

Kentucky Afield Outdoors: Despite unusual weather, waterfowl season looks promising

By **LEE MCCLELLAN**
KENTUCKY AFIELD

The shot of cold that greeted Kentucky earlier in November pushed many waterfowl into the state, which should portend a great opening to the waterfowl hunting season which opened Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28.

"We have more birds early than we've had in a really long time," said John Brunjes, migratory bird coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "We recently saw 20,000 to 30,000 ducks at Ballard Wildlife Management Area (WMA). We are in a better spot that we've been this early in the season in a long time."

Wes Little, migratory bird biologist for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, said Sloughs WMA near Henderson held white-fronted and snow geese last week, likely pushed from the upper Midwest and Canada by the recent cold snap.

"I saw great numbers of ducks at Sloughs and there should be plenty of birds for opening day," Little said.

The heavy rainfall across Kentucky early in 2019 resulted in the record pool level at Lake Cumberland and extremely late planting of crops for waterfowl on wildlife

management areas in western Kentucky.

"On some places such as Doug Travis WMA, the water from spring didn't come down until August," Brunjes said. "It was August 20. We just could not get into some areas until then. We try to plant crops when we can. High water was a common problem across the Mississippi Flyway."

Brunjes said the good news is the wet conditions charged the moist soil habitat loved by waterfowl. "It is one of the best moist soil habitat years we've had," he said. "The wild millet and smartweed in the moist soil areas should provide plenty of food for birds."

Many Kentuckians cannot afford a duck boat, expensive decoys and other accessories necessary for hunting big waters. Farm ponds dot the landscape across the state and provide excellent hunting. Farmers with an abundance of birds, especially Canada geese, may welcome hunters to thin the numbers a bit.

"For farm pond hunting, you need to find places where ducks roost and where they feed, then get permission to a pond in a travel corridor between these areas," Little said. "You want to be

in line with the waterfowl."

Little explained the two most important things for farm pond hunting are concealment and movement of the decoys. "Motion in your decoys is critical, never leave home without a jerk string," he said. "Spinning wing decoys may or may not work, but a jerk string never fails."

Many of the ducks arriving at Kentucky farm ponds are migrating from the north and already educated by encounters with hunters. Concealment becomes paramount.

"Most of our resident mallard ducks are park or city ducks, but the ones in rural areas are usually migrators," Little said. "Blinds made from natural vegetation work best. You need to spend as much time hiding yourself as you do placing decoys."

Some welded wire fence, zip ties and natural vegetation such as tall grass or brush is all you need to build a waterfowl blind for farm pond hunting. Use the zip ties to attach the vegetation to the woven wire fence. "You can build a nice hunting blind for less than \$50," Little said.

Those concerned about their calling prowess should not worry when farm



Ky. Afield Photo

The waterfowl season opened Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, statewide. The recent cold snap pushed great numbers of ducks into Kentucky and portends a productive opening to the duck season. Canada goose numbers remain strong across Kentucky as well. The moist soil habitat preferred by waterfowl is in the best shape in years.

pond hunting. "If you are where the ducks want to be, you don't have to call," Little said. "When calling, less is sometimes more."

Kentucky has more flowing water than just about any other state. Diligent scouting often reveals areas of a creek used by waterfowl as loafing spots or as travel corridors. These areas can provide excellent pass shooting as long as concealment hides the hunter from the birds.

The first segment of duck season closes Dec. 1. Duck season

opens again Dec. 7 and closes Jan. 31, 2020, which is new for the 2019-2020 duck seasons. Previously, duck season closed on the last Sunday in January. Another change for this duck season is the lowering of the northern pintail daily bag limit from two birds to one.

Goose season also opens Nov. 28 and closes Feb. 15, 2020.

The upcoming waterfowl season could be one of the best in years. Nothing beats hearing ducks splashing into a nearby pond on a cold winter morning.

For the record

Green County Sheriff's Department

Kimberley A Bell, no age/address available, was arrested Nov. 24 on a Green County Warrant.

Ashley England, 29, 109 Hillview Terrace, Greensburg, was arrested Dec. 2 by Deputy Tim Stumph on a Green County Warrant, Contempt to Pay Fine.

Norman Warren, 58, 860 Taylor's Chapel Road, Greensburg, was arrested Nov. 28 at the junction of Hwy. 61 and Taylor's Chapel Road by Deputy Nick Paxton on a Green County District Court Warrant, Failure to Appear/Pay Fines/Court Costs and Driving on DUI Suspended License, 1st Offense.

Michelle A. Taylor, 43, 2590 Howard School Road, Greensburg, was arrested Nov. 18 at the Green County Judicial Center on a Green County Warrant charging: Parent or Custodian to Send Child to School, 1st and 2nd offense; Contempt of Court, Libel/Slander Resistance.

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Auction

Real Estate • Cars • Guns • Personal Property

Sat., Dec. 14 • 9 a.m. CT

Owner: Woodrow and Nora Cook

Auction conducted at 1930 Bucknersville Rd, Greensburg, Ky.

Real Estate

Sells at 9 am CT Sharp - Offering 45.6 M/L acres with new survey to be completed before Auction day. Property features a 2-bedroom and 1-bath aluminum siding home with a 1-car garage and apartment combination, outbuildings and large tobacco barn. Farm recently used for cropland and pasture with road frontage on Charlie Rhea Rd, Bucknersville Rd, and Glenview Rd. The Cook farm; 45.6 M/L acres will be offered in the following procedures: Auction #1 - the entire farm in it's entirety. Auction #2 farm will be offered in 9 tracts on price per acre basis whereas the high bidder can elect (in any order) any or all tracts, for their high bid except tract #9 (the home tract) will be offered by the dollar or lump sum.

Cars and Guns

Also offering 2008 Ford Escape showing 118,000, approximately 5 guns to be available Auction morning for viewing stored off site

Personal Property

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Electric Range | • End Tables | • Power Lift for Stairs |
| • China Cabinet | • 2 TVs | • Washer & Dryer |
| • Dinette Set | • What Knots | • Fishing Equipment |
| • Entertainment Center | • Bedroom Suite | • Sears Welder |
| • Power Chair | • Odd Bed & Dresser | • Yard Machine Mower |
| • Living Room Suite | • Gun Cabinet | • White Grader Tiller |
| • 2 Recliners | • Sewing Machine | • Hand Tools |

Many More Items too Numerous to Mention

Terms - 15% non refundable earnest money down Auction day balance on or before January 14th, 2019. Possession will be given at time of closing on all tracts. All tracts free and clear of any farm tenancies for the year 2020. 2019 Real estate taxes paid by seller.

Note - A 10% buyers premium will be added to all winning bids. All personal property paid for in full Auction day before removing from Auction site. A 6% KY sales tax will be added to all items unless you are exempt with Dile Realty & Auction Co. Property will be offered "As Is Where Is" all faults and no contingents. All announcements made from Auction block day of the Auction will take precedence over prior advertising either written or oral. The information in the advertisement is believed to be accurate; however no liability for its accuracy, errors or omission is assumed. Buyers should verify the information for their satisfaction and conduct any inspection and bid by their judgment and conduct any title inspections. This home was built prior to 1978 and may contain Lead Base Paint. Purchasers have 10 days prior to Auction to inspect or sign a waiver day of Auction.

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WED., DEC. 11 @ 3:37 PM EST

LOCATION: Laclede County, KY—Hodgenville Community

—From the square in Hodgenville—take US 31E south approx. 3.4 miles to the intersection of McDowell Rd and US 31E—farm fronts on US 31E and McDowell Rd near the intersection, signs posted. **NOTE:** Sale will be held at 195 Lee Oak Drive, Hodgenville, KY 42748 (right off KY 61)

REASON FOR SALE: By order of the Honorable Judge Alan C. Stout—United States Bankruptcy Court—Western District of Kentucky, Donald McDowell, Debtor in Possession—Chapter 12—Case #19-31474-acs has commissioned Harned Auctioneers to sell the following described property under the hammer!

REAL ESTATE: Selling an outstanding 137.5 farm in one of Laclede County's most sought after agricultural and tourism areas—adjacent to Abraham Lincoln National Park, fronting US HWY 31E and McDowell Rd, only 3.4 miles from Lincoln square in Hodgenville, approx. 10 miles east of Elizabethtown via Lincoln Parkway. Improvements include a 1 1/2 story vinyl sided home (consisting of spacious living room, large country kitchen w/dining area, full bath, large master bedroom, laundry room, additional large bedroom upstairs, vinyl & carpet flooring, painted walls and central heat & air; a 62' X 71' stock barn; 64' X 44' tool shed (w/64' X 16.8' shop included); 100' X 38' tool shed (plus 11' X 100' overhang) total roof coverage 50' X 100'; 112' X 50' hay or machinery barn (enclosed on 3 sides and is in like new condition); 39' X 60' stock barn; 20' X 50' silo w/unloader and 59' mechanical feeder trough (plus 59' X 34' covered feeding area, with additional 20' X 59' shed; and approx. 18,840' of like new top quality fencing. Land consists of 137.5 acres in all—20.27 acres on the northside of McDowell Rd (approx. 18 Ac cropland w/balance in pasture and farmstead areas) while the southside of McDowell Rd and the eastside of US HWY 31E has approx. 117.45 Ac. in all (approx. 61 Ac cropland, 50 Ac in pasture, and approx. 6.45 Ac in scattered woodland) Top quality cropland consists of 42.6 Ac of Bedford soil, 39.1 Ac of Crider and 34.9 Ac of Cumberland, all with 2 to 12 percent slopes. Farm has approx. 1887' road frontage on McDowell Rd and 1545' road frontage on US HWY 31E, is served by county water a long all road frontage, and will sell in 15 tracts.

THE TRACTS: **Tract #1**—7.586 Ac—Approx. 371' Road Frontage (R.F.) on McDowell Rd Approx. 6 Ac cropland—balance pasture. **Tract #2**—6.182 Ac—280' R.F. on McDowell Rd—all cropland. **Tract #3**—6.502 Ac—474' R.F. on McDowell Rd—Approx. 6 Ac cropland—balance scattered trees & pond. **Tract #4**—7.608 Ac—574' R.F. on McDowell Rd—all in grass—fenced for cattle—50' X 100' toolshed. **Tract #5**—9.031 Ac—52' R.F. on McDowell Rd all in grass, top of the hill, farmstead site. **Tract #6**—8.603 Ac—55' R.F. on McDowell Rd all in grass—beautiful rolling pasture. **Tract #7**—19.646 Ac—171' R.F. on McDowell Rd all in grass—good homesite near McDowell Rd. **Tract #8**—10.861 Ac—125' R.F. on McDowell Rd all in grass—80% fenced—2 bedroom frame home—64' X 44' tool shed—62' X 71 stock barn—great farmstead. **Tract #9**—11.381 Ac—252' R.F. on US 31E—mostly cropland—all in grass—partial fencing—great farmstead area. **Tract #10**—11.494 Ac—146' R.F. on US 31E—all in grass—mostly cropland. **Tract #11**—5.849 Ac—344' R.F. on US 31E—all in grass—50' X 112' hay or machinery bldg. **Tract #12**—5.021 Ac—182' R.F. on US 31E—all in grass—pond—100' long feeding area. **Tract #13**—5.10 Ac—232' R.F. on US 31E—all in grass—pond—2 barns—silo. **Tract #14**—5.005 Ac—233' R.F. on US 31E—all in grass—goes great w/Tract 13. **Tract #15**—17.853 Ac—52' R.F. on US 31E—Top quality cropland—all in grass—some fencing—use of access Rd adjacent to property.

TERMS: REAL ESTATE: 20% down day of sale in the form of cash, cashier's check or personal check with current bank letter of credit addressed to Harned Auctioneers, LLC — Balance on or before 30 days w/ delivery of deed. A ten percent (10%) buyers premium will be added to all winning bids. **TAXES:** Pro-rated to delivery of deed. **POSSESSION:** w/deed. **OWNER:** "Donald McDowell"

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