



M W F P FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Governor's Hunt 2011...

Forth-three paid hunting guests attended the Governor's Hunt 2011 at Longleaf Plantation south of Hattiesburg, Ms. Feb.17-18,2011. Governor Haley Barbour and First Lady Marsha Barbour were special guests and enjoyed an evening of fellowship followed by a morning quail hunt with all of the guests. This hunt along with the three previous events have netted the MWF P Foundation almost \$400,000. which will be used for needed and necessary projects involved with the Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

North Ms Fish Hatchery...

In addition to the fact that the hatchery located off of I-55 North at Enid is a very active tourist stop, there is even more opportunity for fun where young people are concerned. There is an art contest open now for aspiring young artists. Full information can be found at the Hatchery tab on the Foundation web site:
www.foundationmwfp.com

Livingston Park Zoo Lake Project...

The Jackson City Council has approved the children's fishing project for the Livingston Park Zoo Lake. There are still some final agreement negotiations that have to be settled, however these fine points will soon be ironed out. It is hoped that there will be some limited organized fishing for some of the inner-city young people after the spring school term.



Cumbest Bluff Property Restoration....

This spring will mark the beginning of the removal of some of the alien , invasive plant species at the Cumbest Bluff property along the Pascagoula River north of Moss Point, Ms. This is being partially funded by monies from the Five Star Grant program and the Southern Company. We will report more specifics during 2011.

Black Bear Update...

MDWFP currently estimates that there are approximately 120 black bears living in the state of Mississippi. Over the past 7 years, MDWFP has captured, radio-collared, and collected data from 40 adult bears throughout the state. Collars equipped with GPS units have produced a wealth of data about movements and habitat preferences and continue to collect information which will aid biologists with conservation and management of this species as the population continues to grow. Prior to 2011, six different litters of cubs were documented yielding 14 newborn cubs. In 2011, den checks revealed six more litters of cubs yielding 12 newborn cubs – nearly matching the state's total cub production for the past 40 years. The litters were born to radio-collared female bears in Bolivar, Sharkey, Issaquena, and Warren Counties. As more and more cubs are born throughout the state, the future continues to look bright for the Mississippi black bear.



Archery In Schools Program

Many changes in the format of the AIMS program have triggered a new surge in the interest in the NASP program in our state. In the past, we have concentrated efforts on P.E. programs with success in reaching great numbers of students, since January more effort has been centered around the competitive aspect of archery. Last count was 45 of our 82 counties have active programs in the state. Many of these counties have multiple schools and school districts participating in the great sport of archery. The actual number of schools is approaching 300 which is far past our pre set goals. Last year, over 20,000 students were documented participating in the school program, this years official numbers are not in yet but the figure should be around 30,000. If 30% of these children become interested in outdoor sports (35% was Kentucky's figure) look how many children will be out of the computer games and into our outdoors. Mississippi now has over 400 trained instructors and with at least one training every month hopefully this number will reach 500 soon!



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