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# Georgia Outdoors



Monthly Publication of the **GEORGIA STATE GAME & FISH COMMISSION**

December, 1962

## 1962

### Public Hunting Area Opened

An exciting, new concept has transformed thousands of acres of timberlands into a paradise for small game hunters.

It's called multiple use and Georgia Kraft Co., a giant landholder, recently began a program to use its forests for recreation as well as timber production.

By agreement of the G&F, Georgia Kraft and the U. S. Corps of Engineers, a 28,000 acre plot has been opened for small game hunting this season.

The new area lies on the north banks of Lake Allatoona and is now open for squirrel, rabbit, quail and other small game hunting. The only thing that's necessary is a current hunting license. No special permit is required.

Twenty four thousand acres of the land are a part of the timberlands owned by Georgia Kraft, and the remaining 4,000 acres are property of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"The multiple use of Georgia Kraft Company timberlands is an important contribution to the people of Georgia, particularly at a time when public recreation participants are overloading public recreation facilities," Commission director Fulton Lovell said.

The area will be under intense management by G&F wildlife biologists, who will work to increase small game yields through a program designed to fit in with prevailing forest management practices.

Mr. E. V. McSwiney, vice president of Georgia Kraft, said his Company feels that "timber crops are not the only benefit from company-owned forests, but hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities are also important products of the forest."

The new area, yet unnamed, will be open during the remaining small game seasons. Hunting is permitted in accordance with current regulations and hunters may seek all types of game that have an open season in the counties involved.

The State Game and Fish Commission will provide the necessary game management development on the land and

*continued on page 3*



# A Merry Christmas To All And A Happy New Year

## Bumper Deer Harvest Taken On Public Hunting Areas

Georgia's public hunting areas again proved to be the best places in the state to find a healthy, trophy deer.

During the week of controlled hunts on nine public areas, 8,634 hunters bagged 688 deer, including 118 does during special antlerless hunts on six of the areas.

The results:

Area	FIRST HUNT	
	No. of Hunters	Deer Killed
Blue Ridge	463	24
Chattahoochee	271	30
Lake Burton	230	16
John's Mountain	667	40
Warwoman	66	4
Lake Russell	595	46
Chestatee	143	18
Cedar Creek	741	56
Clark Hill	392	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3568</b>	<b>266</b>

Area	SECOND HUNT	
	No. of Hunters	Deer Killed
Blue Ridge	745	59
Chattahoochee	355	44
Lake Burton	272	22
John's Mountain	540	13
Warwoman	86	7
Lake Russell	594	26
Chestatee	245	23
Cedar Creek	967	24
Clark Hill	266	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4070</b>	<b>233</b>

Area	SPECIAL ANTLERLESS HUNT		
	Doer	Buck	No. of Hunters
Clark Hill	49	15	149
Cedar Creek	24	14	308
Chattahoochee	14	15	130
Chestatee	2	7	44
Lake Burton	11	8	89
Blue Ridge	18	12	276
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>996</b>

# G & F Reports On Fire Ant Pesticide

(Editor's note: The Georgia Game and Fish Commission recently completed its research into the effects of the fire ant eradication program on wildlife. Georgia Outdoors Editor Bob Short and reporter Richard Ramsaur interviewed Game Management Chief Jack Crockford and Project Leader Oscar Dewberry of the Georgia Game and Fish Commission. This is the interview.)

**SHORT**—Why is the fire ant program controversial among wildlife officials?

**CROCKFORD**—It began rather abruptly before very much was known about its effects. Wildlife people wanted to know first, what was the effect of the fire ant on wildlife; second, what were the long-term effects of the pesticides used, and third, methods of application were controversial in themselves. Some experts favored aerial application, and some favored ground applications. However, the biggest argument probably was dosage strength of the pesticide.

**RAMSAUR**—When the storm broke over the controversy, the Game and Fish Commission remained silent. Why?

**CROCKFORD**—We had no facts on which to speak. There was considerable comment from other states, from other groups and by many concerned individuals. The hearsay was so controversial it hardly made sense. Our approach was to set up a research study and get some facts on which to base our comments. We put in three years work on this subject. Some of it was done in the Bainbridge area, and it spread out as the eradication work was going on. We now have some facts. I'll let Oscar Dewberry comment.

**DEWBERRY**—We found that the application of heptachlor had very little effect on quail population. There was a slight decline immediately after the areas were treated, but by the time the study was concluded the original quail population had been restored by nature and the permanent effect on quail was unnoticeable.

**SHORT**—Many other states report opposite views. How can the fire ant eradication program supposedly have a detrimental effect on wildlife in one state, but not in Georgia?

**CROCKFORD**—I don't think I can answer that question in its entirety, although there are several possibilities. We have never seen any of these drastic effects about which we've read and heard so much about. Two reasons immediately come to mind. I think a lot of the original criticism came from the early application, which was two pounds of heptachlor per acre. Since that time, the amount of this material has been decreased twice.

**RAMSAUR**—Is the fire ant a predator, effecting quail nesting and quail population?

**DEWBERRY**—We placed pens directly adjacent to fire ant mounds. We found that immediately after quail chicks hatch fire ants do prey upon them. After chicks are capable of moving away from the nest freely, which is only a matter of hours, the ants have no harmful effect.

**SHORT**—Oscar, why was the pesticide, heptachlor, used in this study instead of dieldrin or some other chemical?

**DEWBERRY**—At the time the study was initiated the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Entomology were using heptachlor. That was the only source of data we had at that time.

**RAMSAUR**—What effect did the heptachlor treatment have on the fire ant, Oscar?

**DEWBERRY**—At the beginning we had a heavy infestation of ants upon each of the areas. Immediately after treatment, the fire ants seemed to move away or were killed. But, by the time the study was concluded the study area was reinfested with imported fire ants.

**SHORT**—The USDA has abandoned heptachlor in favor of a chemical known as Mirex which is much more potent than heptachlor. What effect will this chemical have on wildlife?

**CROCKFORD**—Bob, we don't know what the effects of this material will be either but, the change has been made, possible because of what Oscar pointed out. . . re-infestation. Mirex is used as a bait and it should be safer than the original treatment of heptachlor. It is my understanding that the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife has evaluated the use of Mirex and endorsed it.

**SHORT**—Has the Game and Fish Commission endorsed the use of Mirex?

**CROCKFORD**—We have not. We don't know that much about it. We intend to continue our studies and to watch the areas that are treated with Mirex.

**RAMSAUR**—Oscar, getting back to this report, what effect did the fire ant eradication program have on other types of birds?

**DEWBERRY**—We found some dead songbirds, especially Brown Thrashers and Mockingbirds, immediately after the areas were treated. But by the time the study was concluded, the populations reached original pre-study census figures. This could possibly be attributed to the physical factors on the land as well as the reproduction rate of the birds.

**RAMSAUR**—Jack, what effect does the fire ant eradication program have on other types of wildlife such as rabbits, deer, field mice and other animals?

**CROCKFORD**—Unfortunately, we can't answer that. This has been a serious and involved study. It was one that required a long time, even to work on a specific subject which we did in the case of quail. We concentrated on quail because that was our primary interest and the thing about which we were most concerned at the time. This is not to say we are not concerned about other forms of wildlife, as well as other forms of life of all kinds.

It has always seemed to me that one of the more important things is the effect of a pesticide program on soil organisms and the lower forms of animal communities. These things require involved and long-range study. We simply are not in a position to continue such a detailed program. We feel that this is something that should be handled on a long-range basis by some agency in a position to do so.

**DEWBERRY**—Jack, I'd like to say this. We selected quail as our primary subject, because of the time element. We had a lot to learn but only a short time in which to gain the knowledge. We could not have the time necessary to devote to them. Therefore, we directed our study entirely toward quail and songbirds, so that we could use them as a yardstick to measure the effects on all wildlife. It is significant that quail and songbirds, as well as fire ants, show the same type of habitat.

**SHORT**—Do either of you gentlemen forecast a "silent spring" as predicted by Rachel Carson in her book, *Silent Spring*?

**CROCKFORD**—Bob, it seems that everything involved in pesticide programs are controversial. I do not wish to comment on Rachel Carson's conclusions, but I would like to point out that the entire pesticide program is the basic problem. Nature is very complex, and any drastic change can suddenly effect the entire balance of life upon which every single living organism depends.

When anyone broadcasts pesticides, they should know before-hand what the effects will be on this delicate balance. At the time the program began, we didn't know what effects it would have—even on the fire ants. After three years work, we now know that heptachlor has no long-range effects on wildlife. But, even so, wildlife is only one segment of the balance of life. Any toxic chemical that is used widely should be thoroughly researched before the first serious application is made. Fifty-four Georgia counties were used as testing grounds for the chemical heptachlor. It so happens that this chemical has no harmful effects on wildlife. It would have been nice to have known this three years ago.

# 35,000 Boats Due For Registration

Thirty five thousand Georgia boat owners must re-register their boats this month or lose their present numbers.

G&F director Fulton Lovell said existing registration numbers will not be held open later than Dec. 31. Boaters who do not wish to be assigned another number must re-register before the deadline.

Georgia's motorboat law requires re-registration of all boats with motors in excess of 10 horsepower every three years.

Lovell said all boats originally registered in 1960 must be re-register before Dec. 31. Boat owners who registered their craft in 1961 have until Dec. 31, 1963, to reclaim their present numbers.

Applications for re-registration may be obtained from hunting and fishing license dealers throughout Georgia, or from the Game and Fish Commission's boat registration division, 401 State Capitol Building, Atlanta, Georgia.

Lovell said all applications and money orders should be mailed to the Commission's boating division.

# Ranger Of The Year



Ranger Abernathy (r) receives award from Walter Gresh, Regional Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Ser.

## NEW AREA, CONT.

carry out the necessary enforcement work in exchange for public hunting rights.

Mr. Jack Crockford, chief of game management for G&F, said hunters who visit the area should be especially careful to remain inside the marked boundaries and be cautious with fire.

Arthur Abernathy, 38-year-old native of the north Georgia mountains, has been named the G&F's Ranger of the Year.

Abernathy, a veteran of eight years service with the Commission, is currently stationed on the Chattahoochee game management area.

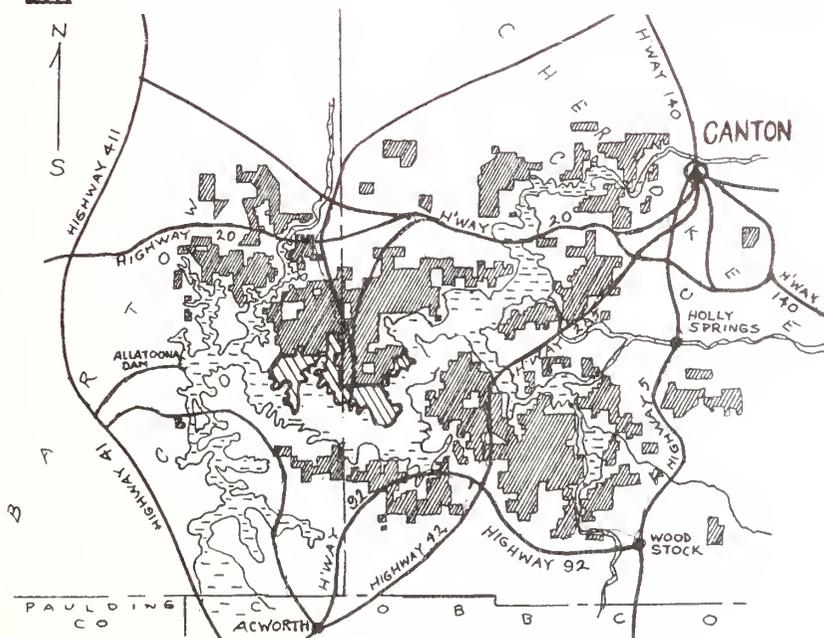
In announcing Abernathy's selection, G&F's director Fulton Lovell said, "Ranger Abernathy is well deserving of this meritorious citation and he has been

an outstanding conservation officer while serving with this department."

A native of the beautiful Nachoochee Valley, Abernathy attended Nachoochee Valley High school and worked as a lumberman before becoming a wildlife ranger.

As recipient of the honor, Abernathy was presented the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners' annual wildlife ranger plaque at the annual convention in Charleston.

-  GA. KRAFT
-  U.S. ENGINEERS



## Small Game Managed Hunts Get Underway

Three G&F management areas will be open during December for small game hunting.

Hunters may visit the Chestatee, Chattahoochee and Lake Russell areas on Friday and Saturdays only during the open season.

Permits costing \$2 per day or night are necessary in addition to a current hunting license. The permits will be issued at checking stations on the area.

G&F enforcement chief Clifford Palmer reminds hunters to check regulations before hunting.

# Fish Population Good On Alapaha Study Shows

An abundance of game fish in the Alapaha River has been found by G&F technicians who made a fish population study near Willacoochee in October.

Reporting on the condition of the fishery, technicians found that the fish population was excellent.

Bass were well above the state population average, and bluegill, redbreast, warmouth and crappie were good.

According to Howard Zeller, G&F's fisheries division chief, the most important factor affecting fish and fishing in the river is low water in the late summer and fall. This drastically reduces feeding areas for game fish. Bluegill and redbreast taken during the study were thin and weights were below average. Zellers said that "regulatory low flow dams is the only feasible method to relieve this situation."

Channel catfish population was down, however, and G&F technicians recommend that fingerlings be stocked in selected areas on an experimental basis.

## New Health Lab To Study Pollution

A new \$65,000 laboratory to study the presence of pesticides in soil and water is now in full operation by the Public Health Service in Atlanta.

Established and operated by the Service's Division of Water Supply and Pollution Control, Region IV, the new laboratory will provide analytical facilities to supplement national field studies of pesticides, insecticides, and herbicides in

streams, lakes, and ground water.

The laboratory's staff will include 10 scientists, including chemists, biologists, and physicists.

The new laboratory will extend Public Health Service research in the field of insecticides, which has continued uninterruptedly since DDT and other new materials were first introduced some 20 years ago. Such research already involves the expenditure of some \$3 million annually of Public Health Service funds and covers many fields of medicine and science, including toxicology, entomology, vector control and environmental health.

The laboratory now completed in Atlanta is part of a full-scale investigation of water pollution by pesticides which was begun in 1959 in the southeastern States. Directed by Dr. H. Page Nicholson of the Public Health Service, the studies are directed both to measuring amounts of insecticides now reaching waterways and assessing possible damage to stream and other life, particularly in cases where the insecticides are presently at low levels.

## The Mail Bag

### Letters to the Editor:

Over seven years ago a store was burglarized in Nahunta and a Browning automatic shotgun was stolen.

The Sheriff of Brantley County gave us the serial number on the gun and ask us to be on the lookout for it. The number was given to each Ranger in the Waycross district.

On November 1, 1962 Ranger Rowell still had this number in his notebook and in checking a gun in Brantley County he discovered he was holding the stolen shotgun. He called the Sheriff and the man was locked up and charged with the theft of the gun.

I am of the opinion that this Ranger should be complimented for

this act. Just imagine carrying this serial number around for seven years and then finding the gun.

Mallory Hatchett, Chief  
Waycross District

During the past trout fishing season another officer and I had the good fortune to become acquainted with some of the North Georgia Management Areas. We made three trips into the Warwoman and Jones Creek Areas for trout.

My fishing companion is a native of the Northeast U.S. and I have been stationed there before, but we both agree that your put and take trout program is the finest we've seen.

We talked with local people and some of your Rangers in these areas and we were impressed with the hunting program, too. The information we gathered was sketchy and maps were at a premium.

Will you please prepare a brochure of the open areas for me. Maps, game regulations and any other pertinent details is what I need.

Charles E. Riggs, Jr.  
Capt. U.S.A.F.

*Maps of all State Game management Areas are available free of charge from our I & E Office at the State Capitol. Maps of private lands under G&F Management are being prepared and will be available for the next season.*

**Read  
Georgia  
Outdoors**

## State Game & Fish Commission

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