

# SQUIRRELS: Small-game hunting can create great fun

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later in the winter.

Without dogs, people can still hunt rabbits, but must work harder for them. Some hunters take turns smashing through thick cover while their partners wait on the edges watching for anything bolting out to escape. Some hunters walk field edges at first or last light looking for rabbits to emerge from cover to eat succulent shoots.

High waters covered much of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta during the 2018-19 hunting season and afterward. Squirrels can easily climb trees to escape rising water. Rabbits can find higher ground. When a flood happens in a swampy river system like the delta, the waters clean out a lot of underbrush and debris. The flood waters also deposit rich soil



Photo by John N. Felsher

Jim Sealy of Citronelle shows off a rabbit he killed.

that encourages new growth for better mast and browse production.

“We had a lot of flooding in the delta earlier in the year, but the animals that live there are used to that,” Harms explained. “I don’t

think it will affect the rabbit and squirrel populations at all. It’s been dry enough for the past few months for the populations to be fine.”

Because of high water, the roads through the upper delta remained closed for

much of the 2018-19 season. However, this summer, the state did considerable repair work to roads and bridges in that area. That should give sportsmen without boats better access this season.

“We haven’t been able to do any major road work in the delta for the past several years,” Harms said. “This year, we were able to get a grader and work on the roads through the swamp. We graded all the main roads and got rid of a lot of slush. We graded down to the old roadbeds and added some rocks. Barring any flooding or major storms, the roads should be in good condition when the seasons open this fall.”

Whether hunting squirrels or rabbits, small-game hunting can create great fun and lasting memories.

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