

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF TIMING IN MANAGEMENT: UNEXPECTED SEASONAL EFFECTS RESULTING FROM PRESCRIBED FIRE**

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The talk will summarize over 10 years of monitoring data associated with prescribed burning research occurring at the Wildflower Center. Historically, and likely pre-historically, fires in the Texas occurred in all seasons of the year, with lightning caused fires most likely to have occurred in the growing season. From this, it would be expected that most native species would be at least tolerant of fire in any season, or have established some strategy to repopulate an area after fire. This data indicates that there are significantly different effects between growing season and dormant season fires for many species (including some non-native species which are intolerant of growing season prescribed fire) and a number of species which are much more responsive to season weather effects. This understanding should help land managers better adapt their management strategies in order to better achieve their desired objectives.