

THE CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

Summer 2018 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 16, 2018. Doors will open at 10:00 a.m. and the general meeting will get underway around 11:00 a.m. with a presentation on raptors, also known as birds of prey, by the staff of Last Chance Forever. Last Chance Forever, is a San Antonio based non-profit dedicated to the rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned birds of prey, scientific investigation, and the education of the public. Their interactive program will involve **LIVE** birds of prey, and detail the biology of some of the most common raptors that occur in Texas, their interaction with humans, and their roles in maintaining healthy ecosystems. Folks, this is one presentation you do not want to miss.

Following the guest speaker presentation a catered meal 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, and discuss harvest recommendations for the upcoming season. After Brent, Joel Wagner, LCWMA chairman, will give an update on the LCWMA. Raffle drawings will follow and the meeting will adjourn.

In addition to the bucket raffles held at the meeting, we are bringing back the gun raffle. This special raffle is conducted to offset the cost of the meeting. Only 1000 tickets will be sold. Tickets can be purchased at the meeting, however, if you are unable to attend and wish to purchase tickets, please complete the form on page 5. Send the completed form along with your payment to the LCWMA and tickets will be made out for you. You will receive the numbered ticket stub(s) verifying your entry by mail. The drawing will occur at the meeting on September 16, 2018.

The Board of Directors has put together an impressive suite of prizes for the bucket raffles. There will be something for everyone hunters, wildlife enthusiasts, and fishermen alike.

So, make plans now to join your fellow LCWMA members on Sunday, September 16, 2018 at the Knights of Columbus Hall (321 US HWY 77 S) in Hallettsville for the 2018 annual membership meeting of the LCWMA. This meeting is open to the public, and admission is free. Members are encouraged to invite their neighbors or anyone with a profound interest in wildlife and habitat management. We hope to see all of you there.

THANK YOU, SAM!

After more than 10 years of selfless service to the LCWMA, longtime LCWMA treasurer Robert "Sam" Bordovsky, is stepping down. Sam has been an integral part of the LCWMA throughout this time, especially the cumbersome process of combining the 6 individual co-ops into one organization, then converting it to a 501c3 non-profit organization we now know as the LCWMA. His dedication to his post and his impeccable attention to detail made it easier for the rest of the Board of Directors to make sound financial decisions. Many members don't realize the amount of time that LCWMA officers dedicate to the organization. With almost 900 paid members it's easy for the LCWMA treasurer to put in 10 or more hours each week, of unpaid service. Sam will be sorely missed, and his replacement has very big shoes to fill. If you see Sam, please thank him for his years of service to the LCWMA.

We will have a new treasurer in place soon, but until the new treasurer is up and running please contact LCWMA Chairman, Joel Wagner (361-798-6506 or lavacacountywma@gmail.com), if you have a question concerning your membership dues.

2018 LCWMA membership dues

For those who have not yet done so, please send in your 2018 LCWMA membership dues as soon as possible. Current LCWMA members must have their 2018 dues paid before September 1, 2018, to be eligible to receive permits for the 2018-2019 hunting season. Dues are still \$20. Checks or money orders should be made payable to LCWMA, and mailed to:

LCWMA
P.O. Box 524
Hallettsville, TX 77964

You will receive a receipt once your payment has been processed. Please be patient, though, as all LCWMA officers are volunteers; meaning they handle LCWMA business in their spare time.

If you are a lease hunter sending in dues for your landowner, please note on the check the landowner and ranch name for which you are sending payment. Also, please remember that LCWMA members can enroll as many properties as they want for one \$20 annual membership. If you own more than one property, please do not send \$20 for each property you own. One \$20 membership fee covers all the properties you enroll as a member, no matter what management unit they are in.

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.

2018 LCWMA Annual Meeting Raffle

\$10/ticket OR 6/\$50

ONLY 1000 tickets will be sold

1. Benelli M2 12 gauge in Realtree Max 5 camo (Value = \$1469)
 2. Christensen Arms Mesa Bronze in 6.5 Creedmoor (Value = \$1349)
 3. Savage Model 110 with stainless steel barrel in 6.5 Creedmoor (Value = \$800)
 4. Bushmaster XM15-OR with 16 in. barrel in .223 Rem. (Value = \$699)
 5. Ruger 10/22 221R with stainless steel barrel and Natural Gear camo stock in .22LR (Value = \$380)
 6. \$250 Brush to Bay Outfitters gift certificate
 7. \$150 Brush to Bay Outfitters gift certificate
 8. \$100 Brush to Bay Outfitters gift certificate
 9. \$100 Brush to Bay Outfitters gift certificate
 10. \$100 Brush to Bay Outfitters gift certificate
- All winners of firearms must pass N.I.C.S. Background Check or prize will be forfeited. Prizes 1-5 must be picked up from Brush to Bay Outfitters [(1456 E. Cemetery Rd., Hallettsville, TX (361-798-9294)] in Hallettsville by November 1, 2018 or prize will be forfeited.

Name:

Phone:

of tickets:

Instructions for collecting 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 July 15th 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.

All 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 the 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.

Make sure to fill out the form correctly! You can double check your property information page on your LMA account for correct site name, landowner, agent and acreage. If you're not sure which WMA, then click view management unit and then view/edit for the correct WMA. Also, be sure to total each column at the bottom and list total Bucks, total Does and total Fawns observed. Then before 9/9/18, mail Brent Pierce a copy, or drop it by his office, located at **412 N Texana** in Hallettsville.

Herd Composition data due: September 9th, 2018

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 17, 2018. 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 17, 2018.

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 2018-2019 hunting season **MUST** submit herd composition data by the date set forth by Texas Parks and Wildlife in this newsletter (September 9, 2018). 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. New and current members are held to the same data reporting standards.

Gate signs

LCWMA gate signs are available at the Texas Parks and Wildlife office in Hallettsville (412 N. Texana). Please be sure to call ahead to make sure Brent is in the office before showing up. If you can't make it to Brent's office, gate signs will be available for purchase (\$5) at the annual meeting on September 16, 2018. LCWMA members are not required to display a gate sign, but are strongly encouraged to do so. Gate signs are a powerful tool for recruiting new members to join our Association. Inquiries from curious neighbors who have seen the sign result in many new LCWMA members each year. 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.

Make sure you keep it current!

Don't forget to notify the LCWMA of any changes to your mailing or email address. The new Land Management Assistance (LMA) application allows users to update their contact information for Texas Parks and Wildlife, but this information is not shared with the LCWMA. To facilitate easier communications with WMA members, and to be able to assist members in setting up and maintaining their LMA accounts, the LCWMA and other WMA's across the state, have been working to gain greater access to the LMA. So far, Texas Parks and Wildlife has turned a deaf ear to our requests. Until an agreement is reached between Texas Parks and Wildlife and the WMA's, any changes to your mailing or email addresses must be made in your LMA account, **AND** by informing the LCWMA as well. The LCWMA Board of Directors is not responsible for deadlines missed due to one's inability to keep their information current.

Changes to your contact information can be made via email (lavacountywma@gmail.com) or by calling LCWMA Chairman, Joel Wagner at 361-798-6506. Thank you for your cooperation.

**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