

New mandatory harvest reporting required for antlerless deer harvest

Expectations high for Archery-Only Hunting Season

The hot, dry conditions that have been gripping most of Texas could make the archery-only white-tailed deer season opener a challenge for bowhunters, yet those who know how to work the conditions can still find good hunting.

For the first time this fall, hunters are required to report all antlerless deer harvested in 21 south-central Texas counties—see details below.

“Although dry conditions should encourage deer to frequent feeders more consistently and more often, the hot temperatures may curtail movement during much of the day except for the periods around dawn and dusk,” said Alan Cain, TPWD white-tailed deer program leader. “Until cooler temperatures arrive and deer movement picks up hunters may consider using game cameras to narrow down peak deer movement near their favorite hunting location and increase chances of success.”

Texas boasts a robust white-tailed deer population of about 5.3 million deer which should contribute to hunter success this season. Despite the deterioration in range conditions over the last several months with the 100-degree weather and wind, Cain notes “Hunters should expect an excellent deer season with above average antler quality and fawn recruitment.” Cain explained that good rains early in the fall of 2018 that set the stage for an excellent crop of winter weeds lasting well into the spring. The

excellent habitat conditions continued into early July and were critical in providing the nutrition bucks needed to maximize antler growth.

While the archery-only season kicked off September 28 and runs through November 1, the general gun season opener is on November 2. The general season runs through January 5, 2020 in North Texas and January 19, 2020 in South Texas. A late youth-only season is also slated for January 6-19, 2020. For additional late season deer hunting opportunities and county specific regulations, consult the 2019-2020 Outdoor Annual of hunting and fishing regulations.

New this fall, hunters in parts of south-central Texas will be required to report all antlerless deer harvest in Austin, Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Dewitt, Fayette, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Karnes, Lavaca, Lee, Waller, Washington, and Wilson. Counties also included in that change are Goliad, Jackson, Victoria, and Wharton counties north of US Highway 59 and Comal, Hays, and Travis east of IH35.

Any antlerless deer harvested during the archery, youth-only, muzzleloader, and the 4 doe-days during the general season is required to be reported to the department within 24 hours of harvest using either the “My Texas Hunt Harvest” mobile app (for iOS and Android) or on TPWD’s

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“Throw that mutt in there too...”

A man and his hunting dog

BREYANA SEGURA

He sat at the kitchen table, coffee in hand, smiling as he reminisced about the good ‘ol days of hunting with

friends.

“You know I’m 81-years-old,” Bill Rumfield chuckled. “I still hunt, well I try, let’s put it that way.”

Through the years Bill has compiled a number of memories from his hunting days—some good and some not-so-good. However, the avid hunter has learned a lesson from each one.

He’s hunted just about everything you can in south Texas and it seems each hunt he has rescued a dog, his wife, Alecia, jokes.

His first hunting tale involves August, whose full name is Augustino DeLeon.

“All my dogs are of Hispanic descent,” he said as he explained the decision to name the

pound dog he had become so partial to. “I even had Shorty Munoz.”

It was a hot July day when Bill told the tale of August.

About three or four years ago Bill and Alecia were running low short on hunting dogs which was rare for the hunter as he always had hunting and watch dogs.

“I’m gonna go up to the Dilley dog pound because Mr. Lozano told me he had a real nice grulla colored female that is about a year old.”

Alecia just nodded and said, “You go on Billy,” cause she knew there was no changing her husband’s mind, especially when it came to hunting dogs.

He recalls Mr. Lozano showing him the dog he originally went to rescue and he was content with her, naming her Annie. As he was loading her up in the truck, the worker called his attention to a two-month-old puppy.

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