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Speaking at the Sportsman's Federation Awards Banquet, Lt. Governor Peter Zack Geer lends full support to the hunting and fishing license increase proposal.

Governor Supports License Increase

Governor Carl Sanders will support an increase in the price of hunting and fishing license fees in the next session of the General Assembly, according to George Busbee of Albany, House Administration Floor Leader.

Representative Busbee made the announcement at Griffin and Valdosta during a series of 17 pre-Legislative Forum meetings with Georgia business leaders sponsored by the State Chamber of Commerce.

"The Governor has stated that this will be one of his number one projects in this next session of the legislature," Busbee said. "I plan to introduce it on the first day of the session and it will be one of the first pieces of legislation acted upon."

One Dollar

Busbee said that the Administration would support a \$1.00 increase each in the price of hunting and fishing licenses, with a \$2.00 increase in the combination license.

Pointing out the higher amounts spent on game and fish management in the surrounding states, Busbee noted that the present Georgia license fees of \$1.25 for fishing, \$2.25 for hunting, and \$3.25 for the combination license are "the lowest in the entire nation."

"The major paper companies of this state have offered to the Game and Fish Commission the use of two million acres of land for public hunting," Busbee said. "It's going to cost some money in order to have a game program instituted on these vast holdings."

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Sportsman's Federation Urges Higher Hunting and Fishing Fees

The largest organized group of fishermen and hunters in Georgia has called on the General Assembly to raise hunting and fishing license fees.

Meeting in Macon the weekend before Thanksgiving, the annual convention of the 85 clubs of the Georgia Sportsman's Federation asked the legislature to increase the fees a minimum of one dollar each on the hunting and fishing licenses, and two dollars on the combination license. Present fees are \$1.25 for fishing, \$2.25 for hunting, and \$3.25 for the combination hunting and fishing license.

The resolution by the 8,000 member organization passed unanimously. It pointed out the need for more land to be put under management for public hunting and fishing, as well as additional personnel requirements for the Game and Fish Commission.

Geer Support

Earlier, the license increase was endorsed by Lt. Governor Peter Zack Geer, who addressed the convention's annual awards banquet. Geer said he was backing the proposal "because I think that it will be meaningful to the sportsman of Georgia."

"I know that if we have more money for the conservation of our wildlife in Georgia that it will help our sportsmen, that it will produce more and better hunting and fishing, and that it will place Georgia in her rightful place as the leading hunting and fishing area in the entire Southeast," Geer said.

"It is obvious to me that we need more money," Geer said, citing the higher license collections of all the five states surrounding Georgia.

"We in Georgia in the Game and Fish Department are collecting less money and spending less money than any of our sister states in the Southeast for conservation and for game and fish management," he said.

"With the meager sum which the Game and Fish Department now has for its use, I think that the Department is doing an excellent and an outstanding job, but if they had more, I am sure that it would mean more to the sportsmen and to the hunters and the fishermen of Georgia," Geer said.

Other resolutions passed by the Fed-

(Continued on Page 3)



Ralph Roberts exhibits largest deer taken on managed hunts this year. Proof that 1965 managed hunts most successful in history. SEE PAGE TWO FOR STORY.

Commission Reports Best Managed Hunts in History

There was venison on the table Thanksgiving week as a result of the most successful State management area hunts in history, according to the State Game and Fish Commission.

In all, 797 deer were bagged in 11 buck-only managed hunts across the state. 591 deer were taken on "doe day" in seven areas for a whopping total bag of 1,388 deer with 14,020 permits sold for seven days of hunting.

This is an increase of 415 deer in the same hunts over the 1964 season. Last year, there were 973 deer shot in the buck-only and either-sex hunts.

The Lake Russell area in north Georgia produced the most deer in the buck-only hunt, with 175 kills reported. Russell had the third highest number of hunters among the areas, with 1,895 buying permits. Cedar Creek had the most hunters, selling 2,608 permits and yielding 107 deer, rating third in kills.

Blue Ridge ranked a close second in number of hunters and kills, producing 165 deer for 2,062 hunters.

In the either-sex hunt November 29, Cedar Creek ranked first in both categories, with 1,099 hunters getting 173 deer. Russell was second in both figures, netting 167 deer for 701 hunters. Blue Ridge was third in most hunters, with 676, but its 71 kills was less than Clark Hill, which ranked third, with 87 kills for its limited 300 hunters.

Largest Deer

The biggest deer taken in the managed hunts, probably was a 12-point buck, which weighed 225 pounds live weight. It was taken by Ralph Roberts of Route 2, Eatonton, on Piedmont Experiment Station, area 8. The big buck had a spread of 31.4 inches. It was bagged November 23.

The second largest, according to figure received, was a buck that weighed 200 pounds live weight, 164 pounds dressed out. It was an eight-pointer shot during the either-sex hunt November 29 at Cedar Creek area 12, by Charles (Doc) Mayes of East Point. Mayes said it was the 38th deer he's shot, having hunted in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

As usual, the first day was the best on the buck hunts. Lake Russell, for example, reported 106 of its 175 kills on Monday. However, many hunters checked in at various areas later in the week, and large kills were reported then.

No Accidents

There were no firearms accidents during the seven days of managed hunts in 11 areas — neither fatal or injurious. This included a total of 14,020 hunters. Weapons allowed were hi-powered rifles, and shotguns with slugs. Buckshot in shotguns was not allowed to cut down on crippling losses.

The deer harvest in North Georgia game management areas showed an excellent increase over last year.

C. V. Waters, regional manager for the northern region, said the increase

reflected the excellent mast crop in the mountains this year, as well as the untiring law enforcement efforts of rangers to halt illegal deer kills.

Deer bags were up in all areas in the mountains except Lake Burton, which showed a very slight decrease of only four deer under last year's record total.

At the Clark Hill area November 29, when the either-sex hunt was limited to the first 300 persons arriving, wildlife rangers said when the line awaiting permits was completed, 299 permits were sold. It was 20 minutes later when a hunter bought the final permit.

Although only three deer were shot at the Suwanoochee area in south Georgia, Game and Fish Commission Regional Manager Frank Parrish pointed out that the hunter-kill ratio was comparable to other areas — only 43 hunters checked in. "There is plenty of deer sign to indicate there are enough deer to produce a good bit higher number of kills if more people would hunt the area," Parrish said. "There are 60,000 acres in the area." This provided more than 1,000 acres per hunter this year.

Here's the break-down on the number of hunters, and the number of deer killed on each area:

Blue Ridge — Buck only, 2,062 hunters, 165 deer. Either-sex, 676 hunters, 71 deer.

Cedar Creek — Buck only, 2,608 hunters, 107 deer. Either-sex, 1,099 hunters, 173 deer.

Chattahoochee — Buck only, 652 hunters, 96 deer. Either-sex, 160 hunters, 37 deer.

Chestatee — Buck only, 572 hunters, 60 deer. Either-sex, 85 hunters, 13 deer.

Clark Hill — Buck only, 638 hunters, 32 deer. Either-sex, 300 hunters, 87 deer.

John's Mountain — Buck only, 1,151 hunters, 42 deer. No either-sex hunt.

Lake Burton — Buck only, 671 hunters, 71 deer. Either-sex, 248 hunters, 43 deer.

Lake Russell — Buck only, 1,895 hunters, 175 deer. Either-sex, 701 hunters, 167 deer.

Piedmont Experiment Station — Buck only, 175 hunters, 9 deer. No either-sex hunt.

Suwanoochee — Buck only, 43 hunters, 3 deer. No either-sex hunt.

Warwoman — Buck only, 284 hunters, 37 deer. No either-sex hunt.



Thomas Kimball, Vice President National Wildlife Federation.

Wildlife Official Opposes Gun Law

Emotion, not fact, is the source drive behind firearms legislation proposed by congress, the Georgia Sportsmen's Federation was told at its recent annual convention, by Thomas Kimball, vice president of the National Wildlife Federation.

"There is a growing wave of gun feeling — an emotional feeling about guns," Kimball said. "It is emotion, not fact, that causes people to object to hunting, and attributes human traits to animals."

"It is emotion that causes some people to believe hunters cause, or are about to cause, the extinction of all birds and animals," he said. "But," he emphasized, "it is fact that it is the hunters who have insisted that we apply sound factual management programs. It is the license-buying sportsman that insists upon such wildlife management programs that brought our deer population back from the brink of extinction."

Kimball said most support of gun feeling came from those who believe the crime rate could be reduced by moving guns from the hands of evildoers. But, he added that in recent years the murder rate had dropped 40 percent. "Less than four per cent of serious crimes involved the use of guns. Only in the case of murder were more than 10 per cent of the crimes involved guns used. In murders, 56% of the crimes involved guns, but in seven of 10 murders, the guns used were handguns or sporting arms."

"Crimes of passion constitute 80% of our crimes of violence. And these crimes, if you want to kill someone bad enough, you'll find a way to do it, even if you don't have a gun," he said.

Kimball said more murders were committed before the fall of 1964 than in any other period in the history of the world, before firearms were banned.

Today, he added, Japan has the lowest crime rate in the world and one of the highest rates of political assassination. "And they don't even have guns," he said, since firearms are banned in Japan.

"The fight is not over," Kimball said. "There is a persistent effort to do away completely with the use of firearms and make them unavailable to all citizens."



Charles Mayes, East Point, Shows Second Largest Deer, 200-Pounder.



Ranger of the Year Dunn is presented certificate by Game and Fish Commission Director Rosser Malane.

Wayne Dunn Named 1965 Ranger of the Year

Wildlife ranger Wayne Dunn of Marietta has been named "Outstanding Ranger of the Year" in Georgia by the Southeastern Game and Fish Commissioners Law Enforcement Section.

Dunn was presented a \$50 check and a certificate by Rosser Malane, Director of the Game and Fish Department, and attended the Southeastern Association's recent convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Dunn, 54, is probably best known to North Georgia hunters and fishermen as a result of his three years as refuge manager of the Blue Ridge game management area north of Dahlonega.

The popular wildlife ranger has been assigned to Cobb and Fulton counties for eight years, and once worked Fannin County for a year and a half. He is a native of Ellijay, where he operated a country store for five years prior to nine years of work with Good-year Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio.

At present, ranger Dunn spends a good deal of time patrolling the Chattahoochee River below Buford Dam, both during and after the trout season. At the same time, he checks on the growing deer population along the river.

Dunn is well-liked by his fellow rangers, and his superiors are lavish in praise of his work. "He's one of the top 10 rangers in the State anytime," says Dunn's district Chief, W. E. Murphee of Calhoun, who notes his excellent record for convictions of wildlife violators. "He doesn't make a bad case," Murphee said.

"He was a good public relations man who went out of his way to help hunters and fishermen and to see that they enjoyed themselves while on his area,"

said Hubert Handy, who was Dunn's district chief while on the Blue Ridge Area. "After he took over the area, violations dropped off sharply, and poachers soon came to respect his ability as a ranger," Handy said.

SPORTSMAN'S FEDERATION

(Continued from Page 1)

eration convention included measures calling for the abolition of water pollution and for defeat of any legislation requiring the registration of firearms.

Also on the Federation program, department heads and representatives of eight State and federal conservation agencies on a panel told the sportsmen how their agencies were working together for conservation.

Officers Elected

Tommie Holliman of Thomaston was reelected president of the Federation for a third consecutive term, along with secretary-treasurer Tilmon Wilbanks of Canton. Elected vice-president from each congressional district were: First District, Earl Wilkes, Dublin; Second District, George Williams, Albany; Third District, Jesse Miller, Richland; Fourth District, Clyde Greenway, Tucker; Fifth District, vacant; Sixth District, Render Lawrence, Molena; Seventh District, Frank Horton, Bremen; Eighth District, Lewis Raulerson, Haylow; Ninth District, Malcolm Edwards, Gainesville; and Tenth District, Arnold Parker, Milledgeville.

Trout Fishermen Missing the Boat

Trout fishermen who hang up their fishing gear at the end of the state trout season are missing the boat, according to the State Game and Fish Commission.

"There are 15 lower stream sections in north Georgia open to the public year around," says Claude Hastings, North Georgia Fisheries Supervisor for the Commission, "and the chances of catching lunker trout in these areas are good.

"The upper sections of these streams, which closed on September 15, are heavily stocked during trout season, and some of these fish make their way to the lower reaches". Hastings adds, "Since the fishing pressure drops off after the season is over, the fish in the lower regions get to be good sized."

The following stream portions are open: Hiawassee River below Rice Bridge (Highway 75), Nottely River below the Nicholson Bridge, Toccoa River below the bridge on U. S. Forest Service Road No. 69, Fightingtown Creek below Chestnut Gap, Tallulah River below the Lake Rabun Dam, Chattahoochee River below Nora Mills, Soque River below Watts Mill, Chestatee River below Garnet Bridge, Etowah River below Highway 52 Bridge, Cartecay River below Stegall Mill Dam, Ellijay River below the mouth of Kells Creek, Mountaintown Creek below Highway 76 Bridge, Conasauga River below Alaculsy Valley Bridge, Holly Creek below the old CCC Camp, Chattahoochee River for its entire length.



Good trout streams, like this one below Nora Mills on the Chattahoochee River are open year round.

GOVERNOR (Continued from Page 1)

Busbee urged sportsmen to "get behind this bill so that we might make these improvements" without increasing taxes of non-sportsmen.

Sportsman's Federation Honors Outstanding Conservationists, Club

Hill Heland, executive secretary of the Georgia County Commissioners Association, has received the Sportsman's Federation Award as the "Conservationist of the Year" for the efforts of his organization in the passage of a strong new water pollution law at last year's General Assembly session.

The Bulloch County Sportsman's Club, Statesboro, received the award as the Outstanding Sportsman's Club of the Year. Professional Conservationists honored included Chief Drew Whitaker of the Game and Fish Commission, Thomson; Assistant Director and Fire Chief James C. Turner of the Forestry Commission, Macon; Ferrell M. Satterfield of the Soil Conservation Service, Fayetteville; Claude R. Collier, Cooperative Extension Service, Clay County; G. L. Blackwell, Vocational Agriculture Department, Oconee County High School.

Outstanding Game and Fish Conservationist Drew Whitaker was the first district law enforcement chief to receive the award, which was created last year with the selection of fisheries co-

ordinator Leon Kirkland.

Whitaker is chief of the Game and Fish Commission's Thomson District, which includes Clark Hill and Sinclair reservoirs; portions of the Savannah, Ogeechee, and Oconee rivers; the Cedar Creek and Clark Hill game management areas, the McDuffie public fishing area, and 26 counties.

Only 33 years old, Whitaker joined the Commission as a wildlife ranger 10 years ago, becoming a district chief in 1961. He is a native of Dearing, near Thomson.

Lay conservation district leaders included: Fred Blicht, Bulloch County; J. T. Mayfield, Grady County; Gaston Cook, Talbot County; Ernest Holmes, Rockdale County; Hill R. Heland, Fulton County; Tom Scott, Monroe Coun-



Whitaker



Heland

ty; Alex Shelnett, Haralson County; Jimmy D. Paulk, Glynn County; J. Wayne, Hall County; and William Carroll Ward, Richmond County.

Future Farmers of America conservation district winners include Frankie Getzinger, Jenkins County; Henry Lee, Tift County; Jerry Holcomb, Ft. Valley; Roy Felts, Ringgold; James A. Pierce, Franklin County; Bernard Garrett, Oconee County; and FFA State Winner — Bernard Garrett, Oconee County.

Four-H Club conservation district winners included: Danny Harris, Emanuel County; Charles White, Clinch County; Stanley Spillers, Crawford County; Frank Canaday, DeKalb County; Rodney Reese, Fulton County; Milton Allgood, Carroll County; Larry Wood, Haralson County; Russell Zipper, Lowndes County; William O. Dyer, Towns County; Gene Hair, Columbus County; and 4-H State Winner — Milton Allgood, Carroll County.

Leon Smith, The Thomaston Times and The Free Press, Thomaston, received the news media award for outstanding contributions to conservation.

The awards program is co-sponsored by the Sportsman's Federation and the Sears Foundation, which is now also sponsoring similar awards programs in the other 49 states modeled on the Georgia program.



The Outstanding Sportsman's Club Award for 1965 went to the Bulloch County club. Club members Bill Tyson, Carl Hutchison, Mooney Prosser, Felton Mikell, and Doy Boyd accept the award from Lt. Gov. Peter Zock Geer.

STATE GAME & FISH COMMISSION

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