

THE CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

Fall 2016 edition

Nature notes & news from the Lavaca County Wildlife Management Association

Donate your deer and alleviate hunger in Lavaca County

The Lavaca Assistance Ministry Body (LAMB) in Lavaca County is once again asking for your assistance in alleviating hunger in Lavaca County, by donating your unwanted, freshly-harvested deer meat. Donated deer must be skinned, gutted, quartered, and packed on ice, with proof of sex attached, and delivered to one of the participating processors. The hunter may keep any portion of the meat they desire, and all donated meat must be edible. The processor will debone the meat, grind it into hamburger, package it, and deliver it to the LAMB, for distribution to those in need.

There is no cost to the hunter other than the time invested to skin, gut, quarter, and deliver the deer. Processing costs are covered by generous donations from the Dickson-Allen Foundation and Peoples State Bank of Hallettsville. Please help us reach our goal of 100 deer donated for the 2016-2017 hunting season.

Participating processors, where to find them and how to contact them.

Herbert Neubauer (Sublime) 361-798-4457 (home) or 361-772-5067 (cell)

Glen's Packing Company (Hallettsville) 361-798-2601

Janak's Country Market (west of Hallettsville) 361-798-2985

MLD program overhaul coming

Upcoming changes in the permit issuance process will make it difficult for those not currently utilizing TWIMS to obtain and submit the data (e.g., herd composition and harvest) required to maintain MLD program participation. To get ahead of the curve, we are encouraging all who are NOT currently using the TWIMS system to submit their email address to the LCWMA and TPWD. If you receive MLD permits, you are in the TWIMS system, whether you utilize the online system or not. If you have an email address, and are NOT claiming your permits and submitting your harvest data via TWIMS, you are strongly encouraged to begin using the system. From what we know right now, once the new regulations take effect, TWIMS usage becomes mandatory.

To begin using TWIMS online please email Brent Pierce with TPWD (brent.pierce@tpwd.texas.gov) from the email address you wish to use. You will receive an email from TWIMS with instructions on how to set up your account.

We are working to determine what accommodations can be made for those without email. Fortunately, the regulations, which were scheduled to take effect this year, have been postponed until the 2017-2018 season. At this point, we have not seen any concessions from TPWD for those who do not have an email address, and would like to continue receiving MLD permits. If you are not using TWIMS by then you can no longer participate in the MLDP program.

Much more information on a whole host of program changes will follow in future newsletters. For now, barring some drastic shift in TPWD's position, I would encourage all of you who have an email address to start learning the TWIMS system. The email address used in TWIMS doesn't have to belong to the person whose name appears on this newsletter. The email of a spouse or hunting buddy is perfectly acceptable, but please make sure it is someone who checks their email regularly, and that you can trust to let you know when important emails arrive.

Resolve to improve the health of your natural resources

As the end of another year draws ever closer many will resolve to make changes in the new year that will improve their lives in some way. Improving one's health, whether physical, mental, or spiritual, tops the list of resolutions year in and year out, and for good reason; but how many resolve to improve the health of our land and the natural resources we derive from it? Why not make 2017 the year to do something more for the health of our natural resources, and take your land management to the next level?

Whether you are a new landowner, or a seasoned veteran, the following list of practices are time-tested to enhance the natural resources they target. This is not a complete list, but merely suggestions for expanding your management portfolio, that are not extremely difficult to put into practice.

1. Plant a food plot
2. Conduct a prescribed burn
3. Create a wildlife sanctuary
4. Aggressively manage feral hogs
5. Implement a rotational grazing system
6. Exclude livestock from riparian areas, and establish alternative watering sites

What management practice(s) to implement depends largely upon the current use of the land, the landowner's goals for the property, whether livestock grazing is present or not, and the funds available to spend on improvements? Costs of implementing new management practices can vary widely, depending upon the current infrastructure on the property, equipment available for construction and maintenance, and the extent to which the practice is employed (e.g., 1 ac. food plot vs. 5 ac. food plot). Also, livestock producers must keep in mind that with some management decisions there are opportunity costs, or the cost of production lost, to implement the practice. However, the payout for some practices (e.g., rotational grazing and feral hog management) may far exceed the cost of implementation.

While one may already be using some of these management practices on their property, there is no better time than the present to try something new, or to build upon those management practices. For example, if you are already planting food plots on your property maybe you need to assess the availability of food throughout the entire year. One solution may be to plant separate annual and perennial plots to ensure there are no gaps in your supplemental food delivery. Another enhancement may be to split plots into fall/winter annuals and spring/summer annuals to bridge the gap between crops. If you are already doing all of those things, then maybe it's time to reduce competition from undesirable species through the use of selective herbicides.

In the winter edition of *The Conservation Quarterly*, we will explore each management practice in greater detail to aid in determining which practice(s) complements your management goals.

Contact information for Texas Parks and Wildlife game warden and wildlife biologist for Lavaca County:

www.tpwd.texas.gov	
 Life's better outside.®	BRENT PIERCE Wildlife Division Hallettsville Field Office Natural Resource Specialist 412 North Texana Hallettsville, Texas 77964 361.798.2625 Office brent.pierce@tpwd.texas.gov
www.tpwd.texas.gov	
 Life's better outside.®	ADAM CLARK Law Enforcement Division Region VIII, District I Game Warden – Lavaca County 2805 North Navarro, Suite 600-A Victoria, Texas 77901 361.575.6306 Office • 361.220.9083 Cell 361.572.4134 Fax • 281.842.8100 24-Hour 800.792.GAME Operation Game Thief adam.clark@tpwd.texas.gov
	

HARVEST DATA COLLECTION 2016-2017

In years past, harvest records included various records such as dressed weights, age, and antler measurements. This year, in an attempt to get a more accurate count of how many deer are harvested and to increase data return rates, we are simply asking for how many antlered and antlerless deer were harvested on the property and on what date. Please fill out this harvest log and return it to Brent Pierce by the posted deadline.

Property name as indicated on permit: _____

Landowner or Agent as indicated on permit: _____

Wildlife Management Unit: _____

Date of Harvest	Sex	# Points	Inside spread

Date of Harvest	Sex	# Points	Inside spread

Please submit harvest data **by March 1, 2017.**

- Mail a copy of your harvest sheet to:

Brent Pierce
412 N. Texana
Hallettsville, TX 77964
- After sending a copy of your records, you may also enter the data directly into your TWIMS account. This is not mandatory but would be appreciated.
 - Please check one of the options:
 - _____ I *have* entered my harvest log into TWIMS.
 - _____ I *have not* entered my harvest log into TWIMS.
- Your username for TWIMS is simply your email address.

HARVEST RECORDS DUE BY March 1, 2017

**LCWMA
P.O. Box 524
Hallettsville, TX 77964**

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Membership questions?

Call the Chairman at

361-798-6506 or

Email

lavacacountywma@gmail.com