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Schedule Announced for 1965 Game Management Hunts

Looking for your best bet to bag a buck this fall?

If so, the State Game and Fish Commission advises hunters to mark their calendars for the dates of the State management area hunts, which have just been set.

The gun buck hunts will again be held Thanksgiving Week, from Monday, November 22, through Saturday, November 27, on Blue Ridge, Cedar Creek, Chattahoochee, Chestatee, Clark Hill, Johns Mountain, Lake Burton, Lake Russell, Piedmont Experiment Station, Suwanoochee, and Warwoman game management areas. The either-sex hunt will again be held on the following Monday, November 29, for one day only on all of the management areas listed above except Johns Mountain, Piedmont Experiment Station, Suwanoochee, and Warwoman.

Bonus Hunts

In addition, two bonus hunts have been scheduled on the Cedar Creek and Clark Hill areas on December 29, for deer without antlers only. The special hunts were set up to provide additional hunting on the two areas during the Christmas holidays, and to provide information on deer breeding success for game biologists.

A five dollar permit good for the en-

tire individual hunt periods is required for the management deer hunts. Reservations will not be required, except on the bonus hunts and on Chickasawhat- chee. Detailed information on opening dates, special regulations and area maps can be obtained by writing to the Game and Fish Commission at the State Cap- itol.

This year's hunt on the popular new Chickasawhat- chee Area near Albany will be held December 27, 29, and 31, with hunters limited to 250 for each day by reservation only. Reservations will be accepted by mail only on a first- come, first-served basis beginning with letters postmarked December 1. Letters postmarked on an earlier date will not be accepted. The same procedure will be followed on the bonus "antlerless" hunts on Cedar Creek (limit of 500 hunters) and on Clark Hill (limit of 200 hunters).

"Primitive Weapons"

An entirely new type of hunt for
Continued on Page 2



Scenes like the one above are frequent during duck season. This year hunters will have a 40 day season.

State Duck Season Later This Year

Dates for the opening of Georgia's duck season have been set and are later this year, according to Jack Crockford, Assistant Director of the Game and Fish Department.

"We have 40 consecutive days of open season on the Atlantic flyway, beginning on November 30 and ending on January 8th. Bag limits for most species of ducks other than mergansers is four daily and eight in possession. The season also applies to coots but the limit in this case is 10 daily and 20 in possession," said Crockford.

"Season on brant and geese is somewhat longer; beginning on November 6th through January 14th with a brant daily and possession limit of six and geese limit of two daily and four in possession," continued Crockford. Season is closed on brant and geese in McIntosh and Liberty Counties and the season on snow geese is closed state-wide.

Bag Limits

The daily bag limit on ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than two wood ducks, two mallards; and two canvasbacks. The possession limit of these particular species may not include more than two wood ducks, four mallards; and two canvasbacks, according to Crockford.

The aggregate limits on American,

Continued on Page 3



Walter McCannon of East Point displays an 8 point buck he bagged during last season's Cedar Creek management hunt. Mr. McCannon was one of over 11,000 hunters on game management areas last year.



Dr. Vernan Henry, (right), director of the University of Georgia's Marine Institute on Sapela Island, examines Georgia oysters with Dr. Dick Haese, one of the research scientists who will work on the \$120,000 project to improve the oyster industry planned by the State Game and Fish Commission.



Part of the oyster study of the Game and Fish Commission to be conducted by the Sapela Island research facility will include an inventory of the size and extent of Georgia's existing oyster beds, many of which are not closed by pollution.

Rabbit Research Studies to Begin

The Game and Fish Department, in cooperation with the University of Georgia, is about to launch an \$11,600, two-year rabbit research program, according to Hubert Handy, coordinator of game management for the department.

"The purpose of this study is to determine the earliest and latest rabbit breeding seasons," Handy says. "This information is vital in setting hunting seasons for rabbits so as not to interfere with their reproductive periods."

"Information gathering, such as this study is a very important step in game management and should enable us to provide better hunting in the future," said Handy.

New Area

Much of the study will be conducted on the new Piedmont Experiment Station Game Management Area, near Eatonton. In addition to studies of reproduction, nesting, and litter size, some rabbits will be trapped, marked with a tag clipped on their ear, and then released. Estimates of the percentage harvested by hunters can be made from the number of returned ear tags.

Observations of population shifts and changes of range will also be made by dyeing rabbits a certain color. When they are later flushed, biologists can determine their home range or changes of this range.

Primarily, the work will be carried out by a University of Georgia forestry doctorate student who will be working on a Game and Fish Department grant. "The results of the study will be incorporated into a management pamphlet about small game for landowners," said Handy.

Commission Announces Plans to Study State Oyster Industry

Plans for a \$120,000 contract to study means of bolstering Georgia's sagging oyster industry have been announced by the State Game and Fish Commission with the University of Georgia's Marine Institute on Sapela Island.

The three-year project will attempt to determine why landings of Georgia's once-great oyster industry dropped from eight million pounds in 1908 to only 147,000 pounds in 1962. A majority of Georgia's oyster beds are closed to commercial harvesting because of pollution, but production has dropped drastically in unpolluted areas as well.

The study will aim at developing methods for increasing oyster production in the remaining unpolluted areas by use of cultivation methods which are now being used successfully to dramatically increase oyster production in Japan and some areas of the United States.

It is estimated that more than 55 per cent of the world's oyster harvest comes from only 10 per cent of the oyster beds—those that receive cultivation by artificial methods.

One-Crop Economy

Development of the oyster industry to substantial proportions would be especially valuable to the Georgia coast as a winter diversification for the commercial fishing industry. At present, most Georgia commercial fishing revolves around shrimping, which is at its peak in the late summer and fall, but tapers off during the oyster gathering season during the winter and spring. As a result, the economic health of the coastal fishing industry is tied

directly to the success of the one-crop shrimping season, along with blue crabs. A bad year's shrimp production could cause serious economic damage to the commercial fishing industry unless oysters or some other staple can be found as a second primary cash crop, even though Georgia is the South Atlantic's leading shrimp-producing State.

Continued on Page 3

Management Hunts

Georgia is the "Primitive Weapons" Hunt on the Warwoman area in Northeast Georgia scheduled from October 18 through October 23. The Warwoman innovation will be an either-sex deer hunt with weapons limited to long bows, cross bows, muzzle loading rifles, and muzzle loading shotguns loaded with a single ball. Conventional loading rifles will not be allowed on the Warwoman hunt, which is patterned after similar hunts held with a great deal of success in Kentucky and other states.

Archers will have more opportunities than ever before to hunt on the managed areas, with four separate periods on 6 areas open exclusively to bow and arrow hunters. Archers may hunt on the Warwoman primitive weapons hunt, as well as on Johns Mountain and Lake Russell from October 25 through October 30; on Blue Ridge and

(Contd. from Page 1)

Clark Hill from November 8 through November 13; and on Chickasawhatchee from December 9 through December 11.

Small Game

Small game hunters will have additional opportunities to hunt this fall with the opening for the first time of five game management areas. These include Coleman River, Swallow Creek, Hazelhurst, Arabia Bay, and Waycross State Forest. No permit fee will be charged on these five areas on their scheduled opening days in December and January, depending on the individual area. Also open for small game hunting, but on a permit basis, will be the new Piedmont Experiment Station area, Chickasawhatchee, and Suwanoochee. Permit hunts on the North Georgia areas will be held on Blue Ridge, Chattahoochee, and Cedar Creek, for small game.



Pretty Vickie Peppers and her husband Phillip, of Social Circle, believe in starting at the top. On their first trout fishing expedition, they went to Rock Creek where Phillip landed this 8¼ lb., 25 inch Brown Trout. He was using a number 6 hook and red wigglers.



11 year old Rob Davidson, son of Game and Fish Commissioner, Charles Davidson, shows proof that Friday the 13th is NOT unlucky. On that day, fishing just south of Two Mile Creek on Lake Lanier, the youngster landed this 5½ pound trophy boss.

Wildlife In Georgia



WHITE TAIL DEER

Bondurant Elected Walton President

Charles M. Bondurant, 39, of Atlanta was elected president of the Greater Atlanta Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America at their monthly meeting in August. He succeeded Tom Rentz.



Mr. Bondurant, a member of the firm of L. P. Bondurant and Sons, of Atlanta, graduated from G.M.A. and attended Georgia Tech. He is married and has three children.

The new president was instrumental in obtaining a 105 acre tract of land in north Georgia for use as the recreational area for league members and for teaching conservation to other groups.

Other officers elected for the new year were: Bill Huber, first Vice President; Bob Collins, second Vice President; T. G. Greene, Secretary; Jim Royer, Treasurer.

OYSTER STUDY

Continued from Page 2

The Sapelo Island study will be conducted by Thomas Linton, Assistant professor of zoology with the University's Marine Institute. Other Institute research specialists and laboratory facilities under the supervision of Dr. Vernon Henry, director of the Institute, will be utilized in the study.

Funds for the new project are being provided by the Game and Fish Commission on a matching basis with the federal government under a new commercial fisheries program. Plans are underway for additional studies in the near future on shrimp and hard clams. Federal aid funds will also be used to hire scientific personnel who will work for the Game and Fish Commission at Brunswick as a part of a new program to develop the rich potential of the natural resources of the Georgia coast.

DUCK SEASON

Continued from Page 1

red-breasted and hooded mergansers are five daily and 10 in possession, of which not more than one daily and two in possession may be hooded mergansers.

East of the intracoastal waterway a bonus daily bag limit of 2 and possession limit of four blue-bill or scaup ducks will be permitted in addition to the basic limits applied to the other species. The bonus limit applies only to this restricted coastal area in order to prevent accidental shooting of ring-necks which closely resemble the blue-bills, but are not normally found in salt water.

The federal government predicts that duck hunting will be about equal to that of last year, according to Crockford.

Dove Season

The first part of the fall dove season began at noon on September 1 and will end at sunset on September 30. The second season will begin at noon on December 7 and end at sunset on January 15. Half-day shooting will apply during the entire dove season.

The federal dove shooting regulations and bag limits are the same as last year, although population studies indicate that doves have decreased slightly on a national basis.

The daily bag limit is 12 and the possession limit is 24.

Other Seasons

Other seasons set by the Commission within dates prescribed by the federal government for migratory species include Marsh Hens, September 23 through December 1st with full day shooting; Wilson's Snipe, November 27 through January 15, 1966 with full day shooting; and Woodcock, November 27 through January 15, with full day shooting.

White-tail deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) are Georgia's most popular big game animals. They flourish from the towering red oaks of the Appalachians to the pine-studded forests of extreme south Georgia, although they are more numerous in some areas than others.

A shy and timid animal, white-tail deer are fleet of foot and possess an unusual ability to pick up movement and sounds at considerable distances. This asset undoubtedly was given by nature to atone for deer's poor vision.

Deer are not migratory and seldom stray over a half-mile radius from their chosen homes, except in mating season when bucks often travel extensively in search of does.

Life Cycle

Young white-tail deer, called "fawns," are born during the warm months of late spring and early summer. They come into Mother Nature's world as weak and helpless animals, weighing from three to five pounds. Protected by their mothers for about four months, young deer waste little time in learning to fend for themselves.

They become adults at 1½ yrs. of age. If they are male deer, they grow a set of antlers, which they shed in late winter. Female deer are called does and become mothers at the age of 1½.

Food

Except in areas where deer populations have exceeded Nature's carrying capacity, food is no problem to white-tail deer. Their summer menu includes herbs, leaves of shrubs and trees, twigs and some aquatic plants. In autumn months, deer prefer apples, acorns and other mast. In winter, deer feed on evergreens, such as honeysuckle and rhododendron.

Good Conservation Practices

Since deer have notorious appetites, conservationists can help them by protecting mast producing trees and by planting various grasses and legumes in remote forestlands. These food patches will be utilized by deer, particularly in winter months when natural foods become more scarce. One of the most important management practices is control of free-running dogs.

1800 Anglers on hand for first 3 days at McDuffie Fishing Area



The 14 ponds, stacked with largemouth bass, bluegill, shellcracker, and channel catfish were opened to the public July 23.



The entrance sign welcomed scores of anglers to the Game and Fish Commission's new concept of fishing.



Georgia's Governor Carl Sanders was on hand to dedicate the new area and also to see how the fishing was. After only several casts the governor landed a bass.



Bath the young and old came to fish at the new ponds. They fished on the banks and in boats. During the first three days of the opening, a total of 1,841 fishermen caught 19,281 fish weighing 5,181 pounds.



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