HERALD THURSDAY, PAGE 12 2019

Conservation Corner by James Cummins **Executive Director** of Wildlife Mississippi

Almost a year ago, Janu- about it. ary 25, 2018, in Issaguena CWD is an infectious tailed deer.

County, Mississippi, a 4.5 prion disease that occurs in year old male, white-tailed at least five cervid species. deer tested positive for Cervids are hoofed mamchronic wasting disease mals in the deer family. (CWD). This is the first time The native North Amerian animal in Mississippi has can cervid species in which tested positive for the dis- CWD has been found are ease, which is fatal to white- the white-tailed deer, mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, The disease has since been moose, and caribou. CWD found in Pontotoc and Mar- belongs to a group of disshall counties. This article, eases known as transmisthe first in a four-part series, sible spongiform encephawill give you a closer look lopathies (TSEs). Mad cow at CWD. It will touch on the disease, although distinctly various challenges posed different from CWD, is also by this disease and begin to a TSE. CWD causes a charupdate you about the status acteristic spongy degeneraof CWD and what we know tion of the brain resulting

in loss of appetite, loss of weight, an insatiable thirst, abnormal behavior, loss of body functions, and death. Deer infected with CWD tend to stay away from herds, walk in patterns, carry their head low, salivate, and grind their teeth. Despite its likely occurrence in multiple locations since the 1960s or earlier, many wildlife and animal health professionals, as well as the public, perceive CWD as having emerged and spread rapidly only since the early 2000s. This perception has fostered the broader notion that the disease is a recent occurrence. To the contrary,

Líttle ads

given imperfect surveillance approaches, incomplete or inaccurate knowledge about local exposure risks, and the progression of an outbreak in its early stages, the first case detected in a locale is rarely the first case that has occurred.

CWD history remains indocumented; completely was first recognized in captive mule deer held for research in Colorado in the 1960s. CWD has been reported in captive and/ or free- ranging deer in 26 U.S. states, 3 Canadian provinces, South Korea, and Norway. Natural and human controlled factors have contributed to the geographic spread and persistence of CWD.

Natural factors include CWD prions' environmental persistence and the movement of wild deer.

Human factors include wildlife disease merits great movement of infected live attention. Collective experianimals (and perhaps infecences and observations made tious tissues and other mate- over the last 5 decades can rials), concentration of nor- serve—for better or worse mally dispersed wild deer, as a solid foundation for and other artificial manage- wildlife and animal health ment practices.

ology and ecology are now challenges posed by CWD in well understood, but effec- the decades to come. tive management and control strategies remain incom- I will present an overview of plete. Eradicating CWD will what professionals regard as not be easily done. Regard- the key lessons learned over less, flexible and responsive the first 5 or more decades approaches for containing of North America's experiit and reducing infection ence with CWD. and transmission rates have shown some promise. Such is executive director of pursuits undoubtedly will be Wildlife Mississippi, more difficult to obtain sup- non-profit, conservation orport for, particularly when ganization founded to condisease control measures serve, restore and enhance will negatively impact or fish, wildlife and plant reconflict with commercial sources throughout Missishunting.

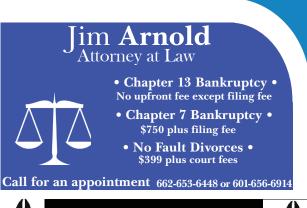
Moving forward,

professionals to build upon Many facets of CWD bi- in addressing anticipated

In the next three columns,

James L. Cummins sippi. Their web site is www. this wildlifemiss.org.

Businesses and Services Directory











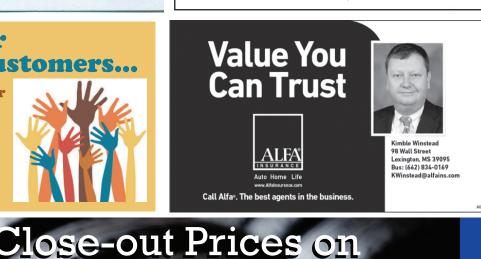




Senior Citizen Discount Mon.-Wed.

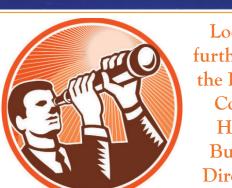












Look no further than the Holmes County Herald Business Directory!



Ford



