

News

Hunting tips: Prepare for duck season

Tony Hudson

Guest Writer

There are rules and regulations for everything in life, and hunting season is no different.

A person cannot just wake up and decide that they want to go hunting. First, a hunting license needs to be purchased to secure his or her eligibility. There are different licenses for different types of game. Big game licenses are comprised of turkey, deer, elk and bear. Small game licenses are for squirrel, rabbit, beaver and duck. Youth from ages 6 to 15, also are allowed to hunt. Children should have supervision at all times, as well as the proper registration.

Duck hunting is the season now upon the area. For duck hunters, the following is information to be aware of that can serve as a reminder.

Along with the appropriate hunting license for the size of the game, a federal duck stamp and migratory bird permit are required. Before shooting, be knowledgeable of the duck type, duck zone, hunting date and daily limit.

Ducks, coots, mergansers, gallinules, virginia, sora rails and

common moorhens are the main waterfowl found in Tennessee. Always do research before hunting and know the targeted animal. A good hunter knows the calls, markings and traits of their game.

Reelfoot and Statewide are the duck zones in Tennessee. Inside the Reelfoot duck zone, ducks, coots and mergansers can be hunted from Nov. 16 to 17. The season opens again from Nov. 30 to Jan. 26.

For the statewide duck zone, the date for the previously mentioned waterfowl goes from Nov. 28 to Jan. 26. Two days may not seem to affect much, but it is the law, and it will always pay to be caught on the right side rather than the wrong.

There is also a daily bag limit and possession limit. Always know the legal limit for both before hunting.

For more information about duck hunting, visit www.tn.gov/twra/waterfowl.html or the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Decoys, calls and blinds can be used to help attract ducks. Decoy ducks are designed to bring in real ducks.

When ducks see a flock of what seems to be other ducks,

they usually cannot resist. Duck calls are used to do exactly what they are named for: call. Duck calls reel in ducks to a hunter's shooting range so that he or she can have an easier shot.

Blinds can be stationary, while some can be mobile. A blind is an area or setup made to not be noticed by animals and fit in with the wilderness. Real and fake straw, along with other materials, are used in creating a blind. There are ground, tree, boat and shack blinds. Some blinds can be so believable that humans may not be able to recognize them.

Dexter Fields, a senior management major at UTM said that hunting is an enjoyable experience.

"I've been hunting since I was 6 years old, and I still enjoy it. Deer season is my favorite, but I enjoy duck season all the same. I love hunting in Virginia. You can hunt with dogs or a group of people if you choose to. Here, you mainly have to still hunt and stay in one place. Always have appropriate clothing if you are going to be outside for a while. Don't forget to pack plenty of ammunition because you will miss. You don't want to have to use rocks. Most importantly, have fun on a good or bad day," Fields said.



Junior Mechanical Engineering major Ben Walker and guide dog Kayla try to stay warm while duck hunting in Biggers, Ark. Walker saw various types of waterfowl, including shovelers, pintails, mallards and specklebelly geese, during the hunt with BMW Outfitters, which he won as a door prize at the World Deer and Turkey expo in Birmingham, Ala. | **Photo Credit / Ben Walker**

Business Affairs offers fee deferment to help students

Ashley Marshall

Pacer Writer

When financial aid is all used up, students can still get help from UTM. College tuition is expensive and, luckily, students have the option of getting financial aid and loans from the university.

However, when there's money still to be owed, what can students do if they can't pay it all immediately? Bursar of Business Affairs Vickie Pflueger said that the fees can be deferred.

"After financial aid is posted

to the student's account, the fees that are still owed can be paid at a later date. We do, however, require some type of down payment, no matter which plan we're offering up front," Pflueger said.

One option of deferred payment is the two-part plan. It has always been offered at UTM, and this option is where the student pays half before the confirmation date and the other half later.

"The balance after [factoring in] financial aid awards and other payments is what we expect the student to pay out of pocket,"

Pflueger said.

Pflueger also explained that the later date in the past has been about 45 days at first unless it's on a weekend or holiday, and the school will adjust according to that.

There is also a new payment plan that may be offered, and Pflueger explains how the new deferment plan will work.

"Last semester, the university was wanting to do a four-part payment plan. Of course after all the fees, awards, etc. the student would only have to pay a fourth of the balance and have three more payments throughout the

semesters. It's much easier," Pflueger said.

Some students are on this plan right now, and the university is going to try and offer it in the spring.

"We've had a lot of students to try the 'Four Part' and they seem to like it," Pflueger said.

At the moment, it is not offered on Banner for the spring because of some technical issues.

"We're working with our actual software vendor for the perfect fix and testing, because we don't want to cause the students anymore confusion," Pflueger said.

"We're going to see how it works in the spring so we'll know what to do about next year."

The four-part deferment plan is a little bit more work for the university, but Pflueger thinks that the purpose is to serve the students.

"Our goal is not to make it easier for us, but to make it easier for the students," Pflueger said.

For more information about the deferment plans, go by Business Affairs at 116 Hall-Moody Administration.