

THE CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

Summer 2017 edition Nature notes & news from the Lavaca County Wildlife Management Association

Annual Membership Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend the general membership meeting of the Lavaca County Wildlife Management Association (LCWMA) on Sunday, September 17, 2017. Doors will open at 10:00 a.m. and the general meeting will get underway around 11:00 a.m. with a presentation by our yet to be determined guest speaker. (Our guest speaker cancelled just two days before the newsletter was ready to go out. We delayed distribution of the newsletter as long as possible, but as of printing time, we are still awaiting confirmation from a different speaker. We will update members with that information as soon as plans are finalized.)

Following the guest speaker presentation a catered meal of roast beef and all the trimmings will be served. **Members are asked to bring their favorite dessert to share with everyone.** After lunch, Brent Pierce, Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist for Lavaca County, will review the herd composition data, discuss harvest recommendations for the upcoming season, and discuss the new MLD program and use of the LMA system. After Brent, Joel Wagner, LCWMA chairman, will give an update on the LCWMA. Raffle drawings will follow and the meeting will adjourn.

This year there will not be a separate gun raffle drawing, as the past few years have fallen short of producing the desired results. In its place there will be greatly enhanced bucket raffles, with more and larger prizes than in years past.

So, make plans now to join your fellow LCWMA members on Sunday, September 17, 2017 at the Knights of Columbus Hall (321 US HWY 77 S) in Hallettsville for the 2017 annual membership meeting of the LCWMA. We hope to see all of you there.

LMA enrollment deadline extended to September 1, 2017

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) has extended the deadline to set up new accounts in their Land Management Assistance (LMA) system to September 1, 2017. New and current members have until that day to gain entry into their LMA account, accept the Request for Technical Assistance (RTA), and draw in their property boundaries. LCWMA members do not need to enroll in the Conservation or the Harvest Option, as all LCWMA members will be entered in the Conservation Option by the Pool Manager (LCWMA Chairman, Joel Wagner). The LMA system replaces the TWIMS system, and **ALL** members must have an account established for their properties, or they will not be eligible to receive doe permits for the 2017-2018 hunting season.

If you used the TWIMS system in the past, you should have received an email from Texas Parks and Wildlife on July 4, with instructions on how to access and set up your new LMA account. If you were a TWIMS user in the past, and did not receive any email with LMA account creation instructions, please notify LCWMA Chairman, Joel Wagner, or TPW biologist, Brent Pierce (361-798-2625) as soon as possible. For previous TWIMS users, your LMA account already should be established and just awaiting your completion. If you received permits in the past, but never used the old TWIMS system you too have an account already established in the LMA system. To gain access to your account you must submit your email address to Brent Pierce, and a link to the new system along with set-up instructions will be emailed to you.

If you do not own a computer, or do not have someone who can facilitate the online enrollment, contact Brent Pierce before September 1, 2017, to make an appointment to get your new LMA account established. You may also attend one of the workshops Brent Pierce has set up to help members complete the enrollment requirements. The LCWMA will serve as the agent for those without a computer, and will accept and print your permits, then notify you when they are available.

With the extension of the enrollment deadline to September 1, 2017, the LCWMA is extending its deadline for new members to join the LCWMA to August 15, 2017. Enrollment forms can be downloaded from the LCWMA website (www.lcwma.org) under the "Join" tab. In line with the extended enrollment deadline, the deadline to pay your 2017 dues has been extended to September 1, 2017.

Notes from Brent Pierce

Hello everyone,

Thank you for your patience and willingness to complete your LMA account setup. The property mapping can be somewhat difficult, and if you need help please come see me in my office. Do not use Internet Explorer as your web browser. I recommend using Google Chrome or Firefox. Please follow the user guides and call (361-798-2625 or 361-217-0907), email (brent.pierce@tpwd.texas.gov) or stop by my office if you need any help.

I will try to be in my office (412 N. Texana in Hallettsville) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to help folks with LMA Account set ups. I have also planned the following events to assist multiple people at one time in completing their LMA account set-up. There will be extra TPWD personnel on hand to assist you in setting your new LMA account.

Tuesday, August 1, I will be at the Sacred Heart Catholic School computer lab from 9:00 am till 7:00 pm.
313 S. Texana Street, Hallettsville, Texas. 77964

Tuesday, August 8, I will be at the Vysehrad Elementary School computer lab from 4pm - 8 pm.
595 County Road 182, Hallettsville, TX 77964

You do not have to add an enrollment for MLDP! If you are planning to get doe permits through the Wildlife Management Association, then the pool manager aka (Co-Op president) or myself will enroll the entire Co-Op (WMA) into the Conservation Option. If you have accidentally left the Co-Op by clicking the Leave Co-Op button, then let us know you would like to be invited back into the Co-op and we will send you an invite via email to add your property back into the Co-Op. I know this isn't easy but let's try to get everyone's LMA account setup and activated before September 1st.

Thank you,
Brent Pierce
Natural Resource Specialist
Texas Parks and Wildlife

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 1 – September 1, 2017: conduct Herd Composition survey

August 15, 2017: Last day for new members to join the LCWMA and be eligible to receive permits for the 2017-2018 hunting season

September 1, 2017: Last day to pay 2017 dues, and to enroll in the new LMA system
Last day to submit herd composition to Texas Parks and Wildlife

September 15, 2017: Last day to opt out of the MLD program.

****If you decide you don't need /want any doe permits this hunting season you must opt out of the MLD program via the LMA system, to maintain program compliance.****

September 17, 2017: LCWMA Annual Meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hallettsville

April 1, 2018: Last day to enter harvest summary and habitat practices in the LMA system

Instructions for collecting incidental observations

Incidental Observations (often called Herd Composition) 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 1st and September 1st. 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 for deer seen per hour of effort. Observations **should not** be collected at night because it is too difficult to correctly identify sex and size.

Deer recorded should 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.

When observing deer in herds it is important that each deer be identified. If a herd of six deer is seen but only four are positively identified, do not record any of the deer. If there are two bucks, three does, and one fawn in a herd, you may easily identify the bucks but may not be sure of the other four unless they are **all individually identified**. When a herd is seen, quickly get a total head count, then go back and positively identify bucks first because they are easiest, then identify fawns, and finally, identify the does making sure not to miss small antlered bucks.

Collect as many samples as you can. If possible, a larger sample size is desirable to strengthen the data and increase confidence in the harvest recommendations. Observations can be made during routine ranch operations or as a special effort. Observing the same deer recorded on a previous survey is a concern if surveys are conducted too close together (less than 2-3 hours apart). If a conscientious effort is made to record accurate data, a small amount of duplicate recording should not affect the ratio. All deer should be recorded as a buck, doe, or fawn.

Send herd composition data to your Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist by **September 1, 2017**.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist
Brent Pierce
412 N. Texana
Hallettsville, TX 77964

Please be sure to total your sightings to the right and down before sending in your forms. Also be sure to fill in the name of the management unit (MU) the data is being collected for, and a distinguishing ranch name. It is essential that everyone collect herd composition data. The more data that is collected, the more applicable the harvest recommendations made for your MU will be to your individual ranch. Please follow the instructions precisely. DO NOT RECORD RANCHES IN DIFFERENT MUs ON THE SAME FORM, it causes too much confusion when entering the data.

**HERD COMPOSITION DATA DUE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2017
(i.e. must be received by TPWD by this date)**

MLDP cooperators herd composition form 2017

MU please circle one: Vienna South Central West Lavaca West Sandy Creek Honey Creek

Ranch Name: _____

Landowner name: _____

Land agent name: _____

Date	Observer	Bucks 2-3 pts	Bucks 4-7 pts	Bucks 8+ pts	Undet. Bucks	Fawns	Does	Run Total	Location
Total									

Please total across and down

Lease licenses

If you need a lease license, and want to get it at the drastically reduced price offered to wildlife management associations, then you must purchase your lease license from the LCWMA by September 18, 2017. Lease license applications will be available at the fall meeting for those who attend. If you are unable to attend the fall meeting the form is available on the LCWMA website (www.lcwma.org) under the FORMS tab. Please print the form, fill it out, and return it to the LCWMA, along with your payment, by September 18, 2017. Make checks payable to LCWMA.

A lease license is required if a landowner charges for the right to hunt their property. Either the landowner or the land agent may purchase the license. Lease licenses are \$10 through the LCWMA and a minimum of \$75 if purchased at a point-of-sale location.

LCWMA Policy Reminder

Any member who wishes to receive MLD permits for the 2017-2018 hunting season **MUST** submit herd composition data by the date set forth by Texas Parks and Wildlife in this newsletter (September 1, 2017). Herd composition must be received by the deadline or the applicant will be rendered ineligible to receive MLD permits for that season. These requirements are necessary to streamline the permit issuance process, and allow sufficient time before the hunting season to correct complications that arise, as well as hold new and current members to the same data reporting standards.

Gate signs

LCWMA gate signs are available for purchase at the Texas Parks and Wildlife office in Hallettsville. Please call ahead (361-798-2625) to make sure Brent Pierce is in the office that day, or plan to stop by on one of the days he is scheduled to be there. Gate signs will also be available at the LCWMA annual meeting.

In an effort to get more gate signs visible, the price has been slashed to just \$5. We would like to see every LCWMA member display a gate sign on their property entrance or fence, and remove the old black and white signs with the names of the old individual co-ops on them. These once individual co-ops are now management units of the LCWMA and are no longer individual entities.

2017 LCWMA membership dues

If you haven't already done so, please mail in your 2017 membership dues as soon as possible. LCWMA dues are still \$20 and should be sent to the following address:

LCWMA
P.O. Box 524
Hallettsville, TX 77964

You should receive a receipt once your payment has been processed. Please be patient, though, as we have only one Treasurer, and he like all LCWMA officers are volunteers; meaning they handle LCWMA business in their spare time. If you don't receive a receipt within one month of mailing your membership dues, please contact LCWMA Treasurer, Sam Bordovsky by phone at 361-798-1813 or by email at sbordovsky@gmail.com.

To avoid confusion, and to expedite payment processing, please mail your dues directly to the LCWMA. Please do not mail payments to, or drop them off at, the Texas Parks and Wildlife office in Hallettsville.

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

LCWMA Board of Directors

**Chairman: Joel Wagner
(Northwest Lavaca County)**

Secretary: Tom Grahmann (At-large)

**Treasurer: Sam Bordovsky
(Southeast Lavaca County)**

**Member: William "Rusty" Wallace
(Northeast Lavaca County)**

**Member: Mike Hoelscher
(Southwest Lavaca County)**

Member: David Pohl (At-large)

Membership questions?

Call the Chairman at

361-798-6506 or

Email

lavacacountywma@gmail.com