



Tennessee
WILDLIFE

Summer 2019

Includes 2019-20 Wildlife Calendar

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE CALENDAR 2019-20

Wildlife Views

We are very pleased to be sending another issue of Tennessee Wildlife. It ushers in another change of seasons and, with that, a whole new set of outdoor opportunities.

We are very fortunate to have four distinct seasons in Tennessee although sometimes we seem to jump straight from winter to summer.

This is also our special calendar issue. We hope you enjoy the various photographs throughout the next 12 months depicting wildlife that we are all thankful to have in our state. We are also grateful to many photographers who submit photos for our annual contest.

This year has been a little different and we have seen some of those days which brighten smiles and just seem to put us in a better place. The lengthening days of sunlight also have a real



impact on wildlife activities. For many it will be the time of year for raising young on both land and in streams and lakes all over the state. The latter activity can really jump start some fabulous fishing and I hope you find time to take advantage of this yearly phenomenon.

If you do get on the water in Middle and West Tennessee, there may be a few places where you encounter one of the four species of Asian carp that has invaded our lakes and streams. We are working diligently, along

with our neighboring states, to remove as many as possible and to control the spread. Visit our website to learn more about these fish and the measures being used to manage these invasive species.

This time of year summer boating activity is in full force. Please take time to always keep monitor your equipment and make sure everything is in fine working condition. We are blessed with an abundance of water in this state and I hope you take time to enjoy it. And, as a parting word, please be courteous. Launching ramps, narrow coves, docks, anchored boats, wading fishermen and countless other venues and users would greatly appreciate your gesture of kindness and thoughtfulness.

Best wishes for a safe and continued fantastic summer.

SUMMER 2019
VOL. 43, NO. 1

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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Doe — Jimmy Baker

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YOUR WILDLIFE COMMISSION

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is the only state agency responsible for the management of Tennessee's fish and wildlife resources. It is funded primarily by the sportsmen and sportswomen of Tennessee. Its executive director reports to a governing board of 13 individuals called the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission (TFWC).

Appointed to represent the wishes of the hunters and anglers, your commissioner serves to convey to the rest of the TFWC the majority opinion of the district to which he or she is appointed.

Among the commissioners, nine individuals are appointed by the Governor for six-year terms. Four of the commissioners serve as statewide representatives. Two each are appointed by the Speaker of the House and by the Speaker of the Senate. The Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation, and the Governor serve as Ex-Officio members.

To better acquaint Tennessee's hunters and anglers with their representatives, this special section has been designed for easy reference. If you have an issue or a concern, write or telephone your commissioner.

Tommy Woods 2019-25
1297 Allison Road
Piney Flats, TN 37686
423-946-0639
District #1: Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Jefferson, Johnson, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington.

Kent Woods 2017-23
151 Kyker Ferry Road
Kodak, TN 37764
865-932-1101
District #2: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Cumberland, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Union.

Brian McLerran 2017-23
P.O. Box 82
Moss, TN 38575
931-397-9936
District #3: Clay, DeKalb, Fentress, Grundy, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Trousdale, Van Buren, Warren, White.

Tony Sanders 2017-21
5928 Hixson Pike, Ste. A-355
Hixson, TN 37343
423-567-4801
District #4: Bledsoe, Bradley, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie.

Jimmy Granbery 2019-25
2022 Fransworth Drive
Nashville, TN 37205
615-252-8121
District #5: Bedford, Cannon, Coffee, Davidson, Franklin, Lincoln, Marshall, Moore, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Wilson.

Connie King 2014-21
625 Cola Drive
Clarksville, TN 37043
931-444-3641
District #6: Cheatham, Dickson, Giles, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury, Montgomery, Stewart, Wayne, Williamson.

Kurt Holbert 2015-21
600 Wheat Store Road
Decaturville, TN 38329
731-549-6801
District #7: Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, Henderson, Henry, Perry.

Angie Box 2017-23
124 Nottingham Drive
Jackson, TN 38305
731-217-3539
District #8: Chester, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Lake, Madison, Obion, Weakley.

Hank Wright 2019-25
18 S. Byhalia Road
Collierville, TN 38017
901-853-7330
District #9: Fayette, Hardeman, Haywood, Lauderdale, McNairy, Shelby, Tipton.

Dennis Gardner 2017-21
460 Lock 5 Road
Lebanon, TN 37087
901-484-8348
Statewide

Steve Jones 2019-23
320 Maple Street
Clinton, TN 37716
865-291-8525
Statewide

James Stroud 2017-21
221 Revell Road
Dyersburg, TN 3824
615-308-8899
Statewide

Jim Ripley 2019-23
P.O. Box 181
Kodak, TN 37764
865-453-2877
Statewide



Indigo Bunting
by Donna Bourdon

AUGUST 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Full Moon  First Quarter  New Moon  Third Quarter 					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 <small>WMA waterfowl blind site drawings</small>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 <small>Sandhill crane hunt permit drawing</small>
18	19	20	21 <small>SENIOR CITIZENS DAY</small>	22	23	24
<small>Crow season (1) ends</small>			<small>WMA vacancy permits on sale</small>		<small>Antlered-only deer season opens</small>	<small>Free Hunting Day Squirrel season opens</small>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<small>Antlered-only deer season closes</small>						

MAKING IT LAST

The Indigo Bunting is a summer resident, and one of the most abundant breeding birds in the state. It arrives in mid-April and departs by mid-October. TWRA works for all species of wildlife, including songbirds, to make sure there is enough habitat for these species to survive and thrive.

JULY							SEPTEMBER						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				29	30					



Turkey Vulture
by Jeffery Cashdollar

SEPTEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Sora & Virginia rail season opens Moorhen & Gallinules season opens Goose seasons (1) open Dove season (1) opens at noon	LABOR DAY 2	3	4 Sandhill crane computerized drawing period begins Waterfowl Blind Quota Hunt application period begins	5 ☾	6	7
8	9	10	PATRIOT DAY 11	12 ☉	13	14 Wood duck/teal season opens
15	16	17	18 Wood duck/teal season closes at sunset	19 Teal-only season opens	20 Private land raccoon, opossum seasons close at sunrise Statewide raccoon, opossum seasons open at sunset	21 ☾
22 Goose seasons (1) close at sunset Teal-only season closes at sunset	AUTUMN BEGINS 23	24	25 Sandhill crane computerized drawing period ends at midnight Waterfowl Blind Quota Hunt application period ends at midnight	26	27	28 ● NATIONAL HUNTING & FISHING DAY Dove season (1) closes Deer archery-only season (1) opens fall turkey archery season (1) opens Elk quota hunt (archery) begins
ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS 29	30					

MAKING IT LAST

TWRA works at making habitat last for all birds, it's not a beauty contest. Though not always seen as a pretty bird, the turkey vulture serves an important role in our ecosystem. Scavengers do the dirty work by ridding our roadways and many other areas of reeking animal carcasses.

AUGUST										OCTOBER						
				1	2	3				1	2	3	4	5		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10				6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17				13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24				20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31				27	28	29	30	31		



Elk Crossing
By Brian Shults

OCTOBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
					Elk quota hunt (archery) ends	Crow season (2) opens Young Sportsman elk quota hunt begins
6	7	YOM KIPPUR BEGINS 8	9	10	11	12
					Young Sportsman elk quota hunt ends	Fall turkey shotgun season opens Elk quota hunt (gun, muzzleloader, archery) begins Dove season (2) opens Goose (2) and grouse seasons open
13	COLUMBUS DAY 14	15	16	17	18	19
					Elk quota hunt (gun, muzzleloader, archery) ends	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Goose season (2) closes			Fall turkey shotgun season closes Deer archery-only season (1) closes	Young Sportsman deer hunt (1) opens
27	28	29	30	HALLOWEEN 31		
Young Sportsman deer hunt (1) closes	fall turkey archery season (1) opens deer archery-only season (2) opens (muzzleloader allowed in unit CWD)					

MAKING IT LAST

Elk, reintroduced to Tennessee, are now thriving. We manage wildlife and wild places and help keep Tennessee's outdoors diverse for years to come.

SEPTEMBER							NOVEMBER						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Clashing Deer
by Rick Small

NOVEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	3	4	5	6	7	8
Dove season (2) closes					fall turkey archery season (2) closes Deer archery-only season (2) closes	Quail and rabbit seasons open Woodcock season opens Reelfoot Zone waterfowl season (1) opens Deer muzzleloader/archery season opens (guns allowed in unit CWD) Sora & Virginia rail season closes Moorhen & Gallinules season closes
10	VETERANS DAY	11	12	13	14	15
Reelfoot Zone waterfowl season (1) closes				Snipe season opens		16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					Trapping seasons open Deer muzzleloader/archery season closes	Statewide deer gun season opens
24	25	26	27	THANKSGIVING DAY	28	29
					Statewide waterfowl season (1) opens (excludes Reelfoot Zone) Goose season (3) opens	30

MAKING IT LAST

Because of restoration initiatives, effective game laws, and wise management done by TWRA in partnership with hunters, the deer herd in Tennessee has increased dramatically from approximately 2,000 deer in the 1940s to an estimated 900,000 today.

OCTOBER							DECEMBER						
1	2	3	4	5	6							1	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					



Stretching Fox
by Jennifer Jenson

DECEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Woodcock season closes	2 Statewide waterfowl season (1) closes Goose season (3) closes	3	4 ☾	5	6 Reelfoot Zone waterfowl season (1) opens	7 PEARL HARBOR DAY Goose season (4) opens Statewide waterfowl season (2) opens Sandhill crane season opens (Statewide and Southeast Crane Zone)
8 Dove season (3) opens	9	10	11 ☉ WMA Spring Turkey Quota Hunts application period begins	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 ☾	19	20	21 WINTER BEGINS
HANUKKAH BEGINS 22	23	24	25 ● CHRISTMAS DAY	KWANZAA BEGINS 26	27	28
29	30	NEW YEAR'S EVE 31				

MAKING IT LAST

This red fox is just one of many small mammals that we work every day to conserve. From bats and squirrels, to deer and bears, we manage millions of acres of habitat for all of them to make wildlife everlasting in our great state.

NOVEMBER										JANUARY						
							1	2				1	2	3	4	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9				5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16				12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23				19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30				26	27	28	29	30	31	



Sandhill Cranes
by Jennifer Jenson

JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			NEW YEAR'S DAY 1 	2	3	4
5	6 Units L and CWD private lands-only deer hunt begins (Antlerless only in Unit L)	7	8 Crow season (2) closes	9	10 	11 Young Sportsman deer hunt (2) opens
12 Statewide deer gun season closes	13	14	15 WMA Spring Turkey Quota Hunts application period ends Dove season (3) closes	16	17 	18 Sandhill Crane Festival begins
19 Sandhill Crane Festival ends	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 20 Sandhill crane season reopens in Southeast Crane Zone	21	22	23 	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Woodcock season closes Duck season (2) closes (Including Reelfoot Zone) Goose seasons stay open Sandhill crane season closes	

MAKING IT LAST

TWRA helps maintain habitat now for the sandhill crane, who started wintering in Tennessee in the 1990s. Look and listen for these from October through February at the Hiwassee Refuge, Hop-In Refuge or many places in Pickett, Clay, Bradley, and Monroe counties.

DECEMBER							FEBRUARY						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31					23	24	25	26	27	28	29



Bald Eagle
by Jeffery Cashdollar

FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						☾ 1 Young Sportsman waterfowl hunt
GROUNDHOG DAY 2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Young Sportsman waterfowl hunt
☉ 9	10	11	12	13	VALENTINE'S DAY 14	☾ 15 Light goose conservation season opens
16	PRESIDENTS' DAY 17	18 2020-21 hunting and fishing licenses are available for purchase	19	20	All goose seasons close 21	22
☀ 23	24	25	ASH WEDNESDAY 26	27	2019-20 hunting and fishing licenses expire Raccoon, opossum, rabbit, quail, crow, squirrel, grouse, snipe seasons close 28	29 Trapping seasons close

MAKING IT LAST

A story of recovery, the bald eagle did not exist in Tennessee until we began restoration efforts. After reintroducing them in the wild, TWRA has now established over 175 breeding pairs and 500 that migrate through Tennessee each year.

JANUARY							MARCH						
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
26	27	28	29	30	31		29	30	31				



Climbing Bear
by Jennifer Jenson

MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ARBOR DAY 1 ☾	2	3	4	5	6	7
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 8 ○	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 ☾	16	ST. PATRICK'S DAY 17	18	19	SPRING BEGINS 20	21
22	23 ●	24	25	26	27	28
Light goose conservation season closes	29	30	31			Young Sportsman turkey hunt opens
Young Sportsman turkey hunt closes						

MAKING IT LAST

Our wildlife officers work to conserve wildlife every day. Poaching bears was an issue in the 1980s until Operation Smokey, which resulted in the arrest of dozens of criminals involved in poaching and selling bear parts. These efforts have continued and resulted in a steady decline in poaching.

FEBRUARY								APRIL							
							1					1	2	3	4
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
23	24	25	26	27	28			26	27	28	29	30			



Swimming Snake
by John Bell

APRIL 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			☉ APRIL FOOL'S DAY 1	2	3	4
PALM SUNDAY 5	6 ☉	7	8	PASSOVER 9	GOOD FRIDAY 10	11 <small>Spring turkey season opens</small>
EASTER 12	13 ☉	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	☉ EARTH DAY 22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 ☉	30		

MAKING IT LAST

Clean water is important. We help conserve land and water so that all people and animals including our 35 species of snakes get to experience Tennessee's great outdoors for generations to come.

MARCH							MAY							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
29	30	31					24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
													31	



Raccoons
by Larry Patterson

MAY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6 ◯	7	8	9
MOTHER'S DAY 10	11	12	13 ●	14	15	Spring squirrel season opens ARMED FORCES DAY 16
17 Spring turkey season closes Wear Your Life Jacket To Work Day	18 National Safe Boating Week begins	19	20	21 ●	22	23
24	MEMORIAL DAY 25	26	27	28 ◯	29	30
31						

MAKING IT LAST

These raccoons may look cute and cuddly but don't be fooled. Rescuing abandoned animals does more harm than good. Most young wildlife you see has not been abandoned, their parent is closeby. Do your part and keep wildlife wild.

APRIL											JUNE						
				1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11					7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18					14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25					21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30							28	29	30				





Otter Eating Lunch
by Sharon Cardin

JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	○ INDEPENDENCE DAY 4
			Private land raccoon, opossum seasons opens at sunrise			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
● 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	● 20	21	22	23	24	25
			WMA Big Game Quota Hunts application period ends			
26	● 27	28	29	30	31	

MAKING IT LAST

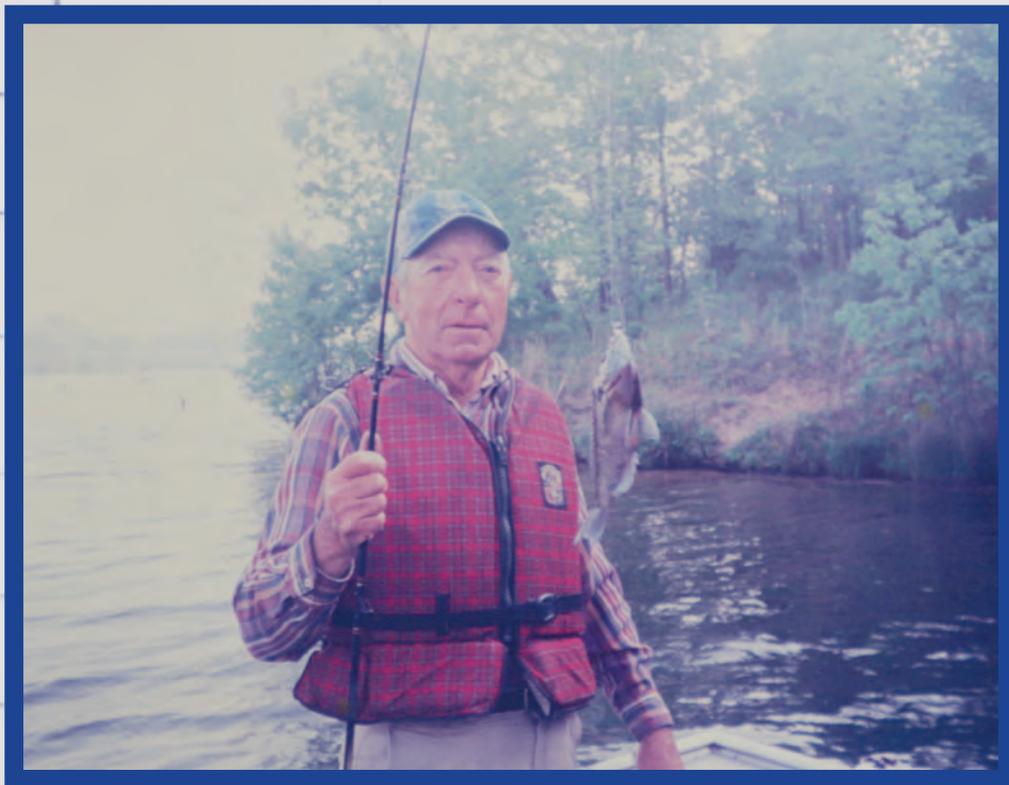
Over 50,000 miles of rivers and streams, 29 reservoirs, 320 species of fish, and so much more to enjoy in Tennessee. You "otter" get outside and enjoy them while the agency works to make them last for generations to come.

JUNE							AUGUST						
	1	2	3	4	5	6							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

1997

	Crappie	Blue Hill	Bass	Cat
Jan		1	10	
Feb			19	
March	31	119	55	34
April	80	63	302	12
May	4	436	148	15
June	68	100	111	3
July	23	64	251	
Aug	9	25	212	
Sept	39	2	86	3
Oct	65	47	71	
Nov	38	14	97	
Dec	1	2	57	
Total	358	873	1419	67
		years	Total	

The Lake Graham Legend



Lake Graham and Clyde Freeman went together like fish and water. You couldn't mention one without talking about the other. Local fishing legend Clyde Freeman had fished Lake Graham since it first opened on June 1, 1983, becoming one of the first fishermen to fish the lake.

All the locals knew Clyde, and he was the subject of numerous fishing articles. Clyde is considered a fishing legend because he caught more than 50,000 fish in his 94-year life. Some people might question that number, but Clyde was also a meticulous record keeper and tallied all the fish he caught over his career. "I've caught everything that swam the water," he happily said.

Clyde's remarkable life came to an end shortly after the calendar turned over into 2019, passing away Jan. 7 in Jackson General Hospital. However, his fishing stories and relationship with Lake Graham will continue.

Clyde grew up in the Chambers Creek area in Hardin County and was introduced to fishing by his grandmother. "She was a fisherman," Clyde reminisces about his grandmother. "She loved to fish and she took me fishing for the first time when I was still in diapers."

7

7

8

7

1

1

31

2951

Clyde developed an exceptional love of fishing, and he even told his young bride when they got engaged that, "he loved fishing and I'd appreciate if I can still fish." Alta Freeman just smiled, and she never stopped him from going fishing in their 67-year marriage. She even joined him on several trips.

Clyde spent his career as a pipefitter/welder and "burnt many a rod" over his career. His job allowed him the opportunity to enjoy his passion for fishing, affording him the opportunity to travel and fish a variety of locations in Tennessee. But Clyde always preferred Lake Graham. "It's the best place I've ever fished."

He loved Lake Graham for its uniqueness and because the lake is "quiet and peaceful." Clyde enjoyed close friendships with various lake managers and game wardens over the years at Lake Graham.

He always recommended that everyone give Lake Graham a try. The lake is located in Madison County and consists of 570 acres of standing timber and submerged stumps. The standing timber was left to improve the fishing.

No matter where he fished, Clyde kept detailed daily records of what he caught. He kept a calendar on the wall and wrote down his daily catch when he returned home. At the end of the year, he would tally the fish he caught.

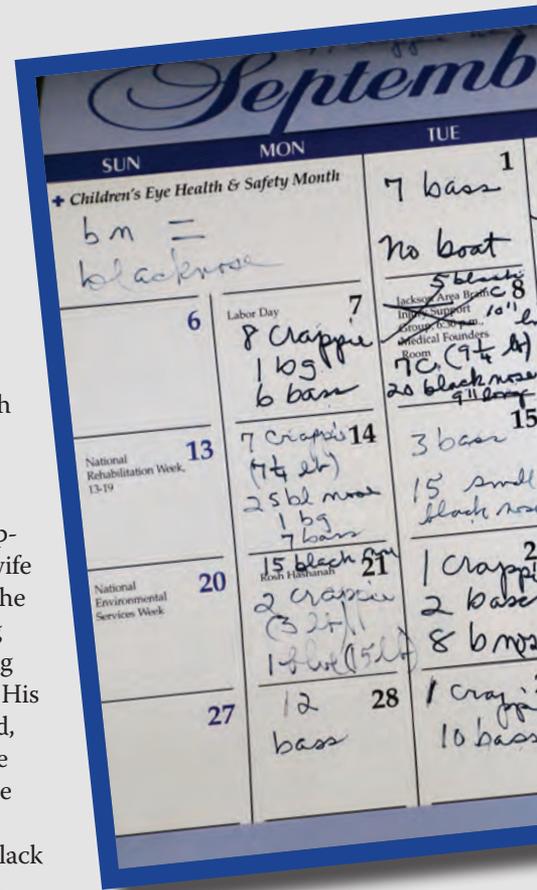
For example, in 1997 he caught a total of 2,951 fish: 358 crappie, 873 bluegill, 1,419 bass, 67 catfish, 31 shell cracker, 185 sauger, 17 hybrids, and 1 white amur (grass carp). The white amur weighed 61 pounds and would have been a new state record. The fish was

weighed twice at the Lake Graham store and easily broke the record of 50.8 pounds. However, the scales were not certified. Clyde stated he didn't care about the record, it only mattered to him that he caught the fish and he gave the fish away to a local bank fisherman.

Clyde's record keeping ceased when his wife became ill. He spent the next nine years taking care of her and feeding her three times a day. His fishing trips decreased, but he still fished Lake Graham as much as he could.

On the waters of Black Creek Lake March 23, 1985, Clyde caught a state record 4-pound, 8-ounce black crappie, a mark that lasted until 2018. He was happy his record was defeated and proudly displayed the letter from TWRA notifying him of the new state record crappie.

Clyde was not only a fisherman but also a "fish cooker." Clyde didn't waste any keeper fish he caught. That's right, he cleaned them and ate them. He once cooked 400 pounds of fish for an event at his church. Clyde has eaten fish every day of his adult life, and he was still eating fish at 94. Clyde's favorite method of fishing is jug fishing. Matter of fact, Clyde attributes his success in jug fishing, to cooked fish. One day, he ran out of bait fish and decided to try some cooked fish instead. It worked great! He caught the biggest catfish he ever had on the line. The catfish was more than 100 pounds "by looking at the size of his head and body." However, after a very long fight, an exhausted fisherman, and a dip-net that wouldn't hold the fish, the catfish straightened the hook and got away. From that





Above: A pair of calendars kept by Clyde documenting his daily catches.
Left: A map of Lake Graham, Clyde's favorite fishing hole.



day on, Clyde's favorite bait became cooked fish.

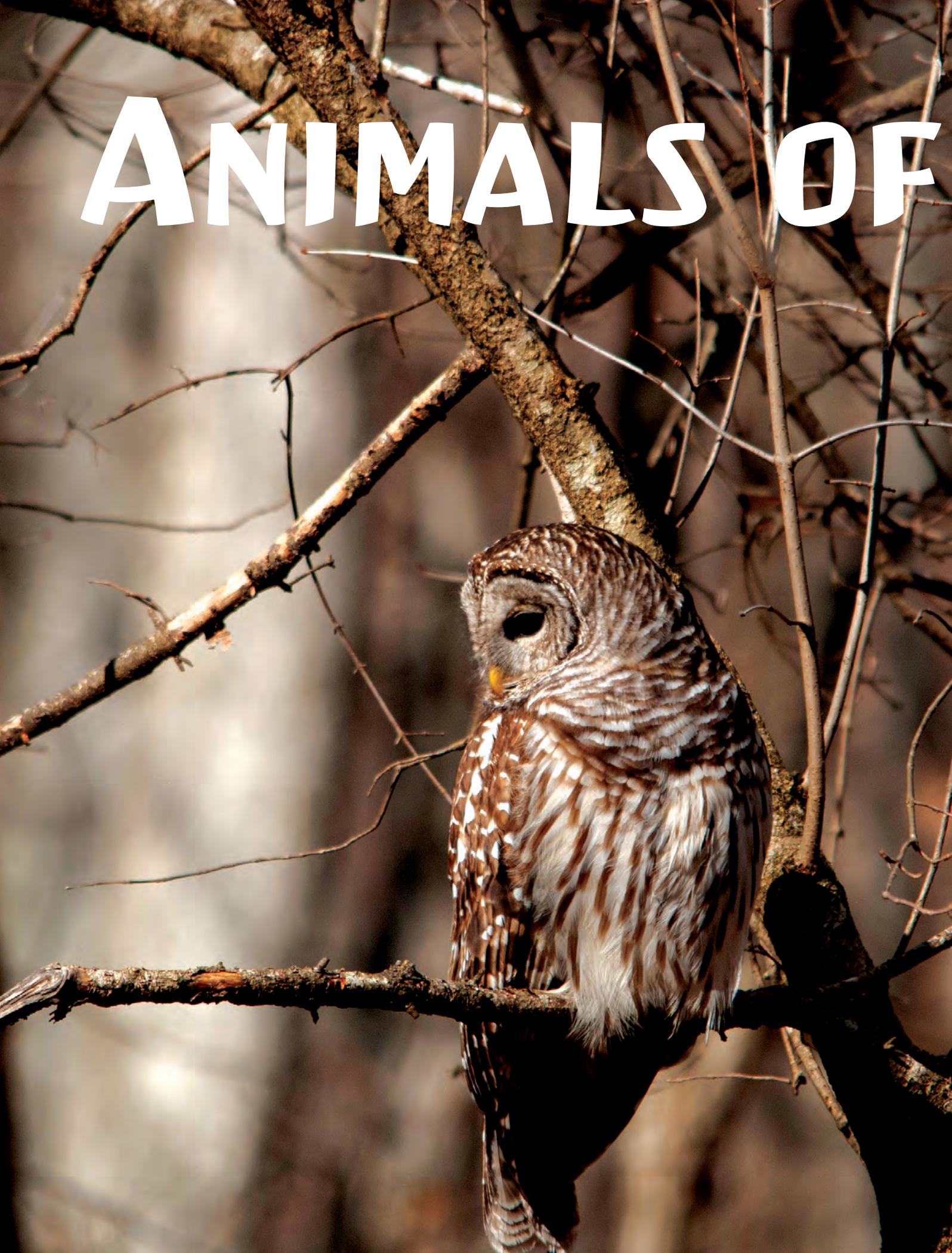
Clyde's advice to anyone fishing was simple and to the point — "stay, stay, stay, and the best thing to do is to keep a hook in the water." Clyde's tips for bluegill fishing were to stay with the beds and to put a cricket in there. He said Lake Graham is excellent in May for bluegill because of the fish on their beds. Clyde said you have three months to fish the beds and you can catch all the bluegills you want. His advice for crappie fishing was to use artificial lures and not minnows.

Clyde fished an average 248 days a year, missing only for severe weather. As he entered the 90s, he only fished on warm days.

But even then, Clyde loved being out on the water of his favorite lake — stocked with northern and Florida strain largemouth bass, spotted bass, striped bass (rockfish), bluegill, redear sunfish, channel catfish, and flathead catfish.

Amy Snider-Spencer is the TWRA Region I Communications & Outreach Coordinator. She previously served as a Madison County wildlife officer. A native of East Tennessee, she is a graduate of Maryville College and UT Knoxville.

ANIMALS OF





THE NIGHT

*While we sleep, another world rises
for the darkest hours of the day.*

As the sun begins to set and the sky darkens, a number of creatures begin to take to the sky, fields and woods, rising from their daytime resting spots to begin the night searching for food.

One of the first nighttime creatures to come to mind for many people are bats. They can often be seen flittering, just as the last few rays of sunlight break across the sky. Tennessee has 15 species of bats, but unfortunately with spread of white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that affects cave-roosting bats, the odds of seeing a bat in the evening have declined significantly. About half of Tennessee's bat species are affected by the disease. With all of Tennessee's bats being insectivores this could mean more mosquitos and other pesky insects bothering you as you try to enjoy the cooling twilight hours.

Although you can't hear bats as they flitter around because they use ultrasonic frequencies, you can purchase ultrasonic microphones that will work with tablets or smartphones that will allow you to listen to their unique sounds as they dash across the sky trying to find dinner. Some smartphone apps will even identify the species of bats based on its unique feeding chirps. The most common bats that people find are the evening bat and red bat, which are not affected by white-nose syndrome because they don't use caves and typically roost alone or in small groups in trees.

While bats are about looking for food silently to our human ears, other creatures are making strange sounds that we can hear. Most people have heard the hooting of an owl. Tennessee has several interesting species of owl with very different calls. There is the baritone "Who cooks for you?" hoot of barred owl that can be heard most often in February and March during the breeding season as pairs establish territories. You can also have the more rapid and common hoot of a great horned owl. The eastern screech owl, however, has a much more unique sound with a whistling, whirling call, resembling something like a horse on helium.

Although active during the day, Tennessee's state bird, the northern mockingbird, can also be very active at night, particularly during the breeding season. During the daytime, mockingbirds will do their typical mocking of other birds and at night will sometimes continue the chatter it learned to mimic during the day. Nightjars, which include the common nighthawk, whip-poor-will and chuck-will's-widow, are often active at dusk, but can be heard into the night. If you live near a town or city you are more likely to hear the common nighthawk's nasally peent call as it searches for insects. Both the whip-poor-will and chuck-will's-widow populations are declining due to habitat loss as their preferred habitats of cedar glades and open woods become overgrown or lost to development.

Rarely seen, but often heard at night, the wily coyote prefers to hide

The most common bats that people will find are the evening bat and red bat, which are not affected by white-nose syndrome because they don't use caves and typically roost alone or in small groups in trees.

during the day, but once night comes they become very vocal. Who can forget the high-pitched barks and yips of coyotes as they call through the night letting other coyotes know they are there.

If you have ever heard a high pitched woman's scream in the middle of the night, this may be more than likely a fox. The sly and often quiet fox is typically the culprit for some very strange sounds heard at night. Both coyotes and foxes spend their nights stalking the fields, woods and sometimes suburbs and cities looking for their prey which can be rats, mice, rabbits, or unsuspecting birds.

Nothing says summer night after a rain shower more than choruses of frogs and the occasional toad or two. One of the most common frog calls you will hear at night after a rain is that of the gray treefrog. These small gray or green frogs can often be heard calling from perches after a rain with a short birdlike trill. Their coloration makes them blend into their surroundings and they are master of throwing their voices to make it hard to pin point their exact location. The American toad is also a common sound at night, their high trill lasting from six-to-30 seconds. If you live near more permanent water like a lake, pond or stream, you might hear what sounds like marbles being rubbed together which is the call of the southern cricket frog or you might hear the deep banjo twang of the bull frog. If you live on the Cumberland Plateau or East Tennessee mountains you might be lucky enough to hear the chuckle of the wood frog beckoning in spring.

Many of those sounds heard in the evening and night are not birds or mammals, but the sounds that are of insects creating a unique symphony as they as they try to attract others. Although most people know of the chirp of the field cricket, think Jiminy Cricket. These are also the most common cricket to wonder into your house chirping from behind furniture and boxes ever elusive. Very few people would realize that the constant buzzing sound you hear at night is that of numerous tree crickets. In among the sounds of crickets is another insect calling which is that of the katydid. Katydid's are named for the two, three or four notes that sort of sound like kay-tee-did or kay-tee-



A red bat stirs before starting its evening.

did-did.

One of the more interesting creatures of the night doesn't even make a sound, but makes sure you know it is there with its bright flashing neon yellow rump. Even their eggs glow. They go by several different common names like the firefly, lightning bug, moon bug, or glow fly. What kid doesn't enjoy chasing them around capturing the flickering lights during the late evening?

That flashing light is their way to communicate. Females use the flashing of males to choose the most attractive male. Many people are familiar with the common asynchronous flashing fireflies, but part of East Tennessee also has synchronous flashing fireflies. Imagine hundreds and thousands of tiny neon yellow lights flashing at the same time across a forest. If you are in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park during May and June you might get lucky and be able to view a population of synchronous fireflies. Their burst of five to eight occurs every few seconds. In 2015, a population was discovered on TWRA's Oak Ridge Wildlife Management Area. Synchronous firefly



A cricketfrog sits perched in the shallows of a pond.

populations seem to occur in more heavily forested areas. Unfortunately, firefly populations appear to be declining due to habitat loss, use of pesticides, and light pollution from street lights and urban areas that

drown out the flashing neon lights of fireflies.

The nighttime also has some very interesting and beautiful insects that don't make any sounds or flashy lights. If you have ever walk under a street or porch light you might get a chance to see some of these elegant creatures. The lime green wings, white body, and 4.5-inch wing span of the luna moth makes it stand out among the more small brown or gray moths. Another large moth that sometimes gets mistaken for a small bat is thee cecropia moth, which can have a 6-inch wing span. Like all giant silk moths, these moths don't eat and only survive for a couple of weeks in order to find a mate and reproduce, so they have no digestive tract.

Even though they might be hard to see in the dark, there are numerous wildlife species that become active as the sun begins to set. They make themselves known through sounds, smells, and special lighting effects. So, take some time to listen and look as you enjoy the cooler evenings to listen and see what wildlife might be sneaking about in the dark.

Dr. Brian Flock has been with TWRA since 2007. He is currently the Wildlife Diversity and State Wildlife Grants Coordinator.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Information

TWRA is working on disease management with the goal of keeping CWD from spreading, keeping the number of diseased deer in the affected area to a minimum, and reducing disease rates where possible. Here are some things you can do in newly established Unit CWD to help.



HOW YOU CAN HELP:

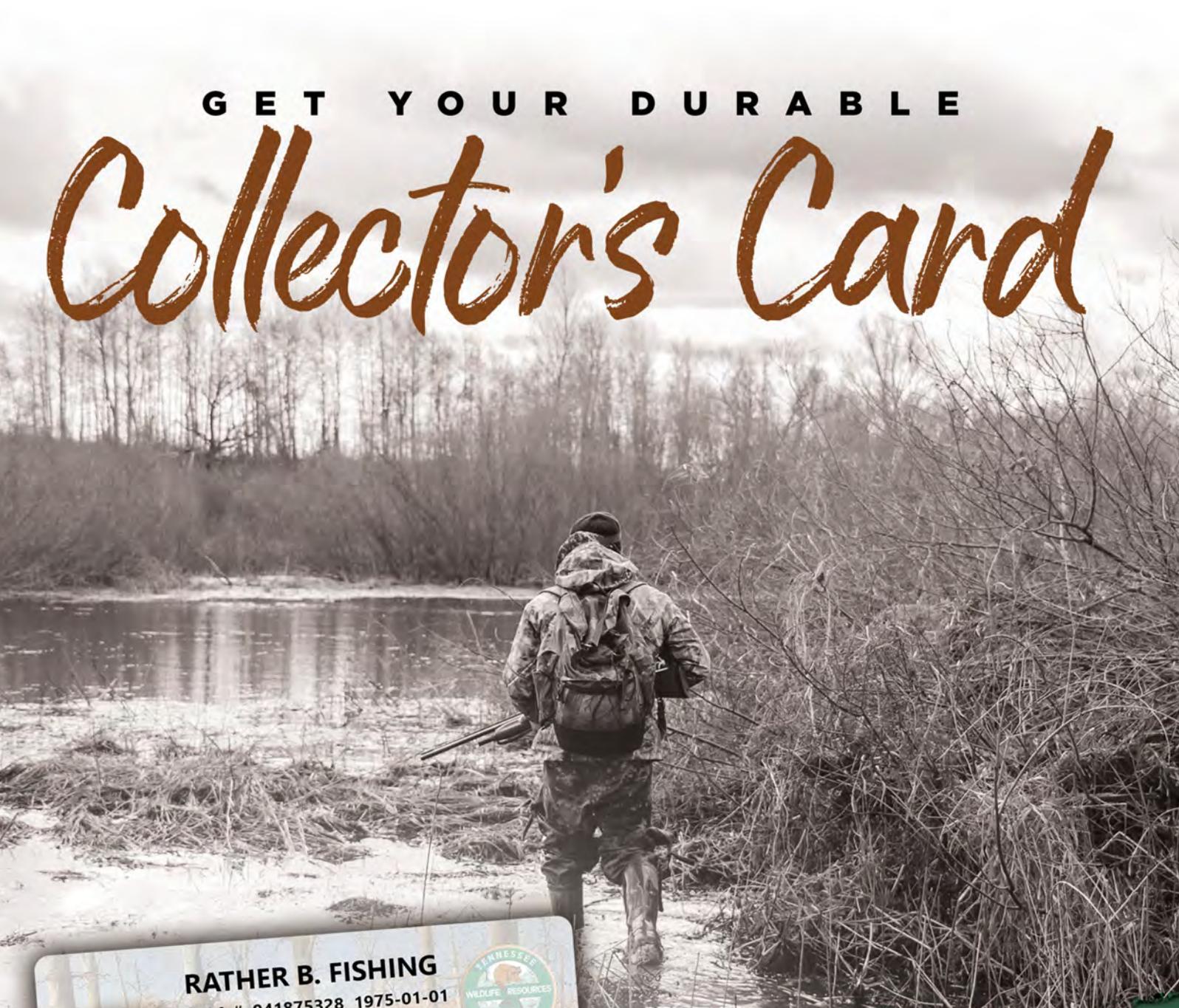
- Keep hunting, take advantage of the additional opportunities to harvest deer in Unit CWD.
- Follow all rules and regulations for CWD areas.
- Use synthetic urine with the Archery Trade Association's seal of approval. Look for this seal: 
- Follow best practices for carcass disposal, found at CWDinTennessee.com.
- Use a meat processor.
- Report sick or abnormal looking deer to TWRA.

IN UNIT CWD, YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING OPPORTUNITIES TO HARVEST DEER:

- Earn a Buck Program - In addition to the 2 buck statewide limit, you can now earn extra bucks when you harvest does in the CWD unit. You must harvest and sample 2 does to earn a buck. You can earn up to 2 extra bucks through our Earn a Buck program.
- During the August hunt, you can use muzzleloaders, and archery.
- All public land in unit CWD will be open for the August Hunt with the exception of President's Island and others found at CWDinTennessee.com.
- During the private lands hunt in January, you can harvest antlered deer.
- If your harvested buck comes back positive for CWD, you will get a replacement buck.

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