fisherman and the divers.

Tim O'Leary takes sport divers out to explore the Texas Clipper which now teems with marine life.

This is a world class wreck. I want Texans and Texas to get excited.

The Clipper is an oasis for the marine life of the Gulf of Mexico. Dale Shively headed the project for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

This is quite an adventure to come back 10 years later and see that it's a tremendous dive opportunity, it's a great place for fishing, and it's a great place for marine habitat. I think it's a

great dive destination. Lots of marine life, a lot of coral, juvenile reef species of all different types. You've got thousands and thousands of square feet of hard surface area and you can see that where the marine life is growing on the ship itself. I would consider this a big success for an artificial reef.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife TV series on PBS airs a segment on the Texas Clipper, then and now, the week of November 19. Check local listings.

Food Week: 1850s Texas Fall Feast

Monday, November 20th, 2017

In 1850s Texas, when Anson Jones – the last President of the Republic – retired to his plantation in Barrington [at Washington-on-the-Brazos], Thanksgiving was not the nationally recognized holiday it is today.

But people certainly still had feast days, and they certainly celebrated fall.

Barb King, lead domestic interpreter at Barrington Living History Farm, says they celebrate fall on the farm with a feast, too. Everything's cooked on a hearth, including dark meat heritage turkeys raised and butchered on site and fresh produce from their garden.

Right now we're getting a lot of sweet potatoes in. We have some cucuzza gourds, which are an 1850s Italian delicacy that we're growing in the garden for the first time this year. We have pumpkins, so we'll probably do pumpkin pie. People in 1850 liked that as well. People ate much less sugar than we do today because you'd have to hunt a bee tree or go buy expensive sugar. So, we might do a spice cake or gingerbread is very popular, as is cider. Here, we might make pear cider. And, anytime Anson goes up north, he writes about bringing back barrels of apples.

The third Saturday of each month... Washington-on-the-Brazos presents [Living History Saturday](#)...which often includes a cooking demo.

Find more information in the calendar section of the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

Food Week: Christopher Kimball on Wild Game

Tuesday, November 21st, 2017

Christopher Kimball, former host of America's Test Kitchen (current host of Milk Street) on PBS TV, is a hunter. Yet, when he included an image of rabbits he shot on his TV show, it didn't go over well.

Years ago, I had a photograph of me holding up two or three rabbits that I had shot – because I do a lot of rabbit hunting in the winter. America Public Television distributes our show, and I think they sent out a warning indicating the stations may want to gray out that particular photograph. So, most people are not prepared for that, probably.

If you are prepared, and ready to become a hunters, find information to get you started on the TPW website.

You see more women hunting now than you did. And, I think in certain parts of the country there's more of it.

Kimball says when cooking game, you must know the optimal methods for each wild protein.

The tough, dark meat you braise slowly – like the back legs of the rabbit. But, the very lean tenderloin – or backstrap – that gets cooked in about five minutes. Some of that meat you can barely cook – like the tenderloin of a deer. You don't want to cook it much over medium rare. But, if you have other cuts of meat that are tougher and really need a long, slow cooking – you really have to think about the cuts that way. Because, game meat isn't fatty. And actually, that's why they larded. And I've done it – larded venison, because it needed the fat. It's not like a 300 pound pig that's got a lot of fat in it.

[Find game recipes on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.](#)

Food Week: Wild Game Ups His Chef Game

Wednesday, November 22nd, 2017

Hunters call them feral pigs. Chefs call them wild boars. Names don't matter as long as the end result is delicious.

We use wild boar for a lot of chilis and things like that.

Feral pigs cause millions of dollars in damage to cropland in Texas, and tear up wildlife habitat, too.

Chef and restaurateur, Jack Gilmore serves game dishes at his namesake restaurants Jack Allen's Kitchen in Austin and Round Rock, and says cooking wild boar offers challenges and rewards.

You really can't write a recipe for it, because each time it's different because it's wild. It might be a little gamier, or a little fatty – or it may not have enough fat in it. You really have to be a chef again and say: 'Well, if it doesn't have enough fat in it, we could add bacon to it. If it has too much fat in it, we have to render it.' You never know what a wild boar eats. You just don't know. But, if they're raised in the Hill Country, you know they're eating persimmons; you know they're eating acorns; you know they're eating pretty good. But, sometimes you just have to realize what you've got and make it taste good.

Braising feral hog meat in the oven on low heat over a long period of time creates a tender and tasty result.

[Find wild game recipes on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.](#)

Food Week: Respecting the Source

Thursday, November 23rd, 2017

Holly Heyser, Communications director for California Waterfowl took up hunting to spend more time with her boyfriend who is a hunter, author and chef.

I got sick of being alone on weekends when he was out duck hunting all day long. He would get up at two in the morning and be out forever....well...it didn't take that for me to join him. What it took was for him to cooking a lot of ducks, and wild ducks, especially where we live in the Sacramento Valley. Amazing. Really great food.

It's appropriate that on Thanksgiving, Holly shares that hunting deepened her respect for animals and the meat they provide, and not just the wild ones.

Since I started hunting, I am so much less wasteful of meat. Even if I'm at a restaurant, if there's a burger on my plate, I will not leave one single bite of meat on my plate, because I know an animal died for that. And when it's animals you hunt, especially...we invest a lot of time. We can spend 12 hours and a lot of money on gas, to go and maybe get two ducks one day. That's a precious gift, and you don't waste it. So it's really made me understand the value of the food we eat. And, I appreciate it a lot more than I ever used to. And the fact that it's wild food and it's absolutely delicious is icing on the cake.

Wild game is free range, organic, sustainable, and nutritious.

[Find game recipes on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.](#)

Food Week: Flavor Forward Game Cookery

Friday, November 24th, 2017

To coax the best flavor from the deer hunters harvest this fall, proper care from field to plate, is a must. Just ask Marcus Paslay. He's chef and owner of Clay Pigeon Food & Drink in Fort Worth.

Every step of the way—the way it's handled—drastically affects flavor. You know, in the field, it's something you want to get cleaned out as soon as you can, and get it cold as soon as you can. It keeps that flavor a little bit more clean.

A bit more clean, and a lot less gamey – but not without some gaminess.

It is an acquired taste. So, I think whoever's eating it is going to have to have a sense of adventure to a certain extent. But there are ways to overcome it a little bit. I always like using brines. Soaking the meat in a sugar, citrus, salt bath overnight—or whatever it takes. That really helps out well with big game such as venison, or hog.

Brining is just one method Chef Paslay uses to impart flavor into game.

Another way I really love on venison is rubbing it down with coffee grounds. And the tannins in the coffee help break down the proteins and they also impart a pretty strong flavor themselves, which masks the gaminess of the meat.

Find a link to [Chef Marcus Paslay's recipe for coffee rubbed venison loin](#) at passporttotexas.org.

Fall Fishing in Texas

Monday, November 27th, 2017

When was the last time you went fishing? Fall weather makes spending extended periods of time outdoors more pleasant, but beyond that: fishing is simply great this time of year – saltwater and freshwater.

While Hurricane Harvey stirred things up along the coast, saltwater fishing shines this time of year. Red drum—or redfish—are favorites of coastal anglers as they migrate into the beachfront waters of the gulf for their annual spawn.

According to veteran anglers, autumn is an ideal time to cast for tarpon and snook, too. You'll find those farther south.

Not a saltwater fisher? No worries—there's plenty of action in freshwater during the cooler months. With more great bass lakes than you can shake a stick at, expect to reel in some big fish as they move to shallower waters in fall.

Remember: if you reel in a largemouth bass weighing 13 pounds or more, consider donating it to the [Toyota Texas ShareLunker program](#) for use in the spawning program.

Some bass lakes to visit this fall include Lake Fork, Falcon Lake, and Choke Canyon Reservoir.

Any time is a good time to fish in Texas, and fall may just be the best time.

Less is More When Cooking Fresh Caught Fish

Tuesday, November 28th, 2017

You may be tired of eating those heavy, Thanksgiving leftovers by now. If that's true, it's easy to find a nearby fishing hole where you can reel in something light, fresh and delicious. Chef Cindy Haenel says there's nothing like catching your own dinner.

It's fabulous. I know exactly how old that fish is, when it came out of the water and how long it's been dead. And that's important with fish especially. Fresh is always best.

Cindy, an avid angler, is a chef instructor at Central Market in Austin.

I love the saltwater as well as freshwater. But the saltwater you have more variety. You never know what you're going to pull up. It's exciting – like Christmas morning.

Immediately place your catch on ice, and if there's a cleaning station on shore, Chef Cindy says consider doing the dirty work there. And when you get your catch back to the kitchen, be careful not to overcook it.

Most people, if they don't like the taste of fish, it's probably because they've overcooked it. And, as it cooks, and the oil of the fish starts to come out of the flesh, it burns very, very quickly. So, if you will undercook your fish, or protect that fish with either a salt crust, or even if it just has a little butter, or some kind of fat on the outside it still protecting that fish while it's cooking.

Find fish recipes from Chef Cindy as well as a link to other fish and game recipes at passporttotexas.org.

The Sport Fish Restoration program supports our series and works to increase fishing and boating opportunities in Texas.

Don't Blame the Termites for this Damage

Wednesday, November 29th, 2017

If you live in East Texas, and have noticed strange holes in the wood siding of your home, don't panic and call the police—call an ornithologist.

There are fifteen species of woodpeckers in Texas, eight of which are in the eastern third of Texas. And that's where we get most of our calls of woodpecker damage.

Non-game ornithologist, Cliff Shackelford, says the pileated and red bellied woodpeckers are among the feathered culprits inflicting damage on homes with wood siding.

What happens a lot of time is that they see these houses that might be painted brown, they might have cedar siding, and this is very attractive to the birds to try to excavate a cavity. So, they're not looking for food when they're doing this; they're looking to make a cavity to call home.

The pileated woodpecker, about the size of a crow, can excavate holes as big as a man's fist—and not just in the outside walls of your home, either.

That's right. We've documented pileateds going through into the sheetrock and into the room of the house. Of course, they're very lost when they do that, they quickly go out. They're not looking to make a mess of the house.

But they do. How to keep woodpeckers from damaging your home...that's tomorrow.

Solution to Woodpecker Damage to Home

Thursday, November 30th, 2017

As a rule, woodpeckers dig out cavities in dead trees, called snags. Once construction is done—they move in. The exception occurs when they mistake your home's wood siding, for a snag. When they do—homeowners have problems.

And it looks like cannon balls have been shot through the house. Maybe two or three; and we've seen some with fifteen, sixteen holes.

Cliff Shackelford is a non-game ornithologist with TPW. He says woodpecker damage occurs most often in urban and suburban areas where homeowners have removed the dead trees from their property.

What we recommend people to do with problems with woodpeckers is to put a nest box. If you're familiar with a bluebird box, it's just a larger version of that custom made for woodpeckers.

Find information and free blueprints to make your own woodpecker nest box at passporttotexas.org.

People can build this in a couple of hours on the weekend, and put it up on the side of the house, and in all cases that we've done this – it's worked. And the woodpecker stops chiseling on the home, and goes to this next box, and is very content.

The Wildlife Restoration program supports our series.