



The Only One and Only

Two of our three daughters were born in the South Zone of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We lived in the North Zone, separated from our doctor’s office and hospital

by a tunnel-pierced mountain range. During Denalyn’s many months of pregnancy, we made the drive often. We didn’t complain. Signs of life do a samba on every



Most people think that during the summer there is an ample supply of browse for deer to eat. Many people think that since the sweetgums, hickories, and oaks are green again, deer will be healthy. Everything that is green is not food for deer and may not meet a deer’s daily nutritional needs.

Deer are similar to people in the manner in which they feed. There are certain foods that we love to eat, those that we will eat, and those that we would eat only if we were starving. The trees above are in the last category—just good enough to fill them up. If you hunt in an area that shows a lot of browsing on these trees, your herd is probably in need of management.

Several foods that fit into the middle choice category are American beautyberry, dogwood, elm, maple, and magnolia. These species provide moderate nutrition but your deer herd will have a hard time maintaining proper nutrition on these foods.

One of the reasons these low and moderate foods become a main ingredient in deer diets is due to overbrowsing on first choice foods. A reduction in the number of animals of the deer herd is usually needed when this type of overbrowsing occurs.

There are many desirable foods for deer. These include honeysuckle, yellow jasmine, greenbriar, and blackberry.

If you’ve read many articles about food plots or if you farm or like gardening, you may be aware of the nu-

trient deficiencies in soils in Mississippi. Calcium, and more importantly, phosphorus, are the primary elements for proper antler growth and are both generally low in our soils. Soil tests are an inexpensive method to determine nutrient needs. Applications of essential nutrients can produce a hidden food plot that only you and the deer are aware of. Fertilized vegetation, such as the first choice items described above, grows more vigorously, are more palatable, and will be visited more.

However, with fertilizer, more is not always better. One nutrient that is often recommended for food plots is lime. You can and should apply lime to planted and native foods so the fertilizer will work properly. Again, a soil test will help.

You will often see a benefit of better native vegetation growth on the edge of food plots due to the extra sunlight hitting their edges. Direct sunlight is the key to good forage production. With that in mind, you should try to grow your vegetation in areas that are more open, such as, roadsides, right-of-ways, and newly thinned plantations. A little fertilizer in these spots will increase plant growth and provide the nutrition required by deer.

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street corner. Copacabana and her bathers. Ipanema and her coffee bars. Gavea and her glamour. We never begrudged the South Zone forays. But they sure did bewilder me. I kept getting lost. I’m directionally challenged anyway, prone to take a wrong turn between the bedroom and the bathroom. Complicate my disorientation with randomly mapped three-hundred-year-old streets, and I don’t stand a chance.

I had one salvation. Jesus. Literally, Jesus. The Christ the Redeemer statue. The figure stands guard over the city, one hundred twenty-five feet tall with an arm span of nearly a hundred feet. More than a thousand tons of reinforced steel. The head alone measures ten feet from chin to scalp. Perched a mile and a half above sea level on Corcovado Mountain, the elevated Jesus is always visible. Especially to those who are looking for it. Since I was often lost, I was often looking. As a sailor seeks land, I searched for the statue, peering between the phone lines and rooftops for the familiar face. Find him and find my bearings.

John 3:16 offers you an identical promise. The verse elevates Christ to thin-air loftiness, crowning him with the most regal of titles: “One and Only Son.”

Do what I did in Rio. Seek

him out. Lift up your eyes, and set your sights on Jesus. No passing glances or occasional glimpses. Enroll in his school. Make him your polestar, your point of reference. Search the crowded streets

and shadow-casting roofs until you spot his face, and then set your sights on him. You’ll find more than a hospital. You’ll find the Only One and Only.

Art on the rocks



Children at the Durant Public Library enjoyed painting rocks this past week as part of the library’s summer reading activities. The program was led by Krystal Ashley, pictured standing center, of Durant. Pictured are (from left): Lily Daves, Jagger Daves, Skylar Ashley, Krystal Ashley, Mrs. Stewart, Emeri Stewart and Brooke Hicks.

(Photo submitted)

Owls Swoop into July 21 Championship



The Central Mississippi Owls Football Team is geared to finish off their 2018 season, which runs from April to July, during the Mid-South Elite Football League Championship game this Saturday at Provine High School on Hughes Field in Jackson. The team, comprised of young men from Holmes County aged 18 and up, is continuing on in its second year, the team was organized and founded by Jevonte Walden, of Lexington. The Mid-South Elite Football League encompasses all of Mississippi and parts of Louisiana and Tennessee. The 2018 Central Mississippi Owls are: C. J. Willis, Virgil Williams, DeAnthony Parrott, Earnest Mayers, Shaquille Mabry, Eric Redmond, Chris Dixon, Tyrun Lemon, Adrian Moore, Demarcus Friend, Ladarius Kirklin, Keontae Brown, Peter Reeves, Brad Crockett, Kennard Edwards, Verron Garvis, Quan Brown, Delo Tillman, JT Giles, Rotavious Thurmond, Kendrick Blue, Rodney Mabry, Keair Kelly, Jocquel Scott, Antonio Parrott, Eli Love, L. Johnson, Quan Brooks, Unterious Butler, Devin Riley, Micheal Gordon, Regis Wilson, Jarvis Berry, Anthony Junior, Johnathon Lampkin, Lewis Washington, Antonio Boose, Lacurtis Walton, Sam Washington, Jamerson Johnson, Jawandrick Anderson, Darius Redmond, Kortez Anderson, Otis Thurmond, Anthony Washington, Danny Neal and Markus Lemon.

(Photo submitted)

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