



LEE COUNTY WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION



July 2009

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Greg Pleasant
Wildlife Biologist
Texas Parks and Wildlife
979-540-2744

Victor Gonzales
Game Warden
Texas Parks and Wildlife
Cell 979-540-0194

Waterfowl Habitat Program

Would you like to attract more ducks to your ponds? Or know how to design a pond to attract waterfowl? Come learn what it is about some ponds that ducks prefer over others and what plants you can plant or encourage to provide food that ducks are looking for. This program will cover all that and include what waterfowl species a landowner can expect to attract in our area. The speaker will be David Lobpries, a biologist with over 30 years experience. The program will be held on Tuesday, September 15 at the Lincoln Community Center and will start at 6:30 p.m.. Refreshments will be provided.



Information on Requesting Doe Permits

Deer numbers in parts of the county have gotten to the point that landowners would like to remove some does. It is, and has been legal for each hunter to take two does during archery season without antlerless permits. If you have more deer on your property than you think the habitat can support you can request antlerless deer permits from Texas Parks and Wildlife. The requirements are that the property must have an approved written wildlife management plan and a survey must be conducted between Aug. 1 and Sept. 15. The results of the survey must show that there are more deer on the property, at that time of year, than the habitat can support. **This survey is separate from the included herd composition survey.**

If you would like to receive doe permits for the upcoming hunting season call me in July so we have time to get everything done. Survey data must be in to me by **September 15th**. The size of the property will determine what type of survey will need to be done, spotlight or stand counts. If the property has more than 100 acres of open land, then a spotlight survey is preferred. If the property is smaller than that or is thickly wooded, stand counts will need to be done. On properties requiring a spotlight survey I will need to come out and measure visibility along the proposed route. This should be done in July. I will run the line with you the first time to teach you the proper method. It is then the landowners responsibility to conduct two more surveys. Stand counts are conducted sitting 5 times 2 hours each recording every buck, doe and fawn, with one stand per 100 acres of deer habitat. If you are a member of one of the wildlife co-ops, I have a written management plan under which I can issue you permits. Copies of these plans are available on request. Greg Pleasant, TPWD Wildlife Biologist — 979-540-2744 or tpwbiologist@bluebon.net

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Dianna Noack
 Branch President



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HERD COMPOSITION DATA

Herd Composition data (often called incidental observations) 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 between August 1 and September 15

The form should be back to my office by **September 15th**. 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.

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.

Ideally, a minimum of 150 deer should be identified

If possible, a larger sample size is desirable to strengthen the data and increase the confidence in the harvest recommendations. Observations can be made during routine ranch operations or as a special effort. On smaller ranches (<300 acres), it may not be feasible to obtain 150 deer observations, but efforts should be made to get **at least 50**. Members of **Wildlife Management Associations** should get at least 30 deer observations for ranches <300 acres and 50-100 deer observations for ranches >300 acres. 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 ratios. 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 inferior animals versus multi point animals can be used to measure progress in the quality of the deer herd over time.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO TOTAL THE NUMBERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FORM!

Submit data by **September 15th** to: Greg Pleasant
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
200 S Main- 203A
Giddings, TX 78942
979-540-2744

HERD COMPOSITION / INCIDENTAL OBSERVATIONS

Ranch Name: _____ 2009

Observer: _____ Property Owner: _____

Lee County

Wildlife Management Association (**Circle One**): Two Creeks South Lee West Yegua
 East Yegua Blue Branch

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO TOTAL THE NUMBERS AT THE BOTTOM!

Date	2-3 Point Bucks	4-7 Point Bucks	8+ Point Bucks	Undetermined Bucks	Does	Fawns	Comments
8/4	II	III	I	III	III III	II I	Example
Total:							