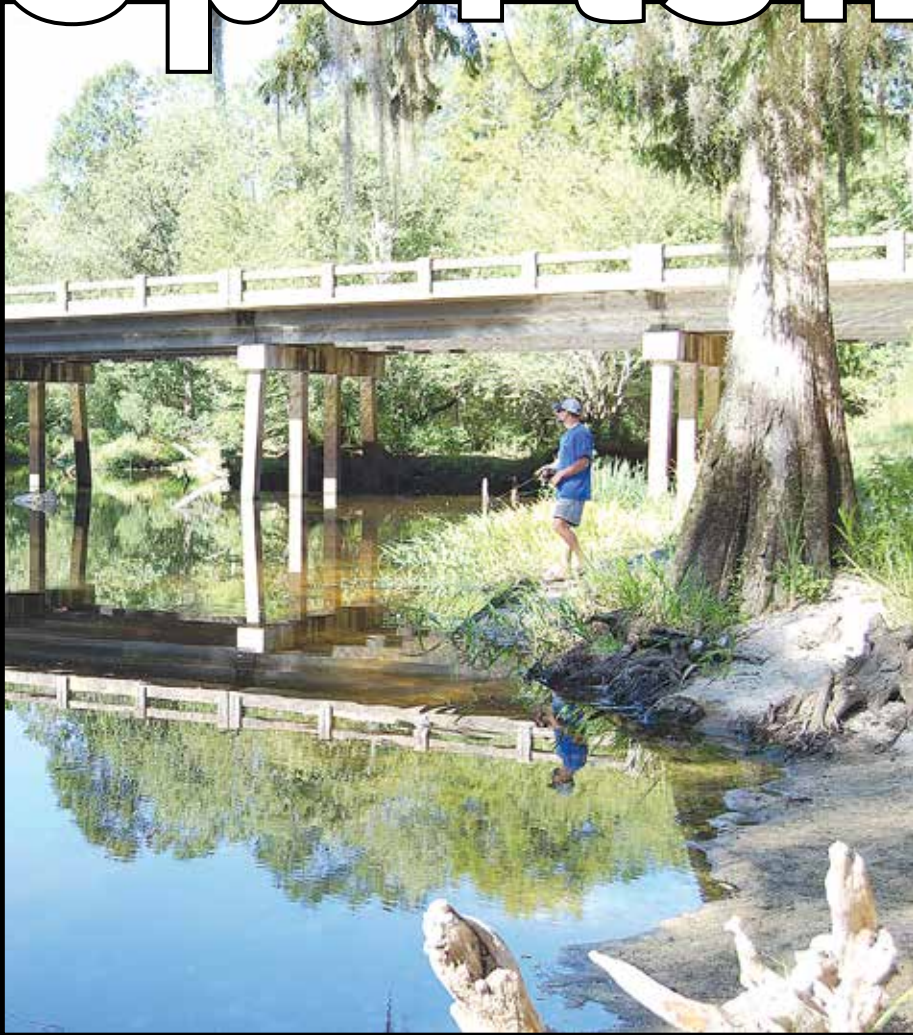


# SOUTH GEORGIA Sportsman

September 2016



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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Moultrian Bob Roberson lands a large redfish from his kayak in the salt flats near Lanark, Fla.

# Kayak fishing is versatile, economical

**BY DWAIN WALDEN**

dwain.walden@gafnews.com

**MOULTRIE** — Anyone who frequents Southern streams, lakes and even the estuaries around the Gulf of Mexico will notice an increase in the popularity of kayak fishing.

For some, it's a matter of economics. For others it may have more to do with accessibility. And of course there's just the pure adventure involved.

When it comes to economics,

one can get into kayaking without laying out a tremendous amount of cash, especially if you are not looking for a brand new rig. One may get equipped from \$1,000 to \$2,500, again depending on whether you go new or used.

Closely associated with the economics of kayak fishing is portability. Some kayaks can be carried on top of a vehicle or in the bed of a pickup truck while others may require a light trailer. Either way, it doesn't require a lot of horsepower to carry a kayak from your

house to your favorite fishing hole. And of course, they are manpowered, not horsepower, so there's no investment in an outboard and fuel.

Then there's the ability to get into fishing areas where a power boat can't go. Small rivers and large creeks can be fished from a kayak, while the versatility also allows one to work a larger lake and even the salt flats on calm days.

Moultrian Bob Roberson is a kayak enthusiast. He fishes a broad array of waters, including

small rivers, estuaries of the Gulf of Mexico as well as the salt flats.

It's not unusual for him to land a trophy redfish from his kayak one day and then a stringer of red-breast bream up a feeder creek the next day.

Many anglers will have more than one type of boat, as does Roberson. The kayak is specially designed for "loner" fishing. It's you, the kayak and the water. However, there are those people who kayak fish as a group or club and may all launch together. For some, that's

as much a camaraderie thing as it is about fishing. Some choose kayaks so they can get into the backwaters — into the stumps and lilly pads and often into the shallows where power boats simply can't go. Sloughs off the main waters often provide good fishing which means a kayak offers good accessibility.

One feature of a kayak is that it does not require a boat ramp to launch. If you have public access, then you can just shove it off the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Moultrian Bob Roberson shows the diversity of fish available to the kayak angler. Here he displays a speckled trout and a redfish.

bank ... sometimes even a steep incline.

There may be a misconception by some that an angler can only sit in a kayak. But some have enough width and stability to allow the angler to stand. This is good for fly fishing as well as spinner fishing. The low profile of the kayak also allows a spinner fisherman to cast easily under docks and willows.

Kayak anglers are not limited to a species of fish. Trophy bass have been hooked from these craft. Kayakers also go for pan fish or maybe even bottom fish. In the salt flats and in the creeks spilling into the flats, red fish, flounder and speckled trout have been brought aboard. Versatility is at the crux

of kayak fishing.

All sorts of accessories are available for kayaks. Some designs have pedals. It may all boil down to personal preference in many cases. Much advice is available on the web for kayak anglers who specifically like to fly fish as well as those who consider themselves primarily bass fishermen.

It is suggested by the experts that you consider what type of fishing you do 90 percent of the time and then plan for a kayak that fits that time element and let the other 10 percent fall where it may. In addition to the indirect information on the web, there are kayak experts out there who are willing to offer their

first-hand experiences.

One kayak expert on the internet, Damon Bungard, offers this advice: In general, length equals more speed: the longer the kayak, the faster it is, and the shorter the kayak, the slower it is. Length hurts maneuverability, however. Longer kayaks are harder to turn, while shorter kayaks are more nimble. Nimble is great for river fishing, where currents change and turning radius may be tight, but nimble is terrible when all you want to do is go in a straight line efficiently, and the wind is blowing you around on a salt flat. Typical fishing kayaks will be from 10 to 15 feet long.

Also, while a wider kayak al-

lows better standability, it will also be slower. In deciding on which kayak is best for your style of fishing, your physical ability should also be factored. Most modern fishing kayaks will be from 30 to 35 inches wide.

Hull design is also important to consider. If the desire is for ease in turning, the experts tell us that more curve is required. Again, one should decide not only what species he will mostly pursue, but also the locations he will mostly frequent, such as streams versus lakes. Typically, those anglers who prefer lakes will use a flatter hull that will hold a course better and is less affected by wind, Bungard said.

A beginning kayaker may start with a basic hull that has the ability to be customized as he develops his needs. Something as simple as paddle storage and dry storage should be considered. Some kayakers like to fish and camp on lakes and streams. At that point, storage is a key concern.

And whether it's kayak fishing, canoe fishing, bank fishing or power boat, always let someone know where you will be fishing ... where you launch from, where you plan to take out and how long you expect to be there. Safety first.

**MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6**



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SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Moultrie resident Bob Roberson takes his kayak into small streams for a nice catch of panfish.



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Moultrie resident Jeff Jeffords lands a large redfish from his kayak in a tidal creek off Lanark, Fla.

# Shooting club aims to please

BY BECKY TAYLOR

TIFTON — Dr. James Powell is a chiropractor by day, shooting coach by night.

A Worth County native, Powell grew up shooting, as have his children. Son Ambus' involvement with Tiftarea Academy's shooting clays team has led to the dual role.

Powell has been in practice in Tifton since 2002. He has been involved with the squad since 2014, when Ambus joined the team. He was an assistant for one season and co-head coach with Chris McCard last year.

"This year, I have it by myself," he said.

Ambus' involvement helped get him started with Tiftarea, but since then he has coached two other SCTP teams. He said those are similar to travel teams, running from January until

June. Ambus has competed for teams out of Waycross and Valdosta, he said.

He said he enjoys coaching. "I enjoy watching young kids improve better than I enjoy shooting myself," he said.

Powell has eight shooters, but can only practice with six at one time. "We're having split practices," he said. Most practices are held in Turner County.

The program falls under the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP), whose website said it was the largest for youth in the United States. The SCTP is further governed by the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation, which also has a division called the Scholastic Action Shooting Program.

"They shoot three disciplines," he said of his team, "skeet, trap and sporting clays."

The GISA recognizes clay tar-

get sports as one of their athletic programs. Gatewood won the interscholastic division in 2015, with John Hancock Academy winning the general division.

Powell said the team shoots several state qualifiers throughout the season. "This year we'll shoot two qualifiers at Albany at Flint Skeet and Trap (Club)," he said, "and we'll shoot two in Macon at Ocmulgee River Gun Club."

The GISA lists the dates as being Sept. 10 and Nov. 5. West-

wood School of Camilla will be the host of both. The Macon dates are Oct. 1 and Oct. 22.

Windsor and Stratford academies will host the former and First Presbyterian Day School the latter.

The state meet will be Dec. 2-3 at Savannah's Forest City Gun Club.

The Panthers have already had one meet this season,

which was Aug. 20 at the Ocmulgee River Gun Club. Ambus Powell had the overall top points total with 141. He is a 10th grad-

er. Second and third place went to seniors.

Tiftarea was fourth at the meet. Eighth grader Coty James was 12th overall.

Other team members are Rachel Wilson, the team's only female shooter and only senior, Will Knight, Jake Wilson, Hunter Hancock, Chase St. Amant and Ty Haskins. Everyone besides Wilson are 10th grade and under.

With the split teams, Ambus won't be shooting at their next meet. Powell said it would be interesting coaching a meet where his son was not involved.

There is little offseason. During the summer, he said three seventh graders, now eighth, participated on the SCTP teams. Powell said he is now coaching many of his athletes year round. "We had a blast," he said.





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ANGYE MORRISON  
Agri Supply of Tifton is  
located on Highway 41 South.

## *ASC: Working to pass down tradition, great value*

**BY ANGYE MORRISON**  
angye.morrison@gafnews.com

TIFTON – If you walk into Agri Supply (ASC), located on Highway 41 South in Tifton, and ask, “Can you set me up for the outdoors?” you’ll be met with a smile.

“We’ve got anything the hunter needs except weapons,” said Matt Cato, store manager. He and his 23 employees can help the outdoorsman find anything he needs to get set up for the first time or hit the woods again.

Cato says deer corn is their biggest selling item this time of year.

“We can’t keep it in here. It flies out,” he said, smiling. Deer corn is available,

shelled, in 40-pound bags for \$6.99.

He added that trailers are also a big seller as hunting season approaches.

“Everybody’s looking for a trailer to pull whatever equipment they’re taking to the woods with them,” he said.

The store sells trailers and accessories such as trailer jacks, ratchet tie-downs, lights and hitches.

ASC sells more than 26,000 items, and has been in business since 1962. All those years of service show, with the aisles filled with everything you need for farm, shop and home.

Need a stand or blind? You can pick up either at ASC. Three-D blind fabric by Omni-Tex can be pur-

chased for \$19.99.

A new item in the store this year is a deer hoist, that can be attached to a truck to lift and hold game on site. The hoist sells for \$89.95.

Once you’ve bagged your game, you can cook it up using the Carolina Cooker. Exclusively sold at Agri Supply, the line features cast iron skillets, heavy duty steel discadas and turkey fryer pots. Skillets start at \$14.88, discadas at \$29.99, and turkey fryer pots start at \$49.99.

ASC also features clothing for the outdoorsman. Everything from hats to boots can be purchased.

When it comes to shopping, Cato says ASC’s have become much more savvy,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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ANGYE MORRISON

Shown are some deer stands that can be purchased at ASC.

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ANGYE MORRISON

Shown are some hunting supplies that can be purchased at ASC.

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8**

and are utilizing the store's website more.

"They can access it and see what they're looking for before they come into the store. We're finding more and more that people are educating themselves on our products before they come in looking for it.

ASC works to provide not only great value in its products, but also to pass down the traditions all outdoorsmen hold dear. That's why ASC sponsors Pass it on Outdoors, a weekly show, founded in 2009. The show's primary mission is to pass on the hunting traditions learned from earlier generations to disabled kids, friends, veterans and first-time hunters. You can access the show's at ASC's website.

For more information on ASC or any of its products, go online at [www.agrisupply.com](http://www.agrisupply.com).



ANGYE MORRISON

Shown are just a few of the clothing items featured at Agri Supply for the outdoorsman.



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# You have to 'rough it' on the Ochlocknee

BY DWAIN WALDEN

dwain.walden@gafnews.com

**MOULTRIE** —Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn had their Mississippi. I had my Ochlocknee.

Of course there's no comparison in size. But while Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn were fictional, my experiences on the Ochlocknee were very real. And those experiences have run the length of that waterway, from little more than a tiny creek on the north end to a mile-wide Ochlocknee Bay on the Gulf of Mexico.

It was at Angelo's, a seafood restaurant that sits on piers extending out into Ochlocknee Bay, that a sea-weathered gentleman (I can't recall his name) struck up a conversation with me. He asked my wife and I where we were from. I pointed to the mouth of the Ochlocknee and said, "We're from the other end of that river."

There was a pause.

"And where's that?" he asked.

I told him we were from Moultrie, Ga., where the headwaters of the Ochlocknee form little more than a creek just north of town. He said he was raised there on Ochlocknee Bay but had really never given much thought to the river's source.

I explained that most of my experiences on that river were in Grady County, Ga., just south of Cairo. Some of my earliest memories of fishing with my dad were when I was about seven or eight years old. When the river got low enough to wade — which happened late in the summer — I would go fishing with him at a place called Hadley Ferry Bridge. I hadn't even learned to swim at that point, and when we would

cross a hole that — as my dad would say — "would float your hat," I would hold to the gallouses on the back of his overalls, and he would swim across with me in tow. It was at that point that I committed to learn to swim. I imagined then I would have a fond connection with that river for many years to come, and the ability to swim well would be crucial to such pleasure.

It was also on that stretch of river that my dad taught me how to gather "gator fleas" from drift logs. I'm not sure of the biological name for "gator fleas." They are multi-legged insects with powerful pinchers. You pull back the bark and scab

faces on drift logs, and they would be underneath in the hollows. One would also find crayfish, tiny catfish and an occasional water snake.

Redbreast bream and shell cracker love gator fleas. I haven't fished with one in many years, but I recall many times when we loaded up a stringer using that form of bait on a cane pole rig. When I refer to "gator fleas", a lot of folks don't know what I'm talking about. Well, you missed out on an adventure — just one of many on the Ochlocknee.

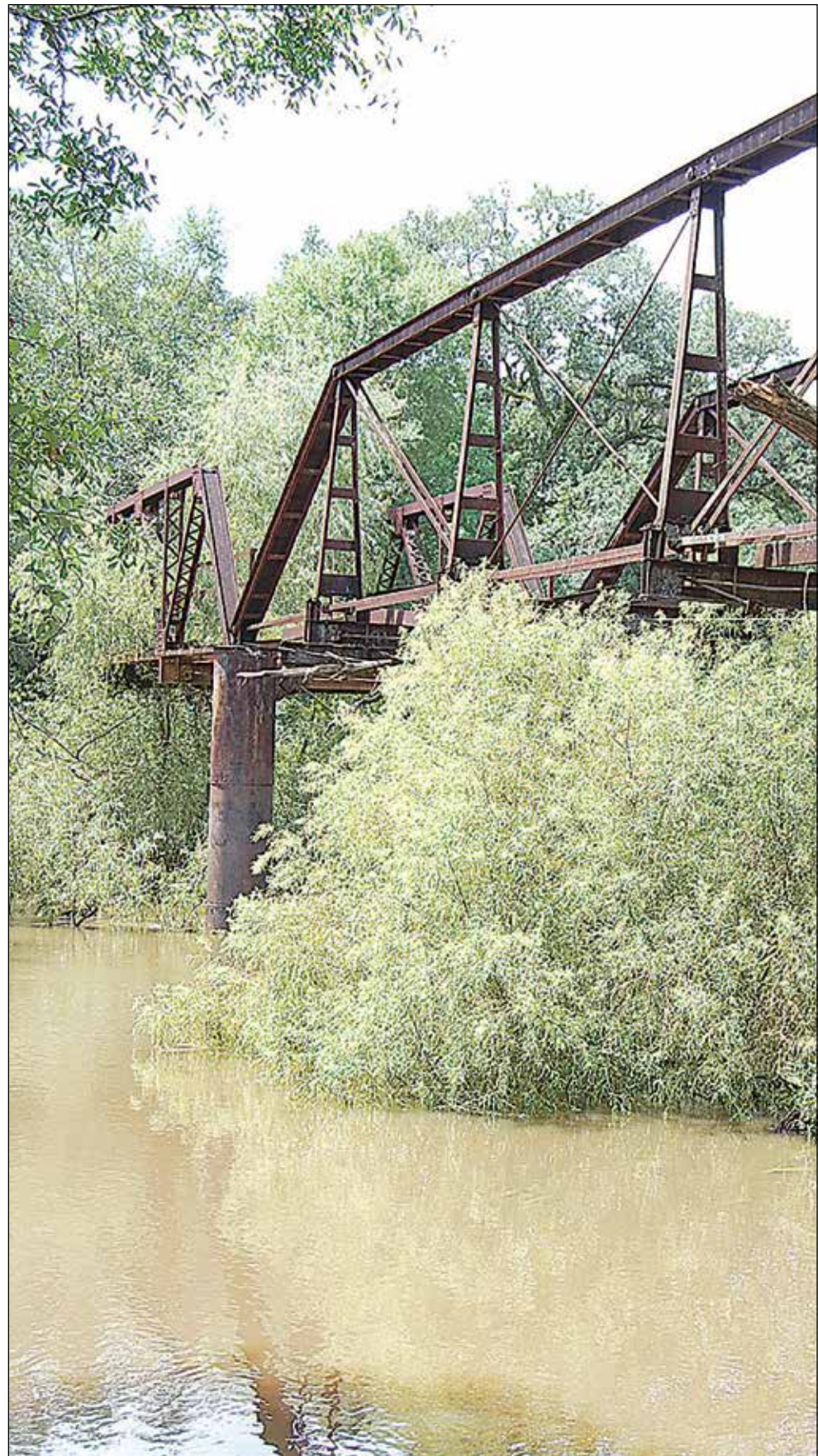
The Ochlocknee twists and turns its way from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



DWAIN WALDEN

**Willows choke the Ochlocknee River at Georgia Highway 93 in Grady County. Serious fishermen must often push their way through the overlapping trees, being mindful of wasps nests and cottonmouths sunning on the limbs.**



DWAIN WALDEN

**The metal carcass of the old Hadley Ferry Bridge on the Ochlocknee River can be seen just below Midway Highway south of Cairo.**



DWIN WALDEN

An angler tries his luck on the headwaters of the Ochlocknee River in Colquitt County. The river has its start just north of Moultrie where it's mostly a large creek.

Colquitt County, Ga., down through Thomas County and into Grady County before crossing into Florida and forming Lake Talquin. On its way to the Gulf, it picks up a couple of friends, Crooked River and The Sopchoppy just north off U.S. Highway 319.

Of course there are many creeks and branches that connect along the way.

The Ochlocknee becomes somewhat navigable by small jon boats down in Thomas County. And it's limited pretty much to jon boats and canoes all the way to Lake Talquin.

In Grady County this river is choked with willows, so unless one considers that paddling a canoe is pleasure boating, only serious fishermen will tackle willows, fallen cypress and sandbars. No cruising. No jet skis.

There are those points where one must literally push through the willow tops, being careful to avoid wasp nests and the occasional cottonmouth sunning itself. Both have been known to fall into boats.

Bank fishing is rather common on this river and in Grady County particularly, the river is very crooked. As a teenager learning to run trot lines at night, one could get really disoriented when fishing inside one of the Ochlocknee loops. Go to the right and you find river. Go to the left and you

find river. And in the darkness, there is that added dimension of confusion.

It was on this river during those trot line adventures, that I learned to build a lean-to out of palmetto fronds. They can be overlaid like shingles to turn a driving rain.

It's a good day's drift between the bridge on Georgia Highway 93 down to the Hadley Ferry Bridge on Midway Road. A word of advice, if you're making that drift and fishing along the way, never drop anchor or dark will catch you before you make it to the Hadley Ferry. If you get a bite but miss hooking the fish, just keep moving.

Among the species of fish one might catch on the Ochlocknee are bluegill, redbreast, crappie, large mouth bass, shell cracker, catfish and rarely a Suwannee bass. And of course there is the occasional mudfish that can waste your time and bait.

My experiences on the Ochlocknee in Colquitt County have been mostly wading with a bream buster. On Lake Talquin, my dad and I have brought in some nice catches of crappie and shell cracker. A word of advice to a novice on this lake, it is saturated with logs and stumps that can rip the foot off an outboard or jab a hole in your boat. Just take it easy.


I recall as a youngster when the dam broke on Lake Talquin. My dad, my uncles and I would drive across

the lake bed out to the river channel to fish. It was then I looked around and appreciated all the structure that had been left in the lake bed. Years later, as I motored across this body of water, I imagined the many tree trunks and logs I was passing over. I would wince every time my boat rubbed against a submerged log.

It's been a long time since I've waded-fished in The Ochlocknee. I may never do it again. It's not without its dangers and one should never do it alone. As the years have passed, I've become much more in tune to my mortality, and I'm inclined to take fewer risks. But I do have the memories.

Just recently I drove down to the Hadley Ferry landing where I sat under a willow, reminiscing. It was as though I could still hear the laughter of some of my compatriots of days gone by and smell the bream frying in a cast iron skillet over an open fire. We often would fish until noon and then come out on a sandbar and fry up the morning's catch.

The fact that The Ochlocknee is a small river that snakes its way to the ocean without gaining much girth, is a good thing for those who sometimes find jet skis and ski boats a bit annoying. It's like God designated it for very serious outdoorsmen who don't mind roughing it on occasion. It's like He designed it for me.



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981627

# Okefenokee expeditions get swamped

BY GLENDON POE

glendon.poe@gafnews.com

Five of us — all short of sleep — piled into Brad Moore's Chevy Tahoe around 10 p.m. We were hauling a canoe trailer loaded with canoes tightly ratcheted into place and itching to get to the black water of the Okefenokee Swamp.

Not anymore than we were, of course.

The anticipation level was high for Bite Me Expeditions, a self-titled moniker for our outdoor escapades. We left our sleepy little town of Pispah, Ala. — nestled in the northeast corner of the state — and made our way through the darkness on a late spring evening in 2015.

The first hour of the journey was filled with chatter and nothing else but the rumbling sound of the road and the whooshing of passing cars. Then, the chatter stopped. Brad reached from behind the wheel and turned on the radio for the first time. Lynyrd Skynyrd's



BRAD MOORE

Bite Me Expeditions poses for a photo at a shelter in the Okefenokee Swamp in 2014. Members are, from left, Brad Moore, Josh Shelton, Russell Poe, Glendon Poe, Larry Roden, David Patterson and Cameron Mitchell.

"Swamp Music" serenaded us via cassette.

How fitting, we all agreed. The only bad news: we still had six-plus hours

to ride to our destination.

We started getting serious about the South Georgia

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



BRAD MOORE

An alligator rests on a log in the Okefenokee Swamp.

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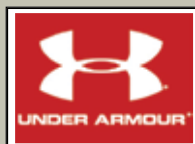
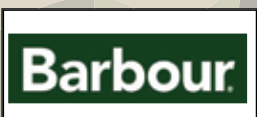
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## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

swamp in 2014, when our crew grew to seven. The seven of us have made the trip an annual endeavor, most recently completing Year 3 together. Our crew consists of Brad Moore, Larry Roden, Josh Shelton, Cameron Mitchell, David Patterson, myself and my dad, Russell Poe (our fearless leader).

My dad is a retired agriculture teacher and a natural-born leader. Even when he admittedly has no idea what he's doing, and even though we all have outdoor experience, we'll blindly follow him. He organizes our trips, waiting until the first possible moment to make our swamp reservations and striking like a swift, hungry alligator after its prey when his window of opportunity opens.

The name of our outfit, Bite Me Expeditions, originates from an old canoe my dad painted like a shark and named "Bite Me." He created a fleet of shark canoes to follow: "Bite Me II," "Eat Me" and "Predator." His latest work is a canoe painted like a gator called, "Swamp Thing."

Although the swamp has become our dominant yearly get-together, I'd go just about anywhere with those guys. It can be difficult finding six people you wouldn't mind spending three to four days with in the wilderness, especially without seriously contemplating the idea of feeding them to the gators by the end of Day 2.

The majority of our adventures together are canoe-based, and Okefenokee offers a different setting for paddling that northeast Alabama and southern Tennessee just can't. The winding canoe trails send paddlers through a peaceful, prehistoric wilderness. The Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge expands approximately 700 square miles. The bulk of the refuge is in the southeast corner of Georgia, but a portion of the swampland does dip into Florida.

We spend three to four days camping on designated platforms above the water.

Most camping platforms have an overhead shelter, but some don't. We primarily sleep in hammocks, although some of us mix in a tent once in a while.

My dad designed his own set of hammocks and hammock stands for the trips. There were some bumps and bruises that resulted from the experimental stages of the hammock stands, too. One night my dad was getting back in his hammock when one of his stands collapsed and conked a sleeping Larry. I think Larry set up his hammock farther away from my dad the next night.

We always feast in the swamp. It doesn't matter if the fish aren't biting. My dad always prepares gourmet meals, regardless. Some of the best cuisine we've eaten included grilled pork chops and a low-country boil with garlic bread.

For breakfast: the legendary Camp Sandwich — a heart attack waiting to happen. There have been several variations of this cholesterol-packed breakfast sandwich, but it's essentially an egg fried in a hole of sliced bread surrounded by generous strips of bacon, a slice of fried bologna and a slice of cheese between two slices of grilled toast. Every year we seem to make new additions to the sandwich.

Great food and great surroundings.

Nothing beats the spring wildlife experienced in the Okefenokee. All manner of indigenous plants are on display with blossoming flowers of different colors and Spanish moss drapes everything. Deer come out of the surrounding shades of trees to graze. Gators come out of the water in the mornings to warm themselves in the glow of the rising sun.

We all get something special out of the experience. For me, it's a vacation where I spend time with my dad and have fun with good friends.

The swamp has become a growing tradition. It's one I don't foresee us giving up anytime soon.



BRAD MOORE

Russell Poe, front, Glendon Poe, middle, and Larry Roden paddle through the Okefenokee Swamp.

## MORE PHOTOS ON PAGES 17 - 19



BRAD MOORE

The Camp Sandwich is displayed at a campsite in the Okefenokee Swamp.

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BRAD MOORE

Bite Me Expeditions paddles through a channel in the Okefenokee Swamp.



BRAD MOORE

A Great Egret flies over the Okefenokee Swamp.

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BRAD MOORE

Cameron Mitchell, left, and Josh Shelton prepare to move to the next camping area in the Okefenokee Swamp.



BRAD MOORE

A deer stands on the side of a road leading into the Okefenokee Swamp.



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BRAD MOORE

A trail guide in the Okefenokee Swamp.



BRAD MOORE

Bite Me Expeditions prepares camp on a platform in the Okefenokee Swamp.



BRAD MOORE

An alligator rests on a log in the Okefenokee Swamp.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO  
A unique place in Ashburn has been offering beautiful venues and backdrops for weddings and other special occasions for 16 years.

## *Making memories at Quails Landing at Little River Plantation*

BY LATASHA FORD

ASHBURN — A unique place in Ashburn has been offering beautiful venues and backdrops for weddings and other special occasions for 16 years.

Quails Landing, located at 2415 Warwick Highway in Ashburn, is an annex of Little River Plantation that offers the “utmost in southern charm.”

According to the website, “it offers the peaceful surrounding of nature with all the comforts of home for your special occasion. The main guest house features a bridal suite with sitting area, a queen-sized antique four poster bed, dressing room, large bathroom that will fulfill everyone’s

dreams, two guest bedrooms with two queen-sized beds, two and half dream baths, full kitchen, dining area, living room, game room and large patio with a partial coverlet.

“Our adjoining guest house also offers three bedrooms each with two queen-sized beds. We have an adjoining banquet-reception hall that will accommodate up to 200 guests, all of Quails Landing tables and chairs are yours for your occasion.”

Mother nature provides spectacular seasonal backdrops for weddings, receptions, rehearsals, retreats, reunions, business meetings or family events.

Wanda Bell, wedding coordinator for the planta-

tion and also a caterer for 28 years, said other than Quails Landing, they also offer another venue, The Lodge. She said both have a totally different look. She said The Lodge is very rustic and country looking, whereas Quails Landing is quaint and elegant. However, both venues give brides-to-be an opportunity to transform them into the look they have in mind.

Bell said at Quails Landing, there is a nice, open area where brides-to-be can have their stylist and makeup artist. She mentioned other features including a waterfall Jacuzzi, double-jetted shower, laundry room and more.

Bell said the main house has an attached large out-

door patio with a fireplace, where bands and DJs can set up and rehearsal dinners can be held. From the patio area, there is an entry way that goes right down to the gazebo, which sits in front of a pond. They also have a fountain in front of the main house, which Bell said is a beautiful spot where the ceremony can be held as well.

In the reception hall, there is a kitchen and seating area, which the bride-to-be can freely decorate at her pleasure.

“There are huge, tall pines out there,” Bell described. “It’s very pretty out there.”

She said a lot of brides-to-be who prefer small weddings use the reception

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

The main guest house features a queen-sized antique four poster bed.

## MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 22

hall. She noted there is climate control in all buildings. They also have a cabin that they rent in conjunction with The Lodge or Quails Landing — The Cabin at Covey Lake, which provides extra lodging for guests.

It's "a quaint, rustic cabin set in the woods on a beautiful lake," states the website. The Cabin features four bedrooms with two double beds in each, two bathrooms, living room, full kitchen and front and back porch.

Bell said they rent all year long for corporate retreats, class reunions and family reunions. They can accommodate any type of guests. Table and chairs come with the package. She said they have 225 white ceremony chairs, 15 60-inch round tables, 48-inch round patio glass top tables with the chairs and three 6-foot rectangles.

Check-in is at 10 a.m. Friday, and check-out is at 11 a.m. Sunday.

Bell said they have people booking all the time throughout the year. She said they have even had people from as far as New Jersey. The most popular season for weddings is fall.

For prices or to set up an appointment, visit [quailslanding.com](http://quailslanding.com) or call the office at (229) 567-0394 or (229) 567-3584.

"There are so many venues that are springing up," Bell said. "We're about the only plantation that gives the opportunity to have a choice. We do not have guest limits. Table and chairs and lodging are included in the packages. It's one set fee."

"We're a full working plantation," she said, noting they offer quail hunting, bass hunting and skeet shooting. "We have a lot to offer."

Little River Plantation is 14,000 acres of primitive land populated by deer, quail and wild turkey. The plantation is home to more than 1,000 acres of ponds and lakes.

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The gazebo that sits in front of the pond.

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The dock that overlooks the pond.

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In the reception hall, there is a kitchen and seating area, which the bride-to-be can freely decorate at her pleasure.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Quails Landing, located at 2415 Warwick Highway in Ashburn,

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# Grassy Pond

## Military park open to public

**BY DESIREE CARVER**

desiree.carver@gafnews.com

LAKE PARK – Tucked away inside Lake Park is more than 500 acres of outdoor family fun known as Grassy Pond.

Grassy Pond has been affiliated with Moody Air Force Base since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gave the base the right to maintain a rest camp and fishing area in 1952.

Now open to the public, families can enjoy all Grassy Pond has to offer.

Those with a valid mil-

itary ID do not have to pay a fee to enter Grassy Pond. Cars of 6 have a \$5 fee with \$2 for every additional person beyond six. Walk-ins, bicycles and motorcycles are \$2.

Annual passes can be purchased for \$60 per individual or \$120 for a family of six.

The fee covers a one-mile and three-mile hiking trail, a basketball court, a volleyball court, 17 picnic sites, a playground and a water play area.

Fishing boats, jon boats, pontoon boats, canoes and

pedal boats are available at an hourly, half day or daily rate.

Grassy Pond offers 15 three-bedroom mobile homes and four two-bedroom cabins for rent, all equipped with a stove, fridge, beds, television, screened porch and basic eating utensils. There are also RV and tent sites.

All facility and equipment rentals are on a first-come, first-served basis.

For the outdoor sportsman, Grassy Pond offers

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 24**



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The three mile hike wraps around one of the ponds with access points to docks overlooking the water.

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year round fishing. To fish, guests must be at least 15 years old with Georgia State Fishing License and Moody AFB Fishing Permits, which can be purchased at check-in. Fishing permit fees go directly to resource management to maintain the pond, according to Grassy Pond's website. Waters are stocked with bass, catfish and brim.

While fishing and boating is welcomed, there is no swimming allowed in the lakes.

Grassy Pond is located at

5360 Grassy Pond Road and is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

Main office and reservation center can be reached at (229) 559-5840.

Find on Facebook: Moody AFB Grassy Pond.

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**The three mile and one mile trails at Grassy Pond offer shaded walks for avid hikers or casual nature lovers.**



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**Grassy Pond offers plenty of outdoor activities including fishing and boating.**



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