

WMA Waterfowl Draw Hunts

MDWFP manages the WMA waterfowl draw hunt system to provide a quality, safe and fair experience for waterfowl hunters. It is MDWFP's goal to provide equal opportunity through a drawing process while promoting conservation among hunters. Since the inception of the waterfowl draw hunt system in 2002, many changes have been made to ensure such experiences. With new land acquisition, equipment improvements, land management changes, and increased hunter participation, the WMA draw system has evolved into what it is today. The following procedures are for WMAs under the waterfowl draw system for the 2023-24 hunting season:

- 1) All draw hunt applications will only be accepted online.
 - Applicants may apply for all hunts on as many WMAs as they wish but may submit only one application per WMA per application period.
 - All hunts are 1-day hunts.
 - Drawn hunters will be notified by email.
- 2) All drawn hunters will be randomly assigned a hunting unit.
- 3) Encouraging new waterfowl hunters to hunt WMAs is a priority for MDWFP, and a specified number of first-time applicants are selected for each hunt.

The WMAs listed below offer limited draw hunts or other organized waterfowl hunting opportunities:

- **WMAs that include Pre-Drawn only opportunities:** William C. "Billy" Deviney, Pearl River Youth, and Tuscumbia (Unit 2).
- **WMAs that include Pre-Drawn with stand-by opportunity:** Howard Miller, Charlie Capps, Mahannah, Trim Cane and Muscadine Farms.
- **Mahannah Timber units will be available only as a standby option.** There will be **NO** pre-draw option for Mahannah Timber units. A maximum of 10 waterfowl stand-by hunting parties will be allowed per day for the Mahannah Timber area. There will be no designated hunting units in the "Timber" area. It is highly recommended that hunters have knowledge of the area before submitting a draw application for the Timber area, since these areas are often very difficult to access.

WMA Waterfowl Draw Hunt Details

- There will be one single application period with 5 separate drawings for waterfowl hunts on WMAs, and each draw will cover the hunt days in a 2-week hunt period. Using 5 drawings allows applicants to have multiple chances to win a draw hunt, while also allowing applicants to only apply for time periods they know they will be able to hunt. See calendars below for each WMA's hunt dates.
- All applications will be open concurrently from October 1 to October 15. All drawings and notifications will be completed by November 1.

- All hunters (including under 16, over 65, and handicap) applying for a WMA draw hunt must possess a current valid WMA Permit, Lifetime Hunting License, or a Youth Exempt License to apply.
- Applicants will be notified by email only if successfully drawn.
- All selections are conducted by computer algorithm that gives preference to hunters who have not been selected for a hunt on a particular WMA in the past.
- Applicants must be 16 years of age or older.
- Hunting party size will be 3 or 4 hunters, depending on the WMA.
- For Howard Miller, Charlie Capps, Mahannah, and Muscadine Farms WMAs, drawn waterfowl hunters and their guests will sign in **by 5:00 am** on the Reservation Holder sign in sheet at the WMA headquarters the morning of their hunt and will proceed to their hunting unit. If drawn hunters DO NOT sign in **by 5:00 am**, their hunt unit will become available in the stand-by draw.

Sign-In Rules

- ALL hunters are required to SIGN IN PRIOR TO 5:00 AM.
- An individual's name can only appear in one group.
- If your name is in more than one group, you will immediately forfeit the opportunity to hunt for the day.

Pre- Drawn Hunters

- Pre-Drawn hunters receive email notifications containing their winning permit, the date, and the pre-assigned hunting unit. Pre-Drawn hunters must sign in on the Pre-Drawn sign in sheets ONLY. After they are checked in, they may proceed to their assigned hunt unit. Pre-Drawn hunters may not sign in for their Pre-Drawn unit, and then wait until the draw has been completed to see if they can get a different unit.
- If a hunter shows up after the drawing has started, they must wait until the entire draw process has been completed and then may sign in and may take any available hunt unit.

Standby Hunters

- ONE DESIGNATED PERSON may sign in ALL MEMBERS of their hunting party.
- A name can only appear in one group. If your name is in more than one group, you will immediately forfeit the opportunity to hunt for the day.
- There will be NO combining of groups or hunting party changes after the process begins.
- Hunters may only hunt if they were listed and selected on the initial sign in sheet.

Detailed procedures and information for individual WMAs follow below:

WMA Waterfowl Draw Hunt Dates Within Each Draw Period for 2023 - 24

Howard Miller WMA (Tues, Thurs, and Sat)				
1st Draw	2nd Draw	3rd Draw	4th Draw	5th Draw
Nov. 25	Dec. 9	Dec. 23	Jan. 6	Jan. 20
Dec. 2	Dec. 12	Dec. 26	Jan. 9	Jan. 23
	Dec. 14	Dec. 28	Jan. 11	Jan. 25
	Dec. 16	Dec. 30	Jan. 13	Jan. 27
	Dec. 19	Jan. 2	Jan. 16	Jan. 30
	Dec. 21	Jan. 4	Jan. 18	

Mahannah WMA (Mon, Wed, and Sat)				
1st Draw	2nd Draw	3rd Draw	4th Draw	5th Draw
Nov. 25	Dec. 9	Dec. 23	Jan. 6	Jan. 20
Dec. 2	Dec. 11	Dec. 25	Jan. 8	Jan. 22
	Dec. 13	Dec. 27	Jan. 10	Jan. 24
	Dec. 16	Dec. 30	Jan. 13	Jan. 27
	Dec. 18	Jan. 1	Jan. 15	Jan. 29
	Dec. 20	Jan. 3	Jan. 17	Jan. 31

Note: Mahannah Timber units will be available only as a standby option. There will be **NO** pre-draw option for Mahannah Timber units.

Trim Cane WMA (Wed and Sat)				
1st Draw	2nd Draw	3rd Draw	4th Draw	5th Draw
		Dec. 20	Jan. 3	Jan. 17
		Dec. 23	Jan. 6	Jan. 20
		Dec. 27	Jan. 10	Jan. 24
		Dec. 30	Jan. 13	Jan. 27
				Jan. 31

Pearl River WMA - Youth Waterfowl Draws (Sat)				
1st Draw	2nd Draw	3rd Draw	4th Draw	5th Draw
Nov. 25	Dec. 9	Dec. 23	Jan. 6	Jan. 20
Dec. 2	Dec. 16	Dec. 30	Jan. 13	Jan. 27
				Feb. 3

Tuscumbia WMA Unit 2 (Wed and Sat)				
1st Draw	2nd Draw	3rd Draw	4th Draw	5th Draw
	Dec. 9	Dec. 20	Jan. 3	Jan. 17
	Dec. 13	Dec. 23	Jan. 6	Jan. 20
	Dec. 16	Dec. 27	Jan. 10	Jan. 24
		Dec. 30	Jan. 13	Jan. 27
				Jan. 31

William C. "Billy" Deviney WMA (Tues, Thurs, and Sat)				
1st Draw	2nd Draw	3rd Draw	4th Draw	5th Draw
Nov. 25	Dec. 9	Dec. 23	Jan. 6	Jan. 20
Dec. 2	Dec. 12	Dec. 26	Jan. 9	Jan. 23
	Dec. 14	Dec. 28	Jan. 11	Jan. 25
	Dec. 16	Dec. 30	Jan. 13	Jan. 27
	Dec. 19	Jan. 2	Jan. 16	Jan. 30
	Dec. 21	Jan. 4	Jan. 18	

Charlie Capps WMA (Mon, Wed and Sat)				
1st Draw	2nd Draw	3rd Draw	4th Draw	5th Draw
Nov. 25	Dec. 9	Dec. 23	Jan. 6	Jan. 20
Dec. 2	Dec. 11	Dec. 25	Jan. 8	Jan. 22
	Dec. 13	Dec. 27	Jan. 10	Jan. 24
	Dec. 16	Dec. 30	Jan. 13	Jan. 27
	Dec. 18	Jan. 1	Jan. 15	Jan. 29
	Dec. 20	Jan. 3	Jan. 17	Jan. 31

Muscadine Farms WMA (Tues, Thurs, Sat)				
1st Draw	2nd Draw	3rd Draw	4th Draw	5th Draw
Nov. 25	Dec. 9	Dec. 23	Jan. 6	Jan. 20
Dec. 2	Dec. 12	Dec. 26	Jan. 9	Jan. 23
	Dec. 14	Dec. 28	Jan. 11	Jan. 25
	Dec. 16	Dec. 30	Jan. 13	Jan. 27
	Dec. 19	Jan. 2	Jan. 16	Jan. 30
	Dec. 21	Jan. 4	Jan. 18	

Charlie Capps WMA

September Teal Season - Open concurrent with statewide season. May hunt teal on any available open water, excluding Conservation League Lake.

Youth/Veteran Season – open concurrent with statewide seasons. Hunters may hunt in any waterfowl impoundment from 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset.

Permitted Waterfowl Draw Hunts for Regular Waterfowl Hunting Season

- All duck hunts, except for the youth/veteran hunts and early teal season, are draw hunts only.
- All six hunting units will be assigned when draw winners are notified by email.
- Drawn hunters and their guests will sign in on the Pre-Drawn sign in sheet by 5:00 am and then proceed to their assigned hunting unit the morning of the hunt.
- There will be “stand-by” opportunity for non-drawn hunters to show up the day of a hunt for a chance to fill a vacant spot.
- If drawn hunters do not sign in by 5:00 am, their hunt unit will become available in the stand-by draw.
- For stand-by hunters, one designated person from each hunt group will sign in all members of their hunting party on a numbered stand-by sign in sheet by 5:00 am and will draw for the order in which they will select any hunt units left available.
- This will continue until all available hunt units are allocated or all stand-by groups have a hunt unit.

Howard Miller WMA

September Teal Season – Hunting during the September teal season is allowed by special permit only. You may apply online at www.mdwfp.com. There are no standby opportunities for September Teal season, drawn hunters may hunt from 30 minutes before sunrise until 12:00 Noon and must be checked out of the WMA by 1:00 PM. A minimum of two impoundments (80 acres) will be flooded and prepared for Teal hunting. All other migratory game birds may be hunted in assigned units while on permitted waterfowl hunts during the legal season for the species. Outside of open waterfowl seasons, migratory game birds may be hunted daily on the WMA during the legal season for those species.

Youth/Veteran Season – open concurrent with statewide seasons. Hunters may hunt in any waterfowl impoundment from 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset.

The **Waterfowl Sanctuary** area is closed to all activities.

Permitted Waterfowl Draw Hunts for Regular Waterfowl Hunting Season

- Draw Hunts are conducted at Howard Miller on **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays** during the Statewide Waterfowl Season. The MDWFP Facility will be open no later than 4:30 AM on the mornings of these hunting days.
- Sign in Sheets will be placed on the counter inside the Howard Miller shop. A “Pre-Drawn” and a “Standby” sign in sheet will be available. Copies of WMA Rules, Maps, and Waterfowl Draw Process information will be available and posted. A MDWFP employee will be available to answer questions about the drawing process, Howard Miller WMA, as well as other WMAs in the Region if needed. MDWFP Employee will manage the crowd and may ask visitors to step outside if the area is too congested.
- There are 25 Impoundment Units (1A, 1B, 2A,..., Timber1) at Howard Miller WMA. All of which may not be “Open” due to the presence of “hunnable” water. Units will be marked OPEN/CLOSED on the Units Availability board and updated weekly. Pre-Drawn units will be assigned only to Units that MDWFP staff can guarantee will have “hunnable” water present on the drawn hunt dates. Currently the only unit that cannot be pumped is the new Timber Unit.
- Hunters may only hunt if they were listed and selected on the initial sign in sheet. Hunters may only hunt in their assigned unit as they were listed and selected on the initial sign in sheet. Hunters may not combine or add hunters to their hunting parties after the draw can be conducted. Only those persons drawn may be on the WMA during draw hunts. Waterfowl hunters must be out of the assigned unit by 1:00 PM.

Mahannah WMA

Early Teal Season – no drawing, open daily concurrent with the statewide Early Teal Season. Hunters may hunt any portion of the WMA, except the Waterfowl Sanctuary. All other migratory game birds may be hunted in assigned units while on permitted waterfowl hunts during the legal season for the species. Outside of open waterfowl seasons, migratory game birds may be hunted daily on the WMA during the legal season for those species.

Youth/Veteran Season – open concurrent with statewide seasons. Hunters may hunt in any waterfowl impoundment or Timber Unit from 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset.

The **Waterfowl Sanctuary** area is closed to all activities.

Permitted Waterfowl Draw Hunts for Regular Waterfowl Hunting Season

- Draw Hunts are conducted at Mahannah / Phil Bryant WMA Buck Bayou Unit on **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays** during the Statewide Waterfowl Season. The MDWFP Facility will be open no later than 4:30 AM on the mornings of these hunting days.

- Sign in Sheets will be placed on the counter inside the Mahannah WMA office. A “Mahannah Timber Standby”, “Mahannah Pre-Drawn Impoundments”, and a “Mahannah Standby Impoundments” sign in sheet will be available. WMA Rules, Maps, and Waterfowl Draw Process information will be available as handouts and posted inside the office. A MDWFP employee will be available to answer questions about the drawing process, Mahannah WMA, as well as other WMAs in the Region if needed. MDWFP Employee will manage the crowd inside the office and may ask visitors to step outside if the area gets too congested.

Mahannah WMA Timber Unit Hunt

- Timber Hunt Unit is **Standby ONLY** and no more than **10 slots** will be filled on each day. The Timber drawing will be conducted PRIOR to the IMPOUNDMENTS drawing.
- Visitors may only sign up for one drawing, either the TIMBER or IMPOUNDMENTS Drawing, but not both.
- After the draw process has begun, no changes to the sign in sheets shall be made.
- Groups not selected for a TIMBER slot may sign up for a leftover IMPOUNDMENT unit, only after the IMPOUNDMENT drawing has been conducted. Groups not selected for an IMPOUNDMENT Unit may also sign up for TIMBER slot, only after the IMPOUNDMENT drawing has been completed.

Mahannah WMA IMPOUNDMENT Hunt Units

- There are 31 Impoundment Units (1-31) at Mahannah WMA. All of which may not be “Open” due to the presence of “hunnable” water. Units will be marked OPEN/CLOSED on the Units Availability board and updated weekly. PRE-DRAWN units will be assigned only to Units that MDWFP staff can guarantee will have “hunnable” water present on the drawn hunt dates.
- Hunters may only hunt if they were listed and selected on the initial sign in sheet. Hunters may only hunt in their assigned unit as they were listed and selected on the initial sign in sheet. Hunters may not combine or add hunters to their hunting parties after the draw can be conducted. Only those persons drawn may be on the WMA during draw hunts. Waterfowl hunters must be out of the assigned unit by 1:00 PM.

Muscadine Farms WMA

September Teal Season – Hunting during the September teal season is allowed by special permit only. You may apply online at www.mdwfp.com. There are no standby opportunities for September Teal season, drawn hunters may hunt from 30 minutes before sunrise until 4:00 PM and must be checked out of the WMA by 5:00 P.M. Hunters selected to hunt will be

assigned a specific Teal hunting unit and may only hunt that unit during their hunt. All other migratory game birds may be hunted in assigned units while on permitted waterfowl hunts during the legal season for the species. Outside of open waterfowl seasons, migratory game birds may be hunted daily on the WMA during the legal season for those species.

Youth/Veteran Season – open concurrent with statewide seasons. Hunters may hunt in any waterfowl impoundment from 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset.

The **Waterfowl Sanctuary** area is closed to all activities.

Muscadine Permitted Waterfowl Draw Hunts for Regular Waterfowl Hunting Season

- Draw Hunts are conducted at Muscadine Farms WMA on **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays** during the Statewide Waterfowl Season. The MDWFP Facility will be open no later than 4:30 AM on the mornings of these hunting days.
- Sign in Sheets will be placed on the counter inside the Muscadine Farms shop. A “Pre-Drawn”, and a “Standby” sign in sheet will be available. Copies of WMA Rules, Maps, and Waterfowl Draw Process information will be available and posted. A MDWFP employee will be available to answer questions about the drawing process, Muscadine Farms WMA, as well as other WMAs in the Region if needed. MDWFP Employee will manage the crowd and may ask visitors to step outside if the area is too congested.
- There are 21 Impoundment Units (1,2,3, ..) on Muscadine Farms WMA. All of which may not be “Open” due to the presence of “hunnable” water. Units will be marked OPEN/CLOSED on the Units Availability board and updated weekly. PRE-DRAWN units will be assigned only to Units that MDWFP staff can guarantee will have “hunnable” water present on the drawn hunt dates.
- Hunters may only hunt if they were listed and selected on the initial sign-in sheet. Hunters may only hunt in their assigned unit as they were listed and selected on the initial sign-in sheet. Hunters may not combine or add hunters to their hunting parties after the draw can be conducted. Only those persons drawn may be on the WMA during draw hunts. Shooting time ends at 4:00 PM and waterfowl hunters must be out of the assigned unit by 5:00 PM.

William C. (Billy) Deviney WMA

September Teal Season

- Open concurrent with statewide season.
- May hunt teal on any available open water.

Youth/Veteran Season – open concurrent with statewide seasons. Hunters may hunt in any waterfowl impoundment from 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset.

Permitted Waterfowl Draw Hunts for Regular Waterfowl Hunting Season

- Draw Hunts are conducted on **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays** during the Statewide Waterfowl Season All duck hunts, except for the youth/veteran hunts and early teal season, are draw hunts only.
- All hunting units will be assigned when draw winners are notified by email.
- All reservation positions are allocated for each day before each hunt through an online draw
- All reservations are for a 1-day hunt
- Guests: 3 (Total party of 4)

Pearl River WMA (Youth Area Only)

- Pre-Draw only on **Saturdays**.
- All duck hunts, except for the youth/veteran hunts and early teal season, are draw hunts only.
- All hunting units will be assigned when draw winners are notified by email.
- All reservation positions are allocated for each day before each hunt through an online draw
- All reservations are for a 1-day hunt
- Hunting in the Special Handicapped area is restricted to handicapped hunters only. Contact the Jackson Office at 601-432-2199 for access to the Special Handicapped area.
- No waterfowl hunting west of Pipeline Road except for youth hunters during waterfowl season

Trim Cane WMA

Youth/Veteran Season - Youth hunters may apply for a special youth hunt (in addition to applying for the standard waterfowl hunt). Dates for the special youth hunt will be the same as the statewide special youth waterfowl hunt.

Permitted Waterfowl Draw Hunts for Regular Waterfowl Hunting Season

- Pre Drawn with stand by **Wednesdays and Saturdays**
- Each permitted hunter will be allowed two hunting guests.
- The MDWFP Facility will be open no later than 4:30 AM on the mornings of these hunting days.
- Sign in Sheets will be placed on the counter inside the Trim Cane Headquarters. A “Pre-Drawn” and a “Standby” sign in sheet will be available. Copies of WMA Rules, Maps, and Waterfowl Draw Process information will be available and posted. A MDWFP employee

will be available to answer questions about the drawing process, Trim Cane WMA, as well as other WMAs in the Region if needed. MDWFP Employee will manage the crowd and may ask visitors to step outside if the area gets too congested.

- All hunters and equipment must be removed from area by 1:00 PM.
- Spent shot shells must be removed from area.

Tuscumbia WMA Unit 2

Youth/Veteran Season - Open concurrent with the statewide Youth Waterfowl Season

UNIT 2: Waterfowl hunting on UNIT 2 is by special permit only.

- Pre-Draw **Wednesdays** and **Saturdays**.
- All waterfowl hunts, except for the waterfowl youth hunts, are draw hunts only.
- The waterfowl youth hunt shall run concurrent with the statewide season.
- See application for hunt dates, application deadlines, and other information about permitted hunts.
- All hunters must remain inside their assigned hunt unit areas at all times.
- All hunters must be checked in and out by area personnel.
- Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 12 noon.
- All hunters and equipment must be removed from area by 1:00 PM.
- Spent shot shells must be removed from area.
- Waterfowl scouting is allowed during any open hunting season.