



LEE COUNTY WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION



October 2009

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Deer Anatomy Class October 25

We had this workshop last year and those that came really enjoyed it and so by popular demand we are having another one. We will be dissecting a deer during this class.

We will cover all the external glands and anatomy of the deer and what purpose they serve. We will go through the digestive system and look at rumen content to see what the deer has eaten. This will allow us to do some plant

identification of important deer browse. We'll take a look at the reproductive system and fetus development along with identifying internal and external parasites. The program will be on Sunday, October 25th at the Flying Z Ranch off of FM 1624 starting at 6:30 p.m. Whether you are a seasoned hunter, a beginner or just interested in biology, you will learn something at this event. This will be just in time for you to use this information



Keep the Wildlife Photo Contest in Mind

Please submit your wildlife photos that you have taken this year. Everyone enjoys seeing the photos at the annual meeting in January. The weather will hopefully be cooling off soon as we will get some rain, so getting outdoors and watching wildlife should get more enjoyable. Remember to take your camera along and keep an eye out for good photo opportunities. We will have a trail camera and a handheld camera category. The only rule is that the photo was taken in Lee County this year and includes a living animal.

You must have your photos into to Greg Pleasant's office in person or e-mail by January 9th.

You can enter as many photos as you like, however .jpeg format is preferred. Please rename each photo with your name and subject before you send them to me. Printed photos will be photographed or scanned for the presentation.

The directors will be judging the photos and awards will be given at the annual meeting on January 29th. Please have your name, category (general or trail), and phone number with or on the back of each photo.

Contact one of your directors to borrow a camera. To submit photos send them to Greg Pleasant at tpwbiologist@bluebon.net

The 5th Annual Lee County Youth Shooting Event

On Wednesday October the 14th, the Lee County Wildlife Association and Texas Parks and Wildlife will be hosting our 5th annual shooting and hunter safety program for 8th grade students from the local schools at Nails Creek Park on Lake Somerville. This event actually runs for two days with Lee County students on Wednesday and Washington County students on Thursday. The second day is run by Washington County volunteers. We can accommodate 68 students each day. Each student has the opportunity to shoot archery, shotgun, pistol and rifles, including black powder in a safe and controlled situation. This is a fun and rewarding program that the students and the volunteers really enjoy. It takes about 25 volunteers per day to make this event happen. We can always use some help. So if you have any interest give me a call or contact one of your directors. Some firearms experience is preferred but not required. This is the second year we have applied for and received a grant from the local chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Their help has allowed us to purchase equipment and fund this ongoing event.



Cost Sharing for Food Plots

It probably isn't too late to plant a cool season food plot if we get enough moisture. If we did not get much rain, then the deer are still hungry and whatever you can afford to feed them they can use. Natural vegetation in good habitat is best. Next would be food plots when they will grow and third would be protein feed. Planting oats, wheat or rye for fall food plots in your fire breaks is a great way to kill two birds with one stone. Don't forget to take advantage of the food plot seed reimbursement program offered by the association. The feed stores have the seed in stock. Take or mail your receipts to the extension office to receive up to \$25.00 reimbursement.

Fall Co-op Meetings

Two Creeks, South Lee, and West Yegua Co-op's will have already had their meetings by the time this hits your mailbox.

However, **Blue Branch, and East Yegua will have a joint social gathering with a meal prepared by members of the Lone Star Dutch Oven Society at the Lexington Park at 6:00PM on October 10th. There will be both Dutch oven cooking demonstrations and some good food.** If you are not a member of either of these co-ops but are interested in Dutch oven cooking they would probably still feed you.

The Value of Dead Trees

Most everyone understands the benefits that living trees provide for wildlife, however, not many people understand the value of dead trees. Dead trees (or "snags") are created by a variety of natural processes such as wind, fire, flooding, drought, disease and old age. Snags can also be created unnaturally by man as a result of over watering, construction damage to root zones, root suffocation, herbicide application, etc. Usually people want to remove snags as soon as possible. We seem to think that once a tree dies it is no longer useful and should therefore be removed, however that is not the case. Snags are extremely valuable to the forest ecosystem.

Many wildlife species rely heavily on snags for their survival. While some woodpeckers nest in cavities excavated in living trees, many of them nest only in cavities excavated in snags. Without snags, these woodpeckers can't exist. Once cavities are abandoned by woodpeckers, secondary cavity-nesters move in such as chickadees, titmice, wrens, and bluebirds. In addition to excavated cavities, the often hollow trunks and limbs of snags provide excellent homes for owls, raccoons, squirrels and certain species of bats.

There are often situations that require human action to maximize the usefulness of snags while minimizing any drawbacks. If a snag is located where it would pose no danger to people or structures if it should fall, then it could be left alone without serious drawbacks. However, if a snag is located near a structure, driveway, or walkway, steps should be taken to reduce the risk of injury to people or property. The height of the tree determines the radius that could be affected should any part of the tree fall. For example, if a

30-ft tree falls, then anything within a 30-ft radius could be affected. To reduce the risk of damage, you can “limb” the tree or remove the major limbs leaving only the main trunk standing. You may also consider “topping” the snag or removing just enough of the top so that it doesn’t extend beyond the height of surrounding trees. (Topping should be done by a professional.) Both of these techniques will reduce wind stress on the snag, thus allowing it to stand longer.

Because snags are extremely valuable for many wildlife species, it is often recommended that they are “created” if none exist in the area. To create snags, carefully select a tree and “girdle” it. To girdle a tree, you simply cut a ring into the base of the tree that is about an inch deep and an inch wide at the bark. Since it is only the outer rim of the tree that is alive and transporting nutrients, cutting this section will kill the standing portion of

the tree. Depending on the species, the roots may or may not remain alive and re-sprout. When selecting a tree to girdle, consider those that are not native to the area, are short-lived, or are undesirable for some other reason. Remember to also consider the tree’s proximity to structures, driveways, etc. before girdling it.

Finally, it is important to help others understand the value of snags. Educating others will not only help them understand why snags are needed by wildlife, but will also help them understand the actions of those who are employing these management practices.



We’re on the web at
www.leecountywildlife.org

Old Buck and Spike Contest

In an effort to encourage hunters to learn to estimate a buck’s age by its physical characteristics and behavior before harvesting, and to let quality bucks live to older age classes while still keeping pressure on lower quality young bucks, the Association will again have an oldest buck contest and a drawing for any member registering a spike (at least one unbranched antler). To be eligible, all bucks must have been harvested in Lee County, and be registered by a TPWD biologist. Texas Parks and Wildlife will not have registration stations or collect data as in the past 7 years. So; this year it might take more effort on the part of the hunter to get your deer to me to be eligible for the contest.

Deer heads cannot be frozen at time of registration and the jaw bone must be attached. In the event of a tie for the oldest buck, the winner will be the buck with the highest gross Boone & Crockett score. Hunters entering spikes will have their names put into a random drawing to determine the winner. There haven’t been many entries in the spike category in the past, so chances of getting drawn if you enter are high.

Call me to register your deer so I can collect age and antler measurements. Please call at a reasonable hour!

My phone numbers are 540-2744 (office), 979-884-2710 (home) and 979-255-8480 (cell).

~Greg Pleasant

Prescribed Burn Workshop Dec 12


A field day on the safe and effective use of fire to improve habitat for wildlife will be available to anyone interested at no charge. The objective of this class is to show landowners what benefits fire can provide for vegetation management, when and how fire can be used safely and what help is available to landowners who want to burn. Topics will include site selection, preparation, what tools and equipment that are needed and all the how-to’s. If conditions allow, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a prescribed burn.

The workshop will be on December 12 in Lee County but is open to anyone interested. It will be held on my personal property. I have used prescribed burning on the property for several years. Therefore you will be able to see what

impact repeated fire can have on manipulating vegetation. Coffee and lunch will be provided by the Lee County Wildlife Association. Please RSVP for this workshop by December 7 to Greg Pleasant at 979-540-2744 or e-mail tpwbiologist@bluebon.net. The address is 1757 CR 121 Giddings, call or e-mail for more directions or information.

Registration will start at 8:00 a.m. and the program will start at 8:30 a.m. Attendees should come dressed to work. This includes leather boots, cotton pants and long sleeve shirt and leather gloves. Depending on what we burn, we should be done around 1:30 p.m. or so.

Dianna Noack
Senior Vice-President - Branch Manager



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