Native Plants for Fair Oaks Ranch

**Thursday, April 25th, 6:30 pm, Fair Oaks Ranch City Council Chambers**

Join the Wildlife Education Committee as we welcome Veronica Hawk, 2018 President of the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society, to discuss what native plants grow best in our Fair Oaks environment. Come to prepare for spring planting just before the May 4th Mostly Native Plant sale at the Kendall County Fairgrounds.

Spring is Early and So are the Fawns!!

Whitetail fawns are typically born in early spring through June and are very frail at birth. Axis deer fawns are usually born in early January to mid-April, although fawns may arrive in all seasons. A fawn can be left anywhere by their mothers even on your front porch! A fawn’s white-spots, relative lack of scent and ability to remain perfectly still help it avoid being detected by predators. Even if you cannot see the mother, she is very likely nearby and will return within 12 hours, usually at dawn and dusk. When she comes back, she may or may not move the fawn to a new spot.

Do not try to feed the fawn or offer it water as it is totally dependent on its mother’s milk. **The best action is no action, they are best left to their mothers.**

If you find an injured deer that does not appear to be able to ambulate on its own, call the Boerne Police Dispatch number at (830) 816-3194 or (830) 249-8645. Animal Control will respond Monday through Friday 8-5. The Fair Oaks Ranch Police department will respond on weekends and evenings.

The Wildside of FOR

**Where You Find Answers to Your Questions**

**Why Does FOR Have a No Feed Ordinance?**

The chart shows that FOR Deer population is not increasing and TPW believes we have sufficient land for a healthy population. The major reason for increased interactions between deer and people is due to the increase in people living in FOR, not deer. After extensive consultation with experts and gathering public opinion through many venues, the City Council enacted a no feeding ordinance in April of 2016. It is believed this will aid our enjoyment and interaction with our four legged friends in several ways:

- Reduce the frequency of vehicle collisions and damage to landscaping by avoiding large congregations of deer near residences
- Reduce an unhealthy dependence of deer on “handouts” that could link to artificial unhealthy increases in deer population
- Reduce the potential for parasites and infections caused by concentration of deer droppings
- Reduce potential for attraction of less desirable wildlife (Feral Hogs)

The general observation is that the No Feed Ordinance has been effective in dispersing our deer population over a greater area.

Close Encounters of the Wild Kind

**Pictures and Stories of the Wildlife around us!**

WEC recently received an email expressing concerns about Axis Deer. Axis Deer were imported from India and Sri Lanka to Texas in 1932 as a game animal. Those of us who live near Battle Intense have observed Axis around Cibolo Creek for years, but we did not see them in the Fairways until recently, but even then it is not daily.

Axis deer are grass grazers and do tend to roam. At this point we cannot say if their population is increasing or that they are just on the move due to development in the area. We will be keeping an eye on it and would like any citizen who has noticed a change in their part of city to contact the city or email the WEC. We have discussed including Axis as a part of any future surveys of the deer population.

Submit your questions, photos and fun stories of Wildlife in FOR to wec@fairoaksranchtx.org