

WMA SPOTLIGHT

MUSCADINE FARMS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



AREA SIZE

2,800 acres

LOCATION

Muscadine Farms Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 2,800-acre property located south of Greenville. The headquarters and permit station are located on the corner of Avon Darlove and Muscadine roads.

HISTORY

Muscadine Farms was a 700-acre catfish farm in Washington County before it was purchased by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for mitigation in 2002. In 2009, an additional 700 acres of catfish ponds and 1,400 acres of replanted trees (Washington and Po-Lutken tracts) were added. The reforested section, also known as the “Washington Tract,” is a densely vegetated area providing prime habitat for rabbits and various ground-nesting species.

LAY OF THE LAND

The 90 ponds have had water control structures installed and are intensively managed for waterfowl habitat. Moist-soil management is the practice of managing and manipulating the land to stimulate desirable plants and invertebrates that are a critical part of waterfowl diets. The units are disked on a two- to three-year rotation to prevent woody vegetation from establishing. Disking also stimulates the growth of desirable grass species, such as millet and sprangletop. Applying herbicide also is key to producing quality habitats for waterfowl. Spraying helps to control non-desirable broadleaf plant species, such as cocklebur and sesbania.

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks’ (MDWFP) WMA biologists monitor wintering waterfowl using drone videography to gain a better understanding of how the waterfowl use the area. This information is beneficial in understanding how to attract larger numbers of birds to the area during migration.



HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

Waterfowl hunting is by draw hunt only with a combination of preseason draws and stand-by opportunities. Hunts are conducted on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Random drawings are conducted at 5 a.m. on each hunt day at the headquarters building.

Muscadine Farms provides September teal hunting opportunities on a draw-only basis. Hunters must be pre-drawn to be eligible to hunt. The selected hunter will be assigned a hunt unit and can report directly to the drawn unit on the morning of the hunt.

Dove fields are planted in sunflowers every year and MDWFP hosts an annual special youth dove hunt. Hunters must register for this event, which offers a hunter-safety briefing and skeet shooting for youth before the hunt.

MDWFP also hosts a free weekend youth waterfowl camp at Muscadine Farms each season. Campers arrive on Friday evening at Muscadine, where they are provided dinner and go through a safety and hunting protocol briefing. Saturday morning and evening, biologists take the campers on guided duck hunts on the WMA. Between hunts, campers are provided lunch as well as waterfowl ID, waterfowl cleaning, and waterfowl hunting demonstrations.

Bird viewing is possible on non-hunt days and throughout the year. Aside from waterfowl, shorebirds, such as ibis, snipe, and egrets, occupy the semi-permanent flooded units during the warmer seasons.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visitors to all WMAs should be familiar with the current regulations. To learn more about Muscadine Farms, visit www.mdwfp.com/wildlife-hunting/wma or call (601) 432-2199.

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