

# Lake and Farm



## Deer hunters: shoot every wild hog you see

Now it begins - archery season for deer opens in Georgia September 12, this coming Saturday. I don't bow hunt much anymore, but I've had many years of enjoying the sport. I've bow hunted in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, West Virginia and even in Morocco. Might say, I was bowhunting before it was cool.

At the age of nine, I shot my first cottontail on the run with a homemade bow. Grandma fried up that rabbit, just as soon as it was cleaned. My first store bought bow was a 55 pound long bow. It took a while to get into it, as 55 pounds was a bunch for a young feller. But it did the job on small game until 1960.

I joined the Navy and served for six years, four years active. July 7th 1964 put me back in civilian life where I went to work for the local phone company in Tampa Florida, GTE.

I immediately went back to bowhunting with my



Son of  
Seminole  
Son Anderson

second recurve; first one was while stationed in Morocco. The recurve worked very well for deer and hog hunting, but not so good at tournaments. Compound bows hit the scene in the 1970s, I believe Allen was the first to patent such. Then along came Jennings, Bear, Martin, etc. There was a time when there wasn't anything I didn't know about archery, bows, and

bowhunting, but technology has left me behind. Unless you're a traditional archer or bowhunter you won't know anything about stringing or unstringing a bow.

In the 1960s, when it wasn't deer season, rabbit hunting with a bow was how I kept in practice. I believe the most rabbits killed in one morning was 17, if memory serves me right. Showing photos of those rabbit kills at work brought some doubt. Taking a couple of fellow workers rabbit hunting got them into bowhunting. The first two to join me were Jim Haislop (Mr. America 1968) and Harold Finke. Others joined the group soon after, and the group joined me deer hunting the next season. James, who went by Jim during his body building competitions, was good to have along on a deer hunt; he was the best deer dragger I've even known. James and I remain in touch; we worked, hunted and weight trained for years.

He learned bowhunting from me, I learned weight training from him, a good swap, I can tell ya.

Enough of the past, let's talk about bowhunting to-day. Bow season is going to be hot and humid and only the young determined will be hunting, I bet.

During the first of bow season in Southwest Georgia you can get a shot at a good buck, maybe one in velvet the first couple weeks. Bucks are still in groups and hitting food sources. The best place to set up a stand would be next to a farm field that hasn't been harvested. Some had rather set up near a feeder or food plot, but not I. I had rather hunt edges, especially along swamps, and near thick areas where old bucks like to lay up.

While you're deer hunting, shoot every hog you see; it will do your hunting area, and the farmers a favor.

See you outdoors.

## Free business planning virtual seminar for Ag Producers is Sept. 24

To register, email **Patricia McGill** at **pbwmcgill@theccedunited.org** or call **850.294.4994**

Southwest Georgia Farm Credit, ACA, a customer-owned financial institution, and The Corporation for Community and Economic Development United, Inc., will offer a free virtual business planning seminar for ag producers. This virtual seminar explains the six steps of business planning. Producers will learn how to identify and respond to risks in production, finance, human resources, marketing, and legal matters.

The seminar will take place Thursday, September 24 beginning at 10 a.m.

Join AgAware Ag Educator Van McCall for an hour that could change your farming future! McCall focuses on helping the next generation of farmers succeed.

To register, email Patricia McGill at pbwmcgill@theccedunited.org or call 850.294.4994.

Headquartered in Bainbridge, Georgia, Southwest Georgia Farm Credit ([www.SWGAFarmCredit.com](http://www.SWGAFarmCredit.com)) supports farmers and farm businesses, as well as rural property owners, providing safe, sound, dependable financing. The association is part of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of agricultural and rural lending institutions co-operatively owned by their borrowers. Farm Credit helps maintain and improve the quality of life in rural America and on the farm, through its constant commitment to competitive lending and expert financial services.

## Archery deer hunting season opens Saturday, September 12

Hunters ready to stock up the freezer with some venison will get to take to the woods beginning this Saturday, Sept. 12, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

Last year, nearly 80,000 archery hunters harvested almost 40,000 deer. Statewide, hunters can use archery equipment throughout the entire 2020-2021 deer season.

"I've heard many times over the years that it's too hot during archery season, but this time of year is actually an excellent time to hunt," said state deer biologist Charlie Killmaster. "Deer are more predictable now than most of the rest of the deer season. Plus, now is the time to hunt the bucks you've had on camera all Summer before seasonal home ranges shift to Fall core areas. Oh, and don't forget that deer must now be reported to Game Check within 24 hours!"

### Public hunting opportunities

Georgia WRD operates more than 100 public wildlife management areas (WMAs). These areas offer hunting dates throughout deer season, and even some specialty deer

hunts, including youth, ladies, seniors, and disability and returning veterans license holders. Maps, dates and more info can be found at <https://georgiawildlife.com/locations/hunting>.

Hunters can find additional hunting opportunities on Voluntary Public Access, or VPA, properties. These properties are available thanks to a USDA grant that allows for the arrangement of temporary agreements with private landowners for public hunting opportunities.

### Hunting need-to-know info

State law allows hunters to harvest up to 10 antlerless deer, and no more than two antlered deer (with one of the two antlered deer having a minimum of four points, one inch or longer, on one side of the antlers). For the majority of hunters in the state, the deer season ends on Jan. 10. However, some specific counties (Bibb, Chatham, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale) offer either-sex archery deer hunting through Jan. 31. Additionally, deer of either sex may be taken with



archery equipment at any time on private land during the deer season.

To pursue deer in Georgia, hunters must have a valid hunting license, a big game license and a current deer harvest record. Licenses can be purchased online at [www.GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com](http://www.GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com), by phone at 1-800-366-2661 or at a license agent (list of agents available online).

All deer hunters must report their harvest

using Georgia Game Check within 24 hours of harvest. Deer can be reported on the Outdoors GA app (which works regardless of cell service), at [gooutdoorsgeorgia.com](http://gooutdoorsgeorgia.com), or by calling 1-800-366-2661.

For more on deer hunting, including finding a game processor, reviewing regulations, viewing maps (either sex day or the rut map), visit <https://georgiawildlife.com/deer-info>.

## Practice tree stand safety during deer hunting season

Tree stands provide hunters a great way to pursue deer, but did you know that more than half of all hunting incidents are due to falls, or other safety issues, with tree stands? Out of 36 incidents in 2019, 20 were tree stand use related, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division.

Following are recommended tips for keeping you safe while utilizing tree stands for hunting:

When using a non-climbing portable or ladder stand, hunters should securely fasten the stand to the tree and install ladders or steps according to the manufacturer's directions.

Hunters should ALWAYS wear a Fall-Arrest System (FAS)/Full Body Harness during ascent and descent, and follow manufacturer's usage instructions. Be aware that single strap belts and chest harnesses are no longer recommended and should not be used. Failure to use a FAS could result in serious injury or death.

Hunters should ALWAYS attach their FAS in the manner described by the manufacturer. Failure to do so may result in suspension without the ability to recover into the tree stand. Be aware of the hazards associated with full body harnesses and the fact that prolonged suspension in a harness may also be fatal.

Have in place a plan for rescue, includ-

ing the use of cell phones or signal devices that may be easily reached and used while suspended. If rescue personnel cannot be notified, you must have an alternate plan for recovery or escape. If you have to hang suspended for a period of time before help arrives, exercise your legs by pushing against the tree or doing any other form of continuous motion or use your suspension relief device.

Consider your personal physical condition before going out. If you do not have the ability to recover or escape from a FAS, it is recommended that you hunt only from the ground.

Hunters should ALWAYS use a haul line to pull their gear and unloaded firearm or bow

into their tree stand. Never climb with anything in your hands or on your back. Prior to descending, lower equipment to the ground on the opposite side of the tree.

Staying awake and alert is important. Hunters should avoid taking medications that cause drowsiness prior to hunting. Also, never use alcohol or drugs before or while hunting.

Hunters should always inform someone of where they are hunting and what time they expect to return.

For more information on tree stands or hunting-related safety, call 706-557-3355 or visit <https://georgiawildlife.com/hunting/huntereducation>.

## Now that we are allowed to gather again . . .

When social distancing concerns are no longer an issue, the Beall Center in downtown Donalsonville will once again be available for rental for your next event - *birthday parties, holiday functions, meetings and more.*

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