


Marine Police Officer Lauded for Rescue Efforts

Marine Police Officer Tommy Haynes of Newville was recently honored by Governor Bob Riley and the Alabama Department of Conservation for his heroic efforts in rescuing twelve individuals in three separate incidents. Officer Haynes received Alabama's Officer of the Year Award and received a Certificate of Valor and a Medal of Valor on March 31, 2004.

Officer Haynes, who patrols Lake Eufaula, responded to a swamped vessel call on May 11, 2003, during inclement water and flood-stage, hazardous water conditions. When he arrived on the scene, he found four individuals clinging to a steep bank. Officer Haynes rescued the four individuals, transported them to safety, then returned to the swamped vessel and salvaged it from the flood waters in order to prevent further damage to it.

Then, on August 9, 2003, while on patrol, Officer Haynes observed a woman signaling frantically from a vessel. As he approached, Officer Haynes realized the vessel, which had two adults and four small children on board, was sinking in 70 feet of water. Acting quickly, he transferred the children and adults to his vessel, and then attempted to tow the sinking vessel to the nearest shore. It finally sank in four feet of water, where Officer Haynes and U.S. Coast Guard Officer Mike Briner, who arrived with a pump, recovered it and towed it to the trailer for loading.

On August 17, 2003, Officer Haynes responded to a missing boater call. At 2 a.m., during a heavy fog, he searched almost the entire lake until he found two individuals clinging to a partial submerged vessel. They had been in the water for 15 hours and were suffering from hypothermia and exhaustion. Officer Haynes rescued the men and transported them to shore so emergency personnel could transport them to the hospital for treatment.

Officer Haynes has shown himself to be a person of integrity and courage, and his accomplishments in the fields of enforcement and education have always proven him to be an exemplary officer. Although Officer Haynes would say he was "just doing his job," people are alive today because of his dedication to duty and his commitment to the boaters of Alabama. 



BILLY POPE

L-r: Conservation Commissioner Barnett Lawley, Officer Tommy Haynes, Vickie Haynes and Governor Bob Riley.



Eddie LeRoy's Canada Geese Chosen for Waterfowl Stamp



BILLY POPE

Flying Canada geese painted by Eddie LeRoy of Eufaula is the winner of the 2004 Alabama Waterfowl Stamp Art Contest. The winning artwork will adorn the 2005-2006 Alabama Waterfowl Stamp. LeRoy previously won the competition with a painting of redheads, which was on the 1999-2000 stamp.

First runner-up in the competition was a pair of flying mallards by Steven Burney of Town Creek. Second runner-up was a green winged teal by Clarence Stewart of Brewton. Third runner-up was a pair of American wigeons by David Nix of Cottondale, and fourth runner-up was a flying canvasback by Everett Hatcher of Birmingham.

Entries were judged on suitability for reproduction as a stamp, originality, artistic composition, anatomical accuracy, and general rendering. The designs were limited to living species of North

American migratory ducks or geese, and winning species from the past three years – pintail, wood duck and ringneck – were not eligible subjects for the 2004 contest.

The artwork was publicly displayed and judged by a panel of experts in the fields of art, ornithology, and conser-

vation. Representing the field of art was Richard Mills, a professor of art at Auburn University at Montgomery. Dr. David Thrasher of Montgomery, who is past president of the Alabama Wildlife Federation and currently serves on the board of directors of Buckmasters, represented the field of conservation. Representing the field of ornithology was Danny R. Hartley, a wildlife biologist with the Corps of Engineers in Columbus, Mississippi.

The law requires that any waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry a valid Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp – or duck stamp – signed in ink across the face. Like the federal migratory waterfowl stamps, state issued stamps are popular with collectors.

The artwork competition for the Alabama Migratory Waterfowl Stamp design is held each year in February and is open to Alabama residents only. For additional information, visit the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Web site at www.outdooralabama.com or call the Wildlife Section at 334-242-3469.

Mark Your Calendars!



Outdoor Alabama Expo

Saturday September 25, 2004
Oak Mountain State Park.
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Free Admission
Hands-on outdoor activities for all ages!
Call Jason Dockery at 256-737-7216



Alabama Coastal Birdfest

October 14-17, 2004
Mobile and Baldwin Counties
Alabama's First Coastal Birdfest will consist of a series of both paid and free events to promote birding, environmental stewardship and ethics. Look for the entire schedule of events for the Alabama Coastal BirdFest on the following:
www.mobilebayaudubon.org/birdfest
More information coming in the next issue of *Outdoor Alabama!*

Saturday, June 12 is Free Fishing Day

"Free Fishing Day" for Alabama is scheduled for Saturday, June 12, 2004, during National Fishing Week. Approved by the Alabama Legislature, the law allows an annual free day of fishing when residents and non-residents may fish without a fishing license. The specific date is set each year by the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

"Free Fishing Day is offered to introduce non-anglers to the sport of fishing and to remind former anglers of the fun they've been missing," said Stan Cook, Chief of Fisheries with the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. "It's a good time to pass on the tradition of a family fun day of fishing to Alabama's youth."


There is an exemption of the usual fishing license requirement on that day. Some lakes may still require fees and permits, and owner's permission is required to fish private ponds.



Wal-Mart Executive Wins Governor's One-Shot Turkey Hunt

Wal-Mart executive Bob Hart won the third annual Alabama Governor's One-Shot Turkey Hunt, held March 15-17 in Tuscaloosa. Governor Bob Riley hosted the celebrity event, which assembled top corporate leaders, industry prospects, sports celebrities, and national outdoor media celebrities. Sponsored by the Alabama Conservation and Natural Resources Foundation, the hunt is an exciting event filled with food, fellowship, and friendly competition against the background of Alabama's great outdoors.

Hart was one of 74 hunters from 15 states to participate in this year's event. Among the business leaders and celebrities were Wal-Mart President Tom Coughlin, NASCAR driver Jeff Green, Lockheed Martin General Manager Joseph Glazner, and country music star Troy Gentry.

The Alabama Governor's One-Shot Turkey Hunt also contributes to the future of wildlife management. Included in the three-day festivities is an auction that benefits students majoring in wildlife management at Auburn University. Barnett Lawley, Foundation Chairman, announced the results of this year's auction. "Through the generosity of sponsors and auction participants, over \$114,000 was raised to benefit the Foundation, which funds the Lynn Boykin Wildlife Scholarship. This is an investment in education and an investment in the future of wildlife management. It is encouraging to know that many of America's top corporate and government leaders are hunters." 

Outdoor ALABAMA

2005 PHOTO CONTEST

Outdoor Alabama is pleased to announce its 2005 Photo Contest, with winning entries to be published in the February 2005 issue. The contest is open to any amateur photographer except employees of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and members of their immediate families. An amateur is defined as someone who does not take compensation for photography work or does not earn a living from photography.

Photos must have been taken within the past two years, and previously published images are not eligible. All photos must have been taken in Alabama and species must be native to the state.

Eligible formats include 35mm slides or larger format transparencies, 5x7-inch to 8x10-inch color prints, and unaltered high quality (300 dpi) digital images. No black and white photos, please.


Photos may be entered in the following categories:

- ▶ **Birds** – Native song and game birds.
- ▶ **Mammals** – Native mammals (pets and livestock excluded)
- ▶ **Other Native Wildlife** – May include reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies, insects, etc.
- ▶ **Scenic/Pictorial** – Photos in which natural landmarks, scenery or inanimate objects are prominent; site location required for this category.
- ▶ **Nature-Based Activities** – people enjoying recreation such as boating, fishing, hiking, hunting, camping (sports such as baseball and football are excluded).
- ▶ **Wild Native Flora** – wildflowers, foliage, fruiting bodies, other parts of plants or trees (cultivated flowers, shrubs, etc. are excluded)

In addition to having their winning entries printed in *Outdoor Alabama*, prizes will be awarded to the first place winners in each category. Certificates will be awarded to first, second and third place winners.

By submitting an entry, photographers grant permission to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to publish winning photos in any publication or on its Web site. However, the photographer also retains the right to use the photo. No photos will be returned.

The deadline for entering the contest is October 29, 2004, at 5 p.m. Entries received after this time will be disqualified.

To obtain a complete set of rules and an entry form, call 1-800-262-3151 or write to Outdoor Alabama Photo Contest, 64 N. Union St., Ste. 449, Montgomery, AL 36130; or email magazine@outdooralabama.com. Information can also be obtained on the Department of Conservation's Web site at www.outdooralabama.com. Winners of the 2004 contest may be seen on the Web site under the Photo Gallery link. 

Think Before You Release!

A New Regulation Prohibits Public Water Stockings to Protect Native Species in Alabama Waters

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damages. In 2001, recreational fishing generated \$1.7 billion in economic output for the state of Alabama. The intent of this regulation is to ensure the conservation and protection of Alabama's aquatic resources for the benefit of the resource and for the people of Alabama.

Currently nine species of non-native fishes and all non-native sturgeon species are prohibited from being introduced or caused to be introduced into the public waters of Alabama (see table on page 25). None of these species will ever be considered for public water stocking in Alabama.

Many years ago brook trout, a species native from the southern Appalachians to the Great Lakes and through eastern Canada, was stocked in cold-water streams in several western states. These stockings

were carried out to establish new fisheries. While new fisheries may have been established, the brook trout in its new environment contributed to the decline of native fishes, amphibians, and invertebrates. Rainbow trout, which is native to Pacific Coast drainages, was also intensively stocked in western streams outside its range to establish new fisheries. Again, some fisheries were developed, but the rainbow trout hybridized with the native cutthroat, contributing to the loss of genetic integrity of the cutthroat trout. This is yet another example how various stockings can impact the native species.

This proactive regulation is intended to ensure protection of Alabama's aquatic resources while not completely thwarting public water stockings that are deemed

beneficial. Several groups in the southeast are currently involved in developing culture techniques for state protected and federally listed threatened and endangered species. By developing viable culture techniques for these species, it is hoped these cultured specimens can be released into areas where they no longer occur. This could eventually lead to the species recovery and delisting. For example, 2,500 juvenile fine-lined pocketbook (*Lampsilis altilis*) mussels and 3,286 interrupted rocksnails (*Leptoxis foremani*) cultured by the Tennessee Aquarium Research Institute were recently stocked into the Coosa River. The fine-lined pocketbook is a state protected and federally threatened species and the interrupted rocksnail, once thought extinct, is a candidate species. ■

The Science of Deer Management

Deer Reproduction Studies in Alabama

▶▶▶ Continued from page 11

February or later. However, most of these cases are site specific and most likely the result of years of poor management practices. On most sites where herds exhibit late breeding trends, sex ratios are extremely unbalanced and buck age structure is often very poor. Other indices such as pregnancy rates and overall fawn production tend to be poor as well. Conversely, on areas where genetic influence is not a factor (inherently favoring early breeding), well-managed herds typically have mean conception dates in January – often with several animals in the sample having conception dates in late December and none with conception dates beyond the month of January. Additionally, many of these well-managed herds display peak breeding times in early to mid January.

Factors Influencing Reproduction

Data collected from these reproduction studies suggest a correlation between harvest management and deer reproductive patterns. Presumably, deer reproduction is influenced by factors related to population

structure and genetics. Many biologists contend that genetic origin will dictate a preset window of time in which breeding will normally take place. Whether breeding takes place early, in the middle, or late in this window is the result of deliberate management strategies or lack thereof.

Data collected over a 15-year period at Auburn University's deer research facilities suggests no relationship between herd structure and reproductive patterns. Captive deer maintained at a 1:1 adult sex ratio did not show any shift in mean conception dates. Mean conception dates for these deer were in early to mid February. However, in a five-year study of free-ranging deer in Alabama, biologists observed a two-week advance in mean conception date under an intensive quality deer management program. In this study, mean conception shifted from mid-January to late December.

Despite this conflicting data, results from reproductive collections conducted on free-ranging deer continue to suggest that harvest management and, subsequently, herd structure, does influence reproductive

patterns. The possibility must be considered that deer in a captive setting may not display normal breeding patterns. Captive animals may gain no advantage in implementing strategies that provide earlier breeding opportunities. Breeding opportunities are more or less inevitable among captive deer. Under these conditions, it would be a waste of energy for bucks to engage in behaviors that may elicit earlier reproductive patterns (e.g. prolific rubbing and scraping).

Many biologists involved with this study believe native deer in Alabama may never be managed into October/November breeding periods as is common in many southeastern states. However, it is believed that most native herds in Alabama can be managed so as to breed and fawn during the earliest part of their genetically predetermined reproductive windows. What is unclear at this time is just how early the limits of this window are. Continued reproductive collections in areas managed to produce more "natural" deer herds may help answer this question in time. ■