

Ask About Wildlife

QUESTION: Can you provide the season dates and bag limits for this fall's waterfowl hunting season? I'm aware that it is always late in the summer before the seasons are set, but I haven't seen them published anywhere yet.

S.A. Morgantin
ANSWER: This fall's waterfowl hunting season, the dates of which have just recently been set, will be somewhat similar to last year's. The first portion of the three-way split season for ducks opens October 4-6, and will again allow sportsmen to hunt locally reared wood ducks before their mid-October southward migration, and early migrating blue-winged and green-winged teal. The second short portion of the season, November 22-24, allows for traditional Thanksgiving holidays hunting. The final portion, which makes up the bulk of the season, opens on December 7th and runs through January 19—with the exception of special black duck and canvasbacks seasons. The daily bag limit is five ducks again this year. That limit may include one black duck (during the restricted season), two wood ducks, two redheads,

or here in western North Carolina, one canvasback. An exception is that on October 4, 5 and 6 the entire five bird limit may consist of wood ducks. The shortened black duck season, December 27 through January 19, is designed to reduce the hunter take of black ducks by 25 percent. The black duck population is in trouble due to loss of habitat, acid rain, hybridization with mallards and other factors, including hunting pressure.

There is a special coastal canvasback season again this year. It runs from January 9-19 and is restricted to the same specified area of Pamlico Sound as last year. During that season and in that area the bag limit is four birds per day, not more than one of which may be a hen, as part of the regular daily bag limit of ducks. A free permit is required to hunt canvasback during this special season. It may be obtained by writing the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Canvasback, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, N.C. 27611. The sea duck season is essentially the same as last year, opening on October 5th and running

through January 19th. The bag limit is seven birds per day, which may be taken in addition to the five bird limit for other ducks. The snow goose season will run from November 3rd through January 31st, with a daily bag limit of four birds. And the Canada goose season will run from December 20th through January 31st with a daily bag limit of one bird. The Brant season coincides with the regular duck season—October 4-6, November 22-24 and December 7 through January 19—with a

daily bag limit of four birds. That's a change from last year, reflecting a longer season and more liberal bag limit. Another change for this year is a special permit-only hunt for tundra swans. The season was adopted in response to problems with crop depredation, competition with other waterfowl, and an increase in the swan population. The season will run from November 3 through January 31, and each permittee will be allowed to harvest one tundra swan per season. Permits will be chosen through a random draw-

ing, and a total of 1,000 permits will be issued. Applicants should write to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Swan Permits, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, N.C. 27611. Each applicant number. Applications must be received by October 1. Legal shooting hours for waterfowl hunting begin at one-half hour before sunrise and end at sunset. In addition to a North Carolina hunting license, waterfowl hunters must also have a federal migratory bird stamp. Those wishing to contribute to waterfowl management and

research in North Carolina can purchase one of the voluntary North Carolina waterfowl stamps. Steel shot is required for the special hunts on most National Wildlife Refugees in North Carolina. Additional information on waterfowl hunting may be obtained by calling the Wildlife Resources Commission's toll-free number in Raleigh. That number, 1-800-662-7137, is printed on all hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and the North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest.

Patriots Lose Opener, Host Burns Thursday

Kings Mountain Junior High's footballers will try to shake off an opening season loss to a powerful Crest team and get on the winning track Thursday against Burns. Game time is 5 p.m. at Kings Mountain's John Gamble Stadium. Crest, which has been undefeated for over three years in Western N.C. Junior High Athletic Association competition, jumped out front early and never let up. Kings Mountain scored both of its touchdowns in the fourth quarter, one on an eight-yard run by Martin Spencer and the other on a two-yard run by Monty Deaton. Deaton's TD was set up by a long run off a swing pass by Anthony Hillman. "Crest took control of the game early and started beating us on deep passes," noted KM Coach John Bumgardner.

"We're confident that we can make some adjustments and do a lot better this week." Thursday's game will be the season's opener for Burns, which is also rated a strong contender for the league title. "We have a lot of work on our defense and passing game," said Bumgardner. "We have a good ballclub and I think if we can put things together defensively, we'll be in good shape. "Last week, it seemed we were struck with a lot of opening game jitters," he continued. "But now we have a game under our belts and that should help us."

JAYVEES

Kings Mountain's Jayvees also fell to Crest, losing 48-6 in a game played Wednesday afternoon. The jayvees were scheduled to host Burns Wednesday afternoon.

KM Women Golfers Compete In Tourney

Nineteen Kings Mountain women golfers played in the two-day 36-hole Ladies Championship Tournament Saturday and Sunday at Kings Mountain Country Club. The event was sponsored by the Kings Mountain Women's Golf Association. The weathermen smiled on the two-day festivities, as sunny skies and perfect golfing weather greeted the golfers who teed off Saturday morning and continued the championship event

Sunday afternoon. Golfers participating in the event were Linda Neely, Margaret Williams, Julia Timms, Mary Leigh Broadwell, in the Championship Flight. Participating in the First Flight were Peggy Jackson, Connie Ledford, Ginny Arnette, Doris Cloninger, Susie Howard, Ann Withers, Lib Mayes, and Elaine Grigg. Playing in the Second Flight were Shirley Austin, Heidi McDaniel, Brenda Sellers, Doris Howze, Marg Yancey, Phyllis Corn and Donna Russ. In the Championship flight Mary Leigh Broadwell edged out Margaret Williams by one stroke when she sunk a long putt on the last hole to win the Championship event. Mrs. Williams was second. In the First Flight Doris Cloninger won first place and Ann Withers was second. In the Second Flight, Heidi McDaniel won first place and Doris Howze was second.

Jayvees Host East

Kings Mountain High's jayvee footballers will play their first home game Thursday at 7:30 p.m. against East Gaston's Warriors. The jayvee Mountaineers lost their second straight contest last Thursday at Ashbrook, 12-0.

SOFTBALL TOURNEY
 There will be a men's softball tournament September 21-23 at the Grover ballpark. Entry fee is \$65. For information, call Lloyd Brown at 482-1490.



Twins are common to the species of monkey known as marmoset.

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