



LEE COUNTY WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION



October 2004

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Cost Sharing for Food Plots

The Lee County Wildlife Management Association wants to encourage members to plant more food plots this fall for wildlife.

The LCWMA will provide up to \$25 in matching funds (you spend a dollar, we spend a dollar) for the purchase of seed to plant wildlife food plots in Lee County. Funds will be available on a first come first serve basis until \$1,250 has been spent. To take advantage of this offer please bring a copy of your receipt to The Lee County Extension Office.

Purchase any wildlife food plot seed from any Lee County feed store and we will reimburse you for half of the cost up to \$25. You must spend at

least \$50 on seed to receive the full \$25 reimbursement. This offer is only good for current seed purchases to be planted in Lee County this year and for current paid members. The deadline for bringing in receipts is December 1st. Seeds that will be eligible include oats, wheat, peas, clovers, food plot mixes, and even soybeans and peanuts if they are planted. Don't miss out on this opportunity by assuming that all the money is gone. You can call the Extension Office to check if funds are still available if you are concerned.

Getting a soil test is always money well spent. Most food plot failures can be avoided by having the correct pH and adding fertilizer if needed.

Photo Contest Reminder

Remember to be taking pictures of wildlife for the photo contest. Photos will be displayed at the February annual meeting. There will be a general category and a trail camera category. The only restriction is that the critter must be alive in the photo. You must have your photos into the Lee County Extension Office or Greg Pleasant's office in the courthouse (Suite #203) by January 1st. You can enter as many photos as you like. Unframed 8x10-inch prints are

preferred, but 4x6-inch prints will be accepted.

The directors will be judging the photos and awards will be given during the annual meeting on February 4th. Please have your name, category, phone number and the number of photos submitted (ex. 1 of 3) on the back of each photo. The Association will not be responsible for returning the photos, but if you would like yours back they may be picked up at the end of the meeting.



Old Buck and Spike Contest

An effort is being made to encourage hunters to learn to estimate a bucks age by their physical characteristics and behavior before harvesting them. This is to let quality bucks live to older age classes while still keeping pressure on lower quality young bucks. The association will have an oldest buck contest and a drawing for a youth and an adult winner from hunters registering spikes (at least one un-branched antler). To be eligible, all bucks must have been harvested in Lee County, and be registered by a TPWD biologist.

Registering a harvested buck will also enter the hunter in the six county drawing. Deer heads cannot be frozen at time of registration and the jaw bones must be attached. In the event of a tie for the oldest buck, the tie breaker will be the highest gross Boone & Crockett score.

Call me to register your deer so I can collect age and antler measurements. **My phone numbers are (H) 979-540-3492 (C) 979-716-0221 Greg Pleasant.**

Experimental Antler Restriction

This is the last year of the three-year experimental antler restriction regulation. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is still collecting deer age and antler measurements to assess the effectiveness of the regulation. The more deer we get data from, the better.

There are three voluntary check stations in Lee County where you can self-register your deer: H.W. Doyle processing plant in Giddings, T.J's Party Supply in Lexington and Gunter's Grocery in Dime Box. Myself and another biologist will be at the Lexington and Giddings check stations on the first two weekends of deer season. I prefer that you call me to get your deer registered rather than self-registering it at the check stations. So please call me.

Hunters registering a legal buck will be entered into a drawing for great prizes that include a lifetime hunting and fishing license (donated by Texas Sportsman Association).

Final Notice for Renewing Memberships

Members that have not paid dues for 2004 by November 1st will be dropped from the mailing list. Starting in 2005, unpaid members will be dropped on May 1st of each year. The reason for this change is we have members on the mailing list that have not paid in three years. Attempts have been made to contact members that are delinquent. If you think that you might not have renewed your membership this year, please call the Lee County Extension Office to check: 979-542-2753.

Brown Headed Cowbird Trapping Update

Brown headed cowbirds depredate on other bird species nests by laying their eggs in the nest of buntings, vireos and cardinals. Efforts to reduce numbers of brown headed cowbirds (BHCN) has been ongoing for several years on public lands, and were first intended to help save endangered species like the black capped vireo and the golden cheeked warbler. Texas Parks and Wildlife has been working with private landowners in this effort since 2000.

Trapping efforts have been so successful that it, along with habitat restoration have increased nesting success of black capped vireo's to the point that efforts have begun to de-list them as an endangered species. This year there was a statewide decrease in the number of cowbirds trapped, 48,715. This is hopefully a sign that the trapping efforts have made in impact on the number of BHCN.

This past spring the Texas Organization of Wildlife Management Associations (TOWMA) provided 34 traps to Co-op members in several counties; two in Lee County. Co-op members reported trapping a total of 1,800 cow birds this spring, with 1,073 females. Remember that a single female can lay up-to 70 eggs in a season so that's a huge potential impact on other bird species.



Prescribed Burning... It's a Good Thing

Greg Pleasant, TPWD Wildlife Biologist

Prescribed burning is an excellent tool for manipulating vegetation and improving wildlife habitat, but mention lighting a fire in the woods and people immediately envision raging wildfires like they see on television in the western U.S. It's true that fire is a powerful force that deserves respect, but the type and density of vegetation you are burning and the weather conditions play an enormous role on fire behavior. Once you know how these factors affect fire behavior you can use some simple safeguards and burn when conditions are the safest for your situation.

Under constant environmental conditions, fire behavior is predictable

A prescribed burn means burning within a range of conditions of temperature, humidity, wind direction and speed, fuel moisture, soil moisture topography and fuel load. When fire is used under constant environmental conditions, fire behavior is predictable, and knowing this can be used to contain it.

Prescribed burning is a cost effective tool that can help with property management in a number of useful applications. Several landowners I have helped have seen the benefits and have purchased their own drip torches and are now burning on their own.

An introduction to prescribed burning course will be offered December 6, 2004 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm in conjunction with a prescribed fire school at Bastrop State Park. This one-day training course is available to anyone interested in prescribed fire. Topics will include ecological effects of fire, equipment and safety, fire weather, fuels, ignition strategies, orienteering, and fire suppression techniques. The purpose of this course is to introduce persons with minimal or no prescribed burning experience to the basics of this valuable management tool. Registration is \$10, which includes lunch, refreshments and classroom supplies.

Registration deadline is November 12.

To register send a \$10 check made out to "Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks" along with your name, address and phone number. Mail to:

Bastrop State Park
Attn: Todd McClanahan
PO Box 518
Bastrop, TX 78602

For More Information:

For more information and questions regarding the course please contact Greg Creacy at greg.creacy@tpwd.state.tx.us

Fire can be an intimidating force and should not be attempted alone if you are not experienced. This class is an excellent opportunity to gain experience and to learn what is involved in the process of safely conducting a prescribed burn.



West Yegua Fall Co-op Meeting October 14

The West Yegua Co-op will have their fall get-together on Thursday, October 14th beginning at 6:30 pm. Come out and enjoy a fried chicken supper at Bobby Zoch's ranch on FM 1624.

This will be the only notification of this meeting so MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

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