



# LEE COUNTY WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION



July 2003

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## \$2,000 In Scholarships Awarded



Brian Tracy



Emma Mata



Marshall Umlang



Tim Schneider

The Directors of the Lee County Wildlife Association are proud to announce what hopefully will become an annual program.

Applications for scholarships were received from twenty-seven graduating seniors of Lee County high schools, with many deserving and

qualified applicants. Four students were selected to receive \$500 scholarships to help in their pursuits to further their educations.

Congratulations go to Emma Mata of Dime Box, Marshall Umlang and Tim Schneider of Giddings, and Brian Tracy of Lexington.

## Non-game Bird Program

For people interested in more than just deer, there will be an informative program on non-game birds that are found in our area. This program will also include information about the damaging effects that brown-headed cowbirds have on other bird species.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Ornithologist Clifford Shackelford will give a slide presentation on the birds that live in our area and what types of habitat they utilize in.

Linda McMurry, also from TPWD, will be presenting information on the impact brown headed cowbirds have on other bird species by laying eggs in their nests, and why this is a growing concern. Linda's program will certify anyone interested in participating in a TPWD cowbird-trapping program.

Jerry Falke with USDA Wildlife Services will also present information on a new poison and baiting system that is very specific to controlling crop damage by crows. The program will be held at the Lincoln community center on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup> from 7 to 9 pm.

### Brown-headed Cowbird



## Coyote Contest Deadline

Wildlife Association members are required to fill out a Lee County predator application form for bounty. It must be signed in front of a notary, available at the court house.

Contestants will be required to provide a copy of this form to any director between July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003. No ears will be taken by co-op directors during the above dates, only

copies of Lee County Predator Application.

The member who takes the most coyotes in the county between October 1, 2002 and June 30, 2003 will be qualified for a gift card from Academy Sports & Outdoors: \$300 for first prize, \$200 for second prize and \$100 for third prize. For more information contact one of your directors.

## What is the best thing to plant in your food plot?

Now you can see for yourself. There are 6 small plots planted to popular food plot materials for a side-by-side comparison. These plots are planted next to the clover trial plots beside the state school off CR 226. The plots are marked with white flags and are labeled as to what each contain. The plots were planted on

April 10<sup>th</sup>, and starting closest to the County Road are:

- (1) Lablab
- (2) Lablab Plus
- (3) Whitetail Institutes Power Plant
- (4) Rack Master
- (5) Magnum Spring Buck Blend
- (6) Bedise Bundleflower

brand name products available for food plots and then there are some good basic plants such as peanuts, soybean, cowpeas, sorghum, millet, and sunflowers that make good spring food plot materials. Some are easier to plant and some are more soil specific than others. Whatever you have the equipment to plant and will work in your soil type is great.



These plots are not subject to browsing pressure by deer, but you can see what they look like and how they produce.

Thank you's go out to Mike Lee for the tractor work, and Lincoln Fertilizer and the Whitetail Institute for donating the seed.

There are many

Deer browsing new plants before they become established can be a big problem for food plots. There are some simple electric fence configurations that, in conjunction with attractants or repellents, will keep most critters out of your plots until they're ready. Otherwise planting larger plots can help.

Dichotomous plants are usually the worst impacted, such as Lablab. Grass-like species such as sorghum wheat, millets and plants with low growth points such as turnips can withstand a little more early pressure.

## When are Membership Dues Due?

**They are due at the time of the annual meeting at the beginning of February**

There has been some recent confusion as to when to pay membership dues. They are due at the time of the annual meeting at the beginning of February. It does not matter what time of year you became a member. There is only

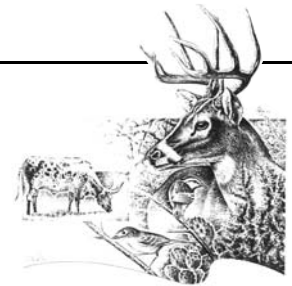
one exception. If you become a new member between October 1 and the time of the annual meeting in Feb. you get that time for free. You will not owe any dues until the following February meeting.

## Deer Program Scheduled

Wildlife Biologist and Researcher Kenneth Gee with The Noble Foundation will be presenting information on white-tailed deer genetics and antler development in the cross plains eco-region. The Noble Foundation is a charitable organization located in Ardmore,

Oklahoma that focuses on agriculture and plant biology,

Mr. Gee's presentation is tentatively set for Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln Community Center. It will start at 8:30 am and run until 11:30 a.m.



## In case you missed it

A native grass and selective brush removal field day was held at Allen Wolf's property on June 19. This was another opportunity to see the progress of the native grass re-vegetation project and learn about the benefits native grasses have over improved varieties for wildlife, and how they can work in a grazing program.

Western Ag Service (915-388-0634) provided a demonstration of selective cedar removal using a hydraulic tree sheer, a fixed blade saw and a grapple all on skid steers (bobcat type tractors). These smaller machines cause less soil disturbance than tracked dozers and do a more precise job of selective brush

removal.

The sheer can handle trees up to 20 inches in diameter and the saw makes quick work of anything up to about 6 inches. With a combination of these implements they can choose which tool or combination thereof will be most efficient for each situation.

## Collecting Herd Composition Data

**Please help with this effort, even if you only record a few deer. With over 400 members it all adds up. Herd composition data may be the most valuable data collected** on a deer herd. When properly collected, herd composition data can reflect the overall health of a herd and help guide the manager in making proper harvest recommendations.

Herd composition data should be collected during August, during the day and using binoculars.

Herd composition data should be collected during August. The fawns have become a part of the herd by this time, yet they are small enough to be easily distinguished from adult deer. Observations outside this period may result in inaccurate data. Observations may be collected any time during the day. However, the first and last hours of daylight are often the most productive for deer seen per hour of effort. Observations should not be collected at night because it is too difficult to correctly identify sex and size.

All deer recorded must be viewed through binoculars or a spotting scope. Small antlers are easily overlooked without optical aids. Fawns whose spots have started to fade are also hard to distinguish when they are observed alone. Be sure to look at the hips of deer that you think could possibly be fawns because the hips are the last place to lose spots.

When observing deer in herds, it is important that each deer be identified. If a herd of six deer is seen but only four are positively identified, do not record any of the deer. If there are two bucks, three does, and one fawn in a herd, you may easily identify the bucks but may not be sure of the other four unless they are all individually identified. When a herd is seen, quickly get a total head count, then go back and positively identify bucks first because they are easiest, then identify fawns, and finally identify the does making sure not to miss small-antlered bucks.

Observations can be made during


routine ranch operations or as a special effort. Observing the same deer recorded on a previous count is not a concern. If a conscientious effort is made to record accurate data, a small amount of duplicate recording should not affect the ratio. All deer should be recorded as a buck, doe or fawn. Recording bucks according to number of antler points is also beneficial. The occurrence of spikes versus multi-point animals is a good indication of the nutrition available.

Please return the completed form, included in this newsletter, by September 12th to Greg Pleasant, TPWD biologist.

*NO ONE WILL KNOW  
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PROPERTY  
Only total numbers of deer by  
region are made public*

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