

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Wildlife

Society



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NEWSLETTER

Fall 2005

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WCWS Office Secretary, Ann Thames



**MARK YOUR
CALANDER NOW THE
ANNUAL
MEETING WILL BE
HERE SOON.
JANUARY 27TH. 2005
(more info. later)**

WE HAD GREAT MEETING

Over 200 members and guest came to the "Camp for All" facility in the Burton area to hear Raptor expert Mary Anne Weber enlighten the crowd on the identification and biology of various hawks and owls known to our area. Mrs. Weber along with the help of her "feathered friends" presented information which should prove helpful in the identification and understanding of hawks and owls in our area.



We have A WEB SITE wcvildlife.org
CHECK IT OUT !!!



You will find information about THE WASHINGTON COUNTY WILDLIFE SOCIETY, CALENDAR OF EVENTS, WILDLIFE INFORMATION, USEFUL LINKS, CONTACT INFORMATION AND MORE.

Let us know WHAT YOU THINK ??? Email COMMENTS TO: webmaster@wcvildlife.org

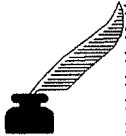
Please SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS to receive future correspondence.

Send to: info@wcvildlife.org



Presidents remarks;

Hello Members:



As you read this newsletter you will see that in August we had great program on hawks and owls, we are turning in our deer sightings reports, there is a November 10th workshop planned, a clover project is getting underway, we have a website now and much more.

I would like for you to keep in mind the Washington County Wildlife Society's (WCWS) mission is to enhance and preserve wildlife in the county through landowner education and support of local Wildlife Management Associations (WMA's) to improve the quality of life in Washington County.

As I reflect on the past years as I have been director of the Greenvine WMA and President of the WCWS, I can clearly see that the society's mission is being carried out by the membership and its support people. I want to take this time to thank each and everyone for their support to the society and their local WMA.

A lot has been done and there is a lot that can be done, but I truly believe the quality of life in Washington County is greatly enhanced because of the efforts of Washington County Wildlife Society. Keep up the great work!

Billie Eckert

Wildlife Management
Plan Development Workshop

Are you interested in learning more about managing your land for wildlife? Do you currently have a 1-d-1 Open Space Agricultural Valuation on your property? Are you already actively managing for wildlife under the 1-d-1 Open Space Agricultural Valuation and want to learn more about developing your wildlife management plan? If you answered yes to all of these questions, then a workshop will be held just for you.

On Thursday, November 10, 2005, at the Washington County Fairgrounds Sales Facility Building a Wildlife Management Plan Development Workshop will be held which is intended to educate landowners wishing to manage their property for wildlife under the 1-d-1 Open Space Agricultural Valuation. In order to be eligible, the property must already have a 1-d-1 Open Space Agricultural Valuation or "Ag Exemption". This workshop will offer participants the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills to develop a quality wildlife management plan for their property with help from experts.

The program will begin with registration from 9:00AM-9:30AM. A registration fee of \$10.00 will be charged per person to cover the cost of lunch, refreshments, and materials. Please RSVP to the Extension office at (979) 277-6212 in order for us to get an accurate meal count for the caterer by Friday, November 4, 2005.

Willy Dilworth, Chief Appraiser for Washington County, will begin the program with a review of the expectations and procedures for landowners managing property for wildlife in Washington County. Robert Lehmann with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will present a detailed review of the Wildlife Management Plan forms with tips to develop them successfully for your property. In the afternoon from 1:00PM-3:00PM, a working session will be conducted to allow access to all the experts to help you complete a quality draft of a wildlife management plan for your property.

This program is sponsored by the Washington County Wildlife Society, Washington County Extension Program Council, Washington County Appraisal District, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Washington County office of Texas Cooperative Extension. Don't let the chance to attend this program pass you by.

CLOVER PROJECT

Several Wildlife Society members will be participating in a clover growing project this fall. "Ball" clover will be planted in several locations within the county. Ball clover was selected for its re-seeding ability and its endurance to heavy grazing by deer and livestock. This clover can be grown in moderately well-drained soils and can tolerate somewhat poor drainage. It is especially well adapted to soils that are wet in the fall but too dry during the summer for white clover to survive. Ball clover will grow in a wide range of soil pH from 5.0 to 8.0 with limited production in more acidic soils. It has more acid-tolerant than crimson clover.

When planted in different parts of the county the clover will be grown in a variety of soils and conditions. The Texas Master Naturalist group from our area will be working with WCWS members to monitor and record the growth and reseedling response of this clover.

Clovers can be a very important high protein food source for wildlife and livestock in late winter and the spring. Plans are being made to hold a field day in the Spring to tour some of the plots.

Most clover can be planted into November depending on the weather, so if you would like to plant Ball clover other varieties of clover contact Robert Lehmann (979) 277-6297 or Dave Redden (936) 878-1988 or

NOVEMBER 4th NATIVE GRASS PLANTING AND HARVESTING FIELD DAY PLANNED

A field day is planned to demonstrate to landowners the proper techniques involved in planting and managing native grasses. The field day will take place at 2 pm on Friday November 4th at the "Long Star" Ranch in the Longpoint area. Enter the ranch at the main gate located at 5722 Longpoint rd. which is less than a mile north of FM 390 on Longpoint rd.

Environmental consultant Ron Duckworth with DUCKWORTH—COLE INC. will be demonstrating several process of planting and harvesting native grass seed. Mr. Duckworth works with many state and local governments in restoration of native grasses. He and others will be on hand to explain the benefits of native grasses along with identifying the many grasses growing on the property. The field day will also include a step-by-step session on the proper way to conduct a controlled burn.

This field day is intended to educate landowners on identifying, growing, managing native grasses. Sponsors of the program will be Ranch owner Larry Joe Doherty, Washington County Wildlife Society, Texas Parks and Wildlife Society and the Washington County office of Texas Cooperative Extension. The Field day is free and you don't need to RSVP. Hope to see you on the 4th.

DISKING FOR WILDLIFE

Disking is a method of soil disturbance that encourages the growth of forbs (commonly called weeds or wildflowers) and other annual plants. Common seed producing forbs enhanced through disking include croton (doveweed), sunflower, and ragweed. Many forb seeds are present in the soil and only require shallow disking to germinate.

The best method of disking for wildlife is long strips 15 to 30 feet in width. These strips should be adjacent to wooded areas or meander through natural cover. The second year in a disking program a new strip adjacent to the first year's disked area should be selected. Thereafter, the strips should be disked in alternate years. This creates a more diverse plant community by maintaining different stages of re-growth.

The optimum time for disking is October through February. It is important to disk before spring green-up or forb growth may not be promoted. Care should be taken to avoid areas where disturbance may cause erosion to occur.

Society Objectives

- Promote the adoption of correct wildlife management practices that will re-establish and enhance wildlife for future generations
- Encourage landowner development and improvement of habitat to preserve wildlife and land
- Promote sound environmental and conservation management practices that will result in a higher quality of life for all citizens in Washington County
- Improve the quality and amount of wildlife species in Washington County



UP COMING EVENTS

October 21 - Sun Oil Field Co-op Fall Meeting.
October 14 - Sandtown Co-op Fall Meeting at La Bahia Hall.

Hugh Soape, with the Washington County Extension Office will be the featured speaker at the October 14 meeting of the Washington County Wildlife Society's Sandtown co-op. Hugh will speak on converting improved pastureland into native grasses. Please join us for social time at 5:30. Presentation will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the LaBahia Hall, 550 Hwy.237 in Burton. Chili will be provided. Please bring your favorite dessert.

November 15 - Native Plant Society Meeting (LaBahia Chapter).

Blinn Student Center. Texas Wildscapes Course by Kelly Bender of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Texas Wildscapes was developed by Texas Parks and Wildlife in 1995 to assist Texans in creating landscapes that are both visually appealing and attractive to appropriate wildlife. The program emphasizes using native plants in landscaped beds to provide critical components of habitat: food and shelter. By providing the elements of habitat (food, shelter, and water) in their gardens, Texans can attract an exciting variety of birds, butterflies, frogs, and lizards and bring the beauty and vitality of nature home.

For other events and information from around the state, check out these sites:

Texas Parks & Wildlife Events Calendar, <http://www.texasoutside.com/tpw-events.htm>
Central Texas Gardener, <http://www.klru.org/ctg/>
Touring Texas, <http://www.touringtexas.com/>

Parks and Wildlife Department Will Continue to Have Deer Check Stations in the County With New Regulations

The experimental deer antler regulations that have been in place for the last three seasons in Austin, Colorado, Lee, Fayette, Lavaca and Washington counties have become a permanent regulation with two changes. The changes include dropping the six points on one side rule and adding another unbranched antlered (commonly called a spike antlered) deer to the bag limit.

Legal bucks are now defined as a buck with at least one unbranched antler or an inside spread of 13 inches or greater. The past three seasons a buck that did not have an inside spread of 13 inches but had six or more points on one antler was also legal. Only 1.3% of the deer brought to the check stations the past three seasons were in this category. Dropping the 6 pt. stipulation will simplify the regulation and may save a few outstanding 2.5 year old bucks.

The second change was increasing the buck bag limit to two bucks, of which at least one must be a buck with an unbranched antler. The percent of bucks with an unbranched antler brought to the check stations declined from 42 percent the first year to 19 percent the third year. This was because hunters were starting to see older and bigger bucks and were reluctant to use their only buck tag on a unbranched antlered deer. Consequently, the regulation was starting to indirectly protect spikes.

All of the research at the Kerr Wildlife Area and now a field study on the King Ranch has shown that un-

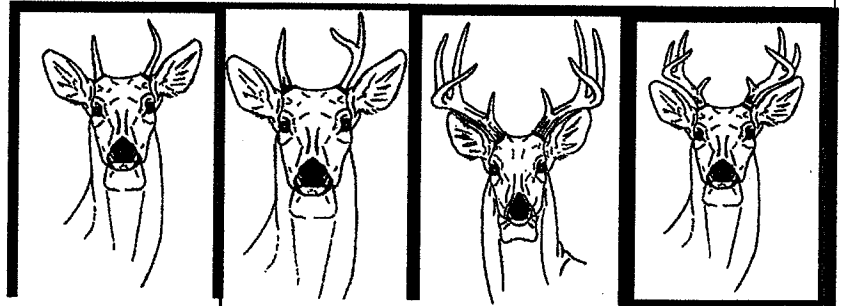
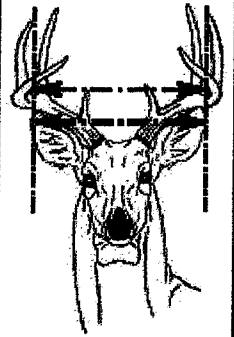
branched antlered bucks are inferior to the fork antlered bucks in the same cohort. On average, 25 percent of the 1.5 age class bucks have at least one unbranched antler and the other 75 percent start with 4 points or more. Under this regulation all forked antlered yearlings or 75 percent of the yearling age class is protected and able to move into the 2.5 age group.

A hunter can now harvest two bucks with an unbranched antler if he or she does not take a buck with an inside spread of 13 inches or greater. However, un- take two bucks with an inside spread of 13 inches or greater in the same county.

To evaluate the impact of the second buck tag the Department will continue to have the voluntary check stations in the six counties for the next three seasons. Any hunter who brings a deer to a check station will be entered into a drawing for some excellent prizes. If a hunter brings two bucks to the check station he will be entered two times. This is not a big buck contest. Someone who registers a spike or two has just as good a chance to win as someone who killed a big buck.

The prizes include a lifetime hunting and fishing license donated by the Texas Sportsman Association, two Remington 700 BDL .270 rifles donated by the Colorado County Wildlife Management Association and the Triple W Ranch. Also, two Remington 700 BDL .22-250 rifles donated by M.G. Inc. and Drymalla Construction Company. J. Frank Monk Real Estate has given a Marlin .17 MHR rifle. The First State Bank of Columbus has donated a Remington 20 ga. 870 Express shotgun. Two Ruger .22 rifles have been donated by Hoffer's Drive In and Bill Johnson and Associates Real Estate. An All Seasons Feeder has been donated by Capital Farm Credit in La Grange. Also, a custom made hunting knife by Knives by Charlie and a Ziess 3.5-10 Power Scope by Wildlife Management Services of Burton.

Ears in alert position are approximately 13 inches apart and may be used to judge the inside spread.



Legal

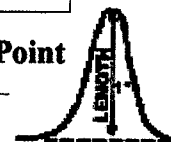
Legal

Legal

Illegal

Under no conditions can a hunter

Legal Point



Illegal Point



Definition of a point: A point is a projection that extends at least one inch from the edge of a main beam or another tine. The tip of the main beam is also a point.

STOP POACHING!
REPORT VIOLATIONS
1-800-792-GAME