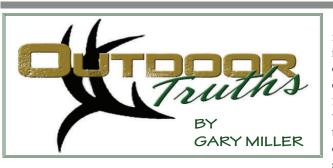
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ting in a tree stand. A few weeks ago I had trimmed limbs and opened up some shooting lanes for this new going to be a good one.

The cool morning was expected as well as the lingering fog that hovers over the hills, sometimes through the late morning. That was the case on this particular day.

As I peered toward the sky after a few more minutes I recognized the familiar look thing from my view.

how quickly the fog began beth put it, "It is a tale told to surrender to the sun and by an idiot, full of sound and it was not too many minutes fury, signifying nothing."

I started the morning sit- later until it was all gone and everything around me became crystal clear.

The lines between the objects that were blurred just stand placement. I think it is a few minutes earlier were now distinct, prominent, and flawless

As I watched this transformation, I was reminded of a quote from C.S. Lewis. He said, "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen. Not only because just before dawn, I wondered I see it, but because by it I if what I was looking at was see everything else." For clouds instead of the fog. But him, Christianity gave perspective to the things in his world. It shone a light of and feel of this hazy mist. It understanding on otherwise wasn't long until I could see confusing circumstances. By the sun began to peek over coming to know his God he the mountains just in front of could appreciate his world. me. It would have its work By contrast, however, he cut out for it today as it be- was saying that without a gan to slowly burn away the proper view of God, life is veil that was hiding every- only one random and undirected action after another. I was actually surprised Or as Shakespeare's Mac-

There is no doubt that life is full of head-scratching moments. Some are fleeting; others shake our very foundation and leave us changed forever. The lens that we view these through will either bring a sense of clarity or a deeper sense of confusion and despair.

I am not saying my faith makes me perfectly understand everything, but it does gives me the same picture as the sun; that no matter what may seem unclear and indistinguishable, it will burn away the longer I am in His presence.

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Troians

(Continued from page.1) continued their winning streak, winning by a score of 55-18. Scoring for the team were Cameron Martin, 19; and Breann Bell, 15.

The Lady Trojans played hard, but, with three starters missing, came up short against Manchester, losing by a score of 30-40. In this game, Breann Bell scored 19 points; and Taylor Spell scored 11.

The Trojans did not play Manchester for the boys' game. Most of the Manchester players were involved in a football playoff game.

All the Trojan teams will

Conservation Corner

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

Estimating the Age of Whitetails in the Field

Deer management is becoming more important to hunters with each passing hunting season. Some clubs have selective harvest strategies that are used to meet certain goals.

The criteria can include gender, minimum antler measurements, and minimum age. In order for these strategies to work, hunters must be able to accurately judge the deer in the field. First, we will discuss

bucks. A 1.5-year-old buck sometimes resembles a doe with antlers. Their muscle characteristics are not as developed as older bucks so their features include a slender neck and long, thin legs with thin hindquarters. Their average weight is 115 pounds. If the buck is closer to 2.5 years old, the hind quarters will be thicker and there will be some neck swelling present during the rut. Their average weight is

return to action after the Thanksgiving break.

side spread of the antlers is and does, there are also ways 12 inches.

approximately 170 pounds to make the distinction beand the chest will appear tween fawns and does. deeper than the hindquarter area. There is noticeable and the fawns continue to swelling during the rut, but grow, they become more easa distinct junction between ily mistaken for adult does the neck and shoulders. The average inside spread of the for a fawn is 65 pounds, the antlers is 14 inches. At 4.5 years of age, a buck will ture doe is over 100 pounds. have most of his adult body Also, a fawn's forehead and size and weight. The waist snout are shorter than an will be as deep as the chest adult doe's. The head of a and the neck will be fully button-buck will appear flatdeveloped and blend into tened while the doe's head the shoulders. The average will be more rounded on top. weight is 180 pounds with an average inside spread of travel together, however, 15 inches on the antlers.

A buck with a sagging naive than adult does. belly and neck and shoulder area that appears to form one least two deer are present big mass is usually between before taking your harvest. 5.5 and 7.5 years of age. His This will allow for comparilegs will appear shorter, his son of the behavioral and eyes will look squinty and physical characteristics bemuscle tone will begin to tween the animals. decrease and he will tend to have a swayed back and a estimate the size and age of potbelly.

If the management pro-

150 pounds. The average in- gram is focused on fawns to identify them. Most hunt-A 3.5-year-old buck weighs ers will depend on body size

As the season progresses While the average weight average weight for a ma-

Does and fawns usually fawns are more playful and If you can, wait until at

Remember, to accurately deer takes years of practice in the field.



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