

Dear Bandera Canyonlands Members, Neighbors and Friends,

While many things have changed, closed or are on hold due to the pandemic, many others continue on. This is just an update on significant ongoing issues that affect our canyonlands.

Lost Maples State Natural Area is under consideration for a dark sky classification. We sent this letter to the International Dark Sky Association based in Tucson, Arizona in support of such a designation, "We have just learned that Lost Maples State Natural Area is being considered for designation as a Dark Sky Park. We enthusiastically support the designation. As an organization of land owners in the areas surrounding Lost Maples State Natural Area, we of The Bandera Canyonlands Alliance appreciate the work the staff has done and continues to do in educating the visitors on the great benefits of dark skies through special educational events, including star parties for local groups and on their continuing dedication to reducing light pollution at the park following the Dark Sky International Association's Lighting Guidelines. No more appropriate location can be found for such a designation. "

The BCA hog management program continues under the supervision of John Cornelius. He set this report, "In May Jesse Paul McBeth took 73 hogs, bringing the calendar year total to 343, 41 hogs were taken with dogs vs. 32 in traps. John also oversees the **cowbird trapping program**. He reports that a season total of 1835 cowbirds have been taken, "I looked back at the past 3 years to see how the 2020 cowbird trapping results compared. In 2019, 738 cowbirds were taken. In 2018, the total was 624; and in 2017, the number was 945. So, the results this year are significantly higher than any of the past 3 years, and more than the past 2 years combined. I don't know if this reflects an increase in the local population of cowbirds, or an improvement in capture efficiency. Cowbird numbers have been down across most of Texas for the past several years, and population numbers tend to be cyclical, so it could be that we are seeing an upswing in regional numbers. Regardless, we made a big dent in the Bandera County population this spring, and certainly saved several thousand songbird nests from parasitism."

Margo Denke Griffin sent us this update from the **Friends of Hondo Canyon**, "Summer Solstice is here, and with it we welcome another new beginning. Friends of Hondo Canyon enters into mediation with RR 417 LLC regarding issues important to our community: 1. Wastewater discharge into the creek 2. Waste of groundwater in man-made lakes. You have helped make our pathway forward clear. You wrote about how important groundwater and surface water is to our community – a shared resource that we treasure. Together we move forward as a community to protect the water. We welcome our new neighbor – a summer camp for children – and ask them to join our community and participate in mindful respect of precious water. We are asking them to design their wastewater system for zero discharge – so that our creeks remain clear and pristine. We are asking them to figure out a better way to manage water recreation so that less water is wasted, ensuring that all of their neighbors have enough drinking water during drought. As we begin mediation, let's pray for a WIN-WIN for WATER."

Stay safe and enjoy our most wonderful location for sequestering. We hope to gather in November.

Merry Langlinais, BCA President