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Hartwell Lake News

Volume 21, Number 3 • Summer 2019

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Corps of Engineers Stressing Water Safety as the Summer Season Continues

By Vince Jackson

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the Georgia and South Carolina Departments of Natural Resources and Coast Guard Auxiliary have joined together to get out the "be safe on the water" message this summer.

Representatives of the four groups ask those using Hartwell Lake and other waterways learn the various state laws and regulations involving boating safety. Scott Lusk, Park Ranger at the Corps' Hartwell Project said, "Each year there are unnecessary accidents and fatalities involving boating and swimming on area lakes and reservoirs. We want to prevent tragedies like these through water safety education."

The following recommendations are meant to prevent accidents in and

on the water: *By wearing a life jacket, you increase the amount of time you can be rescued in case you go into the water accidentally *On average it takes about 60 seconds for an adult to drown. A child can drown in as little as 20 seconds *Even good swimmers can prevent drowning by wearing a life jacket during rough water conditions, especially if they experience exhaustion or injury *Never swim alone. Fellow swimmers often rescue those in distress *Swimming ability usually decreases with age. Know your limits *It is generally not known that most drownings are silent and happen very fast *Many drowning victims never intended to be in the water *Boats should be equipped with a kill switch lanyard fastened to the operator *Boating and alcohol do not mix. Avoid drinking while boating!



Above Photo: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger Scott Lusk, Courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District - Hartwell Lake Project.

If you don't think you need to wear a life jacket, wear it for those who love you! Statistics indicate children ages 1—4 have the highest rates of drowning. Eighty percent of people who die from drowning in the U.S. are male. South

Carolina ranks 10th in the nation in recent national drowning statistics with rate of 1.4 drownings per 100,000 population, which is considered high. Take precautions while on or near the water to have a safe summer. ■

Get Hooked on Fishing with Anderson County Library

By Brianna McDonell

Anderson County Library cardholders can check out free fishing rods and tackle boxes from the Anderson, Powdersville, Pendleton, and Lander Memorial.

"It's exciting to be able to offer this new opportunity for our library patrons and to partner with Duke and the Department of Natural Resources," says Faith Line, Director of the Anderson County Library System.

The program is supported by a grant from the Duke Energy Foundation, in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Along with fishing rods and tackle boxes, each of the four libraries will have information displays and new materials on local fish habitats and on the community's impact on



Above Photo: FLW Fishing Champion Brian Latimer helping a young library patron practice casting.

water quality.

The fishing poles and tackle boxes will be available to adult library cardholders in good standing to check out for one week, with optional

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Georgia DNR Announces \$1,000 Grant for Top Conservative Teacher

By GADNR Wildlife Resources Division

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources is offering a \$1,000 grant to a third-, fourth- or fifth-grade public or private school teacher in the state who demonstrates exceptional energy and innovation in teaching life sciences. Science specialists covering those grade levels can also apply.

The Conservation Teacher of the Year grant is coordinated by the Wildlife Conservation Section of DNR's Wildlife Resources Division. Funding is provided by the section's friends group, The Environmental Resources Network, better known as TERN.

Through education, research and management, the Wildlife Conservation Section works to safeguard Georgia's native diversity of wild animals, plants and their habitats, while also striving to increase public



enjoyment of the outdoors. The purpose of the grant is to recognize and help an

continued on page 4

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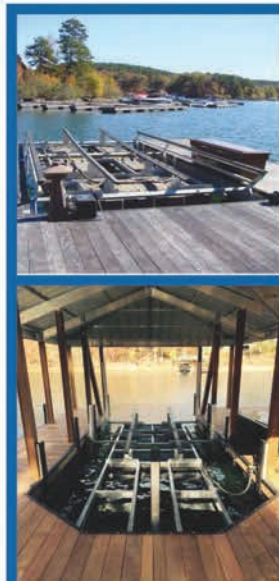


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Letters to the EDITOR

Dear HLN,

I am wondering about the so called "Corps blazes" I see on trees near the lake on my property. I am told that the Corps oversees that land. What information can you supply? Are these the actual property lines? — Fred Blasingame

Thank you, Fred, for your question. We try to research and answer questions our readers send us. According the US Army Corps of Engineers the blazes you refer to are known as boundary markers. Confusion sometimes arises when property owners believe the painted red markers are the actual property line indicator. According to the Corps information, the boundary marker, which may be red marks, circles, or a combination of both are in fact an alert the actual property line is located nearby. Sometimes during repainting efforts, a different tree may be marked giving the impression the

"property line" has been moved. The Corps maintains a buffer of Federal land around Hartwell Lake. The width of this collar of land around the lake can vary because it is based on topography, or the lay of the land. The buffer is important to the quality of the water. It prevents erosion and is why cutting trees and vegetation in the buffer is illegal, according to the Corps. ■

Editor's note: The Hartwell Lake News is interested in your comments and suggestions about the lake. We are starting a new feature LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. Please send your comments by email to: info@hartwelllakeneews.com. Please include your name to any comments or your letter will not be accepted for publication.

Get Hooked on Fishing with Anderson County Library – continued from pg. 1

renewals. They can be borrowed from the Anderson Main, Pendleton, Powdersville, and Lander Memorial (Williamston) libraries, and

must be returned to the same library. Anyone 16 years and older must have a valid fishing license to fish in South Carolina. Patrons are

responsible for obtaining their own fishing license. Information about fishing licenses included in the tackle boxes.

Find out more about this program and others at www.andersonlibrary.org or on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. ■

Georgia DNR Announces \$1,000 Grant for Top Conservative Teacher – continued from pg. 1

outstanding teacher who uses Georgia's native wildlife and habitats as the context for learning, explained Linda May, DNR environmental outreach coordinator.

"Georgia is home to an amazing diversity of wildlife," May said. "We want to support a talented teacher who highlights these natural wonders with his or her students in creative ways."

Previous recipients covered state curriculum standards through innovative lessons, scientific research and outdoor investigations. For example, after teacher Karen Garland taught her third-graders at Clark Creek Elementary STEM Academy about the amazing lives of butterflies, she led them through a habitat survey. To the students' dismay, they realized the Acworth school lacked

pollinator habitat. They even noticed that migrating monarchs flew overhead but never stopped at their campus.

To give the butterflies a place to refuel along their journey, students created a garden with native flowering plants that provided rich sources of nectar. In addition to drawing a variety of beneficial insects, the new habitat attracted songbirds and other wildlife. Grant funds were used to buy butterfly



field guides and all supplies needed for the garden. Master naturalists, high school agriculture students and other community partners contributed to the effort.

Last year, grant recipient Dr. Kimberlie Harris partnered with the science department at Samuel L. Hubbard Elementary in Forsyth to teach Project Soar students about Georgia's endangered animals. After researching species and learning

about threats to their survival, the third-graders in Harris' "ecoteam to the rescue" created a bat habitat at the school, complete with bat houses and native plants that attract insects the bats to eat. The project was reported by Macon media, including The Telegraph and WMAZ-TV, as well as Georgia Farm Bureau, raising awareness about bats in the community.

"As a gifted educator, I typically see students who are engaged and working at exceptional levels, but my students surpassed my wildest imagination when completing this project," Harris said. "The bat habitat provided a forum in which every child had an opportunity to show off their expertise."

This fall, another talented teacher will be

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Market Report

All Lakefront properties sold on Lake Hartwell (SC only) from January 1 to June 26, 2019 according to the Western Upstate MLS.

Lakefront Single Family Homes

121 Sold Since January 1st

134 Average Days on Market

\$385,544 Average Price

Lakefront Condos/Townhomes

19 Sold Since January 1st

103 Average Days on Market

\$131,160 Average Price

Lakefront Residential Lots

36 Sold Since January 1st

353 Average Days on Market

\$93,364 Average Price

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1279 Coneross Point Dr

\$225,000



Rustic 3BR/2BA retreat on 2.35 acres with platform dock in place.

3043 Springfield Villas

\$169,000



Low maintenance condo in Stone Creek Cove w/ deeded boat slip.

104 Snug Harbor Rd

\$89,900



0.61 acre lot with gentle slope & dock in place. Quiet, no HOA fees.

416 Old Knox Bridge Rd

\$108,000



Cozy 1BR/ABA cabin on Lake Hartwell with large deck and shared dock.

114-120 Waterside Dr

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Lot 6 Holly Knoll Dr

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Georgia DNR Announces \$1,000... – continued from pg. 4

selected to receive funding based on project design, evaluated through applicant answers to grant proposal questions. Projects that are especially creative and teach about Georgia's rare or endangered species, as well as solid projects that have no other means of funding, will earn bonus points. Details at www.georgiawildlife.com/TeachingConservationGrant.

The deadline to apply is Sept. 6, 2019. DNR will notify the grant winner by Sept. 27.

For more information about the Conservation Teacher of the Year grant, please contact Linda May (linda.may@dnr.ga.gov,

706-557-3226) or Anna Yellin (anna.yellin@dnr.ga.gov, 706-557-3283).

GRANT AT A GLANCE

- \$1,000 grant to a Georgia third-, fourth- or fifth-grade public or private school teacher (including science specialists) who demonstrates exceptional energy and innovation in teaching life sciences.
- Provided by the Georgia DNR Wildlife Conservation Section and friends group The Environmental Resource Network, or TERN.
- Deadline to apply is Sept. 6. Recipient announced by Sept. 27. ■

Some Longleaf Pine Trees are Shedding Needles Early this Year

By Johnny Stowe, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Some longleaf pine trees are shedding their needles early across this year. This is an annual, natural occurrence that usually takes place in the fall, but sudden, extreme drought in certain areas combined with high temperatures are causing this to take place early.

Many folks become alarmed when they see brown needles on longleaf pines, since the trees are, after all, classified as evergreen. But the term evergreen can be misleading.

Although longleaf pines do retain some needles year-round, in years with normal rainfall individual bundles of needles generally remain on the tree for two growing seasons and are shed in the fall.

In several years with low rainfall over the last decade many longleaf pines dropped their needles in late July. But I have never seen healthy longleaf pines drop needles before the summer solstice.

Severe stress like this may cause some trees to die if other stress factors are in place or come along before the trees can recover from this episodic drought stress.

The 2-year-old needles on longleaf pines are closer to the base of the branches than the younger needles, and so one easy way to tell if browning needles are a cause for concern or not is to note where they are found on the branch. If needles are browning at the base of branches but the needles toward the end of the branches are green, then the "brown-up" is either a result

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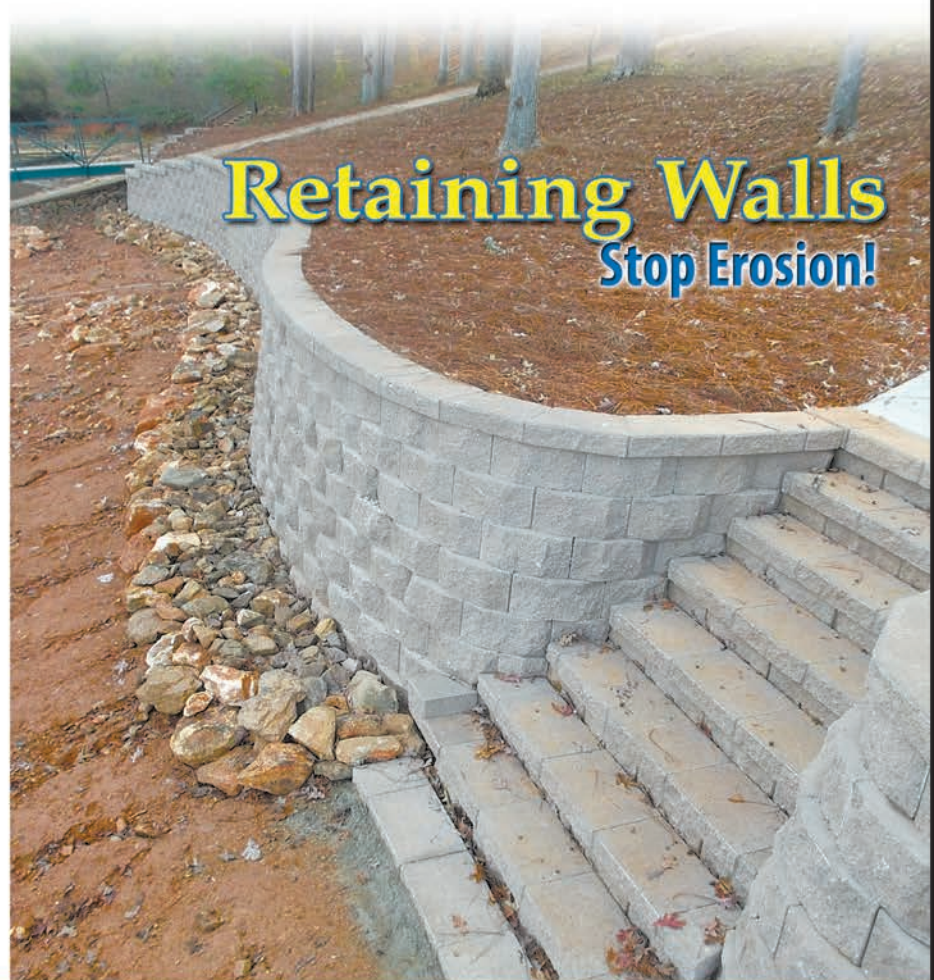
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Wildlife Resources Division Appoints Ted Will as Chief of Game Management

By GADNR Wildlife Resources Division

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) announced today the appointment of Ted Will to chief of game management. Will is a longtime employee of the division, most recently serving as assistant chief of the fisheries management section and having served previously as assistant chief of game management.

As chief, Will's responsibilities will include

coordinating and managing the statewide wildlife program, development of game management budget and supervision of Georgia's wildlife management areas. Additionally, he will oversee the drafting of hunting regulations statewide.

"I look forward to Ted's contributions as he assumes this new role as chief of game



management," said Wildlife Resources Division Director, Rusty Garrison. "His 19 years of service within the agency across both game management and fisheries management uniquely qualify him for this role and make him an invaluable asset to the division. I am confident in his ability to accomplish great things as we move forward."

Will holds a master's in wildlife ecology from Mississippi State University, though he is a Georgia Bulldog at heart, having earned his bachelor's degree in forest resources from the University of Georgia. Will is an avid hunter and angler, and currently resides in Bogart with his wife and two children.

For more information on Georgia hunting seasons and regulations, visit <http://georgiawildlife.com/hunting/regulations> or contact a local Wildlife Resources Division office (<http://georgiawildlife.com/about/contact>). ■

Army Corps Announces Administrative Fee Changes

By Billy Birdwell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District

Atlanta, Ga. – Beginning 1 January 2020, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic Division, will implement a revised administrative fee schedule resulting in a total cost of \$835 for a dock and land based facilities at its reservoirs and along certain federal waterways in the Southeastern United States. The administrative fee will cover costs the Corps incurs for the issuance or re-issuance of these licenses. Such activities are generally in connection with private use of fee owned public lands by landowners adjacent to the reservoirs such as dock anchorage, lighting, walkways, and steps to improve access to permitted boat docks and similar facilities. There will no

longer be a fee charged for fair market value of the licensed items, just the fee associated with administration of the license.

The new fee will apply to the following reservoirs and waterways: Okeechobee Waterway, FL.; Allatoona Lake and Lake Sidney Lanier, GA; Walter F. George Lake and West Point Lake on the Georgia-Alabama border; Lake Seminole on the Georgia-Florida border; Hartwell Lake and J. Strom Thurmond Lake on the Georgia South Carolina border; Philpott Lake, VA; W. Kerr Scott Lake, NC; and John H. Kerr Lake on the North Carolina-Virginia border.

The public can get more information by visiting the Corps website at www.sad.usace.army.mil/ShorelineManagement or contacting their local Corps project office. ■

Some Longleaf Pine Trees... – continued from pg. 6

of annual fall shedding, or if it happens before fall, it is likely a natural response to drought. If the needles are browning at the extreme ends of numerous branches, especially if they are toward the top of the tree, then the problem might be something other than drought stress.

By dropping needles early, the tree reduces its need for water. Wilting of leaves in many other plants is a similar response to drought but differs in that the wilted leaves usually remain on the plant.

By wilting, leaves expose less surface to the sun and wind and so the plant requires less water. If the stress is not too severe or of not too long a duration, wilted leaves can recover when the plant receives additional water. Corn, which is a member of the grass family, curls its blades (leaves) to reduce water loss. This is often called "twisting," and is easy to see. The blades of native warm season bunchgrasses, including Eastern gammagrass, also twist to reduce water loss, but they are much more resilient to drought stress because they have extensive root systems. If rainfall comes in time, grass blades will unfurl, otherwise they will die.

But browned needles are dead and do not reverse to green. The browned needles will adhere to the branches at first but eventually fall from the tree, usually dropping during high winds.

Trees are efficient at taking up, conserving and recycling nutrients. Before pine needles are shed in the fall, a high percentage of the nitrogen

and phosphorus in the needles moves back into the tree before the needles turn brown and fall off. Nutrients such as calcium and magnesium do not translocate when needles shed. So these nutrients may be lost from the site in substantial quantities when straw is raked on a regular basis. In those situations, it may be beneficial to fertilize occasionally to offset the loss of nutrients, especially on poor land where longleaf pine often grows. Soil tests or foliar analysis can reveal any nutrient loss.

Trees responding to unseasonal drought stress may not have time to extract nutrients before the needles brown up.

Individual trees may drop needles a few weeks apart. Trees on dry sites tend to drop needles earlier than trees on wetter sites. Sometimes, trees growing on the same site next to each other drop needles at different times.

Other species of Southern pines, such as loblolly pine, tend to react similarly to drought, although longleaf tolerates dry weather best of all. Besides being more drought-resistant as compared to other Southern pines, longleaf is also less susceptible to damage from wind, fire, insects and diseases.

For more information on longleaf pine, visit the Longleaf Alliance's website.

(Johnny Stowe is a Certified Wildlife Biologist, a Registered Forester and manages Heritage Preserves in the Pee Dee for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.) ■



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Summer Heat Hits Striped Bass Hard

By Billy Birdwell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District

No one argues that summer heat in the South climbs well above the comfort level – for humans and animals. The beaming August sun makes the cooling waters of the Savannah District's three reservoirs inviting for a cool dip or swift boat ride. But while the surface water feels cool to humans, some fish find it most uncomfortable – particularly striped bass and blueback herring.

During the summers of 2013 and 2018 Hartwell Lake officials discovered a large number of striped bass died during the hottest part of the season. Members of the public noticed the large sport fish floating on the surface. Since these were the first instances of fish kills in the history of the reservoir, their deaths caught the attention of Corps officials, representatives of the two states' Department of Natural Resources and the public.

"Two things really impact striped bass in

Hartwell," James Sykes, fisheries biologist for the Savannah District's reservoirs, said. "One is temperature and the other is dissolved oxygen."

While humans find most open water below body temperature "cool" fish don't. Their body temperature matches the water temperature – and they must have it cooler. As summer heat drags on, the surface of the reservoirs warms up during the day but doesn't cool enough at night. By August the surface level is much warmer than the lower levels, Sykes explained.

In addition, the upper warm layer, exposed to the atmosphere, has plenty of dissolved oxygen, but the cool deep layer experiences an ever shrinking amount of oxygen as the summer progresses. So fish, particularly striped bass and blueback herring progressively dive deeper. There they reach another obstacle – little oxygen at deep depth. It just doesn't exist at greater depths naturally. The fish get caught between low-oxygen below and declining

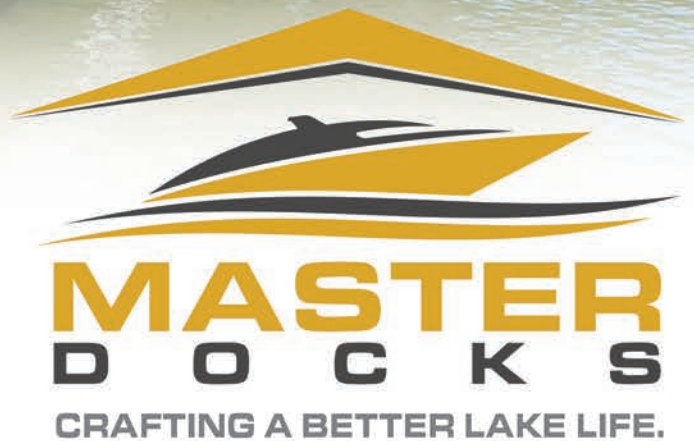
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1176 Seven Forks Rd., Martin, GA 3BR/2BA True Log Home on Lake Hartwell - rocking chair front porch, lakeside decking, large wood-burning fireplace, hardwoods throughout - open & light layout. Private feel on .9 of an acre. 2-Slip Double Decker Dock - 1 boat lift & 2 jetski lifts. Tons of storage/workshop space in unfinished basement. Plenty of parking and room to add garage. Conveniently located within minutes of I-85. **\$310,000**

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Beautiful Lakefront Acreage 15.16, Lake Hartwell

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Beautiful Lakefront Acreage (15.16) on Lake Hartwell. Tract 30 Chateau Estates, Lavana, GA. 172' lake frontage. There are a few deed restrictions - must have 1200 square feet heated space, no mobile homes. Property can be divided - no more than 4 of at least 3 acres each. HORSES ALLOWED. Property is not dockable (red zoned) - Corps line is close so a view can be established. When the lake is down a few feet there is a nice sandy beach. Wide open cove - should not have fast boat traffic - nice area to swim & play, kayak, canoe, beach your boat. Located minutes from Rock Creek Boat Landing. **\$139,000**



Tabor Boat Ramp Rd. 1.05 Lakefront Acres

\$12,000



Tabor Boat Ramp Rd. 1.05 Lakefront Acres. 75' +/- approximate lake frontage. Lakefront lot at a steal! \$12,000 for over an acre. Build your lakefront home with mountain feel. Very woodsy & out of the way feel yet minutes from Westminster & Toccoa & I-85. Lot is not dockable - located just before Tabor Boat Ramp. **\$12,000**

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Summer Heat Hits Striped Bass Hard – continued from pg. 8

oxygen and high heat above, according to Anthony Rabern, also a fisheries biologist who works for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Rabern has spent years studying reservoirs and lakes in northeast Georgia, including Savannah's Hartwell reservoir.

As the water warms and the deeper layer continues to lose oxygen, the zone of cool, oxygenated water in the reservoir gets smaller and smaller. In 2018, it finally disappeared altogether, Rabern discovered. Georgia DNR has an ongoing study of water quality in the fisheries of Hartwell Lake. Rabern heads the data-gathering effort.

Rabern and colleague Tony Anderson spend much of their time on Lake Hartwell tracking fish movements. They use tracking devices surgically implanted into 39 striped bass that send a signal that sensors attached to buoys in the reservoir to detect and record the fish as they move about the 55,900 acres of Hartwell Lake.

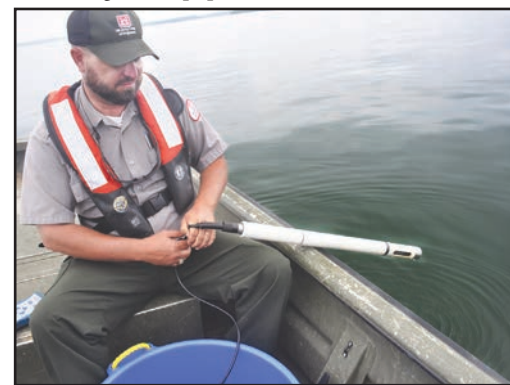
The shrinking oxygen habitat for fish commonly occurs in Southeastern U.S. reservoirs, according to Rabern. "We call it 'the bubble' or 'the summer squeeze,'" Sykes said. In most years the bubble is of sufficient size to support striped bass and blueback herring through the summer, but in 2018, according to Rabern's data, 'the bubble' finally disappeared altogether. Then the dead and dying fish floated to the surface near the dam grabbing the attention of anglers and the passing public.

Biologists like Rabern and Sykes can detect when the bubble begins to shrink and know the fish will soon suffer distress. "It's like a train," Sykes said. "You can see it coming, but there's not a lot you can do about it."

Not all the bass died. Most managed to find safe haven somewhere else in Hartwell Lake. In order to find cool water with oxygen, some fish travel many miles. That includes one tracked striper nicknamed "The Wanderer," a 12-pound specimen, which has passed receivers more than 4,000 times since its capture, tagging and release early this year. Some "pings" have happened more than 28 miles from The Wanderer's release location. The study aims to find where the other locations in the reservoir that support fish in the summer may be.

Besides fish movement, Sykes and Park

Ranger Jess Fleming provide water quality data in the joint effort. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources also contributes to the three-way partnership. They all want to determine the reasons behind the possible decline in heavy-weight bass populations.



Above Photo: Natural Resource Specialist Jess Fleming takes water quality measurements in Lake Hartwell on the Georgia-South Carolina state line. The Corps of Engineers shares water temperature and dissolved oxygen data with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in an effort to learn more about fish habitat and survivability in the reservoir.

"Until about five years ago, folks would pull in 40 to 50-pound stripers from time-to-time," Sykes said. "Those are very rare now." Stripers grow about two pounds per year, Rabern explained.

Unusual rainfall or high water release rates in 2013 and 2018 may have factored into the loss of the bubble those years, Sykes speculated. In both years Lake Hartwell received well above average rainfall which led to higher discharge rates, according to project records.

The root cause that led to the fish mortality in those years may remain a mystery for a while. However, Georgia and South Carolina continually stock Hartwell Lake and other reservoirs and lakes in the region with striped bass and other sport fish to replenish the population. Many of the stocked fish carry tags easily visible to anglers. Those tags include a message for reporting the catch, which also carries a small reward. The DNRs use the information about the catches to aid in their management of the fish population.

As the summer heats up, fishing will likely remain a popular pastime for those seeking relaxation and who want the challenge of finding and catching those elusive fish. It may take extra skill to find them, but an old American proverb says, "The worst day fishing beats the best day working." ■

Fly Fishing for Largemouth Bass: What to Know

By Debbie Hanson

If you haven't tried fly fishing for largemouth bass, you are missing out on a freshwater experience that just might change the way you look at a long rod. Contrary to popular belief, fly fishing isn't only reserved for wader-clad trout aficionados who regularly navigate through the clear mountain streams of Wyoming or Montana. With a basic freshwater fly rod set up and a couple of hours spent practicing your stripping retrieves, you can be landing largemouth bass on fly while fishing your neighborhood pond or a nearby lake.

Fly Fishing Gear

When it comes to freshwater fly fishing gear, there is absolutely no need to be intimidated by price or terminology. You can find a fly rod and

reel outfit for a lot less than you might think. In fact, there are freshwater outfits that start around \$150. These outfits often include a rod, reel, fly line, leader, backing, and a rod/reel carry case -- everything you need with the exception of a few flies.

As with any other hobby, it only makes sense to start out with an inexpensive set up. Once you get hooked on fly fishing and have the confidence that you'll stick with it, you can always upgrade.

You will probably come across fly rods and reels of different weights but start out with a 7-weight fly rod that is 9-feet long. This type of rod set up generally comes in four pieces. All you have to do is fit the reel into the seat, put the rod pieces together, and tie on your fly!

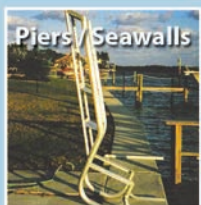
Flies That Work

Now for the fun part, which flies should you

continued on page 13



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Fly Fishing for Largemouth Bass... – continued from pg. 12

use? Again, keep it simple. Use three or four tried and true fly patterns to start with. You can always add more patterns to your fly box later. Too many options can cause you to over-think your selection and your strategy. The fly patterns listed below are good for beginners.

Topwater Popping Bug: When you notice that the bass are hitting on the surface of the water during the early morning or evening hours, this is the fly to use. Point your rod tip directly at your popping bug, and work the fly using a series of short strips. Or, you can pause for a few seconds after each strip

Clouser Minnow: The Clouser Minnow in chartreuse and white is one of the most versatile subsurface fly patterns. When the bass are feeding deeper in the water column, or when fishing deeper waters, you can fish a Clouser using a series of steady strips on the retrieve. Bob Clouser actually invented the pattern for small-mouth bass, but it works just as well on largemouth.

Woolly Bugger: Not only is the Woolly Bugger one of the easiest flies to tie, it's a consistent performing fly for many species, bass included. This is a subsurface pattern that can resemble a leech or a crayfish, depending on the color of

the fly and the technique used. You can dead drift the Woolly Bugger in current or strip it back with varying degrees of speed until you figure out what the fish will respond to.

Where to Go

Now that you know about the gear to use and the flies that work, all you have to do is find a local freshwater fishing spot. Since largemouth bass are one of the most abundant and popular game fish in North America, finding a good fishing spot will be easy.

You can try rivers, reservoirs, natural lakes, ditches, and canals. If you are looking for some of the best bass fishing waters in the state of Florida, you can check the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's list of Top Spots for Black Bass.

Debbie Hanson is an award-winning outdoor writer, women's sport fishing advocate, IGFA world record holder, and freshwater guide living in Southwest Florida. Hanson's written work has appeared in publications such as Florida Game & Fish Magazine, BoatUS Magazine, and USA Today Hunt & Fish. To learn more about her work, visit shefishes2.com or follow her on Instagram @shefishes2. ■



Above Photo: Captain Debbie Hanson, Award-Winning Writer & Fresh Water Guide

Hunting Information on Hartwell Lake

Reprint from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website, Savannah District

Many areas of public land and water around Hartwell Lake are open to hunting in accordance with Title 36, Part 327, Rules and Regulations Governing Water Resources Development Projects, and Georgia and South Carolina state hunting regulations, however, many areas are not suitable for hunting due to the narrowness of the lands and the close proximity to private development. Hunting is not allowed in developed public recreation areas (whether open or closed) except as listed below. The islands on Hartwell Lake are open for hunting in accordance with state hunting regulations and seasons. However, in the interest of safety, big game hunters are encouraged to use archery equipment while hunting on the islands.

License Requirements: All hunting regulations, license requirements, and seasons set by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources apply while hunting on Corps lands and waters. Information on seasons and regulations is available from the appropriate state department of natural resources office. Georgia and South Carolina do not have a reciprocal agreement concerning hunting licenses. You must have a resident or nonresident license from the state in which you hunt. Additionally, a Corps of Engineers permit is required for hunting at the Hartwell Dam Quarry Area and is available at no cost from the Hartwell Dam & Lake Office and Visitor Center.

Hunting in Corps Recreation Areas: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has four recreation areas

for archery and small game hunting in Georgia. Hunting regulations, license requirements and seasons set by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will apply. These areas include: **Hartwell Dam Quarry**, Hart County, Georgia (410 acres) area requires a permit which is available at no cost from the Corps' Hartwell Lake Office, located at 5625 Anderson Highway, Hartwell, GA; **Paynes Creek Park**, Hart County, Georgia (399 acres); **New Prospect Park**, Hart County, Georgia (34 acres); **Jenkins Ferry Park**, Stephens County, Georgia (31 acres).

Hunting for deer and turkey will be permitted during their respective seasons set by the states and will be restricted Archery Equipment Only. Firearms are prohibited during deer and turkey season.

No permanent stands can be constructed on Corps of Engineers property. Climbing stands, lock-on stands, ladder stands & ground blinds can be used, but must be removed on the last day of deer and turkey season.

Small game hunting is allowed in all areas listed above, but only after the deer season is completed. Hunting during small game season will be permitted with shotgun only using #4 shot or smaller.

Feral Hog hunting is allowed on Hartwell Project lands all year. A special permit must be requested to hunt hogs outside the regular deer and turkey seasons. The use of dogs is only allowed outside the state deer and turkey seasons.

For questions and permitting, please contact Natural Resource Specialist Jess Fleming at the

continued on page 15

Apply Today for a "Hunt and Learn" Program: Selected Participants Receive Hands-On Instruction and Opportunities

By GADNR, Wildlife Resource Division

Deer, squirrel, turkey, quail, dove, or duck – all hunt-able species in Georgia. But, do you know how to hunt them? Georgia Hunt and Learn programs provide an educational experience targeted to those with little to no hunting experience, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division.

We offer one to three-day Hunt and Learn programs that educate participants about hunting and conservation, along with an opportunity to hunt a specific game animal. Participants will have the chance to learn hunting tactics, game identification, and hunter safety from experts. Both youth (ages 12-17) and adult programs are available to accommodate a wide range of ages.

How Do I Apply?

All interested hunters are welcome to apply, but preference will be given to applicants with limited or no hunting experience. How do you apply? See the steps below:

1. Go to www.georgiawildlife.com/LearnToHuntFish and fill out an application. Note: you will need to include your DNR Customer ID Number on the application. If you don't have one, visit www.gooutdoorsgeorgia.com, click on "Create/Manage Your Account" and select "Enroll Now."
2. Email completed application to HD.TEMP2@dnr.ga.gov.
3. Applicants will receive a confirmation

email stating that their application has been received.

4. Applications will be reviewed, sorted, and ranked by DNR staff.
5. Selected applicants will be notified via email with a selection letter that provides additional details and payment information. Non-selected participants will receive an email letting them know that they were not selected.
6. Applicant pays the required fee. Upon receiving acceptance of payment information, the selected applicant will be registered and cleared to participate in the selected Hunt and Learn.

Extra! 101 Courses: Some Hunt and Learns require you to take a "101 Course" first, but they also are open for anyone (even if not signing up for a Hunt and Learn). These 101 courses contain educational and live-fire components that focus on a specific game animal. The educational component will consist of game identification, regulations, habitat and hunting tactics for the specific game animal. The live-fire component will cover basic firearm safety, effective shot placement and proper firearm selection for the specific game animal.

Registration for Hunt and Learns and 101 Courses is now open. Adults and children (16 and older) must obtain the appropriate hunting licenses for the species being hunted.

For more information, visit www.georgiawildlife.com/LearnToHuntFish. ■

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Clemson Researcher – Seedless Watermelons Come from Seeds

By Denise Attaway, College of Agriculture, Forestry & Life Sciences; Public Service & Agriculture

BLACKVILLE – Most watermelons produced in South Carolina are seedless, but how are they produced if they don't make any seed?

By seed, of course.

The process of growing seedless watermelons was explained to about 300 people who attended the 2019 Clemson Watermelon Field Day at the Clemson Edisto Research and Education Center (REC) by Clemson University horticulture professor Jeff Adelberg.

"Seedless watermelons are grown from seeds that are produced by crossing watermelon lines to produce plants that have an odd number of chromosomes," Adelberg said. "Because of the odd number of chromosomes, these plants are sterile and do not produce mature seed."

Most seedless watermelon production starts with transplants, or seedlings grown from seed in a greenhouse. Precise control of temperature and moisture are critical for the plants to emerge. Clemson and North Carolina State University have a step-by-step guide to seedless transplant production available to growers and home gardeners.

People growing seedless watermelons in home gardens can plant one seeded watermelon

per two seedless watermelons to ensure pollination.

Commercial growers and seed companies use hand-pollination, resulting in higher costs for seedless watermelon seed, which can run \$150 per 1-pound pack compared with \$25 per 1-pound pack for standard watermelon varieties.

"People sometimes find white 'seed' in seedless watermelons," Adelberg said. "These are coats of seed that did not fully mature and are safe to swallow."

About 80 percent of watermelons produced in South Carolina are seedless.

Information from the Watermelon Board shows seedless watermelons were invented more than 50 years ago by H. Kirata, a Japanese scientist and professor at Kyoto University. Seedless watermelons look and taste like ordinary watermelons minus the black seed.

Watermelons are nutritious and are used to "fuel athletes." Gilbert Miller, Clemson Extension vegetable specialist at the Edisto REC, and 2019 South Carolina Watermelon Queen Courtney Kubu shared some facts about the tasty treat.

"Watermelons are as healthy and nutritious as they are delicious," Miller said. "Watermelons

are natural sources for water, vitamins and certain nutrients. Studies have found athletes can eat watermelon during sporting events to rehydrate, as well as improve circulation, keep electrolytes in balance and boost performance."

The nutritional value is about the same for seeded and seedless watermelons, Miller said. Nutrition facts from the United States Department of Agriculture shows each 1 cup serving of watermelon contains: 46 calories, 0g fat, 2mg of sodium, 12g of carbohydrates, 1g of protein, 10mg of calcium and 169mg of potassium.

Miller also talked about watermelons from A to Z, which included how to control insects and diseases. Information can be found in the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service's Watermelon Spray Guide for 2019.

Watermelon is a sweet, juicy summertime favorite and is available at supermarkets, farmers markets, roadside markets and other places where produce is sold, Kubu said.

Other topics covered during the field day included a report from the South Carolina Watermelon Board and South Carolina Watermelon Association by Kyle Tisdale, marketing specialist with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture. Alex Butler of the South Carolina

Department of Health and Environmental Control gave an update on the Western Capacity Use Area, an area established in November 2018 where groundwater withdrawal permits are required to use groundwater equal to or greater than 3 million gallons in any month in affected counties. A management plan is being developed to be used to guide the initial groundwater management strategy and provide direction for future groundwater management goals.

"The goal of this program is to make sure everyone gets the water they need in order to function each day," Butler said.

Matt Cutulle, a weed scientist, addressed weeds and weed management for watermelon crops, while Joe Mari Maja, a sensor engineer, updated attendees on research he is conducting involving using Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs) for watermelon harvest. Ben Hinson of the TriEst Ag Group gave an update on grafted watermelon research, particularly Carolina Strongback, a rootstock watermelon that is resistant to Fusarium wilt and the southern root-knot nematode, yet performs and produces well.

Additional information will be available at the annual Fall Vegetable Field Day at the Edisto REC, where Miller and guests will discuss proper techniques for growing fall vegetables. A date and time for the fall field day will be announced later. ■



Above Photo: About 300 people learned how seedless watermelons are produced before they harvested watermelons from fields at Clemson's Edisto REC during the 2019 Watermelon Field Day. Image Credit: Clemson Public Service and Agriculture



Above Photo: Gilbert Miller, a Clemson Extension vegetable specialist at the Edisto REC, talks about growing hemp after watermelons in the same fields. Image Credit: Clemson Public Service and Agriculture



Above Photo: Matt Cutulle, a Clemson weed scientist, talks about weeds and weed management for watermelon crops during the 2019 Watermelon Field Day. Image Credit: Clemson Public Service and Agriculture

Buy from Your Local Farmers & Markets

Summer is here and there's plenty of local produce available near where you live. These farms provide a portion of their weekly harvest for a fee. Contact the farm directly to find out hours, costs, when the season starts, etc.

Clemson Sustainable Agriculture Program

Clemson: www.Clemson.edu/sustainableag
(864) 656-5057, Kelly Gilkerson

Gibson's Healthy Harvest Produce

Westminster: sjib@bellsouth.net
(864) 903-1823, Stanley Gibson

Greenbrier Farms

Easley: www.greenbrierfarms.com
(864) 855-9782, Amy Bishop

Patrick Square CSA

Clemson (864) 654-1500, Chris Hodge

Gibson Organic Farms, Inc.

Westminster,
www.GibsonFarmsOrganicBeef.com
(434) 221-1716,
ileland@gibsonfarmsorganicbeef.com
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Lavonia Farmers Market

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(706) 499-8255

Stephens County Extension Service

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Hartwell Farmers Market

Benson Street at Hartwell Sun
April through Dec Tues 12-4; Saturday 7-12
www.hartwellfarmersmarket.com
(706) 376-7505 Shirley Johnson

Anderson County Farmers Market

402 N. Murry Ave., Saturdays in May
5th, 12th, 19th, 26th (10am-2pm)
June - November Tues, Thur, & Sat (8am - 1pm)
Sharon Nicometo (864) 231-1924

Anderson Jockey Lot & Farmers Market

4530 Hwy 29 N., Belton
Open year round, Sat. 7am-5pm,
Sun. 8am-5pm

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(Lance Howard, (864) 372-9004

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Patrick Square Village Green
(578 Issaqueena Trail)
May 3rd - Sept 27th Thursdays
(3:00pm - 6:00pm)
Kathi Dimmock (864) 654-3918
Kathi.dimmock@att.net
www.clemsonfarmersmarket.org

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Mon - Sat 8am-6pm; call before coming
updates on facebook, (864)224-5441,
berryacresllc@gmail.com
Brett & Angie Edelen

Seneca Farmers Market

(Main St. at Norton Thompson Park)
May 31st - October,
Tues, Thur & Sat (6am - 12pm)
Ed Halbig (864) 885-2726

Six Mile Farmers Market

(At the old Fire Station, 102 S, Main St.)
Thur (4pm - 7pm) throughout the summer
months, starting May 15
James Hayes, (864) 650-5078
James_hayes@sixmiles.org

Pendleton Farmers Market

Village Square, Pendleton
June 4-Sept 30 9am-1pm

Westminster Tuesday Farmers Market

(Under the gazebo at the Depot)
June - Oct. (4pm -7pm)
Sandra Powell (864) 647-5316

3 Oaks Farm

1223 North Seed Farm Rd., Westminster
www.3oaksfarm.com
(864) 324-4231

Split Creek Farm

3806 Centerville Rd., Anderson
Mon. - Sat. 9am - 6pm; Sun. 2pm - 5pm
www.splitcreek.com
Tours and Open year round, Evin Evans
(864) 287-3921

Hunting Information on Hartwell Lake – continued from pg. 13

Hartwell Project at 1-888-893-0678, ext. 335 or 706-856-0335.

The following areas are leased to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and are considered part of the SCDNR's Fant's Grove Wildlife Management Area. Contact SCDNR for information on licenses, seasons and bag limits. They can be reached at 864-654-1671 or SCDNR's website. Areas include: **South Carolina River**, Anderson County, South Carolina (125 acres); **Glenn Ferry Park**, Anderson County, South Carolina (211 acres); **Weldon Island Park**, Anderson County, South Carolina (138 acres); **Apple Island Park**, Anderson County, South

Carolina (107 acres); **Townville Park**, Anderson County, South Carolina (23 acres); **River Forks Park**, Anderson County, South Carolina (182 acres), (Developed recreation area CLOSED to hunting.); **Camp Creek Park**, Anderson County, South Carolina (48 acres); **Martin Creek Park**, Oconee County, South Carolina (60 acres); **Choestoea Park**, Oconee County, South Carolina (369 acres).

Hunting in developed recreation areas except as listed above is prohibited.

South Carolina & Georgia regulations, seasons, bag limits, license requirements, etc. will be strictly enforced. ■



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Palmetto State is a Peach Heavyweight with More than 50,000 Tons of the Fruit Harvested Annually

By DiscoverSouthCarolina.com, Libby Wiersema

Historians say peaches were first grown in China before finding their way to Europe. They were introduced to this continent by the Spanish in the 1600s, but it took more than a century for South Carolinians to try their hand at cultivation. In the 1850s, South Carolina-grown peaches debuted outside the state when grower Henry William Ravenel of Aiken made his first commercial peach shipment. Lots of farmers jumped on the peach wagon following the Civil War, and a South Carolina agricultural tradition was born.

Today, farm stand vendors hawking baskets of the rosy fruit are fixtures along the state's highways and byways during the season. Go ahead and make a pit stop for some of the juiciest, sweetest peaches you'll ever taste.

Summers are peachy in South Carolina—literally. Second only to California in production, the Palmetto State is a peach heavyweight with more than 50,000 tons of the fruit harvested annually. (And, yes, that's more than Georgia!) In fact, the peach was named the official state fruit in 1984.

Here are some fun facts and a few tips for selecting the perfect South Carolina peach.

Peach relations: You might be surprised to discover that peaches have some familiar relatives. *Peaches belong to the genus prunus, which means they are part of the rose family, as are apricots, almonds, plums and cherries. *If you've ever eaten the inside of the peach pit, you might have been reminded of an almond. That's because the two are closely related. *Nectarines are peaches too, minus the fuzz.

Types of peaches: There are three types of peaches you'll see at different points in the season: clingstone, semi-freestone and freestone: *Clingstone: the flesh of the peach "clings" to the pit; available mid-May to mid-June. *Semi-freestone: a hybrid variety in which the flesh clings, but becomes easier to pull away as the peach ripens; available mid-June to mid-July. *Freestone: the peach flesh cleanly separates from the pit, making it the preference of home canners; available late July to mid-August or early September.

Yellow vs. white: The differences in these two kinds of fruit go beyond color. *Yellow-fleshed peaches have a longer shelf life; these are the ones commonly seen in grocery stores. *White peaches

tend to be sweeter and less acidic but have a much shorter shelf life.

Varieties of peaches: South Carolina farmers grow about 40 varieties of peaches. Some of the most common include: *Gold Prince (cling) *Gala (cling) *(Blaze Prince (semi-freestone) *Summer Gold (freestone) *Cresthaven (freestone) *Winblo (freestone) *O'Henry (freestone) *Big Red (freestone)

Peach nutrition: Eat up! This is one food that not only tastes good but is good for you too. One large, juicy globe delivers an impressive shot of vitamin C and is a good source of vitamins A and B. It also offers three grams of fiber. You get all that for just 70 calories—that's a nutritional bargain!

"Look for skin that has a soft, yellowish hue; any green areas indicate the peach is not yet ripe."

Pick your peach: To find the South Carolina peaches of your dreams, rely upon sight, touch and smell: *Don't judge a peach by its reddish color as the pretty blush is nothing more than that—pretty. According to the South Carolina Peach Council, that has a soft, yellowish hue; any green areas indicate the peach is not yet ripe. *You want to choose a peach that is "firm-ripe," that is, one that is firm, but gives slightly when you gently press it. *While you can eat a firm-ripe peach, allowing it to sit on the kitchen counter until it is softer, or "dead-ripe," ensures the ultimate flavor. Only refrigerate after the peach has achieved "dead-ripe" status. *Follow your nose to flesh out peaches at the peak of goodness. That irresistible sweet fragrance is a strong clue that the fruit you're considering is ready for eating. *Finally, check the label to make sure your peach is South Carolina grown. That's your guarantee that you're getting the freshest, sweetest, juiciest peaches on earth.

Libby Wiersema lived in California and Alabama before settling in South Carolina 30 years ago, where she's covered the state's best culinary offerings and tells the stories behind the food. ■



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New Deer Hunting Regulations Go Into Effect This Year

By South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

South Carolina deer hunters should start seeing deer tags for the 2019 season in their mailboxes soon, and there are significant changes to the antlerless tagging system that all hunters need to be aware of before taking to the field.

New for this year are improvements to the Antlerless Deer Tag program. A new law was passed by the General Assembly, resulting in the elimination of the eight date specific antlerless tags, replacing them with two antlerless tags that may be used on any day beginning Sept. 15 in Game Zones 2, 3, and 4, and Oct. 1 in Game Zone 1.

"Hunters in the past were limited by specific days to harvest antlerless deer," said Jay Cantrell, SCDNR Big Game Biologist. "This improvement gives people more opportunity and the flexibility

to harvest deer when it is convenient for them. SCDNR and numerous legislators had heard from hunters over the last two years that were limited by tags that were only valid on certain Saturdays. A lot of folks have to work on Saturdays or have athletic events, family obligations and other constraints that limited their ability to hunt on Saturday. Throw in some weekends of bad weather or bad luck and opportunity was severely limited for the date specific tags."

The General Assembly came to SCDNR with the idea, and staff helped by providing recommendations.

"In working with the General Assembly, we knew that this change could negatively impact sales of the optional tags which would affect revenue for the deer program," said Cantrell. "However, we believe this change is so important in terms of providing simplification to the tagging program

and increased opportunity and flexibility for resident hunters to take antlerless deer that we will make necessary adjustments related to the potential loss of funds."

Harvest statistics show that 92% of South Carolina hunters harvest two or fewer antlerless deer each season. For hunters who want additional opportunity to take antlerless deer, they are still able to purchase up to four optional antlerless tags for \$5 each or participate in the property-based Deer Quota Program.

Residents that currently have an active Annual or Three-year Hunting License and Big Game Permit, Combination License or Sportsman License that will be valid when deer season begins on Aug. 15 should automatically receive a base set of deer tags at no cost.

We ask hunters to please wait until at least Aug. 1 before inquiring about the status

of their tags.

License holders unsure about the status/expiration date of their hunting license, big game permit, or other SCDNR hunting privileges can visit the Customer Privileges Portal online to check a license status or to see when or if deer tags have been fulfilled.

Deer Tags are not available over the counter at point of sales vendors (Walmart, Dicks Sporting Goods, etc.), but they are available over the counter at SCDNR offices located in Charleston, Clemson, Columbia (Farmers Market), Florence, and York.

Optional tags may also be purchased by phone at 1-866-714-3611 or online. Hunters should allow 7-10 days for tags ordered or requested online, or by phone, to arrive in the mail.

For additional information, contact: Regional Public Information Coordinator Kaley Lawrimore at LawrimoreK@dnr.sc.gov ■

South Carolina Migratory Waterfowl Seasons Set for 2019-2020

By South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

The seasons and regulations for migratory waterfowl hunting in South Carolina have been approved by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources Board, the policy-making body of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). Seasons and bag limits for waterfowl and other migratory game birds are approved annually based on a framework set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Among the most notable changes for the upcoming 2019-2020 season, is the reduction in

the daily bag limit for mallards from 4 to 2 birds (only one (1) of which can be a hen). The reduction is a carefully considered response to a long-term decline in the population of Northeast mallards (those that breed and winter in the Atlantic Flyway), says SCDNR Biologist Molly Kneece, a waterfowl manager who represents the Department on the Atlantic Flyway Council Technical Section. Mallard populations in other flyways are in good shape.

In other changes, the daily bag limit for Northern pintails has also been reduced this season to 1 bird. The bag limit for black ducks remains at 2, but only 1 black or mottled duck per day may be harvested in areas east of Interstate

95. All waterfowl hunters should also take note that there is NO open season for tundra swans in South Carolina.

As far as the outlook for the 2019-2020 season goes, at least one indicator is pointing in the right direction.

"The Atlantic Flyway Breeding Waterfowl Plot Survey showed average to good nesting effort for ducks this year," said Kneece. "But to quote my predecessor [long-time SCDNR Waterfowl Project Coordinator Dean Harrigal]. 'To have ducks you need three things—food, water, and weather.'"

SCDNR biologists and technicians are working hard on the first part of that equation. Managed wetlands on the Palmetto State's Category I and Category II Waterfowl Areas, as well as our abundant lakes, rivers and tens-of-thousands of privately-owned and managed waterfowl habitat supply the second.

"We are producing abundant food on our waterfowl WMAs across the state," said Kneece. "Our biologists and managers continue work toward setting the table for migratory waterfowl this winter and are hopeful for some forgiving fall weather. The number of migrating waterfowl that show up in South Carolina during the winter largely depends on winter weather conditions; cold, snow, or extremely dry conditions to the north and west can mean good numbers of waterfowl in our state. We're hopeful to see the right combination of fall and winter weather to push waterfowl to South Carolina during the 2019-2020 season."

Updated information and details about the 2019-2020 waterfowl seasons is available now on the SCDNR website, and paper copies of the 2019-2020 version of "South Carolina Hunting & Fishing; The Official State Regulation Guide" (aka the "Rules & Regs" Booklet) will be distributed to retail stores that sell hunting and fishing licenses over the coming weeks. Electronic versions of the updated Regulation Guides are available now on the SCDNR website [www.dnr.sc.gov] in both PDF and mobile device-friendly formats.

***Black ducks/mottled ducks, the limit is as follows:** For areas east of I-95, one black duck or one mottled duck in the total bag of no more than six. For areas west of I-95, two black ducks or one black duck and one mottled duck in the total bag of no more than six.

****Canada Goose Hunting Area:** During the September 1—September 30 segment hunting

for Canada Geese is allowed statewide. During the remaining three segments, the hunting area excludes that portion of Clarendon County bounded to the north by S-14-25; to the east by Hwy 260; and to the south by the markers delineating the channel of the Santee River. It also excludes that portion of Clarendon County bounded on the north by S-14-26 and extending southward to that portion of Orangeburg County bordered by Hwy #6.

State Youth Day, Nov. 16, 2019 (Legal Species: Ducks, mergansers, coots.): Only youth who are 17 years of age or younger may hunt, but they must be accompanied by an adult of at least 21 years of age who is fully licensed. Youth who are 16 and 17 years of age, who hunt on this day, must possess a valid South Carolina hunting license and Migratory Bird Permit and a valid Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Daily and possession bag limits are the same as shown above.

Federal Youth Days, Feb. 1 and Feb. 8, 2020 (Legal Species: Ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens, gallinules.): Only hunters 17 of age or younger may hunt on these days but must be accompanied by a person at least 18 years of age. Youth who are 16 and 17 years of age, who hunt on these days, must possess a valid South Carolina hunting license and Migratory Bird Permit and a valid Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Daily and possession bag limits are the same as shown above.

Sea Duck Area and Duck Limits Within this Area: The sea duck area is the Atlantic Ocean waters separated from any shore, island or emergent vegetation by at least one mile of open water. In this area, the sea duck limit is 5 with no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders or 4 long-tailed ducks. In addition and within this area, a hunter may take up to 6 other ducks as described for the rest of the state but not including sea ducks. The shooting of crippled waterfowl from a vessel under motor power in the sea duck area is allowed.

Extended Falconry Season: Falconry is a permitted means of taking ducks, coots and mergansers in South Carolina. The extended season for falconry shall be Nov. 4, 2019 through Nov. 22, 2019 and Dec. 1, 2019 through Dec. 11, 2019. Daily bag and possession limits for these birds shall not exceed 3 and 9 birds, respectively, singly or in the aggregate. Statewide hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. ■



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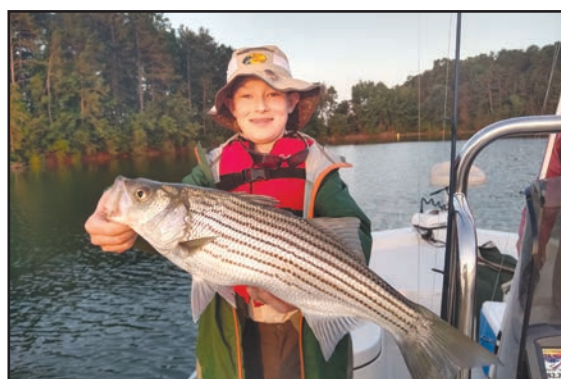
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By Preston Harden

As we enter July, the Lake is still at full pool. Fishing is still good if you follow most fish to deeper water.

Hartwell Lake Fishing Forecast Summer to Fall 2019

The thermocline forms in the upper Lake and creeks. This pushes the hybrids and stripers toward the lower Lake. This can concentrate big schools and make for some of the best fishing of the year. Bass and crappie also move

deeper but do not migrate long distances. They move out to 20 or 30 feet deep. Hybrids and stripers in the lower Lake can be over 100 feet deep. All of these fish are

feeding well in deeper, cooler water.

By mid- September, the transition will reverse back towards shallow water. The fish migrate back towards shallow water as the water cools. This is a great time to enjoy the Lake with very little boat traffic. The Lake is a beautiful place with the fall leaf color.

Lake Hartwell is a special Lake. It has some of the best fishing in the country. From catfish to crappie, and bass to stripers, Lake Hartwell has it all. ■

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New Regulation Bans the Use of Natural Deer Lures and Attractants in South Carolina

By South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

A new regulation has been established that affects the use of natural deer lures and attractants often used by deer hunters in South Carolina.

The new regulation makes it unlawful in South Carolina to possess or use, for the purpose of hunting or scouting, any substance or material that contains or claims to contain any excretion collected from a deer, including urine, feces, gland oil or other body fluid.

This does not prohibit the use of synthetic products or substances collected by a hunter from deer legally harvested in South Carolina. Synthetic products are clearly labeled as such. If a product is not clearly labeled as synthetic, it should be assumed to contain natural material.

This preventative measure was established as one tool in the battle to prevent the introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) into South Carolina. CWD is a contagious, always fatal, neurological disease that affects members of the deer family.

The disease is not caused by a virus or bacteria, but is rather the result of a naturally occurring protein, called a prion, which becomes misfolded and thus resists being broken down by the body the way normal proteins are. When these misfolded proteins are introduced into a healthy deer, they multiply by causing the animal's normal and healthy prion proteins to misfold and

begin damaging the animal's nervous system. The infectious proteins (i.e., prions) known to transmit CWD have been found in the urine, feces and saliva of infected individuals.

While there has not been a case of CWD detected in South Carolina, or in any neighboring states, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) is following the lead of other states in proactively prohibiting the use of natural lures and attractants in order to minimize the potential risk for CWD introduction into the state.

"Numerous other states have a ban on these products in place, this is part of a comprehensive effort to keep Chronic Wasting Disease out of our state and protect our valuable deer herd from this devastating disease," Jay Cantrell, SCDNR Big Game Biologist, said. "There's no practical or feasible test that can be performed on these natural urine products, or on the deer they collect the urine from, so there's no way to know if they are safe."

The disease has been detected in 26 states including: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. CWD also has been detected in South Korea (captive elk) and Norway (reindeer and moose). ■

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New 2019-2020 Georgia Hunting Seasons & Regulations Guide Now Available

By GADNR Wildlife Resources Division

Now online and in print, the 2019-2020 Georgia Hunting Seasons and Regulations Guide is available, announces the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division.

This guide provides important information on season dates, bag limits, hunting licenses, wildlife management areas, quota hunts, youth opportunities and much more. You may view, download and print the guide at <https://georgiawildlife.com/hunting/regulations>. Pick up a printed copy at Wildlife Resources Division offices and license vendors throughout Georgia.

Some of the major changes to the hunting regulations this year include:

- **New Public Hunting Opportunities:** Several new (or additions to existing) properties will be available, including Canoochee Sandhills WMA (Bulloch/Bryan counties), Bullard Creek WMA (Appling County), Rum Creek WMA (Monroe County), Berry Creek Area (Monroe County), and Lanahassee WMA (Webster County). More about each property at www.georgiawildlife.com/allwmas.
- **Air Guns:** Air guns are legal weapons for hunting big game during primitive weapons and firearms seasons. Review definitions and restrictions.
- **Additions-Extended Archery Deer Season:** Bibb, Chatham, Clarke and Henry have been added to the list of counties where archery season is

open until Jan. 31.

- **Bear:** Central Zone hunt moved to third Saturday in December. Camden County added to Southern Bear Zone.
- **Deer Either-Sex Days:** The number of either sex days increased for Banks, Franklin and Hart counties, and decreased for counties in the Mountains and Ridge Valley regions. All Chattahoochee National Forest lands east of I-75 are closed to antlerless deer hunting during archery, primitive weapons, and firearms deer seasons.

CORRECTIONS: Please note the following corrections to the printed guide. The e-regulations (online) are correct:

- Quail/Rabbit Opening Date: Nov. 16, 2019
- Crow Season: Nov. 2, 2019-Feb. 28, 2020
- Ossabaw Island Either Sex Deer Quota Hunt (Nov. 28-30, 2019) is a Youth Hunt, not available to adults.

Members of the Board of Natural Resources enact hunting regulations by acting on recommendations made by the Division's professional wildlife biologists. Georgia's game and fish laws are enacted by the elected members of the General Assembly.

For more information on Georgia hunting seasons and regulations, visit <http://georgiawildlife.com/hunting/regulations> or contact a local Wildlife Resources Division office (<http://georgiawildlife.com/about/contact>). ■

Waterfowl Hunters: Dates and Season Regulations Approved for 2019-2020

By GADNR Wildlife Resources Division

Waterfowl hunters can begin making season plans now that the 2019-2020 migratory bird season hunting dates and regulations were recently approved by the Board of Natural Resources.

"The 2019-2020 waterfowl hunting season has changed compared to previous years," said Greg Balkcom, state waterfowl biologist for the Wildlife Resources Division. "The duck hunting season will end on the fixed date of January 31 each year, not the last Sunday in January. The daily bag limit for mallards dropped to two this year, with no more than one hen, and the pintail bag limit dropped to one. These bag limit changes are responsive to population levels for these species."

Behind the scenes, the process used to select the waterfowl hunting regulations in the Atlantic Flyway also changed.

"Rather than select regulations based on the status of Eastern mallards, we now look collectively at the status of four species; wood ducks, ring-necked ducks, American green-winged teal, and common goldeneye," said Balkcom.

If you want to know more about the changes to the migratory bird regulatory process, or about the status of mallards, visit <https://georgiawildlife.com/hunting/waterfowl>.

Some need-to-know dates and details for

waterfowl season are the September Canada goose season (Sept. 7-29) and the September teal season (Sept. 14-29). Canada goose hunting has three additional seasons: Oct. 12-27, Nov. 23-Dec. 1, and Dec. 12 - Jan. 31. Hunting season for ducks is Nov. 23-Dec. 1 and Dec. 12-Jan. 31. A complete summary of migratory bird hunting season dates and bag limits is online at www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting/regulations.

Youth Waterfowl Days are Nov. 16-17, 2019. On these two days, youth age 17 or younger may hunt specific migratory birds, such as ducks, Canada geese and mergansers, as long as they are accompanied by an adult of at least 18 years of age (only the youth may hunt).

State license fees help support wildlife conservation in Georgia. The state receives federal funds from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program, based on a number of factors, including the number of paid sporting licenses. In Georgia, these funds are approximately \$14 million a year and have helped restore habitat and improve wildlife populations, among other conservation efforts. Hunters may purchase licenses online at www.GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com, by phone at 1-800-366-2661 or at more than 800 license agent locations.

For more information, visit www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting/regulations. ■



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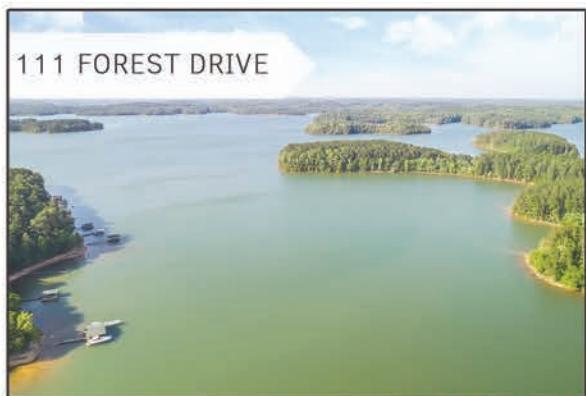
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