

Message from the Editor

Fall is upon us as the anticipation for another hunting season grows. I have been fortunate to have already made two special hunting trips this year. The first was enjoying opening weekend of the Kentucky squirrel season hunting the very same farm with my Dad where he took me hunting for the first time when I was 6 – over 35 years ago. I took 4 squirrels that hunt and then shot a limit of 6 two days later on a different farm. In mid-September, my 16 year old daughter and I traveled to Wyoming for an antelope doe hunt with a good friend of mine. I watched with excitement when Hannah took her first antelope after a classic western stalk and a great 120 yard shot. It is deeply satisfying to pass the hunting tradition along from my Dad to

my daughters and I look forward to many more hunts with them. When you have some quiet time in the deer stand this fall, take some time to really think about what hunting and the outdoors means to you. I hope you find the memories of past hunts, anticipation of future hunts, and the camaraderie of friends and family as spiritually moving as I do. This newsletter issue has two articles that speak to the importance of hunting. We also introduce a new column called “Species of the South” to help provide information on plants and wildlife species that you may encounter. If you are in North Carolina, I strongly encourage you to become a “Bear Cooperator”; see information on page 4 about this important program. Finally, please pay close attention to the two safety articles. Returning home safely to our families from a hunting trip is the most important thing we do. Good luck this season and be safe out there! *Darren Miller, Newsletter Editor*



Hannah Miller (16) with her first antelope, a doe, taken while hunting in Wyoming with her Dad, Darren Miller, and family friend, Bob Lanka.
Photo by Darren Miller.

A Special Place

Evan Edwards, "More Than A Hunt" Participant



Editor's Note: Weyerhaeuser Company has partnered with Cross Mountain Ministries to host disabled hunters with the "More than a Hunt" program. Mr. Edwards participated in a hunt

on Weyerhaeuser land near Shuqhalak ("Sugarlock"), MS.

Have you been somewhere and realized you were in an extremely special place? I have had the privilege of experiencing many times one such place, the outdoor ministries of Cross Mountain Ministries in Kemper County, MS.

In 2005, after nineteen years of being a quadriplegic, I got back into hunting with the help of Brother Doug Stokes and members of Cross Mountain Ministries/Harvest Time Church. Before my injury, I enjoyed the outdoors: hunting, fishing, and sports. But, after breaking my neck in a high school football game, that was gone. By the grace of God, Brother Doug and I crossed paths at a men's conference, and he provided a couple of hunts at Cross Mountain. We saw deer, but it just didn't work out. In addition, I was still waiting to get a motorized gun mount. After the gun mount arrived and receiving a gun from Cross Mountain, Brother Doug and others took my parents and me on a fabulous hunting trip to Michigan where I pegged a big one: 212 pound, 9 point whitetail deer.

Upon returning home, Brother Doug asked me to help get more people with disabilities involved in deer hunts at Cross Mountain. We had three hunters with disabilities for our first

hunt, and three deer were killed! The number of hunts and number of hunters has grown each season. This past season four hunts took place with sixteen hunters being the highest count at one of them. With the expansion of available places to hunt being provided by Weyerhaeuser these hunts were truly awesome last year! I know Cross Mountain provides numerous other hunts, too, and even though I am not involved with those I am sure they were just as awesome!

I have had the opportunity to hunt in five other Mississippi counties, have seen very few deer, and missed a shot at only one "shooter" deer. On the other hand, at the "Special Place" (Cross Mountain) where I have been on many "More Than a Hunt" hunts, I have seen too many deer to count, shot seven times to kill seven deer, and passed up on shooting deer that could have been taken.

What makes Cross Mountain "A Special Place?" I will use one of Brother Doug's statements to answer, "It's a God thing!" By this answer I mean the people of Cross Mountain Ministries have a God-given purpose to help people with disabilities enjoy the outdoors and to share the good news of Jesus.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

"I (Jesus) came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10b

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10

Safely Anticipating the Hunt

Ken R. McCool, Environmental Manager, MS/AL Timberlands

As opening morning of the 2011 deer season arrived, a chilling northeast wind gently swayed the trees from side to side. The months of anticipation were finally over and it was time to enjoy the first hunt of the season, but for some this season was almost over before it started. The rollover of an ATV or farm tractor almost never ends without some type of damage or injury to person or property.



Only the slightest incline is needed to tip over a small tractor. This operator's season was almost over before it began. Luckily, he was not injured. *Photo by Anonymous.*

Year after year, we are very intense in our pursuit of that trophy whitetail and lose sight of many factors that could make the pursuit only a distant memory. Safely preparing for the season and staying focused on safety during the season are crucial in having a successful year. As I sit watching the first sweetgum leaves drifting to the ground, I think back to the many near misses I've had while preparing for the season.

Labor Day weekend usually signifies the beginning of the fall hunting seasons as many enjoy dove hunting and others prepare food

plots. ATVs have an expanded role in the outdoors and have made the outdoor experience very enjoyable, but should be used in such a manner that minimizes risk to yourself and others. In the last decade, ATV deaths increased 159% and number of accidents almost doubled. More and more hunt clubs are using ATVs and small farm tractors on their hunting leases. Whether just riding your ATV or managing wildlife openings, this equipment greatly contributes to the outdoor experience. The ATVs and farm tractors are designed to work on relatively level surfaces and can be very unstable especially when carrying additional items or implements.

Following a few safety precautions will help ensure a safe season.

- Regularly inspect your equipment.
- Be aware that hauling additional items changes center of balance.
- Always wear recommended safety equipment.
- Remember there are others using the same roads on which you are traveling.
- Travel at speeds that are safe for the conditions.
- Never ride an ATV on public roads.
- Take extra precaution while loading and unloading equipment; have ramps at the slightest angle possible.
- Never drink alcohol while operating any equipment.
- While transporting your equipment, always secure the load with the proper restraints and be sure the trailer is equipped with safety chains.
- Use the buddy system and always let someone know where you will be hunting.

This season should be a very good one as we are experiencing an abundant mast crop and the late spring and summer rains should have the deer herd in good condition. The cool air and light



rain signifies that fall has

Always make sure tie down straps are in good condition.

Photo by Ken McCool.

arrived and heightens our anticipation of the upcoming season. Just remember take a friend or kid with you to enjoy the outdoors and as always, BE SAFE!



Be pro-active; a regular pre-trip inspection can help prevent incidents like this. *Photo by Zachary Loman.*

Clubs in North Carolina - Become a Black Bear Cooperator!

Why Report a Bear Harvest?

- NC hunters who submit a bear tooth get information on their bear's age and a blaze orange NC Bear Cooperator Hat. If given the club's name, we can also send age information from all bears harvested by your club.
- By recording age and sex of harvested bears over a period of years, biologists can more accurately model NC bear populations and make sound management decisions.
- We need information on all NC bears, young and old, to accurately model the bear population.



How to Report?

- Contact us at 252-523-8540 (robbie.norville@ncwildlife.org) for information and supplies.

Instructions for Collecting Bear Teeth:

- The tooth we need, a premolar, is a very small tooth immediately behind the upper canine tooth (see picture)
- Use a screwdriver, ice pick, or knife blade to push the gum down and away from the tooth.
- Pull the tooth out with pliers or pry it out using the canine as a lever.
- **Do not break the tooth off at the gumline; we need the whole tooth including the root.**
- If you are unable to pull a premolar, the jaw can be cut.
- By contacting the phone number above, we can give you instructions on where to send the teeth.



Hunting Clearcuts

Peyton Weeks, Planning Forester, North Louisiana Timberlands

There are few things worse than showing up at a hunting lease and see logging equipment during hunting season. You spend hard-earned money to lease a place and then its logged during hunting season! If timber companies just had some consideration for hunters.

Well, I have been in that boat myself. In 2006, there were three active logging jobs on my lease on opening day of deer season. Foresters are not immune to this issue either. Hopefully we just have a better understanding of the big picture. Not the timber industry picture but the fact that the next few years after a harvest can be the most productive deer hunting you will ever experience.

Every year without fail, I receive multiple calls from lease holders asking for refunds or reduced rates because their lease was or is in the process of being clear cut. I usually ask if I can go there to hunt. Although many think a clear cut “destroys” wildlife habitat, it actually can greatly improve habitat conditions for numerous game and non-game species that depend on young forests. Granted, right after a stand is clear cut there is not much out there in the way of cover and food for wildlife. However, be patient. By the end of the first growing season, this begins to change and, for 2 – 8 years or so, clearcuts provide prime hunting ground.

I will be fair and list a few of the negatives that I have heard about recent clearcuts: there are no trees to place a stand; I can see the next hunter; I cannot hide as well from game; I can see way farther than I can shoot; I can see my truck; debris on the ground makes it hard to walk quietly.

While there may be validity to some of those statements, most have some upsides as well. You may have to find another approach than hunting out of a tree stand. Ground blinds make an excellent choice for hunting in new clearcuts. Your buddy that hunts next to you may actually be pushing game your way. So, be as stealthy as possible while entering your hunting area and get there before your buddy. Once you have the chance to observe natural travel corridors for game, you may find out why that area wasn't as good as you thought it should be. Move! That is unless you like to shoot a long way. The last one, the truck thing, is hard. Try to hide it as best you can. I don't recommend that you park it on your neighbor's property. But, I have actually had opportunities to make a good shot on deer as it was looking at my truck out of curiosity

Here a few tips that will help you hunt clearcuts. The first and easiest is to walk the perimeter and look for tracks coming in and out of the adjacent timber stands. Knowing the trails is a must for deer or turkeys. Secondly, look for the food sources available in the area. You will notice browse activity and droppings. Next, observing the area before season might just let you get a good look at what you are hunting. The last thing is to learn to play the wind. Wind can do strange things in clearcuts. Do your best to stay upwind from the direction you think the animals will enter the area.

We are not all blessed to hunt large tracts with a diversity of timber types. The best hunters learn to adjust to obstacles. What you learn from having to hunt a new landscape may just make you a more successful hunter.



We have a tendency to look at this fresh clearcut and think this is what we will have to hunt for the next few years. Hold tight, it will not look like this for long! *Photo by Peyton Weeks.*



This is a good example of a tract that was clearcut the previous year. It is amazing how fast new vegetation starts to come back. This provides browse, cover, bedding, and nesting areas for all types of game and nongame species. *Photo by Peyton Weeks.*

Court Decision May Impact Weyerhaeuser's Roads

Bob Emory, Weyerhaeuser Southern Timberlands Environmental Affairs Manager

The forest roads on Weyerhaeuser's land are critical for efficient management and protection of our forests. They also provide access for hunters. A recent decision in the U.S. 9th Circuit (Pacific Northwest) could affect how Weyerhaeuser manages its roads. The decision, currently only effective within the 9th Circuit, made forest roads used for logging subject to EPA National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. Forest landowners across the U.S. are concerned about this decision because, if it eventually becomes effective in the rest of the country, they may well have to get a permit for their roads from EPA. As someone who uses Weyerhaeuser's roads, you should be concerned too.

For thirty years, EPA has regulated forest roads as non-point sources (NPS) of pollution, best managed with Best Managed Practices (BMPs). BMPs are flexible enough to allow forestland managers to control runoff in the most effective way to avoid pollution of rivers and streams. BMPs have been shown to effectively control storm water runoff associated with forestry activities, including roads and monitoring has shown that BMP compliance rates are very high and increasing. The 9th Circuit Decision, one with which forest landowners almost universally disagree, found that forest roads used for logging are point sources (PS) of pollution and that they need an NPDES permit. Such a permit would place costly requirements on forest owners. Ironically, the requirement for an NPDES permit, while burdensome, is unlikely to result in any environmental improvement. So why should hunters be concerned? Compliance with an NPDES permit

for logging roads would fall most directly on landowners but hunters could also be impacted. Landowners may react in a number of ways including closing some roads to reduce exposure to permit obligations, limiting use of some roads, or deciding to put their forestland to some other use that brings a higher financial return.

Forest landowners are not taking this lying down. The Supreme Court will be asked to overturn the 9th Circuit decision but they can only take on a limited number of cases and there is no assurance they will take this one. There is a bill in Congress that would make it clear that most forestry activities are non-point sources and are best regulated by states through BMPs. If this bill reaches the floor of Congress, you may hear from us, your state forestry association, Tree Farm or other groups



Well-managed forest roads do not harm water quality and are critical to landowner and hunters. *Photo by Jerry Arnold*

like the Forest Landowners Association asking you to help by letting your Representative or Senator know that you support the bill. We hope you will respond.

Hunter Profile

Travis D. Perry, Procurement Forester, NC Timberlands

Hunting clubs of all sizes and types have deep roots in the hearts, minds and communities of eastern North Carolina. One example is the Vanceboro Hunting Club in the historic, community of Vanceboro, North Carolina. The club dates back to the late 1920s. One member of that hunting club, Claudie Taylor, a 3rd generation Vanceboro Hunting Club member, has developed a unique knowledge and appreciation of the land that provides significant value to Weyerhaeuser and the communities that surround it.



Claudie Taylor with an 8 point buck taken on Vanceboro HC. *Photo by Claudie Taylor*

Claudie is a life-long hunter and resident of the Vanceboro area, who takes pride in his community as a leading member of the Vanceboro Rotary Club and uses every opportunity to give back to a community that has given him so much.

I recently sat down with Claudie to gain insight into the origins of his knowledge and appreciation; he begins by explaining the history of the area he has hunted all his life. When asked about his experience with one of the oldest clubs hunting with Weyerhaeuser he says,

“Weyerhaeuser doesn’t have to lease the land to us, but they do, and I am thankful for that.”



Claudie and his daughter.
Photo by Claudie Taylor

He proudly traces his hunting to his Grandfather, a charter member of the Vanceboro hunting club who passed the hunting legacy to his Father, then to him, and now to his youngest daughter who had hunting at success at age 10 and still hunts today, more than twenty years later. Claudie’s hunting adventures have taken him across North America, including the Alaskan wilderness. He is able to share these experiences in way that inspires and encourages others.

As President of both the Vanceboro and Askin’s Neck Hunting Clubs, Claudie works with a large group of hunters, providing value to Weyerhaeuser and the community. For example, Claudie has worked with Weyerhaeuser to organize and co-sponsor a Wounded Warrior hunt for veterans the past two years. This program has been very successful and has hosted many appreciative veterans. Claudie provided them with home cooked venison, pictures, and unforgettable experiences.

Claudie embodies the heart, mind and soul of many of the hunters in eastern North Carolina. They have a strong sense of community, a love for the land, and an unquenchable desire to enjoy hunting far into the future.

Species of the South

Dr. Jessica A. Homyack, Certified Wildlife Biologist ®, Weyerhaeuser NR Company

This is the first of a regular installment in the “Weyerhaeuser Outdoors” newsletter. In each issue, I’ll highlight a species that occurs across the southeast. Some articles may focus on plants, some might focus on animals, and some might focus on little creepy-crawlies, but the idea is to provide some natural history information about creatures you may see (or some you are unlikely to see) in your adventures afield. If you have any suggestions for future profiles, please send them to me at jessica.homyack@weyerhaeuser.com.

For the first article, I chose a plant with great wildlife value and that is obvious this time of year because of its bright purple-pink berries, American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*). American beautyberry is sometimes called French mulberry or sourberry and is found along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from Virginia south and west to Texas. You’ll find this perennial shrub growing in oak or pine systems and it generally prefers clay or loamy soils, but it can grow in sandy soils. It is prevalent along fence rows, under an open pine canopy, or along roadsides because it requires a fair amount of sunlight.

American beautyberry is a large deciduous shrub that can grow to be 12 feet high, but is more typically 3-6 feet tall. Its large, dark green leaves are opposite each other on slender branches. This southern species has small tubular flowers that open from June-July and the purple to white fruit form and ripen during August-November. Beautyberry is important for a wide variety of wildlife species including numerous songbirds, mammals such as foxes,

squirrels, and raccoons, and bobwhite quail that eat the berries. The leaves and twigs are preferred browse of white-tailed deer, particularly in spring and summer.

Native Americans used portions of American beautyberry to treat many different ailments, including colic, malaria, and dysentery. Farmers of the early 1900’s recognized that this species could repel mosquitoes and other pesky insects. They would crush the leaves and rub them on themselves or their horses. Since then, scientists have discovered two natural insect repelling compounds in beautyberry. Today, you may also find American beautyberry in nurseries or planted as an ornamental shrub. Because of its value to wildlife, it would be a great addition to your backyard landscape to attract native birds. American beautyberry can be established from digging up volunteer plants, planting seeds, or rooting softwood stems. Other photos and information can be found at

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=CAA>

[M2](#).

Keep an eye out for this species of the south in your outdoor adventures!



American beautyberry is a species of the south that provides an important food source for white-tailed deer, songbirds, and many mammals.

Stormy Weather

Darren A. Miller, Ph.D., Certified Wildlife Biologist®, Weyerhaeuser NR Company

As I looked west from a gravel road on our hunting club, all I could see was daylight. It appeared as if not a single hardwood tree in the 150+ acre bottom was still standing. I thought about the fact that my oldest daughter had, only weeks before, taken her first gobbler in those woods and her first squirrel a few years back. Our 610 acre lease sustained a direct hit from a massive April 2,7 2011 tornado, part of the same system that spawned devastating storms across the South.

Many of you have similar stories or may have friends or loved ones that were impacted by recent storms. My prayers are with those that suffered human tragedy during these events.

Whether it is a hurricane, tornado, ice storm, flood, or even just a strong thunderstorm, there is still danger after the storms have passed and, as we enter the woods for the fall hunting season, it is imperative to recognize these risks.

Although it is wise to check the integrity of shooting houses and ladder stands each season, it is critical to do so after strong storms. This should be done well before the season so that repairs can be made and to reduce the temptation to use unsafe stands. Hunters should check supports and other important parts of shooting houses. For ladder stands, make sure straps and ladders are secure, look for hanging limbs from wind or ice storms, and make sure the tree supporting a ladder stand is not badly damaged.

Hunters should also check the status of roads. High water can erode roads, especially around culverts and along road shoulders. where holes or weak spots can also develop. The time to find

this damage is before you drive on it! Roads and trails also need to be checked for debris as strong storms can deposit nails, glass and other potentially damaging items on roads.

During any clean-up work, it is very important to minimize risks. For example, chainsaws are great tools, but trees under pressure contain a lot of potential energy that can easily maim or kill. If you are not an experienced chainsaw operator, allow someone trained in chainsaw use to do the work. Likewise for other tasks.

At Weyerhaeuser, we use a process known as RADAR (**R**ecognize the risk, **A**ssess the situation, **D**evelop a safe solution, **A**ct safely, **R**eport and share) to help keep us stay safe while on the job. Whether responding to storm damage or just recognizing daily risks, this acronym can be used to help make sure everyone returns home safely. After all, there isn't a buck or a gobbler out there that is worth injury or death. Hunt safe!



Be careful cleaning up and hunting after severe weather. This photo shows tornado damage in Webster County, MS.
Photo by Hannah Miller



Meet Your Weyerhaeuser Recreational Team

Editor's Note: During the next few issues, we will be introducing you to the Weyerhaeuser Southern Timberlands Recreational Management Team. This will allow you to put a name with a face and get to know our staff.

RYAN GIDDENS

The Arkansas/Oklahoma Region Recreational Program is managed by Ryan Giddens. Ryan has been employed with Weyerhaeuser for almost 12 years. He started his career in North Louisiana where he worked for four years before being transferred to the Arkansas/Oklahoma region. Ryan has spent most of his career in the Procurement part of the business with short stints in harvesting and forest management. He currently is a Land Adjustment Program/Land Use Forester for the region. Ryan only recently took over management of the lease program but looks forward to working with all the clubs to ensure a quality recreational experience.

Ryan and his wife Jennifer have a four year old daughter and they are expecting a son. He and his wife currently live in Texarkana, AR, but will be moving to the Nashville, AR area. In his spare time, Ryan enjoys hunting and spending time outdoors. His office is located in Dierks, AR at the Cossatot Tree Farm. Please feel free to stop by or call if you have any questions about your lease or just want to talk about the big one that you couldn't quite get bring home.



PEYTON WEEKS

The North Louisiana Region Recreational Manager is Peyton Weeks. Peyton is also the Team Leader for the Southern Timberlands Recreational Team. He started his career as an intern in 1997 with Willamette Industries. Upon graduation from Louisiana Tech University in Forestry, he accepted a position with Willamette in Emerson, AR. Peyton worked there until the Weyerhaeuser acquisition of Willamette in 2002. He was transferred to Natchitoches, LA and is currently a Planning/Roads Forester and the Recreational Manager. His career has been directed towards timber management and harvest scheduling. He has been managing the lease program in North Louisiana since 2002.

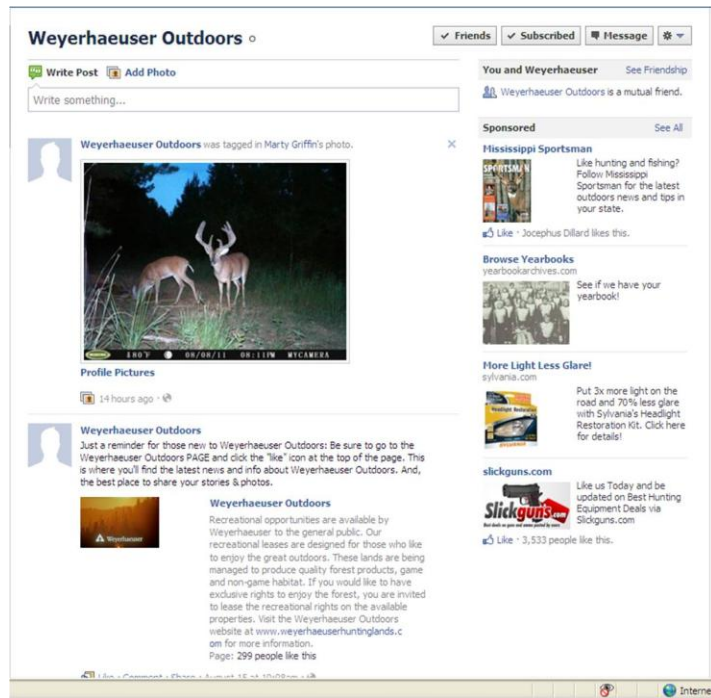
Peyton has lived in Natchitoches since 2003. He is married to Lindsay Franks Weeks and they have a four year old daughter. Peyton has a bad addiction to the outdoors, especially around deer stands. He is generally very hard to catch at the office from October to January, but be sure to leave a message, sometimes he shows back up to work!

WEYERHAEUSER OUTDOORS NOW ON FACEBOOK

Have you found us on Facebook yet? Our page name is “Weyerhaeuser Outdoors”. Our goal is to provide a quality experience for all outdoors enthusiasts. On the Weyerhaeuser Outdoors page, you can:

- Catch up on the latest outdoors news and information, both in Weyerhaeuser and in your local community;
- Interact with other enthusiasts;
- View photos of nature and wildlife, and post your own photos;
- Brag! Let’s see the results of your hunts and outdoor adventures!

Be sure to go to the Weyerhaeuser Outdoors PAGE and click the "like" icon at the top of the page. This is where you'll find the latest news and info about Weyerhaeuser Outdoors. And, the best place to share your stories & photos. If you aren't sure about how to use Facebook, just ask your teenager or your grandchild; they will have you social networking in no time!



We want to hear from you!

We are looking for hunt club members to submit questions (wildlife management, forestry, hunting, etc.), ideas for articles, comments, and photos to include in future newsletters. We would also like to feature different Weyerhaeuser hunting clubs in our newsletter. If you have something of interest for us or are interested in having your club profiled, please send an email to MSALHunting@Weyerhaeuser.com and we will work with you to get a story on your club into a future newsletter - *Editor*