



Addicted to the Kings of Spring

by Donnie Wood, Senior Lease Manager

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For the majority of hunters, late winter is a tough time of the year. There's not much for us to do except give our firearms a thorough cleaning and light coat of oil.

Maybe repair a deer stand or two. For many hunters, there is only one thing on their minds as deer season winds to a close — turkeys. The Kings of Spring! So sit back and let's talk turkeys.

Turkeys rank second only to deer in popularity among hunters, but for many hunters, turkey hunting is not a pastime or hobby, it's an addiction! Based on the most recent data from the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation, deer hunters average 24 days afield each year, while turkey hunters averaged almost six days afield. Research by Weyerhaeuser Recreation Lease Management reveals even more interesting information. We've found that the majority of turkey hunters hunt sparingly, but a substantial number of hunters pursue turkeys every day of the hunting season. Turkey hunting has a higher percentage of hunting addicts than virtually any other type of hunting.

Signs of addiction

By the middle of the turkey season, it's not hard to spot the turkey addict. Begin your search by looking for severely sleep deprived individuals: dark circles under their eyes, vacant stares and holding impossibly large mugs of coffee.

They often exhibit altered behavior as well. They may talk to themselves, appear extremely grouchy and do not want to talk about turkey hunting or how the season is going. Why not? Well, I have found that most turkey addicts are of impeccable moral character, but turkey season places them in a quandary. They would rather not talk about turkey hunting than give misinformation about how the season is going, where they have seen birds, or if they are killing birds. Once the season is over, they will be happy to talk your ear off about how the season went. So don't ask too many questions during the season. Yes,

fisherman are a chatty lot, and deer hunters who take a nice buck often regale all who will listen with their tales of hunting prowess. But true turkey addicts will become quiet and guarded. Don't pry. It could cost you a friendship!

The turkey addict's altered behavior could also be brought on by their aggravating, aloof, unpredictable quarry. Much of a turkey's behavior either doesn't appear to make sense, which aggravates hunters, or makes these birds appear to have a sixth sense, which scares hunters down to their snake boots.

Brooders and schemers

Regardless, consecutive days spent being schooled by a turkey can change a person, if only temporarily. Yes, deer hunters may lament that a big ol' buck outfoxed them, but they laugh it off and resolve to do better next time.

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Addicted to the Kings of Spring

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Turkey addicts don't lament. They brood and scheme with a ferocity not seen in other hunters. They are truly vexed when a gobbler gets the best of them, and their emotions border on hatred for these gobbler professors.

One of my best friends is such a turkey hunting junkie. We talk all the time... except during turkey season. His wife laments how he is totally consumed by turkey hunting. From mid-March through mid-May, he is constantly

preoccupied, reliving each hunt, examining where things went wrong and refining his game plan to take a certain bird. He loses weight during the season. His blood pressure stays elevated. And he gives turkeys names like Saddam and Osama, mostly the names of dictators or terrorists.

When he finally takes the bird, as he almost always does, he takes pride both in his personal victory and the fact that he kept future hunters from being afflicted by said treacherous gobbler.

Thankfully, I am not a turkey addict. Yes, I get aggravated when a turkey takes me to school, and I find it hard to eat another slice of humble pie. But

with a schedule that is so busy and two teenagers involved in countless activities, it's often a small victory just to get to the woods on a cool and clear Saturday morning. There's nothing more invigorating than seeing the eastern sky turn pink with the approaching dawn and hearing the small voices of various songbirds

completely outsung by the lusty rattle of a mature gobbler.

I wish you every success this turkey season. I hope the

birds are vocal and cooperative. Enjoy every morning you get to see the sun rise and the woods come alive. And whenever possible, take a youngster to the woods with you. Good luck and safe hunting!

Being schooled by a turkey can change a person.

Continually Striving to Improve

by John Drake, Recreational Lease Manager

Whether this is your first year to be a part of the Weyerhaeuser recreation program or you have been a participant for years, you should know that we periodically ask for feedback from our customers. We recently reached out to all of our Southern lease contacts in the form of a survey and are excited that over 50 percent of clubs responded.

The survey asked your club contact a wide range of questions, from the locations, ages and hunting preferences of the members to satisfaction with our customer service. Several questions gave the opportunity for a more in-depth response. The data we collected is

very important in helping us develop a cutting-edge recreation program that provides the recreational atmosphere our customers desire. Without this feedback, we'd have little idea what drives a person to begin a new lease or become a member of a club with an existing lease.

We're working on it

While your club's participation in the survey is crucial in providing much-needed data, it takes time for us to weave that data into our program. The survey helped us recognize several key focus areas of common concern to many clubs. Many of the comments centered on our harvest practices and notifications, road conditions, and other operations conducted on your lease, as well

as improving customer service. The recreation team will be striving to improve in these focus areas and others in the upcoming months.

We ask you to recognize that your lease is within and surrounded by a working forest. A program of this size involves many working parts and a number of other Weyerhaeuser personnel who aren't part of the recreation team but whose partnership we rely on.

So, as we begin to unravel all the feedback, please understand that we hear you and strive every day to offer our customers the best recreational lease experience possible. Future publications will communicate specific areas where we will be focusing our attention based on your comments. Stay tuned!

See gift card winners on p. 6

Chronic Wasting Disease

by Kip Adams, Certified Wildlife Biologist and Director of Conservation, Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA)

Prior to 2002, chronic wasting disease (CWD) was unfamiliar to most hunters from the East, Midwest or South.

In fact, unless you were from Colorado, Wyoming or a handful of other Western states, you probably hadn't heard of CWD or at least didn't know much about it. Today,

square mile while Wisconsin has herds exceeding 45 deer per square mile. This is important because infected deer can pass the disease to other individuals, and high-density herds, especially those in close proximity such as at feed sites, provide an avenue for high disease transmission rates. Scientists knew deer could pass the disease to other deer but were, and still largely remain, unsure of exactly how.

As of March 2018, CWD has been identified in captive and free-ranging herds in 25 U.S. states, three Canadian provinces, Korea (from an elk imported from Canada in 1997), Norway and Finland. CWD has been identified in white-tailed and mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, moose, red deer and reindeer. Black-tailed deer are also susceptible as they are a subspecies of mule deer. Much research has been conducted on CWD and much continues today, but we still don't know the origin of the CWD agent(s) in cervids (deer, elk and moose) and likely never will.

Meat appears to be safe

Fortunately, research suggests the disease won't cross the species barrier and infect humans. The World Health Organization and U.S. Center

for Disease Control both state there is no evidence that humans can contract the disease from eating CWD-infected cervids. This statement is important as the infective prions (abnormal forms of cellular protein) causing CWD accumulate in an animal's brain, eyes, spinal column, tonsils, lymph glands, spleen, saliva, blood and muscles. The last two locations are most noteworthy for humans since we come in contact with blood while field dressing or processing a harvested animal and we eat the muscle tissue. Research suggests prion concentrations may be somewhat lower in muscles than other tissues, but they are still present.

Another study also identified the prions in blood and saliva. These locations are important from a disease transmission standpoint. It raises the possibility that biting insects that feed on blood may have the ability to transfer the disease from CWD-positive animals to other individuals. It also raises the possibility that CWD-positive animals can transmit the disease via saliva at bait stations, feed and mineral sites, rubs, scrapes and through social grooming. We all know the branch above a scrape is referred to as the "licking" branch, and we know bucks lick and rub their forehead glands on rubs. Many hunters have also viewed submissive bucks licking a dominant buck's forehead. Young bucks, especially yearlings, are generally submissive to older bucks. We know a high percentage of yearling bucks disperse one to five miles from their

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the picture is much different. You would be hard pressed to find a deer or elk hunter anywhere in North America who hasn't heard of CWD. Unfortunately, there's much about CWD that we still do not know, but this article will cover some new discoveries and discuss CWD's impacts on the future of deer hunting.

In 2002 CWD was confirmed in Wisconsin from three bucks killed near Mount Horeb in November 2001. This marked the first incidence of CWD east of the Mississippi River. This was a major discovery because the disease was now in a high-density deer population. Many Western deer herds average less than 15 deer per

Chronic Wasting Disease

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natal range, so infected yearling bucks potentially could serve as major disease transmission vehicles. I say they “potentially could serve” because I am merely speculating. Research hasn’t identified this occurring on a large scale in free-ranging populations. Also, the disease doesn’t appear to move within a

adult does than bucks. This finding isn’t a reason to return to traditional management programs and remove the majority of bucks at an early age.

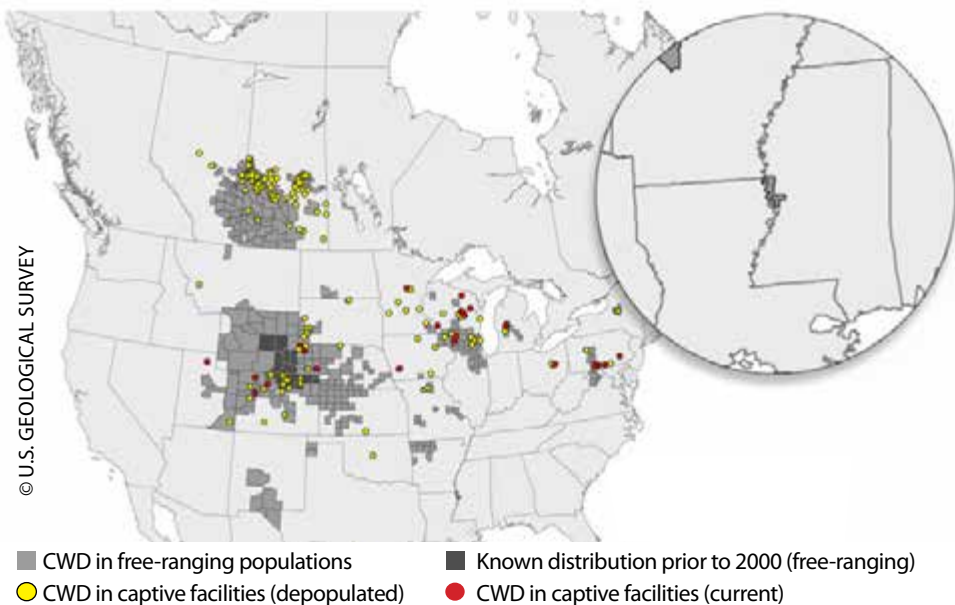
We know the clinical signs of CWD are emaciation, incoordination, a drooping head and ears, and excessive drooling, drinking and

also know that CWD can be expensive. Wisconsin has spent over \$49 million on CWD since 2002, and sadly the CWD infection rate in the “core area” of Wisconsin continues to climb.

What to expect

As hunters and managers, what can we expect in the future? We can expect CWD will likely be found in new states and provinces and in new areas of current CWD-positive states and provinces. We can expect to see a lot of research on CWD, its mode(s) of transmission, etc., and we can expect pressure from deer farmers to open state or provincial borders and allow movement of captive animals. We can also expect changes in deer season regulations such as extended seasons and increased bag limits. Currently, the best way to limit the spread of CWD in free-ranging herds is to stop the movement of captive deer and elk and to stop the movement of high-risk parts of harvested deer.

Distribution of Chronic Wasting Disease in North America



region by leaps that would result from yearling dispersal. Future research will hopefully shed more light on exact modes of transmission.

What do we know?

We know CWD is always fatal and there is no vaccine, cure or practical live animal test. The best current live animal test uses tonsil tissue, but it is ineffective in elk and not applicable for large-scale use in deer. We know the probability of infection increases with age in whitetail bucks and does, and that in some populations adult bucks are nearly twice as likely as adult does to be infected. You need to keep this statistic in perspective, however, as many deer populations contain a much higher percentage of

urination. It is important to note these symptoms are also seen in deer infected with epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) or bluetongue. EHD and bluetongue are the most common deer diseases, and they routinely kill deer throughout the Southeast on a nearly annual basis. We know CWD’s clinical signs typically develop from one and a half to three years after exposure. Thus, infected deer generally appear healthy while they may be passing the disease to others. No deer has ever recovered once clinical signs developed, and animals generally live from a few weeks to several months after developing clinical signs. We

There is no cure, test or vaccine.

Will CWD mark the end of deer hunting? Probably not, but we must be vigilant to balance deer herds with their habitats, minimize transmission of CWD in infected areas, prevent introduction of CWD in new areas and support research and state agencies’ efforts. The sum of these items equates to being a good steward of our deer resource. For more information on CWD, visit the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance website at www.cwd-info.org.

The QDMA is an international nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. Contact 1-800-209-DEER or www.QDMA.com.

Ridgeville, South Carolina: LOWCOUNTRY FIELD OF DREAMS



by Paul Hanson, Recreational Lease Manager

They say all good things start with a simple idea, and that's exactly what happened in 2005 when a few members of Camp Hall Hunt Club were sitting around a fire talking.

The idea was born that night to provide a hunting experience to children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to harvest a deer.

Lowcountry Field of Dreams, formerly known as Camp Hall Field of Dreams,



provides a hunting experience to children with lifelong and life-threatening illnesses. The first hunt back in 2005 was a three-day hunt led by President Billy Wayne Chambers and 18 volunteers. With support from SCDNR, Take One Make One and several local hunt clubs, Lowcountry Field of Dreams was able to host 10 local children on deer hunts.

The Duke Camp

By year four, the program had expanded to a four-day hunt for 25 children, with over 65 volunteers.

The local hunt clubs had been providing housing, but with the increasing number of children, they soon ran out of places to stay. That year the organization moved to the Duke Camp in Ridgeville, SC. Built in the 1940s, it served as a POW camp

where German soldiers worked to create pulpwood for the local mill. The property, previously owned by Westvaco and now Weyerhaeuser, consists of a mess hall, two bathhouses and five bunkhouses, and it is leased to Lowcountry Field of Dreams for year-round use. While the main event is the October deer hunt, many other recreational activities take place there, including a dove hunt in January, a turkey hunt in March, striped bass fishing in May, catfishing in July, and a second deer hunt in December. All activities are

based out of the Duke Camp.

According to Angela Panish, secretary for the Lowcountry Field of Dreams, "Putting on events of this size truly

takes a community effort. We hold two fundraising events throughout the year to help fund all that we do.

Putting on events of this size truly takes a community effort.

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Field of Dreams

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"Local farmers provide us on average about 12,000 pounds of corn to distribute among the stands of local landowners and hunt clubs, many of whom shut down hunting before our event.

Community support

"As our organization continues to grow, every year we have landowners offering places for us to take the

children hunting, from Colleton County to Kingstree, from Santee to the coast. We have local volunteers and businesses who offer to provide and prepare our afternoon and evening meals. A local processor donates his services to provide our

families with meat, and our taxidermists donate their time so that we can present the children with a mount of their harvest.

Great volunteers

"None of this would be possible without the volunteers, men and women who take time off from work to be there for each event. These awesome volunteers make sure all the tree stands and box blinds are safe. They clean up and



prepare the camp, putting in countless hours, while spreading the word about what they do and why they do it. They make lasting memories with children in the great outdoors."

None of this would be possible without the volunteers.

The Lowcountry Field of Dreams is a tremendous club, thanks in part to Billy Wayne Chambers. The Duke Camp also serves as a summer lodging and learning center for

Clemson University's Forestry students, which Billy Wayne graciously helps coordinate. Weyerhaeuser is honored to be the owner of the Duke Camp property and participate with the Lowcountry Field of Dreams.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the winners of a \$100 Cabela's gift card for participating in our most recent customer survey! We appreciate you and everyone that took time to give us thoughts through this survey.



CLUB NAME	STATE	COUNTY	CLUB NAME	STATE	COUNTY
Stringfellows Hunting Club	Alabama	Butler	In The Lake Hunting Club	Mississippi	Lawrence
Oak Valley Hunting Club	Alabama	Greene	Spring Creek Hunting Club	Mississippi	Webster
Alum Branch Hunting Club	Arkansas	Saline	Sucarnoochee Hunting Club	Mississippi	Kemper
Ken-Folks Hunting Club	Arkansas	Union	Steves Still Hunters	North Carolina	Craven
The Hunter Family	Mississippi	Wilkerson	Wanna Be Hunting Club	Georgia	Polk

Helpful Hints and Tips for 2018 Lease Renewals

Switch to managing your lease documents online to save time and money.

Administrative fees for paper-document customers are increasing for 2018.

With online account administration, you will be able to:

- Accept and sign your lease renewal contract online with just a few clicks.
- Pay for your lease renewal online by credit card or electronic funds transfer from a checking or savings account. (This option is offered to online customers only.)
- View, print and download your lease contract documents and maps as needed.
- Maintain your club's membership lists and grant members online access to view lease documents.
- Receive automatic email notifications when your lease documents are ready.
- Reduce the total cost of your lease renewal by saving the \$100 paper (mail) administrative fee.

Start saving today!

2018 Lease Renewal Timelines

COMMUNICATION AND TASKS	AL, FL, GA NC, SC, VA	AR, LA, MS, OK, TX, WV
Leaseholders receive an estimated 2018/2019 lease price.	February 20	February 23
Leaseholders provide updated club member information.	Deadline: March 15	Deadline: March 26
Leaseholders with registered campsites provide updated camp information.	Deadline: March 15	Deadline: March 26
Leaseholders receive 2018/2019 lease renewal agreements.	April 10	April 30
Pay in full to receive early renewal discount or make first installment payment.* (*Available for electronic payments only.)	Deadline: May 15	Deadline: June 15
Full payment due (no early discount or installment plan).	Deadline: June 1	Deadline: July 1
New leases marketed on website.	Mid-June	Mid-July
Second installment payment due.	Deadline: July 15	Deadline: August 15
Leaseholders enroll in campsite or food plot rental programs.	See program information at www.wyrecreation.com	

AVOID GETTING BITTEN

by Carol Smith, Lease Specialist

At some point in time, all hunters run across many creatures, some almost too small to see, that have the potential to cause real problems.

A common occurrence involves fallen trees, logs or other debris that may lie in our path.

Depending on the size of the log, we might jump or climb over it and go on about our way. But do you ever look back at the log? You might be surprised at what you see. Many stories have been told about “that big rattler” lying next to the log. Looking back, hunters may be shocked as to how close they came to stepping on a snake. For whatever reason, snakes often curl up next to logs, whether to avoid the hot sun or lie in wait for a meal — and when something moves close, they strike.

SNAKES ALIVE!

Depending on what part of our great country you call home, poisonous snakes of various sizes, colors and degrees of danger may crawl, swim or climb directly in your path of travel. There are an estimated

45,000 snakebites per year in the United States. Of those, 8,000 are by venomous snakes. Did you know that five to 10 deaths occur each year from snakebites? Even those that aren't fatal aren't pleasant.

The large majority of snakes are afraid of humans and would rather go the opposite direction. However, a startled or frightened snake will defend itself. Learn about the types of snakes that are native to your area, and know the difference between venomous and non-venomous snakes.

A few ways to help prevent a possible snakebite include:

1. Don't stick your hand or foot into a crevice or hole. Snakes will often hide in these damp, cool places around your camp or home.
2. Snakes can climb trees, so be careful when walking under low-hanging branches.
3. Dress in protective clothing like heavy boots and loose-fitting long pants. Never go barefoot or wear sandals in an area that is known to have snakes.

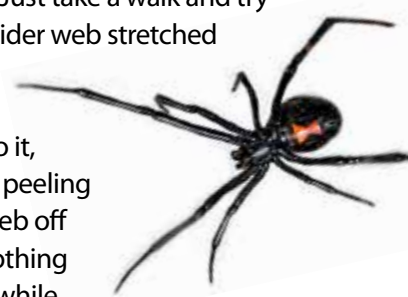
If a venomous snake bites you, stay calm and get to a hospital as quickly as you can. Keep the bitten body part below your heart, if possible, and don't drive unless you have no other choice. Don't waste time trying to kill or capture the snake so you can show the doctor what kind of snake you were bitten by — just get to help quickly. And forget about cutting the bite, sucking out the poison or applying a tourniquet; none of these treatments are recommended.

POISONOUS SPIDERS

Wherever you live, you will most likely find spiders. Just take a walk and try to avoid a spider web stretched across the path. Once you walk into it, good luck in peeling that sticky web off your face, clothing and hair — while you avoid the spider that made it. Most spiders are harmless, and their webs harm us more than the spider itself. But there are poisonous spiders you need to know about and avoid.

Hunters are especially likely to find spiders. Remember that old hunting

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Avoid Getting Bitten

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bag you put away last winter? It makes a cozy habitat for spiders and other crawling creatures.



The Black Widow and Brown Recluse are two poisonous spiders that are notorious for settling in dark places. People rarely die when bitten by one of these spiders, but in small children and the elderly life-threatening reactions can occur. The venom from these spiders, and others, can cause muscle cramps, weakness, respiratory difficulties and a variety of health issues, including abdominal pain.

A few other places you may encounter spiders are in closets, storage buildings, box and tree stands, and around stacks of firewood. Boots and camping gear that have been untouched since last hunting season are also nice hiding places for spiders. So the next time you reach for that stick of firewood or enter your camper for the first time in months, be on the lookout for eight-legged intruders.

If you do get bitten, there are a number of self-care remedies that can help if applied early. Both cold and warm compresses, hot baths and over-the-counter pain relievers have been known to help. But the best care is to see your physician as soon as possible.

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TICKS AND CHIGGERS CATCH A RIDE

What hunter can refuse the lure of ripe wild blackberries? We've all done

it, and the best ones are always just out of reach, which means you must work your way through the briars. Surprise! Juicy berries may not be all you gathered. Blackberry bushes are notorious for chigger populations.

Ticks and chiggers can be found most anywhere with trees, brush, weeds, leaves or other vegetation.



In the U.S., ticks are the leading carrier of disease to humans, with Lyme disease the most common tick-borne illness. The longer a tick stays on you, the greater your chances of getting a disease. So be sure to check yourself after spending time in the woods.

Chiggers are mostly just an irritant, but they do cause intense itching and swelling. They usually go undetected until we actually begin to itch. By that time, the only option is to treat the symptoms.

Ticks and chiggers both are out in force from early May to mid-October, especially in the thickest vegetation. To help fend them off, use insect repellent on shoes, socks and pants legs. Tucking your pant legs into your boots can also be helpful. Bathing immediately after returning from areas that might be infested can be a great help, too.

FLYING INSECTS

How many times have we climbed into our blinds before daylight only to be run out a few hours later as the



temperature begins to rise? More times than we probably would like to admit. To help prevent this, pre-season maintenance on deer and turkey blinds is a must.

Bees and wasps cause more American deaths than any other creatures — nearly 100 a year. The impacts of stings can differ greatly. They're generally painful, with burning and swelling in the area stung, but for those individuals who are allergic, stings can be deadly.

Two areas where bees and wasps like to congregate in stands are on the ceiling and underneath chairs. On ladder stands or other metal stands, any open-ended tubing or railing is another great place for these insects to congregate. But a little attention to our stands and blinds in late summer can make our early season hunts a lot more enjoyable. Visit every stand and inspect for bees and wasps. This is also a perfect time to inspect straps, safety chains and ropes for hoisting guns or bows. Confirm their durability and safety.



"Don't be safety blinded; be safety minded." Be alert to your surroundings and always aware of the hidden dangers that lurk in your neck of the woods. A little preparation before and after an outdoor adventure can reduce their impact on our lives.

Easy-Access Online Account Features

Every Weyerhaeuser Recreation Lease customer should know and use a dozen features of your club's online account that can make your life easier.

Whether you're checking your account for notifications, making payments, or searching for available leases, it's all in one place. From home, work, or on the go via mobile device, www.wyrecreation.com lets you manage your lease documents when you need them and stay informed of harvest and land sale activities that could take place on your lease.

Click **Resources** for program FAQs and campsite or wildlife info

Need additional club members?
Check the box to display this lease to prospective members online

View an aerial map of
harvest and land sale data

Weyerhaeuser Premier Outdoor Recreational Access

gulfadmin@weyerhaeuser.com | Edit Login | LOG OFF

SEARCH OPPORTUNITIES MY LEASES MY PERMITS RESOURCES CONTACT US

BIG BUCK HUNTING CLUB
Club Contact: GULF ADMIN
GULFADMIN@WEYERHAEUSER.COM
123 HUNT CLUB DRIVE
DALLAS, TX
853-248-8872
EDIT CONTACT

MEMBER LIST TX-8000 - PENDING

Lease Details

Display this lease to prospective members on the web

Name:	TX-8000	Status:	Pending
Location:	East Texas	Acres:	40
Start Date:	07/01/2018	Balance:	\$396.55
End Date:	06/30/2019	Lease Account:	01/31/2018

Amenity Name: Amenity Type: Contract: Areas

LS8000	Camp site:	0.25
ST8000	Structure:	1

Action Required
Select payment method:

- Pay online from Checking Account (EFT) or by Credit Card
For more information on payment amounts, please view your Contract under Documents.
- Pay by Cashier's Check or Money Order
Print the invoice that will display for this option and mail with payment and write your lease number on the payment.

Interactive Maps
PREVIEW DIRECTIONS

Step 1 (optional): Select layer(s) to display (Forest Type, Harvest Units or Potential Land Sale) by toggling on/off, then go to Step 2.

Forest Type Harvest Units

POTENTIAL LAND SALE

Step 2: Click on one of the printable map formats (Aerial, Location or Topographic) to view your selection.

AFRIAL LOCATION TOPOGRAPHIC

Documents
TX-8000 Contract.pdf

Have a question about program offerings such as how to apply for a campsite or wildlife opening? Simply review the **Resources** tab in your online account for answers to these questions and more.

More features on the next page.

Easy-Access Online Account Features

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Contact Us

I have a question about my: * Permit Lease

Select a Hunt Club *
BIG BUCK HUNTING CLUB ▾

Select a L...
TX-8000 ▾

SUBMIT QUESTION SUBMIT ROAD MAINTENANC...

To submit a Road Maintenance Request, click the button to open a new email. Complete the information in the email and attach any photos and maps of the road damage area.

Additional Guidance For Reporting Road Conditions on Your Lease:

Report major road conditions such as:

- A creek crossing is washed away or damaged due to high water events.
- Water diversion devices (water bars, wing ditches, etc.) on the road have failed and water is running down the road.
- Erosion is actively occurring to the road and the road has become impassible or will soon become impassible.

Do NOT report minor road conditions such as:

- The road is in functioning condition, but club members want a smoother ride.
- There are stretches of roads on the lease that get too boggy or slick during wet conditions. Club members should stay off these areas during vulnerable periods to protect the road for the long term. Use an ATV, walk, or apply gravel to trouble spots.
- The main access road is in good shape, but the side road is in poor condition. As long as erosion is not actively occurring, side roads will not receive repair. Use an ATV or walk.

Requests for road maintenance will be reviewed in the order received. Click on the Send A Road Maintenance Request button below to open up a new email message to send your request.

SEND A ROAD MAINTENANCE REQUEST

* required fields

12 Easy-Access Online Account Features every customer should know.



Do you need to report a road that is in poor condition? Click **Contact Us** in your online account to review guidelines for reporting road conditions and to submit a request for road maintenance.

Visit www.wyrecreation.com to log in. From **My Accounts** you can:

1. Quickly access and accept your lease agreement.
2. Review account balance and pay invoices.
3. View and print aerial and topographic maps of your lease.
4. Edit primary account information and settings.
5. Manage club membership list including email, phone and addresses.
6. Review potential harvest and land sale listings.
7. Advertise your hunting club as seeking new members.
8. Qualify for priority viewing of available lease offerings.
9. Ask a question via the Contact Us form.
10. Submit a road maintenance request.
11. Access announcements, FAQs, and details about campsites and food plot programs.
12. Search available leases and permits and sign-up to be notified of new listings.



One Sweet Slate Call

by Clay Johnston, Dentist and Hunter, Brookhaven, MS

Spring is here, and it couldn't get here fast enough. I really looked forward to my thirty-first season of pursuing the wild turkey.

Dyed-in-the-wool turkey hunters out there will feel great respect and appreciation as they read this article. For the green-behind-the-ears novice hunter, this article may come across in several different ways — from irrational to sympathetic. In the end, I hope it gives novices something to look forward to in their turkey hunting careers.

For the record, this is a true story. I share it with anyone who comes to my home to visit and view my turkey hunting keepsakes.

This adventure takes place in 2006. I had just gotten back from a trip to Campeche, Mexico, and was successful in taking an ocellated turkey. One of my friends picked me up at the airport in Atlanta, Georgia. My plans were to hunt with him for three days and then return home to Mississippi. We were going to be hunting in the Oconee National Forest there in Georgia.

Much gobbling, no tom

The first two days were filled with great hunting action and much gobbling, but no success in bagging an ol' tom. The third and final day was filled with anticipation, especially with all of the close calls we'd had the previous days. I also knew I had a flight to catch, which would limit my hunt to a few hours that morning and then I would need to leave.

That third morning was no different than the previous ones. We heard several birds, eventually settling for the closest, knowing that time was of the essence. After the ol' tom flew down, we moved a couple more times in the swampy hardwood bottom trying to coax him to us. We finally got in good position one ridge over from him, about 100 yards away. We sat next to this huge

boulder that was at least 10 feet high and big enough around that two kids could easily play a good game of hide and go seek.

It took what seemed like an eternity to call him away from his hens, but truthfully it was only about an hour. My friend had asked me to use his new Mossberg 835 shotgun to kill my Georgia turkey, and I had accepted his offer without hesitation. Once I had lured

the gobbler to within 40 yards, I let the new Mossberg sound off and did my friend the honor of breaking in his new shotgun.

The call that worked

Typically, I am primarily a mouth diaphragm caller. I prefer having my hands on my gun as a turkey is approaching my set-up and being able to make that last quiet call by mouth, therefore minimizing any movement that may alarm the bird. Favoritism or partiality to a specific call never comes about as long I get the job done. I may use a box call, slate call, the leaves of the forest floor (sounding like turkeys scratching), etc. if it will help me be successful.

That particular morning the seductive purrs from my custom slate call — made by legendary call maker Harry Blodgett of Iowa — helped convince that ol' tom that the grass may be a little greener where I was.

Partiality to a specific call never comes about as long I get the job done.

This call had been given to me by a good friend who had done most of my taxidermy work through the years. It was a gift of appreciation for taking him,

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One Sweet Slate Call

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and helping him be successful, on his first Osceola turkey hunt back in 2002. This call wasn't just the average run-of-the-mill slate call. It had the sweetest sound, like no other, when it came to purring and soft yelping. This is what the seasoned turkey hunter understands clearly and beginner turkey hunters are learning about every time they go to the woods.

Big fool?

After I successfully connected on that April Fools Day (April 1), we jumped up and grabbed my turkey in the blink of an eye. We wasted no time getting back to the vehicle, and then headed for my friend's home in order to get to the Atlanta airport. As we headed to his home, it hit me like a ton of bricks — in the heat of the moment, running to my downed turkey, I never returned to pick up my slate call!

I told my friend to turn the vehicle around and head back for me to get my call. He explained that we wouldn't make it to the airport in time, and that he would be glad to get my call the next day. I was very reluctant, but I submitted to my friend's assurance that he could find my call in the Oconee.

Now, let me explain my reluctance. See, my friend of 3.5 years (at that time) had not been hunting very much. He was just beginning to learn about hunting and being in the woods, and he was very unsure of himself as he navigated. Knowing this made me uneasy that he would not be able to find my slate call. I could give a seasoned woodsman directions to find it with no problem. Those directions would be the

following: walk a quarter of a mile down a fire break, veer left when you dead end into a creek, the creek splits to the left making it shallow enough to cross with knee high rubber boots. Once across go to the right, climb over the trunk of a huge downed beech tree, walk 50 to 60 yards across a slough, walk up a slight hill, at the top will be the huge boulder I mentioned earlier, on the other side lies my slate call and striker. Pretty simple for the avid woodsman.

Not letting it go

Well, my friend said he went back several times to look for my slate call and striker but was unsuccessful each time. I finished up my turkey season that spring and was just not satisfied with letting it go. As always, I tend to put honey-do's and chores off till after turkey season if at all possible, so it will usually take me several weekends after turkey season ends to catch up on things. That put me into July.

This is where it may get irrational for some, but others will appreciate my actions. I came home from work one Thursday afternoon and told my wife I would see her Sunday because I was going to get my slate call in Georgia. She never questioned me because she knew me all too well. I drove through the night, taking one break to catch some shut-eye. Eight-plus driving hours later, I arrived the next morning where we had parked our vehicle that spring morning of the turkey hunt. I proceeded to put on my snake-proof boots and walk in and out in all of 13 minutes, retrieving my slate call and striker. Of course, it was very

weathered from rain and sunshine during those previous 3.5 months. I made the most of the weekend by visiting a college friend, and we took in an Atlanta Braves baseball game.

To this day, I have never told my friend that I went back to get my slate call and striker. Knowing his lack of confidence of getting around in the woods, I didn't want to cause him to feel any more inadequate while hunting. Woodsmanship only comes with countless hours in the woods. One learns to pick up on certain landmarks such as a fallen tree, a large boulder, sun direction, etc. in helping to navigate around in the woods. I just didn't think it was necessary to tell my friend and hurt his confidence.

The slate call sits on display in my office at home. It didn't sound the same after it warped from the weather conditions. Even Mr. Blodgett tried to refinish it, but never again did it sound oh-so-sweet like before. Yet through the years it has given me countless chances to share with others this true story, and now it's given me one more.

This is where it may get irrational for some.



A REAL BEAUTY

by Paul Durfield, Senior Lease Manager

With its beautiful purple berries and lush green leaves, American Beautyberry (*Calicarpa Americana*) is one of the most aptly named plants in the southern forest.

It is not only one of the more eye-catching native shrubs, it also is a preferred food source for many species of wildlife.

American Beautyberry is often found on moist soils and frequently under a pine canopy. It also grows well on road margins and when a new pine plantation is established. Being a native shrub, American Beautyberry survives in the seed bank and emerges when the soil and light conditions are just right. The plant is easily recognized by its bright purple berries that grow in clusters encircling the stem at regular intervals. The shrub can grow between six and nine feet tall, often in loose colonies.

The wildlife benefits of American Beautyberry are many. The fleshy, purple fruit is consumed by more than 40 species of songbirds, including the American Robin, Northern Cardinal, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Purple Finch and Eastern Towhee. The green foliage is a preferred forage for whitetail deer during the summer months when other preferred foods may be scarce. Deer then readily consume the fruit in the autumn after leaf fall. Many other small mammals also rely on the fruit as a valuable food source.

The next time you come across American Beautyberry while

scouting for deer in the late summer, remember the value this shrub has as a food source. Who knows, you may have just found your perfect stand location.

For more information on common forest plants and their wildlife benefits, I recommend *Forest Plants of the Southeast* by James H. Miller and Karl V. Miller, published by the Southern Weed Society. This book contains all the information on the ecology and wildlife benefits of the most common plants of the Southeastern forests.



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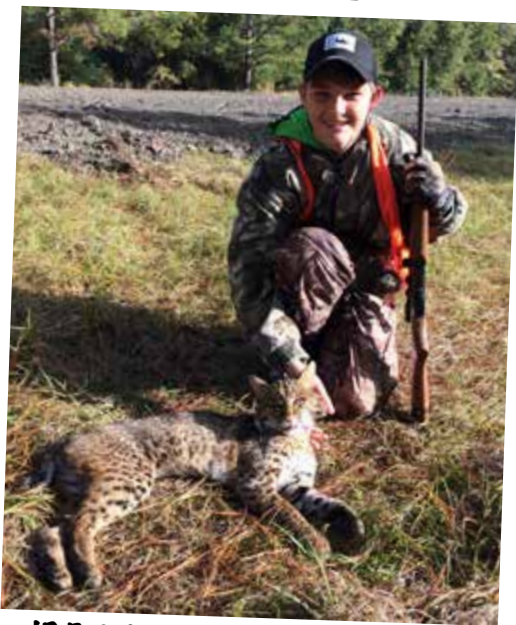
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