

It's Time for Hunting Season!

If you're not ready, there is still a little time left. Archery deer season is coming early this year. Dove and Canada goose season open up on September first. If you can find water, teal season opens up on September eighth. Blue Mountain Lake is not an option with the drawdown to inspect the spillway in full effect. Something, by the way, I have personally been waiting on to see for around twenty years. Why, you ask? I had a cabin on Blue Mountain Lake for sixteen years and had always heard about the last drawdown. The Corps of Engineers has been trying to get this done for the past five years or so. I can remember going to a meeting a few years ago in Booneville when it started raining as representatives from the Corps of Engineers were discussing the drawdown procedures. The rain didn't stop for a solid week and Blue Mountain Lake flooded twenty-five feet above normal and it took the rest of the summer to get the lake back to normal. Needless to say the drawdown was cancelled that year. Fishermen, just remember when lakes are drawn down like this, it usually takes around three to five years as a conservative estimate to get back to catching record size fish.

Rain, cooler nights, and green grass are all signs of a productive hunting season. The drought has been worse just to the east of us in Franklin and Logan counties. I had a friend offer his cattle pasture for a Canada goose hunt because they are eating more grass than his cattle. So, September first I will be taking care of his goose problem. It will be my pleasure to introduce goose busters to help out a friend in need. I couldn't believe that deer archery season will start right in the middle of fair season this year. The Arkansas River will be the place to be if we don't get much more rain for dove and teal season. They will be concentrated in the river bottoms and sand bars. Don't forget that Eurasian Collared doves are an exotic invasive species and they are taking over the same habitat as our own native morning doves. The rule of thumb is to try and pick out the larger collared doves for elimination. Make it a contest to see who can get more Eurasian collared doves in your hunting party.

Hunting success will be determined by scouting habits, equipment, and time spent in the field. As always, teach the youth good gun handling techniques and ethical behaviors such as pointing the muzzle of the gun in a safe direction and eating what you shoot. One option for hunters is donating the deer meat to an organization named "Hunters Feeding the Hungry". So, as you can see Mr. Outdoors is pumped about this hunting season.

On another issue relating to Greenwood, I recently read an article by Chris Branam of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette speaking of a trail system known as the Razorback Regional Greenway, a 36-mile trail connecting trail systems in six cities in Benton and Washington counties. I am constantly seeing people use the trail system in Greenwood, and I began to think about how we could connect the trail system to Chaffee Crossing in Fort Smith. Is it just a pipe dream or could it be done? Recently, I was visiting with George and Jerene Reddin at their home in The Oaks. George, who is the pastor of Denver Street Baptist Church, stated "my only complaint with the trails is that there are some hills." He was just kidding of course, but he also wanted to say, "I appreciate the city for keeping it mowed back." As we were visiting Brother Reddin mentioned that he and Audie Jones had been walking on the trail three to five times per week. You can start at several places in the city such as the Greenwood Senior Center or Greenwood City Hall, but George Reddin starts at Creekside Drive and usually walks to Farmers Bank. The Walton

Foundation donated \$3.75 million to match a grant by the TIGER II grant program that was established through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for Benton and Washington counties. The foundation also provided grants to the tune of \$11.25 million to cities in northwest Arkansas. Do you think there might be some sort of relationship with the connection of our trail system here in Greenwood with Wal-Mart. I smell a grant opportunity. I'm sure the Greenwood city park committee and Doug Kinslow are on top of it.

Sponsorships are available for ITO on the Road. Thanks go out to Brownfield Pharmacy for helping to support a local business based in Greenwood. Crabtree RV just signed up to sponsor Mr. Outdoors and ITO on the Road. Mr. Outdoors, Jim Reynolds will be emceeing the Delta Waterfowl Banquet at Columbus Acres this Thursday night in Fort Smith starting at 5:30pm. If you need a portable building for storage or a cabin in the woods Jim Reynolds Outdoors (JRO) can help. How about an American made hunting jacket or coat? JRO has advertising opportunities on highway 71, just ask Sam Mooneyham. Would you like a remote at your business to attract new customers? There are more opportunities to advertise with ITO on the Road on a camper, golf cart, and an enclosed trailer. The possibilities are endless. Jim Reynolds is your advocate for advertising. Free consultations are available as long as coffee is involved. Contact Mr. Outdoors by calling 479-629-1791. Listen to Into The Outdoors every Saturday at 5 and 9am and 7am on Sundays on Big Country 107.3 or stream it anywhere in the world at www.bigcountry1073.com.