

# THE CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

Summer 2019 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 15, 2019. Doors will open at 10:00 a.m. and the general meeting will get underway at 11:00 a.m. with a presentation on mountain lions by Dr. John Young, Environmental Specialist for Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Dr. Young, earned his Bachelor's degree in 1988 from West Virginia University, and after bouncing around for a few years found his way to Kingsville and Texas A&I University where he earned his Master's working on ocelot habitat restoration in 1992. After 8 years working with corporations on managing their lands for wildlife across the US and internationally, he came back to Texas and spent 11 years at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) as the state non-game mammologist. While at TPWD John was offered an opportunity to earn his PhD working on mountain lions under Dr. Michael Tewes at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. John's PhD dealt with modeling statewide distribution and potential available habitat for mountain lion, and potential impacts of harvest on population viability. Currently he is employed at TxDOT as an Environmental Specialist focusing on wildlife vehicle collisions, wildlife crossings, and endangered species issues. Unlike last year's presentation, there will not be any live props (a mountain lion probably wouldn't do well on a leash). Nonetheless, this will be a fantastic opportunity for members to expand their knowledge and test just how much, or how little, they know about these secretive, majestic, and largely misunderstood predators.

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 once again holding a gun raffle. This special raffle is conducted to offset the cost of the meeting. Only 1000 tickets will be sold. Tickets may be purchased at the meeting, however, if you are unable to attend and wish to purchase tickets, please complete the form on page 2. 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 15, 2019.

The Board of Directors is putting together an impressive suite of prizes for the bucket raffles, but will gladly accept any prize donations from members. If you have an item to donate to the bucket raffle please contact LCWMA Chairman, Joel Wagner, before the meeting, so we can designate space for your prize while setting up for the meeting.

So, make plans now to join your fellow LCWMA members on Sunday, September 15, 2019 at the Knights of Columbus Hall (321 US HWY 77 S) in Hallettsville for the 2019 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.

## LCWMA Policy Reminder

Any member who wishes to receive MLD permits for the 2019-2020 hunting season **MUST** submit herd composition data by the date set forth by Texas Parks and Wildlife in this newsletter (September 1, 2019). 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.

## 2019 LCWMA membership dues

Please send in your 2019 LCWMA membership dues as soon as possible. Current LCWMA members must have their 2019 dues paid before September 1, 2018, to be eligible to receive permits for the 2019-2020 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.

## 2019 LCWMA Annual Meeting Raffle

**\$10/ticket OR 6/\$50**

**ONLY 1000 tickets will be sold**

1. Christensen Arms Mesa Bronze in .308 Win (Value = \$1349)
2. Savage Model 110 High Country in 6.5 Creedmoor, True Timber Strata camo stock (Value = \$1059)
3. Bennelli Montefeltro 12 gauge shotgun in Realtree Max 5 camo (Value=\$979)
4. Savage Model 25 Walking Varminter in .223 Rem, Realtree Max 1 camo stock (Value = \$699)
5. Marlin Model 60 SS in .22LR (Value = \$299)
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, 2019 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 9/1/19, mail Brent Pierce a copy, or drop it by his office, located at **412 N Texana** in Hallettsville.

**Herd Composition data due: September 1, 2019**



## **Lease licenses**

A lease license is required if a landowner charges for the right to hunt their property. 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, 2019. 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 will be available on the LCWMA website ([www.lcwma.org](http://www.lcwma.org)) under the FORMS tab after August 15, 2019. Please print the form, fill it out, and return it to the LCWMA, along with your payment, by September 18, 2019. Make checks payable to LCWMA.

Texas Parks and Wildlife has created new lease license forms, that eliminate the problems that arose last year about who could purchase a lease license through the LCWMA. The new form will allow land agents to purchase the hunting lease license for the property if the landowner is not accessible to complete the form. Simply stated, lease licenses may now be purchased by the landowner OR the land agent and not be in violation of the law. Since we are still in the 2019 hunting license year, the new forms have not been made available by TPWD. As soon as the new lease license application is made available on August 15 they will be added to our website. An email will be sent to all LCWMA members when the new form has been uploaded to the website.

As stated in previous newsletters, the LCWMA is working to end mailing printed copies of the newsletter to those who already receive an email copy. So far, we have been able to trim about 30 printed newsletters, but we feel this number could be trimmed by 2-3 times as much. If you are receiving both an email newsletter and a printed newsletter please send an email to [lavacountywma@gmail.com](mailto:lavacountywma@gmail.com) and ask to receive email newsletters only. Printed newsletters will still be sent to paid members without an email address on file. Duplicate mailings are a drain on LCWMA funds and volunteer time, so please help us maximize both. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **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 15, 2019. 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.

## **Be sure to stay in the loop**

Don't forget to notify the LCWMA of any changes to your mailing or email address. The Land Management Assistance (LMA) portal allows users to update their contact information for Texas Parks and Wildlife, but this information is not shared with the LCWMA. So, if you make an email or address change to your LMA account please don't forget to notify the LCWMA as well. Changes to your contact information can be made via email ([lavacountywma@gmail.com](mailto:lavacountywma@gmail.com)) or by calling LCWMA Chairman, Joel Wagner at 361-798-6506. If you do not have an email address on file, and received this newsletter via email from Brent Pierce, please notify the LCWMA so you can be added to the email list.

The LCWMA Board of Directors is not responsible for deadlines missed due to one's inability to keep their contact information current. 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: Vacant**

**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](mailto:lavacacountywma@gmail.com)**