

BCWMMC

Bee County Wildlife Management Co-op

August 2004 Newsletter

Did you know...

...a field of coastal grass/hay has about the same benefit for wildlife as your local Wal-Mart parking lot?

...habitat determines deer carrying capacity?

...deer cannot digest mature grasses?

...antler development is dependent upon three factors: nutrition, age, and genetics?

...Forbs are generally high in protein and important to deer size, antler development and fawn production?

...maximum antler development of buck deer is attained at 5 to 6 years of age. Allowing bucks to reach older ages through selective harvest will allow them to attain their potential antler growth?

Tidbits

Three Things In life

Three things in Life that once gone, never come back:
Time, Words, & Opportunity

Three things in life that may

BCWMA LOGO CAPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

We have our first order of monogrammed ball caps in and they look good. They are going fast so we have placed a second order. If you miss getting yours this time more are on the way. The price is \$10 and you can get them at our board and regular meetings as well as by contacting board member Bill Frank at 361-749-7763. We encourage all members to purchase and wear the caps as they are another way for us to get the word out about the association. They are also presented to our guest speakers. We can also supply vests, shirts and jackets with the logo, just let us know what you are interested in.

CEU CREDITS BEING AWARDED FOR SOME MEETINGS

If you need continuing education credits to maintain your Pesticide Applicators License you can now get them by attending BCWMA meetings. Forms are available at meetings that qualify for the credit (most of them). You can get credit for our last meeting (food plots, A & M Experiment station) by contacting Donnie Montemayor at the Bee County Extension office, 361-362-3280.

TOWMA MEETING REPORT

President Tom Keller and board members Pat True and Larry Jones attended the three day Texas Organization of Wildlife Associations symposium this month in Kerrville. This was a fantastic learning opportunity with many expert presenters and finished up with a half day trip to the 6000 acre Kerr Management Area.

This has to be seen to be believed! Since the 1970's they have been experimenting with deer and habitat management with astounding results. In addition to their "wild" herd they have almost 30 years of detailed data on well over 3000 pen raised (controlled environment) deer. Their current herd of over 300 deer raised in 16 acres of pens should make a believer out of the most chronic hard head among us. Herds of native, yearling (1 1/2 years old), "hill country" bucks with 8, 10 and 12 point racks will knock your eyes out. Of course their 4 year old bucks are even more awesome. All are a result of managing the genetics of the herd by getting rid of the deer with inferior genes and letting nature run its course.

Spike bucks are almost always inferior as mature deer and 6 point yearlings always have better mature racks even when both are on minimal or stressed nutrition diets. Protecting yearling bucks (actually any buck) with less than 5 points is similar to keeping your worst bulls in your cattle herd as herd sires. They are out there breeding your does before the bucks with superior genetics can get to them. Nutrition is certainly an important factor, but superior genetics still produce much better deer when on the same habitat, good or bad. For optimum results you need both good genetics and good habitat and you need to let the good bucks get to 5 or so years of age before harvest.

The Kerr Management Area uses no food plots or supplemental feeding on the wild deer herd. Prescribed burns and rotational grazing are the two habitat management tools they use, and the results are spectacular. When you stop to consider these were the very tools used by nature before man screwed things up, it makes sense. The buffalo roamed in massive herds, providing the rotational grazing that stimulated

never be lost:
Peace, Hope, & Honesty

Three things in life that are most valuable:
Love, Self-confidence, & Friends

Three things in life that are never certain:
Dreams, Success, & Fortune

Three things that make a person:
Hard work, Sincerity, & Commitment

Three things in life that can destroy a person:
Wine, Pride, & Anger
Unknown

•
The giant oak is just an acorn that held its ground.
*Author Speaker
Mark Gilroy*

•
It's not the load that breaks you down it's the way you carry it.
Lena Horne

•
Some things have to be believed to be seen.
Unknown

•
A good life lasts for generation.
Unknown

•
Credibility is like virginity - once you've lost it you never get it back

Officers

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Adam Coronado
R. W. Dirks

new growth in grass, forbs and legumes, and wild fires took care of the burns and provided all the benefits (many) of fire. It is weird how many years it has taken us to figure that out.

Please take a look at the CD-ROM and the flyers that accompany this newsletter for more details on the Kerr research. We are arranging for Bill Armstrong, manager of the Kerr Area, to come speak to us.

FIELD DAY MEETING REPORT

August 10, 2004 - 6:00PM to 8:00PM - **Membership Field Trip**

Program: Dr. William Ocampo on establishing food plots and the varieties of food plants that are doing well here.
Texas A & M Research Center, Hwy 59, Beeville.

PLEASE PICKUP AND INSTALL YOUR GATE SIGN

The signs are in and can be picked up at the Bee County Extension office or at our next meeting. We need these signs on your gates ASAP as they are one of the best ways of getting the word out about our association and gaining new members.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

You DO NOT have to own property to join. Anyone interested in improving the quantity and quality of wildlife in Bee County is WELCOME. Tell your hunters, they may want to join as well. Contact an officer or board member (see side bar) for applications.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND DUES

Regular annual dues are \$20 per calendar year. Life Memberships are available for a one time fee of \$100. Life members who join during 2004 become CHARTER Members.

All members will receive a Bee County Wildlife Management Association gate sign (see separate item for details) identifying them as members of the co-op.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Our Local Meetings

- **September 7, 2004** - 7:30PM - 8:30PM - **Membership Meeting**
Program: Al Brothers
Bee County Extension Service Office.
- **October 5, 2004** - 7:30PM - 8:30PM - **Membership Meeting**
Program: Deer Management, Including Aging and Harvest Standards.
- **November 9, 2004** - 7:30PM - 8:30PM - **Membership Field Trip**
Program: Care and Processing of Deer
- December, 2004 - No Meeting
- January 4, 2005 - To be announced later
- February 4, 2005 - (Friday night) 7:00PM - 8:30 PM - **Annual Membership Meeting, Election of Officers and Dinner** - To be held in the Country Kitchen Meeting room in Beeville. More details later.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - State Wide

Bill Frank
Larry Jones
Tom Keller
Ellis McKinney
Charles Smith
Pat True
W. T. Young
D. Montemayor*
*(ex-officio, non voting)

Newsletter

Larry Jones
361-362-0430
ljones@hrbizmall.com

OPERATION GAME THIEF 1-800-792-GAME

"There is no stronger deterrent to a poacher than the knowledge that his peers find his philosophy and actions unacceptable to the point that they will report him to the game warden."

** Buddy Turner - OGT
Program Director **

August 26 -27, 2004 - Dove Symposia
Texas A & M Conference on doves; includes management and commercial aspects
Ulvade, Texas
Agenda and registration form is available at:
<http://www.peopleware.net/index.cfm?eventDisp=DOVE&subeventdisp=UVALDEI>

October 2, 3, 2004 - Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo
This is a great, multi-faceted wildlife event at TP&W Headquarters in Austin.
<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/expo/> - 512/389-4472

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

AUGUST:

Conduct deer spotlight counts
Disk roadsides to promote germination of both cool and warm season forbs
Continue to monitor grazing pressure on rangelands and adjust or move cattle accordingly
Begin supplemental feeding

SEPTEMBER:

Deer surveys
Conduct soil tests on food plot sites
Prepare ground and plant winter food plots
Shred or disk sunflowers, millet or goat weed for dove feed
Shred around tanks to facilitate doves coming to water
Make sure tanks with pumps or windmills have some open water

NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

If you receive this newsletter by USPS mail and have an email address **PLEASE** forward it to me at ljones@hrbizmall.com. It will save paper, time, postage, printing, and a lot of labor (printing, folding, taping, attaching stamps, driving to Post Office). You will also have direct access to the web links we will publish. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, and THANK YOU for your help!

NEWSLETTER CONTENT SOLICITED

Please submit information about coming events and topics of interest to your fellow co-op members. Email (ljones@hrbizmall.com), FAX (361-162-1309) or call (361-362-0430) Larry Jones

WEB LINKS OF INTEREST

TEAM QUAIL WEB SITE



For quail related publications and a lot of information on quail management click on the logo above. The actual URL is <http://teamquail.tamu.edu>