



# LEE COUNTY WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION



January 2009

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## It's Time For The Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Friday, February 5. It will once again be at the Sons of Herman Hall south of Giddings off Hwy 77 and CR 223. Social hour will get started at 5:00 and the meal around 6:30 p.m.

Come on out for some good chicken fried steak and good fellowship. There will be plenty of door prizes and raffle items, so bring lots of money. Door prizes will be given throughout the evening so come early. In an effort to expedite giving out **so many prizes** we will ask that each family member sign in at their Co-op table to be eligible for door prizes. Meal tickets are only \$5.00 for adults and kids up

through high school still eat free, so bring the whole family. Tickets can be purchased at time of registration.

Wildlife and nature photographer Wyman Mienzer will be giving a presentation on how to take exceptional photos. He will have autographed copies of many of his wonderful books capturing Texas landscapes and wildlife available. We will have the photo contest and hopefully some nice bucks on display.

Mark it on your calendar and be sure to attend. If you have some deer antlers or a mount you would like to share with the crowd, please bring it.

## Report on the 4th Annual Youth Shooting and Hunter Safety Event

The Lee County Wildlife Association and Texas Parks and Wildlife hosted the fourth annual youth shooting and firearms safety event on October 21st and 22nd at Nails Creek Park on Lake Somerville. Local middle school and high school students involved in wildlife and agriculture classes were invited to come out for a fun, safe, hands-on educational opportunity.

The objective of the event was to educate students about hunter ethics and safety and give them the opportunity to shoot different types of firearms and bows. The students were placed in small groups and rotated through eight stations where they received one-on-one instruction. Some of the stations included: hunter ethics and safety trail, archery, shotgun, 22 pistol, 22 rifle, black powder rifle, and center-fire rifle. The students enjoyed a picnic lunch

and many won door prizes. The event was a lot of fun and has become established as an annual event.

The Lee County WMA applied for and received a \$2,000 grant from the local chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to procure equipment for this event. We hope to strengthen our relationship with this outstanding conservation organization to help us continue to sponsor this worthwhile program.

Volunteers included members and directors of the LCWA, local Hunter Education Instructors David Hempel and Roger W., area Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologists, Game Wardens and Park Staff.

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## Wildlife Photo Contest

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**We would like more entries for this year's contest so please keep sending them in.** Everyone enjoys looking at wildlife photos so please share yours with the rest of us. We'll be displaying the photos using a projection system again this year, so you can submit your digital photos electronically, saving printing cost and simplifying delivery. Email them to me at [tpwbiologist@bluebon.net](mailto:tpwbiologist@bluebon.net). Enter as many as you like, but please have your name in the title of each photo. We prefer jpeg for digital or unframed 8x10's, but 4x6's will be accepted. Printed photos will be scanned for the presentation. I hope co-op members are taking advantage of the loaner digital game cameras that are available from the directors and will be submitting photos from them.

Rules: the photos must be of a live animal taken in Lee County during 2008. There are two categories, general (hand held camera) and trail camera.

Deadline: You must have your photos in to Greg Pleasant's office by January 16<sup>th</sup>.

The directors will be judging the photos and awards will be given at the annual meeting. Please have your name, which category (general or trail), and phone number on the back of each printed photo. The association will not be responsible for returning photos, but you can make arrangements to pick them up after they are digitized for the presentation.

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## Oldest Buck Contest

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If you shot a spike or an old buck this season in Lee County, and you are currently a member of one of the co-ops you are eligible for one of two prizes. Since we didn't have check stations this year you need to get your deer to Greg Pleasant for aging. Make sure I know about any spikes you shot to be entered into the spike drawing. My deadline for getting you entered will be January 19th after the youth weekend.

The purpose of the current antler regulation is to allow more bucks to make it into older age classes by taking pressure off of the younger bucks. Hunters are encouraged to learn to estimate the age of a buck by their physical characteristics and behavior before shooting them.

**Please bring your antlers and mounts to be displayed for all to see.** We will have the display walls on hand.

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## Cost Sharing for Food Plots

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Hopefully it will rain again someday! If it does and you decide to plant spring food plots, remember to take advantage of the food plot seed reimbursement program. Members purchasing seed for wildlife food plots can receive up to twenty-five dollars in reimbursement from the Lee County Wildlife Association in an effort to reward members for helping wildlife in Lee County and to possibly encourage others to do the same.

You can purchase the seed from any retailer but the seed must be planted in Lee County to qualify. The deadline to have receipts to the Extension office for spring food plot seed will be May 1st.

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## Time To Check Your Bluebird Boxes

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February is the time to clean and repair your **bluebird boxes** for the new nesting season. Using predator guards and deterring fire ants are important steps in helping nesting success.

Starting in March you can check your boxes once a week and continue to do so through July. Just remember that when you see nest construction almost completed, do not disturb the box during the first three days of egg laying. After that you can check the box in the afternoon without bothering the female. The other critical period not to disturb the nest is just prior to the young leaving the box (when they are about 10 days old).

For more information about bluebird and purple martin nest box care and maintenance, please read past articles posted on the Lee County Wildlife Association's website at [leecountywildlife.org](http://leecountywildlife.org).



**Rocky Mountain  
ELK FOUNDATION**

We would like to thank the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for another year of support and we look forward to working together in the future.

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## Recent Workshops

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We strive to provide educational and informative programs for landowners and the community throughout the year. We had the 4th annual youth shooting and hunter education event this year for middle and high school students in October that continues to be a very worthwhile program reaching many youth that would otherwise not have the opportunity to receive training in hunter ethics and firearm safety training.

A deer anatomy workshop was held at the flying Z ranch in October. External and internal anatomy was covered including glands and how they are used in communication with other deer. Those that attended really enjoyed the class and asked that it be repeated again so they can bring other people to see it next time.

A prescribed burn workshop was held in December to train landowners how to safely use fire as a habitat management tool. We covered the history of fire, the importance of weather before during and after the fire, lighting techniques, establishing effective fire lines to contain the fire and tools that make the job easier and safer.

Other presentations were given at co-op meetings including predator control and turkey habitat requirements.



[www.leecountywildlife.org](http://www.leecountywildlife.org)

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## Master Naturalist Training

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Master Naturalist 2009 Training Class  
Begins February 7

The Gideon Lincecum Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist, which includes Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Lee and Washington Counties, will begin a new training class on February 7, 2009, finishing in May. Class size will be limited to 25. Sessions will be held at the Winedale Historical Complex on Monday evenings, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Field trips will be in various locations on some Saturday mornings.

The Texas Master Naturalist program, with over 37 chapters across the state, aims to train volunteers who will work toward the restoration and conservation of native wildlife and habitat through education, outreach, and service projects. The program is sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas AgriLife Extension.

The cost for training is \$150 per person, or \$250 for couples sharing text materials. 40 hours of classes and 40 hours of volunteer work are required to become a certified Texas Master Naturalist.

For a schedule of class sessions or to apply, please contact Judy Deaton at 936-878-9900, or e-mail: [judith\\_deaton@yahoo.com](mailto:judith_deaton@yahoo.com). Or visit the chapter website: <http://gideonlincecum.org>.) Visit <http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu> to learn more about Texas Master Naturalist™.



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Senior Vice-President - Branch Manager



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