

WILDLIFE INSIDER ONLINE

Boone And Crockett World Record Pending For Non-Typical Deer Harvested In Sumner County

A buck harvested in Sumner County during the 2016 muzzleloader season has completed a step toward becoming a world record for a non-typical deer rack taken with a muzzleloader.

Boone and Crockett officials spent 4-1/2 hours scoring the 47-point buck tabbed the "Tennessee Tucker Buck" at the Nashville headquarters of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Following the Boone and Crockett scoring, representatives from Safari Club International scored the rack. It was also deemed a new world record under the organization's guidelines.

The buck was harvested by 26-year old Gallatin resident Stephen Tucker. Tucker made an appearance at the December meeting of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission.

The deer rack scored 312 3/8 in the initial Boone and Crockett tabulation. The tabulation was held after 60 days had passed since the original "wet" score indicated that the buck was a potential world record for a free roaming buck taken by a hunter. If it stands, the score would break the previous mark of 307 5/8 set by then 15-year old Tony Lovsteun in Albia, Iowa.

Tucker made his harvest from about 40 yards. It came on a land that his family has leased to farm for the past 40 years.

"I have truly been blessed and I am very thankful," Tucker said after learning the rack's score. "I have had a lot of phone calls and questions and have tried to be patient waiting through the process. I am very appreciative to my

family, friends, and the TWRA, especially Capt. Dale Grandstaff, who has led me through the process. I believe he has been as excited about it as I have."

TWRA Executive Director Ed Carter was present at the announcement of the pending world record harvest. "I am so proud that this potential world record harvest has come from Tennessee," he said. "This has created a lot of interest among Tennessee deer hunters and deer hunters everywhere."

The certification process will now await another step as a pending world record. Another panel of Boone and Crockett scorers will again take measurements at the awards banquet in 2019. The organization's membership only meets once every three years.

Stephen Tucker, holding rack, with TWRA Director Ed Carter and official scorers (from left) Eric Anderson, Dale Grandstaff, Russ Skoglund, Leith Konyndyk, and Tabitha Lavacot after the tabulation was conducted at the Nashville TWRA office.



June 10 Is 2017 Free Fishing Day In Tennessee

The 2017 Free Fishing Day is Saturday, June 10 in Tennessee when all state residents and visitors may fish without a license in the state's public waters.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency provides the free day each year in early June in hopes of increasing or rekindling an interest in fishing. Along with the opportunity to fish free, many special events are slated throughout the state on and around June 10. Additionally, June 11-16 is Free Fishing Week, when youth ages 15 or younger may fish without a license for the entire week.

The TWRA stocks thousands of pounds of catfish in various bodies of water with the hopes that the events will provide young anglers with quality experiences. For a list event updates throughout the spring, visit the TWRA website at www.tnwildlife.org. Events will be added throughout the spring.



Five TFWC Members Complete Appointments



(clockwise from top) Jim Bledsoe, Harold Cannon, Dr. Jeff McMillin, Jim Ripley and Trey Teague



Five persons completed their appointment as members of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission in February. New appointees are scheduled to be in place by the commission's March meeting.

The commissioners concluding their tenures are Jim Bledsoe (Jamestown), Harold Cannon (Lenoir City), Dr. Jeff McMillin (Bristol), Jim Ripley (Sevierville), and Trey Teague (Jackson).

"I am truly thankful to our departing members for time spent away from their families and businesses as public servants who agreed to confront the difficulties that accompany commission roles," said Ed Carter, TWRA Executive Director. "Sitting on the governing board of a fish and wildlife agency is guaranteed to have more than a few tough decisions."

Mr. Cannon was the TFWC chair for 2016-17 and served on several committees prior to moving into that position. Mr. Bledsoe was the TFWC chairman in 2015-16 and then became chair of the Fisheries Management Committee.

Dr. McMillin was TFWC chair for 2013-14 and served the past year as chair of the new Property and Infrastructure Committee. Mr. Teague chaired the Wildlife Management Committee. Mr. Ripley was chair of the Audit Committee and vice chair of the Boating and Law Enforcement Committee and Governance Committee.

The TFWC is the governing body of the TWRA and its 13 members are selected from private citizens. The commission is appointed by the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the speaker of the senate.



ORCA Founder Honored At December TFWC Meeting



Cliff Walker (second from left) is pictured with (from left) are Outreach Program Coordinator Donald Hosse, Director Ed Carter, and TFWC Chairman Harold Cannon.

Cliff Walker, founder and owner of Outdoor Recreation Corporation of America (ORCA) was recognized for his many contributions to the TWRA during the December TFWC meeting.

ORCA recently donated more than \$200,000 worth of coolers for use by all agency wildlife officers, boating officers, wildlife managers, technicians, environmental services, and fisheries field staff with engineering staff set to receive coolers in the near future. A lifetime sportsman license was purchased and presented to Mr. Walker for his contributions.

ORCA has also contributed to numerous agency outreach events, including wounded soldiers programs.

State Turkey Hunters Look To Surpass 30,000-Harvest Mark For 15th Straight Year

Tennessee turkey hunters will be looking to surpass to the 30,000-harvest mark for the 15th consecutive year. The 2017 spring turkey hunting season runs April-May 14. The Young Sportsman Hunt precedes the start of the statewide season on March 25-26.

The bag limits include one bearded turkey per day, not to exceed four per season.

All 95 counties are open to the spring turkey seasons. Turkeys harvested on quota hunts and specific wildlife management areas (WMAs) are bonus tur-

keys. For more information on the 2017 spring turkey season, view the 2016-17 Tennessee Hunting & Trapping Guide. The guide is available at TWRA offices, license agents, and online at www.tn-wildlife.org.

Tennessee Outdoors Youth Summit (TOYS) Moves To New Location, Set For July

The Eighth Annual Tennessee Outdoors Youth Summit (TOYS), moves to a new location this summer as it will be at the Clyde York 4-H Center near Crossville. The dates of the event are also changed, moving from mid-June to July 16-21.

TOYS was established for high school students from across Tennessee. During the week, students are introduced to many outdoor activities. TOYS was held at the Montgomery County Shooting Complex near Crossville for the first seven years. The Clyde York 4-H Center is operated by the University of Tennessee Extension Service atop the Cumberland Plateau with state of the art facilities in a natural and scenic environment.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation are again partnering to host this year's event. Among the different outdoor activities that the students will have an opportunity to become introduced to will include boating, hunting, trapping, archery, photography, marksmanship, plant identification, forestry, camping, water quality, trap shooting, skeet shooting, wildlife identification, and several classes with wildlife and fish biology as the topic.

Students will participate in hands-on classes that teach the importance of the natural resources and their management. Instructors will be wildlife and fisheries biologists, wildlife officers, college professors, professional shooting coaches and experts from specific fields of interest. Students can plan on each class they sign up for to be two to four hours in length and will include hands-on application in that subject.

Once students are accepted to the



Students have an opportunity to be introduced to a wide-range of outdoor activities during TOYS. A TWRA officer demonstrates how a trap functions during one of the variety of classes offered during the week.

program, they will be able to attend at least 10 classes during the week. During this week, the students will have the opportunity to gain certification in many different programs. Students, who are interested in a career in the natural resources field, will also enjoy the experiences that normally are not learned until they are members of the work force.

The cost to attend TOYS is \$350 for the week-long experience. Scholarships are available and based on financial need.

Students interested in attending should log on to www.tnwildlife.org and submit an application by May 26, 2017. Applicants will be required to pay a deposit of \$150 to the TWRF. Students wishing to receive a scholarship only

need to submit an application form indicating that they want a scholarship. Applications can be downloaded from www.tnwildlife.org or www.twrf.net.

Enrollment is limited to 120 students and if an application is not accepted, refunds will be returned in full. If an application is chosen, the successful applicant will be sent a password and web address to the location of the scheduling packet. Students will select their classes of interest and pay the balance of the cost of the program.

Applications can be downloaded from www.tnwildlife.org or www.twrf.net.

For questions or additional information, contact Lacey Lane at the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation at (615) 831-9311, ext. 114 or by email at llane@twrf.net.

Popular Becoming An Outdoors-Woman Workshop Returns, Dates Announced

The 2017 Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) workshop will be held June 2-4 near Crossville at the Clyde M. York 4-H Center.

The popular annual event host by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is conducted in the relaxed atmosphere of the BOW workshop is an opportunity for those 18 or older to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting

and fishing. However, the workshop provides useful for other outdoor pursuits and interests. Workshop participants will have a chance to select from a variety of courses over the three days and the classes are taught by experts in their respective fields.

The workshop fee is \$200 and includes lodging at the Clyde M York 4-H Center, meals, T-shirt, and a 2017-18

Tennessee Hunting and Fishing License. Registration is taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applications may be obtained from the TWRA website at www.tnwildlife.org, or any TWRA regional office. For more information contact Donald Hosse, Wildlife Education Program Coordinator, at don.hosse@tn.gov or telephone (615) 781-6541



CLASSES

Firearms And Firearms Safety
Basic Fishing Skills
Advanced Fishing Techniques
All-Terrain Vehicle Operation
Basic Archery
Boating Safety Education
Outdoor Cooking
Wild Edible Foray
Beginning Fly Fishing
Nature Photography Basics
Basic Canoeing
Basic Shotgun
Backyard Habitat, Map/Compass
Introduction To Muzzleloading
Introduction To Turkey Hunting
Introduction To Deer Hunting
Introduction To Waterfowl Hunting
Reading The Woods
Discover Scuba
Stream Ecology

New Task Force Focuses On Community-Involved Bear Management

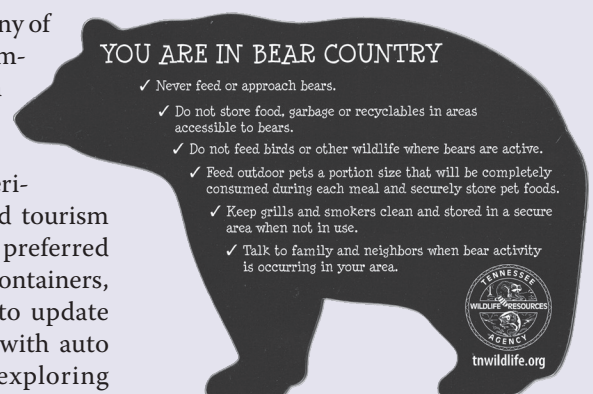
The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, along with multiple partners, have developed a task force to focus on bear management in Sevier County and surrounding communities.

This new educational initiative is being referred to as the BearWise Task Force and is sponsored by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The program focuses on informing the public about how to live with bears by encouraging proactive measures to prevent conflicts, providing resources to resolve problems, and encouraging community-based initiatives that focus on keeping bears wild.

The task force will meet on a regular basis to discuss ongoing management issues and develop action plans and

projects to address needs. Many of these projects will focus on community involvement of both residents and businesses. Current projects include: developing educational materials for residents, visitors, and tourism businesses, development of preferred standards for bear-resistant containers, development of a program to update existing garbage containers with auto locking mechanisms, and exploring ideas regarding other needs that have been identified.

To increase the acceptance of the program in the community, multiple partners who bring a multitude of experience in various targeted audiences are involved. Initially, programs will



be marketed and tested in and around Gatlinburg with intentions of spreading further into the Sevier County area as well as surrounding communities. As the programs grow, additional partners will be added to the task force.

Pandy English Named Assistant Chief For TWRA Biodiversity Division

Pandy English has been named to serve as the assistant chief for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Biodiversity Division.

In her position, she will be primarily working with statewide endangered species projects. She will be working with officials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service along with other state officials.

She moves into her new position after being the agency's Instream Flow Coordinator for Environmental Services Division since 2012. English served as Region II Non-Game Coordinator from

January 2004 through August 2010 when she left for a teaching position at Columbia State Community College. She taught biology, anatomy and physiology at the school.

Prior to originally joining the Agency, she was a Warner Park naturalist for five years and worked for Leaps Environmental Consulting for 10 years. English, a graduate of Nashville's Hume-Fogg High, earned her B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries from UT Knoxville and her M.S. in biology at Austin Peay.



New License Vendor In Operation For Agency

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has a new vendor that has changed the appearance of hunting and fishing licenses and should also provide a service that improves the license buying experience.

Brandt Information Services is the agency's new license vendor, making TWRA the latest state agency to contract with this Florida-based company. Fish and wildlife agencies in Georgia, Florida, and Virginia also contract with Brandt.

Most new licenses will now be printed on an 8½ by 11-inch paper. However, about 25 percent of TWRA's 1,200 current license agents will continue, for now, to provide the same receipt-style license of which sportsmen are more familiar.

Sportsmen are still able to purchase licenses from local businesses and TWRA's regional offices, but can now more easily buy licenses using home computers or mobile devices. If a license is lost, sportsmen can print a new copy at no cost provided they have access to a printer.

Once a license is purchased, verification emails will be sent to license buyers regardless of whether a purchase was made at home or from a business. If they chose to, sportsmen can store this emailed certification on mobile devices and use that information as proof of purchase.

Hunters and anglers will also have

the opportunity to purchase license packages, which TWRA believes will help simplify the buying process when multiple licenses or permits are needed for a hunting or fishing endeavor.

Waterfowl hunting on TWRA wildlife management areas often requires multiple licenses and/or permits purchases and is an example of a shopping experience that sometimes creates confusion. The agency believes a waterfowl package can help eliminate that confusion.

However, if they choose, sportsmen can continue to purchase licenses a la cart as always. The agency's new vendor is providing a shopping cart experience similar to numerous online sites.

"We believe our vendor will make the purchasing experience much quicker and easier," said Ed Carter, the executive director of the TWRA. "We are excited to be working with Brandt because this company is innovative and our friends in Georgia and Florida have said great things about the service it provides to hunters, anglers, and boaters."

Customers have an option to purchase a hard-copy collector's license recreated from paintings by famed Tennessee artist Ralph McDonald.

The size of a credit card, the hard-copy license costs an additional \$5 above license purchases. Specific license information is printed on the back of the card.

One of the inaugural cards portrays a trophy buck ignoring a nearby, but vacant treestand. The other hints that an unfortunate angler is about to lose a leaping largemouth to a broken line and broken heart.



Collectible Waterfowl Stamps Available Through TWRA

Orders are being taken for the collectible state waterfowl stamp that is produced annually and sold for conservation education.

Each year, since 1999, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has taken the winning artwork from the state's Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest and created a collectible stamp.

The Tennessee Junior Duck Stamp program is an art contest managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designed to teach the importance of conserving wetlands habitat and waterfowl to students. It pairs science, the arts, and other core subjects to creatively teach greater awareness of our natural resources.

As part of the program, students are invited to participate in an annual art competition. Creating an entry is a valuable experience. It helps students tie together lessons on animal form and function, plant science, observation, wetland habitats, and more. In the visual arts, students practice sketching, drawing, painting, and composition.

This year's duck stamp comes from

Mary Alford, from Dyersburg, who won Best of Show in the 2016 contest for her depiction of three cinnamon teal. The 16-year-old created her winning entry in colored pencil.

The public is invited to purchase the collectible stamp. Each state stamp



Mary Alford's depiction of cinnamon teal won Best of Show in 2016's Junior Duck Stamp Contest.

is numbered and printed in full color, measuring 1 2/8 by 2 inches. In addition to this year's stamp, all previous stamps since 1999 are available.

Funds from the sale of the stamp

will be used for habitat improvement. Stamps are \$11 each and are available on the TWRA website (www.tnwildlife.org). Just click on the "For Hunters" tab and select "Collectible Wildlife Stamps" from the dropdown menu. (An order form is also included on the wrap of this issue.) Students from across Tennessee participate each year in the contest. The TWRA The entry deadline is each March and winners are presented awards at a ceremony in the spring. (To obtain a copy of the free curriculum or for more information on the Junior Duck Stamp Program, contact the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge at (731) 642-2091.

Winners from all 50 states compete with best-of-show winners each year. The winner of the national winners becomes the artwork used for the Federal Junior Duck Stamp each year.

The public is reminded that the state of Tennessee waterfowl stamp is voluntary and not required to hunt. However, the Federal Duck stamp is required to hunt waterfowl in Tennessee.

New Fishing Records Confirmed During 2016

Anglers established six Class A records and three new Class B records during the 2016 calendar year. Class A comprises of sport fishing methods while Class B is for methods other than rod and reel.

Two Class A records were set within two days of each other last March. Chase Rich caught a goldfish, a member of the carp family, on Douglas Reservoir. It weighed three pounds, five ounces. Also in East Tennessee, a 6-pound quillback carpsucker was caught on Boone Reservoir by Thomas "Cody" Hyder.

In April, two more records were set. Ronnie Leon Meade caught a 104-pound paddlefish on Cherokee Reservoir. A golden shiner was caught on Kentucky Lake (Bass Bay) by Joseph Wayne Denie weighing 1 pound, 5 ounces.

In mid-June, Polk County High School sophomore John Morgan was fishing on a farm pond in the county.

What began as a trip to remove a snapping turtle later would become a fishing trip that resulted in a new state record for a rainbow trout. He landed a trophy weighing 18 pounds, 8 ounces.

The final Class A record of the year



John Morgan, with his record catch, pictured with TWRA's (from left) Travis Scott and Brandon Wear.

came two days after Christmas. Barry L. Parker was fishing on Old Hickory Reservoir. He caught a tilapia that weight 6 pounds and 5.5 ounces.

The Class B records included a tilapia weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces taken on Old Hickory Reservoir by Steve Creekmore in November. Also take by archery was a golden shiner weighing 11 ounces. It was taken last January by Billy Roberson on Kentucky Lake.

Two channel catfish weighing 18 pounds taken by differed methods tied for a new Class B record. Billy Roberson had his second new Class B state record when he took his catfish with commercial gear early last March. John Burch used a limblime for his catch on Tims Ford Lake.

Do you think you might have caught a record fish? Find out what it takes on page 32.

2017 National Safe Boating Week In May Held Week Prior To Memorial Day

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will be participating in the 2017 National Safe Boating Week, May 20-26 to promote the wear of life jackets during summer boating season.

National Safe Boating Week has become an annual occurrence. The TWRA and other organizations campaign to spread the message of safe and responsible boating. The TWRA and the organizations continue to strive in their efforts in educating the boating community about life jacket wear and the options available when it comes to comfortable and lightweight life jackets.

The Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day is Friday, May 19 with the goal of demonstrating how easy it is to wear a



life jacket. Participants wear a life jacket to work, demonstrating how easy to wear one, even while at work. Those who wear a life jacket to work are asked to have a photograph taken and email it to tennesseewearit@gmail.com.

On Saturday, May 20, Ready, Set, Wear It! , will enter its seventh year in trying to bring awareness on the importance of life jacket wear by holding a world record day.

The worldwide event kicks off the start of National Safe Boating Week. Participants will be part of the attempt to break a world record for the most life jackets worn at one time.

Both events help usher in National Safe Boating Week which is annually held the week prior to Memorial Day Weekend. Boating partners with the TWRA from across the United States and Canada are teaming to promote safe boating practices throughout the 2016 boating season.

The TWRA Wear It! Boat will be back on the water during the summer. The Wear It! campaign also promotes boating safety and life jacket safety by encouraging boaters to wear life jackets.

NASP State Tournament Returns To Middle Tennessee's Miller Coliseum

The 11th Annual National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) State Championships will be held March 30-31.

Tennessee Miller Coliseum will serve as the host venue for the eighth consecutive year

A field of more than 1,900 students is expected to participate by the time the registration concludes. The students will be representing more than 90 schools.

Sponsored by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, NASP began in Tennessee in 2004 and has seen tremendous growth since its inception. (See related article on first 10 years of NASP located in this issue of Tennessee Wildlife.)

Schools will compete in the elementary, middle school and high school divisions. Awards will be presented to the top teams and individual finishers in each of the three divisions.

Competition will start at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday with the first flight and two more flights to follow. On Thursday, there will be six flights with the first flight to begin at 8:30 a.m. and continuing until the final flight starts at 3:30 p.m. The awards ceremony is expected to begin at 5 p.m. The public is welcome and invited to attend. There is no admission charge.



In 2016, Magnet High and Central Magnet Middle School captured the state championships in their respective divisions while Christiana Elementary won its division at the 10th anniversary edition of the event.

Tennessee began NASP in late 2004 with 12 pilot schools participating in the program. The number of schools has grown to close to 300 schools now participating in the program. NASP is a two-week curriculum taught during school that teaches International Style Target Archery.

Each student will shoot 30 arrows, 15 from 10 meters and 15 from 15 meters

with a maximum score of 300. The top team and top 10 individuals in each division automatically receive a bid to compete in the 2017 National NASP Tournament to be held in May in Louisville, Ky. There will also be at-large bids for those who qualify.

If a school or teacher is interested in starting a NASP program, please contact Don Crawford, Assistant Chief of Information and Education at Don.Crawford@tn.gov or (615) 781-6542 or Matt Clarey, Regional Training Coordinator in TWRA Region III at Matt.Clarey@tn.gov or (931) 484-9571.

How To Be Considered For A State Record Fish

1. The state record fish application is available at tnwildlife.org in the “For Anglers” section.
2. To be considered for a state record certificate, the fish must be weighed on a certified scale. These scales may be found at supermarket meat centers, farm/feed stores, package/shipping stores, or TWRA Regional Offices.
3. Two witnesses, one of which must be the scale operator/ owner, must sign the application certifying that they have observed the declared weight.
4. Only species recognized by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) will be considered for Tennessee state record certification. These are available at <http://www.igfa.org>.
5. Ties are accepted, but a new state record will be recognized only if the weight of the fish is 1 oz. or more than the weight of the previous state record for that species or recognized hybrid.
6. It is the responsibility of the fisherman to contact a TWRA fisheries biologist for positive identification of the fish. The fish must be alive, fresh or frozen until positive species identity can be established.
7. Only two hybrid classifications, the striped bass/white bass (Cherokee bass) and the walleye/sauger (Saugeye), will be considered for state record classification. Applicants must be willing to submit to the professional judgment of the certifying biologist as to the fish’s hybrid status. A photograph is not acceptable for identification.
8. TWRA reserves the right to conduct genetic testing on any fish submitted as a state record to verify its species or hybrid status.
9. The completed application must be forwarded to the TWRA Fisheries Management Division within 30 days of the catch in order to be considered for a state record certificate.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 2-4

The annual Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) Workshop is held in Crossville. The workshop provides an opportunity to learn and participate in a variety of outdoors-related activities

June 10

Free Fishing Day is provided for anyone to fish without a license in hopes of increasing interest in fishing.

June 11-16

Free Fishing Week is for children ages 15 and younger to fish without a license beginning on Free Fishing Day through the following Friday.

June 14-July 26

The application period held for the 2017 Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Big Game Quota Hunts.

August 5 and 12

The WMA waterfowl blind site drawings are held on the first Saturday in August. The sandhill crane hunt permit drawing will be held the following week.

August 26

The Annual Free Hunting Day is when Tennessee residents are allowed to hunt without a license. The day coincides with the opening day of squirrel season.