



Delta Wildlife

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JOE MAC HUDSPETH

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Cover photo by Joe Mac Hudspeth



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Message from the President

BY TOMMY GOODWIN



The Holiday Season is right around the corner, which means we are winding down the year. This year has been a special one for Delta Wildlife. Thanks to our members, donors, volunteers, employees and private and federal partners, Delta Wildlife has continued to grow, prosper and provide services to more members and private landowners than ever.

Despite supply-chain issues, we thank our partners Syngenta and Bayer for continuing to provide wildlife habitat seed. Our Habitat Seed Program provided members with enough seed to improve wildlife habitats on more than 10,000 acres of private land. We look forward to working with our partners and continuing the seed program, so members, be on the lookout for seed order forms in Spring 2023.

In addition to the successful seed program, our staff have been busy working on providing landowners with relief from feral swine damage. In 2019, through the hard work of Delta Wildlife staff, volunteers and partners, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Mississippi Department of Agriculture, Mississippi State University and USDA Wildlife Services, Mississippi was one of 11 states awarded federal funding to assist private landowners in reducing feral swine damage. USDA estimates that feral swine cause \$1.5 billion in damages annually nationwide. Using USDA's estimates, for this project alone, Delta Wildlife and our partners have reduced economic damages from feral swine in the Mississippi Delta by approximately \$1.5 million since 2019. As we move into 2023 with a new Farm Bill looming, the success of this project will be critical to bringing more funding and technical assistance to the Mississippi Delta to reduce the damages caused by feral swine.

Delta Wildlife continues our partnership with NRCS as an original partner and technical service provider for Wetland Reserve Enhancement (formally WRP) projects. The dry fall allowed our staff to work with our contractors to finish construction on all projects scheduled for 2022 and clear a backlog of projects that were delayed the past couple of years due to poor weather conditions. These WRE projects take marginal farmlands and turn them back into prime waterfowl and wetland habitats, creating positive outcomes for private landowners, waterfowl and the general public.

In addition to everything mentioned, Delta Wildlife staff also provide individual technical assistance to any member who requests it. Delta Wildlife is, first and foremost, a service organization. Every Delta Wildlife member will receive the same quality assistance, whether it be a comprehensive management plan on 10,000 acres or assisting in establishing a pollinator plot on 100 square feet in the backyard. If you need assistance with anything wildlife or habitat-related, our staff can help.

I could continue to brag about our staff and partners, but as you can see, they limit my comments to about half a page. Even so, no other conservation organization does more for the Mississippi Delta than Delta Wildlife, and that is why for 30 years, I have given my time to volunteer as a member of the board of directors, treasurer and recently as president. As my term as president comes to an end, I intend to remain involved to ensure Delta Wildlife continues to provide the highest service possible to residents of the Mississippi Delta.

Thank you for your support of Delta Wildlife.

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KID'S CORNER

Phelps Dickerson, 7

Phelps harvested his first ever 2 turkeys with 1 shot while hunting with his grandfather Steve Skelton. Son of Drake and Emily Roberts. 4/24/22



Cara Allen, 3 ½
Fishing with her dad Jerry at Lake Chicot
Daughter of Jerry & Alicia Brumley. 9/17/2022



Bently Allen, 6
Fishing with his dad Jerry at Lake Chicot
Son of Jerry and Alicia Brumley. 9/17/2022



Aven Trammell, 11
Harvested 11/26/21
Daughter of Chip and Lauren Trammell



Tucker Trammell, 9
Harvested 11/14/21
Son of Chip and Lauren Trammell

Braxton Easterwood (left), 8

Drake Shoveler
Harvested Youth Weekend Feb 5, 2022 in Belzoni, MS with his .410
Parents: Brandon and Brooke Easterwood

Wilson Donahoo (right), 7

Hen Shoveler
Harvested minutes after Braxton's on February 5, with his 20 Gauge
Parents: Price and Laurel Donahoo

These two hunting buddies were lucky enough to harvest their first ducks on the same day!



Thomas Trammell, 5
Harvested 12/4/21
Son of Chip and Lauren Trammell



Processing Your Own Venison

BY WILL PREVOST
Delta Wildlife Staff

We all know how much work goes into deer hunting. From intensively managing habitat to building stands and planting food plots, hunters spend countless hours (and dollars) preparing for deer season. At the end of the day, the fruits of this labor are fond memories and (hopefully) meat for the table. While there is nothing wrong with dropping a deer off at a commercial processor, many hunters enjoy and take pride in processing their own venison. By doing the processing at home, you can save money and have a true field-to-table experience.

Clean and Cool

Optimizing the table-fare quality of your meat begins with the shot. Take a shot that will damage as little meat as possible. After the kill, the deer must be dressed, cleaned and cooled quickly. Soon after the animal is deceased, gases build up in the intestines, and the deer begins to bloat. It does not take long for these gases to leach out and taint the flavor of the meat. We are all aware that there will be situations when it takes longer than desired to get the deer out of the field and cleaned, simply due to the nature of hunting. Just be vigilant to get the deer cleaned and cooled as quickly as possible in your particular scenario to protect the meat. Do not put meat in a cooler full of ice water when transporting or storing meat. Keeping meat in water allows bacteria (primarily E. coli) to grow and spread over the entire carcass. I like to place my deer meat on top of ice in a cooler with the drain plug removed to prevent this.

Aging

Aging can be very beneficial for lean meat such as venison. The process of aging allows enzymes to break down muscle fibers, resulting in a much more tender and flavorful meat. Even if you do not plan on processing your own venison, you can still age the meat before you drop it off at a processor, and you will end up with a much better product. The length of time you should age a deer depends upon the deer's age and the desired end result. Young deer do not need to age nearly as long as an old buck. A general rule of thumb for aging venison is 7-28 days. The two most popular methods of aging venison are known as dry aging and wet aging.

Dry aging is accomplished by hanging a deer carcass in a cooler for an extended period of time. With this method, the meat not only gets tender but also develops a deeper, more desirable flavor due to water loss and mold growth. Dry aging is typically done in a walk-in cooler with a whole deer carcass, but there are other options for those who do not have access to such equipment. Dry aging could be done small-scale in a refrigerator by placing meat on a wire rack suspended above a pan to expose the meat to air while allowing juices to drain out of the meat.

The second method, wet aging, involves vacuum-sealing meat and refrigerating it before processing, cooking or freezing it. Wet aging will still produce more tender meat but will not develop the flavor of dry aging due to lack of exposure to air. If you choose to wet age, it is a good practice to cut the bag open and drain the juices out every



seven days. This will prevent the meat from developing a “gamey” flavor from bathing in its own juices.

If you do decide to age your meat, it is vital to keep it around 34-38 degrees to prevent bad bacteria growth. This is why it is much safer to age meat in a refrigerator rather than an ice chest that is not temperature regulated. Many online resources will tell you exactly how to age your meat safely. If you decide not to age your meat, it will be beneficial to refrigerate or keep it on ice for a few days to allow the rigor mortis to relax before freezing or cooking. If you freeze or cook fresh deer meat immediately, it will have an extremely tough texture.

Meat Preparation

When butchering your harvest, I recommend breaking down the meat into its primal cuts rather than just hacking away at it, as many people do. There are several good tutorial videos online that can teach you how to do this. As an example, a hindquarter can be broken down into the shank, round, sirloin tip and rump. Each muscle group has different properties that make them better for different preparations. For instance, the shank will be better used for grinding, but the sirloin tip could be used for steak, roast, stew meat or ground meat. Butchering a deer this way adds more versatility than simply deboning a hindquarter and grinding the entire thing. Always keep in mind that cleanliness is key when butchering any meat. Be sure to use a clean knife and avoid contaminating meat with hair, dirt or intestinal fluid.

Now that the deer is broken down, it is time to prepare it for the freezer. Start by removing any hair, dirt or debris from the meat, then trim off any fat or unwanted tissue. Deer fat has a very undesirable taste and texture, so removing as much of it as possible is important. Pork or beef fat can be added in when grinding. The next step is to decide what the end product is going to be. This part can be as simple or complicated as you would like it to be. From simply packaging hunks of meat to making snack sticks or jerky, there are seemingly endless possibilities depending on the equipment you have access to. I would suggest researching each individual cut of meat to discern what the best use for it would be before proceeding. Backstrap, loin, stew meat, steak cuts and roasts can easily be processed by cutting them into portion sizes and vacuum sealing. Ground meat is probably the most versatile form of venison and is also processed relative-

ly easily. Venison is typically ground and mixed with fat, but some people prefer 100% lean ground venison. For burger meat, an 80/20 lean meat-to-fat ratio is common. If you do choose to add fat to your ground meat, beef fat is preferred over pork due to a slightly sweeter taste and allowing the option to cook a burger to medium rare. Some people swear by using beef kidney fat to produce the tastiest burger. If you add bacon to your ground meat, use 10-20% beef fat and 10 % bacon. Using bacon solely as the fat will leave you with an extremely greasy product. Beyond the primal cuts and ground meat, the sky is the limit when it comes to what you can turn your meat into. This will all depend on personal preference and the amount of equipment you are willing to purchase.

Processing

One thing that deters many people from processing their own meat is the seemingly high equipment cost. I advise taking it slow and buying one or two pieces of equipment per year. Start off by purchasing a quality vacuum sealer and package your own backstrap, loin, roast, steak meat, etc... and take the rest to a commercial processor. If you find you enjoy processing meat, the following year, you could buy a grinder and a scale to make burgers and ground meat. You can continue slowly buying equipment and weaning yourself off the commercial processor until you have a fully stocked arsenal of processing equipment. You don't have to spend hundreds of dollars and dive headfirst into processing the first year. Taking it one piece at a time will prevent you from becoming overwhelmed and will spread the cost out over several years. Additionally, processing meat is not something that every person will enjoy, so I believe it is beneficial to give it a trial run before spending a ton of money buying equipment that you might never use again.

No matter how you decide to process your deer, at the end of the day, this is something that anybody can accomplish. Processing your own meat can give you a sense of pride that you have provided food for the family from start to finish and will save you money in the long run. You have spent a significant amount of money and countless hours managing, preparing and hunting for the deer, so why not give processing it a shot? While it might not be for every person, you will never know unless you try it. Now flip over to Delta Flavor to check out one of my favorite venison recipes!

Deer Sauce Piquante

BY TAYLOR GRAVOIS PREVOST

Sauce piquante is a popular dish in Cajun country that can be made with a wide variety of proteins including (but not limited to) chicken, alligator, turtle, rabbit and even seafood. This version uses cubed meat from a venison hindquarter to create a perfect hearty meal for a cold day.



INGREDIENTS

- 3 – 4 lbs. venison stew meat
- 1 cup flour
- ¾ cup vegetable oil
- 2 yellow onions
- 1 green bell pepper
- 3 sticks celery
- 4 cloves garlic
- Fresh parsley
- 1 can Rotel tomatoes
- 1 6 oz. can tomato paste
- 1 can sliced mushrooms (optional)
- 2 bay leaves
- 32 oz. beef stock
- 1 cup water
- Cajun seasoning
- Garlic powder
- Worcestershire sauce
- Hot sauce

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut your stew meat into bite-sized pieces and season with Worcestershire sauce, pepper, garlic powder, hot sauce and Cajun seasoning. Cover and transfer to the icebox while preparing your other ingredients.
2. Dice your onions, bell pepper and celery, and mince your garlic cloves.
3. In a large heavy-bottom pot over medium-low heat, create a roux by combining the flour and oil and stirring constantly until the mixture reaches a milk chocolate color. This can take 30 minutes to an hour.
4. Once the roux has reached the desired color, add diced onions and continue to stir for 10 more minutes.
5. Add in the venison, Rotel tomatoes, tomato paste, bell pepper, celery, garlic, beef stock, water, mushrooms and bay leaves. Once it has reached a slow boil, cover and simmer for 1.5-2 hours stirring occasionally and skimming the grease off the top with a spoon. Add a handful of fresh parsley about 15 minutes before you turn the heat off. Once it has finished cooking, you can season to taste with Cajun seasoning and hot sauce.
6. Serve over steamed white rice. Garnish with more fresh parsley and enjoy!





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Staff Highlight

Parker Frew

Parker Frew joined the Delta Wildlife staff in the spring of 2020 as a Wildlife Biologist and also as a Program Manager for the sister organization, Delta F.A.R.M. His primary responsibilities include oversight and facilitation of all grants and projects for Delta F.A.R.M.

Q: What do you like best about your job?

A: The best part of my job is being able to design and create projects that help producers and landowners answer questions and achieve goals that could not be done without organizations like Delta F.A.R.M. and Delta Wildlife. With every project, I strive to make a lasting impact that will remain on the landscape for years to come. I have always seen myself as a steward of the land, and with Delta F.A.R.M. and Delta Wildlife I am able to help restore and enhance environments and habitats across the Mississippi Delta. The work I do today provides me with a feeling of fulfillment and joy knowing that I am helping to conserve the environment for years to come.

Q: Can you give our readers an example of the types of conservation projects you work on?

A: Since starting with Delta F.A.R.M., I have specialized in the facilitation and design of cover crop minimal tillage projects through agencies such as Environmental Protection Agency Gulf of Mexico, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. Implementation of cover crop minimal tillage at key locations helps evaluate the environmental, agronomic and economic changes across common soil and crop productions throughout the Delta. I also work extensively with projects that support the efforts and implementation of the Delta Nutrient Reduction Strategies such as our watershed projects with MDEQ. All of these projects have a similar goal or focus — to help improve soil health and water quality through the implementation of best management practices.

Q: I'm sure our readers have noticed by your past articles that you are a knowledgeable and avid fisherman and outdoorsman. Can you tell us more about your passion for fishing and the great outdoors?

A: Bass fishing, deer hunting and tackle craft are my three favorite personal hobbies. Fishing has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Most people talk about or remember their first fish or first time to ever go fishing. I cannot honestly say that I remember a first for either of those; it's just always been a lifestyle for my family. Both of my grandfathers were avid fisherman as well as my father and uncles. I truly cannot remember life without it.

While fishing has always been my biggest passion, deer hunting is also a hobby of mine. They both sparked my interest at an early age. At Delta State University, I studied Environmental Science with a concentration in Wildlife Management. At about the age of 14, I was



really bit by the bug to focus on growing and harvesting the biggest deer I possibly could on our property. I fell in love with managing and developing the land to provide the best habitat possible for correctly managing a whitetail deer herd. I find peace and tranquility in the simple tasks and work involved in managing a property.

When it's not hunting season, tackle craft is another hobby I enjoy. I began when I was in college, specifically making bass fishing lures. As I began competitive bass fishing, I quickly learned that one major key to success was

perfecting my tackle and being confident in my equipment. Today I build and construct lures for myself, but I will always have the dream of sharing my designs and bringing them to market.

Q: What else would you like to share with our readers about yourself?

A: While I may be encompassed by agriculture and wildlife work today, I have not always been in the ag and environmental world. Growing up, I worked at my father's body shop up until I went off to college. My father has owned and operated a body shop in Greenville for over 35 years now. That's where I learned skills that I believe are invaluable to any industry or line of work. My father trusted me to do just about anything in the business. Year after year, I learned the true value of hard work and how to run a successful business. I was able to work with and learn skills from people of all different walks of life. No matter where I end up in my career, I will always be able to take something from all of those years as a youth working with my father.

Parker resides in Greenville with his wife, Christin; son, Jackson; two Golden Retrievers, Max and Millie; and Labrador Retriever, Bo. Contact Parker at 662-931-0561 or parker@delatwildlife.org.

Q&A with Delta Wildlife Partner

Kris Godwin

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services State Director

BY AMY TAYLOR

Kris Godwin is the State Director for the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) Wildlife Services program in Mississippi (23 years). Kris is also an adjunct assistant professor at Mississippi State University in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture. She has worked for USDA for more than 31 years and is a past president of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. She is a three term past president of the Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) and an instructor for Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT). Kris holds an AAS degree in Biological Technology from State University of New York (SUNY), Cobleskill; a BS Degree in Wildlife Ecology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry/Syracuse University; and a MS degree in Wildlife Management from Mississippi State University. She is married to Dave Godwin, and they have two children, a daughter Brannon and son Eric.

DW: As State Director, please discuss the mission of Mississippi Wildlife Services.

Godwin: We provide federal leadership for human wildlife conflicts. Our mission is to alleviate conflicts caused by wildlife or related to the presence of wildlife without having a negative impact to overall wildlife populations or the environment. We attempt to reach an acceptable balance between human interests and wildlife needs by either tolerating, preventing or controlling conflicts between humans and wildlife.

DW: Specifically, what are your current or ongoing efforts to benefit the citizens of Mississippi?

Godwin: Currently, we are doing quite a bit of wildlife disease surveillance work. We have collected data on prevalence of swine brucellosis and pseudorabies in feral swine for several years. We are also surveying for High Path Avian Influenza (bird flu) and have an active rabies surveillance program along the southern portion of Mississippi, which has been in place for over 20 years. We work with most of the airports in the state assisting them with federal permitting issues for birds. The Beaver Control Assistance Program aids the state's highway and county road systems with backed up water along road infrastructure caused by beaver activity. We coordinate and conduct work for the state's aquaculture industry by assisting them with problems caused by fish-eating birds, which depredate on fish and can spread disease. Additionally, we work statewide on feral swine issues, especially where

they are causing damage to agricultural resources. Vultures also have been an up-and-coming damage issue that we have been dedicating more time and resources towards. While there are numerous other projects in addition to those mentioned, the goal is to reduce conflicts and educate the public on how they can assist in reducing conflicts they may be experiencing. The goal is also to maintain and/or enhance public safety.



DW: Please comment on your current challenges in reaching these goals.

Godwin: Turnover in personnel is our biggest challenge. We train individuals, then lose them to other positions within the agency or sometimes outside of the agency, and we begin the process over again. It takes quite a bit of time to get through the federal hiring process, train employees with our required trainings and then get them up and running.

DW: What is the history of your partnership with Delta Wildlife?

Godwin: Delta Wildlife has been a partner to us for as long as I have been with Wildlife Services. They have always assisted us with our aquaculture program. We have enhanced that partnership the last three years by providing

grant funding to Delta Wildlife, which has assisted in great lengths to expand both our programs' capabilities in assisting catfish farmers. Delta Wildlife is our primary partner with the feral swine Farm Bill program as we work together on feral swine issues across the Delta. Delta Wildlife has also assisted us with our aerial operations program by providing mapping services of landowners and assisting us with speaking with landowners about what we are able to do.

DW: Please comment on future partnership endeavors with Delta Wildlife.

Godwin: I cannot thank Delta Wildlife enough for the partnership we have together. They have a top-notch staff who are easy to work with. They communicate well and work hard to meet the needs of their membership and the people of the Delta. I hope we can continue our partnership with the aquaculture work well into the future. We have one more year of Farm Bill funding for Wildlife Services. I have yet to see where the future will go with the Farm Bill but have no doubt Delta Wildlife will be a part of any work we are able to continue across the Delta controlling feral-swine damage to agriculture. I also see their continued logistical assistance with our aerial operations program.

William C. (Billy) Deviney Wildlife Management Area

BY MATTHEW DZIAMNISKI
Delta Wildlife Staff

Across our state, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) manages many tracts of land for public use called Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). In the Delta, there are a total of 14 WMAs, and all offer great hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities. One WMA that stands out is William C. (Billy) Deviney Wildlife Management Area, located just 10 miles North of Indianola. This WMA is just over a thousand acres of converted aquaculture ponds and is primarily managed for waterfowl hunting. Activities such as dove hunting and trapping are also permitted during designated seasons.

Deviney WMA is comprised of 18 hunt units for waterfowl, and the habitat in these units consists of mainly harvested rice, but native moist soil is also present. Biologists here work closely with farmers since they are the ones who plant and harvest the fields. This is a draw-only WMA for waterfowl, meaning hunters must apply on the MDWFP website for the chance to hunt here. Waterfowl draws are open between October 1st-15th, and the winning hunters are notified via email in early November. At Deviney, there are a total of 25 huntable dates, with hunts taking place only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays during the waterfowl season. If drawn, you are allowed three guests, and you may hunt anywhere in your assigned unit. This is a very sought-after draw that many hunters apply for every year.

The dove field located on the southern end of the property is a 30-acre field that is planted in sunflowers. Hunting on opening day is from 2 pm until sunset but thereafter can be hunted daily from 30 minutes prior to sunrise until sunset. This field is open to the public but is limited to 40 hunters.

Deviney WMA provides vital habitat for

40 Miss Admin Code Pt 2 Chap 1.41 2022-2023 Regulations for William (Billy) C. Deviney Wildlife Management Area Sunflower County

SPECIES	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	COMMENTS
Duck - Permit Only	See Federal Regulations.		See DUCK HUNTING PERMITS in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Youth/Veteran Duck	Open concurrent with statewide season.		
September Teal	Open concurrent with statewide season.		May hunt teal on any available water.
Geese: Canada, Whitefronted, Snow, Blue, Ross; And Brant	Open during early season dates.		
Dove	See Federal Regulations.		See DOVE HUNTING in SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Other Migratory Game Birds	See Federal Regulations.		See OTHER MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS in GAME BIRDS SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Post Season Light Goose Conservation Order	See Federal Regulations.		Open after waterfowl season.
Trapping	Feb. 1	Feb. 28	
NO OTHER SEASON shall be open and no other animals shall be hunted or disturbed.			

many migratory bird species, including waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds, as they make their southern migration toward the Gulf. Due to its importance, Delta Wildlife, along with Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, MDWFP and the Nature Conservancy of Mississippi, have prioritized the conservation and management of this WMA, along with others like it in the Mississippi Delta. Together, these agencies plan to enhance and maximize moist soil habitat to provide a sustainable habitat and forage for all migratory birds. Delta Wildlife, specifically at Deviney WMA, will actively man-

age 55 acres of moist soil alongside MDWFP. The collaboration of these agencies will create ideal moist soil habitats for years to come, and Delta Wildlife is proud to be able to assist, even in a small way, the management of Deviney WMA.

For more information on William C. (Billy) Deviney WMA, visit the MDWFP website. There you will find area maps and more information on the specific rules and regulations of this WMA. With hunting season in full swing, make sure to take full advantage of local public land that is for all to enjoy!

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Why You Shouldn't Move Firewood

BY SUSAN M. COLLINS-SMITH
MSU Extension Service

Firewood can carry invasive pests and diseases. To avoid spreading these to uninfected areas, you should not move firewood over long distances.

This is the perfect time to enjoy fire pits and camping trips! Firewood is a necessity for both activities, so it's important to know how to properly collect and manage it.

Be sure to get your firewood within 50 miles of where you will burn it whether that's in your backyard or at a campground several miles from home. Doing so helps prevent the spread of invasive diseases and tree-killing insects, such as laurel wilt disease and emerald ash borer. You can't always see these infestations with the naked eye, so don't be fooled. Even wood that looks healthy or is dry can be infested with insects or diseases that could easily spread. Safe alternatives for getting firewood include buying certified, heat-treated firewood or gathering firewood at the camp site or other location where it will be burned if that is allowed.

Visit the Nature Conservancy's Don't Move Firewood campaign website (www.dontmovefirewood.org) for more information about how to protect our forests from deadly pests and diseases, local regulations, how to find firewood and frequently asked questions.

Learn how to safely build and enjoy a campfire below. It's a skill everyone needs to know!

Keep in Mind

The weather isn't always perfect for campfires, bonfires or any kind of open burning. Certain weather conditions make it unsafe for many types of open burning that produce embers, including high winds, low humidity and high temperatures. During these conditions, the Mississippi Forestry Commission may issue a burn ban, which makes open burning illegal, or a red flag warning, which discourages open burning.



How to Build a Campfire

Cooler temperatures mean it's campfire season! There's nothing like spending time outside roasting marshmallows over an open fire. Whether you're in your backyard or on a camping trip, knowing how to build a campfire is a skill everyone needs to have! You never know when knowing how to build one will come in handy.

» Prepare your area. It's recommended to select an area away from flammable materials. Choose an open area that's clear of trees. If you're building a campfire from the ground up, build a border around your campfire area with rocks or a water trench to ensure the fire doesn't spread.

» Gather materials. To build a fire, you'll need a variety of dry items. Collect newspaper, wood shavings, pine straw or dryer lint to get your fire started. You'll also need to gather twigs, sticks, and small limbs to keep your fire blazing.

» Build your fire. To build your fire, you will want to arrange your starter materials, such as newspapers, wood shavings, pine straw or dryer lint. Combine the material into a pile, then place small twigs and limbs on top of it. Carefully light the starter materials on fire. Once you have a flame, add larger twigs and limbs to help build the fire. Add larger pieces of wood on top of your fire to maintain the fire. If the flames seem to be struggling, blow on the materials at the lowest level, or use newspaper to create air flow.

» Extinguish your fire. When you're finished with your campfire, pour water on the fire to extinguish it. Do not leave your fire burning after you're finished.

Safety First

As enjoyable as a campfire can be, it can also be dangerous when not handled with care. It's important to consider these three safety tips when building fires:

» Never leave a fire unattended. Even with small fires, it can get out of control quickly. Keep your eye on your campfire to ensure your fire does not get out of hand.

» Always be prepared for emergencies. Have a water source and shovel nearby to extinguish any flames that have spread out of your designated area.

» Only use dry wood and wood products. Don't use items that are treated, including plastics, which can release chemicals when on fire.

— Mary Michaela Parker,
MSU Extension Service

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Coyote Hunting 101

BY JODY ACOSTA
Delta Wildlife Staff

I must be a glutton for punishment. One (also synonymous with “Wife” in this case) would think that, being a Nuisance and Invasive Species Program Manager for a busy organization and keeping crazy hours. Whether it be assisting aquaculture producers with bird predation or running a few large-scale trapping programs, the last thing I should or would do is take an interest in chasing another “nuisance” species as a hobby.

If you haven't figured it out yet, I'm not exactly normal, and if it involves something in the outdoors, I'm probably game to try it; but how I got into coyote hunting wasn't as simple as that. This particular jaunt began shaping up with a call from a buddy a few years ago looking for some new ground to coyote hunt. I gladly volunteered our farm and hunting land. I knew from hunting trips and hearing multiple groups of coyotes fire up on walk outs after dark we had plenty to go around. I told him I'd be glad to show them around in exchange for picking their brains. Hunting coyotes had always intrigued me but was also intimidating as I had never done it before and had heard that it took some skill to call them in. I used the typical excuses of “I'm too busy,” “I don't need another hobby right now” and “I don't know what I'm doing” to psych myself out of the proverbial trigger pull of starting a new pursuit for several years. This should be a lesson and warning to all; if it's interesting to you or you believe your land could benefit from something fun and outdoors related...DO IT! I missed out on something that is easily now in my top three most enjoyable outdoor activities (regarding animals, strategizing and having to actually put some thought into my efforts and pursuit).

Aside from turkey hunting, calling predators (for this article, primarily coyotes but also bobcats) is a thinking game, a chess match between you and multiple opponents as opposed to a checkers match between you and a deer or duck. Don't get me wrong, there is a lot of thought, preparation and hard work that goes into successful deer or waterfowl hunting. I'm not taking anything away or trying to offend with my analogy. Still, for me, it all steps up a notch when I enter the turkey woods, especially hunting turkeys in the Delta, which ironically enough is one of the reasons I started to get serious about figuring out this predator hunting thing. I

fully immersed myself in all things turkey hunting a few years ago, and predator management is one of those hot topics of the turkey world. I had dabbled with trapping on the farm so the logical next step was attempting to remove a few more of the larger predators as I recognized running a worthwhile trap line takes a lot more time than I can dedicate.

So back to when my buddy called asking about somewhere to hunt, my immediate thought was “the camp” where I do most of my hunting. I went out with him the first time locating, but I could not join them for the actual hunting until their next visit. Then after a few hours of actually hunting, I knew it was something not only I could do, but something I would enjoy...for the turkey's and deer's benefit of course!

Why Predator Hunt?

This is not a scientific article but an entertainment piece, so I am not going to quote statistics on the predation of turkeys or deer via coyotes and bobcats, but there are a lot of research publications by experts in that field available with a quick Google search for those who are curious about the documented impacts. Strictly from my commonsense approach, the fewer predators you have to eat deer or turkey, the better chance your deer and turkey population will have to not only survive but thrive in conjunction with habitat management and other conservation efforts. Aside from deer and turkey, rabbit populations and other small game numbers will most certainly benefit from reducing the population of predators as well.

I alluded earlier that hunting coyote is engaging like turkey hunting. One of my absolute favorite parts of turkey hunting is hearing a turkey gobble back at my calling. They may be laughing at me in turkey, but I made a sound somewhat close to a real turkey and it at least piqued their interest enough for a response. Calling coyotes has been a similar experience in that regard since I am interacting with the animals and then having to strategize to seal the deal. Hearing a coyote or multiple coyotes respond to my call is right up there with a turkey gobbling back to me now! As mentioned, I approach predator hunting a lot like turkey hunting but with one significant addition — SCENT. I've often joked that

if turkeys could smell, we'd be in trouble as turkey hunters.

Instead of a “do this, do that” type intro to predator hunting, I will give a brief overview and then go through a typical hunt of how I approach things. It's worth noting that I primarily focus on night hunting, which can be done with visible light or with night vision or thermal equipment. You can hunt coyotes during the daytime using the same approach as the way I hunt at night, taking into account the coyote's eyesight when formulating your approach and setting up where you will hunt. I've seen people hunting during the daylight in everything from full camo ghillie suits behind a makeshift blind to cutoff short sleeve shirts and blue jeans. A pretty safe bet, though, would be standard camo clothing to match your surroundings and limit your movement as the approaching coyote tries to hone in on what's making the sounds it hears.

One other thing I've noticed from research and trying to educate myself on the topic is tactics and strategy depend a lot on your location's regulations on shooting hours/seasons/etc, your density of coyotes where you are hunting, time of the year in the coyote's world (i.e., breeding season, denning season, pup rearing, family bust-up, pup dispersal, etc.) and terrain. In Mississippi, we are lucky to be able to hunt not only year around for coyotes but 24 hours a day on private lands. There is a bobcat season and limits in place, along with some rules and regulations for nuisance species hunting so, please keep that in mind and do your due diligence before striking out.

Strategies

Simply put, if I attempted to write a “step 1-step 7” type of format for this article, it is likely not going to work, plus my brain doesn't work like when it's something I'm passionate about. But a quick and dirty version of the basics would be 1. Have coyotes to hunt 2. Have an accurate gun. 3. Have some way to locate and call the coyotes. 4. Set up being mindful of your wind, like you would deer hunting. 5. Call the coyote in. 6. Shoot the coyote. 7. Repeat.

It's. Not. That. Simple.

Well, number 1 is straightforward, and from my observations, if you have a little land in this area, you've probably got a coyote close. Number 2 could be broken down into a few more articles depending on how you decide to hunt, day or night calling, up close in the timber or potential for long range, bolt vs gas gun, etc... Number 3 is an article I am planning on writing in a Q&A interview with Torry Cook of MFK Game Calls. I am including that in this article as a way to make myself get it done because he is by far one of the most knowledgeable people on the planet about all things coyote, and it will be way more informative than anything I could ever personally come up with. Just this week, I listened to a podcast where he gave out tips on calling sequences for this time of the year. I went out that night and, within 40 minutes, had called in and shot three coyotes. He's a wealth of information and just good people, so I'm looking forward to that one! Number 4 is perhaps the easiest constant, but there are some times



when that type set up is not conducive to the stand, and you need to offset your call. Number 5 again depends on the time of year and a few other things that could also be spread out over a couple of articles, but in a nutshell, you are typically trying to get a response/reaction to food, fighting or breeding season-type sounds. Number 6, don't miss. Number 7 is easy, once you do it a few times, you'll find that an easily checked-off "step" because it is super addictive!

So, what does a typical coyote hunt look like? There isn't a copy/paste button that I have found yet, and all are a little different, which is why I enjoy it so much. I also am trying to feel things out on my own using bits of info I gather from various sources, so your mileage may vary, and I am admittedly nowhere near an expert on the topic.

Anatomy of A Coyote Hunt

My first step would be to locate coyotes before hunting them. I primarily do this at night, so if I hear a group vocalizing a different direction from the group I'm targeting that specific night, I will make a note of direction. Then when I get some time, I will look at aerial imagery and landscape and try to play the "if I were a coyote, where would I be" game. Then the next hunt, I will have a game plan. You can do the same thing without hunting (and a side note, this is an excellent way to get your significant other and children involved or ease a new person into the hunting process). If you wanted to ride around and try to locate because you only had a couple of hours to dedicate to it, that would be easily doable. Find a central location in your hunting area, do a few howls on the E-call or use a diaphragm call. Then note the direction of the response and mark it on a map, then move on a mile or so and repeat until you have a few options available or you are satisfied you've found what you want to hunt.

Once I have a group located, I plan my approach taking into consideration the wind and road layout and try to see how close I can get before needing to park and walk. Again, be mindful of wind and also the possibility of coyotes seeing lights or vehicles, even at night. I also try to factor in the brightness of the moon as I am convinced they see about as well at night as during the day when the moon is shining good. Depending upon my approach and wind directions, I will try and get within 500 yards of where I think the coyotes may have been when I located them. On some hunts, I will end up shooting a coyote within 1-2 minutes of turning on the call. Some nights when they respond, they'll sound like they have moved 500 yards further away. If I can, I will make a move to be within that 500-yard bubble or closer, depending on the landscape, before starting a calling sequence. If topography allows, I will cut that distance as much as possible. There are nights when I will move on to another group because I can't get set up on them without a good chance of busting them. That's one important thing to note: be extra cautious about educating the animals because they get smart to your efforts quickly. I have gotten parked, opened my door, and immediately heard a coyote "booger barking" and shut the door and left the area before getting a gun out of the case. If I can't move in on that group, I'll repeat the process until I am in that bubble, then get set up and start my calling sequence.

I typically put my call from 10 yards to 50 yards away from where I am setting up at night. I have relied heavily on non-prey distress sounds due to the timing of the year when I started hunting them. I will soon transition to adding some more prey distress in, though. Mixing up sounds and finding what they are reacting to is part of the fun. In a typical hunt, currently, I am using both adult and pup howls, pup socialization sounds, pup distress, pup fights, adult fight sounds and prey distress. I am also trying to base the pup sounds on the approximate age of the pups. So at the time of writing, which is October, the age class of sounds I am using on the pup stuff is 16-24wk old. Once I have set up, I run a call sequence of 2-3 minutes per sound and a 1-3 minute break between sounds. My stands are usually at most 30 minutes unless I know there is a coyote close. Then, I will wait a little

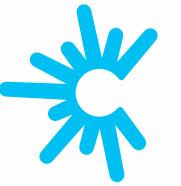


longer and change up sounds or pauses in sounds to try and get it to respond. It's important to say, before you start calling, have your gun ready because it can and does happen quickly, and you want to be ready if a coyote charges to the call! Equally as important, after a shot, keep calling. I usually swap over to a pup distress-type sound for a minute or two after the shot, then maybe continue going through the planned sequence I had in mind. If I know there are multiple coyotes close by, I won't move from my location until I'm sure they aren't going to come in, and the hunt is over. It is not uncommon at all to shoot multiple coyotes from one stand or location.

This article kind of falls in line with my last few. I like to call them "thinking pieces." Maybe it will encourage someone to try something new in the outdoors who is on the fence of taking that plunge. Also, perhaps it will get someone I know thinking, "that sounds cool and all, but also like a job for Jody," and they'll call me and ask if I'll hunt their farm for coyotes, too while I'm saving the world one coyote at a time. It's a win-win in my humble opinion!

In closing, don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone and try a new hunting or outdoor activity. Something like predator hunting can go at whatever pace you want. You can dive in and hunt three days a week, or you can fill in the downtime between "real" hunting seasons. You can get started with a \$20 call or invest as much as you want in the latest and greatest e-caller and sounds money can buy. One of the things I think that draws me to predator hunting so much is the absence of pressure for success due to their abundance and no limits. If I mess up and educate a turkey or miss one I've been hunting for weeks on end, I will beat myself up over it for a long time. That pressure is not there with coyotes, and it's truly been enjoyable to go at my own pace and use each hunt to build a knowledge base and formulate ideas to implement on the next hunt. It would be a great way to get a kid who is not interested in sitting in a deer stand for hours on end interested in the outdoors.

Life's short. Find things that get you outdoors, and just enjoy the ride!



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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

LEGAL BUCKS			
UNIT	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.		
Delta Zone: 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.		
North Central Zone: Benton, Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, Tippah, and Union counties.		
Southwest Zone: Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds, Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Warren, Wilkinson, and Yazoo counties.		

Small Game

SEASON	DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Youth Squirrels*	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
Sage	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: 2 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

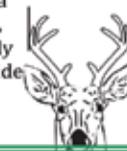
NORTHEAST, EAST CENTRAL, SOUTHWEST, AND SOUTHEAST UNITS

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.



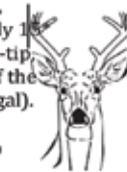
DELTA UNIT

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 Springs 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.

It's Time to Get Your Head Back in the Game and Out of Your Phone

BY PARKER FREW
Delta Wildlife Staff

Let me guess. It's the last few weeks of deer season, and you still have not harvested the buck you've been after all year? You discovered him early in the summer on your trail camera and have watched him every day since. You have hunted in the stand daily by the trail camera that shows him every single time. Your grass has become tall at home, and the leaves cover your yard from neglect. No matter how early you go or how quiet you are getting set up, it seems like you never see the deer you're after, much less get a shot at him. It's like the deer knows your work schedule perfectly or how to avoid you. It's funny because you have hunted deer your entire life and never have worked this hard to get even a glimpse at one. Maybe something has changed? Perhaps something as simple as technology has changed the entire way you hunt. Sometimes, we ignore the obvious and become consumed with the latest and greatest technology that claims to guarantee success.

Last season, I encountered a buck early in the year that I had three full seasons of trail camera pictures. The buck showed up around early September in full velvet during daylight. This one particular deer caught my eye early on in his life. He had beautiful characteristics that I knew were highly unique for the area. After watching him on camera for three years, I knew it was time to make a move. Early on in the season, this deer developed what I would call a "very predictable" pattern. Every day he would show up morning and afternoon in one spot. Very rarely would he ever make an appearance on any other camera on the property. I usually have about 10 cell cameras running on this property almost year-round. To me, it seemed to be a no-brainer! Everything was already worked out in my head on how and where I would harvest this deer. Little did I know, I would sit almost 40 times in this area to never even see him, much less get a shot.

Our season in Mississippi is relatively long, so we have a lot of opportunities to hunt. As December rolled in, I began doubting that I would ever get a chance at this one deer. I had seen a lot of good mature deer in the area, but never him. As always, we have a couple of weekends where we invite long-time friends to come hunt. Typically, everyone is hunting to help achieve our desired doe numbers for that year. One morning I got up, and like always, I went to the one spot where he was on camera. I had even given the spot about a ten-day break to let everything calm down and get back to normal after I had hunted it so much. Sometime around mid-morning, it began to rain slowly. I returned to my ATV to start picking our guest up from his spot. After a few text messages, we decided to let him have

a little more time to harvest a deer that morning. I slowly moved my way down the road quietly in the ATV and stopped on an old logging load-out on the opposite side of the property where I had been hunting. Again, as soon as my vehicle stopped, I instantly pulled my cell phone out and began looking for my deer on the cellular camera. After a few minutes of daydreaming and being consumed with my cell phone, I decided to get out and walk to stretch my legs. Only a few steps from the ATV I noticed something that would instantly change my season.

Old School Style

It is about a 4-mile ride through the pastures and woods to get to what I thought was the magical spot to bag this one deer. Over three months, I had driven by this spot countless times and decided to stop on this one day. After just a few steps, I began counting what seemed like an endless trail of scrapes and rubs. Deer signs were everywhere, and I had simply been driving straight past it while being consumed by this one cellular camera.

I quickly decided to try this area and hunt 100% the way I should have been hunting all year. I had been taught my whole life without trail cameras, using my senses and skills. Long story short, on my first afternoon in this area, I was able to harvest the exact deer I had been hunting over a mile away. As a matter of fact, that same deer was on camera again just a few hours before in the area I had spent so much time hunting.

At the end of the day, this deer taught me the biggest life lesson I ever needed about hunting. I have been blessed to harvest some excellent deer in my lifetime. I had the best mentors growing up,

Technology changes everything, often good but sometimes negatively. We, as hunters, must do better to continue the sport and tradition as our elders would have wanted.

who taught me the land's ways and how to be the best sportsman I could be. I have been fortunate enough to see deer hunting change as a sport and progress through my own eyes. Technology changes everything, often good but sometimes negatively. We, as hunters, must do better to continue the sport and tradition as our elders would have wanted. We have all become so indulged in the simplicity and ease of trail camera scouting that we forget how we got here in the first place. As humans, we learn by "doing." We learn by experience, working hard and studying something until we perfect it.

All in all, trail cameras are anything but doing. Yes, they are exciting tools that can help you manage a herd or a property, but they must be used appropriately as "A Tool," not "The Tool." Even after I was able to harvest this magnificent animal, I still have cameras out everywhere. In fact, there is still a cellular camera in the magical spot I spent so much time hunting. Trail cameras are here to stay; I believe they will always be a part of hunting. Learning to use these tools effectively while still being the sportsmen we should be is the key to carrying on those beloved traditions we were taught for many years.



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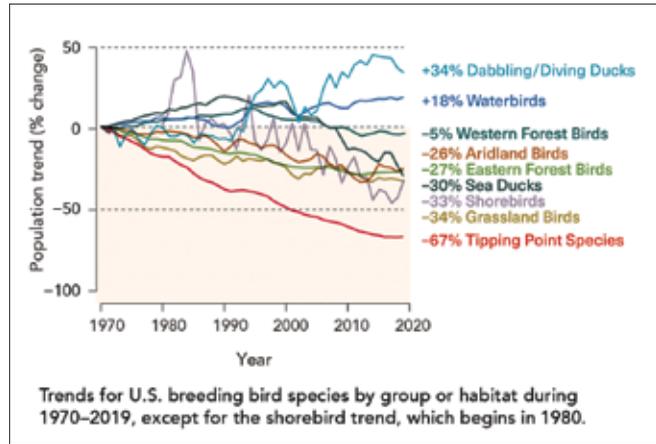
Christmas Bird Count/State of the Birds

BY TIM HUGGINS
Delta Wildlife Executive Director

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) turns 123 years old this year. The CBC is the nation's longest-running community science project, and it is important because the CBC and other monitoring efforts inform researchers, biologists and wildlife agencies about the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. Sign-up for the CBC begins in November, and the counts will take place from December 14 through January 5, with tens of thousands of volunteers from all 50 states, Canada, Mexico and other territories.

Data from the 122 CBC, which took place from December 2021 – January 2022, is not yet available. However, during the 121st Christmas Bird Count, 72,815 participants tallied 44,583,127 birds, logging over 130,000 volunteer hours and almost 540,000 miles traveled to tally birds. As you can see, this is a tremendous effort and can only be accomplished with dedicated volunteers. People interested in volunteering can visit the Audubon website for more information.

In other bird news, the 2022 U.S. State of the Birds report has been released. This report is published by 33 leading science and conservation organizations and agencies that make up the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. The whole report can be found at www.nabci-us.org. The report shows that Waterfowl numbers are up almost 56% since 1970. Raptors (Hawks, Eagles and other birds of prey) are up 200% since 1970. These two groups serve as a model for conservation efforts. That's the good news. The bad news is that according to the report published in the journal *Science*, nearly all other birds showed a decline in species abundance, driven chiefly by habitat loss.



COURTESY OF THE CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY

U.S. breeding bird trends showed that forest birds had decreased by 32% since 1970, Shorebirds have dropped by 33%, and Grassland birds have decreased by 34%, as seen in the graph. Quail, a grassland bird, have decreased 78% across their range and have become a species of greatest conservation need in 26 states.

While the trends are extremely troubling, the success of waterfowl conservation efforts gives a model or starting point for other species. The partnership of federal, state, private and non-profit conservation groups will be critical to restoring habitat and ultimately reversing the downward trend of many bird species we all know and cherish.



JOE MAC HUDSPETH JR.

How to Avoid and Identify Frostbite

The shortest day of the year, Dec. 21, 2022, also happens to be the first day of Winter, but here in the Delta, we've been experiencing freezing temperatures since October. Be sure you're stocked up on wool socks, Hot Hands and a good Mr. Heater because according to the Farmer's Almanac, it's going to be a record-breaking winter. For all of us outdoor enthusiasts and hunters, remember that frostbite is real and it's dangerous, even down here in the South.

Although everyone is susceptible, did you know that most people who reportedly suffer from frostbite are males ages 30 to 49? Obviously, the best way to avoid frostbite is to avoid severely cold weather and pay attention to your head and extremities, but sometimes the thrill of the hunt overrides those commonsense tendencies.

Frostbite is caused two different ways: Cell death at the time of exposure and further cell deterioration and death due to lack of oxygen.

What to look for in fingers, toes, ears or tip of nose:

- ▶▶ Burning, numbness, tingling or itching
- ▶▶ Loss of feeling
- ▶▶ White or pale appearance
- ▶▶ Yellowish and waxy skin
- ▶▶ Swelling and blood-filled blisters
- ▶▶ Purplish blue skin as it rewarms
- ▶▶ Significant pain in rewarming skin

If you experience any of these symptoms, keep in mind you may also experience hypothermia.

Quick self-care treatments include:

- ▶▶ Elevate the affected extremity to reduce swelling.
- ▶▶ "Windmill" your arms.
- ▶▶ Take off blood-flow constricting items like a wedding band.
- ▶▶ Consume nonalcoholic and noncaffeinated warm fluid.
- ▶▶ Place dry and sterile material between fingers or toes to prevent rubbing together.
- ▶▶ Avoid any friction to the area.
- ▶▶ Stay dry.
- ▶▶ Do NOT warm an area if there's a chance it may freeze again.
- ▶▶ The most effective rewarm is quickly – not gradual.
- ▶▶ Warm the affected area with body heat, but again, do not rub or cause friction.
- ▶▶ Seek medical attention.

Before you head out in the wild this winter, make sure you've got the basic cold weather items with you including a neck gaiter or facemask, a good hat that covers your ears, wool socks, Hot Hands or warm rocks, lined boots and cold weather gloves. Some of my favorite items include electric Bluetooth boot insoles, a cordless phone charger that doubles as a handwarmer, a portable deer stand heater, a battery pack heated vest and moisture wicking heat gear long johns. Also remember to dress properly in a base layer, then insulation layer, then outer shell items. Happy safe and warm hunting this winter!

		Temperature (°F)																	
		40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
Wind (mph)	Calm	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
	5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63
	10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-64	-72
	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81
	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84
	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87
	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89
	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91
	45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93
	50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95
55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-97	
60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-98	

Frostbite Times: 10 minutes, 15 minutes, 20 minutes, 30 minutes

Wind Chill (°F) = 35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V^{0.16}) + 0.4275T(V^{0.16})
Where, T = Air Temperature (°F), V = Wind Speed (mph) (Revise 11/21/01)

The NWS Wind Chill Temperature (WCT) index uses advances in science, technology and computer modeling to provide an accurate, understandable and useful formula for calculating the dangers from winter winds and freezing temperatures. The index does the following:

- Calculates wind speed at an average height of 5 feet, the typical height of an adult human face, based on readings from the national standard height of 33 feet, which is the typical height of an anemometer.
- Is based on a human face model.
- Incorporates heat transfer theory based on heat loss from the body to its surroundings during cold and breezy/windy days.
- Lowers the calm wind threshold to 3 mph.
- Uses a consistent standard for skin tissue resistance.
- Assumes no impact from the sun, i.e., clear night sky.



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Importance of Biological Metrics in Wildlife Management

BY SAM FRANKLIN
Delta Wildlife Staff

With the invention of cell phones, social media, etc., the pace of the world moves incredibly fast. It's hard to unplug due to our obligations, whether professional, family or other. Historically, hunting was a subsistence activity and a needed one at that.

Families needed additional food sources during the non-growing season, and hunting was it. We as a society have progressed and developed to a point where most hunting is for recreational enjoyment, so with that, we as hunters and fishermen want to have the maximum enjoyment while afield and produce the best quality animals our property is capable of producing. To ensure your property is living up to its highest potential, there are some basic biological concepts and data points to know.

Think of biological data as a business's financial statement. You can't move forward if you don't know where things are and where you want to be.

There's a biological concept called carrying capacity, defined as the maximum number of animals a property can support without sustain-

ing adverse outcomes (though some negative effects can be seen as a property approaches the tail end of that curve). A landowner and a wildlife management professional monitor the curve through biological measurements (or metrics) throughout the year.

Types of Biological Metrics

Let's look at White-tailed deer, which are generally evenly dispersed throughout the state, and classic megafauna that most Mississippians like to pursue or at least watch. A litany of biological metrics are used to monitor a herd on a property. Deer camera surveys are the most popular and least invasive to conduct. This consists of posting trail cameras around the property and counting the deer within a certain time period, resulting in some pretty basic data.

Browse lines are another reliable metric. Suppose a wildlife management professional looks at your property in June or July and can see 300 yards through the woods at the peak of the growing season. In that case, the deer population is likely overpopulated and will need to be thinned. The browse lines are the start of the point of diminishing

returns on the carrying capacity curve.

Let's look at the individual animal scale (See data sheet).

If you've deer hunted in the southeast, you have undoubtedly seen a deer data sheet. Have you ever wondered why the sheet asks if the doe you harvested is lactating? That is a critical biological metric for deer and land managers. The more does that are lactating, the more fawns they are birthing, and typically the better their body condition or health. When lactation rates drop, there has been a change on the property. Either land use has changed and is not yielding the same amount of available food, or there are too many animals, or some other event has or is occurring. This could be as simple as a cutover transitioning to a mature timber stand and not yielding the browse it once was.

Another important metric is body weight, especially by age, class and sex. The Mississippi Deer Management Program (DMAP) has regional averages for most data fields. If you participate in DMAP, the professional you are working with knows what deer should weigh in your region and lactation rates. If both data sets are falling, you may need to consider implementing forestry management on your property or a more intense food plot program and possibly harvesting additional numbers to relieve stress on the habitat.

Wildlife management is all a big puzzle, and the pieces must be put together as a balance between the animal's needs, your habitat quality

and you or your consultant's management expertise.

The next time you're afield and harvest an animal, you should be excited to get to the data book and log all the biological data of your property. Will your data book provide enough information to base sound management decisions and, more importantly, assist you in plotting a course of where you want to go?

For help assessing or managing your property, feel free to give Delta Wildlife a call at 662-686-3370 and set up a site visit.

Landowner or Club _____ DMAP # _____ Season _____ Page ____ of ____

For Office Use Only	DEER NUMBER	HARVEST DATE		SEX	WEIGHT		MILK PRESENT?	ANTLER MEASUREMENTS					HOOF SLOUGHING (X if Yes)	MANAGEMENT BUCK OR DOE TAG # (If a tag was used)	YOUTH HARVEST? (X if Yes)	COMMENTS	
		Month	Day		Live	Dressed		# Points	Circumference		Length						Inside Spread
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Q & A WITH GAME WARDEN Barrett Braswell

BY STEELE HENDERSON
Delta Wildlife Staff

With hunting season in full swing, I sat down with Barrett Braswell, a Master Sergeant Conservation Officer from MS Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP), to get a little insight for our readers straight from the Game Warden himself. Braswell grew up in Carroll County Mississippi and graduated from Mississippi State University in 2011. Following graduation, he was hired on with the MDWFP. Braswell lives in Greenwood, Mississippi, with his wife and three children. He is also a Field Training Officer, a member of the honor guard and was awarded Waterfowl Officer of the Year in 2019 and 2021.

Q: What are the first actions an individual should take when confronted by a game warden?

A: Throw your weapon down and run, right? Ha-ha! No, a lot of hunters or fishermen may have never encountered a game warden before, so they become nervous or scared that they may be doing something wrong. The main thing is to unload your firearm, if you have one, and always control the muzzle of that firearm in a safe direction. The officer may also request hunting licenses or permits that the individual should have readily accessible. Being respectful and courteous should be maintained by the individual and the officer.

Q: What are some of the biggest challenges that game wardens face?

A: Technology, hands down. Our world is ever-changing, and the hunting industry is no different. From cellular cameras to thermal and night vision, to firearms that can be modified to sound no louder than a pellet gun. Wildlife can be seen at night without ever shining a beam of light and a shot can be made without the next-door neighbors hearing it.

Q: Which laws do you typically find that people most misunderstand?

A: The difference in prepping and preparing a dove field versus prepping and preparing a duck hole. I could spend hours on this subject.

Q: Which hunting season is a game warden's busiest time?

A: I'm sure other areas of the state are different but for the Delta, it's November through January. Duck season and deer season are in full swing. To be more specific, the time when schools and jobs are out during Christmas and the New Year. I normally don't even have time to grab a biscuit at the Triple Stop in Greenwood in the mornings! Summer months can be

busy as well on the weekends with boating activity on the lakes.

Q: Have any new laws been made or amended from last deer season to this season?

A: The biggest difference from this hunting season to previous hunting seasons is that sportsmen now have the opportunity to harvest a deer in velvet during September. As most may know, our velvet season was September 16-18. A hunter may harvest one (1) antlered deer and must use archery equipment on private land only. Hunters must report their harvest by 10 pm the day of the harvest via the MDWFP Smartphone App or MDWFP web portal. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing is also mandatory.

Q: What is one game law in Mississippi that you would like to clarify?

A: Can I throw out wheat to dove hunt? No, you cannot if the purpose of you scattering or placing wheat is to dove hunt. That is considered hunting over bait. During the fall is the normal planting time for wheat to prepare for winter food plots and such. Scattering wheat out multiple times and/or placing wheat in piles up to opening weekend of dove season for the intent to dove hunt is considered baiting.

Q: What are the laws for traveling with firearms during hunting seasons?

A: There is no law prohibiting an individual from traveling with a firearm unless that individual has been convicted of a felony violation and is prohibited from having a firearm in his/her possession. There is a law (97-15-13 Hunting from a Public Road) that prohibits the attempt to harass, take, kill, hunt, or trap wildlife from a vehicle on a public road while in possession of a loaded firearm. "Unloaded" means that a cartridge or shell is not positioned in the barrel or magazine of the firearm or in a clip, magazine, or retainer attached to the firearm. If you have a stock sleeve with bullets in the sleeve, that weapon is considered loaded.

Q: What are the laws for using game cameras on public lands?

A: Don't call your local game warden if it gets stolen, ha-ha. Most Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) allow the use of trail cameras, but it must have the hunters name and phone number permanently and legibly written on the camera. Each WMA has different rules and regulations, so it is important to read the brochure with the rules and regulations for each individual WMA you plan to utilize. Ignorance of the rules and



regulations for the WMA you plan to hunt is not an excuse. Visit our website at www.mdwfp.com to view each WMA's rules and regulations.

Q: Will you explain the importance of submitting your deer for CWD testing?

A: It is highly recommended that if you harvest a deer that appears to be sick or malnourished or witness it behaving in an odd manner to get it CWD tested. You should also report any deer that appears to be sick or diseased by completing a diseased deer report on the MDWFP app, at www.mdwfp.com/cwd. CWD is 100% fatal and easily transmitted among the cervid family. A deer can have CWD for months before showing any physical signs. Testing also helps our wildlife biologists control this disease and help confine it to as small of an area as possible. If you have any doubt, get a CWD test. We have drop off freezers positioned around our state and have numerous taxidermists that will pull the sample for you. For a list of locations on CWD drop off freezers and CWD testing taxidermists, visit our website at www.mdwfp.com.

Q: How are bag limits determined each season for deer?

A: White-tailed deer bag limits are determined through the MDWFP. They collect data through hunter surveys and research. Also, it is important to accurately fill out the user information card via paper or online when you check out of a WMA as to the species hunted and number harvested.

Q: How are bag limits determined for migratory birds?

A: Migratory bird bag limits are determined through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They collect data with aerial survey, Harvest Information Program (HIP) among other programs and research. It is important if you plan on hunting migratory birds to add the HIP to your hunting license. IT IS FREE! Also, it is important to accurately fill out the user information card when leaving a National Wildlife Refuge as to the species hunted and number killed.

Q: Do you think baiting with corn will still be legal 10 years from now?

A: Yes, it's a growing business, but I encourage you to teach young hunters how to scout and look for signs of deer. Watching a feeder creates a lazy hunter.

Q: Since crossbows and rifles with thermal imaging have gone mainstream, have you noticed an increase in illegal harvests?



A: Yes, and most individuals that use thermal to illegally hunt at night are also using a silencer/suppressor. We depend a great deal on complaints from concerned citizens and landowners. If you witness or hear about any illegal activity involving wildlife please call 1-800-BESMART or your local game warden. We don't need to know your name just the information you have.

Q: *What led you to becoming a game warden?*

A: So, I grew up hunting and fishing in Carroll County since I was a kid. We didn't have any family land, so I depended on friend's private land and public land. Hunting over bait was illegal and there were no trail cameras that sent pictures to your phone. We relied on rub and scrapes trails, oak trees and persimmon trees. I'm not saying I never hunted deer over a corn pile or crossed a fence because a turkey was gobbling, but I was far from an outlaw. I didn't make the decision until I was in junior college, but I wanted to make a difference. I knew of people that depended on trespassing to hunt or killed way too many turkeys every year, and I always felt that those type of people needed to be held accountable for taking advantage of the natural resources of our state. I enjoy taking my boys outdoors, and I enjoy encountering other young hunters that are excited about going hunting or fishing. I was hired in 2012, and my passion for this career has not changed one bit.

Q: *Are there any game wardens you grew up hearing about that would go above and beyond to get the job done?*

A: Nope, I stayed out of mind and out of sight. I grew up hearing horror stories about USFWS Special Agent Pilgreen so I made sure to stay away from duck hunting. Ha-ha.

Q: *What does the future of hunting and fishing in Mississippi look like from your point of view?*

A: The key is getting our youth away from video games and electronics and start getting them outdoors. Take them camping or hiking at one of our state parks or take them fishing at one of our state lakes. We have 52 Wildlife Management Areas that have unique hunting and fishing opportunities. We also have 25 state parks and 20 state lakes that have camping, fishing and hiking opportunities. Get them outdoors! If we as parents can do that, the future of our hunting and fishing in Mississippi is as bright as ever before.

Q: *How have you seen the hunting industry change over the past 10 years?*

A: When I was hired in 2012, Duck Dynasty and Swamp People were popular TV shows. Everybody wanted to go alligator hunting and duck hunting. Everybody thought they could hang chicken from a pole to catch alligators and surely you couldn't kill a duck without your face being covered with face paint. But shows like that peak interest and interest creates new hunters. In today's world, its whoever has the best and newest gadgets and equipment, the best gun, the best decoys, the best boat, etc. The old timers would laugh at this generation now.

Q: *Could you tell about a time that you were proud to be a game warden, and what has been your best day?*

A: The proudest moment I have ever experienced while being a game warden was when the community and state came together when the KC-130 military aircraft crashed on the Leflore and Sunflower County line on July 10, 2017. It was some long and hot days walking those soybean fields in the Mississippi July heat, but I considered it an honor to be a part of the recovery team. All the agencies and volunteers did an outstanding job and were some of the best people to work with anywhere.

What do we do?

- Comprehensive Wildlife Management Plans
- Comprehensive Habitat Management Plans
- Comprehensive Food Plot Plans
- GIS/Mapping
- Fisheries Management Plans
- Waterfowl Habitat Management Plans
- Wetland Restoration Plans and Assistance
- Quail Habitat Restoration Plans and Assistance
- Native Warm Season Grass and Legume Planting
- Conservation Easements
- Discount Food Plot Seed Sales
- Wood Duck Nesting Boxes
- Bluebird Nesting Boxes
- Turkey Habitat Management Assistance
- White-tailed Deer Management and Assistance
- Urban Forestry
- Backyard Habitat
- Conservation in the Classroom
- USDA Conservation Program Assistance
- USDA Conservation Program Implementation
CRP, WRE, WHIP, EQIP
- Waterfowl Surveys
- Research Assistance
- Non-Consumptive Wildlife Habitat Enhancement
- Quarterly Magazine
- Watershed Restoration
- and more...



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Mississippi Timber Price Report

3RD 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.ms-state.edu/forestry/forest-economics/timber-prices.

How are prices obtained? This report used data from 88 timber sales conducted and reported across Mississippi during third 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 or at 662-325-3550 for more information.

PRICE TRENDS

The third 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 second quarter, statewide average prices decreased for all major product classes (-31.0% to -6.1%) during the third quarter. Year-over-year stumpage prices decreased for all product classes as well. Prices varied for product classes across regions due to localized market and weather conditions. Rainfall varied across the state during the third quarter. July saw some regions with above-normal rain. August was extremely wet for the southern two-thirds of the state. September was drier than normal for much of the state.

Stumpage prices during the fourth quarter are expected to decrease for many reasons. Although diesel fuel prices have decreased, they are still negatively impacting the logging and trucking force. Continued high inflation has led to increased mortgage interest rates resulting in decreased housing starts and building permits across the country. As the housing market continues to decline, the resulting decreased demand for wood products will keep stumpage prices lower until the economy recovers. Unfortunately, increasing inflation rates are expected to last into 2023 before decreasing. Mississippi also continues to have an overabundant supply of standing timber that will impact our stumpage prices. However, companies continue to make progress on mill expansions and new mill construction projects. Many have started production this year and others are set to begin in 2023. In the long run, this added production capacity will benefit landowners within the procurement radius of those mills.

Mississippi Timber Price Report Regions



Table 1: Mississippi 3rd quarter 2022 pine stumpage prices (\$/ton)**.

Region	Pine Poles	Pine Sawtimber	Pine Plylogs	Pine Chip-n-Saw	Pine T-wood	Pine Pulpwood	Pine Topwood
NW	Low	\$25.00	\$14.50	\$13.00	\$4.50	\$1.00	\$0.25
	Avg.	\$31.12	\$18.95	\$16.88	\$8.39	\$1.11	\$0.78
	High	\$36.00	\$26.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$2.00	\$1.00
NE	Low	\$23.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$0.25
	Avg.	\$30.20	\$19.47	\$17.18	\$12.09	\$7.11	\$2.32
	High	\$36.00	\$24.00	\$20.00	\$18.77	\$8.00	\$3.00
SW	Low	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$18.00	\$5.50	IND	\$1.50
	Avg.	\$31.50	\$22.37	\$18.75	\$11.69	IND	\$2.71
	High	\$33.00	\$28.00	\$20.00	\$16.56	IND	\$5.25
SE	Low	IND	IND	IND	\$16.00	IND	IND
	Avg.	IND	IND	IND	\$17.00	IND	IND
	High	IND	IND	IND	\$18.00	IND	IND
Statewide	Low	\$23.00	\$14.50	\$12.00	\$4.50	\$1.00	\$0.25
	Avg.	\$30.93	\$20.15	\$17.28	\$11.14	\$5.58	\$2.12
	High	\$36.00	\$28.00	\$20.00	\$18.77	\$8.00	\$3.00

**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 3rd quarter 2022 hardwood stumpage prices (\$/ton)**.

Region	Oak Sawtimber	Mixed Hardwood Sawtimber	Hardwood Pulpwood	Crossties
NW	Low	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$2.00
	Avg.	\$36.68	\$25.40	\$4.10
	High	\$60.00	\$42.00	\$8.00
NE	Low	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$2.00
	Avg.	\$37.11	\$32.50	\$7.17
	High	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$12.00
SW	Low	\$34.00	\$17.00	\$1.00
	Avg.	\$38.70	\$28.27	\$4.31
	High	\$45.00	\$35.00	\$6.00
SE	Low	IND	IND	IND
	Avg.	IND	IND	IND
	High	IND	IND	IND
Statewide	Low	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$1.00
	Avg.	\$37.23	\$28.47	\$5.17
	High	\$60.00	\$45.00	\$12.00

**IND = Insufficient or No Data Reported.
** Product classes are often subdivided into small, medium, and large categories. Prices vary according to size.



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