

# Great Gobbler Gear 2002

There are certain historical events that happen annually that are both predictable and trustworthy. For instance, every spring the dogwood trees will explode into bloom, the swallows will return to the mission at Capistrano and the S.H.O.T. Show (Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade) will debut a dizzying array of equipment, clothing and calls to help the turkey hunter take that bird of a lifetime.

By  
**Norman  
Sisson**



## HUNTING

Let's take a look at a few of the offerings.

One of the facts of life associated with hunting turkeys in Mississippi is eventually having to contend with staggering heat and emerging vegetation. Ashford Springs Hunting Products located in Pearl, Mississippi manufactures a line of innovative Mossy Oak camouflage clothing that they call 'The Edge System.' The Edge System Shirt is by far the most versatile and comfortable shirt available today. Offered in 7 oz. Cotton and 5 oz. Microsuede, this system allows the hunter to adapt his clothing to the environment around him on any given day. This is accomplished by simply unzipping the sleeves from the shirt and replacing them with any combination of the 6 available patterns or styles of fabric. They also offer zip-on sleeves in 3D, leaf cut fabric to let you match the environment perfectly. Ashford Springs did not stop there. They also offer hunting pants with legs that can be changed into shorts by zipping off the legs or exchanging them for another Mossy Oak pattern, 3D fabric or cool bug netting. For more information on their entire line of products and the location of a dealer nearest you, check out their website at [www.ashfordsprings.com](http://www.ashfordsprings.com) or call them at 1-877-9WEHUNT(993-4868).



One of the old tales about turkeys that I learned early on was that a longbeard Tom could see you blink at 40 yards. I used to ponder how in God's world could I possibly expect to kill a bird that had that kind of supernatural eyesight. Scientific studies indicate that wild animals are indeed very sensitive to the image of a pair of eyes focusing on them, similar to what a predator would display just before attacking. The problem with the eyes of the hunter is

that we have not tried to camouflage them...until now. CamoVision Company of Corinth, Mississippi offers a line of patented eyewear that features Mossy Oak camouflaged polycarbonate lenses that complete your concealment and prevent game from spotting your eyes. They offer good looking wrap-

around, blade style glasses as well as a flip-up, clip-on style for prescription eyeglass wearers. Both types are available in tinted and untinted lenses as well as a new Anti-Reflective finish. For more information or to order a pair online, visit them at [www.camovision.com](http://www.camovision.com) or give them a call at 1-800-968-9935.

Primos Hunting Calls has always worked hard and tirelessly to find innovative ways of using modern technology to improve the quality and consistency of the natural sounds of their calls. They come into 2002 swinging for the fence with their new "Wing Bone Yelper" suction turkey call. Patterned to look like a



real handmade wingbone yelper, it's plastic construction makes it tough and weather resistant. This versatile call faithfully reproduces almost all of the turkey vocabulary with unique yelps, clucks, cutting, kee-kees and even gobbling. Because of the Wing Bone Yelper's ability to deliver loud, piercing cutting calls, it does double duty as a highly effective locator call. Every serious turkey hunter should include a Wing Bone Yelper in their vest arsenal. For dealer location or to order online, contact Primos at [www.primos.com](http://www.primos.com) or call them at 601-366-1288.

Rocky Boot Company continues to lead the pack with new and improved boot designs with the comfort and safety of the hunter in mind. One of their newest offerings is made specifically to incorporate every feature that a spring turkey hunter could need in high quality footwear. It is called the Striker Snake Boot and it is loaded. The boot features 16 inches of tough snakeproof protection, a Gore-Tex fully waterproof liner, Mossy Oak Breakup camoing, and their unique Extreme Light Sole with a polyurethane external shank between a high-traction rubber heel and forefoot. It also carries the National Wild Turkey Federation's endorsement for top quality turkey hunting gear. This is the ultimate design in firm traction, foot comfort and peace of mind. You can reach Rocky Boot Company at [www.rocky-boots.com](http://www.rocky-boots.com) or call them at 740-753-1951 for more information.



Now is the time to take inventory of your turkey gear and upgrade where it is needed. Forget about crappie fishing for a while. Get out in the awakening woods this spring and enjoy this fantastic gift of gobbler hunting that God has blessed and entrusted us with. Hunt safely and ethically.

**Don't miss Norman on Mississippi Outdoors, April 4th, featuring his hand built wing bone yelper calls**

## HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI

### "PRO'S CORNER"



### QDM for the Month of March

This is the time of year to reflect on our past Deer Season and also to get ready for the coming Turkey Season. As a Landowner or a Hunting Club you should be thinking about what you can do to the property to continue to help the development of the deer and turkey on it. From February 15th till March 15th you should be developing your mineral sites. Most of the state of Mississippi is in good shape but adding additional minerals just makes things better. Mixes are the way to go for this, make sure the mix you buy or you put together yourself has no more than 25% to 35% salt. Calcium and Phosphorous are the two key ingredients; they will also contain other minerals as well. I recommend digging a three foot square shallow hole, maybe three to four inches deep and mixing your minerals with the soil. Put this site within 30 feet of an existing food plot. If you can find a number of emerging deer trails coming to a food plot, that is where you should place the site. You should have a mineral site for every 90 to 150 acres. Mossy Oak's BioLogic Line features a three stage mineral supplement called Full Potential-I highly recommend it. You should also be eliminating the fescue and other exotic weeds and grasses that have little or no value to deer and turkey in your food plots before you do your Spring Planting. Also fertilize your native browse and plants on the property, along with your fruit trees. That will increase your crude protein from 20% to 28%. If you follow these steps it will greatly increase your quality of animals and your enjoyment of watching you help them. Don't forget two very important things you should be doing while you are on your properties working. Scouting for the upcoming Turkey season as well as looking for dropped sheds, so that you can start

preparing stands sites. That is something else we will cover in the coming months.

#### Woodsmanship: A key ingredient to a good Turkey Hunter

1. Know your terrain: There is no substitute for knowing the lay of the land you are hunting.
  2. Pattern the game you're after: Turkeys are creatures of habit and have preferences in their daily movements.
  3. Waterways are Highways: Turkeys love lakes, rivers, and creeks. They are also areas that green up first, so that means food.
  4. Weather: Always a key factor in any hunting situation. Turkeys have distinct behavioral patterns according to the weather.
  5. Become at least fluent in Turkey Talk: Most importantly is knowing when to call and how much.
  6. Know the local nesting sites: Because of the time of year we are hunting turkeys knowing these areas are critical to where we put our efforts.
  7. Turkey Sign: A knowledgeable hunter will have learned what kinds of sign turkeys leave behind.
  8. Selecting Setup Sites: Critical when trying to get that turkey into the final ten yards.
  9. Roosting Sites: The start of a great day if you play your cards right.
  - 10: The sounds you hear in the woods: Gobblers don't always gobble when coming to a hen. Nonverbal sounds play a very important part in the mating ritual.
- These are just some of the skills you need as a hunter to consistently harvest your birds each Spring. Remember one thing! Always know for sure what's at the end of your gun barrel before you pull the trigger. You Can't Stop the Shell once it's gone.

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