

in this issue >>>

Letter from President

Hunting Spotlight- That's Gonna Hurt

Follow us on Facebook!

Lake Thomas Signs

Send in your feedback

& More



A monthly insight into whats happening at Nettleton Fox Hunting and Fishing Association



January 2024



Current Topics >>>

Upcoming Events:

- **January 18-31:** Primitive Weapon
- **February 1-** All untagged treestands will be taken down
- **February 3rd**- Deer survey
- **February 7:** Tree planting by ICC
- **February 17 or 24:** Prescribed burns

New Club Hats are in



New Hats are \$25
See Russell Taylor to purchase

Letter from the President

Following the January 2024 Board meeting, Club President, Bobby Sprayberry, is sending out a letter to all club members about ongoing and upcoming activities at the club.

A copy of this letter is included in the newsletter this month, see below:

I hope you and your family has a wonderful Christmas and holiday season. As the new year kicks off, I am writing to inform all members of conservation and management practices that will be taking place at Nettleton Club this spring and how you might help and protect personal property such as stands or game cameras located on the Club.

This spring the Club plans to plant trees, prescribe burn certain areas on the Club, address predator issues, conduct a deer population survey and engage in fishing management practices on Club lakes. For these activities to be the most successful, the Club needs help from all its members. These practices will occur throughout the spring and summer of 2024. Please contact the caretaker, Russell Taylor at 662-507-8161 if you would like to be involved in helping with these practices.

The Club intends to plant Cypress and water oak trees secured from a donation by member Davis Lovelace in the bottom late this winter. The tentative date is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7 and will be planted by Mrs. Emily Jones forestry class from ICC. Please make sure as you are out through 2024 to watch for these young trees and attempt to avoid any destructive activities near these trees.

Continued on next page

Letter from the President- Continued

A tentative date for prescribed burns has been set for February 17 or 24. Weather conditions must be correct to secure a burn permit for the areas where burns are planned so these dates could change. This activity could potentially greatly benefit all wildlife and in particular deer and turkeys. Certified burn manager, Davis Lovelace, will serve as the burn manager and a safety meeting will be held at the Clubhouse the morning of the prescribed burn. Volunteers will be accepted. To volunteer please contact Russell Taylor at 662-507-8161. It is important that Club members who have stands and game cameras take measures to protect their property during these prescribed burns. Please either remove stands, cameras, tents or any other property from the areas listed below OR the owner of these properties should rake the ground for 6 foot in every direction to the bare dirt. It is imperative to rake the ground to this bare dirt so as to not have any tinder that could provide fuel to allow the fire to reach these items. A prescribed burn will occur in the following areas :

1 - West Side of the Grant Taylor road to the edge of Club property from the Old Garbage Dump road to the WPA Road

2 - Between the gas line and Shumpert road from the Y on Clubland road until it reaches the gas line. This will occur on the east side of Shumpert Road.

3 - Where the red dirt pit on top of Burgess Hill is located to Bougefala Creek along the road from the Alligator Lakes to Bougefala and South back to the Tombigbee River to the road that goes by Benny's Shack on the Tombigbee River

4- Around the Alligator Lakes on the east side

5 - Along Lake Conwill (River Run) from the skinning shed to the gate going to Brook's Bar

Please help us by removing or protecting personal property in these areas by February 10. If you have any questions please contact Caretaker, Russell Taylor at 662-507-8161.

Currently many coyotes have been reported and heard on Club property. Coyotes have a negative effect on deer and turkey populations. The bylaws of Nettleton Fox Hunting and Fishing Association do not allow for trapping except as sanctioned by the Board of Directors. The Board voted on Tuesday, January 9 to allow recommended experienced trappers to trap for coyotes on Club property from March 1 - March 7 of 2024. This will occur after squirrel season ends and end the day before youth turkey season begins. Traps will be removed before March 8. Many of these traps will be set on side roads on the Club but NOT on Clubland Road, Grant Taylor Road, Rocky Ridge Road, and the roads to the shooting range and Brooks Bar; however traps could be set on side roads that stem from these roads. The Board requests member help by limiting traffic and pets or dogs in any areas but these main roads from March 1-7, 2024.

As spring approaches, turkey season will soon be upon us. Allow me to remind everyone of an existing Club rule and two new special rules created the last year regarding turkey. An existing rule says only a member or an immediate family member can harvest turkey on the Club. Due to the limited number of turkeys and opportunities this rule is still in effect to save these opportunities for members or immediate family (spouse or children as defined by Club bylaw). Within the past year the Board of Directors made two rules for turkey hunting. First, all turkey harvests must be recorded at the skinning shed. Secondly, no supplemental feeding for any animal will be allowed during any open day of turkey season. Hunting over feed for turkeys is against the law. Due to the way turkeys move and hunters move during the hunt this feeding could prohibit or limit hunting in certain areas.

Continued on next page



Recently, board members met with the newly created Fish and Game committee to review recommendations the committee had. At its January 9, 2024 meeting the Board voted to have limited spring food plots strategically placed to benefit game as well as to fertilize Lake Thomas, Lake Green, and Lake Conwill. Plans are also to lime Lake Thomas. In addition, at the committee's recommendation, fishing management practices will take place on Lake Green and Lake Thomas. Two or three fish feeders will be added along Lake Green. These feeders will have directional casting and will hopefully booster the health and weight of fish in Lake Green. The Fish and Game committee also recommended any fish taken in Lake Thomas be removed by taking home or placing in newly restored Lake Conwill (River Run) or the Alligator Lakes (an example of the signs to be posted at Lake Thomas regarding removal of fish is included in this newsletter following this letter). Members can also be of great help by recording their catch numbers and size in Lake Thomas on a board that will be available under the boat dock. These records will allow the committee and Board to have good data for future management decisions.

Beginning in February, any stands not tagged will be taken down and left at the Club shop or torn down if deemed dilapidated. This measure will be taken due to the amount of deer stands on the Club. Members can purchase only 3 tags for each share from the caretaker and the tag must be attached to the stand. The cost of tags are \$2 a piece or 3 for \$5. Any stand removed by the Club and placed at the shop can be claimed before May 1 by a member by providing a \$25 service fee and placing in writing a statement that they are the rightful owner of the stand. Any stands not claimed by May 1 will be auctioned off at the 2nd annual Nettleton Club Day in May. If you have any questions, please contact Club caretaker, Russell Taylor at 662-507-8161.

After deer season, beginning on February 3rd the Club intends to conduct a deer population survey using game cameras. Club member, Josh Ridings, has created a grid with 50 grid areas of relatively equal size. Each camera will be placed in a grid area on a food source. The cameras will be left for two or three weeks and then taken up. Members will then compile deer numbers on does and look to identify different bucks that made it through the season on the Club. This activity is being done to give the Club more data in making sound, informed deer management decisions. The Club is asking for members to donate cameras and/or feeders and corn for this survey. The cameras and feeders will be labeled, taken up, and returned to members when the survey is completed. Please contact Russell Taylor for more information or if you would be willing to help with this survey.

We will have many exciting management practices occurring at the Club this year! For our Club to be its best, we need your help in these activities mentioned. I believe Nettleton Fox Hunting and Fishing Club is the best in the state. It is the best because of the hard work and engagement of its members for the last 120 years. It will remain the best because of members like you. I hope you have a blessed 2024 and I look forward to seeing you at the Club!



Attention:

Due to overpopulation in Lake Thomas, we ask you please do not return any fish caught to this lake. Please release into other lakes on the club (preferably the River Run or Burgess Lakes) or take home and enjoy.

Please help us continue to improve quality fishing opportunities to by adhering to this request.

Thank you in advance,
Board of Directors



Signs like the one to the left of this will be posted at Lake Thomas in the coming weeks to notify fishermen to not return any fish to Lake Thomas.

We appreciate all member's efforts to help improve fishing at club by adhering to this request.

Hunting Spotlight- That's Gonna Hurt >>>



In attempt to put their best foot forward, most Mississippi towns you enter advertise those who hail from their hometown with great and notable achievements. Amory boasts of American Idol winner Trent Harmon and many towns list the state champions throughout the local high school's existence. If such a sign appeared at Nettleton Club, many would find it strange as they pass why "That's Gonna Hurt" was listed among the notable in our Club's history. The name might not ring a bell unless you kept up with the Coon Hunting world, but the dog named and called Hurt as a puppy by owner and longtime Club member Keith Horton, has to be amongst the most accomplished former residents of the Club.

The story begins as most do with a young life just trying to survive. Keith Horton purchased Hurt as a puppy from renowned coon hunting friend and breeder Wimp Aaron's Skuna River stock and as a puppy Hurt's greatest accomplishment was simply that: Survival! In his young life Keith wondered if survival was possible for the dog he began to call "Hurt" after an illness and an almost miracle recovery from near death due to a snake bite received while roaming along Lake Thomas. At one point Keith was convinced he wouldn't live. Through sickness, vet visits and eventual training the hound, aptly named Hurt for his early life struggles, began to show his great potential as a coon dog. Keith commented "Even as a puppy Hurt was all business. When you turned him loose he was going to end up at a tree no matter how long it took or how far he had to go".

Keith spent countless nights in the hills and bottoms of the Club giving Hurt the opportunity to be what he was bred to become. For too many nights to recall, Keith and friend David Taylor, who owned Hurt's brother Speck, listened for the piercing locate bark to bounce off the big oaks and cypress trees of the Tombigbee River bottom followed by the consistent tree bark calling them to the tree.

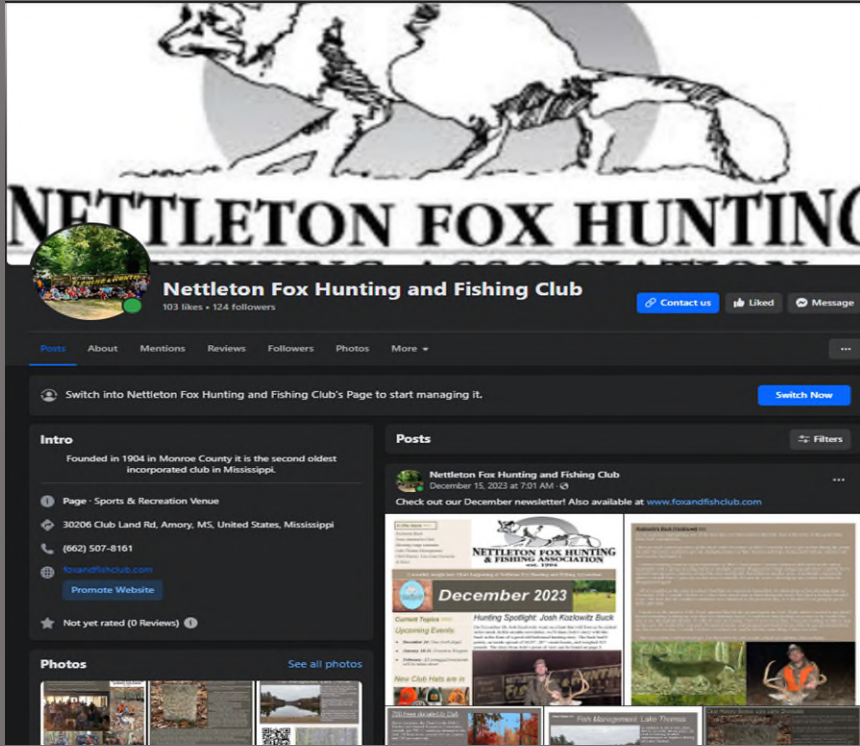
As Hurt matured and reached over a year old, Keith realizing his potential decided to sell him to professional coon Hunter, Barry Kiddy of Tennessee. Barry put Hurt to work in the competition coon hunting world and to work he went! In his second year alive Hurt won the Mississippi state hunt, a truck hunt, the National Futurity Championship, and placed 2nd in the World Hunt. Hurts winning as a competition coon dog totaled almost \$25,000 in just over a year of competition. Quite a list of accomplishments for any dog! The treeing walker that had chased raccoons over the Club a year earlier was now a state champion, national champion, and had placed second in a world hunt.

Hurt met an unfortunate demise doing what he loved. After Barry sold Hurt to a coon Hunter from north AL, Hurt, hunting in Illinois, climbed a leaning tree one night after his quarry and fell off sticking a stick through his neck. "That's Gonna Hurt" died just one week after his third birthday. Hurt unfortunately ultimately lived up to his name but not before making his mark doing what he loved. We could all wish the same could be said.

If a sign were ever to be erected entering Nettleton Club advertising famous former residents, I would find myself having to lobby for a name most would wonder now why did his mother name him That's Gonna Hurt. A dog that made his mark on his world with training he received right here on our Club. RIP Hurt, a once in a lifetime dog trained and raised by one of our own whose booming voice echoed through the same swamps and hills we still roam.

Along with the picture of Hurt above, there is a picture on page 5 of this newsletter of Keith and Hurt.

Follow us on Facebook!



In addition to starting a club website and newsletter to keep members informed on club happenings, the club also recently started an official Facebook page.

The page is called *Nettleton Fox Hunting and Fishing Club*.

If you haven't already, go like the page and share post to help grow our page!

Any time you are out enjoying the club and post pictures to Facebook of your activities, be sure to tag the club in the pictures!



We want your feedback!

If you have any feedback for the Fish and Game Committee, please scan the QR Code above or email us at fishandgamecomittee@gmail.com



Keith Horton and Hurt after a successful hunt

Final thoughts...

If you have any recommendations for the website, newsletter, or for anything related to the improvement of the club or it's resources, please contact Russell Taylor at 662-507-8161.

Below are a few pictures submitted by club members recently.

