

# ***Quarterly News Letter***

## ***Winter 2009/2010***



I hope this finds you doing well and you have been enjoying the 2009/2010 hunting season on your property. I hope all of you and your families had a happy and safe Holiday Season and I wish all our clients and friends a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

This quarter the News Letter will be entirely dedicated to your ponds and what this record cold weather can do to them along with the plants and fish. Many of you stated those weeks in January were the coldest, and lasted the longest you can ever remember.

If you had an algae bloom the water will turn clearer this winter and might take a little longer to re-bloom this spring. If you feel some springs your lake greens up a little late/slower you may want to give it an extra boost with pond fertilizer to start so submerged vegetation does not become an issue late spring/early summer. If you always fertilize you will commence fertilizing the same as years' past, and there should be no difference. Once water temperatures get around 60° F and appear that they will stay above that, fertilization can begin. Always follow the manufacturer's directions whether fertilizing or applying herbicides.

Most native freshwater fish will not be affected by the recent cold weather. Water temperatures during winter site visits in early January were between 43 and 47° F from North Texas to Central Florida. All lakes had good dissolved oxygen (DO) levels from top to bottom. If you have blue or Mozambique tilapia (exotics) they usually perish in water temperatures at 55° F or below. Threadfin shad (native species) are susceptible to a coldwater die-off when water temperatures get below 45° F, according to the literature. Many of you have these for forage to help grow quality largemouth bass. If none were seen floating two or three weeks after the cold spell, look as water temperatures warm for these schooling near the surface and probably bass feeding on them while doing so. Another method to see if any are present is to check stomachs of harvested bass in your prescribed harvesting size range. If you feel most or all your threadfin have died, restocking is advised, especially if you already have an existing quality or trophy bass fishery.

When water temperatures get as low as this, most freshwater fish species in the south, generally slow down or stop feeding. Feeders should be turned off when water temperatures get below 50° F. As temperatures begin to rise they can be turned back on once per day (middle afternoon), as long as fish are observed coming after a few days. If temperatures are warm enough to feed and fish are not observed, turn the feeder off and try again when water temperatures warm up a few more degrees. Feeding can be done during extreme cold weather, but feed should be switched to a sinking pellet, and only feed every other day.

Most plant species on the lake edges will turn brown, but will come back this spring. It is recommended not cutting plants affected by the cold weather until they start growing back. Pruning or cutting plants that were, before they start to re-grow can damage or kill the plants. Many submerged species of vegetation can be knocked back or eliminated from a water body due to excessive cold weather. However, things like Hydrilla and Southern Naiad can come back and some species up to seven years after knocked back whether naturally or by herbicide

applications. Usually filamentous algae will come back thicker than the previous year after a plant die-off, as it can feed on decomposing plant material left from the freeze. In some cases it might be advised to treat filamentous algae near the surface and fertilize at the same time. This gets the planktonic algae bloom going and reducing filamentous algae that might not be shaded out due to fertilizing and a planktonic algae bloom. Each case is different and should be assessed by a professional lake manager before doing either.

### Events of Interest

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Westervelt Wildlife Services Continental-Style Pheasant Shoot to benefit Alabama's Hunters Helping the Hungry Program is scheduled for Tuesday 23 February 2010. If interested in participating or sponsoring a blind, cart or the lunch, see additional information at: <http://www.westerveltwildlife.com/content/view/112/198/>. Hopefully I will see you out there as both my labs will be there hustling up birds for folks. It should be a great time and all funds go to a great cause!
2. The National Wild Turkey Federation National Convention is February 18-21 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. For additional information go to: [http://www.nwtf.org/special\\_events/convention.html](http://www.nwtf.org/special_events/convention.html)

Here is a nice buck taken from Ochwalkee Creek Plantation in South Central Georgia a couple weeks ago that was caught on a trail camera near where it was harvested six weeks prior.



I want to thank all the Allen Ducks Unlimited Committee Members for their support both with DU and with helping Southern Sportsman Aquatics & Land Management become established. My two year term as Area Chairman concluded the end of 2009. I have thoroughly enjoyed myself and made some life-long friends as well as some hunting and fishing partners. They are a great bunch of guys and gals who worked very hard the past two years to bring National Recognition to the chapter in 2008 and 2009 both in fundraising and local in the field conservation efforts with the wood duck box project. I encourage all sportsmen to get involved in a conservation group whether DU, QDMA, NWTF, QU, etc. by donating funds and/or time to help the cause you are passionate about.

Here are my two favorite photos from the Brown's 2009 Hunting season. None of the game pictured was mine, which made these trips all the more memorable.



I encourage newsletter feedback and suggested topics, upcoming events that readers may be interested in attending, and anyone with fish or game pictures to 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: <http://www.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. We are already filling up our spring work schedule. If someone is interested in our services, they need to contact us sooner than later to assure their work gets scheduled this spring and does not have to be put off until fall 2010 or spring 2011. Also, if you are inclined to write a short paragraph to be published on the "Testimonials" page of our web site, please do so, as I am currently updating it and would like to have more of those from satisfied customers.

If you want us to order or bring feeders (parts), aeration/fountain (parts), build and deploy fish attractors, bird nesting boxes, etc. during spring site visits please contact us well before March and April so we can make all the necessary arrangements to get things done.

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, Owner**