

To: MLCA Prime Contacts
From: MLCA Communications
Re: Query Responses

Some of the responses to Teakwood Plantation's query about the excessive deer population in the community were interesting. We thought you might find some useful.

Original Query from Teakwood Plantation: We have an existing and growing deer overpopulation in Teakwood. They are eating lawns, shrubs, and low tree leaves. They are no longer afraid of humans, and often stand in or just beside streets when cars or pedestrians approach. They are sleeping in flower beds and on lawns. There are at least three bucks. A number of residents have voiced strong objections to shotgun, rifle, or bow hunting near their homes. Haven't discussed thermo-nuclear devices, yet.

- a. Has any other MLCA member had to deal with a similar situation?
- b. If so, what measures were taken to reduce the deer population?
- c. "Side effects"? Ancillary problems? Individual member concerns?

Responses:

From Edgewater POA

While we have many deer that live/pass through our community and frequently eat vegetation on property, we have not seen the need to take any measures to reduce and/or control the deer population. Many home owners use deer deterrents such as garlic, Irish Spring soap bits, deer off spray, red pepper to prevent deer from consuming their plants. I have heard some success with these measures.

From Moonlight Bay on Hartwell

We at Moonlight Bay Hartwell do not allow shooting of any kind within the subdivision. If there is an issue, contact DNR or animal control. Basically, it is the cost of living in the country.

From Waterstone

Ellis: We have had the same issue with deer in our subdivision as we have over 100 acres of wooded area. Several homeowners have requested to do a controlled hunt which our board did not approve as our covenants prohibit hunting of any type or any use of firearms in our common areas. The board recommended that our concerned homeowners reach out to the County to see what ideas they had to alleviate our issue.

From Keowee Shores

We do not have a problem in Keowee Shores - yet. Vegetation is not highly desirable, and not too far away are small farms where deer are likely shot. That said, deer can be spooked away if a large dog or two is roaming at night. That worked everywhere before leash laws.

Another alternative that comes to mind is to contact DNR and ask about darting. They won't do it, but would they permit it? DNR's major concern is probably where to release, as it is against the law to trap and release a wild animal elsewhere, but they

might agree if you found a willing landowner. I am aware of a situation where this was actually done in the 1970's in North Carolina, but the landowner was the same on both ends. It was expensive to be sure.

More probable is DNR will want you to eliminate the food sources. Hard to do when deer eat grass.

No easy answers to this if you don't have homeowner cooperation. But Lyme's Disease has arrived in the South, and a primary vector is the Deer Tick. There may be cases in Anderson County. County Health folks would know. If so, perhaps controlling deer to control Lyme would be a way to get community cooperation on "conventional" control i.e. guns, or at least arrows.

From Chickasaw Point

We are probably unique in Chickasaw Point as we have approximately 1400 acres, and the majority of those are undeveloped lots with very rough terrain. We do allow bow hunting. One of our residents supervises all hunting by screening bow hunters. He only allows 6-7 very qualified hunters, and they do not hunt in any areas near developed lots. They normally harvest around 20 deer annually, and only harvest does, no bucks. That being said we still have an over abundance of deer that cause a lot damage to plants and flowers. Many residents are only planting deer resistant shrubbery and also use deer repellent on shrubs.

We do have a few complaints about harvesting deer, but overall most are in support of our effort.

From Moonlight Bay on Keowee

MLBOLK has not experienced the same level of issues although there are occasionally deer.

However, on the topic of deer control, the following proposal has been suggested to me: shishi odoshi bamboo water noise maker (for that purpose). Note: In Japanese, *shishi-odoshi* means "deer scarer." This type of fountain slowly fills a hollow bamboo branch with water, and then suddenly tips — making a gentle knocking sound that will chase away any critters eating your garden.

From Waterford

Nothing like that in our subdivision. Could you put out some type of poison in a salt lick?

From Emerald Pointe

Two rather lousy suggestions. My wife and I used a product called *Deer Off* to keep rabbits away from some flowers. It worked, but it had to be reapplied after sprinkling or rain. Plus, it was expensive. It worked, but our solution was to eliminate many of the flowers (they were a pain to plant, water, weed, mulch, etc. anyway) and in some cases we just changed the flowers to roses. We've never had any deer in our yard. Please keep them at Teakwood.

And from the query originator- Teakwood Plantation (Ellis Johnson)

And most of the spray stuff smells like something dead! Hoping someone has had good experience with one of those sonic devices. Wonder if a whole stuffed deer with an arrow through it and red Kool aid dripping out might work. No shortage of volunteers to shoot (gun or bow) them, but many (most??) home owners don't want this happening near their home, wife, kids, dog, car or pet rocks.