

Quarterly News Letter

Summer 2009



I hope this finds you doing well and you have had some time to enjoy your lakes and ponds this spring. I had the pleasure of single-line sampling a few of our client's lakes this year and thoroughly enjoyed myself. Like all the previous springs since opening our doors, we have been busy. Most of the spring reports are done and the temperature is beginning to rise. We have added several housing developments to our client list in the Jacksonville, Florida area and would like to welcome you and thank you for the opportunity to work with you.

Aquatics

Providing extra habitat for your fish, particularly fish attractors has been inquired by many of you. Due to the present economic times, we had several landowners asking for ideas to build their own fish attractors instead of buying pre-made ones. Fish attractors can be made of various materials (natural and man-made) and come in various shapes and sizes. Below are photos and instructions on how to build what I feel is an excellent attractor that will last forever without straining your budget. These attractors come from years of building and observing on the market designs. These can be built for \$60 each in materials and provide 144 cubic feet of habitat that never needs refurbishing like natural materials do. They are easy to build and easy to deploy in a pond or lake. If you would like Southern Sportsman Aquatics & Land Management to build these and deploy, please contact us and we would be happy to assist.

Supplies needed:

- 1, two hole concrete block
- ½ bag of quickcrete
- One PVC pipe 10' X 4", cut in half (two pieces, 5' X 4")
- 36-40 pieces, 4' X ½" (inside diameter) polyethylene tubing

How to build: After cutting the PVC pipe into two, 5' long pieces, drill three, ¾" holes through both sides of pipe, within four inches of one end of each piece. Place end with holes in each opening of concrete block and angle away from middle with holes inside block. Pour readied concrete into both holes in concrete block and tamp flat assuring the concrete went through predrilled holes. Let set until concrete dries. Once dry, drill ¾" holes through PVC with regular drill bit (not a wood bit, as holes are too loose and "limbs" will roll over) at 90° angles from each other. Force polyethylene tubing through adjacent holes. Rotate all limbs up, alternating right and left as you go down a row.

How to deploy: Position boat over the area you want to place attractor, knowing the top will not stick out above the water, and slowly lower it over the side assuring it settles up-right and does not fall over. Setting in 8-15 feet deep water will be assure year-around use. Tying a float to mark its location can or does not have to be done. Setting out generally takes two people.



Uplands

Feral hogs have become an increasing problem throughout the southern half of the country with Texas and Florida having the worst problems. Although they can be fun to recreationally hunt, hogs are very destructive and cost landowners millions of dollars per year in damages. They eat seeds planted to grow crops, eat almost any growing crop, root up pine trees, destroy urban landscape and occasionally prey on other animals. They can also have

severe negative impacts on wildlife including turkey, deer and quail. One of their favorite foods is eggs of ground nesting birds.

Many states are being pressured (and doing it) to have feral hogs eliminated off public land and not be listed as a game animal on public land. Most states have greatly reduced regulations of hog hunting on public land. There are no regulations for hogs on private land; they are viewed as the property of the land owner.

Many years ago people were transplanting these soon to be “Hydrilla of land” in hopes they would become established and create another game animal opportunity for sport and table fare in their area. Even today, uneducated people are still moving them around hoping they become established in their area; which is no longer legal!

The following links: 1) [Feral Hogs in Texas](#), 2) [Coping With Feral Hogs in Texas](#), 3) [Feral Hogs in Georgia; Disease, Damage and Control](#) contain information on studies I frequently refer to that describe hog biology, life history and successful techniques to reduce numbers and limit property damage. These animals in my opinion are much smarter than deer and harder to remove by gun in large numbers. Even the best 30-30 rifle cannot keep up with a hog population if food and cover are adequate. Large traps capable of catching an entire group is an effective method. A combination of trapping, shooting and catching with dogs is probably the best way to remove large numbers.

Events of Interest

- **Southern Trophy Hunters Big Buck Expo**
 - Jacksonville, Florida, June 19-21, 2009
 - Lakeland, Florida, July 10-12, 2009

I hope you find these News Letters informative and your feedback is always welcome for suggested topics and upcoming events that readers may be interested in attending. Anyone with fish or game pictures please submit to me and we can include them in the Quarterly News Letter and/or add them to the “Photos” page of the company web site. All previous Quarterly News Letters and links of interest can be found at: southernsportsmanaquaticsandland.com in case you wish to observe past editions or forward them to a friend.

If you are pleased with the services and products you receive from Southern Sportsman Aquatics & Land Management, please tell your friends and associates about us. The best compliment you can give us is a referral! We are always looking for additional clients from Texas to Florida. Also, if you are inclined to write a short paragraph to be published on the “Testimonials” page of our web site, please do, as we are continually updating it and would like to have more of those now that we are heading into our third year of business.

I will be in Florida, Georgia and Alabama working from mid to late July and will be making site visits in Texas and Louisiana the last week of July or first of August. I will be contacting you in the next few weeks setting up site visits and meetings. If you want me to order or bring fertilizer, feeders (parts), aeration (parts), etc. please contact me ASAP so I can make all the necessary arrangements.

If you wish to be removed from this mailing list please E-Mail me and you will not receive these in the future.

Scott G. Brown