



# Delta Wildlife

VOLUME XXX NO. 3

FALL 2022



We Finance

Recreational Land | Country Homes | Hunting & Fishing | Land Improvement

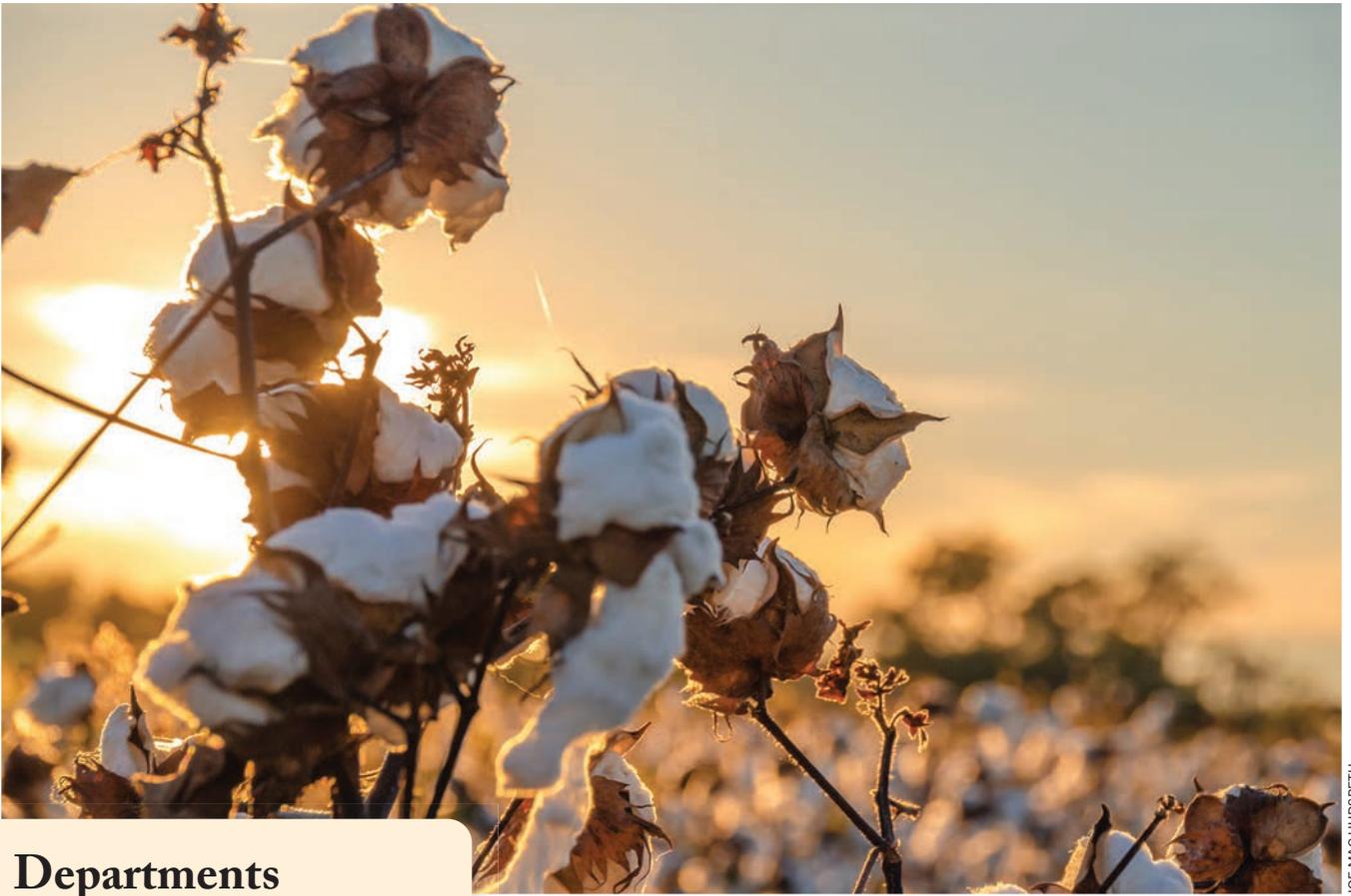


First South is  
how you  
buy land.



800-955-1722 | [FirstSouthLand.com](http://FirstSouthLand.com)





JOE MAC HUDSPETH

## Departments

4 President's Message

6 Kid's Corner

### *Delta Wildlife News*

8 Welcome, Riley

37 Timber Report

### *Delta Flavor*

13 Smoked Doves With Maple Glaze

### *Delta Flora*

30 Just What the Doctor Ordered

### *Delta Fauna*

12 Melanistic Skin Lesions in Bass

16 The Ancient Lake Sturgeon

### *Delta Conservationist*

9 Partner Highlight Q&A: Nick Ivy

24 Q&A with "Deer University" Professor  
Dr. Strickland

28 FSCP Trapping Success Story

### *Delta Sportsmen*

20 Be A \_\_\_\_\_

31 CWD Management Update

32 2022-23 Hunting Seasons

35 2022 MS Velvet Buck Season

*Cover photo by Joe Mac Hudspeth*

## President

Tommy Goodwin, Greenville

## Chairman of the Board

Allan Grittman, Ruleville

## Treasurer

Frank Howell, Stoneville

## Board of Directors

Pierce Brown, Schlater  
Jimmy Bruton, Hollandale  
Emily Carter, Glen Allan  
Will Choate, Yazoo City  
Paul D. Dees, Greenville  
Hayes Dent, Yazoo City  
Terry Dulaney, Clarksdale  
Scott Flowers, Clarksdale  
Lawson Gary, Greenwood  
John Howarth, Jr., Cleveland  
Austin Jones, Moorhead  
Bryan Jones, Yazoo City  
Bill Kennedy, Inverness  
Louis Lambiotte, Vicksburg  
Mike Lamensdorf, Cary  
Powell Litton, Greenwood  
Rance Morgan, Leland  
Murry McClintock, Tunica  
Gibb Steele, Greenville  
Mike Sturdivant III, Glendora  
Bill Ryan Tabb, Cleveland  
Louie Thompson, Tchula  
Rod Veazey, Indianola

## Past Presidents

Paul D. Dees, Greenville  
Bobby Carson, Marks  
Bowen Flowers, Clarksdale  
John Murry Greenlee, Yazoo City  
Allan Grittman, Ruleville  
Austin Jones, Moorhead  
Bill Kennedy, Inverness  
Bill Litton, Greenwood  
Jim Luckett, Dublin  
Randy Sewall, Coahoma

## Magazine Production Staff

Lia Guthrie, Graphics and Design Manager  
Ashley Kumpe, Graphic Design  
Bethany Haggard, Print Manager

## Delta Wildlife Staff

Jody Acosta, Nuisance Wildlife Specialist  
Matthew Dziaimiski, Wildlife Technician  
Henry Fraiser, Wildlife Technician  
Sam Franklin, Wildlife Biologist  
Parker Frew, Wildlife Biologist  
Steele Henderson, Wildlife Technician  
Tim Huggins, Executive Director  
Will Prevost, Wildlife Technician  
Riley Ryburn, Wildlife Biologist  
Mason Sollie, Wildlife Technician

Delta Wildlife is a private, non-profit corporation dedicated to developing and properly managing wildlife habitat in the Delta and part-Delta Counties of Northwest Mississippi. *Delta Wildlife Magazine* is published quarterly by Delta Wildlife, P.O. Box 276, Stoneville, MS 38776. This is Volume XXX, Number 3, published in the Fall of 2022. Members of Delta Wildlife receive this publication as a benefit of membership. Delta Wildlife welcomes suggestions and contributions from readers. All materials should be sent to the Production Manager's attention. Materials are reviewed and approved by an editorial committee. Advertising rates are available by calling (662) 686-3370 or emailing [mcbrooks@deltacouncil.org](mailto:mcbrooks@deltacouncil.org). The appearance of advertisers, or their identification as a member of Delta Wildlife, does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services featured.

# Message from the President

BY TOMMY GOODWIN



F all officially begins on Sept. 22, 2022. However, we all know that fall really begins on the opening day of dove season, which this year falls on September 3.

Dove season is the kickoff to hunting season, the first to open after the summer doldrums and is always met with huge fanfare, high hopes and expectations for the upcoming hunting seasons.

Dove hunting is the perfect time to introduce children or first-time hunters to the sport. The action can be fast-paced, there is little need to be quiet, and it is often more of a social event than a hunting event. Action is what hooks kids on hunting or fishing, and boredom is the enemy. During a dove hunt, even if the shooting is slow, they can interact with other hunters or kids, talk and ask questions and you aren't constantly

shushing them so they don't scare the deer out of the food plot, and their toes aren't freezing off sitting in the duck blind.

Dove hunting is also an excellent opportunity to introduce safety and hunting etiquette to new hunters. Low birds can be dangerous in a packed dove field, and setting up close to other hunters is a safety concern and poor etiquette. Gun barrel and trigger safety discipline are always important but even more so when other hunters are nearby. All these lessons can be taught and reinforced during a dove hunt in a fun, action-filled environment. A child will remember their first hunt for their entire life. It's our job as mentors and hunting advocates to ensure their experience is positive and safe, so hopefully, they will pass on the tradition.

If you do not have access to a dove field, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks has established quality dove fields on four Wildlife Management Areas in the Delta: Charles Ray Nix, William C. (Billy) Deviney, and Leroy Percy State Park. Check [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com) for rules and regulations.

## Project Update

Delta Wildlife was founded as a private lands organization; however, we often work with our state and federal partners to restore or enhance habitats on public lands as well. In the past, we have partnered with The Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Entergy and others to improve habitats on Mathews Brake National Wildlife Refuge and Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge. We have partnered with MDWFP and private landowners to install wood duck boxes around Sky Lake WMA, among many other projects. Currently, one of our most exciting projects is working with MDWFP and the US Forest Service to improve habitats on three Delta WMAs. On Sunflower WMA (Delta National Forest), our staff has worked with our partners to develop a management plan to improve waterfowl and migratory bird habitats in the Sunflower, Redline, South, Green Ash, Dowling and Long Bayou Greentree Reservoirs. In addition, our staff is assisting MDWFP with managing wetland impoundments on Mahannah and Billy Deviney WMA. These impoundments were planted with Japanese millet to create loafing and feeding areas for migratory waterfowl. Enhancing these habitats will undoubtedly benefit the public areas, but it also enhances the area as a whole. Waterfowl and migratory birds like large habitat complexes. Improving public lands by default improves the adjacent private lands by attracting more wildlife to the area. Public and private lands must complement each other to provide the most benefit for wildlife and recreation.

For more information about Delta Wildlife and our projects, programs or services, please contact the office at 662-686-3370. Delta Wildlife is a 501c3 charitable organization, and all membership dues or donations are tax deductible.

# 2022 Delta Wildlife Committees

## Membership

Bowen Flowers, Co-Chairman\*  
 Emily Carter, Co-Chairman\*  
 Austin Jones, Vice-Chairman\*  
 Bill Kennedy, Vice-Chairman\*  
 John Howarth, Jr.\*  
 John Murry Greenlee\*  
 Pierce Brown\*  
 Rance Morgan\*  
 Rod Veazey\*  
 Scott Flowers\*  
 Will Choate\*  
 Bernie Jordan  
 Bill Litton  
 Ike Brunetti  
 John Montfort Jones  
 Kirk Malmo  
 Pete Hunter  
 Peyton Randolph  
 Randy Sewall\*

## Fisheries

Paul D. Dees, Chairman\*  
 Austin Jones, Vice-Chairman\*  
 Louie Thompson\*  
 Ben W. Pentecost  
 Billy George Janous  
 Bob Eley  
 Brian Ikerd  
 David "Guy" Ray  
 Gwin Smith  
 Lewis "Mac" McKee  
 Mark Fratesi  
 Pete Hunter  
 Randy Sewall\*  
 Ray Crowell

## Forestry

Jim Luckett, Chairman\*  
 John Murry Greenlee,  
 Vice-Chairman\*  
 Jimmy Bruton\*  
 Mike Lamensdorf\*  
 Rod Veazey\*  
 Terry Dulaney\*  
 Alex Gates  
 Billy George Janous  
 Bruce Leopold  
 David Young  
 Duncan Moore  
 George Smith  
 Mac Durastanti  
 Milford Hough  
 Murry McClintock\*  
 Reggie Dill  
 Sells J. Newman  
 Walton Gresham

## Backyard Habitats & Non-Game Species

Bryan Jones III, Co-Chairman\*  
 Emily Carter, Co-Chairman\*  
 Bobby Carson, Vice-Chairman\*  
 Bill Kennedy, Vice-Chairman\*  
 Jim Luckett\*  
 Neal Smith  
 Mike Sturdivant, Jr.\*  
 Sledge Taylor, III\*  
 Dudley Stewart  
 John Montfort Jones

## Magazine, Education, and Public Relations

Bowen Flowers, Co-Chairman\*  
 Emily Carter, Co-Chairman\*  
 Austin Jones, Vice-Chairman\*  
 Bill Kennedy, Vice-Chairman\*  
 Hayes Dent\*  
 Mike Sturdivant\*  
 Sledge Taylor\*  
 Bill Litton\*  
 Bobby Carson\*  
 Kenner Patton  
 Kirk Malmo  
 Sam A. Newsom  
 Scott Coopwood  
 Thomas E. Guillot, Jr.

## Mourning Dove, Bobwhite Quail & Small Game

Bryan Jones III, Co-Chairman\*  
 Emily Carter, Co-Chairman\*  
 Bobby Carson, Vice-Chairman\*  
 Bill Kennedy, Vice-Chairman\*  
 Hall Barret, III\*  
 Mike Lamensdorf\*  
 Scott Flowers\*  
 Sledge Taylor\*  
 Austin Frye  
 Austin Jones\*  
 B.T. Steadman  
 Cameron Dinkins, IV  
 Chip Upchurch  
 Dan Branton  
 David "Guy" Ray  
 Duncan Moore  
 Ed Moody  
 Erle West Barham  
 Grant Brabham  
 Hunter Mitchell  
 Jay Janous  
 Kirk Malmo

Mark D. Morrison  
 Ralph Owens, Jr.  
 Sells J. Newman  
 Pat Patton  
 Tommy Goodwin\*  
 Travis Satterfield  
 Tripp Hayes  
 Tucker Miller III

## Waterfowl

Randy Sewall, Chairman\*  
 Allan Grittman,  
 Vice-Chairman\*  
 Bill Kennedy\*  
 Gibb Steele\*  
 Louis Lambiotte\*  
 Murry McClintock\*  
 Rod Veazey\*  
 Terry Dulaney\*  
 Arthur Abercrombie  
 Austin Frye  
 Austin Jones\*  
 B.T. Steadman  
 Billy George Janous  
 Boyd Atkinson  
 Brian Ikerd  
 Bryan Jones\*  
 Burke Fisher  
 Cameron Dinkins, IV  
 Charles M. Merkel, Jr.  
 Chip Upchurch  
 Craig Rozier  
 David "Guy" Ray  
 David Coon  
 Drew St. John  
 Duncan Moore  
 Edward E. Milam  
 Erle West Barham  
 Frank Rawlings  
 Fred Poindexter  
 Ganes Clements  
 Grant Brabham  
 Hunter Mitchell  
 James McArthur, Sr.  
 Jason Beasley  
 Jay Janous  
 Jerry Stevens  
 Jimmy Sandifer, Jr.  
 John Green  
 John M. Dean, Jr.  
 John Montfort Jones  
 John Nowell  
 Kirk Erickson  
 Kirk Malmo  
 Kit Stovall  
 Peyton Randolph  
 Rodney Tharp  
 Russ McPherson  
 Smith Stoner

Steve Gelvin  
 Ted Connell  
 Thomas Lusco  
 Tom Tollison  
 Tommy Goodwin\*  
 Travis Satterfield  
 Trip Braund  
 Tucker Miller III  
 Wade Litton  
 Will Jones  
 Will Long  
 William McNamara  
 WP Brown

## White-tailed Deer & Eastern Wild Turkey

John Murry Greenlee,  
 Chairman\*  
 Austin Jones, Vice-Chairman\*  
 Louie Thompson\*  
 Murry McClintock\*  
 Rod Veazey\*  
 Will Choate\*  
 Alex Gates  
 B. Jones  
 Bart Freeland  
 Bobby Carson\*  
 Boyd Atkinson  
 Brian Ikerd  
 Bruce Leopold  
 Cameron Dinkins, IV  
 Craig Rozier  
 Dan Branton  
 David Young\*  
 Dudley Stewart  
 Duncan Moore  
 Ed Robinson  
 Gus Peralisi, Jr.  
 James C. Robertson, III  
 Jay Janous  
 Jimmy Donahoo  
 Joe Alderman  
 Kit Stovall  
 Lewis "Mac" McKee  
 Mark Sledge  
 Mattson Flowers  
 Peyton Randolph  
 Pittman Edwards, Jr.  
 Robert Dale, Jr.  
 Rodney Tharp  
 Smith Stoner  
 Steve Garrett  
 Tom Tollison  
 Tucker Miller III  
 Will Redditt  
 Will Weathers  
 Will Young  
 William Deviney

\*2022 DW Board Members



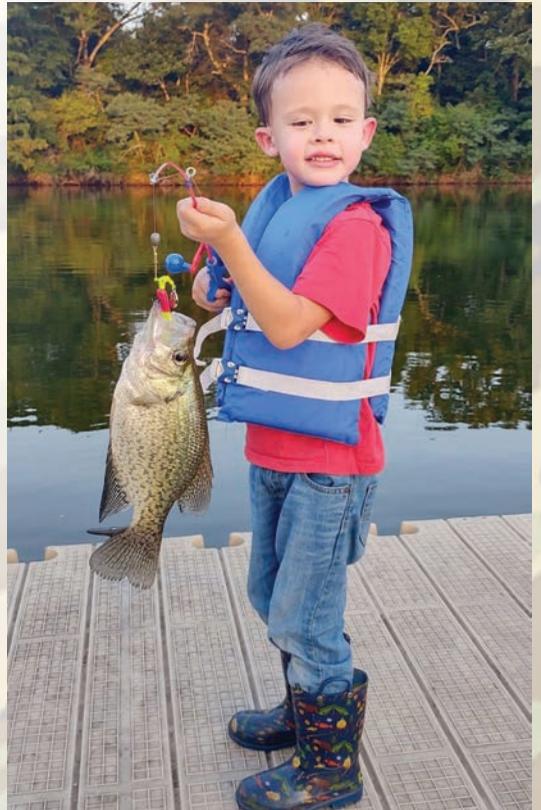
**Whit Fountain**  
Son of Will and Portia Fountain harvested his first turkey before school on March 24. A big thank you to Matt McGraw and Adam "Park Ranger" Quick for taking and guiding him!



**Jaycee Holeman, 17**  
Daughter of Jason and Jessica Holeman  
Harvested in Carroll County  
December 2021



**Cam Redwine, 18 months**  
Son of Brad and Kalyn Redwine  
Loves reeling in the fish with his dad, Brad  
Sunflower County  
July 2022



**Bentley Allen, 5**  
Son of Jerry and Alicia Allen  
Fishing with his dad, Jerry, at Ditch Bank in Lake Chicot



**Layla Simpson**  
Daughter of Heath and Liz Simpson  
June 5, 2022



**Bryce Redwine, 15**  
Son of Timothy (PeeWee) and Jacki Redwine  
Fishing in Ruleville, June 2022



**Ellie Redwine, 4**  
Daughter of Brad and Kalyn Redwine  
Fishing with her cousin, Bryce  
Sunflower County  
August 2, 2022



**Mollie Jones, 5**  
Daughter of John Montfort and Jessica Jones  
Mollie caught a bream and box turtle on Lake Hamilton in Hot Springs, AR with her dad





## Welcome, Riley

**D**elta Wildlife and Delta F.A.R.M. would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest staff member, Ms. Riley Michelle Ryburn. Riley joined the team on July 15, 2022, as a Project Manager for Delta F.A.R.M. (Farmers Advocating Resource Management), the sister organization to Delta Wildlife.

Riley comes to Stoneville all the way from her hometown area of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. She attended Southeast Missouri State University where she earned a B.S. in Wildlife and Conservation Biology. She previously served as the Water Quality Analysis Team Lead for the Missouri Stream Team before moving to Lake Village, Arkansas, where she currently resides. Riley says she enjoys learning and plans to continue her education and work toward a master's degree in the near future.

"I have always had a passion for sustainable agriculture, so I am grateful to have the opportunity to contribute efforts to increase the economic and environmental sustainability in such a unique place as the Delta," said Riley. "I also enjoy working in the field and getting to be hands-on with the projects and producers."

As a project manager, Riley is responsible for a variety of duties including managing the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality 319 projects, site assessments and implementation of BMPs (Best Management Practices), assisting with cover crop and minimum tillage trials and managing PCAT (Personal Conservation Assessment Tool) and outreach opportunities.

"We are excited to add Riley to our Delta Wildlife/Delta F.A.R.M. team," said Tim Huggins, Executive Director of both organizations. "She brings a new dynamic and outlook to our team, and we look forward to working with her to continue expanding the conservation efforts of Delta F.A.R.M."

"I enjoy camping and adventuring with my two best friends; my boyfriend, Andrew, and our German Shepherd, Atlas," said Riley. "I also have a corn snake named Sunkiss and a bearded dragon, Lula. I love distance running, going on hikes, caring for my plants and creating a variety of art."

To contact Riley, you can reach her at 662-822-6346 or email her at [riley@deltawildlife.org](mailto:riley@deltawildlife.org). To learn more about Delta F.A.R.M., visit [www.deltafarm.org](http://www.deltafarm.org).

*Delta Wildlife Partner Highlight*

# Q&A with Nick Ivy

*Executive Director, Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission*

**T**he Mississippi Legislature established the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, or MSWCC, in 1938 to promote and demonstrate the conservation, development, protection and proper utilization of the soil, water and related resources of the state.

Today, there is a staff of 14 professionals working throughout the state to provide assistance to 82 Soil and Water Conservation Districts and their constituents, as well as various watershed projects to protect Mississippi's natural resources.

**DW:** *Tell us a little bit about yourself and your background.*

I grew up in the Jackson area. My wife, Shannon, and I have three children, Ethan (14), Dylan (11) and Julianna (6) and we live in Brandon. I received a B.S. degree from Mississippi State University in Agricultural Engineering Technology and Business. Upon graduating college, I took a position at the University of Arizona as a research specialist working on cropping systems for Pima cotton and specialty crop research. I also worked for Progressive Solutions, LLC. as an area manager managing utility vegetation management and chemical application contracts for utility companies. In 2014, I was hired as a natural resources specialist for MSWCC, eventually ending up in the MS Delta Counties. In 2017, I was promoted to Environmental Administrator over the water quality division, administering section 319 non-point source pollution grants in impaired watersheds throughout the state, then to bureau director overseeing the finance and grant management for MSWCC. In July 2021, I was appointed as the Executive Director of the MS Soil & Water Conservation Commission.

**DW:** *What is your involvement with Delta Wildlife?*

I am personally involved with Delta Wildlife as a member and as a supporter. The



work that Delta Wildlife does to conserve the natural resources of the Mississippi Delta and surrounding areas is so important to me, personally, because I enjoy so many of those resources on a regular basis. Hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation has always been a big part of my life, so conserving those resources has been engrained in me since a very young age. I want my kids and their kids to enjoy the outdoors the way I have, and supporting Delta Wildlife is a great way to do that.

Professionally, having an ag background and working with the state's non-point source pollution grants opened my eyes to the great things that Delta Wildlife has done and continues to do to help agricultural producers and outdoorsmen. They are a great resource to become educated on proper management practices, as well as putting conservation on the ground that will have a lasting impact. They are a great resource for anyone involved in conservation.

**DW: Please comment on your role and responsibilities as Executive Director of MSWCC:**

I am responsible for everything that happens here at the Commission, but I spend much of my time directing our administrative team to ensure that our programs are managed properly, to ensure that the public money we are entrusted with is spent properly, and to ensure that our state's leaders and decision makers are aware of our financial needs of the agency in order to have the biggest impact on the landscape.

The MS Soil & Water Commission was created to assist the 82 Soil & Water Conservation Districts throughout the state with putting conservation on the ground and educating landowners and students about proper management. The idea of locally led, voluntary conservation is really what has carried the conservation movement forward since the Soil Conservation Act was passed over 87 years ago, because local producers know best what their needs are. We count on their leadership at the local level to ensure that the local needs are met.

### In my opinion, every acre, every producer, every day that we work to improve the land is a success.

As Executive Director, I work each day to ensure that we are doing everything that we can to further conservation. Whether it be talking to a producer about keeping nutrients out of our streams and rivers, or educating elementary students about pollution and how to prevent it, we have a big job to do. One conserves for the "here and now" and the other takes conservation into the future through educating young people. Both are about building relationships with people, so a big part of my job is building lasting relationships with likeminded people in order to help us reach our conservation goals.

The thing that makes my job easier and more enjoyable is the staff that we have put together here at the Commission. They are the ones that make everything work. Without them, we couldn't do what we do. It takes a lot of dedication day in and day out, and so I am thankful to be given this opportunity to serve alongside these great people.

**DW: Can you tell us about the history/working relationship between MSWCC and Delta Wildlife?**

Delta Wildlife and MSWCC have worked hand in hand long before my time. My predecessors instilled in me the importance of Delta Wildlife and the work that they do and encouraged me to build that relationship as much as possible. Both of our organizations have the same goals, so it makes partnering with them a natural fit. So much of Mississippi's row-crop agriculture as well as conservation easements for wildlife happens in the Mississippi Delta, so it is very important that we support those efforts. When it comes to Delta producers and landowners, it's really a small world. The same folks that are supporting Delta Wildlife and serving in their organization many times also serve as district commissioners for their local Soil & Water Districts, or on their Farm Bureau board, so that, in itself, creates a great partnership because of the common goals we have.

**DW: What are any past, current or future projects MSWCC and DW have partnered on?**

We have worked with Delta Wildlife in the past to identify resource concerns and critical areas for conservation initiatives like MRBI and NWQI. Their knowledge of the landscape has been a great asset to the Commission as we worked to procure conservation

dollars for various projects for our agency as well as theirs.

Currently, we work with Delta Wildlife as a partner on the Mississippi Delta Feral Swine Abatement Project. This project is currently underway in Sharkey, Issaquena, Warren, Yazoo, Washington, Holmes, Humphreys, Claiborne and Jefferson Counties and involves the targeted removal of feral swine in those counties. Through this partnership, MSWCC staff works with cooperating landowners to complete on-site visits and damage assessments and get them enrolled in this program. Delta Wildlife staff then uses the latest scientific methods and trapping technology to effectively remove the feral swine from these properties. The impact of damages caused by feral swine is estimated at \$60 million annually, so we are proud to partner on this project and to help producers and landowners mitigate the impact on their land, as well as to improve water quality by reducing sediment and nutrient loads in these areas. The Delta Wildlife staff are so knowledgeable about what they do. Our piece is to connect landowners with the knowledge that Delta Wildlife has to offer. It's a great partnership, and we look forward to future projects to meet both of our conservation goals.

**DW: What are some of the current challenges MSWCC is facing?**

Anyone involved in conservation work knows that it is a constantly moving target, and that is especially true with the soil types we have in Mississippi, as well as flooding issues we face. With approximately 10.4 million acres of farmland in Mississippi, there is a wide range of resource concerns that we need to address, and although we are blessed with leadership that prioritizes conservation funding on the local, state and federal levels, it never seems to be enough to fund all of the needs. With agriculture being Mississippi's number one industry, so much of our economy, our workforce and ultimately our livelihood depends on the wise and efficient use of our soil and water resources. Nowhere is that more true than in the Mississippi Delta. With a finite amount of funds to address resource concerns, I think our biggest challenge is to ensure that the projects we undertake, whether they be on forest lands, row crops, grass lands or coastal landscapes, be prioritized in such a way that we create the most impact on the landscape and for the greatest amount of time. This is our challenge today, and it will be our challenge years into the future.

**DW: What are some of MSWCC's recent successes?**

In my opinion, every acre, every producer, every day that we work to improve the land is a success. I can't say that one project is more of a success than the other. We tend to look at dollars spent to determine our successes, because so much of it depends on funding, but a \$3,500 project can have just as much impact as a \$1 million-dollar project if it is implemented correctly. Talking to a landowner who is now able to address problems that they have been fighting for years is what drives our agency to work hard day after day. Seeing young folks become active in their local Soil and Water District, and understand the importance of taking care of the land, that is our success. There really are too many to count.

**DW: Please comment on the value of the partnership between MSWCC and DW:**

The partnership between Delta Wildlife and the Commission is really priceless. We both listen to our local landowner's needs and create our priorities around that using science-based solutions. As I said previously, local folks know best the needs of the land. That in itself makes our partnership so great. We are thankful for what this partnership has been able to accomplish over the years and look forward to what lies in store for us in the future. Together, we can ensure that our natural resources are conserved for future generations to enjoy.



SOUTHERN  
AGCREDIT

# OWNERSHIP PAYS DIVIDENDS

Southern AgCredit is a financial cooperative. That means we are owned by the customers that we serve. One of the most important financial benefits of being a Southern AgCredit customer-owner is having the opportunity to share in the association's profits. When we succeed, you succeed.

This year Southern AgCredit declared a total patronage of \$22.8 million that included a cash payment to stockholders of \$11.2 million. It's our way of saying **THANK YOU** to our customer-owners.



SouthernAgCredit.com  
(800) 449-5742



Member of the  
Farm Credit  
System

# Melanistic Skin Lesions in Bass

BY PARKER FREW

*Delta Wildlife Staff*

It's a cool Fall morning in the Mississippi Delta. You make your first cast on the same spot you and Grandpa have fished for years. You have watched the sunrise in this exact spot almost your entire life. Looking back, you can think of all the bass you and your family have caught from this same location. As you retrieve your lure, you feel the line jump as a largemouth bass takes your bait for a quick morning snack. After a well-fought fight, you net your catch and notice something is different about this one. You see that this bass looks like none other than you have caught before. The fish appears somewhat camo from black splotches that seem out of place, almost as if black paint has been spilled on the fish. While the fish looks aesthetically different, it appears to be perfectly healthy, if not healthier, than the others you have caught in the past. What you see is known as Hyperpigmented Melanosis, also known as Blotchy Bass Syndrome, which causes largemouth and smallmouth bass to develop ink-like spots across their bodies.

## What is Hyperpigmented Melanosis?

Hyperpigmented Melanosis is a condition in which black blotches are developed by a condition known as Melanosis. Melanosis occurs when a skin cell cannot regulate pigment production as it should. Melanosis can cause either too much pigmentation or too little. In this case, hyperpigmentation occurs, resulting in the overproduction of melanin in the cell. Some bass may only have small areas where this happens, while others may be spotted all over.

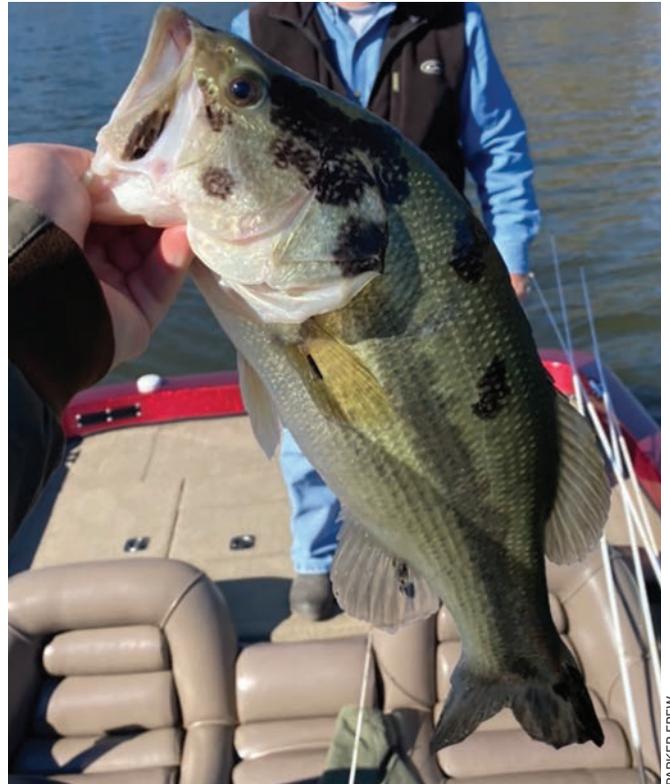
Before the 1980s, this condition had never been observed in largemouth and smallmouth bass. Over the years, it has become more common for anglers to see this. It is found in public waterways and has become common for anglers to catch these bass in private ponds. Some of these ponds have been developed and stocked for many years before seeing the deformity arise.

## What causes Hyperpigmented Melanosis?

Scientists have been studying this condition in fish since the early 1930s. Some of the first species it was observed in were trout, salmon and lungfish. While the condition has been studied for almost 100 years, no scientist has linked the direct cause of the condition to a disease or environmental factor. According to a report from 2021 by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the spots have been recognized for many years, but the cause of the lesions is unknown. However, gene sequencing found the new viral family Adomaviridae, which has been associated with disease in other fish species. While bass that display this characteristic of hyperpigmentation usually seem healthy, the viral family Adomaviridae has been associated with disease in other species. It is also believed to be heavily influenced by genetics. Genetic Melanosis has been widely seen in the aquarium trade in species such as zebrafish and swordtails. These fish are bred specifically for the black spot trait.

## What you should know about the condition?

While the condition has never been tied directly to one contrib-



*Largemouth bass with Hyperpigmented Melanosis, from Lake Ferguson near Greenville, Mississippi.*

uting factor, scientists do know these fish are perfectly safe to eat. It is simply a cell deformity, meaning it is not something you can contract or transfer to other fish. To date, there is no known correlation between this condition and the lifespan of a bass. Some biologists have thought this is a trait of a healthy population of mature bass. While it is most commonly observed in bass 12 inches and over, fish this size are more commonly targeted. The condition does not seem to have any adverse effect, but its increasing prevalence has peaked a lot of interest from researchers all over. Some state agencies, such as Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, have begun asking people to report these fish by taking pictures and documenting the location to see if there is a physical correlation to the condition. Early studies show that the condition seems to be more pronounced during earlier parts of the year, such as January and February. Scientists believe this is related directly to sunlight exposure by fish moving shallow for spawning.

To date, this condition shows no sign of adverse effects on fish populations or other populations. Extensive research and monitoring will be crucial in preserving the population and avoiding any problems in years to come. Public education and involvement will help in the monitoring of the condition.

# Smoked Doves With Maple Glaze

BY KEVIN GILLESPIE

## CHEF'S NOTES

Dove hunting is as much about getting together with your friends to celebrate the beginning of hunting season as it is anything else. Almost every hunter I know only keeps the boneless skinless breasts of the doves, but I'm convinced

that's because they don't realize just how easy it is to pluck a dove—they might be the easiest game birds to pluck you'll find.

**COURSE: SMALL BITES**  
**DURATION: 45 MINUTES**  
**SERVES: 4**

An easy and delicious way to prepare whole doves is to toss them in a quick marinade that doubles as a sauce and then cook them quickly on your smoker. This makes for a sweet and smoky combo that pairs beautifully with the dark, full-flavored meat.

## INGREDIENTS

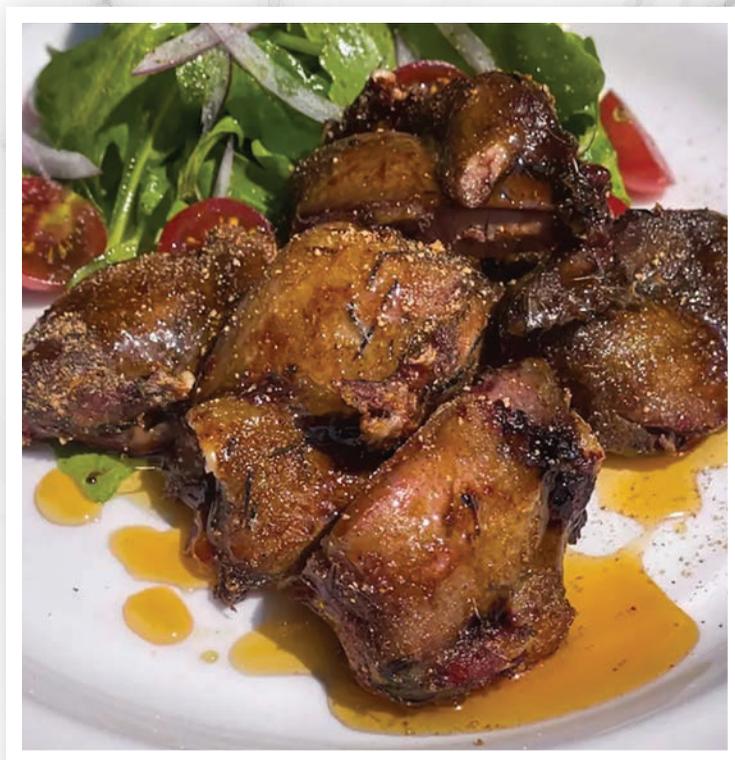
- ✓ 8 whole doves, plucked and spatchcocked
- ✓ 2 Tbsp. MeatEater Fully Flocked seasoning
- ✓ 3 Tbsp. maple syrup
- ✓ 2½ Tbsp. white soy sauce (or regular soy sauce)
- ✓ 1½ Tbsp. dry sherry or mirin
- ✓ 2 Tbsp. orange juice
- ✓ 1 tsp. fresh ground black pepper
- ✓ Arugula for garnish

## SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

- ✓ Smoker

## PREPARATION

1. Preheat your smoker to 300°F and make sure you are getting consistent, near-transparent white smoke.
2. To make the marinade, mix together the Fully Flocked seasoning, honey, soy sauce, mirin and orange juice. Set aside half of the mixture for later and pour the other half over the doves. Place the meat and marinade in a zip-top bag and allow to marinate for at least 20 minutes, or up to 3 hours.
3. Remove the birds from the marinade and place on the smoker, with the meat facing up.
4. Smoke for 10 minutes then baste with the reserved marinade.
5. Allow the doves to cook for 5 minutes more before basting again. Repeat this one more time.
6. Remove from the smoker and allow to cool slightly. Cut in half and glaze one last time with reserved marinade before serving. Serve alone, or with a light salad as an appetizer.



## ABOUT KEVIN:

*Kevin Gillespie is an Atlanta-based chef, author, restaurateur and culinary contributor for MeatEater. He is the owner of the Red Beard Restaurant group and the founder of Defend Southern Food Foundation, an organization committed to helping alleviate hunger inside Atlanta communities. Kevin is a seven-time James Beard Awards finalist as well as a two-time finalist and "fan favorite" on Bravo's hit TV show "Top Chef." He's a lifelong hunter and outdoorsman who seeks to inspire people to redefine their relationship with food by committing to more thoughtful and sustainable practices.*



*This recipe was created for [themeateater.com](http://themeateater.com)*

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

**BankPlus**



**Cotton  
Incorporated**



**DELTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

# 2022 *Delta Council* ANNUAL MEETING





*This is your place.*

RECREATIONAL LAND FINANCING

THE KIND OF LAND THAT BECOMES TRADITION



PROUDLY SERVING NORTH MISSISSIPPI • [MSLANDBANK.COM](http://MSLANDBANK.COM) • PART OF THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM

# GREENVILLE STEEL SALES

## Full Service Steel & Fabrication



**FREE DELIVERY**



**1715 North Theobald  
Greenville, MS 38703**

**Open 7:30am—4:30pm  
Monday—Friday**

**USED PIPE**

**12" TO 36"**

**FLASHBOARD RISERS, CULVERTS,  
WELL CASINGS,**

**TAIL WATER RECOVERY SYSTEMS**

**DELIVERED TO YOUR FARM**

**WE WILL WELD 'EM UP; YOU JUST  
DROP 'EM IN!**



# The Ancient Lake Sturgeon

*From the Great Lakes*

to

*the Mississippi River*

BY MASON SOLLIE

*Delta Wildlife Staff*

**S**turgeon is the common name for a total of 27 different fish species within the Acipenseridae family. Out of the many different species, the one that can be found in and around Mississippi is referred to as the Lake Sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) or Rock Sturgeon.

These ancient and odd looking freshwater fish range all the way from the Great Lakes down to the Mississippi River drainage basin. In Mississippi, you will be able to find these fish in the Mississippi River and waterways that connect into the river. Although they may be caught in certain parts of Mississippi, it is not a common catch. (Fishing in the Great Lakes would increase your chances significantly).

The Lake Sturgeon is the oldest and largest native species that lives in the Great Lakes and can measure up to 6.5 feet long and weigh upwards of 200 pounds. The re-

cord Lake Sturgeon was caught in Wisconsin and weighed 240 pounds and was 87.5 inches long.

It is estimated that in the late 1800s to early 1900s there was a population of 15 million sturgeon that lived in the Great Lakes. Unfortunately, this population has drastically declined at a rate reaching almost 99 percent over the past century. Most research shows that the primary cause of the loss has been due to dams, pollution and overfishing.

## Characteristics

Like a lot of other fish species found throughout the Mississippi River, these fish are bottom feeders. Being that a sturgeon feeds on the bottoms of lakes and rivers, it possesses an incredibly unique set of taste buds that are located around its barbels near its rubbery, prehensile lips. This in combination with its ability to vacuum in food allows the



**Sturgeons were once killed as nuisance fish until the actual value of the fish became known. The value was realized after being deemed a gourmet fish and the caviar and isinglass became prized.**

sturgeon to effectively take in food. Sturgeon lack teeth, so all of the food must be soft and typically swallowed whole. Their diet mainly consists of crayfish, clams, snails, leeches, slugs and worms. They only require 2 to 3 percent of their body weight in food per day, often requiring more at younger lifecycle stages.

These fish have an exceedingly long lifespan, with females living up to 150 years. In the early stages of their life cycle, sturgeon eggs are yellow and connected to an ovarian mass. After the eggs mature, they become a dark greenish, grey color and can also be black. The eggs are typically hatched after seven to 15 days. Once hatched, the larvae are hardly visible and are only 10 millimeters long. They soon become pelagic and will remain in rocky places hiding for about two weeks. After this, they disperse downstream with the current before they settle back down in the river bottom.

Sexually mature male sturgeon are typically 8 to 12 years old but sometimes can take up to 22 years before reaching maturity. Females reach sexual maturity within 14 to 33 years of age and are most often found mature between 24 to 26 years old. Also, males spawn every 2 to 7 years while females spawn every 4 to 9 years, and only 10 percent of adult Lake Sturgeon are sexually responsive during the active reproductive season.

Sturgeons were once killed as nuisance fish until the actual value of the fish became known. The value was realized after being deemed a gourmet fish and the caviar and isinglass became prized. Over time, these prioritized fish have struggled to stay in existence and action must be taken in order for the species to make a strong return. In hope of bringing back what was once a thriving population, several research and restoration programs have been initiated to ensure the future of the species.

**RESEARCH  
EDUCATION  
AND  
PROMOTION  
OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI RICE INDUSTRY**

**P.O. BOX 257    STONEVILLE, MS 38776**

**TOP-END PERFORMANCE**  
**TOP-TIER PEOPLE**

**A WINNING  
 COMBINATION  
 FOR YOUR ACRES**



**Steph Kasper**  
*Pioneer Sales  
 Professional*

**Ryan Wangen**  
*Grower*

**Tim Hasler**  
*DuPont Pioneer  
 Account Manager*



**WITH YOU  
 FROM  
 THE WORD  
 GO**

**PROVEN  
 YIELD LEADERS**

**LEADING AGRONOMY  
 RESEARCH**

**MANAGEMENT  
 INSIGHTS**

**LOCAL  
 PIONEER TEAM**

[Pioneer.com/Soybeans](http://Pioneer.com/Soybeans)



Components under the Pioneer Premium Seed Treatment offering for soybeans are applied at a DuPont Pioneer production facility or by an independent sales professional of Pioneer. Not all sales professionals offer treatment services, and costs and other charges may vary. See your Pioneer sales professional for details. Seed treatment offering is exclusive to DuPont Pioneer and its affiliates.

PIONEER® brand products are provided subject to the terms and conditions of purchase which are part of the labeling and purchase documents.  
 ®, ™, SM Trademarks and service marks of DuPont, Pioneer or their respective owners. © 2016 PHIL. DUPPSY16003VA 17D-1179

**Gresham**  
PETROLEUM



# FUELING YOUR NEEDS



[www.greshampetroleum.com](http://www.greshampetroleum.com)

Gresham Petroleum markets a full line of petroleum products and services to a large area of Mississippi and Arkansas. We are one of the largest fuel line petroleum distributors in the region. Let us meet your petroleum needs!



*Catfish Farmers share and enhance the natural resource wealth that is the Mississippi Delta.*



**WE ARE PROUD SUPPORTERS OF  
DELTA WILDLIFE**

Andy Jones, Chairman  
Chris McGlawn, President  
Will Nobile, Vice President  
Andy Prosser, Secretary/Treasurer

Houston Battle  
Dan Bradshaw  
Bobby Jones  
Shorty Jones

Ben Pentecost  
Ed Pentecost  
Brad Phillips  
Joe Oglesby, Director Emeritus

We're here  
to help your  
business grow

Guaranty Bank has been helping small businesses grow since we opened our doors in 1943. Trust us to help you plant seeds of success.

[gbtonline.com](http://gbtonline.com)



**GuarantyBank**  
Member FDIC

# ‘Be a \_\_\_\_\_,’

BY JODY ACOSTA  
*Delta Wildlife Staff*

I apologize in advance for not writing an article in my typical wheelhouse of guns, hunting dogs, hunting, fishing or just being outdoors in general. But if you stick with it, you’ll understand how it’s all interconnected and probably way more important than another article about the gun of the month or how to trap a pig.

I was driving back home the other day and, for whatever reason, reminiscing about my childhood and what brought me to where I am in my life now. I am blessed with a passion for shooting, hunting, being on the water, working dogs and the outdoors. I’m even more-so blessed with a beautiful family who shares my enthusiasm for the outdoors. A career that I genuinely enjoy going to every day that allows me the opportunity to serve like-minded individuals with a similar love for the outdoors along with conservation and an unwavering belief that I didn’t get here by chance. I know the Good Lord above has blessed me beyond belief. From the country I was born in, the family I was born into, the upbringing I was given, including unbridled access to some of the best dirt in the Delta, the education I was allowed to pursue and the friends I have made over the years, the list is long. Blessed doesn’t seem adequate to sum it all up.

The reason for this article is I truly believe with the advent of social media and the seemingly endless apps, games and unfettered access to everything on the internet to children these days, they are inadvertently being raised to “expect” instant gratification. This is thanks to being able to request any information, and as fast as their internet connection can go, their wish for whatever information sought is granted, and I am worried. Really worried and kind of disheartened. I am worried and concerned for kids like my own, but not so much as I’m worried for the kids like myself when I was growing up that will forget the joys of the great outdoors. Why go out and hunt or fish or camp when you can pull up a video to watch all about it? Don’t get me wrong, there is some good educational and quality skill-building content on the different platforms, but I worry how much of the “online world” overshadows the real world. You can watch a thousand videos of sunrises, listening to the world wake up and it will not come even remotely close to a real one. That’s what I worry about.

I will be the first to admit that my appreciation for how I was raised has grown significantly as I have gotten older and had my own children. I guess in a way, I felt like my upbringing was not too far out of the norm for a “Delta Boy” during the 90s and early 2000s. But in that maturing, I have recognized that it was a little different, and things could have turned out way differently regarding the direction my life went had I not been taken ‘under the wing’ by some outstanding outdoorsman in my youth.

As I mentioned earlier, I loved the outdoors growing up. My grandfather always made sure I was able to enjoy the farms and hunting land he worked so hard to build up throughout his tremendous career as a farmer (so long as I kept my grades up, that is). Admit-



tedly, I watched hunting shows when I couldn't be hunting. I read magazines about all things shooting and hunting, BUT he would take my friends and me to the hunting camp and always went above and beyond to make sure I could spend as much time physically outside as possible. My dad also supported and always took an interest in my hunting, shooting, fishing and camping ventures throughout my youth, even though he lived a few hours away. My mom, bless her soul, put up with me throughout my childhood revolving around all things outdoors. Even to the point of opening our home to a litter of lab puppies I brought home from a summer job with a dog trainer.

That was a fun one. They all supported me, but this article is not about "familial influence" on getting children interested in hunting or the outdoors.

This message, plea, thinking piece, whatever you want to call it, is about taking it a step further in ensuring our own kids are afforded opportunities in the outdoors and helping those who may need a little more help than that due to their individual situation and circumstances.

I mentioned earlier being blessed in my upbringing, but I want to expand on that. I was blessed because men of the community stepped



*"Wildlife Inc. Youth Hunt 1998 Schlater, MS, with two men who have always gone above and beyond to pass on the sport and create the next generation(s) of waterfowlers, Bo Prestridge (center L) and Billy Bryant (center R) with a bunch of Delta Youth."*



*The 2000 youth hunt at Wildlife Inc. in Schlater, MS*

in and helped stoke the fire I had for the outdoors by SPENDING TIME ON ME. My family invested time in my pursuit of the outdoors. Still, since they were not “avid” hunters as they would say, they helped how they could then also by introducing me to those they viewed as avid outdoorsmen, and I truly believe without them, my life may have turned out much differently. While I was lucky to have two loving parents that, even though they were separated, were both involved in our lives. Many kids these days simply do not have that. Without getting on too much of a soapbox, I wanted to provide a snippet of thought-provoking material. The question I landed on was, “What can I do to help a kid who may not have a mentor in the outdoors?” I know how busy we have all gotten just trying to survive these crazy times we are living in. I also know that there are kids out there who would love the outdoors if given the opportunity to see what it has to offer.

### **Be A Mentor**

Why is this important? The list is long but can be summed up by saying we all need to raise the next generation of conservationists who will be passionate about protecting the lands and way of life we have enjoyed if we want those opportunities to continue. I am not going to go down the proverbial political rabbit hole, but the way of life we enjoy, the freedoms we take for granted, the pursuit of the game we chase, all of that is “offensive” to someone somewhere for whatever reason, and they are not going to cease their attempt at disruption. I will not bore you with statistics on hunter recruitment or why people fade from enjoying the outdoors. In my practical mind, it doesn’t matter. While I know numbers help drive home a message, this one seems to be an easy one where they are not required. Simply put, if you introduce one kid to the outdoors and they end up sticking with it and, in turn, introduce others, you’ve made a positive difference.

But the question still reverberates in my mind, “What can we do?” I hope that this article will not make anyone feel guilty or feel attacked. Everyone has their reasons for being busy. Trust me, I know

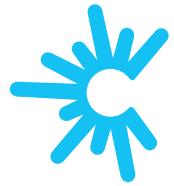
how that goes. However, I am hoping to be more like those who helped me when I was growing up (some of who are reading this article right now). I want you to know how much I appreciate the investment you all made in my life as a child and how grateful I am for that gift. I have tried to get as many kids introduced to the outdoors as possible through various organizations to “pay it forward” in hopes that one day some of those kids will do the same and continue the cycle. In a way, this article is another thank you to all like you who, no matter how busy you are, take the time to ensure kids are involved in the outdoors.

So my closing message is this; you don’t have to start a charitable foundation to take kids on a hunting trip, go fishing or talk to them when they are staring blankly at the tackle section at Walmart to suggest a new lure. Knowing our membership base, you are probably already helping kids in a similar situation as I was growing up without even knowing it. But just in case the opportunity arises, when your kids ask, “Can \_\_\_\_\_ from school come hunting with us this weekend?” or “So-and-So really wants to try out fishing,” please remember this article and the positive impacts those trips can make for the recipient. I promise that effort will be appreciated one day. You never know, one day they may be writing a similar article for Delta Wildlife.

When trying to come up with a title for this article, I settled on “Be a \_\_\_\_\_” with all the intention of listing out names of people who were impactful in my upbringing.

The list of people I have to say “thank you” to is a long one. From opportunities to go to youth camps, youth hunts, hunting trips, dog training sessions, shotgun shooting, to attending banquets, and asking how the hunting weekend went to life lessons and advice, thank you for the time you took and the impact it made on my life.

When I realized how long the actual list was, I started worrying I would leave someone out. So instead of closing with a list of people that lived what I am writing about, I will leave you with this: Be a proponent for conservation and stewardship of the lands for future generations!



welcome to  
**c spire**  
**country**

get off the grid  
when you want  
and on 5G when  
you don't.

It's called the great outdoors for a reason. And with blazing-fast 5G on the C Spire network, you get great service there, too. If you feel like it.

[cspire.com](https://www.cspire.com)



# Q&A with ‘Deer University’ Professor Dr. Bronson Strickland

BY STEELE HENDERSON  
Delta Wildlife Staff

With deer season just around the corner, I and many like-minded hunters are beginning to prepare for the hunting season. Whether it be moving stand locations, patterning a target buck through scouting on foot or running trail cameras, managing food plots or finding natural browse to hunt over, everyone who has a passion for deer hunting is starting to fall into this cycle with the season drawing near. With all this comes curiosity about what you can do to improve your herd, improve stand location, increase the antler size of your deer or even what you can hunt over other than acorns.

To better understand herd management and prepping for the season, among other topics our readers and I are interested in, I reached out to Dr. Bronson Strickland for a Q&A session. Dr. Strickland is a Mississippi State University Extension Professor specializing in Wildlife Management, known for his extensive knowledge and work with white-tailed deer in Mississippi.

**About Bronson:** *Bronson was born and raised in Athens, Georgia, and received a bachelor's degree in Forest Resources from the University of Georgia in 1995. Next, Bronson pursued a master's degree from Texas A&M University-Kingsville where his research involved estimating white-tailed deer carrying capacity in southern Texas. After graduating in 1998, Bronson moved to Starkville, Mississippi, to work as a research associate at Mississippi State University, and in 2000 he began work on a doctorate degree where he continued research on the ecology and management of white-tailed deer populations. Upon graduation, Bronson worked as a research wildlife biologist with the National Wildlife Research Center in Mississippi where he developed and directed research related to the understanding and minimization of wildlife damage caused by fish-eating birds at aquaculture facilities, natural fisheries and sensitive habitats. In 2006, Bronson joined the faculty at Mississippi State as the Extension Wildlife Specialist.*

**Q: How do you judge and estimate the carrying capacity of a landscape to estimate how many individuals of the population to remove?**

**A:** I let the condition of the population (age-specific body weight, antler size, lactation rate, recruitment rate, etc.) tell me if the herd is too dense relative to habitat quality. In short, keep reducing the deer density until the herd condition improves.

**Q: What are some leading indicators carrying capacity is too high?**

**A:** As mentioned above, the average body condition of the herd tells you all you need to know to make harvest prescriptions. Average body weight, carcass condition (fat on the carcass), antler size, fawn recruitment rate, lactation rate, etc., are all metrics we use to determine if the number of deer are approaching the carrying capacity of the available habitat.



## DEER UNIVERSITY

For more information on specific topics, check out Dr. Strickland's "Deer University" podcast he cohosts with Steve Demarais at <https://deeruniversity.libsyn.com> or visit <http://extension.msstate.edu/shows/deer-university>. You can also find Deer University and the MSU Deer Lab on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Dr. Strickland can be reached at [bstrickland@cfr.msstate.edu](mailto:bstrickland@cfr.msstate.edu).

**Q: What is the best time to harvest does?**

**A:** Most people like getting it done early because less mistakes are made with harvesting buck fawns. Others can be concerned that harvesting too early will jeopardize the survival of fawns, but this is rarely an issue in Mississippi. The most important thing is to get it done. Many times, when hunters wait until the very end of deer season, harvesting the quota of does becomes a challenge (does understand hunting pressure, too).

**Q: What is the 30 percent rule?**

**A:** A deer herd in good condition, with high fawn recruitment, can withstand a doe harvest rate up to 30 percent. This means that enough fawns are being produced, survive and recruited into the adult population each year that 30 percent of the adult does can be removed annually. But this is not true everywhere. In some places where nutrition is limited, and fawn recruitment is lower, the annual doe harvest rate should be less.

**Q: At what age would you recommend harvesting does?**

**A:** Biologically, it doesn't matter. If you could reliably identify doe fawns from buck fawns, you can harvest all doe fawns! But in most cases, we strive to harvest adult does – does that are 1.5 years or older.

**Q: What factors should one consider when labeling a buck as a "cull?"**

**A:** The word cull often implies inferior or genetically inferior. My definition is simply a buck, relative to his age, that is below average.



**Q: What are the main factors that influence antler growth? Which factor is most influential?**

**A:** There are three factors that influence antler growth: Age, nutrition and genetics. All these factors are important, but you can't do anything about genetics. The easiest factor to manipulate is age – just let bucks get old! And through management (habitat management, controlling deer density) you can improve population-level nutrition.

**Q: What key things can a landowner do to improve antler growth?**

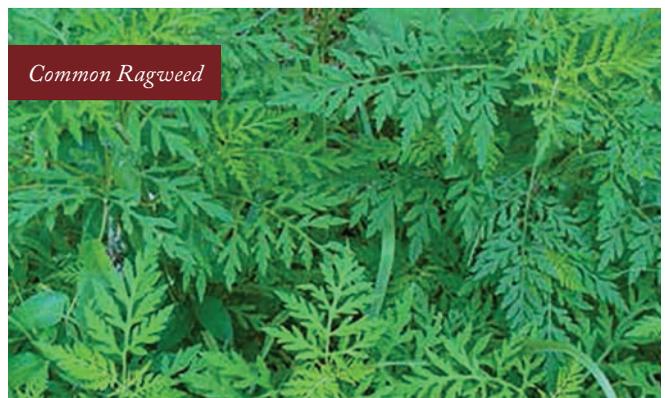
**A:** Keep the deer density appropriate, improve nutrition as best you can through habitat management, and don't harvest bucks for trophies until 4.5 years of age (5.5 or 6.5 is best).

**Q: What are the main preferred browse species in the Mississippi Delta?**

**A:** Deer eat a lot of different species, and there can be differences among deer, but here are some common species: common ragweed, beggar's lice, wild lettuce, goldenrod, partridge pea, pokeweed, greenbriar, blackberry/dewberry and trumpet creeper. We developed a publication on native plants the deer prefer, and you can find it here [http://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/p3618\\_web.pdf](http://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/p3618_web.pdf)

**Q: How does competition between feral swine and deer affect the deer?**

**A:** No one really knows at this point. We have conducted studies



showing that native wildlife diversity declines in the presence of feral swine, but no one has really nailed down the impacts to deer. I do not doubt that feral swine negatively impact deer because they compete for food, but the extent of the negative impact likely depends on the number of feral swine.

**Q: How should food and habitat management be split when beginning to manage a new property?**

**A:** This depends on whether you manage the habitat for food production or cover. Most all habitat management will provide food



Beggar's Lice



Pokeweed

and cover, depending on the amount of time since the management activity. For example, say you open up a part of the forest with a small clearcut — you will have primarily food for the first few years, but over time as the vegetation changes from herbaceous grasses and broadleaf plants to shrubs and trees, you will transition to just providing cover. We call this “plant succession” – the plant community changes over time.

So how should you split this? It depends on what is most limiting on your property. Is the population food limited or cover limited?

**Q: Does the application of liquid fertilizer to summer food plots and/or native summer browse benefit the nutrition of white-tailed deer?**

**A:** For food plots, I would follow what the soil test recommends. If fertilizer is needed to optimize plant growth, then I would add it. Fertilizer may also improve the growth and quality of native browse, especially in places where soil quality is limited.

**Q: When managing habitat for deer and turkeys, how should one approach prescribed burns to best benefit both species?**

**A:** Prescribed fire certainly benefits both species. About the only difference is the interval of time between burns. You need to burn more frequently for turkeys. If you were managing for deer cover, you might have a burn interval of 5-7 years, but in most cases, this is too long for turkeys, where 2-4 years is better. For more information, please read this publication [http://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/P3406\\_Web.pdf](http://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/P3406_Web.pdf)

**Q: What is the largest misconception you hear about white-tailed deer?**

**A:** That you can impact genetics by culling certain bucks. It just can't be done. Now, you can certainly impact the antler size of the “standing crop” of bucks on your property with culling, or selective harvest. That is, selectively remove the bucks with low antler growth potential and allow the bucks with the best antler growth potential to grow to maturity. This is precisely what we recommend for buck management in Mississippi. However, this DOES NOT affect the genetics of the deer herd – only the average antler size of the standing crop of bucks.

**Q: What are some of the biggest challenges landowners face regarding increasing antler size?**

**A:** The biggest challenge is getting cooperation from fellow hunters and neighbors not to harvest the best bucks when they are too young. This happens everywhere and happens all the time. Most

properties never reach their potential simply because they harvest all their best bucks when they are 3.5 years old.

**Q: What are some of the most common questions that you are asked?**

**A:** As you might imagine, I get asked a lot of questions. Before deer season, I'd say most questions are about food plots. But during deer season, I'd say the most common question is “what's wrong with my deer?” with a picture from a trail camera or at the skinning shed. Usually, these are sloughed hooves from EHD, nasal bots and viral fibromas. You can see examples here <https://www.msdeer.msstate.edu/diseases-and-parasites.php>.



**“Guiding Your Land Decisions  
for Over 60 Years”**

FARM | TIMBER | HUNTING



Sartain's Heritage  
Properties, LLC.

**601-856-2720**  
**www.SartainsHeritage.com**



# FSCP Trapping Success Story

BY MATTHEW DZIAMNISKI  
*Animal Damage Technician*

**D**elta Wildlife has many programs to aid private landowners in wildlife management, including the South Delta Feral Swine Control Project (FSCP). This project allows us to trap wild hogs for private landowners in the South Delta counties at no cost. FSCP is now in its second year and has been successful for the enrolled landowners. One example of such success lies with Delta Wildlife members Marcus and Gail Nixon of Yazoo City, whom we have been trapping for since October of 2021.

Mr. and Mrs. Nixon are fifth generation Yazoo City locals who farmed until 2008.

Throughout the years, they have dealt with damage and other issues due to feral hogs, but in the past year, it came to an unbearable point as the hogs began interfering with their land and their way of life.

When we made our first site visit, there was substantial rooting along their creek bank, throughout their Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) land, and right in their front yard.

Along with the physical damage, there were multiple instances where Mrs. Nixon was exercising around their property only to startle a group of pigs within close proximity to her. The Nixon's wanted the pigs gone due to this consistent damage to their property and for the obvious safety concerns.

After our initial visit, a Hogeeye camera system was set up on November 5 to allow us to live stream and monitor the bait site. The live stream is imperative as it will enable us to count exactly how many pigs are coming to the bait site during the prebaiting process. Seven days later, once the pigs had located the bait site and returned to it consistently, we erected a "smart trap." These traps allow us to watch the live stream video and remotely drop the trap gates at exactly the needed moment to catch the whole group rather than using the traditional stick and string type triggers that may trigger before the whole sounder is within the confines of the trap. The first sounder of seven pigs was caught on November 19.

Over a couple of months, 63 pigs were eradicated from their property consisting of 32 boars and 31 sows. Of those 63 pigs, 10 trap drops were giving us an average of roughly six pigs per drop. Additionally, the trap was only moved a handful of times to different locations on the property, giving us an average of around 13 pigs per trap location. The Nixon's were delighted and have not seen any pigs or pig damage since our last catch on March 17. While we are reasonably confident we have temporarily rid the property of the feral pigs, we keep in close contact with the Nixon's to ensure they are not seeing any fresh damage to keep the pressure on any new sounders that may be passing through the property.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Nixon have commented that they are very pleased by the results and efficiency of our trapping program. We are glad to have helped the Nixon's feral hog issue and hope to help other landowners in need.

To enroll land in the FSCP program, please visit [www.deltawildlife.org](http://www.deltawildlife.org) and you will find the online form to enroll on the homepage. You can also call our office at 662-686-3370 for help enrolling.



# SHRED DAY

[www.planter-bank.com](http://www.planter-bank.com)

Instagram Facebook Twitter LinkedIn

Planters Bank Member FDIC

## 10:00 A.M. — 2:00 P.M.

SHRED DAY IS FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE, BUT EACH PARTICIPANT IS LIMITED TO THREE BAGS OR BOXES

*TIME IS THE SAME FOR EACH LOCATION. SHREDDING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM, ACTUAL LENGTH MAY VARY. IF THE SHRED TRUCK IS FULL BEFORE 2:00 P.M., THE REMAINDER OF SHRED DAY WILL BE CANCELED.*

**Tunica | 1020 S Court St. | Wed. 9-7-22**

**Greenville | 1417 South Main St. | Tues. 9-13-22**

**Cleveland | 130 North St. | Wed. 9-14-22**

**Leland | 330 Hwy 82 East | Thurs. 9-15-22**

**Clarksdale | 206 Sharkey Ave. | Tues. 9-20-22**

**Batesville | 1130 Hwy 6 East | Wed. 9-21-22**

**Indianola | 521 Hwy 82 | Thurs. 9-22-22**

**Olive Branch | 5771 Goodman Rd. | Tues. 9-27-22**

**Southaven | 6463 Getwell Rd. | Wed. 9-28-22**

**Greenwood | 915 Medallion Dr. | Thurs. 9-29-22**



# Just What the Doctor Ordered: Prescribed Burning

BY SAM FRANKLIN

*Delta Wildlife Staff*

**H**umans have managed the landscape with fire for centuries, from the earliest hunters and gatherers to modern-day quail plantations. The Native Americans especially understood how necessary fire was to their ecosystem and way of life. They understood that from lightning strikes and burning off the current year's growth came lush grass the following spring for their food source, the buffalo and various other species their existence was based upon. There are accounts of Native Americans intentionally setting fires across what we now call the prairie pothole region on their way to wintering grounds, all for the spring flush of growth.

Flash forward several centuries. We, as land managers, are still utilizing fire as a tool in our box of wildlife/habitat management practices. From burning pine stands in the hills of Mississippi to the rice stubble of the Delta, fire is one of the most efficient management practices for wildlife or agriculture. Fire also has the most significant liability for landowners and practitioners. But we now know particulars about the utilization of fire our forefathers could only dream of. Countless studies have been conducted over the last 80 to 100 years about fire's effect on habitat types and, more importantly, the vegetative response from fire. Mississippi State University has an extensive library and knowledge collection of fire-related practices based on research conducted mainly in Mississippi but also in other parts of the country.

According to their research, here are just a few of the benefits of burning:

- ▶▶ Reduce natural litter (leaves/needles) on the forest floor
- ▶▶ Exposes soil (making it easier to find seeds)
- ▶▶ Creates open foraging and travel areas for hens with young chicks
- ▶▶ Encourages plants that provide food and cover for other species
- ▶▶ Fire acts as a fertilizer, returning nutrients to the soil

So, should you and are you comfortable utilizing fire in your management regime? Let's ponder a few questions first: What are you burning, when are you burning, should you incorporate chemicals prior to your burning and have you weighed all your options and liabilities?

Are you burning a pine stand in the hills of Mississippi? If so, are you going to conduct a warm season or cool season burn? Given certain conditions, performing one over the other may be advantageous for you and your property regarding when to burn.

Are you burning to mitigate agricultural residue like rice stubble or corn stalks (not a common practice for corn but is utilized sometimes)? If so, have you done the necessary prep work?

Is there a fire break around the area in question, whether it be a disked area or a natural fire break like a creek or water body boarding



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE

the prescribed area to be burned? Or maybe you're burning native warm season grass plantings on a CRP contract. Burning is allowed and often suggested by land managers but at the right time of the year, mostly when the grass is dormant.

With the exception of liability, site preparation prior to burning is the most important aspect and often the most overlooked. As mentioned earlier, you will need some form of a fire break most often a disked or fresh earthen lane (hence the name fire lane) around the area to be burned. In an agricultural landscape that's easily accomplished, but in the hills it's a little more challenging. However, the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) specializes in just that.

The MFC will (for a fee) come to your property and make a fire lane around your area to burn. They will also (for a fee) conduct the burn as well if you're not comfortable doing so yourself. For the DIY-ers, you will need to file a smoke management plan and attain a burn permit from MFC. These two prerequisites can be completed electronically with this link <https://www.mfc.ms.gov/burning-info/>. The MFC also has periodic short courses for the avid landowner wanting to learn how to burn for the first time or new techniques as well for the seasoned professional.

Burning is a highly effective and efficient wildlife/habitat management tool. For those landowners that want to tackle that management practice themselves, do the prep work, follow the procedures laid out by the MFC and have fun. For those that aren't comfortable with burning, seek the help of either an MFC professional or another registered and insured professional to attain the goals you've set for your property.

# CWD MANAGEMENT UPDATE

## ZONE DELINEATION

### North MS Management Zone:

Includes Alcorn, Benton, Desoto, Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, Prentiss, Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo and Union Counties.

### Issaquena Management Zone:

All portions of Issaquena County defined as:

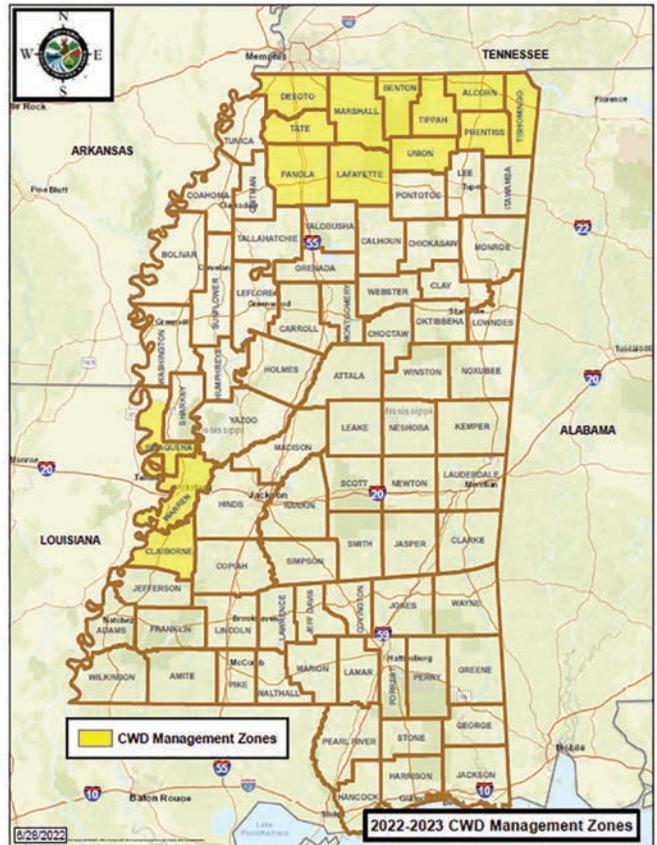
- All areas east of the Mississippi River
- All areas south of Highway 14

All portions of Warren and Claiborne Counties.

## REGULATIONS

1) **Carcasses may not be transported outside of any CWD Management Zone.** Research has shown that decomposed carcasses of infected animals can also contribute to transmission when prions bind to soil and plant material. Thus, movement of carcasses may introduce CWD into previously uninfected areas. Any harvested deer may be taken directly to a taxidermist or meat processor within the CWD Management Zone. Only the below products may leave the a zone:

- Cut/wrapped meat (commercially or privately)
- Deboned meat, or bone-in quarters with no part of the spinal column or head attached
- Hides with no head attached
- Finished taxidermy
- Antlers with no tissue attached
- Cleaned skull plates (no brain tissue)
- Cleaned skulls (no lymphoid or brain tissue)
- Hunters may only transport a deer head outside of a MDWFP-defined CWD Management Zone to a permitted taxidermist participating in the CWD collection program. A CWD sample number must be obtained from the participating taxidermist prior to transporting the deer head outside of the MDWFP-defined CWD Management Zone. This sample number must accompany the deer head while in transport and be available for inspection by law enforcement upon request. The deer head must be delivered to the participating taxidermist within 5 days of receiving the sam-



ple number. This does not apply to deer, elk or other cervids harvested outside of Mississippi.

2) **Supplemental feeding is banned in all CWD Management Zones (salt licks, mineral licks and feeders).** Direct contact with prions is the most effective means of transmitting CWD. Research indicates saliva may have the highest concentration of prions. Thus, to minimize concentration of deer and potential spread of CWD, supplemental feeding is banned within all CWD Management Zones.

## CWD-POSITIVE DEER DETECTED BY COUNTY, 2022

Alcorn County

1

Positive

Benton County

28

Positive

Marshall County

13

Positive

Tippah County

1

Positive

Warren County

2

Positive

# 2022-2023 Hunting Seasons

## White-tailed Deer



**Delta Unit:** Areas west of I-55 and north of I-20 plus areas south of I-20 and west of U.S. Highway 61.

**North Central Unit:** All private and open public lands in Alcorn, Benton, Desoto, Marshall, Tate and Tippah Counties.

**Northeast Unit:** Areas east of I-55, north of U.S. Highway 82, and excluding counties in the North Central Unit. Public lands include national forests (excluding Holly Springs NF), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands, etc., that have statewide seasons without special regulations.

**East Central Unit:** Areas east of I-55, east of U.S. Highway 49, south of U.S. Highway 82 and north

UNIT	LEGAL BUCKS		
	INSIDE SPREAD	OR	MAIN BEAM
Delta	12"	OR	15"
Northeast	10"	OR	13"
East Central	10"	OR	13"
Southwest	10"	OR	13"
Southeast	10"	OR	13"
North Central	Any hardened antler		

of U.S. Highway 84.

**Southwest Unit:** Areas east of U.S. Highway 61, south of I-20, west of U.S. Highway 49 and west of MS Highway 35.

**Southeast Unit:** Areas south of U.S. Highway 84 and east of MS Highway 35.

## Fall Turkey

SEASON	DATES	BAG LIMIT
Fall turkey season is open BY PERMIT ONLY from October 15-November 15 on private lands in the following counties or portions of counties where the landowner/leaseholder completes a fall turkey hunting application to the MDWFP Jackson Office and receives tags. The fall season bag limit is two (2) turkeys, which may be of either sex.		
<b>Delta Zone:</b> Bolivar County - west of the main Mississippi River levee and those lands east of the main Mississippi River levee known as 27 Break Hunting Club; Coahoma, Desoto, Issaquena, Tunica, and Washington counties - west of the main Mississippi River levee.		
<b>North Central Zone:</b> Benton, Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, Tippah, and Union counties.		
<b>Southwest Zone:</b> Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds, Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Warren, Wilkinson, and Yazoo counties.		

## Small Game

SEASON	DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Youth Squirrel*	Sept. 24 - 30	8
Squirrel - Fall Season	Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	8
Squirrel - Spring Season	May 15 - June 1	4
Rabbit	Oct. 15 - Feb. 28	8
Bobwhite Quail	Nov. 24 - Mar. 4	8
Frog	April 1 - Sept. 30	25/Night
Raccoon	July 1 - Sept. 30	1 per Party/Night
Opossum, Raccoon, and Bobcat	Oct. 1 - Oct. 31 (Food and sport)	5/Day; 8/Party No Limit
Trapping	Nov. 1 - Mar. 15	No Limit

\*On private lands and authorized state and federal lands only in those areas open for squirrel hunting.

## Migratory Game Birds

SEASON	DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Sept. Teal	Sept. 10 - Sept. 25	6	18
Sept. Canada Geese*	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30	5	15
Woodcock	Dec. 18 - Jan. 31	3	9
Snipe	Nov. 14 - Feb. 28	8	24
Gallinules (Common & Purple)	Sept. 1 - Oct. 2 Nov. 25 - Jan. 1	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Rails: Clapper and King	Sept. 1 - Oct. 2 Nov. 25 - Jan. 1	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Rails: Sora and Virginia	Sept. 1 - Oct. 2 Nov. 25 - Jan. 1	25 Singly or in aggregate	75 Singly or in aggregate
Mourning and White-winged Doves (North Zone)**	Sept. 3 - Oct. 14 Nov. 19 - Nov. 27 Dec. 24 - Jan. 31	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Mourning and White-winged Doves (South Zone)**	Sept. 3 - Sept. 18 Oct. 8 - Nov. 6 Dec. 19 - Jan. 31	15 Singly or in aggregate	45 Singly or in aggregate
Crows	Nov. 5 - Feb. 28	No Limit	No Limit
Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots***	Nov. 25 - Nov. 27 Dec. 2 - Dec. 4 Dec. 9 - Jan. 31	See below****	See below****
Geese: Canada, White-fronted, Snow, Blue, Ross', and Brant	Nov. 11 - Nov. 27 Dec. 2 - Dec. 4 Dec. 9 - Jan. 31	Canada Geese : 5 Snow, Blue, & Ross': 20 White-fronted: 3 Brant: 1	Canada Geese : 15 Snow, Blue, & Ross': No limit White-fronted: 9 Brant: 3
Youth, Veterans, and Active Military Waterfowl Days	Feb. 4 - 5, 2023	Same as regular season	Same as regular season
Light Goose Conservation Order***** (Special Permit Needed)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 10 Nov. 28 - Dec. 1 Dec. 5 - Dec. 8 Feb. 1 - Feb. 3 Feb. 6 - Mar. 31	No Limit*****	No Limit*****

### Legal Bucks

#### NORTHEAST, EAST CENTRAL, SOUTHWEST, AND SOUTHEAST UNITS

A legal buck is defined as having EITHER a minimum inside spread of 10 inches OR one main beam at least 13 inches long.

How to estimate a 10 inch inside spread:

10" Inside Spread

Estimating a 10 inch spread is accomplished by observing a buck's ears in the alert position. When in the alert position, the distance from ear-tip to ear-tip measures approximately 14 inches. If the OUTSIDE of each antler beam is 1 inch inside the ear-tip, the inside spread is approximately 10 inches.



How to estimate a 13 inch main beam:

13" Main Beam

To estimate a 13 inch main beam, the buck's head must be observed from the side. If the tip of the main beam extends to the front of the eye, main beam length is approximately 13 inches.



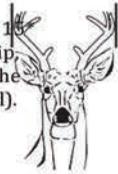
#### DELTA UNIT

A legal buck is defined as having EITHER a minimum inside spread of 12 inches OR one main beam at least 15 inches long.

How to estimate a 12 inch inside spread:

12" Inside Spread

Estimating a 12 inch spread is accomplished by observing a buck's ears in the alert position. When in the alert position, the distance from ear-tip to ear-tip measures approximately 16 inches. If the OUTSIDE of each antler beam reaches the ear-tip, the inside spread is approximately 12 inches. (Therefore, if the outside of both antler beams reach the ear tips, the buck is legal).



How to estimate a 15 inch main beam:

15" Main Beam

To estimate a 15 inch main beam, the buck's head must be observed from the side. If the tip of the main beam extends between the front of the eye and the tip of the nose, main beam length is approximately 15 inches.



\*Due to body size differences in the Delta Unit, ear-tip to ear-tip measurements are slightly larger compared to the other units.

#### DELTA, NORTHEAST, NORTH CENTRAL, EAST CENTRAL, AND SOUTHWEST UNITS

METHOD	SEASON DATES	LEGAL DEER
Archery	Sept. 16 - 18	Legal Bucks Only. Special permit, mandatory reporting, and CWD sampling required.
	Oct. 1 - Nov. 18	Either-Sex on private land, open public land, and Holly Springs NF
Youth Season (15 and under)	Nov. 5 - Nov. 18	Either-Sex on private lands and authorized state and federal lands.
	Nov. 19 - Jan. 31	Either-Sex on private lands. On open public lands, youth must follow below legal deer criteria.
Antlerless Primitive Weapon	Nov. 7 - 18	Antlerless Deer Only on private lands.
Gun (with dogs)	Nov. 19 - Dec. 1	Either-Sex on private land and Holly Springs NF. Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2 - 15	Either-Sex on private land, open public land, and Holly Springs NF. Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.
Gun (without dogs)	Dec. 16 - 23	Either-Sex on private land and Holly Springs NF. Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Gun (with dogs)	Dec. 24 - Jan. 18	Either-Sex on private land and Holly Spring NF. Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Archery/Primitive Weapon	Jan. 19 - 31	Either-Sex on private land and Holly Springs NF. Legal Bucks only on open public land. Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.

#### SOUTHEAST UNIT

METHOD	SEASON DATES	LEGAL DEER
Archery	Sept. 16 - 18	Legal Bucks Only. Special permit, mandatory reporting, and CWD sampling required.
	Oct. 15 - Nov. 18	Either-Sex on private and open public land.
Youth Season (15 and under)	Nov. 5 - Nov. 18	Either-Sex on private lands and authorized state and federal lands.
	Nov. 19 - Feb. 15	Either-Sex on private lands. On open public lands, youth must follow below legal deer criteria.
Gun (with dogs)	Nov. 19 - Dec. 1	Either-Sex on private land. Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 2 - 15	Either-Sex on private and open public land. Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.
Gun (without dogs)	Dec. 16 - 23	Either-Sex on private land. Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Gun (with dogs)	Dec. 24 - Jan. 18	Either-Sex on private land. Legal Bucks only on open public land.
Archery/Primitive Weapon	Jan. 19 - 31	Either-Sex on private land. Legal Bucks only on open public land. Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.
	Feb. 1 - 15	Legal Bucks only on private and open public land. Weapon of choice may be used on private land with appropriate license.

# 2022 Mississippi Velvet Buck Season

BY WILL PREVOST  
*Delta Wildlife Staff*

One of the rarest trophies for a Mississippi bow hunter is to harvest a buck in full velvet. For many years, the state's archery season has opened on October 1, which is after the majority of bucks have shed their velvet. In 2022, hunters in Mississippi will have the opportunity to hunt for a buck in full velvet during a special "Velvet Season" set for Sept. 16-18, 2022. Established by House Bill 1035, this season was created in response to demand by hunters and follows several other states that have established similar seasons.

For 2022, this special season will be three days, Friday through Sunday, on private lands only. However, in future velvet seasons following this "trial run," the season may be up to five days and will also include public lands. Future seasons will be set and regulated based on hunter participation and the success of this first season.

Rules and regulations consist of the following:

- » Only archery equipment, including crossbows, may be used.
- » All hunters must possess a special Velvet Season Permit, \$10 for residents and \$50 for non-residents.
- » Hunters must report their harvest to MDWFP (MS Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks) by 10 p.m. on the day of harvest.
- » All harvested bucks must be submitted for CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) sampling to an MDFWP CWD drop-off freezer or to a MDWFP participating taxidermist within five days of harvest.
- » The bag limit is one (1) legal buck and will count toward the annual antlered deer bag limit.
- » Only legal bucks for the respective deer management zone may be harvested.

Harvest reporting is mandatory to help MDWFP track how many deer are harvested so that they may use the information to set regulations for future velvet seasons. In addition, it will help them enforce the mandatory CWD sampling for this season. This will be advantageous in obtaining a fairly large sample size, which is needed to accurately assess the CWD situation in Mississippi.

Hormones, such as testosterone, regulate whitetails' antler growing process, which can be

controlled by photoperiod (length of day). Bucks will experience a decrease in testosterone levels in the early spring after the rut, causing their antlers to fall off. As days get longer and the temperature rises, a new set begins to grow from the pedicles.

While the antlers grow, they are covered in "velvet," a special skin loaded with blood vessels and nerves that nourish the antlers throughout spring and summer. During this time, antlers can grow up to an inch and a half per day. As the days of late summer get shorter, testosterone levels rise, and the antlers begin to harden. At this point, bucks will grow burrs on the bases of their antlers that shut off the flow of blood to the velvet. The velvet will then dry out and fall off within days.

Since there is a very small window of time when a buck has fully grown antlers that are still in velvet, the season has been strategically placed in mid-September. In most parts of the state, bucks will have fully grown racks at this time of year, though many of them will have already shed their velvet. While this special season was created to allow hunters to target deer that are in velvet, it is perfectly legal to shoot a buck that has already shed his velvet.

If you happen to harvest a velvet buck and want to get it mounted, remember that the velvet is a living organism and requires special care to keep it intact for the taxidermist. Avoid handling the deer by its antlers, and keep the antlers from bouncing around while retrieving and loading. After the deer is skinned, it is important to get the antlers into a freezer or to a taxidermist as quickly as possible. A taxidermist can use artificial velvet if it is damaged by handling, but most hunters prefer to preserve the deer's natural velvet.

Hunters brave enough to face the heat and bugs that September in Mississippi can produce may be rewarded with the rare opportunity to harvest a velvet buck this year. If you choose to participate in velvet season, remember to buy the special permit and comply with the mandatory harvest reporting and CWD testing. Following these rules and regulations will help to ensure more hunting opportunities such as this in the future. Be safe and happy hunting!





ISTOCK LIGHTWRITER949



# we believe in giving you choices, not limitations

When you talk to Syngenta, the conversation is about you: your fields, your plans, your challenges, your business.

Can we help you get better stands, fight weeds and pests, and break through yield barriers? With our industry-leading portfolio in crop protection, seeds, seed treatments and traits, the answer is usually yes.

But important as great products are, we know that what really matters is helping you succeed.

So we believe in giving you choices, not limitations. Tools, not barriers. Collaboration, not manipulation.

Let's work together – toward your success.

*Bringing plant potential to life.*

# Mississippi Timber Price Report

## 2ND QUARTER 2022

The Mississippi Timber Price Report provides a picture of timber market activity showing regional and statewide stumpage prices for common forest products. This report should only be used as a guide to help individuals monitor timber market trends. The average price should not be applied as fair market value for a specific timber sale because many variables influence actual prices each landowner will receive. This report and historical timber prices are available by contacting your local county Extension office or at [www.extension.msstate.edu/forestry/forest-economics/timber-prices](http://www.extension.msstate.edu/forestry/forest-economics/timber-prices).

How are prices obtained? This report used data from 76 timber sales conducted and reported across Mississippi during 2nd quarter 2022. Reporters include forest product companies, logging contractors, consulting foresters, landowners and other natural resource professionals.

Are you interested in reporting timber prices, or do you want more information about the Mississippi Timber Price Report? Please contact Marc Measells at [mkm2@msstate.edu](mailto:mkm2@msstate.edu) or at 662-325-3550 for more information.

## PRICE TRENDS

► Most of Mississippi experienced below-normal rainfall most of this year, especially the 2nd quarter. Decreased demand for wood products and supply constraints across the nation factored into price decreases this quarter. High infla-

tion has led to decreased housing starts and building permits. Diesel fuel prices have increased dramatically this year, putting increased pressures on the logging and trucking force. Increasing inflation rates are expected to last throughout 2022. Prices during the 3rd quarter are expected to decrease due to normal drier weather patterns and as high inflation continues to impact the economy. Mississippi also continues to have an over-abundant supply of standing timber that will keep stumpage prices lower.

► The 2nd quarter statewide stumpage prices for pine products are in Table 1 and hardwood products are in Table 2. Figures reflect 10-year statewide average price trends. Compared to the 1st quarter, statewide average prices changed (-45.5% to 5.7%) during the 2nd quarter with only pine plywood and mixed hardwood sawtimber prices increasing. However, compared to 2nd quarter 2021 prices, all product classes are higher. Prices varied for some product classes across regions. Some regions had price decreases for some products while other regions had slight increases due to localized market conditions. Southern yellow pine dimensional lumber prices decreased this quarter but are still higher than normal. The good news, companies continue to make progress on expansions and new mill construction projects. Many will begin production during 2022. This added production capacity will benefit many landowners within the procurement radius of those mills.

Mississippi Timber Price Report Regions

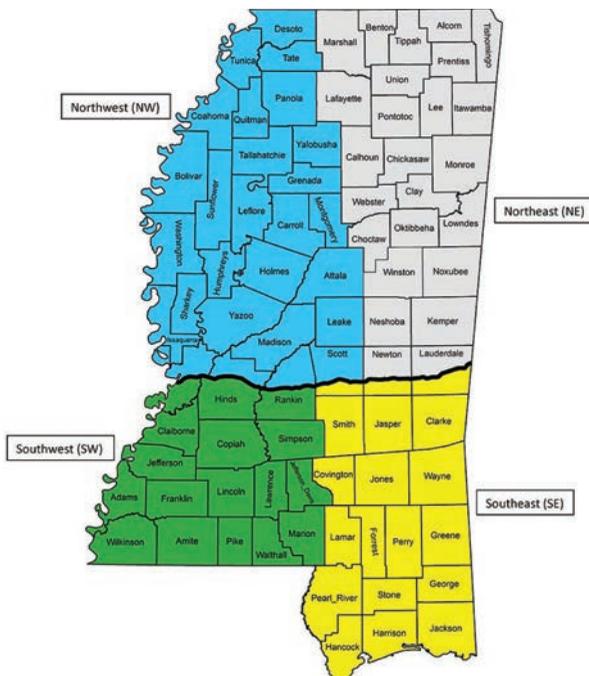


Table 1: Mississippi 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2022 pine stumpage prices (\$/ton)\*\*.

Region		Pine Poles	Pine Sawtimber	Pine Pylogs	Pine Chip-n-Saw	Pine T-wood	Pine Pulpwood	Pine Topwood
NW	Low	\$20.00	\$14.00	\$13.00	\$9.64	\$1.00	\$0.25	\$1.00
	Avg.	\$32.67	\$21.71	\$18.60	\$13.34	\$2.00	\$2.05	\$1.00
	High	\$40.00	\$35.00	\$22.00	\$17.50	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$1.00
NE	Low	IND	\$17.00	IND	\$9.00	IND	\$1.00	\$1.00
	Avg.	IND	\$23.48	IND	\$12.05	IND	\$3.28	\$3.38
	High	IND	\$35.00	IND	\$15.44	IND	\$5.50	\$5.50
SW	Low	\$29.00	\$19.49	\$21.00	\$10.00	IND	\$2.00	\$0.50
	Avg.	\$32.00	\$23.46	\$21.00	\$12.93	IND	\$3.27	\$1.81
	High	\$35.00	\$28.74	\$21.00	\$16.70	IND	\$6.00	\$3.00
SE	Low	IND	\$10.24	IND	\$9.00	IND	\$1.45	IND
	Avg.	IND	\$26.37	IND	\$12.00	IND	\$4.15	IND
	High	IND	\$35.00	IND	\$14.00	IND	\$6.00	IND
Statewide	Low	\$20.00	\$10.24	\$13.00	\$9.00	\$1.00	\$0.25	\$0.50
	Avg.	\$32.92	\$23.61	\$19.68	\$12.67	\$2.88	\$2.99	\$2.01
	High	\$40.00	\$36.00	\$22.50	\$17.50	\$5.50	\$6.00	\$5.50

\* IND = Insufficient or No Data Reported.

\*\* Product classes are often subdivided into small, medium, and large categories. Prices vary according to size.

Table 2: Mississippi 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2022 hardwood stumpage prices (\$/ton)\*\*.

Region		Oak Sawtimber	Mixed Hardwood Sawtimber	Hardwood Pulpwood	Crossties
NW	Low	\$38.00	\$22.00	\$3.00	\$30.00
	Avg.	\$43.20	\$29.96	\$6.62	\$31.67
	High	\$48.00	\$35.50	\$10.00	\$35.00
NE	Low	\$34.00	\$20.00	\$8.00	IND
	Avg.	\$43.80	\$33.71	\$8.26	IND
	High	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$10.00	IND
SW	Low	\$28.85	\$17.00	\$2.00	IND
	Avg.	\$44.93	\$32.28	\$4.35	IND
	High	\$59.28	\$45.00	\$8.00	IND
SE	Low	IND	\$32.00	\$4.00	IND
	Avg.	IND	\$37.33	\$7.00	IND
	High	IND	\$42.00	\$11.00	IND
Statewide	Low	\$28.85	\$17.00	\$2.00	\$24.58
	Avg.	\$44.45	\$32.15	\$5.95	\$30.61
	High	\$59.28	\$45.00	\$11.00	\$35.00

\* IND = Insufficient or No Data Reported.

\*\* Product classes are often subdivided into small, medium, and large categories. Prices vary according to size.

QUALITY PRODUCTS • QUALITY PRICES • QUALITY SERVICE  
**SCOTT PETROLEUM CORPORATION**



[www.scottpetroleuminc.com](http://www.scottpetroleuminc.com)



# Community is an investment.

AND TOGETHER WE MAKE IT GROW.

 © Copyright 2021 BankPlus.  
Member FDIC.



BankPlus was founded as a true community bank. And we've been serving our communities for over 100 years. To us, this means much more than banking. We're committed to improving quality of life and making a positive difference for our customers and neighbors. BankPlus. It's more than a name. It's a promise. Learn more at [bankplus.net](http://bankplus.net).

## BankPlus®



**WORK HARD. PLAY HARDER.**



**JOHN DEERE**



**WADEINC.COM**

PRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
JACKSON, MS  
PERMIT NO. 937

# THE SEED THAT MAKES THE SOUTH GROW

Exclusive genetics with innovative traits,  
technology and agronomic support—for  
**PROVEN PERFORMANCE,  
SEASON AFTER SEASON.**



[GrowTheSouth.com](http://GrowTheSouth.com)

Monsanto Company is a member of Excellence Through Stewardship® (ETS). Monsanto products are commercialized in accordance with ETS Product Launch Stewardship Guidance, and in compliance with Monsanto's Policy for Commercialization of Biotechnology-Derived Plant Products in Commodity Crops. This product has been approved for import into key export markets with functioning regulatory systems. Any crop or material produced from this product can only be exported to, or used, processed or sold in countries where all necessary regulatory approvals have been granted. It is a violation of national and international law to move material containing biotech traits across boundaries into nations where import is not permitted. Growers should talk to their grain handler or product purchaser to confirm their buying position for this product.

**ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS.** It is a violation of federal and state law to use any pesticide product other than in accordance with its labeling. NOT ALL formulations of dicamba or glyphosate are approved for in-crop use with Roundup Ready 2 Xtend® soybeans or cotton with XtendFlex® technology. ONLY USE FORMULATIONS THAT ARE SPECIFICALLY LABELED FOR SUCH USES AND APPROVED FOR SUCH USE IN THE STATE OF APPLICATION. May not be approved in all states. Contact the U.S. EPA and your state pesticide regulatory agency with any questions about the approval status of dicamba herbicide products for in-crop use with Roundup Ready 2 Xtend® soybeans or cotton with XtendFlex® technology.

Roundup Ready 2 Xtend® soybeans contain genes that confer tolerance to glyphosate and dicamba.

Cotton with XtendFlex® technology contains genes that confer tolerance to glyphosate, dicamba and glufosinate. Glyphosate will kill crops that are not tolerant to glyphosate. Dicamba will kill crops that are not tolerant to dicamba. Glufosinate will kill crops that are not tolerant to glufosinate. Contact your Bayer dealer or refer to the Technology Use Guide for recommended weed control programs.

B.t. products may not yet be registered in all states. Check with your seed brand representative for the registration status in your state.

Performance may vary from location to location and from year to year, as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible and should consider the impacts of these conditions on the grower's fields.

LibertyLink® and the Water Droplet Design® is a trademark of BASF Corporation. Respect the Refuge and Corn Design® and Respect the Refuge® are registered trademarks of National Corn Growers Association. Acceleron®, Asgrow and the A Design®, Asgrow®, Bayer, Bayer Cross Design, DEKALB and Design®, DEKALB®, Deltapine®, Respect the Refuge and Cotton Design®, Roundup Ready®, Roundup Ready 2 Xtend® and VT Double Pro® are trademarks of Bayer Group. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ©2019 Bayer Group. All rights reserved. DP-19058-DW-BC-TR1



Before opening a bag of seed, be sure to read, understand and accept the stewardship requirements, including applicable refuge requirements for insect resistance management, for the biotechnology traits expressed in the seed as set forth in the Monsanto Technology/Stewardship Agreement that you sign. By opening and using a bag of seed, you are reaffirming your obligation to comply with the most recent stewardship requirements.

