

From: Alan and Eloise Neebe [mailto:aneebe@nc.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2009 9:36 AM
To: All Communications & Public Affairs
Subject: deer...a serious problem

Dear Members of the Town Council,

We strongly support your taking prompt action to reduce the deer population within the city limits of Chapel Hill.

We regularly have a herd of 6 deer in our yard, as well as several other smaller herds and a few singles.

The deer eat almost everything...even things they are not supposed to like. There is almost nothing left for them to eat. I do not know how they will survive the winter. I have recently seen them standing on hind legs and reaching up to pull down tree branches with their front legs in order to get food because there is nothing left to eat on the ground.

Native plants are being destroyed. Trillium, columbine, euonymous, Solomon's seal, etc., are all gone. We used to have lots of tree seedlings coming up...but no more.

Landscape plants are being destroyed. We spray deer repellent on some small garden areas, but if we forget, the plants are gone. We have given up on growing vegetables.

Ticks are a huge problem in our yard. We actually gave up going out into our yard for quite a while this spring and summer after getting multiple tick bites.

A few years ago, my husband was diagnosed with Lyme disease. Fortunately, he got the bull's eye rash and was promptly treated. Lyme disease is now officially considered to be a problem in North Carolina. I am sure that you know the deer are part of the life cycle of the ticks that carry the disease.

Yes, the deer are cute...and we have lived for years with a modest number of them. The current situation is out of control.

Thanks for consideration of this serious problem.

Eloise and Alan Neebe
230 Indian Trail Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-933-9860