

Bee County Wildlife Management Association



Enhancing Quality and Quantity of Wildlife Habitat and Populations in Bee County, Texas

October 2005 Newsletter

BCWMA 2005 BIG BUCK CONTEST

**Win rifles, feeders,
pistols and more!**
[Entry Deadline is
November 4, 2005
for gun hunters](#)
(entry form attached)

Did you know...

...when it comes to whitetail browse, not all plants are created equal?

...deer are very selective when browsing woody plants?

...biologists rate plants as first, second and third choices in terms of deer preference?

...first choice plants are plants that deer prefer over all others?

...these plants are sought out because they are most palatable and nutritious?

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 WHITETAIL WORKSHOP

This promises to be a terrific, don't miss session. Donnie Frels, Manager of the Kerr Wildlife Management Area, Al Brothers, co-author of the book Observing and Evaluating Whitetails, (and co-founder of the Quality Deer Management Association, or QDMA), and Macy Ledbetter, Wildlife Biologist, will be our featured speakers.

The Meeting starts at 12:00 noon and will end before 4:00. Lunch will not be served so eat before you come. Refreshments will be furnished.

Donnie Frels will open the meeting with a 45 minute overview of habitat and wildlife management and how it functions as a system comprised of critical, interrelated elements. I heard Donnie give this talk recently and I believe it is the best, easiest to understand presentation I have ever heard regarding the complete picture of resource management. Before you decide on the management practices you want to employ on your property, you need to listen to what Donnie has to say.

AL Brothers, who always draws a big crowd and gets lots of questions, will talk about the reasons behind the QDMA philosophy of "Let them go so they can grow." He will follow with an on-the-hoof aging session designed to increase our skills in identifying the animals that we should let go and those that can be and/or should be harvested to maintain an optimum deer herd.

Macy Ledbetter, formally our area TPWD Biologist and now in private practice, will follow with a review of the 2005 spotlight survey results and will present his 2005 deer harvest recommendations. He will answer questions and explain the basis for his recommendations in detail.

Following Macy's presentation we plan to break into two groups, by survey area, Highways 202/59 in one group and the Mineral area in the other. Landowners and hunters from each area will discuss their area recommendations and will try to come to an agreement everyone can live with for each area. These sessions will be conducted in a manner similar to the ones we did for the Hwy 202 area last year where the buy-in and follow through was exceptional.

Bring guests and encourage all interested parties to attend. Bee County Coliseum.

QDMA SHORT COURSE OCTOBER 25, 2005

The Quality Deer Management Association is conducting its annual Quality Deer Management Short Course Oct 25, 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm, at the King Ranch Museum (Henrietta Memorial Center) in Kingsville. These sessions are always very educational and get a BIG turn out. Cost is \$20 per person or \$35 for a married couple. Children are free with a paid adult. A BBQ dinner and door prizes are included. Topics to be covered include:

- Fundamentals of Whitetail Nutrition
- Deer Density and Supplemental Feed: Effects on Habitat and Deer Diets

...second choice plants are not as nutritious but make up for it in abundance on most ranges?

...third choice plants are consumed only when first and second place plants are unavailable?

...browse surveys identify the plants on your property?

...Browse condition can be used to help determine if you have too many deer on your range?

...excess deer will produce "browse lines" that can identify a problem with habitat over utilization?

...quality habitat produces quality animals?

...first choice plants in our area include:

- Cedar elm
- Coma
- Granjeno
- Guayacan
- Southwest bernardia
- Texas kidneywood

Second choice plants include:

- Blackbrush
- Guajillo
- Huisache
- Live Oak
- Lime Prickly-ash
- Lotebush
- Wolfberry

- Establishing Successful Food Plots in South Texas
- The latest in Growth Research in South Texas
- QDMA Activities and Programs in South Texas

To register call 800-209-3337, or send your check to QDMA (Attn: King Ranch Registration) P. O. Box 160, Bogart, GA 30622

I highly recommend this event, they always do a good job and it is well worth the time and cost to attend. Hope to see you there.

PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING SET

Fire is a natural part of all rangelands in the state of Texas and before the settlement by European man, most of the grasslands of the state burned at fairly frequent intervals. Indians are known to have used fire for game management and harvest purposes and fires caused by lightning were common.

In keeping with this thought, ranchers and natural resources managers use fire as a tool today to suppress woody plants, improve wildlife habitat, and improve grazing for livestock. Prescribed burning is being used throughout the state with excellent results to accomplish the goals that ranchers and wildlife managers have set for their ranches.

To further the goal of getting more acreage burned each year, the Natural Resources Conservation Service is conducting public meetings for ranchers and other interested parties to discuss Prescribed Burning Associations. A prescribed burning association is a group of landowners and other concerned citizens that form a partnership to assist each other with conducting prescribed burns. Other areas of the state have already formed such associations and are getting excellent results and participation from large groups of ranchers. The meetings will be both informational and organizational in nature. Prescribed burn associations usually cover a multi-county area.

The area meeting for Bee and Refugio counties will be held October 13, 2005, at the Refugio County Community Center located on Swift Street, and will start at 8:30 AM and end about 12:00 PM.

From the perspective of the BCWMA, prescribed burning, usually combined with a rotational grazing system, is by far the most cost effective and results oriented range and habitat management solution available today. It is nature's way of managing habitat, and if you can't thrust Mother nature, who can you trust? BCWMA members are encouraged to attend this meeting. We have been discussing forming a burn association within BCWMA, and this may be an attractive alternative or may assist us in getting ours started.

501 (C) (3) TAX EXEMPT STATUS

BCWMA is now classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) (3) private charity and is exempt from Federal Income Taxes. Contributions to BCWMA are deductible under section 170 of the IRS code. We are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2016 or 2522 of the code. If you or your business wants to donate prizes (for the Big Buck Contest, or door prizes, or educational grants or scholarships, for example) or cash, or equipment (for prescribed burns, or a sound system or A/V equipment for meetings, for example) and has a question about the tax deduction, contact treasurer Bill Frank for more information. Sponsor memberships only qualify to the extent that they exceed the value of the advertising you receive from the newsletter ads and the meeting sponsor board.

"HOT DOG! IT'S TIME FOR US NOT TO GO HUNTING"

The following editorial is reprinted here with permission of the author, Gary Borders, who is also publisher of the Lufkin Daily News where this item first appeared.

Third place plants include:

- Agarito
- Cenizo
- Knifefleaf condalia
- Lantana
- Texas persimmon

...TP&W biologists will help you with browse surveys and management plan development?

Cyber Trash - Some junk from the internet that's good for a grin...

Facts to Ponder:

USA Statistics:

1. The number of physicians in the U.S. is 700,000
2. Accidental deaths caused by physicians per year are 120,000
3. Accidental deaths per physician is 0.171

Now consider this:

1. The number of gun owners in the U.S. is 80 million
2. The number of accidental gun deaths per year, all age groups, is 1,500
3. The number of accidental deaths by gun owner is .000188

So, statistically, doctors are 9,000 times more dangerous than gun

I loved this editorial and had to share it, perhaps because after gutting countless deer over the last 50 years or so I finally can relate to his position. No offence to all the younger folks out there who aren't as tired and jaded as I am, I wish I too still suffered with the obsession.

Understand: it isn't a matter of principle; it's just that some of us have better things to do than go crashing around in the brush looking for Bambi.

Lufkin, Texas - This is the time of year when every other truck has a four wheeler in the bed or hauled behind in a trailer; camouflage is the *de rigueur* clothing fashion; and our newspaper publishes dozens of photos of people posed next to dead animals.

It's deer hunting season, in case you've been in a coma and just woke up.

Forget trying to find most east Texas men and even some women after about noon on Friday until Monday morning. They're headed to the deer camp.

Not me, but I am sincere in saying that I have nothing against hunting. If people weren't willing to sit in stands freezing their tails off as the sun creeps over the horizon, deer in East Texas would be as plentiful as squirrels - and a much bigger nuisance.

I have been deer hunting five times. Once about 20 years ago, I had a clear shot at a modest sized buck. He was well within my marksmanship abilities. I lowered my rifle and made some noise so the buck would run off before my little brother saw him and fired away.

My reluctance to kill Bambi's brother had nothing to do with any moral compunction. I eat meat regularly and guiltlessly, so it would be a bit hypocritical to look down on hunting. As a confirmed carnivore, the only difference between a hunter and myself is that I'm willing to pay someone else to do all the dirty work, so that I can buy meat neatly wrapped in cellophane with a price tag on it. I consider this to be money well spent.

On a number of occasions I have invested modestly in the cow business. Right now I'm on a hiatus from Typo Farms, though eventually I will buy some more cows on which to loose money. This primordial need to loose money and chase cows that have busted through a fence is cyclical with me, just as some men feel the need to grow a beard every few years.

The squeamishness factor.

Just because I have raised cows doesn't mean I personally want to shoot one, gut it and carve it up into those rib-eye steaks and briskets I dearly love to cook. Same goes with deer, wild hogs and dove, all of which I have half-heartedly hunted and occasionally eaten, thanks to someone else's willingness to pull the trigger.

There are two reasons I don't hunt and likely never will again, though I may tag along to a deer camp for the camaraderie, which is a fancy term for a bunch of guys drinking beer, belching loudly and telling bad jokes. First and foremost is I'm squeamish. There, I said it. I don't want to cut open an animal and pull out the inedible parts and do what ever else one must do to field dress the animal and get it ready for the packing house. I don't want to spend an autumn morning with my hands stuffed inside the entrails of a dead deer.

Second, I don't like the taste of wild meat. I have tried it all - deer cooked every which way; dove, wild hog (my favorite) - even possum, raccoon and rattlesnake. None of it tastes like chicken. I'm through eating it, so why hunt it?

A couple of buddies from Austin spent the night with me on the eve of opening day, in order to join the brother of one of them at the deer lease before sunrise. One friend modeled his camo outfit, which made him look like a moving tree. Really. I almost envied my friends, though when they left at 4 a.m. I was happy to head back to a warm bed until sunrise.

owners.

Remember,
“Guns don’t kill people,
doctors do.”

Fact:

Not everyone has a gun,
but almost everyone has
at least one doctor.

Please:

Alert your friends to this
alarming threat.

We must ban doctors
before this gets
completely out of hand!

Out of concern for the
public at large,
we have withheld the
statistics on lawyers
for fear the shock would
cause people to panic
and seek medical
attention.

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*“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 *

Unfortunately, they didn’t even see a deer. There’s a heavy acorn crop this season, which means deer aren’t necessarily heading to the oat and rye patches that hunters plant in September in hopes of having deer trained to commit suicide by early November. Some decry this habit of luring deer in order to kill them, but I have been hunting long enough to know it still requires some skill to shoot an animal from 100 or 200 yards away. And deer are notoriously skittish - being, as an acquaintance put it, “a big block of dinner walking around in the woods.”

My brother, who also lives in Austin, suggested one of the deer-hunting buddies set up a chair in front of the high school at which he teaches. My brother saw a good sized specimen wandering near the school recently while taking his son to school.

Who says deer are dumb? Everyone knows firearms aren’t allowed on campus.

BIG BUCK CONTEST PRIZES SELECTED

First Place, for both high and low fence divisions (two rifles total, one per division):

A new, high quality, high powered rifle, with a \$500 to \$600 retail value. (We are soliciting cash donations to purchase these items, contributors will be recognized later, to contribute contact any board member)

Second Place, low fence division (There is only one prize in the high fence division):

A new All Seasons 300# Broadcast Feeder (Donated by Fuller Tractor Co.)

Third Place, low fence division:

A new Heritage Rough Rider Combo pistol, with 6.5” barrel, .22 LR and .22 Magnum cylinders, and a soft holster. (Donated by Bob Walk Guns of Beeville)

A pair of binoculars will be awarded to the person that shoots the deer with the longest spike. Get yours kids involved in this one for sure.

Additional prizes are being sought and will be added.

There is a \$10 entry fee which must be paid before October 1 for Archery hunters and before November 4 for gun hunters. To be eligible the deer must either be 1) harvested on land owned by a BCWMA member or 2) taken in Bee County by a hunter who is a member of BCWMA. For full rules and an entry application see the separate form in this newsletter or contact Pat True at 361-548-5059 or by email at lazybox8@aol.com.

WIN A THOUSAND POUNDS OF CORN

Don’t forget to enter the BCWMA Wild Hog and Coyote Contests.

First prize for both contests is a 1,000# of corn donated by Bee Ag.

Prizes will be awarded at our 2006 annual meeting. Swap your predator tails for “drawing tickets” at the next meeting.

GATE SIGNS

Members are entitled to one free sign with their initial membership. Signs are available at the County Extension office, and at all regular meeting. Please make sure you have your sign and it is posted on your fence.

CEU CREDITS BEING AWARDED FOR MANY MEETINGS

You can obtain continuing education credits to maintain your Pesticide Applicators License by attending certain BCWMA meetings. Forms are available at meetings that qualify for the credit (most of them).

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Property ownership is not required. Anyone interested in improving the quantity and quality of wildlife in Bee County is WELCOME. Annual dues are \$20 and Life Memberships are \$100. Sponsorships include a one year membership and are \$250 per year.

CLASSIFIED ADS - THINGS WANTED AND FOR SALE

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Mesquite burls for wood turning. (Burls are the big knotty and swollen areas on a tree caused by insects or parasites) Also interested in native pecan logs 12" or more in diameter. Will cut and haul. Contact Larry Jones @ 361-362-0430 or ljones@hrbizmall.com.

BCWMA MEETING SCHEDULE

- **October 22, 2005 - SATURDAY WHITETAIL WORKSHOP- and 2005 DEER HARVEST RECOMMENDATIONS - 12:00 Noon to 4:00 pm**

Featured speakers:

Donnie Frels, Manager of the Kerr Wildlife Management Area

Al Brothers, co-author of the book "Observing and Evaluating Whitetails"

Macy Ledbetter, Independent Wildlife Biologist

Eat lunch before you come. Bee County Coliseum.

- **December, 2005 - No Meeting**
- **January, 2006 - No Meeting**
- **February 10, 2006 - FRIDAY EVENING - 7:00pm to 9:00pm - Annual Meeting, Election and Banquette** - Big Buck Contest awards, Board of Directors Election, Hog and Coyote Contest winner drawings, door prizes and great Barbeque. Our keynote speaker will be **Bill Armstrong**, recently retired GM of the Kerr Wildlife Management Area. Bill will talk about whitetail genetics, spike bucks, and the habitat management experiences at the Kerr. You can hear Bill speak over and over and never get enough. We had about 90 people at this meeting last year and we are expecting a larger turn out this time. Bee County Coliseum
- **April 1, 2006 - SATURDAY - 12:00 Noon to 4:00pm - Forage, Food Plots, and Supplemental Feeding .**

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

January, mailed on or before January 15 to precede early February Annual Meetings

March, mailed on or before March 15 to precede early April meetings

August, mailed on or before August 15 to precede September meetings

October, (mailed on or before October 15 to precede late October meetings)

Other notices will be sent if circumstances warrant.

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BCWMA Officers

President: Tom Keller, 361-375-2924
Vice President, Ellis McKinney, 361-358-3137
Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Frank, 361-877-4831

BCWMA Directors

Adam Coronado, 361-542-6485
Van Bruns, 361-358-2007
Joe Doreck, 361-456-1125
Bill Frank, 361-749-7763
Larry Jones, 361-362-0430
Tom Keller, 361-375-2924
Ellis McKinney, 361-358-3137
Pat True, 361-548-5059
Randy Walls, 361-287-3376
D. Montemayor, (ex-officio, non voting) 361-362-3280

Newsletter

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

BCWMA 2005-2006 BIG BUCK CONTEST

Rules and Regulations

1. The BCWMA Big Buck Contest for whitetail deer is open to all adults and children and both bow and gun hunters. All state and federal laws must be complied with to be eligible to win.
2. There are two divisions, one for high fence properties and one for low fence properties.
3. There is a first place prize in both divisions. There is a second and third place prize in the low fence division only. Any and/or all taxes are the responsibility of the winners.
4. Prizes will be presented at the BCWMA annual meeting in February following the deer season.
5. To be eligible game must come from land owned by a BCWMA member, or be harvested in Bee County by a hunter who is a member of BCWMA prior to harvesting the animal.
6. A \$10 entry fee and a completed entry form per person (both adults and children) is required to participate and must be paid prior to October 1, 2005 for bow hunters and before November 4, 2005 for gun hunters.
7. Winners will be determined based on the Boone & Crockett gross antler score after adjusting for "under harvest age" penalties, if any, to be applied as follows:
8. Age 5 ½ years and older, no penalty, it is a harvest-aged deer
9. Age 4 ½ years, deduct 5 points from gross score
10. Age 3 ½ years, deduct 15 points from gross score
11. Age 2 ½ years, deduct 25 points from gross score
12. Deer age will be determined using the jaw bone tooth aging process.
13. All aging and scoring will be done by a TP&W wildlife biologist and/or a B & C scoring official approved by the BCWMA board.
14. Deer must be properly tagged and presented for scoring with head and jaw bone attached to the field dressed carcass. Both hunter and scorer must sign an official animal scoring form attesting to the validity of the entry and scoring.
15. To enter an animal the hunter must submit the completed scoring form along with a color photograph of the animal and him or herself to a BCWMA board member. B & C scoring forms will be supplied by the official scorer appointed by BCWMA.
16. There is a "Spike" category. One prize will be awarded for the deer with the longest individual antler. Both high and low fence properties will compete. No age penalties. A spike is defined as a whitetail deer with one or two spikes and no branch or fork on either antler.
17. Participants agree to make the antlers of their entries available for display at the BCWMA annual meeting in February following the close of the contest, if so requested by the BCWMA.

-----CUT HERE-----

BCWMA 2005 Big Buck Contest Entry Form

Please complete this form in its entirety and mail with the \$10 entry fee to BCWMA, P. O. Box 1967, Beeville, TX 78104. Entries may also be submitted at any BCWMA regular meeting. Entrants must be current BCWMA members or hunt on BCWMA member properties to be eligible to win. Postmarks will determine if entries were received in time.

Use a separate form for each hunter. Please make copies if additional forms are needed.

NAME: _____ 2005-2006 HUNTING LICENCE # _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

I have read and I agree to the terms and conditions as defined above, and I agree that a simple majority decision of the Board of Directors of BCWMA shall be the final decision in the event of disagreements or questions concerning matters not covered above.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

BCWMA Member Application

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Cell #: _____
Address: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Member's Cooperative Agreement

I own / manage (circle one) land on county/state road _____ containing _____ acres

(Note: This information is confidential. It is simply used to determine total acreage enrolled in the co-op)

I agree to cooperate with the goals and bylaws of the Bee County Wildlife Management Association.

This agreement does not give any unauthorized person the right to trespass on the above property.

I am in no way obligated to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department of BCWMA. I may or may not agree with the management practices recommended. The only thing I have agreed to is that I recognize the need for wildlife management in order to improve the wildlife on my property.

This agreement is valid as long as I am a dues paying member of the BCWMA.

Enclosed is (circle one) \$20 Member \$100 Life Member \$250 Sponsor

Signature: _____

Make checks payable to BCWMA and mail to P. O. Box 1967, Beeville, TX 78104 Date: _____

BCWMA
Bee County Wildlife Management Association
P. O. Box 447
Beeville, TX 78104

