

# ***Quarterly News Letter***

## ***Summer 2008***



I hope this finds you doing well, and your aquatic and upland habitats where you would like to see them in terms of progression or maintaining a quality state.

It has been busy this spring. We added several new landowners added and began working with Dr. Tim Gross (retired University of Florida Professor) to assist him with collecting fish, vegetation, water chemistry and sediment data for Georgia Pacific (GP). In particular, to address upcoming changes to GP's Palatka, Florida, paper mill located on the St. Johns River. I began my career as a researcher on the St. Johns River in the mid-80's and I am excited to get back out there. We have also begun working towards addressing the needs of homeowners, housing communities and golf courses to better manage their lakes and retention ponds. Many companies mismanage retention ponds, and we feel we offer a better solution for the environment and your budget. Please pass this information on to people who might be looking for a better lake management company. We can provide consultation to the Board of Directors explaining our services and unique philosophy in urban lake management. Also during the last quarter we became authorized dealers for Texas Hunter Products (fish & game feeders and hunting blinds) and Great Lakes Aeration Systems, which was added to our already established line of Sweeney products. With all these additions, I am in the process of adding a second work boat and biologist, to be located in Northeast Florida that will help me provide better service to Florida, Georgia and Alabama clients.

### **Lake Management**

During the hot summer months lake management actions are minimal. Hopefully in the early mornings and late afternoons you are catching bream, bass and catfish. These are great times to have a fish fry and harvest some of those 12-15 inch largemouth bass, bream over 8 inches and catfish that need removing (if that has been prescribed for you). There are a few things you need to pay attention to during the summer:

1. Water clarity (algae bloom)
  - a. Continue to follow the instructions for pond fertilizing
  - b. Make sure you are aware of other possible nutrient sources around the lake – do not over fertilize intentionally or unintentionally!
  - c. If you have a few or several overcast days and the water begins to clear - do not immediately fertilize when the weather clears, allow several days to pass for the algae to come back, if it does not, then proceed as directed.
2. Feeding
  - a. Reduced feeding occurrences if water temperatures get above 85-90° F or fish feeding activity has slowed
  - b. Only feed at dawn and dusk in excessive hot weather

3. Vegetation Control
  - a. Only chemically treat small areas of problem vegetation during the summer.
  - b. A large area chemical treatment can cause a Dissolved Oxygen (DO) crash and a major fish kill.
  - c. You can mechanically remove as much vegetation as desired; this has no effect on DO.
4. Stocking
  - a. Stocking is reserved for spring and fall.
  - b. Most of you have received all your fish for the year, but some may be scheduled to receive largemouth bass and/or threadfin shad this fall
  - c. This year's stocked fish came from Clark Buford Bait in Cordele, Georgia. I personally hauled some of the fish, and from your comments the fish were in great condition and were the size or larger in which you expected at stocking time.

### **Upland Management**

Hopefully you have had your soil tested, limed and planted your food plots, and you have received rain before and after planting. Nutrients available now are already playing an important role in antler development for bucks, and Young-of-the-Year (YOY) growth for deer, turkey and quail. Those that supplemental protein feed for white-tail deer should have already begun back in late winter/early spring and continue through August, specifically if trying to enhance antler growth. After August, feed for attractant can be used which is less expensive and all that is needed if the remainder of the property has adequate nutrition.

This quarter I am supplying you with a few resources I have found over the years on the internet to assist you with your wildlife management. I have found them to be very helpful to land owners who manage their own wildlife. Several of you are always asking about food plots, and these documents have a lot of information to answer many of your questions. Remember food plots are not the "silver bullet" and the remainder of your property needs to contain necessary habitat requirements for you to have a quality population of whatever your target species is.

- Planting zones and variety list:  
<http://www.wildlifeseeds.com/info/usazonemap.html>
- Effective Food Plots and also Deer Management & Biology:  
<http://www.outdooralabama.com/hunting/game/deer.cfm>
- Waterfowl Management Handbook:  
<http://www.nwrc.usgs.gov/wdb/pub/wmh/wmh.pdf>
- Managing Bobwhite Quail:  
<http://mdc4.mdc.mo.gov/Documents/259.pdf>

## **Upcoming Events of Interest**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Quality Deer Management (QDM) National Convention
  - i. July 24 – 27, 2008, Chattanooga Convention Center, Tennessee
  - ii. Call for more information: (800) 209-3337
- Quality Deer Management: Beyond the Basics Workshop offered by Westervelt Wildlife Services
  - i. August 7-9<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Westervelt Lodge, Aliceville, Alabama
  - ii. Call for more Information: (800) 281-7991
- Integrated Forest Vegetation Management Workshop sponsored in part by The Forest Landowners Association
  - i. 11 June 2008, UF-IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center - Quincy, Florida
  - ii. Call for more information: (850) 875-7142

I will be making my summer site visits in Florida, Georgia and Alabama the end of June and beginning of July. I will be calling in Mid-June and set up your individual appointments. Please have any potential new clients contact me ASAP, so I can include them for a site visit this summer and they do not miss the fall work window, especially if they need a fish population evaluation.

I hope you find these News Letters informative and your feed back is always welcome for suggested topics, format changes or upcoming events that readers may be interested in attending. Anyone with great fish or game pictures please submit them and maybe we can start including them in the News Letter. I also post all Quarterly News Letters on the company web site. If you wish to be removed from this mailing list please E-Mail me and you will stop receiving these.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer, and I'll be contacting you soon regarding summer site visits.

***Scott G. Brown***