



# LEE COUNTY WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION



July 2011

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County Extension Agent  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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

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

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

## Scholarships Awarded To Five Local Graduates

The directors of the LCWA recently awarded five \$500 scholarships to deserving graduating seniors from our membership. Winners are Kacey Shows of Dime Box, and Marissa Jenke, Megan Maass, Colton Schimank and Carl Rost from Giddings. Congratulations to these winners and all area graduates.

As part of the application process each applicant wrote a short essay on the impacts of the drought on the deer herd in Lee County. These winning essays can be read at our website.

## Doe Permits

Do you think you have more deer on your property than it should have? Are you interested in receiving doe permits this season? If so, you need to collect herd composition and other survey data during August and turn it in to me on the appropriate forms by September 15th.

If you have never before requested doe permits, please contact me as soon as possible so we can get you set up to conduct the most appropriate survey for your property. You can get a copy of all the forms you need from our web site at [leecountywildlife.org](http://leecountywildlife.org) or contact Greg Pleasant at 979-540-2744

## Antlerless Bucks

Over the past few years there have been several antlerless bucks observed around Lee County. If you see one of these bucks on your property I ask that you let me know as soon as possible. I would like to tranquilize the buck for conducting breeding research. Please call Greg Pleasant 979-540-2744.

## Pastures, Trees, Wildlife and Cattle Management During a Drought

Drought has many landowners evaluating what they are going to do with their cattle and what the long term impacts are going to be on the land. Pastor Hasskarl, the new association President, approached Keeton and myself about providing a program to address some of these issues. We thought it was a great idea and came up with some topics and possible speakers.

The Lee County Wildlife Association will be sponsoring this program covering several issues that the drought is creating. The topics will include:

- Grass recovery - what will recover and what will not? What other options do you have?
- Native grasses as an option; what it costs and how long will it take to be able to graze them?
- Co-managing livestock and wildlife
- Prescribed burning to manage wildfire risk in the absence of cattle
- Why are the trees dying and what if anything can be done about it? What about re-planting trees to replace to ones that have died? What is the expense? Is there a good place to get them and will it work?

**DATE: September 24**

**TIME: 9am - 3pm** (registration will begin at 8:30am)

**LOCATION: The Lions Den** (on FM 141 just outside of Giddings)

**COST: \$12 per person** which will include lunch

**CEUs: 3 general CEUs** will be given

Please RSVP to the Lee County AgriLife Extension Office by September 19, by calling 979-542-2753.

## Second Annual Women's Firearm Safety Class

The Wildlife Association organized a second women-only firearm safety and shooting class which was held on May 21. The class teaches how to safely handle and shoot handguns, rifle and shotgun for self-defense or any other use in a free, no-pressure, women-only class. The class was well attended, and future classes may be planned if there is continued interest.

## Wildfire Safety

With temperatures on the rise and the lack of rain everyone should be extra cautious about wildfires this summer. Keep vegetation or anything flammable away from structures such as a flammable doormat or cushions on outdoor furniture that might be able to bridge heat to your house.

Blowing ash accumulation is a common source for ignition of structure fires from a wildfire. Clear any areas that tend to collect leaves when the wind blows as these are likely the same spots that ashes might accumulate. Move any wood away from your house or out buildings. Clean out your roof gutters as these can be tinder boxes for burning embers. Close up any underpinning on raised houses or decks. You might consider disking mineral lines around your property or at least equipment storage areas or stored hay.

Contact the Texas Forest Service for more information about fire proofing your home. With a little preparation you can reduce the chances of losing your home to wildfire.

## Keep the Photo Contest in Mind

Please keep the wildlife photo contest in mind! You can send photos in as you take them for the spring meeting. Remember to take your camera along and keep an eye out for good photo opportunities. You can enter as many photos as you like, but please rename each photo with your name and subject before you e-mail them to me. Jpeg format is preferred.

We also have the trail camera category and prize money is paid for first through third place in each category. The only rule is that the photo was taken in Lee County this year and includes a living animal.

Please email photos to [tpwbiologist@bluebon.net](mailto:tpwbiologist@bluebon.net) and tell me that you want the photos entered in the contest.

## Land Stewardship Workshop July 8

**Lee County New Landowner, Land Stewardship Workshop** is designed to help you learn how to better manage your land. The Workshop is a free, five-hour program presented by the Central Texas Conservation Partnership, a consortium of local, state and federal natural resource agencies.

**Topics Covered:** Want to take better care of your trees, keep them free of disease and maintain them during long, hot, dry spells? Trying to boost the water quality in your ponds and streams? Interested in feral hog control? Hope to learn more about property tax options? Looking for information about water rights? This workshop can help with all of that — and more.

The workshop will provide landowners with practical information so that they can make informed land management decisions that will help them achieve their goals while also conserving the area's natural resources.

### Land Stewardship Workshop

Friday July 8, 2011

1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### Lincoln Community Center

(just off State Highway 21 in Lincoln,  
about 1.5 miles south of State Highway 77)

### For more information:

Contact Forester Daniel Lewis at 979-968-5555, email [dlewis@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:dlewis@tfs.tamu.edu), or you may visit [www.texasconservation.org](http://www.texasconservation.org).

## Deer Check Stations

This hunting season, 2011-2012, is the tenth year of the 13-inch antler restriction regulation. TPWD will be operating registration stations around the six original counties — including Lee County — where hunters are asked to bring in their bucks so we can collect age and antler data. This data will be used to monitor what impact the regulation is having on the age structure of the herd as well as any changes to the antler quality. This provides data to monitor changes over time. Each hunter that allows us to collect age and antler measurements from legally harvested bucks will have their name entered into a drawing for one of 14 valuable prizes including a lifetime hunting license. These prizes are all donated by local businesses and our wildlife management associations.

## Food For Thought

We talk about what plants are good for wildlife habitat and what each animal eats. What about looking at it a little differently? I thought with the popularity of the survival type shows on TV these days I would try a different angle of getting people to appreciate plant diversity on their land.

What plants are on your property or even in your yard that you could eat? I hope everyone is familiar with picking dewberries and has enjoyed a good dewberry cobbler and possibly a little wild grape jelly or wine. But what else out in your fields and woods did native peoples live on that could still be utilized? Most of the plants that you can eat are the ones that most of us don't like or even try to kill.

Let's start with your yard. Did you know that dollarweed, wild onions and dandelion greens and flowers make a nice salad? What do you have in your flowerbeds? Many flowers are great at attracting hummingbirds and butterflies and also have food value for people. A few include turks cap, canna lilies and dayflowers. How about out in your pasture? Horsemint, nut sedge, bull nettle, goldenrod and even prickly pear cactus all have good uses for humans and wildlife. How about the hated honey mesquite tree? The leaves and beans are edible and it looks like we have a bumper crop of beans this year. Honey locust and hackberry trees are also not on most peoples list of favorite trees but have probably kept many people and even more wild animals alive through-out time. Greenbrier vines with all their thorns make them less than popular but the tender shoots are quite tasty and the roots, which can weigh up to 75 pounds, are a good source of calories. Even yaupon holly has a use. The leaves are full of caffeine and can be dried or roasted to make a natural "Red Bull", although the flavor is a little bitter. Adding horsemint/bee balm can improve the flavor.

I have only included a small sample of the most common and well known useful plants that we don't always appreciate so you might keep in mind that just because you do not know of a value for a particular plant at least most of them are good for something. Plant diversity is the key to good habitat for wildlife and probably us too.

If you are interested in learning more about wild edibles or medicinal plant use, I have found several good websites, books and even classes available on the subjects. A good place to start looking for resources

and classes including more sustainable living can be found at the following sites:

[www.foragingtexas.com](http://www.foragingtexas.com)  
[www.thehumanpath.com](http://www.thehumanpath.com)  
[www.herbvieos.com/texas.htm](http://www.herbvieos.com/texas.htm)

If several people are interested in learning more, I am sure we could get someone to come teach a class on the subject or even do a program at a co-op meeting!! If this is something that interests you let me or your wildlife association president know and we can see about providing a program on the subject.

## Water For Wildlife


If your ponds and creeks have dried up you might think about providing water for your wildlife. My ponds and creek have dried up, so a couple of months ago I built a water guzzler consisting of two 50-gallon plastic barrels plumbed in series with a hose running to a small trough with a float valve. I could tell from the tracks that animals found it right away. I haul water to it with another barrel I can put in the back of my truck. So far it seems to be working well. I spent a little bit of time trying to figure out the design and more money than I should have figuring out the best parts for the job, but now that I have it figured out a system like this can be built for under \$100 and few hours labor. If anyone is interested in building something like this, I would be glad to share my experience.



## Fall Co-op Meetings

Remember the fall co-op meeting will be coming up starting in September, so keep a look out for post card reminders. Feel free to let your directors know about any subjects for which you might like a program.

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 year may contact the  
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